



How to make your own World Health Organization Simulation

The second edition of the Montreal World Health Organization simulation (MonWHO)* was held in February 2008. In an attempt to encourage others to run WHO simulations, we have prepared this guide. The advice provided below reflects areas in the organization of the conference that require particular attention based on the experience that we have built over the past two years. It is important to note that this conference does not follow the format of a traditional speaker-oriented conference nor a typical model UN conference.

1. *A good team*

This piece of advice is probably not surprising to you, but there are some key elements that will require specific attention. As mentioned above, there are challenging logistical components that require input from people who have experience with model UN conferences. They are in a unique position to provide you with information about how successful model UN conferences are run so that you won't have to reinvent the wheel. We strongly suggest that you involve your local university model UN club and draw on their human resources to develop a timeline, assess your needs and help you with the logistical aspects of the conference. This includes the manpower to run the committees and discussions according to well-established rules of procedure.

You can find an example of the job titles as they are designed for MonWHO 2009 in appendix A of this document.

2. *A good topic*

You need to identify a topic of discussion that animates your university and country. This is particularly important for the first conference you hold since it will help you build a reputation and attract student participation in the future. A good way to do that is to meet with other health oriented groups from your campus and discuss their interests in the upcoming academic year. You may want to, for example, ally with other groups and decide to organize your activities according to a particular topic throughout the year, culminating in your World Health Organization conference. Additionally, it may be interesting to find a topic that can involve as many fields of academia to promote interprofessionalism among students. A solid topic should be able to draw students from a variety of backgrounds including medicine, nursing, international development, law, economics and political science.

Based on the topic of the conference, and as discussed above, you will need to draw a background document that delegates may be able to read before the conference as a reference

* The conference formerly known as McWHO

about the topic. It should contain at the very least a comprehensive review of the key ideas about your topic and suggested readings. Delegates should use this document as a basis for further reading and research on your country or organizations position.

3. *Venue*

The venue for your conference needs to be able to accommodate for the specific needs of such a conference, and your experienced model UN students on your team will help you with this part. In brief, you will need:

- A large room to host the General Assembly
- Several smaller rooms to host regional blocks
- A delegate resource center with computers and printers. Participants can use this room to do research during the conference
- A Staff room. This is not essential for a small conference, but is a good idea to store equipment and as a meeting place

You will also have various technology needs, such as computers, projectors, screens, etc. Often these can be rented from your university or local business, depending on your budget.

4. *Money*

One of the first things to be considered is a budget for your event. It is important to break down the budget into smaller components (venue, technology, office supplies, social events, etc) and have members of your organizing team research the actual cost of each item. This will also give you a good idea on how much the conference registration fee should be for delegates and how much sponsorship you will need to find. Prioritize your costs, what is most essential and will provide the most professional atmosphere should be at the top of your list.

5. Conference Structure

Below is the structure of the McWHO 2008 conference that can be used as a template and modified according to your ideas.

Day 1

Pre-Conference Workshops:

The opening ceremonies were preceded by two one hour workshops in order to prepare delegates for the plenary session the next day. The first such workshop described the issue of the migration of health care workers and the impact it has had on Canada. The second workshop was a tutorial on the conference rules of procedure. Delegates found this part of the conference particularly interesting and useful, and we will consider adding more workshops throughout the length of the conference in future years.

Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Speaker:

The opening ceremonies are an opportunity for the organizing team to welcome the delegates and address some general issues regarding the conference. This was followed by a keynote speech given by Ted Schrecker, an associate professor from the University of Ottawa's Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine.

Day 2

Morning: Regional Blocks

On the morning of the second day, delegates were assigned to their regional blocks (African, Asian, European and Others, Latin American, and NGOs). The discussion was moderated by a Dais (consisting of a Chair, vice-Chair, and Directors) according to a modified version of the WHO rules of procedure. Delegates were also allowed to enter unmoderated caucuses to discuss the issues amongst themselves. The objective of the regional blocks was for delegates to write working papers, which are essentially a highlight of the problems along with potential solutions that the region identifies with.

Each delegate was expected to present the views of their country but also to work with others to produce these working papers. Non-Governmental Actors (NGOs and recruitment agencies) were permitted rotated between blocks and addressed delegates by making presentations or distributing written pronouncements.

Afternoon: Plenary Session

In the afternoon session delegates from all the regional blocs, met together for the plenary session or general assembly. The regional blocks presented all of the working papers they had produced to the entire committee. Delegates were then guided by the dais to further debate the issues and work together and form solutions amenable to the entire committee. Delegates then began formatting solutions in the format of draft resolutions. The draft resolutions required two sponsors and one fifth of the committee as signatories. The draft resolutions were then formally introduced to the Assembly and a question and answer period followed. Draft resolutions could also be amended and delegates worked together to amend draft resolutions so to gain the widest consensus while still respecting their countries position.

Day 3

Plenary Session

The plenary session on the last day of the conference followed the same objectives as on day two. After Draft resolutions were sufficiently amended and discussed, they were submitted to vote. Resolutions were adopted by a majority vote.

Resolutions brought forward: 4

Resolutions Passed: 3

Appendix

- A – Secretariat Structure**
- B – Example of a Working Paper**
- C – Example of a Draft Resolution**
- D – Role of a Dais**
- E – Rules of Procedure**
- F – Resolution Writing**
- G – Acknowledgements**

A. Secretariat Structure:

Executive Director

Responsibilities

1. Supervise all secretariat portfolios
2. Secure venue and contract
3. Schedule Secretariat meetings
4. Negotiate long-term contract with venue
5. Delegate Handbook overview
6. Participate in selection process of the next Executive Director

Chief of Operations

Responsibilities

7. Recruit Chairs, vice-Chairs, Directors, Pages, DRC coordinator by open application process
8. Supervises committees sessions during conference
9. Staff training
10. Content of relevant sections in Delegate Handbook (“Rules of procedure/committees”)
11. Content of relevant sections of website
12. Find Chair/vice-chair from Regional Blocks to work at the General Assembly
13. Optional responsibility: contracting IT equipment

Logistics Director

Responsibilities

1. Coordinates Social events
2. Miscellaneous conference needs (food for staff, committee room set up, etc...)
3. Content of relevant sections in Delegate Handbook
4. Content of relevant sections of website
5. Primary liaison with Hotel/Venue during conference

IT/Webmaster

Responsibilities

1. Setting up IT at the conference
2. Recruit IT personnel
3. Contracting IT equipment
4. Update content of Website in collaboration with other Secretariat members

Theme Director

Responsibilities

1. Background document
2. Selection of Topic
3. Identification and dissemination of information sources about topic
4. Secure and introduce Guest Speaker
5. Develop and coordinate conference workshops
6. Network with relevant professors regarding topic
7. Content of relevant sections in Delegate Handbook
8. Content of relevant sections of Website
9. Advise Chairs about debate focus

Charge d’Affaires

Responsibilities

1. Recruiting and communicating with Delegates
2. Website Overview (verifying quality of content submitted by other secretariat members/develop content)
3. Manage scholarships for travelling participants
4. Collaborate with PR Director on promotional material
5. Content of relevant sections in Delegate handbook

Public Relations Director

Responsibilities

1. Fundraising and thank-you letters for sponsorsCollaborate with Charge d’Affaires on promotional material
2. Cross-advertisement with other conferences
3. Contact Media (press releases)
4. Content of relevant sections in Delegate Handbook
5. Content of relevant sections of Website
6. Develop long-term funding sources

Finance Director

Responsibilities

1. Develop and update budget (by the end of September)
2. Submit Actuals six weeks post conference
3. Manage bank and other accounts
4. Fundraise and thank-you letters for sponsors
5. Receipts and reimbursements

B. Example of a Working Paper:

- Some countries have difficulty enacting the TRIPS agreement regarding access to medicines.
- National legislation should help support access to medicines legislations.
- Legal experts may be useful in helping nations develop this new legislation.

C. Example of Draft Resolution

Working Paper 1.1

Regional Block: Africa

Authors: Botswana, Madagascar, South Africa

The World Health Organization,

Aware of the lack of legal expertise that prevents many countries from fully utilizing the lawful measures provided by TRIPS to achieve better access to medicines,

Having considered the fact that legal prosecution has previously hindered countries in their pursuit of better access to medicines,

Noting further that the fear of lawsuits can limit the use of the TRIPS measures to secure better access to medicines,

1. Calls for the adoption and implementation of measures in the national legislation to support parallel importation, compulsory licensing, elimination of taxes or customs on imported drugs, fixed price measures, and limiting of perverse measures from pharmaceutical marketing;
2. Calls for the creation of a panel of legal experts to provide advice to developing nations on all legal measures the country can undertake to expand its access to medicines, including parallel imports and compulsory licensing;
3. Recommends that this legal panel provide assistance to countries facing litigation over issues pertaining to access to medicines.

D. Role of a Dais:

Chair/Vice-Chair:

- Moderate discussion

Directors:

- Help delegates write working papers, edits them for format and approves their content

Rapporteurs:

- Liaison between the committee and conference services, and coordinates the administrative aspects of the committee

E. Rules of Procedure

1. Official Conference Language

English is the official working language of this conference and will be used during all committee sessions.

2. The Committee

The Committee is composed of Delegates as well as the Dais. The Dais is composed of a Chairperson (referred to as “Chair”), one or more Vice-Chairpersons (“Vice-Chair”), one or more Directors and one or more Rapporteurs.

3. Role of the Dais Members

The Chair declares the opening and closing of each committee session and may propose procedural motions to which there are no objections. The Chair has control of committee proceedings during the conference and will moderate the discussion, announce decisions, rule on any points or motions, and enforce the rules. The Chair can temporarily transfer his duties to any other member of the dais. Procedural matters are subject to the discretion of the Chair. The Chair may take any action that is not covered in the Rules of Procedure in order to facilitate the flow of debate. The Vice-Chair assists the Chair with procedural matters during the course of the committee sessions.

The Director helps delegates write working papers, edits them for format and approves their content; the Director may suggest to delegates that they alter or combine their working papers in order to make them more appropriate to the topic at hand. The Director must approve all working papers before they can become Draft Resolutions. (See the section 15).

The Rapporteur is a liaison between the committee and conference services, and coordinates the administrative aspects of the committee proceedings.

4. Non-Governmental Actors

A representative of a non-member delegation, a non-governmental organization or a pharmaceutical representative shall have the same rights as a full member except that he or she may not vote on substantive matters, or be sponsor to resolutions. Delegates

representing non-governmental organizations will have access to certain unique procedural actions, as follows:

- (1) Oral Statements to Committee: non-governmental actors may submit a written appeal to his or her chair explaining the topic and intention of the proposed statement (maximum 3 minutes). The chair will then, at his or her discretion, interrupt the normal flow of debate to introduce the delegate.
- (2) Circulation of written pronouncements: non-governmental actors may submit to the chair a written pronouncement of no more than 500 words, addressing the position and work of his or her organization. This pronouncement will then, at the discretion of the chair, be distributed throughout the committee.

5. Conduct of Proceedings

5.1. Regional Blocs

The Committee proceedings during the Regional Blocs will be conducted in **Moderated Caucus** format. During a moderated caucus, the Chair asks those delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards. The Chair will then recognize a delegate for remarks not exceeding the amount of time allotted.

Once the delegate has completed their remarks, the Chair will ask whether Delegates have any points or motions. The points and motions that can be made will be described below. If no points or motions are made, the next speaker will be chosen.

During the Regional Blocs, delegates also have the option of entering an unmoderated caucus, as described below.

5.2. Plenary Session

During the Plenary Session, committee proceedings will involve the use of a **Speaker's List**. To better coordinate the flow of debate in the Plenary, a larger committee than the regional blocs, the Chair will open a Speaker's List and will ask for delegates who wish to be added to this list at the beginning of each committee session. Those delegates who wish to be added will be recognized on the spot and added to the list. Those who wish to be added later during the session may send a note to the dais. After each speaker the chair will ask for two 30 second comments from other delegates. The content of the comments must pertain solely to the preceding speech.

During the Plenary Session, delegates may motion to enter a moderated or unmoderated caucus, as described below.

6. Speaking time

The Chair may specify the time allotted to each speaker; alternatively, delegates may motion to set the speaking time or to increase or decrease the existing time. If the time allotted is exceeded, the Chair will call the delegate to order.

Points

7. Point of Personal Privilege

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege and the Chair shall immediately address the point. A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort or safety and/or the well-being of the members of the committee, for example, if a delegate is unable to hear the speaker. A Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt a speaker.

8. Point of Order

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a Point of Order and the Chair shall immediately consider the request. A Point of Order must relate to the rules of the committee or to the way the Chair is exercising his or her power. A delegate raising a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker.

9. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

If there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may raise a Point of Inquiry to request clarification on procedure. A Point of Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker.

Motions

A procedural motion is one which relates to the flow of debate rather than to the topic being discussed. Substantive motions refer to voting procedure on Draft Resolutions and Amendments presented to the committee.

10. Motion to enter a Moderated Caucus:

The purpose of a moderated caucus is to allow delegates who are actively involved in the current committee proceedings to make their comments to the body without having to wait for their turn on the speaker's list. The moderated caucus allows more delegates to speak within a shorter time frame than the speaker's list, thus stimulating discussion and clarifying the positions of delegates involved.

The motion for a moderated caucus must include a time limit for delegate remarks and a time limit for the entire caucus (e.g., "The country of [country name] moves for a five-minute moderated caucus with a 30-second speaking time, for the purpose of [specific topic]"). Such a moderated caucus would have enough time for ten speakers. During moderated caucuses, the chair shall recognize delegates for remarks without the use of a speakers list.

To motion for a moderated caucus is only in order during the plenary session; in the regional blocs the default is to be in a moderated caucus. In the plenary, once the time for the moderated caucus has expired, the committee session will return to either moderated caucus format or the speaker's list.

11. Motion to enter an Unmoderated Caucus:

An unmoderated caucus allows delegates to leave their seats and meet as groups in a non-structured format to discuss the progress of the committee session as well as continue editing working papers.

The recommendation for an unmoderated caucus requires a time limit to be made (e.g., “The nation of [country name] moves for a 10-minute unmoderated caucus, for the purpose of [specific topic]”). Unmoderated caucuses allow delegates to have informal discussions.

Once the time for the unmoderated caucus has expired, the committee session will return to either moderated caucus format or the speaker’s list.

12. Closure of Debate

A delegate may at any time during the final committee session move for the closure of debate on the item under discussion, after which debate will end and all draft resolutions and amendments will be put to an immediate vote. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to a vote. This motion requires a two-thirds majority decision. Upon passage of this motion, the Chair shall declare the closure of debate and immediately move into voting procedure on the substantive proposals introduced and pending before the committee. The committee shall also close debate and move into voting procedure when the speakers list has been exhausted.

13. Order of Procedural Motions

The motions below shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the committee and may interrupt the speaker:

- (1) Point of Personal Privilege
- (2) Point of Order

All other points shall be considered in the order they are made or at the chairs discretion.

14. Submission of Draft Resolutions and Amendments

14.1. Regional Blocs

During the Regional Blocs, delegates will be working with other members of their Bloc to write working papers, which are essentially lists of ideas for solutions to the problems being discussed that are not structured in Draft Resolution format.

These working papers will set out the main ideas that delegates would like to be contained in a future Consensus Statement of the World Health Organization on Access to Medicines. Working papers shall be submitted to the Director for approval. All submissions must have the proper number of authors (3); working papers do not require signatories.

14.2. Plenary Session

Delegates may bring the working papers to the Plenary Session, where they will put them into formal Draft Resolution format with the help of the committee Directors.

Draft resolutions and amendments shall be submitted to the Director on the draft resolution forms given to delegates in committee. All submissions must have the proper number of sponsors (3) and signatories (20 percent of countries present in committee).

A **sponsor** is a delegate who has contributed to the writing of a draft resolution and fully agrees with all the clauses. A **signatory**, however, does not have to fully agree with the contents of the draft resolution. The delegate that signs a draft resolution as a signatory simply agrees that the resolution should be discussed in committee session. After a draft resolution is introduced, additional sponsors can be added only if all existing sponsors of a resolution agree; signatories may not be removed once a resolution has been introduced.

During the course of the Plenary Session, delegates may also propose amendments to Draft Resolutions that have been presented. See Rule 15.

Once the formatting is approved by the dais and the document has been distributed, the Chair will recognize a motion to introduce the Draft Resolution, described below.

15. Introducing Draft Resolutions

Once the Director has approved a draft resolution and the draft resolution has been copied and distributed, a delegate may raise a motion to introduce the draft resolution. The motion is automatically approved and does not require a vote. The content of the introduction shall be limited to summarizing the operative clauses of the draft resolution. After the draft resolution is introduced, the Chair will move into a five minute question and answer session, during which delegates may question the sponsors about the draft resolution's content. Questions asked must specifically pertain to the substantive matters raised in the draft resolution. Time use to ask questions will not be deducted from the 5 minutes. Additional questions and comments regarding the resolution are encouraged to be raised through the speakers list.

16. Amendments

Both friendly and unfriendly amendments require the approval of the Chair. An amendment is considered friendly if all sponsors of the initial draft resolution agree to its inclusion. Such an amendment is adopted automatically. Unfriendly amendments are voted on by the committee once debate has been closed. An unfriendly amendment must have the approval of the Director and the signatures of 20 percent of the committee. Amendments to amendments are out of order.

Voting

17. Methods of Decision

All procedural decisions, except for the closure of debate, shall be made by a simple majority of the delegations present. *Delegations physically present in the committee may not abstain on procedural motions.* Decisions on draft resolutions and amendments shall require a simple majority in favour.

18. Voting Rights

On procedural motions, members may not abstain. Each present delegation shall have one vote. Observing nations, pharmaceutical representatives and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) cannot vote on substantive matters. Each vote may be a Yes, No or Abstain.

19. Conduct While in Voting Procedure

After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting on the draft resolutions, no representative may enter or leave the room, nor shall any representative interrupt the voting except on a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry or a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Communication between delegates is strictly forbidden.

20. Method of Voting

Delegations may vote in favour of or against a proposal or may abstain from voting. The committee shall normally vote by show of placards, but any delegate may request a roll-call vote on substantive matters.

During a roll-call vote, delegations may answer with an affirmative vote, a negative vote or an abstention (when appropriate). Delegations that appear to be voting out of policy, while casting an affirmative or negative vote, may reserve the right to explain their vote by Voting with Rights. Delegations must announce that they are Voting with Rights at the time they cast their vote. The Chair may permit delegations Voting with Rights to explain their votes after voting has concluded but before the decision has been announced. A roll call vote on a procedural matter is never in order.

21. Order of Draft Resolutions

If two or more draft resolutions are introduced to the committee then they shall be voted on in the order in which they have been submitted.

22. Voting on Unfriendly Amendments

During the voting procedure on a substantive proposal, unfriendly amendments to a resolution shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are proposed to a resolution concurrently, the committee shall vote on the amendments in the order in which they were presented. Where, however, the adoption of the amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment (as decided by the Chair), the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

23. Passage of Resolutions

If a vote does not result in a simple majority in favour, the resolution shall be regarded as rejected. A simple majority is defined as more votes in favour than opposed. Therefore, a motion fails on a tie vote. Any number of abstentions may not cause a motion to fail.

F. Resolution Writing Guide

Resolutions are some of the most important policy instruments in international law. Resolutions typically represent the opinion of a United Nations body on any topic or issue on its agenda, while also detailing its recommended course of action. Therefore, it is vitally important that delegates know how to write resolutions.

Important note: **Pre-Written Resolutions in any form are not allowed at MonWHO.** These run counter to the spirit of MonWHO as the conference aims to promote consensus-building in its committees. All daises are empowered to inquire as to the status of any resolution brought before them and to disregard resolutions they feel to be pre-written.

Preambulatory Clauses

The preambulatory clause should outline the history of the problem, show that the topic falls under the authority of the committee, and demonstrate that there is a need for a resolution. It is also useful to point out relevant sections of the Charter of the United Nations, cite previous UN resolutions or precedents of international law. The preambulatory clauses should specifically refer to actual situations. The preambulatory clauses may include altruistic appeals to common sense or the humanitarian instincts of the members with reference to the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or other well-known, influential documents. The importance of the preambulatory clauses depends on the question under consideration. In some cases, the preambulatory clauses are a mere formality; it is only the operative clauses that are debated. However, the preambulatory clauses are still critical because they provide a framework through which the problem is viewed. Remember that ***preambulatory clauses cannot be amended.***

Common First Words of Preambulatory Clauses

Affirming	Further deploring	Welcoming
Alarmed by	Guided by	
Approving	Having adopted	
Aware of	Having considered	
Believing	Having considered further	
Bearing in mind	Having devoted attention	
Cognisant of	Having examined	
Confident	Having received	
Contemplating	Having studied	
Convinced	Keeping in mind	
Declaring	Noting further	
Deploring	Noting with regret	
Deeply concerned	Noting with satisfaction	
Deeply conscious	Noting with deep concern	
Deeply disturbed	Noting with approval	
Deeply regretting	Observing	
Desiring	Reaffirming	
Emphasising	Realising	
Expecting	Recalling	
Expressing its appreciation	Recognising	
Expressing its satisfaction	Seeking	
Fulfilling	Taking into account	
Fully aware	Taking note	
Fully believing	Viewing with appreciation	

Operative Clauses

Proposed solutions are listed in a series of numbered operative clauses. Each operative clause calls for a specific action. The action may be vague, such as denouncing a given situation, or concrete, such as calling for a cease-fire or monetary commitment. Remember that resolutions are not binding upon Member States; the World Health Assembly can only make recommendations. Resolutions are not complete solutions. Prior to research should establish failed alternatives; imaginations and study produce new courses of action. Delegates must act within their nation's foreign policy when sponsoring draft resolutions. Operative clauses begin with active present tense verbs and end with semicolons except the final clause, which ends with a period.

Common First Words of Operative Clauses

Accepts
Affirms
Applauds
Approves
Authorises
Calls for
Calls upon
Condemns
Congratulates
Confirms
Considers
Declares
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Draws attentions
Designates
Emphasises
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Further invites
Further proclaims
Further reminds
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Reminds
Regrets
Resolves
Requests
Strongly condemns
Supports
Takes note of
Trusts
Urges

Amendments

An amendment is a clarification or a change to a draft resolution that incorporates additional interests or concerns into a formally submitted resolution. Please refer to the rules on amendments for details.

Acceptable amendments include:

- Addition of a word or a phrase,
- Deletion of a word or a phrase, and/or
- A combination of addition and deletion

Unacceptable amendments include:

- Amendment of preambulatory clauses, and/or
- Amendments which change the entire intent of the resolution

Draft Resolution Formatting

In general, draft resolutions must have:

- The name of the committee in the top-left corner on the first line (World Health Assembly).
- The draft resolution code in the top-left corner on the second line. Eg. The resolution code “WHA/1.2” would indicate that the document in question was the second draft resolution on the first topic discussed by the committee.
- The names of the sponsoring member-states in the top-left corner on the third line and the signatories on the fourth line
- The date the draft was proposed in the top-right corner of the second line.

In the body of the draft resolution:

The title should be two lines down from the names of the signatories. It should be centred, **bold** and underlined. Two lines down from the title, indented and in *italics* should appear the name of the organ followed by a comma.

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
SOCHUM/1.2

Sponsors: United of State, Djibouti

Signatories: Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Denmark, Syrian Arab Republic

Distr: General
10 November 2005

Review of the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/233 of 22 December 1989, Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/36 of 28 July 1999 and other relevant resolutions,

Noting with deep concern the accelerating spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which has already infected millions of people worldwide, and the resulting increase in cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),

Recognising that no country in the world has been spared by the AIDS epidemic and that 90 per cent of the people living with HIV/AIDS live in the developing world, which has been very severely affected, particularly in Africa,

Mindful that the AIDS epidemic has become a development crisis in many countries, with devastating consequences for human, social and economic progress, and that the development gains of the past fifty years, including the increase in child survival and in life expectancy, are being reversed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

Alarmed that, despite all efforts, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is having a more severe impact than was originally projected, and recognising that resources devoted to combating the epidemic at both national and international levels are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem,

Commending the efforts by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to coordinate and intensify efforts to address HIV/AIDS in all appropriate forums,

Recognising that the needs in countries addressing AIDS far outweigh both the human and financial resources being made available and that high-level political commitment is critical to strengthen the response to the epidemic,

1. **Requests** that the Secretary-General convene a special session of the General Assembly for a duration of three days to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects and to coordinate and intensify international efforts to combat it, as soon as possible, preferably in May 2001 but not later than the end of its fifty-sixth session;

2. **Urges** Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at a high political level;

3. **Further requests** that the exact date of the special session, as well as the modalities, participation in an organisation of the preparatory process and the special session, should be finalised, at the earliest opportunity, at its fifty-fifth session;

E. **Further requests** that the Secretary-General include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects".

G. Acknowledgements:

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