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ECOSOC Issue #3: The question of ensuring measures to strengthen global healthcare.

Healthcare is needed by billions of people around the world who, because of where they live, are unable to have access to it. Many countries view it as an injustice for some people to have better quality healthcare simply because of where they live. More specifically, at least half of the population is unable to have essential health services. On the economic side, some health services cost so much that over 800 million people must spend at least 10% of their household budget to pay for medical costs. For 100 million people, this has resulted in poverty ("World Bank").

Debate should be centered around what measures can be taken to increase the quality and decrease the cost of healthcare, along with also making it more accessible. This includes countries without universal healthcare, like Iran, Egypt, Yemen, and the United States ("10 Countries"). Debate should also center around health insurance. Health insurance helps citizens pay for their healthcare, but there are many drawbacks. A slight majority (58%) of insured American adults have had at least one problem with their health insurance provider in 2023. Some insurances do not cover mental health-related issues, or do not do it very well. 45% of insured American adults with mental health problems say that their provider cannot find mental health services for them, often resulting in citizens forced to live without mental health care (Luhby).

The question of ensuring measures to strengthen global healthcare is extremely relevant to current issues. For example, the World Health Organization warns that the health care in Gaza is teetering on the edge of collapse. Four of the largest hospitals in Gaza have had to suspend

medical services. 697 attacks on health care have also been waged since October 2023. At least 94% of hospitals in the Gaza Strip have been damaged or destroyed, leading to only 19 of Gaza's 36 hospitals being operational ("Health system"). The Palestine and Israel conflict is not the only thing that has resulted in healthcare atrocities. 1957 attacks on Ukraine's healthcare system have been documented since February 24, 2022. This includes 1039 attacks that have resulted in damaged or destroyed hospitals and the death of 274 healthcare workers ("Attacks on health"). As the conflict continues, these numbers also increase at a steady rate.

Delegates should focus on researching their own countries' views, on what constitutes as healthcare, if said country provides any kind of free healthcare system, and if any healthcare violations have taken place. The current global healthcare systems face challenges daily. It is the duty of the United Nations member states to change this. If resolutions are passed, they will give the world not only better quality healthcare, but also security that their hospitals will not be damaged or destroyed in the near future.

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