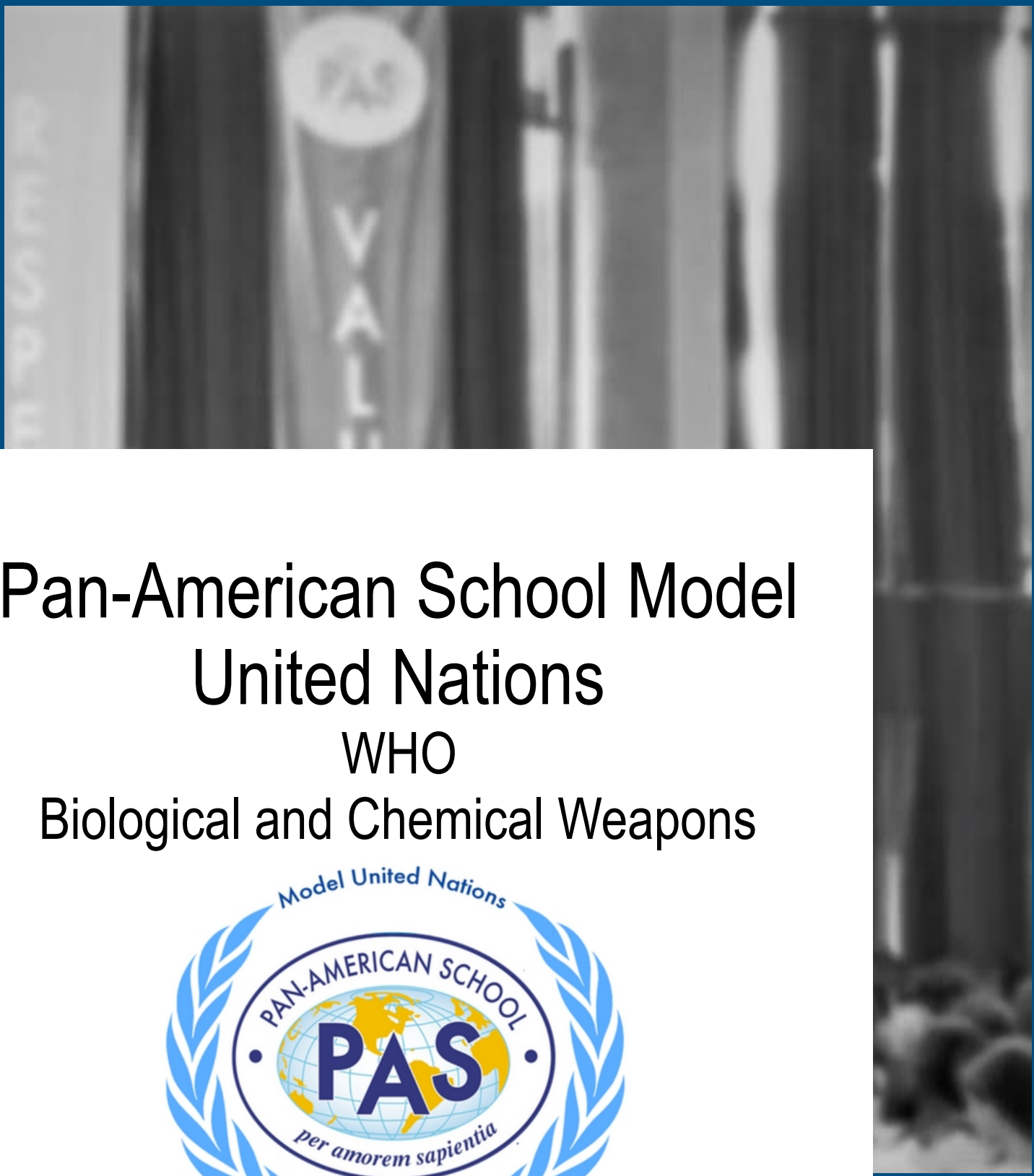

Pan-American School Model United Nations

WHO

Biological and Chemical Weapons

Model United Nations
PAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL
PAS
per amorem sapientia
XVI

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Dear delegates and faculty advisors,

We are honoured to welcome you to our sixteenth Model United Nations. For the past 16 years, Pan-American School in Costa Rica has hosted an annual Model United Nations conference, the past two of which have seen schools from all over Central America attend. This year we hope to achieve attendance from schools from even more parts of the
globe in order to continue our tradition of inspiring and educating the next generations towards a path of diplomacy and interconnectivity.

This year's conference will be held on Saturday, October 27th and Sunday, October 28th at our school's campus. Our goal will be to provide an enriching and overall entertaining and satisfactory debate experience. With a current repertoire of 13 committees, which includes a Press Corps committee and one intermediate committee for 8th and 9th grade. We are prepared to have one of if not the biggest Model United Nations conference our school, and our country, have seen so far.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions, doubts or if you are interested in attending and or receiving more information on the conference.

Sincerely,
The Secretariat

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Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to the 2018 Pan-American School MUN, more specifically to the World Health Organization committee. My name is Alexa Sayagues and I will be directing this committee for this year's conference. My moderator's name is Ana Elena Marin and we are both sophomores at Pan-American School. Both of us have attended and already led various committees. Going to MUN for us is the experience of learning and growing more as people, as well as discussing modern day topics.

The topic to be debated is one we think is important in the world and that catches our attention. The topic holds many positions and solutions, which we hope to see from each and every one of you delegates. With the many nations involved, we expect everybody to hold to their position and make the most viable solutions to solve such a pressing matter.

This year's PAS MUN is one of evolution, with even more committees as before and more opportunities for each delegate to grow. We expect fiery debate, with many nations having opposing opinions. And hope to see that as delegates you enjoy the debate and topic as much as we do.

Please feel free to contact either of us through our emails if you have any doubts, concerns, recommendations or discomfort. We invite delegates to not only come prepared, but eager to debate and take action, make connections and relate to other delegates. Furthermore, we would like to once again welcome you delegates, faculty advisors and others joining us in this 2018 PAS MUN. We hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,
Alexa Sayagues
Ana Elena Marin

Committee History

With the massive development of biological and chemical weapons during World War II, in 1945 when politicians met to create peace treaties, they decided to create a branch dedicated to medicine and weapons of this sort. This organization throughout the years has debated and passed countless resolutions with topics ranging from Ebola, to genetic mutations, and even cloning. As a committee, they are important to the UN because they discuss matters that other committees would not understand and/or even know how to begin to analyze.

Being part of the committee requires certain levels of medical education and the help of professionals that are experts in the area. The committee itself is dedicated to providing medical aid in situations when needed, passing international pharmaceutical and experimental resolutions.

The council helps decide and manage cases of moral ethics in medicine. As an "independent entity" of the United Nations, voting procedure can vary, especially when discussing certain topics. For the most part, the procedure follows standard GA voting steps, but can change when involved with certain nations or themes. This council is vital to the world because it decides procedures in relation to medicine and modern day problems that can potentially affect us in both the present and future. Medicine is a very important topic, one that affects every single person in the world. That is why the UN dedicated a single committee, with a lot of power to be able to take separate decisions to the policies of the world and be able to protect the population of the world. Whether it is new or old outbreaks, warfare or even genetics, the committee has handled it all.

Topic Summary
Chemical and Biological Weapons in Current Wars

Chemical and biological weapons is a case that's becoming a matter in which more attention and pertinence is being drawn to due to its relevance linked to many of worldwide current wars. Just like nuclear bombs, chemical and biological weapons' objective is destruction and consequently creating fear. A successful attack of this kind could substantially cause the death of many people, depending on the level of the massacre. During the XX century, the use of these weapons rose significantly and have given a much more pronounced use for warfare. The first time a chemical weapon was used, was for mass destruction purposes; the threat of these weapons was much more prominently considered than before.

Chemical weapons are any weapon that uses fabricated chemicals with the objective of killing people. They're often referred as to gases in which the victim is suffocated or severely burned. The first time this kind of weapon was used was during World War I when the German Army released chlorine gas towards enemy troops at Ypres, Belgium. It was found that chlorine gas was a substance that damages lung tissue. (Bundeswehr Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Neuherbergstr, 2005).

Modern weapons now focus on agents that have a greater power to kill; less of the chemical is required in order to kill the same amount of people nowadays than in a scenario using a chemical weapon from many decades ago. As a consequence of technological advances throughout time, chemical weapons have evolved. Contrary to the many typical contemporary thoughts of people, nowadays chemical weapons are not these massive bombs or missiles thrown over a city. Instead these are much more used in canisters and other strategic and simpler artifacts.

Biological weapons' anatomy varies from bacteria, virus, or toxins. Many of them have such a lethal effect that can kill us. These are complex due to the fact that they can be easily scattered among people through infected objects, places and/ or environments. The signs of infection are noticed gradually, many times when a large portion of a population has already been infected.

The infection, for instance, could also be spread in aerosol cans released in a certain area; through misting systems used to cool the temperature in sport venues. Another example of the use of a weapon of this kind would be if you situationally dumped a load of manure inside a town's well; human or animal manure contains bacteria that are deadly in many ways (Brain, Nasr, 2013).

It wasn't until the last third of the 20th century that these weapons were restricted mainly from the military sector, due to the awareness of the threat that they exhibit. The delivery systems of these weapons' possessors started to sensitize public attention to the threat that these agents could spread. Due to the expansion of terrorism, rising mostly during the 1990s, it was considered that these agents exposed the worldwide community to a tremendous threat. (Bundeswehr Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Neuherbergstr. 2005.)

Furthermore, chemical weapons or any manufactured chemicals for murderous purposes and biological weapons are bacteria, virus or toxins that expose a sector of a population to the risk of severe deadly consequences. If these kind of weapons are fabricated by criminals or people with malicious intentions, the repercussions could be relentless. Even though many international

conventions have made many agreements and have progressed under this aspect, these weapons still pose a threat; even more so with technological advances and technology itself present.

Understanding the delegates position in all of this is important, which is why we suggest that each delegate takes it upon themselves to research more and find more ways in which their delegation might be related to the topic at hand.

Current Situation

The time since the prohibition of these two kinds of immensely dangerous weapons is relatively recent. Chemical weapons were prohibited 20 years ago, whereas biological weapons 40 years ago, both by international treaties. The broad majority of worldwide nations were party to both treaties, furthermore the above mentioned weapons are understandably shunned. The international community has effectively considered the use of these exclusively for military purposes.

Contrast that to nuclear weapons which are considered status symbols which are paraded on national celebration days, which major powers say they require for national security. In comparison to nuclear weapons, the fight to eradicate or regulate biological and chemical weapons seems quite prosperous.

The nature of chemical and biological warfare is changing rapidly due to the growing rate of technological and scientific advances. As a consequence of this, the process of developing these weapons is much more easier and cheaper; plus the exploitment of this readily improved and available technology is now much more accessible than in previous decades. For instance, the technology that manipulates the organisms' genetic composition. Due to this broader approach to these weapons, there are many more possibilities that they could end up in malicious hands. Because of this, there's been a boost of security concerns regarding science.

If we see it in a long term perspective, the threat of these types of weapons is growing at a larger scale gradually. Although chemical weapons are widely considered prohibited, the international taboo against using them has weakened uniquely in the last five years. Adding to what has been mentioned before, we have seen the use of unconscionable weapons in environments like battlefield and towards civilian populations. This has been notable in the Syrian Civil War where it is suspected that some governments and ISIS have deliberately targeted civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools. Assassination pursuits in Malaysia and the UK were caused by

the use of refined unprecedented nerve agents.

Significant steps towards reinforcing and reassembling the norm against chemical weapons have taken place by the disarmament community. In January 2018, about 30 states established the #NoImpunity partnership with the purpose of identifying the perpetrators provoking the ongoing chemical weapon attacks in Syria to subsequently prosecute them.

All of these recent attacks caused the UK to request a Special Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It took place in June 2018 and had a consequence of building on the momentum of #NoImpunity. The majority of the state members who were present voted to reaffirm the ban on chemical weapons and to give more power towards OPCW in order to respond successfully to possible violations.

Unfortunately, unlike chemical weapon regulations, the norm executed by different nations is substantially fragile in the biological field. However there have been many efforts with the objective of putting forth the correct uses of biology, and preventing any major outbreaks caused by said types of weaponry. Either way, the area of chemical weapons is much broader than in the biological area; historically, we've seen more of chemical warfare than biological (Lentzos, 2018).

Bloc Positions

Syria: In the past years with the civil war and actions from the government, Syria has been taking actions against its people with chemical attacks. Recently, because of it the United States of America launched an airstrike to "prevent" it from happening again. The government uses chemicals such as nerve agents and gases to actual pathogens. In regards to biological warfare, Syria has does not have the power to invest in technology to expand the use of said agents.

USA: The United States of America as a country invests in research through the Center for Disease Control (CDC), to control and investigate the uses and consequences of chemical and biological weapons. However, it has been made clear by the government that they are completely against the use of psychochemical weapons in any given way. They recently launched an airstrike against the nation of Syria to protest the use of chemical attacks against people protesting against the government.

China: As a country it is widely reported that they have various active programs dedicated to the study of these sciences and their implementation. The nation, however, has reported to be for the creation of said weapons, but against the use of them in "real war." However, as a

delegation historically known to give their soldiers opium so they could last longer (not feel pain) in the battlefield, it is unclear how their position will play out. With such a large economy and operative projects, they stand to be a delegation with not only high power, but also the possibility of either being in favor or against the use of said weapons based on their position.

Israel: Although it is not yet proven how far their research has developed, it is known that they have a hidden biological and chemical weapons system to study the production of said types of weapons. It is not yet known whether the former information is to be used for protection and being prepared in case of an invasion or attack or if it is to be applied. But as a rising power with a well standing economy and a strong military its power and knowledge in this area has risen suspicions in other countries and raises a lot of red flags.

Russia: As a powerful nation, with a lot of money invested in the development of military growth and scientific expansions Russia is a country that has the whole world on alert in regards to this topic. It has come to the attention of many nations and even been previously brought up in the UN that it is possible that the nation is breaking the Biological Weapons Convention. Considering that the submissions made by Russia in 1992 do not specify if the biological weapons that were created and developed during the Cold War and in times of the Soviet Union were destroyed or not. Putting many nations on alert considering the new found violence in the nations ally Syria.

Actions Taken

The global concern among the repercussion that chemical and biological weapons (CBW) could bring up is an affirming reality. There have been several agreements, organizations, conventions and treaties internationally aiming for a world free of CBW highlighting the pertinent awareness that should be present due to the prodigious threat that CBW implies, furthermore affecting social, political and economical aspects.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) funded in 1997, is a very important institution considering that the OPCW Member States represent 98% of the global population and chemical industry at a global scale. Their mission is furthermore to have international security and stability, to readjust and make modifications regarding to disarmament, and to achieve prosperous global development.

Along with the OPCW, the Chemical Weapons Convention which its full name is the Convention on the

Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC) administered by the OPCW which "(...)aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction. (...)" (Organization for the prohibition for Chemical Weapons, n.d.)

Possible Solution

- Establish reinforced hygiene programs at private and public institutions
- Develop technological advances and expand knowledge on different areas relevant to CBW, for instance
    - Medicine: Injections, Discovery of new species
    - Chemistry
    - Reinforce security
    - Cybernetically: Deepen the exploration over the dark web to look for any aims to traffic, distribute or buy of weapons of the sort.
    - National and international intelligence and security services; this to restrain any individual, group of people of organizations' desire to traffic any weapon of these kind or use it for un-beneficial purposes for a certain sector of a population
    - Border security: Take down CBW in order to prevent the entrance or the exit of these over/through another territory
- Update disarmament laws amongst the various countries worldwide (which agree to the elimination of CBW): reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons
- Reinforce education on CBW: Anatomy, Repercussions , History, Prevention, Subjects such as 'Chemistry' should be "used" for benevolent professional and educational matters only.
- Fortify legislations among each nation (following the eradication of CBW ideology)
- Persuade missing countries to join international conventions, organizations, etc., in joining these, in order to achieve the main goal more rapidly and successfully.

Questions Resolution Must Answer

- How will you cope with finances? In which areas? Will you receive aid from another delegation? If yes, which ones?
- Are you giving aid to another delegation? How? With which purpose?

- How will you manage scientific, national, border, and cyber security?
- Is your delegation willing to make use of chemical and biological weapons? For which purposes? Why? What repercussions will that have?
- How will you make sure illegal chemical or biological weapons are not strategically moved from one border to another or trafficked?
- How will you manage public/private laboratories? How will you make sure there's proper use of them?
- Which uses will you give chemical and biological weapons?
- Will you make adjustments to national legislation about chemical and biological weapons? Why? How
- Is your delegation going to further reach out to international associations? Will contributions be made? Which? How?
- Are you going to adjust the educational programs in regard to chemistry and biology? How? Where?
- How will you handle external organizations that threaten the population's security regarding chemical and/or biological weapons
- What will you do in case a chemical or biological attack attempts take place in your country or in another delegation's territory?
- Are you going to reach out to NGOs? With which purposes? Why?
- Long term and short term solutions

Closing Remarks

Increase in the development of biological and chemical weapons has put civilization in a risk of being involved in the cross hairs. As can be clearly seen by the use of said types of weapons in current situations and wars. This involves situations varying from the chemical gas attacks by the police in Nicaragua, to the new Ebola outbreak and many more situations happening right now. That is why it is our duty as a council to come together to find various solutions that involve different points of view in order to fully contribute with all parties involved. And find a way to regulate and prioritize the safety of all nations and their individual populations.

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