

Committee: UNDP

Topic: Constructing Sustainable Medical Facilities

Welcome to THSMUN delegates!

At THSMUN, the formula to win is:

1. Participate enthusiastically and actively in ALL aspects of the committee.
2. Work collaboratively with other delegates - collaborate over dominate!
3. Offer creative, on-policy solutions and describe how they will be implemented in the real world.

Position papers must be submitted through our [Google Form](#) by

11:59 PM, November 2nd, 2025.

You must use a Gmail account in order to complete this form. If you do not have a Gmail account, please email your position paper to thsmunoperations@gmail.com.

Please also note that any papers sent to this email with a Gmail address will not be considered/graded. Please use the Google Form instead. Thank you.

***note that if you are submitting via google docs, YOU MUST ensure that the sharing settings are set to “anyone with the link can view”**

Late papers will be ineligible for research awards. Delegates without papers submitted or late papers are also ineligible for Best Delegate awards.

Information about Papers

- Single spaced
- 2 page max **not including works cited**
- 12 Font Times New Roman
- 1 inch borders

Committee Description

In partnership with MUN Impact, the theme of THSMUN XXXIII is Rise to Resolution. Committees will have an emphasis on promoting a sustainable environment, establishing economic growth, tranquility between nations, and overall prosperity. In this conference, we focus on substantive debate. We want to hear you propose your own, unique solutions from the beginning of the committee.

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The UNDP, also known as the United Nations Development Programme, was established in 1965 in order to help eradicate poverty and inequalities, improve policies, expand institutional capabilities, and more around the globe. The UNDP works based on the agency's six signature solutions. These include poverty and inequality, governance, resilience, environment, energy, and gender equality. The UNDP partners with many communities and countries to provide sustainable solutions concerning healthcare systems by using technology-enabled green infrastructure. The UNDP is currently involved in 170 different countries to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Background

Although much effort has been put forth to improve and construct medical facilities globally, more than half of the global population did not have coverage for essential health services in 2021 alone. Due to a lack of such vital facilities, a rise in poor health and illnesses has been seen on a global scale. According to NCBI, about 8 million people die each year due to a decrease in access to high-quality healthcare. Factors such as having few medical personnel, not receiving proper funding, poor infrastructure, distance, accessibility, and language barriers are what keep healthcare from reaching its potential. Over the years this issue has only gotten worse, with the COVID-19 pandemic weakening health systems. Everyone has been affected by this dwindling of health care, not only third world countries. Nations have seen their averages for health coverage plummet in recent years. This issue has been prevalent for hundreds of years and tackled in many different ways, but has yet to come to an end. Still, efforts are being made such as the UN's initiation of the UHC2030, which has supported and strengthened universal

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healthcare, with the goal of ensuring that health services become accessible to those most affected.

UN Involvement

The UN strongly upholds the ideal that everyone has a right to healthcare and that steps must be taken to achieve global access to health. The work of NGOs relating to the third SDG, healthy lives and well-being for all, have been initiated around the world in partnership with the UN. The most prominent example of progress made on constructing medical facilities is the UNDP's Smart Health Facilities initiative which works with countries, communities, and partners to bring technology-enabled green infrastructure solutions for resilient and sustainable systems for health. From its adoption in December 2023, this solution has resulted in reliable tracking and delivery of over 2.7 billion routine immunization and COVID vaccine doses, over 45,000 Smart Health Facilities operating across 13 countries, over 80,000 healthcare workers trained, and over \$50 million invested. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also made moves to tackle this issue by jointly publishing the 2023 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Global Monitoring Report, revealing an alarming stagnation in the progress towards providing people everywhere with quality, affordable, and accessible health care. Additionally, the UNDP has worked on an initiative to construct Smart Health Facilities, which uses clean energy to find creative solutions to fill the infrastructure gap and help the world recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the goals of providing Smart Health Facilities include reducing waste and costs of health care as well as eliminating poverty.

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Regional Groups of Member States

African Group:

Less than half of Africa's population has access to health care, and at least one sixth of Sub Saharan Africa's population lives more than two hours away from a public hospital. This region is the most affected by this issue and has the greatest need for proper healthcare facilities. African nations have taken some steps to improve healthcare, but neglect and underfunding prevent any radical changes from being made.

Asia-Pacific Group:

Asia's healthcare systems mainly struggle with limited access and inequalities. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has claimed that 1.6 billion people in Asia and the Pacific lack access to social health protection. Additionally, access to healthcare is also affected by social factors such as income and education. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) stated that access to healthcare in Myanmar is more difficult for women from lower income households to achieve than those in households with high income.

Eastern European Group:

Though Eastern Europe is among the global population less urgently pressed by the lack of medical facilities, it still faces problems in their medical sectors. Even 30 years after the collapse of communism, Central and Eastern European nations fall behind the west in providing sufficient healthcare. This is mainly due to a lack of funding for health systems as well as a shortage of healthcare workers.

Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC):

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This region's healthcare took a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has since made notable progress in improving the system. The Pan American Health Organization has stated that, over the years, government investment in healthcare directly provided an increase in health workers, thus making government health intervention raise by 1.1 percentage points. However, Latin America has the most differing levels of economic status, making a third of their populations still facing certain medical barriers.

Western European and Others Group (WEOG):

Similar to Eastern Europe, Western nations are also facing a shortage of healthcare workers, but have slightly more access to facilities. Still, these facilities are not sustainable. For example, in the United States the healthcare sector accounts for nearly 10% of carbon emissions. In addition, single-use equipment is a massive contributor to waste, highlighting the need for equipment or strategies that can be both sterile and less harmful for the environment. So far, the English National Health System has committed itself to reach net zero emissions via the Health and Care Act 2022.

Solutions

As you formulate your solution to making medical facilities more sustainable, start by evaluating the current state of your country's healthcare systems. If your country severely lacks accessible or adequate healthcare, you may choose to prioritize constructing medical facilities in general. However, also consider how you can make these new medical facilities sustainable from the start. If your country already has a functioning healthcare system, see how you can make it more sustainable. This can be done by turning to green energy, using sustainable transport

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options, and recycling equipment. Remember that your solution should include details like where it will first be implemented and when. Set specific goals and deadlines in order to create a feasible plan that can hold all participants accountable. Most importantly, be creative and open minded in order to eventually create a collaborative resolution that can resolve this issue globally.

Questions:

1. Why have certain countries been unable to construct proper medical facilities?
2. What, if anything, has your country already done to make its medical facilities more sustainable?
3. How much of your country's carbon emissions does its healthcare system account for?
4. How much waste does your country's healthcare system produce?
5. What forms of energy does your country currently rely on? How can green energy be utilized in medical facilities?
6. What are some obstacles to constructing sustainable medical facilities?

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Position Paper Rubric

	Topic Background	UN/International Involvement	Country Policy	Possible Solutions
5 (Advanced)	Demonstrates advanced understanding of topic background through analysis of substantial/relevant information.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of UN/international Involvement demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of country policy demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Comprehensive plan presented. Insightful, practical and probable solutions are explained in-depth.
4 (Above Average)	Demonstrates clear understanding of topic background through use of substantial/relevant information.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Insightful, practical and probable solutions are provided.
3 (Average)	Demonstrates understanding of topic background through use of some substantial/relevant information. Mostly descriptive in nature.	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Practical and probable solutions are provided, but may be lacking in quantity or quality.

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2 (Below Average)	Much of the background is unreliable and does not assist the delegate very much. The section is too brief and does not demonstrate understanding.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Solutions lack depth and are impractical. May be minimal in amount.
1 (Needs much more Improvement)	The background is way too short (one to two sentences) and information is invalid.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	The solutions section is only a sentence or two and severely lacks quality/clarity.
0 (Section cannot be found)	No Background present	No UN Involvement present	No Country Policy present	No Solutions present
Totals	_____/5	_____/5	_____/10	_____/15