**American Mock World Health Organization 2017 International Conference**

**Regional Block: AMRO 2.1**

**Topic: “**Building Preventative Capacity for Climate Change Response”

**Sponsors:** Brazil, Paraguay, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America

**Signatories:** Bolivia**,** Chile, Costa Rica,Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haití, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay

**Humanitarian Index Score:** 77%

*Deeply concerned* by catastrophic natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis that are exacerbated by changes in climate patterns,

*Taking into consideration* the vast socioeconomic disparities in and between nations which leave historically marginalized populations most vulnerable to environmental emergencies,

*Acknowledging* women’s health is disproportionately impacted by natural disasters and climate change as a whole,

*Recognizing* the growing burden of chronic diseases in all nations that are aggravated by pollution, extreme weather, and poverty,

*Noting with deep concern* how infectious diseases are easily spread in natural disasters,

*Keeping in mind* the importance of agriculture to the economic stability, food security, and health of the global community,

*Emphasizing* the urgency to not only develop preventative capacity in all regions but also to respond to immediate environmental disasters that leave people injured, ill, and displaced,

*Encouraged* by the international community’s near-universal acceptance of the groundbreaking Paris Agreement to combat climate change

*AMRO*,

* + 1. *Urges* all regions to engage trained and skilled community health workers (CHWs), as a force for emergency response, education, data collection, and dissemination of information, to;
       1. Educate the community on prophylactic measures and strategies, promote good hygiene practices, and encourage the use of personal protective equipment,
       2. Deliver pertinent health information to affected and vulnerable populations including women, indigenous peoples, Internally Displaced People, children, and the elderly,
       3. Expand the community health workforce through training and education, with a specific focus on creating opportunity for women and underrepresented minorities, and
       4. Ensure cultural sensitivity in all interventions;

* + 1. *Urges* the immediate strengthening of health infrastructure in affected areas through the establishment of Emergency Response Centers (ERCs), which will fall under the jurisdiction of each national government in which each ERC is located, to
       1. Expand the function of existing community health centers to train for response to emergency situations and to serve as ERCs, and
       2. Establish the emergency response capabilities of other non-health related community centers to further the reach of ERCs, and
       3. Facilitate the distribution of supplies, including food, water, and medical products, with the assistance of NGO and governmental contributions;
    2. *Proposes* the future deployment of the Emergency Response Centers (ERCs) model for sustainable disaster relief ability and furthering the preventative capacity of regions affected by anticipated climate-driven crises and;
       1. Emphasizesthe utility of ERCs as a replicable and adaptable model that guarantees effective yet flexible response to future instances of health-compromising emergencies,
       2. Recognizesthe utility of data sharing for continued innovation, *and*
       3. Draws attention tothe ability of sustained use of ERCs to continue to engage CHWs;
    3. *Calls for* regional oversight and surveillance of relief programs in order to monitor overall success and integrity of interventions, to
       1. Be able to spread information globally about successful programs in their own regions that could work for other regions, and
       2. Encourage natural disaster relief and research/development regarding early disaster detection systems for each region, and
       3. Note that monitoring will be a joint responsibility between governments and PAHO (or other regional bodies);

* + 1. *Endorses* innovation within the agricultural sector in order to ensure stability in food and water accessibility and maintain consistent access to these resources, and;
       1. Seeks guidance from infrastructure developers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors,
       2. Emphasizes the implementation of sustainable agricultural techniques, such as crop rotation and more efficient irrigation methods, to conserve natural resources,
       3. Implement and further develop known eco-friendly livestock raising practices,
       4. Research new practices in farming to reduce greenhouse gas production,
       5. Further invites affiliated land conservation organizations to cooperate with affected countries to prevent depletion of rainforests and promote reforestation campaigns, and
       6. Urges collaboration between local farmers and relevant local scientists familiar with the culture to choose crops that grow optimally within a country’s climate, while empowering local farmers to create positive health impacts within their communities
       7. Collaborate with agricultural scientists to employ farming techniques that release less nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas that largely comes from poor agricultural practices;
    2. *Recommends* that nations provide funding for these programs with contributions from national budgets and cooperation with NGOs
       1. Suggests nations draw funds from existing disaster relief and public health budgets to establish and support ERCs,
       2. Expresses its hope that nations will work with NGOs to further support the activity of ERCs during times of crises.

* + 1. *Resolved* to release the following statement on behalf of the AMRO region in response to the emerging crisis of wildfire:
       1. Stretches of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, USA, and Mexico are currently being devastated by wildfires. The scope of environmental destruction of the recent fires spanning the American continents is grave, and entails lasting consequences to the planet.
       2. First, acknowledging that loss of rainforest drastically impacts carbon absorptions on a global level and recognizing the direct and indirect threats to human life, health, and wellbeing in all sectors of society, we urge local governments to coordinate expedient evacuation and temporary relocation in affected and vulnerable areas. We call upon international humanitarian assistance to our efforts to address these threats to human health.
       3. The AMRO region of the WHO is working to meet immediate needs by establishing Emergency Response Centers to coordinate rapid health risk assessments, utilize available supplies to provide immediate medical relief, deliver food and water, and assist in the transport of critical patients.
       4. The AMRO region of the WHO further calls upon local, regional, international, and NGO support in the supply and distribution of material resources and human capital. Recognizing the many emergent threats to health currently faced by regions around the world, we emphasize reciprocity to ensure global health and stability.