



The World Health Organisation (WHO)

Strengthening Global Disease Detection Systems

13th - 15th February 2026

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the World Health Organization (WHO) committee at LFMPMUN 2026! As your Chairs, we invite you to step into the role of diplomats working together on global issues. In a world where diseases and health inequalities cross borders easily, international cooperation is essential. As WHO delegates, your role is to address global health challenges through diplomacy, collaboration, and realistic policy solutions under the theme “One World, Many Voices: Cooperation Beyond Borders.”

The World Health Organization, founded in 1948, is the United Nations agency responsible for global public health. It coordinates responses to health emergencies, strengthens healthcare systems, and promotes equitable access to medical care. In this committee, you delegates must balance national interests with the shared goal of protecting global health and ensuring fairness in healthcare access.

I. Introduction

In an interconnected world, a disease outbreak in one region can quickly become a global threat. Early detection of infectious diseases is essential to prevent local outbreaks from escalating into international health emergencies. Effective disease surveillance systems allow governments and health organizations to identify risks, respond rapidly, and protect populations. However, large gaps remain in global detection capacities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where limited resources weaken early warning mechanisms and delay response efforts.

II. Historic Context

Global disease surveillance has evolved significantly over the past century. Early international health cooperation focused on controlling the spread of diseases such as cholera and plague through quarantine and reporting systems. The creation of the World Health Organization in 1948 marked a major step toward coordinated global health governance.

Over time, major outbreaks—including HIV/AIDS, SARS, H1N1 influenza, Ebola, and COVID-19—highlighted the importance of timely detection and transparent reporting. These crises exposed weaknesses in national surveillance systems and demonstrated how delays in information sharing can worsen global health outcomes. As a result, disease detection has become a central pillar of global health security.

III.Past Actions

The WHO and its partners have implemented several initiatives to strengthen disease detection worldwide. The International Health Regulations (IHR) were revised in 2005 to require states to develop core surveillance and response capacities and to report public health threats promptly. Global networks for disease monitoring, laboratory support, and emergency response have also been established.

Despite these efforts, progress has been uneven. Many countries still lack sufficient laboratory infrastructure, trained personnel, and reliable data systems. Concerns over national sovereignty, economic consequences, and political pressure have at times discouraged early reporting, limiting the effectiveness of existing frameworks.

IV.Current Situation

Today, global disease detection systems remain fragile. According to the WHO, limited laboratory capacity and weak data-sharing mechanisms significantly increase the risk of uncontrolled disease spread, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (WHO, 2023). Emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and climate-related health threats further strain surveillance systems.

At the same time, technological advances offer new opportunities for early detection, including digital surveillance tools and real-time data analysis. However, unequal access to these technologies and lack of international coordination continue to undermine global preparedness. Strengthening cooperation beyond borders remains essential to ensure that outbreaks are detected early and addressed collectively.

V.Questions Delegates Can Consider

- How can global disease surveillance systems be strengthened without infringing on national sovereignty?
- What role should wealthier countries play in supporting surveillance capacity in lower-income states?

- How can data-sharing be improved while protecting privacy and preventing misinformation?
- What lessons from recent global health crises can inform future detection strategies?
- How can early detection systems be integrated into broader health system strengthening efforts?

VI.Sources (Websites for Research)

- World Health Organization (WHO) – www.who.int
- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) – www.who.int/initiatives/goarn
- World Bank – www.worldbank.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – www.cdc.gov
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – www.gavi.org

VII.Conclusion

Early detection is the foundation of effective global health security. Without strong surveillance systems and transparent data-sharing, disease outbreaks can rapidly escalate into international crises. Strengthening global disease detection requires cooperation across borders, sustained investment, and trust between states. Under the principle of “One World, Many Voices,” the WHO provides a platform for collective action to ensure that no country is left vulnerable—and that global health protection begins at the earliest possible moment.