



Economic and Social Council

Chairs:

Molly Stahl

Ryan Byrne

Committee Topics:

1: Effects of the U.S.-China Trade War on the Global Economy

2: Reducing the Social Stigma Against Ebola Victims

Upper Mohawk Valley Model United Nations Conference - December 14, 2019

State University of New York Polytechnic Institute, Utica, New York

Chair Biographies

Hello, delegates! My name is **Molly Stahl**, and I am a senior at Hamilton Central School. This is my third year involved in Model UN and my first year as a chair. I love writing, research, and reading. Being a part of Model UN has helped me to expand my horizons and practice public speaking, which helps me to prepare for theater. I am in the Masquers program at my school, a director of the middle school musical, and a member of the varsity track and cross country teams. Outside of extracurricular activities, I currently hold two jobs: one as a hostess at a restaurant in my town and one as a movie theater attendant. I am a part of HOBY, a leadership organization that empowers and motivates adolescents towards service goals, and enjoy taking leadership roles in my school and community, which encouraged me to become a chair. If you need to contact me, feel free to email me at maebloom3@gmail.com. Please know that you can ask anything, any time! I look forward to meeting all of you.

Welcome, delegates! My name is **Ryan Byrne**, and I am a junior at T.R. Proctor High School. This is my third year involved in Model UN, and my first year as a committee chair. Unlike some of my peers at UMVMUN, I have always been more interested in math and science than history and politics. After three years, however, I have realized that anyone can have any interest or passion while still enjoying and actively participating in Model UN. This year, I am the vice-president of Proctor's Model UN Club, and I am very excited to use what I have learned in order to chair ECOSOC at UMVMUN 2019. Besides Model UN, I am also involved in my school's Chess Club and Math Club, as well as Student Council, of which I am president for this year. Outside of school, I train as a traditional martial artist, I enjoy snowboarding, and play the alto saxophone in my free time. Feel free to contact me at ryanbyrne315@gmail.com; remember that there is no such thing as a bad question. See you soon!

Social Media

UMVMUN makes a conscientious use of social media to promote attendance at our conference, share news and resources, and engage with delegates who plan on attending. Additionally, UMVMUN will have a Snapchat filter for use during lunch breaks. We strongly encourage all delegates to follow our Twitter and Instagram handles [@UMVMUN](https://twitter.com/UMVMUN), make use of the [#UMVMUN](https://twitter.com/UMVMUN) hashtag, and confirm your attendance on our Facebook event page [Upper Mohawk Valley MUN 2019](#). In the weeks leading up to the conference we will even have our chairs post valuable resources that will serve to guide delegates in their committee research!



Committee History

In 1945, the Economic and Social Council was formed as a part of the United Nations in order to promote international peace after World War II. Many decisions were made to develop the foundations of prosperous economies and social climates, but the global leaders of the time wanted a new way of maintaining stability and consistency within these two fields. Some of the specific responsibilities of ECOSOC include the facilitation of educational and cultural cooperation between nations, the promotion of international respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, and the enablement of nations to maintain higher standards of living.

The Economic and Social Council oversees 28 different agencies and commissions, which together make up about 70% of the human and financial resources of the UN. Although ECOSOC does not focus on enforcing conflict resolutions as much as other committees like the Security Council, it does issue important policy recommendations to the rest of the United Nations. Through cooperation with many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), ECOSOC has assisted the United Nations during several complex issues, including the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Today, the international headquarters of the Economic and Social Council is located in New York City and Inga Rhonda King is its current president.

Special Committee Notes

At UMVMUN 2019, the Economic and Social Council will be run in resolution style. This means that, in order to qualify for an award, delegates must prepare pre-written resolutions for both topics. We anticipate that delegates will need to bring approximately fifty-four (54) copies of each resolution, however, we ask that you consult the *Country/Committee Matrix* on our website to determine the number of delegates that have been offered seats in our committee and to print that quantity plus three additional copies for the committee chairs.

To limit the amount of paper used on conference day, we ask that the resolutions be composed using Garamond font (size 11), that the resolutions be printed on both sides of the paper, and that the resolutions for each topic are stapled together into a single packet. In addition, the Chairs at UMVMUN 2019 look favorably upon delegates sending their resolutions to their respective committee chairs via e-mail by December 9 so that the chairs can give more careful consideration to the preparation and thought that their committee members have given to the topics that will be discussed. Sending pre-written resolutions to the chairs is not required, only encouraged. Emailing resolutions does not replace the requirement for delegates to bring enough printed copies for their committee.

It should be known that, at UMVMUN, we strive to acknowledge the most outstanding delegates in committee by choosing the three delegates that exhibit the most well-rounded preparation for the conference and the best performance in committee. To learn more, we urge delegates to explore the *Awards Rubric* on our website. Delegates new to Model UN and/or UMVMUN should refer to the *Delegate Preparation Guide* found



Topic 1

Topic 2

on the For Delegates page of our website to learn about: research, flow of debate, public speaking, rules of procedure, caucusing, writing resolutions, and dressing for success.

Note: As a main organ of the United Nations, the delegates of the Economic and Social Council should understand that they will not only be responsible for preparing to solve issues related to the topics of this council, but they will also be responsible for bearing and voting upon the proposed resolutions of the committees under the umbrella of ECOSOC. At UMVMUN 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) are both expected to present their proposed resolutions to the ECOSOC plenary.



[Topic 1: Effects of the U.S.-China Trade War on the Global Economy](#)

Introduction

In June 2016, China's overpowering economic ambitions, along with a growing trade deficit between the U.S. and China, provoked then presidential candidate Donald Trump to begin a hostile trade war with the world's second largest economy. As tariffs grew and global trade became more restrained, international business investments soon grew sour. From the Republic of China, Malaysia, and Singapore to Canada, Ireland, and Saudi Arabia, investors all around the world have been losing faith and selling their shares. Most of the markets which are economically linked to either the U.S. or China are declining while the commodity prices in these nations are rising. Now, arguments over intellectual property theft, primarily caused by the technology-sharing policies of the 'Made in China 2025' Plan, are furthering international tensions. The unpredictable debt owed from the U.S. to China is also threatening a new global market crash, as economists working at the International Chamber of Commerce predict what would happen if China sold their U.S. treasury bonds. This could decrease the value of the American dollar, thereby disrupting the economies of nations which depend on exports to the United States.

Definition of Key Terms

Tariff: A type of tax that is often imposed upon international imports and exports.

Trade Deficit: The disruption of an international economic balance, caused by a difference in the value of a nation's imports and exports.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): An attempt to monetize the strength of an economy by adding together the value of all goods and services in one nation.

Intellectual Property: A valuable idea that is proven to belong to a certain economic entity.

Economic Sovereignty: The fundamental right of a nation to decide how to run its economy with minimal external influences or pressures.

'Made in China 2025' Plan: Established in May of 2015, it aims to mature the Chinese economy by increasing the average income, especially through advanced manufacturing jobs. It uses controversial technology-sharing methods for domestic companies to learn from foreign companies, along with the promotion of government subsidies and investment.



Topic 1

Topic 2

Asia Cooperation Dialogue: As one of many economic trading groups focused within Asia, it demonstrates China's key role in connecting the economies of Asian regions, especially Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan. The ACD currently consists of 34 active member states.

'Section 201' of U.S. Trade Act of 1974: Allows the U.S. President to increase restrictions on U.S. imports during situations in which the economic consequences would otherwise be reasonably severe.

'Section 301' of U.S. Trade Act of 1974: A controversial and somewhat outdated method for the President to aggressively investigate and reduce limitations against U.S. exports within the law.

Entity List: A list of companies with which trade is banned by the country from whence the list comes.

General Overview

In 2016, while on the campaign trail, current United States President Donald Trump proclaimed that if president, he would counter the "unfair trade practices" of China. Once elected, he almost immediately began implementing tariffs on Chinese goods. He began by applying tariffs under Sections 201 and 301 of United States trade legislation. In response, China began imposing tariffs of equal or greater magnitude on American goods. This included the 25% levies on American steel and pork in April of 2018, along with the 25% tariffs on automobiles and other agricultural products from the U.S. in June of the same year. As a result of this ongoing back-and-forth between the two global superpowers, global trade has taken a massive hit. For instance, the rising tariffs have created tensions and retaliatory tariffs between the U.S., China, Mexico, Canada, the European Union, South Korea, and Brazil, among others. The strained relationships between these nations are expected to contribute to a decline in global trade of up to 9%, according to a World Bank report that has been emphasized by journalists working for *The Hill*.

Long before Donald Trump took office as the American president, he had complained against the unfair tactics used by Chinese manufacturers. As far back as December of 1999, Trump has expressed distaste for the economic practices in China - but he wasn't the only one. Former president Barack Obama was also known to raise tariffs while acting against Chinese manufacturing methods, most notably with his 35% tariff on Chinese tires in 2009. Although this tax made tires more expensive for American consumers, it also saved over 1,000 tire production jobs in the U.S.. This is a key example showing that tariff increases can lead to both gains and losses, depending on your point of view. Thus, all perspectives should be considered when predicting the effects of any proposed solution.

Recently, the ambitious practices of the Chinese have intimidated many government officials under the Trump administration, making them fear that the United States would be overshadowed as an economic superpower. This possibility is exaggerated through China's leap from the seventh highest nominal GDP in the world to the second highest, over the past 20 years. Furthermore, the massive trade deficit between the U.S. and China, along with the considerable debt owed to China by the U.S., has given China a reasonable sense of leverage during international trade negotiations. All of these factors have contributed to the start of



the trade disputes, and they should all be analyzed from multiple perspectives to make the best decisions within potential resolutions.

The economic war is currently taking a significant toll on the rest of the world. Other nations' economies are faltering as investors lose trust in the stability of the global market. Also, the tariff increases caused by the trade war have left inflation and rising unemployment rates in nations that depend on exports from China and the U.S.. This includes Taiwan, South Korea, and Malaysia, which focus on the trade of electronics, as well as Canada and Mexico, which primarily deal with energy and metal products, respectively. Furthermore, the United States has continued by creating an 'entity list,' effectively banning trade with the industries of major foreign suppliers, such as Huawei. Lastly, the enduring economic conflict has created strong tensions between many involved nations, especially after the ambitious 'Made in China 2025' plan, which aims to strengthen China's economy by reducing outside reliance on key sectors like the electronics industry. This plan has started several arguments over intellectual property theft and infringement of economic sovereignty between China and its trading partners, especially with nations that control a technologically-advanced system of manufacturing. From China's viewpoint, however, the dependence on complex technologies from foreign nations is essential to a healthy economy. A strong resolution to this topic would minimize the negative effects of the 'Made in China 2025' plan, without severely neglecting China's economic ambitions.

Major Countries Involved

United States: The United States of America began the trade war, instigating the first tariffs as well as encouraging the raising of tariffs. At the moment, America continues to cooperate in trade talks with China. The United States president, Donald Trump, has had a long vendetta against the outsourcing of American goods to China. With tariffs, he claims that domestically-sourced goods will become more popular and lucrative in the U.S..

China: China, under President Xi Jinping, has responded to the initial tariffs from the United States with its own tariffs, furthering the trade war. Its 'Made in China 2025' Plan has angered the U.S., along with other trading partners, over controversial methods of economic development that often hurt other nations' economies. The country also takes part in the ensuing trade talks with the U.S..

South Korea: Being fairly dependent on exports from its electronics industry, South Korea is feeling the effects of recent U.S. bans on major semiconductor companies like Huawei, as demand for electronic chips decreases. Also, China seems to be taking advantage of the current tensions between South Korea and Japan, who have similar technological strengths, to reduce the chance of a regional alliance against China.

Taiwan: As a country majorly dependent on trade with China, one of four countries labeled the "Asian Tigers," Taiwan has been hit hard by the trade war. Taiwanese trade exports have fallen substantially since the imposition of tariffs and the instigation of the trade war— most significantly, 22.3% of machinery exports. With the continuation of these circumstances, speculation surrounding the GDP of Taiwan shows an ongoing decrease.



Topic 1

Topic 2

Canada: Although the trade war is slowing down Canada's economy, Canadian exports to the U.S. could serve as an alternative to the products sold from China.

Mexico: Since the trade war began, trade between Mexico and the U.S.A. has risen; through its development, Mexico has climbed in the standings of top trade partners with the United States.

Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

World Trade Organization (WTO): Although technically not an NGO, WTO regulates international trade and manages negotiations through the cooperation of 164 member states; the WTO plays an important role in facilitating trade talks between the U.S. and China

Consumers International: Analyzes the effects of global trade on consumers while ensuring that businesses treat consumers fairly; Consumers International may be able to counter inflation and unemployment in areas that are affected by the trade war

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS International): Investigates trade policies and advocates moderate reform based on consumer protection, especially against falling market shares and rising commodity prices

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC): Advocates economic growth, job creation, and general prosperity through the promotion of free trade; the economic sovereignty that is sometimes broken by China provides a clear opportunity for trade to be more free

Action Aid International: Advocates flexibility in international trade rules when consumers are negatively affected; one of their priorities is to reduce agricultural subsidies, so they might be able to encourage China to buy agricultural products from the U.S.

Care International: Among other focuses, *Care* aims to strengthen local economies by creating jobs and providing important financial skills, including how to prepare and react to a market crash



Timeline of Key Events¹

February 2011 Trade deficit between U.S. and China reaches an all time high: \$295.5 billion

May 2014 Five Chinese hackers are indicted for stealing trade technology from the United States; these people were confirmed to be working for China's People's Liberation Army

June 2016: Donald Trump details plans to impose tariffs on Chinese goods during his presidential campaign

April 2017: American President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agree to a 100-day plan for trade talks

March 2018: Trump imposes 25% tariffs on steel imports and 10% tariffs on aluminum from all international suppliers

April 2018: Chinese government retaliates with matching tariffs on 128 different American goods of up to 25%; this triggers a response of more tariffs threatened from the U.S. on up to \$50 billion of Chinese goods—a move matched by China

May 2019: U.S. Commerce Department added Huawei, a Chinese technology producer, to an entity list, effectively banning trade with the telecommunication company without government approval

June 2019: Due to the trade war and Germany's dependence on both major economies, German industrial output dropped 1.5%

August 2019: Mexico and Canada surpass China in trade with the U.S.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Many trade talks and negotiations have been organized to try to lead a compromise between the U.S. and China. Towards the beginning of the trade war, in May of 2017, deals were made over the trade of beef and poultry, but there remained disagreements over the steel and aluminum industry. A year later, in May of 2018, another series of trade talks was held in Beijing, China, but again there was no viable resolution to the underlying problem.

Meaningful progress finally began with the December 1, 2018 G-20 summit in Argentina. The U.S. delayed a \$200 billion tariff increase, and a trade deal was expected within 90 days. Although this didn't happen, the June 29, 2019 G-20 summit in Japan showed a continued sense of economic concern as agricultural trade was encouraged and tariff increases were further delayed.

¹As events unfold leading up to the conference, we will post important information on our Twitter page @UMVMUN. Please follow us so you don't miss out on these updates!

Topic 1

Topic 2

Still, failed negotiations outnumber successful ones. Each failed negotiation has made it more and more obvious that our focus must now shift to the war's effects on other nations, despite the fact that a total compromise and definitive end would be ideal. It would be beneficial to uproot the entire issue from the source, but we must also be realistic with our approach.

Possible Solutions

Slowing down tariff increases would be a starting place from which the trade war can be ended. China wants the U.S. to reduce trade bans on Chinese electronics companies, to remove them from the 'entity list,' while the U.S. wants China to buy agricultural products from America. Perhaps both sides can be appeased with further negotiations, especially during another truce; the temporary stages of peace in April of 2017, December of 2018, and June of 2019 all proved to be useful in promoting trade talks. However, delegates should consider what actions would help to maintain a 'truce' for as long as possible. Short term peace could potentially worsen the conflict, if other nations feel that promises of progress cannot be made truthfully. During periods of economic stability, future negotiations might serve to promote fair trade and reduce unnecessary tariffs on other nations, if conducted properly.

Appendix

1. [U.S. Trade Act of 1974](#)
2. [Analysis of U.S.-China Trade War and its Origins](#)
3. [Unedited Statements by President Trump Relating to China](#)
4. [Outcomes of the 2018 G20 Summit in Argentina](#)
5. [Outcomes of the 2019 G20 Summit in Japan](#)

Questions Essential to Debate

1. How can negotiations approach a stable compromise between the U.S. and China?
2. How can the detrimental effects on other nations, like increased inflation and unemployment, be limited as the trade war is resolved?
3. In what ways can the global stock market be protected from the unpredictability of the trade war?
4. What actions should be taken to ensure that fair trade between China and the rest of the world is established as a priority?



Bibliography

Burns, Dan. "Timeline: Key dates in the U.S.-China trade war." *Reuters*. August 8, 2019.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china-timeline/timeline-key-dates-in-the-u-s-china-trade-war-idUSKCN1UR5RW?il=0>

Gillespie, Patrick. "Obama got tough on China. It cost U.S. jobs and raised prices." *CNN Business*. January 3, 2017. <https://money.cnn.com/2017/01/03/news/economy/obama-china-tire-tariff/index.html>

Gollom, Mark. "Why a U.S.-China trade war could be a 'net negative' for Canada." *CBC*. March 26, 2018. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/united-states-china-trade-war-canada-1.4590523>

Gong, Chen. "The Four Asian Tigers Are Not Immune to the US-China Trade War." *The Diplomat*. August 2, 2019. <https://thediplomat.com/2019/08/the-four-asian-tigers-are-not-immune-to-us-china-trade-war/>

Holland, Ben, and Cedric Sam. "A \$600 Billion Bill: Counting the Global Cost of the U.S.-China Trade War." *Bloomberg*. May 27, 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2019-us-china-trade-war-economic-fallout/>

Hopewell, Kristen. "What is 'Made in China 2025' - and why is it a threat to Trump's trade goals?" *The Washington Post*. May 3, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/05/03/what-is-made-in-china-2025-and-why-is-it-a-threat-to-trumps-trade-goals/?utm_term=.aa3575590cf4

Ismail, Norafidah. "The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD): Progress and Potential." *Middle East Institute*. May 22, 2013. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/asia-cooperation-dialogue-acd-progress-and-potential>

Ng, Teddy, et al. "U.S.-China trade war 'truce' should be used to find long-term solution to disputes, experts say." *South China Morning Post*. December 6, 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/2176722/us-china-trade-war-truce-should-be-used-find-long-term-solution>

Noack, Rick. "Germany was Europe's economic growth engine. Trade wars could drive it to recession." *The Washington Post*. August 7, 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/08/07/germany-was-europes-economic-growth-engine-trade-wars-could-drive-it-recession/>

Seipel, Brooke. "World Bank warns Trump tariffs could trigger drop in trade similar to 2008 financial crisis." *The Hill*. June 6, 2018. <https://thehill.com/policy/finance/390938-world-bank-warns-trump-tariffs-could-trigger-2008-level-financial-crisis>



Topic 1

Topic 2

Tobin, Meaghan. “The spoils of trade war: Asia’s winners and losers in the U.S.-China clash.” *South China Morning Post*. May 18, 2019.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/geopolitics/article/3010733/spoils-trade-war-asias-winners-and-losers-us-china-clash>

“U.S. Relations With China.” *Council of Foreign Relations*. September 9, 2019.

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>

Vinik, Danny. “Trump’s six hidden trade weapons.” *Politico*. February 28, 2017.

<https://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2017/02/how-trump-could-overhaul-trade-without-quitting-the-work-000329>



Topic 2: Reducing the Social Stigma Against Ebola Victims

Introduction

While acknowledging the dreadful physical struggles that victims of Ebola must endure, it is also important to give real consideration to the emotional and mental hardships that they face during everyday life. This is especially true after they have already healed, which is when the social stigma becomes increasingly unreasonable. Much of the discrimination against Ebola survivors arises due to a lack of medical knowledge: *How does Ebola spread? When is a victim of Ebola no longer contagious?* These are common questions which also make employers, especially in West African nations, hesitate before accepting survivors of Ebola. Healthcare systems in regions affected by Ebola also seem to be failing because of the fear associated with the disease. This brings up a delicate balance: social justice and public health must be cultivated together.

Definition of Key Terms

Stigma: An attribute that is deeply discrediting and one that prevents social reintegration.

Ebola Virus Disease: A relatively rare, deadly disease that most commonly affects people and nonhuman primates; some common symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and fatigue.

Epidemic: A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.

rVSV-ZEBOV: The name given to an experimental EVD vaccine which was developed by Merck Pharmaceuticals, which was distributed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during its most recent EVD outbreak.

'Ebola-free': The World Health Organization requires that a region be entirely 'free' of EVD cases for at least 42 consecutive days in order to be considered Ebola-free; however, this does not mean that future outbreaks cannot resurface. [A specific definition of 'free' is explained here.](#)

General Overview

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a rare disease formerly referred to as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever that can often result in death if untreated. Since its first recorded occurrence in 1976, medicinal technology has advanced to find treatments—and working cures—to increase the survival rate of the disease. In 2014, a two-year epidemic of EVD broke, resulting in 28,652 reported cases and 11,325 reported deaths as of March 2016.

Due to the contagiousness of the disease, people infected or previously infected with EVD often face stigma. A study published in the Public Library of Science details the effects of these social treatments using an index adapted from the People Living with HIV stigma index. [The data is shown here.](#) It shows that many people in Liberia experienced stigma of some sort after infection. However, it also shows the stigma decreasing as time progresses. Delegates should use these specific improvements as examples to help regions that might still be facing continued stigma, like the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Topic 1

Topic 2

The effects of EVD stigma can be seen on individual, community, and international levels. At the individual level there are three subcategories: survivors, contacts, and carers. Survivors are subject to extreme distress, guilt, and are sometimes attacked or abandoned due to their previous illness; contacts, those who have come into contact with the diseased, are often excluded for fear of being contagious; carers are often left traumatized due to their experiences.

Currently, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), there is a new outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease. New medications are undergoing research, but while these developments serve to help those currently affected by the epidemic, little is done to help those who have survived or those in contact with them. Not only does the epidemic affect the community members, but tourism and economy in countries afflicted with Ebola are often impacted. Logically, countries that are experiencing an Ebola epidemic often see experience a correlated decline in the tourism industry. Rather than returning to its initial levels, tourism remains low even after a country is no longer affected by Ebola. Foreigners will often apply the EVD stigma to residents of previously-infected communities, regardless of the current level of contagiousness.

As the outbreak in the DRC is now ongoing for more than a year, the stigma surrounding Ebola—including the transmission both through bodily fluids and sexual intercourse—has not waned. The situation is worsening as the epidemic is not ceasing and is therefore inciting a more stigmatized response from the world.

Major Countries Involved

Liberia: By the end of the devastating Ebola outbreak of 2014, there were about 4,810 recorded deaths in Liberia due to the disease. Now, almost 4 years after the most recent flare-up was resolved, survivors in Liberia are still stigmatized by their communities. Grief and poverty resulting from the Second Liberian Civil War, which ended in 2003, are also hindering public morale during the recovery from the Ebola epidemic.

Guinea: Despite a struggling healthcare system, the Guinean government has cooperated with NGOs within Guinea to produce some of the most noticeable improvements among African nations, in regards to the Ebola virus and its related stigma. Several thousand Guineans, for example, agreed to take part in a medicinal study which resulted in a new experimental vaccine, named 'rVSV-ZEBOV', to prevent future epidemics.

Sierra Leone: In a way, Sierra Leone has had the most at stake during the Ebola crisis. Still recovering from a civil war, which ended in 2002, Ebola stigma is causing resentment which seems to have far-reaching political effects. Traumatized Ebola survivors are blaming government officials and politicians in Sierra Leone, especially former president Ernest Koroma, for a lack of health-related preparation.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: One of the most recent EVD outbreaks has occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where there have been more than 2,500 confirmed cases of Ebola. Although most cities of the DRC have had a reasonable amount of control over the epidemic, rural areas have not been as fortunate. Local corruption and a lack of medicinal resources and services have directly led to some of the worst cases of stigma; however, the new experimental vaccine from Guinea is being distributed in the DRC in an attempt to resolve the crisis.



Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Doctors Without Borders: Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) has had Ebola treatment centers in West Africa since the epidemic in 2014. As of January 2019, treatment centers in the DRC have received 3,292 total cases of Ebola. Two treatment centers have been suspended due to attacks in February 2019. Doctors Without Borders is working towards ending the Ebola crisis in the DRC.

Global Communities: Global Communities works closely with local regions to bring sustainable change that improves the lives of those in vulnerable situations. Since March 2014, Global Communities has worked in Liberia, preventing and treating Ebola; this organization emphasizes the impact of Ebola on women, and shares informational messages to empower citizens to take more autonomy over their health.

International Rescue Committee: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) worked tirelessly during the 2014 outbreak of Ebola in Liberia, and continues its work in over 70 health care facilities in the DRC. Along with this, the IRC trains and mentors health care workers, including volunteers and some survivors of the disease who are all dedicated to reducing the spread.

Project Concern International: Project Concern International (PCI) is a global development organization that works with communities to build and innovate in impoverished countries or communities. PCI works to empower people with the knowledge and self-efficacy needed to remain healthy and disease-free.

Timeline of Key Events²

September-October 1976: First recorded outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease; infected 318 and killed 280 (88% of the total infected)

September-October 2014: Four total patients diagnosed with EVD in the United States, making it easier for the social stigma against Ebola victims to spread internationally

October 2014: First confirmed infection of EVD outside of Africa occurs in Spain

2014-2016: Large epidemic of EVD; as of March 2016 there were 28,652 confirmed, probable, or suspected cases, pushing the disease into the public eye with its death toll of 11,325 (39%)

August 2018-Present: Epidemic of EVD breaks out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; as of late, 1,700 deaths and 2,500 reported cases have been recorded

July 2019: World Health Organization declares that the Ebola epidemic in the DRC is a public health emergency of international concern

² As events unfold leading up to the conference, we will post important information on our Twitter page @UMVMUN. Please follow us so you don't miss out on these updates!

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Because of the current outbreak in the DRC, community meetings are being held, focusing on the balance between social justice and public health; a major part of this is involving local churches which hold a large influence in West African society. Organizations such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation and the United Nations Population Fund have donated money and goods in an attempt to rectify the situation left behind by the Ebola epidemic in affected countries.

Burial traditions in West Africa involve contact with the bodies; because of this, many relief organizations are not regarded well, as they prevent such practices with a quick burial to ensure no further infection. Thus, many relief operations only perpetuate the myths of Ebola being a curse, thereby inciting communities to resist any aid given.

Possible Solutions

In regions where Ebola outbreaks still occur, the entire system meant to quarantine hospitals and public health workers is, admittedly, rather frightening. The aggressive nature of these tactics should be reduced in some way, as it is probably contributing to the widespread fear of Ebola survivors. Something must also be done to inform the public about how Ebola spreads, and why Ebola survivors no longer pose a significant threat to their communities. This could, in turn, reduce unemployment among victims of Ebola by minimizing any forms of social isolation. However, caution must be made as to maintain a balance between social justice and public health; if carelessness leads to even more outbreaks, then the social stigma will only continue.

Appendix

1. [EVD Stigma Index Study](#)
2. [Report of the 2014-16 Epidemic](#)
3. [Focus Group Discussions on Ebola](#)
4. [Helpful Video Describing the Disease](#)

Questions Essential to Debate

1. What can be done to help Ebola survivors safely interact with their communities?
2. How can misconceptions about Ebola be reliably communicated to the public?
3. How can unemployment and poverty be minimized within families who have suffered from Ebola?
4. How might we prevent social stigmas from hurting the healthcare systems in regions plagued by Ebola outbreaks, while ensuring that victims of Ebola receive adequate medical treatment?
5. What can be done to provide immediate emotional support to those affected by Ebola, while we search for a long-term solution?
6. How can the stigma be reduced to ensure the economy of affected countries is not damaged?



Bibliography

Bell, Beth P., et al. "Overview, Control Strategies, and Lessons Learned in the CDC Response to the 2014–2016 Ebola Epidemic." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. July 8, 2016.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/su/su6503a2.htm>

Bortel, T.V., et al. "Psychosocial effects of an Ebola outbreak at individual, community and international levels." *World Health Organization*. January 21, 2016.

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/3/15-158543/en/>

Boseley, Sarah, and Jason Burke. "Ebola in the DRC: everything you need to know." *The Guardian*. August 1, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/15/ebola-in-the-drc-everything-you-need-to-know>

Brumfield, Ben, and Josh Levs. "Spain has outbreak's 1st known case of contracting Ebola outside of Africa." *CNN*. October 6, 2014. <https://www.cnn.com/2014/10/06/health/ebola-us/index.html>

"Criteria for declaring the end of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone." *World Health Organization*. May 7, 2015. <https://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/declaration-ebola-end/en/>

"Ebola." *International Rescue Committee*. August 2019

<https://www.rescue.org/topic/ebola>

"Ebola in Sierra Leone: Stigmatisation." *Africa Research Institute*. November 5, 2014.

<https://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/blog/ebola-stigma/>

"Ebola Outbreak in DRC." *Doctors Without Borders*. August 2019.

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/ebola-outbreak-democratic-republic-congo>

"Ebola survivors facing stigma, unemployment, exclusion." *United Nations Population Fund*. February 3, 2015.

<https://www.unfpa.org/news/ebola-survivors-facing-stigma-unemployment-exclusion>

"Ebola virus disease." *World Health Organization*. May 30, 2019.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease>

Green, Amy. "Ebola survivors in Guinea still battle stigma." *Health-E*. June 26, 2018.

<https://health-e.org.za/2018/06/26/ebola-survivors-in-guinea-still-battle-stigma/>

Kelly, J.D., et al. "Ebola virus disease-related stigma among survivors declined in Liberia over an 18-month, post-outbreak period: An observational cohort study." *National Center for Biotechnology Information*. February 27, 2019.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6411197/>



Topic 1

Lewis, Tonya. “A Year In, the Second-Largest Ebola Outbreak Continues to Rage.” *Scientific American*. August 2, 2019.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-year-in-the-second-largest-ebola-outbreak-continues-to-rage1/>

Nuriddin, Azizeh, et al. “Trust, fear, stigma and disruptions: community perceptions and experiences during periods of low but ongoing transmission of Ebola virus disease in Sierra Leone, 2015.” *National Center for Biotechnology Information*. April 1, 2018. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5884263/>

Parshley, Lois. “The Aftermath of Ebola in Liberia.” *The Atlantic*. July/August, 2016.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/07/after-ebola/485609/>

“Signs and Symptoms (Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever).” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. May 22, 2018.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>

Wadman, Meredith. “World Bank dedicates \$300 million to Ebola Response.” *Science Mag*. July 24, 2019.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/07/world-bank-dedicates-300-million-ebola-response>

“2014-2016 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. March 8, 2019.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/history/2014-2016-outbreak/index.html>

