

UNSC Simulation: The International Zombie Pandemic

(Adapted from United Nations Association (UNA), Horn (2016), and Lake Trail 9's)

"As the millennium dawns, I believe the world is gaining clearer understanding of its problems and of the need to tackle them through collective action." (Kofi Annan, Past Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Background on the Pandemic

Yesterday, a passenger at Dublin Airport in the Republic of Ireland collapsed with a piercing headache during a direct flight to Los Angeles, CA. Upon landing in LAX, the passengers awoke displaying zombie-like symptoms and began attacking fellow passengers. Within minutes of exiting the aircraft nearly everyone at LAX's Terminal 1 have been infected. First responders did their best to seal off the terminal and eliminate the remaining zombies. However, LAX has connecting flights to almost every country in the world and no one knows whether a few infected passengers made it onto their connecting flights. As a result, the next outbreak could take place at any time and anywhere in the world within a matter of hours.

Here are some zombie facts your need to know:

- Zombies desire human flesh; they will not eat other zombies
- The virus is highly infectious. Any human bitten will become a zombie. A cure has not been found.
- Researchers believe that the virus is only transmitted through saliva, blood or other body fluids (similar to Ebola virus)—it is not an air or waterborne disease.
- Zombies do not retain human emotions or memories. They cannot be trained.

The zombie menace is 100% contagious and 100% fatal, making it a public health threat potentially more vexing than any the world has ever seen. If a zombie pandemic were to take place would the world be ready to competently deal with it? Will warning systems, information dissemination, and containment procedures be enough to prevent catastrophe?

The United Nations is the only organization capable of mobilizing over 193 countries in the world to work together to address catastrophic health emergencies like this. Diseases don't respect borders, so countries who may be rivals or even enemies know they need to work together alongside the UN to safeguard their citizens. However, they may perceive the risks from the pandemic differently depending on their geography and/or other factors like economic interests. As a diplomat, it is your job to understand the position of your country's needs and the interests of those around you in order to create a quick and effective solution.

Your Mission:

To become an expert on the deadly Zombie virus for your country, and to come up with a resolution to manage and contain any future outbreaks within the international community.

Key questions for you to consider:

- What can be done to contain the pandemic?
- What people and areas in your country are most vulnerable? Why?
- Should there be penalties for nations that fail to accurately report outbreaks?
- Does your country feel responsible to aid other countries in responding to outbreaks?

You will need to decide on an action the United Nations should take. For example, should the United Nations:

- A) Require member nations to build quarantine facilities in all major populations centers and develop communications plans?
- B) Create a binding agreement that all regional and national health institutions must report signs of a zombie plague to WHO or face a monetary penalty?
- C) Create a worldwide zombie menace training corps to prepare health care workers and citizens around the globe to be leaders in the event of a zombie invasion?
- D) Create an international zombie menace fund (IZMF) so that poor nations will have the resources to cope with an outbreak?
- E) Other actions that are feasible and can be justified based on your country's position and interests

Preparing for the Simulation

1. You are required to **research and represent the position of your assigned country** at our model "United Nations Security Council":
 - At this council your group will need to:
 - **Give a speech** that convinces the other participating UN members to adopt your position on the best resolution (action to take/solution)
 - **Participate in open debate** on the issue.
 - **Write a 5-7 sentence position statement** that include proposed actions to the issue.
2. **Research-** Each group of two will be assigned one of the following countries:
 - China
 - France
 - Russian Federation
 - The United Kingdom
 - The United States

- Cote d'Ivoire (2019)
- Dominican Republic (2020)
- Germany (2020)
- Indonesia (2020)
- Kuwait (2019)
- South Africa (2020)

Please take out your phone, and search the following app in the app store (Apple or Android): "Model UN" by Bellwether. This app provides the most (if not all) information you need about the country you represent, and the vocabulary you will need to use (Preambulatory Clauses and Operative Clauses).

You will also need to consider these questions and gather the following information on your country:

- **Basic Demographic Information**
 - Population
 - Where do the majority of people live - urban or rural
 - Life Expectancy
 - Disease (Major infections & diseases)
 - Population below poverty line - find this in the CIA World Fact Book under 'Economy'
 - Education & Literacy Rates
 - GDP
 - What other information do you think is important to know
- **Questions to Consider**
 - Is your country wealthy? Can you afford to support other nations or will you need financial support? (Measured by GDP & Population below poverty line)
 - Is your country a place that deals with disease outbreaks?
 - Does your country often require financial aid or the help of outside agencies such as Doctors Without Borders?
 - What are some external factors that cause the spread of disease? (education, cultural practices, etc.)
 - ** How did your country respond to the Ebola crisis? This research will help you to understand how they might respond to a Zombie Pandemic

- **Once you have done your own research, you will need to consider:**
 - What evidence or reasons do you have to support your position?
 - What do you think some of the other viewpoints for and against the issue are? What arguments can you anticipate to hear from the other countries?
 - How can I counter these opposing arguments?

A Sample Resolution

This morning at the UN General Assembly, the Dutch Ambassador has proposed an urgent resolution to address the crisis and received support from many UNGA representatives. The UNSC will need to weigh her proposal. You will need to see if it aligns with your country's interests and vote for it, vote against it, or propose your own resolution. But first, you will need to present your country's position. The fate of humanity is in your hands.

Proposal from the Netherlands

(Note: This is not the full position statement!)

Resolution 1.1: The Netherlands calls upon the United Nations to declare an international emergency and suspend all international flights for a period of 30 days. In addition, the Netherlands urges all countries to report any outbreaks immediately to ensure effective and transparent emergency communication. Furthermore, the Netherlands encourages the international community to create regional rapid response teams to help contain any future outbreaks.

Writing your position statement

1. It should contain an opening sentence emphasizing your country's key interests in the crisis and should then outline your position.
2. If you are proposing amendments to the Dutch resolution, please highlight what you want to amend and provide justification
3. Your country will have two minutes to present your position. I will ask each country to present in alphabetical order.