

# **Reviewing and Discussion upon the Implementation of Immunization Agenda 2030 with Special Emphasis on LEDCs**

## **Letter from the Executive Board**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Himank Kakkar, and I am honoured to serve as your World Health Organisation Chair in 'FAIR GAZE MODEL UNITED NATIONS' 2023.

I remember my first conference as a Grade 5 student well; I barely read the backgrounder and studied enough to complete two position papers. I would not have believed it if someone had told me back then that I would one day be writing the backgrounders I disliked reading. But, as time progressed, I came to appreciate the core of Model UN: its welcoming community and enthralling discussion. These fresh findings have compelled me to repay my predecessors' efforts and urge more delegates to participate in the Model UN endeavour.

The World Health Organisation will be addressing Medical Services in Conflict Zones, emphasising Protecting Healthcare Workers, at this edition of FAIR GAZE MUN. Given the interwoven and intricate nature of these themes, it is strongly advised that you conduct an extensive study on all aspects of the topic beforehand. This helps you to get the most out of your time at the World Health Organisation and improves the committee's overall experience, resulting in riveting discussion sessions.

Thank you for expressing your interest in the World Health Organization and I look forward to a weekend filled with vigour!

Warmly,

Himank Kakkar (himankkakkar08@gmail.com)

WHO Chair

# Research Techniques

Any delegate attending a Model United Nations (MUN) conference needs to be proficient in research methods.

Utilizing the resources created by the executive board as a starting point is the first step in conducting research for a MUN conference. The purpose of these materials is to encourage participants to ask questions about the topics at hand rather than to replace their own independent research. The delegates who start their research with the supplied materials and delve further into the subject areas are the most well-prepared.

Delegates have access to a wide range of information services in addition to the materials the executive board has provided for them to use. The United Nations is one of the most significant information sources. The UN has a variety of tools at its disposal, such as compiled statistics, graphs, and charts, that can give delegates useful information. To see how the ambassador of their nation has previously handled particular issues, delegates may also access the transcripts of previous UN conferences.

Delegates should research the following specific UN resources:

- The Yearbook of the United Nations: This resource provides general information on what has been done on a particular topic during any given year. Additionally, it makes useful allusions to earlier articles and resolutions.
- The United Nations Chronicle: This publication offers a general overview of UN proceedings. Delegates should keep an eye out for special reports on their topic area because they will offer useful details about the subject and the positions taken by various countries.
- The UN Document Index (UNDI; 1950–1973), UNDEX; 1970–1978); and UNDOC; 1979–present) are the three versions of this index, which includes all UN documents. Delegates will either find a subject index, a country index, or an alphabetical list of all published documents, depending on which version is being used. Due to the fact that each committee has a distinct alphanumeric prefix, delegates can easily locate all documents produced by a committee during a given year regardless of the subject matter.
- UN Resolutions: These are useful and user-friendly series. The index is cumulative starting in 1946, so delegates only need to look up the most recent index to find all resolutions the UN has ever passed on their subject. The resolution voting records, which are listed in the book's front matter, will show where each nation stood on the issues.

In addition to UN sources, there are many other general sources of information that delegates can use to conduct their research. Delegates should investigate their school and local libraries for books and periodicals that may provide more current information on their topic. Librarians can be a valuable resource for helping delegates find what they are looking for.

People are also an often-neglected source of information that can greatly aid delegates in their research. Some people to keep in mind include librarians, fellow delegates, faculty advisors, and members of the committee's executive board. These people can not only help delegates find what they are looking for but may also recommend new sources that they had not considered.

Delegates can also contact the embassy or consular office of the country they are representing. These offices are often happy to help with research by mailing statistical data and other unclassified information.

In conclusion, there are many research techniques that delegates can use to prepare for a MUN conference. By using the materials provided by the executive board as a starting point and then delving deeper into their topic using UN resources and other general sources of information, delegates can become well-prepared and knowledgeable about their topic. It is important for delegates to take advantage of all available resources, including people who can provide valuable assistance in their research.

# Introduction

Immunization is one of the most effective and cost-effective public health interventions, saving millions of lives every year from preventable diseases. However, there are still significant gaps and challenges in achieving universal immunization coverage, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and among marginalized populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has also disrupted immunization services and threatened to reverse the progress made in recent decades.

To address these issues, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new global vision and strategy, called the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), in 2020. IA2030 aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and well-being. It has three impact goals: to reduce mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases by 50%, to ensure 90% coverage for essential vaccines, and to halve the number of children who miss out on vaccines.

## Agenda 2030

The IA2030 is a global vision and strategy for vaccines and immunization for the next decade. It aims to protect everyone from vaccine-preventable diseases, regardless of where they live or who they are. The IA2030 has four core principles: leaving no one behind, country ownership, integration, and innovation.

The IA2030 also has seven strategic priorities: immunize everyone throughout life; deliver immunization in contexts of fragility, emergency, and displacement; build strong immunization systems as part of primary health care; ensure access to safe, effective, and affordable vaccines and technologies; protect against emerging and re-emerging diseases; drive impact through data and digital innovations; and empower communities and build demand for immunization.

IA2030 is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the UN in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. IA2030 contributes to several SDGs, such as SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

The implementation of IA2030 requires strong commitment and collaboration from all stakeholders involved in immunization at global, regional, national, and local levels. These include governments, civil society organizations, health workers, communities, donors, development partners, research institutions, private sector actors, media outlets, and individuals. Each stakeholder has a role and responsibility to ensure that IA2030's vision becomes a reality.

However, achieving the IA2030 goals is not an easy task. There are many challenges and barriers that hinder the progress of immunization programs, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) or less economically developed countries (LEDCs). Some of these challenges include weak health systems, a lack of political commitment and funding, vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, inequitable access and distribution, supply chain disruptions, environmental and social factors, and emerging variants of COVID-19.

Therefore, it is crucial for the WHO and its partners to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the IA2030, identify gaps and best practices, and provide guidance and support to countries in need. This is the main objective of the International Agenda 2023 (IA2023), which is a mid-term review of the IA2030.

The IA2023 is a comprehensive document that summarizes the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the first three years of the IA2030 implementation. It also provides recommendations and action plans for the next seven years, with a special emphasis on LEDCs. The IA2023 covers all aspects of immunization, from vaccine development and delivery to surveillance and advocacy.

The IA2023 is expected to be finalized and published by the end of 2023, after a series of consultations and discussions with various stakeholders, including WHO regional offices, member states, civil society organizations, private sector entities, academic institutions, donors, and the media. The IA2023 will also be presented and discussed at the World Health Assembly in May 2024.

## **LEDCs**

This goal faces many challenges, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), also known as less economically developed countries (LEDCs).

LEDCs are countries that have low levels of economic development, human development, and industrialization. They often face issues such as poverty, inequality, malnutrition, poor sanitation, a lack of infrastructure, political instability, and environmental degradation. These factors affect the health status and outcomes of their populations, making them more vulnerable to communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as health emergencies and disasters.

One of the key strategies to improve health in LEDCs is immunization, which is the process of administering vaccines to protect people from specific diseases. Immunization is one of the most cost-effective and impactful public health interventions, as it can prevent millions of deaths and disabilities every year. According to the WHO, immunization averts an estimated 2 to 3 million deaths each year from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough),

measles, and polio. It also reduces the burden of diseases such as hepatitis B, meningitis, pneumonia, diarrhoea, cervical cancer, and COVID-19.

However, immunization coverage and equity are not uniform across the world. There are still many gaps and barriers that prevent people from accessing and receiving vaccines, especially in LEDCs. Some of these barriers include:

- Lack of adequate funding and resources for immunization programs and systems
- Weak health systems and infrastructure limit the delivery and quality of immunization services.
- Inadequate supply chain management and cold chain capacity affect the availability and safety of vaccines.
- Low demand and acceptance of vaccines due to misinformation, mistrust, or cultural beliefs
- Inequitable access to vaccines due to geographic, socioeconomic, or demographic factors
- Insufficient monitoring and evaluation of immunization data and performance
- Emerging and re-emerging diseases that pose new threats and challenges to immunization

## Endnote

The agenda for this meeting is to review and discuss the implementation of IA2030, with a special emphasis on LEDCs (least economically developed countries). LEDCs face many challenges in achieving immunization goals, such as poverty, conflict, weak health systems, low demand, supply chain issues, and limited access to new vaccines. Therefore, it is crucial to identify the best practices, lessons learned, opportunities, and gaps in these contexts and to explore how to overcome them.

Some questions that may help you while researching:

- What are the main achievements and challenges of LEDCs in implementing IA2030 so far?
- What are the specific needs and priorities of LEDCs in terms of immunization services, policies, financing, and innovation?
- How can LEDCs leverage their strengths and capacities to improve immunization outcomes?
- How can regional and global partners support LEDCs in achieving their immunization goals?
- What are some examples of successful collaboration and coordination among LEDCs and other stakeholders on immunization issues?

We look forward to your participation and contribution to this important discussion. Together, we can make immunization a reality for everyone by 2030.