

**World Health Organisation (WHO)**

**A call to stop zoonotic diseases**

Approved by president of the general assembly

**Letter from the President of the General Assembly**

Today, humanity faces the repercussions of its unwillingness to recognize the patterns that constitute the great mosaic of the history of humankind. As Andre Gide once said, “Everything has been said before, but since nobody listens, we have to keep going back and beginning all over again.” The global community is under the threat of a pandemic, and it’s trying to find ways to adapt itself to the structural change after the pandemic, which is called the new normal. However, are we really adapting to a new normal when we have already gone through similar paradigm shifts, especially during the past century? This new normal gave people and governments an insight into their broken systems, an insight into this dispersed world, with everything that's going wrong with the world right now people are trying to go back and find a “ remedy for a dispersed world “ which will be our theme for this year. In the words of Leo Tolstoy, “everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself.” At SafirMUN we will be tackling most of this year's rising topics that were exposed. We will be presenting our delegates with a platform that can hopefully help them find a remedy for this dispersed world.

***Sary Matar***

***PGA of SafirMUN***

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**Introduction:**

Fellow delegates, I am your president chair Deniz Uçar. I am a 10th grader at Istek Bilge Kağan High School. This conference will be my 8th conference. This year conditions are harder for everyone. I encourage you to participate in the debate and please do not hesitate to ask any questions to me or to my vice president.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution, which establishes the agency's governing structure and principles, states its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health". It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.

The WHO was established by constitution on 7 April 1948, which is commemorated as World Health Day. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July 1948. The WHO incorporated the assets, personnel, and duties of the League ofNations' Health Organization and the Office International d'Hygiène Publique, including the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Its work began in earnest in 1951 following a significant infusion of financial and technical resources.

The WHO relies on contributions from member states (both assessed and voluntary) and private donors for funding. Its total approved budget for 2020–2021 is over $7.2 billion, of which the majority comes from voluntary contributions from member states. Contributions are assessed by a formula that includes GDP per capita. Among the largest contributors were Germany (which contributed 12.18% of the budget), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (11.65%), and the United States (7.85%).

Zoonotic diseases are part of our lives. It is not just the recent COVID-19 virus; over the past 20 years, we have encountered two other zoonotic diseases. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) are less known diseases from the past 20 years. These examples are just the coronavirus disease. There are other examples of zoonotic diseases such as but not limited to:

**Causes:**

Zoonotic transmission can occur in any context in which there is contact with or consumption of animals, animal products, or animal derivatives. This can occur in a companionistic (pets), economic (farming, trade, butchering, etc.), predatory (hunting, butchering or consuming wild game) or research context.



**Contamination of food or water supply**

The most significant zoonotic pathogens causing foodborne diseases are *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter*, *Caliciviridae*, and *Salmonella*.

In 2006 a conference held in Berlin focused on the issue of zoonotic pathogen effects on food safety, urging government intervention and public vigilance against the risks of catching food-borne diseases from farm-to-table dining.

Many food outbreaks can be linked to zoonotic pathogens. Many different types of food that have an animal origin can become contaminated. Some common foods linked to zoonotic contaminations include eggs, seafood, meat, dairy, and even some vegetables. Outbreaks involving contaminated food should be handled in preparedness plans to prevent widespread outbreaks and to efficiently and effectively contain outbreaks.

**Farming, ranching and animal husbandry**

Contact with farm animals can lead to disease in farmers or others that come into contact with infected farm animals. Glanders primarily affect those who work closely with horses and donkeys. Close contact with cattle can lead to cutaneous anthrax infection, whereas inhalation anthrax infection is more common for workers in slaughterhouses, tanneries and wool mills. Close contact with sheep who have recently given birth can lead to clamydiosis, or enzootic abortion, in pregnant women, as well as an increased risk of Q fever, toxoplasmosis, and listeriosis in pregnant or the otherwise immunocompromised. Echinococcosis is caused by a tapeworm which can be spread from infected sheep by food or water contaminated with feces or wool. Bird flu is common in chickens. While rare in humans, the main public health worry is that a strain of bird flu will recombine with a human flu virus and cause a pandemic like the 1918 Spanish flu. In 2017, free range chickens in the UK were temporarily ordered to remain inside due to the threat of bird flu. Cattle are an important reservoir of cryptosporidiosis and mainly affect the immunocompromised. Recent reports have shown Minks can also get infected.

Veterinarias are exposed to unique occupational hazards and zoonotic diseases. In the US, studies have highlighted an increased risk to injuries and a lack of veterinary awareness for these hazards. Research has proved the importance for continued clinical veterinarian education on occupational risks associated with musculoskeletal injuries, animal bites, needle-sticks, and cuts.A July 2020 report by the [United Nations Environment Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Environment_Programme) stated that the increase in zoonotic pandemics is directly attributable to anthropogenic destruction of nature and the increased global demand for meat, and that the industrial farming of pigs and chickens in particular will be a primary risk factor for the spillover of zoonotic diseases in the future.

**Wild animal attacks**

* [Rabies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabies)

**Insect vectors**

* [African sleeping sickness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_sleeping_sickness)
* [Dirofilariasis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirofilariasis)
* [Eastern equine encephalitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_equine_encephalitis)
* [Japanese encephalitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_encephalitis)
* [Saint Louis encephalitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_encephalitis)
* [Scrub typhus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrub_typhus)
* [Tularemia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tularemia)
* [Venezuelan equine encephalitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuelan_equine_encephalitis)
* [West Nile fever](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Nile_fever)
* [Western equine encephalitis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_equine_encephalitis)
* [Zika fever](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zika_fever)

**Pets**

Pets can transmit a number of diseases. Dogs and cats are routinely vaccinated against rabies. Pets can also transmit ringworm and *Giardia*, which are endemic in both animal and human populations. Toxoplasmosis is a common infection of cats; in humans it is a mild disease although it can be dangerous to pregnant women. Dirofilariasis is caused by *Dirofilaria immitis* through mosquitoes infected by mammals like dogs and cats. Cat-scratch disease is caused by *Bartonella henselae* and *Bartonella quintana* from fleas which are endemic in cats. Toxocariasis is an infection of humans of any species of roundworm, including species specific to the dog (*Toxocara canis)* or the cat (*Toxocara cati*). Cryptosporidiosis can be spread to humans from pet lizards, such as the leopard gecko. *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* is a microsporidial parasite carried by many mammals, including rabbits, and is an important opportunistic pathogen in people immunocompromised by [HIV/AIDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV/AIDS), organ transplantation, or CD4+ T-lymphocyte deficiency.

**Exhibition**

Outbreaks of zoonoses have been traced to human interaction with and exposure to other animals at fairs, live animal markets, petting zoos, and other settings. In 2005, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centers_for_Disease_Control_and_Prevention) (CDC) issued an updated list of recommendations for preventing zoonosis transmission in public settings. The recommendations, developed in conjunction with the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, include educational responsibilities of venue operators, limiting public animal contact, and animal care and management.

**Hunting and bushmeat**

* [COVID-19](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19)
* HIV
* [SARS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SARS)

**Deforestation, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation**

Kate Jones, chair of ecology and biodiversity at University College London, says zoonotic diseases are increasingly linked to environmental change and human behaviour. The disruption of pristine forests driven by logging, mining, road building through remote places, rapid urbanisation and population growth is bringing people into closer contact with animal species they may never have been near before. The resulting transmission of disease from wildlife to humans, she says, is now "a hidden cost of human economic development". In a guest article published by [IPBES](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPBES), Peter Daszak and three co-chairs of the 2019 [*Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Assessment_Report_on_Biodiversity_and_Ecosystem_Services), Josef Settele, Sandra Díaz and Eduardo Brondizio, write that "rampant deforestation, uncontrolled expansion of agriculture, intensive farming, mining and infrastructure development, as well as the exploitation of wild species have created a ‘perfect storm’ for the spillover of diseases from wildlife to people."

An April 2020 study published in the [*Proceedings of the Royal Society*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proceedings_of_the_Royal_Society) Part B found that increased virus spillover events from animals to humans can be linked to [biodiversity loss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_loss) and [environmental degradation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_degradation), as humans further encroach on wildlands to engage in agriculture, hunting and resource extraction they become exposed to pathogens which normally would remain in these areas. Such spillover events have been tripling every decade since 1980. An August 2020 study published in *Nature* concludes that the anthropogenic destruction of ecosystems for the purpose of expanding agriculture and human settlements reduces biodiversity and allows for smaller animals such as bats and rats, who are more adaptable to human pressures and also carry the most zoonotic diseases, to proliferate. This in turn can result in more pandemics.



In October 2020, the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intergovernmental_Science-Policy_Platform_on_Biodiversity_and_Ecosystem_Services) published its report on the 'era of pandemics' by 22 experts in a variety of fields, and concluded that anthropogenic destruction of biodiversity is paving the way to the pandemic era, and could result in as many as 850,000 viruses being transmitted from animals – in particular birds and mammals – to humans. The increased pressure on ecosystems is being driven by the "exponential rise" in consumption and trade of commodities such as meat, palm oil, and metals, largely facilitated by developed nations, and by a growing human population. According to Peter Daszak, the chair of the group who produced the report, "there is no great mystery about the cause of the Covid-19 pandemic, or of any modern pandemic. The same human activities that drive climate change and biodiversity loss also drive pandemic risk through their impacts on our environment."

**Climate change**

*Further information: Effects of global warming on human health § Coronavirus*

According to a report from the [United Nations Environment Programme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Environment_Programme) and [International Livestock Research Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Livestock_Research_Institute) named: "Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission" climate change is one of the 7 human – related causes of increase in the number of zoonotic diseases.

**UN ACTIONS:**

*Zoonotic early warning system:*

 A new zoonotic risk and response programme will be developed to improve capacity to reduce threats of zoonotic diseases, in coordination with key partners. UNEP’s work will identify demand-driven recovery options that contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets. This framework will address the root drivers of zoonotic diseases, with specific policy options to reverse habitat destruction and promote sustainable wildlife management. Working together with United Nations agencies and Resident Coordinators, this initiative will develop a framework for recovery that incorporates the full capabilities of the United Nations system and is founded on the science based evidence of the critical role of nature for health and sustainable economic recovery–with the Congo Basin being a potential first location for a new zoonotic disease surveillance programme.

*National zoonotic* *risk reduction action plans:*

While many countries already have action plans for dealing with zoonotic diseases, UNEP will explore how it can work with partners to further support Member States in both rebuilding post-pandemic economies better and reducing the threat of zoonotic diseases in the future. In collaboration with partners including Regional Offices and Resident Coordinators, we will develop evidence-based country/region-specific road maps with policy options for green investment to support economic recovery. These custom packages of support will include environmental impact assessment toolkits; improved regulation to reduce the risk of zoonotic cases; inspection and standards for markets and trade corridors, restoration to enhance habitat connectivity; strengthening resilience of the tourism sector; rural livelihoods, and enhanced biosafety practices.

*Ambitious new biodiversity targets:*

While investing in public health systems is critical to address zoonotic disease, our best hope of keeping people safe is by reducing the risk of zoonotic diseases at their source. Given this, UNEP will seek to reduce one of the main drivers of zoonotic disease transmission–the degradation of ecosystems–by increasing the ambition and commitment to new global biodiversity targets and their means of implementation. Increasing focus on health in the biodiversity frameworks as well as food management systems will be key, as will ensuring that COVID-19 recovery investments enhance biodiversity and climate commitments, rather than undermine them. Building back better has to be greener and rebalance our relationship with nature.

**Way Forward**:

 UNEP will explore current tools and see how they could be supplemented so that Member States have a global risk dashboard on the emergence of zoonotic threats, by the end of 2020. The aim is to:

• Have supported recovery and action plans for governments to mitigate the risk of zoonotic diseases in their countries, as they relate to their origins in nature, by the end of 2020;

 • Have supported governments in raising the ambition of their biodiversity targets and means of implementation; and to ensure that the recovery investments work for, rather than against nature, by the end of 2021. This work will build on existing capabilities and develop new ones for UNEP and Member States. We welcome support from a range of stakeholders and stats. As this plan comes together, we look forward to collaborating, learning and partnering with those keen to engage on this agenda.

**The Future:**

The globe has learnt a lot from today’s coronavirus. The UN believes that tackling diseases are connected to UN Sustainable Development Goals. These diseases are preventable. It is a matter of fact that scientists will find a way to anticipate these viruses without the outbreak. As the United Nations, we need funding to help the LEDCs. Today poor countries cannot afford the coronavirus vaccine and as we live in the same earth we cannot prevent nor stop these diseases without economic unity.

**Block Positions:**

This topic may be political but the main agenda is to save people from suffrage therefore every politician has to bear in mind that they are representing citizens of their country. At most a country can propose a beneficial solution for their country but our agenda is to solve the issue not to make money. We have to ask ourselves whether we desire another coronavirus or whether we can survive from another zoonotic disease.

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoonosis>

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and>

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32285/ZD.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

**Useful links**

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>

<https://www.google.com/books?hl=tr&lr=&id=hqeS2wWgvDIC&oi=fnd&pg=PR9&dq=UN+zoonotic+diseases&ots=ab8cqwSA0k&sig=sgJUIYZt00UZg2MqR3ZhFyUMOzQ>

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