**FORUM:** GENERAL ASSEMBLY III

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing economic regulations on the healthcare market to guarantee its accessibility and affordability,

**SUBMITTED BY:** WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** RUSSIAN FEDERATION, NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA, UNITED KINGDOM, AND MOÇAMBIQUE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Acknowledging* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 stating that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control,”

*Emphasizing,* Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”,

*Appreciating,* Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”,

*Fully alarmed,* that more than half of the world’s population lacks access to essential health services in 2017,

*Having studied*, that in 2017, 100 million people were still being pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses,

*Alarmed by* how competition in the health care market can lead to competitors blocking opponents and harming the corporation, that leads to a group of consumers who rely on that corporation to lose the accessibility to a healthcare,

*Deeply Concerned* by how the ones who are at the higher risk of catching the COVID-19 (they have other medical issues) are the ones who usually can’t get a health coverage/insurance because insurances won’t accept them in the company’s best interests,

*Recognizing* that despite the UN labeling healthcare as a fundamental human right, many people don’t have the necessary healthcare services because of the cost and even those who have the money are not fully aware and can receive poor healthcare,

*Noting with deep concern* that the lack of economic regulations can lead to unsafe products being used in the healthcare system and therefore creating and executing unsafe treatments when dealing with patients,

*Recalling* that the Universal Health Coverage is a goal and guide to ensuring the accessibility of health care to all people as well as the quality and effectiveness of the services without harming the ones in need financially,

*Alarmed* by how the United States of America is the only industrial country that does not have a Universal Health Coverage for all citizens, disregarding age or health conditions,

*Observing* that traveling across international borders can lead to a higher spread of diseases within nations because of the numerous amounts of people coming in and out if regulations are not in place as well as the fact that 46% of travel is done by airplanes which is one of the easiest sources of transportation to spread a virus because of the proximity, using bathrooms, taking things in and out from the overhead bins,

*Deeply concerned* that 800 million people spend more than 10% of their household budgets on matters regarding healthcare,

*Confident* that there is a solution to the issue of implementing economic regulations on the healthcare market,

1. Calls Upon all Member States to strengthen control and surveillance at primary, immediate, and national level as well as designated international ports and borders as:
   1. If new diseases are to form which our modern-day doctors are yet to research, the lower the spread, the safer for the people and hospitals who will need to receive these patients,
   2. The regulations will help healthcare organizations prepare themselves for treatments, cures, and medications,
   3. With less fatal emergencies, insurances will not have to sacrifice more to a higher number of patients and the issue of citizens not being able to obtain an insurance because of their medical state,
   4. The measures taken to control and surveil borders and healthcare of those includes limiting the number of travelers allowed at borders as well as controlling and surveilling their current health status;
2. Urges Member States to ensure that their healthcare systems support the Universal Health Coverage in order to help support all citizens and allow them to seek the help they need without needing to worry about their financial state;
3. Asks Member States to create an agreement with insurances to not turn away customers who are in urgent need of a health coverage but cannot receive one because they are at a higher risk of facing a medical emergency;
4. Encourages the implementation of the IHR (International Health Regulations) as well as revising/updating them because:
   1. As new health issues surface and medical issues occur, the regulations will be adapted and be modified in order ensure the safety of the people and help the healthcare practices advance technologically,
   2. It will reinforce communication between organizations and create national surveillance,
   3. Due to increase spread of disease at borders, health documents during critical times will be enforced by border control and governments as a safety precaution when traveling;
5. Emphasizes the need for governments to spare an amount of funds suitable for their GDP and their country’s current medical need towards their country’s health care in order to:
   1. Create a greater medical management and awareness within the country as citizens have suffered not having the right knowledge on what kind of health services they should be receiving,
   2. Provide a cheap and accessible health care for all citizens, as with cheap healthcare;
6. Further encourages Member States to make use of external reference pricing for pharmaceutical products, in order to negotiate a more affordable price, which will be reinforced by transparency between Member States regarding the prices countries have payed and/or negotiated for these pharmaceutical products;
7. Encourages all Member States to provide minimal funds directly to citizens who are in desperate need for financial aid, if they request it and their living situation is worthy of it, which will be decided through a panel of government health ministers reviewing applications;
8. Deplores all Member States to take harsh measures regarding price gouging in the healthcare market, including but not limited to:
   1. Prohibiting excessive pricing of products that are considered essential during a global pandemic, including:
      1. Protective face masks,
      2. Hand sanitizer,
      3. Surgical gloves,
   2. Implementing measures in online platforms to prohibit civilians from selling healthcare products for excessive prices;
9. Calls upon all Member States to impose subsidies on health products in order to guarantee affordability, depending of the nations’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP), such as:
   1. Medications for common diseases, including but not limited to:
      1. Insulin,
      2. Statins (cholesterol tablets for reduce cholesterol),
      3. Proton Pump Inhibiter (reduces acid in stomach);
10. Further recommends governments to invest in medical services so that:
    1. The service can grow and improve its treatment methods during a pandemic,
    2. More materials can be purchased, which would enhance preparation in case of another pandemic,
    3. Services can hire more professionals, with more income, this would be extremely helpful as the need for workers increases during a pandemic,
    4. The construction of more medical services is possible;
11. Endorses organizations, such as UNICEF, to be set out in countries struggling with their educational system in order to improve the educational system to increase the number of doctors and nurses;
12. Decides to remain actively seized upon the matter.