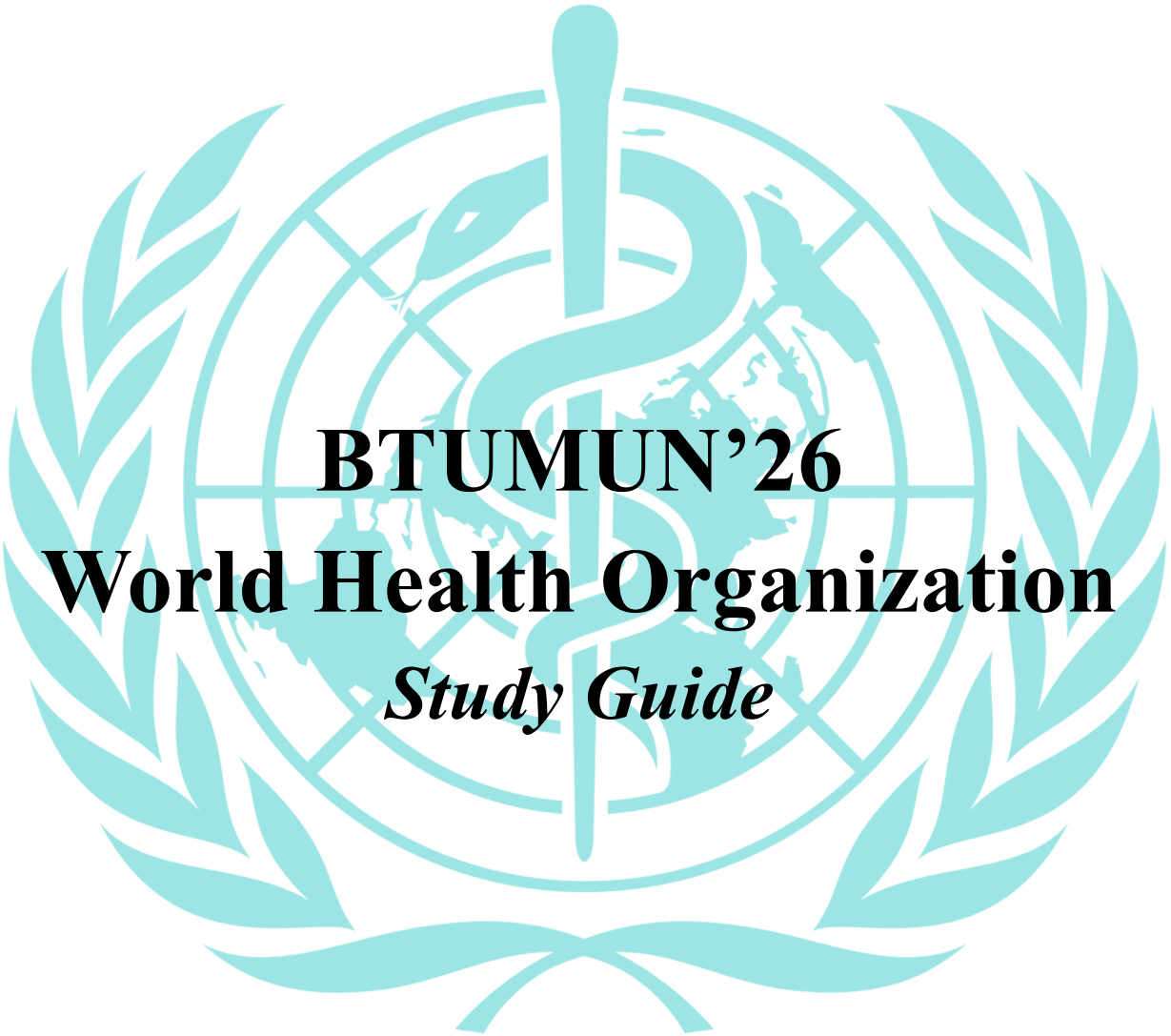

BTUMUN'26
World Health Organization
Study Guide

Agenta Item: *Ensuring Equitable Access To Vaccines In Developing Countries*

President Chair: *Deniz Akya Kesici*

Co-Chair: *Ecrin Mina Eras*

Table of Context:

Letter From President Chair

Dear Delegates,

First of all, welcome to BTUMUN'26! I am Akya, president chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) committee. This will be my third chairboard but the first president chair experience and I am very much looking forward to meet you all. I am very happy to talk and find solutions under this important topic, ensuring equitable access to vaccines in developing countries.

We want you to participate well, do research, find solutions and present them to the other delegates and to us. We also want you to have fun in this committee. I can guarantee you that my lovely deputy chair Ecrin and I are lots of fun. But be careful not to let your fun distract you from the committee. If this is your first time, try not to stress and remember to be confident.<3

If you have any questions or problems, don't hesitate to write to me. (My phone number and e-mail address are below.) I will try to help you as much as I can!

I hope we will write good resolutions and have a lot of fun.

Best regards,

President Chair, Deniz Akya Kesici

Phone Number: +905372123045

E-Mail Address: akikoksc@gmail.com

Letter From Deputy Chair

Dear Delegates,

Firstly, I would like to give you all a warm welcome to BTMUN'26 ! My name is Ecrin and I am your deputy chair for the WHO committee. I'm so excited to meet all of you and to share this experience together. I hope that every one of you enjoys BTMUN'26 especially our committee and creates unforgettable memories that will stay with you for a lifetime.

It's completely normal to feel nervous and excited in the beginning but please don't let that keep you from joining the debates and having fun. This conference will be my first experience as a member of the chairboard. So I am really excited for this conference like most of you! Whenever you need anything or have questions, please remember that my dear chair/friend Akya and I are always here for you.

Please study the topic thoroughly. The key to an effective debate is learning the topic thoroughly. Your knowledge upon the topic is crucial for the resolution and for your resolution to be successful you need to know the topic very well. Ensuring equal access to vaccines helps prevent the spread of diseases, reduces deaths, and protects global public health. So it's a very important topic in the field of health.

We are looking forward to hearing your thoughts. I am very confident that every one of you will contribute something unique to the committee. Please don't forget to make new friends, learn and experience new things while following the protocol. Let's make this committee a place where everyone feels comfortable, and has fun!

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Preface

Model United Nations (MUN) is an organization that functions as a simulation of United Nations organizations and it helps students approach global issues from a diplomatic perspective, also think and act like a representative of a country. In these events, participants engage in an intensive process of research, lobbying, and negotiation with the aim of both protecting the interests of the countries they represent and developing joint solutions to global crises. These sessions, conducted within the framework of an official language and protocol, equip participants with critical skills such as public speaking, advanced English proficiency, and strategic thinking. In conclusion, MUN is not just a conference; it is an educational step for young people on their path to becoming global citizens.

When you are assigned to your committee and your country, you should first understand the agenta item thoroughly. Once you understand the agent item, you need to find out your country's position and stance on it. You are strictly prohibited from using any artificial intelligence application or website while conducting this research. Instead of using artificial intelligence, you should use booklets, websites, and articles that contain official information.

This booklet is called a study guide and it contains important information about the WHO committee, the agenta item, past actions on this topic, the key terms, the involvement of major countries and many more things. We highly encourage you all delegates to read this study guide carefully and find answers to QARMA.

About WHO

The World Health Organization is a committee that focuses on healthcare. The World Health Organization connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health. WHO's "Three Billion" goals outline an ambitious plan to achieve a good level of health for everyone worldwide through science-based policies and programs. The Three Billion health goals are: by 2050, an additional one billion people will benefit from universal health coverage, an additional one billion people will be better protected against health emergencies, and an additional one billion people will achieve better health and well-being. WHO also aims to improve the health and safety of everyone by mobilizing all sectors of society through collaboration with civil society organizations, international organizations, foundations, advocates, researchers, and health workers.

Definition of Key Terms

LEDC: Less Economically Developed Countries

MEDC: More Economically Developed Countries

VACCINE: A substance that is put into the blood and that protects the body from disease. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds.

GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY: The concept of ensuring equal access to healthcare and health opportunities for all people, regardless of their geographic location or economic status.

IMMUNIZATION: The act of protecting a person or (an animal) from a disease, epidemic by giving them an injection of a vaccine

HERD IMMUNITY: Protection from a disease that happens if a large percentage of the population is immune to it (which means unable to catch it, for example because they have been vaccinated.)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): Legal rights that give inventors—including vaccine developers—exclusive control over the use and production of their inventions; these rights often have a significant impact on global accessibility

PANDEMIC: A disease that spreads over a whole country or the whole world.

COVID-19: A disease caused by a coronavirus that was first reported in 2019 and became a pandemic.

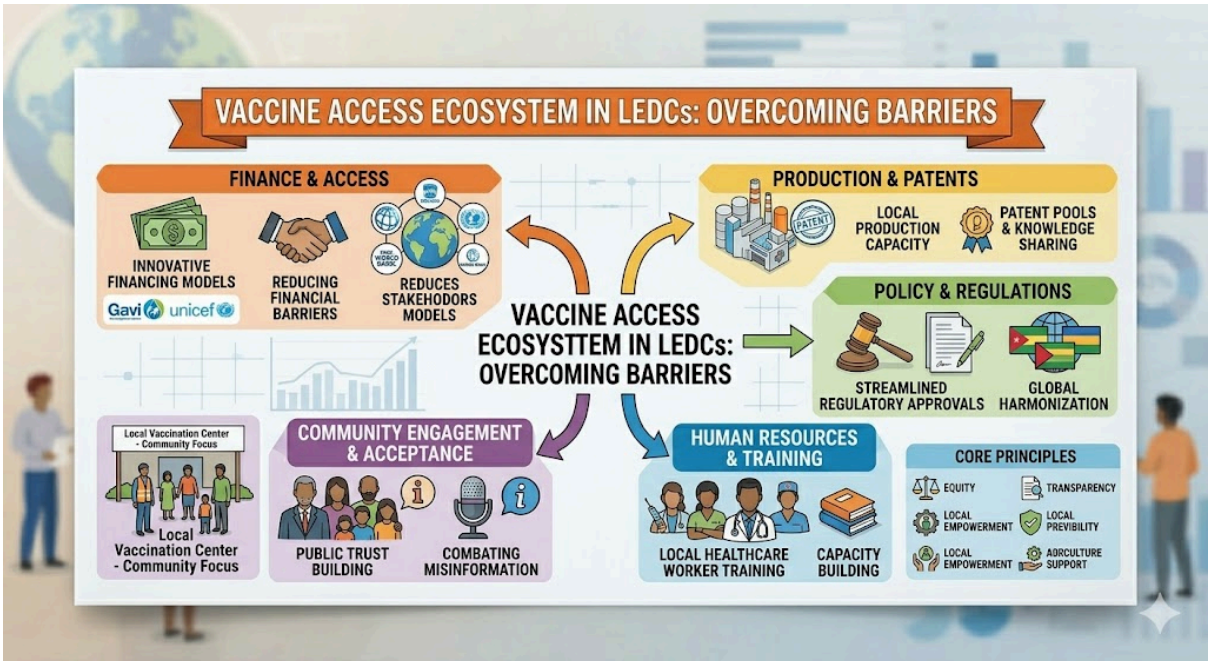
HIV: (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) It can be transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse, contact with infected blood, and from mother to baby (during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding).

MEASLES: A disease, especially affects children, that causes high temperature and small red spots that cover the whole body.

Introduction to The Topic

Throughout history, countless diseases have emerged, pandemics have broken out, and people have lost their lives. Some people passed away naturally, while others died from diseases or under even worse circumstances. There are medications that must be taken to protect people's health. One of these is the necessary vaccinations.Vaccinations train the body to build antibodies, which are proteins produced by the immune system to fight illness. They contain weakened or inactive parts of a pathogen (known as an antigen) that triggers an immune response within the body, so it can recognize when it encounters the disease and shut it down. These important vaccines are one of the key factors keeping countless people alive. However, the vaccination system is still not fully established in all countries. In developing countries, the number of deaths caused by lack of vaccination has surpassed 1.5 million.

We can describe the three obstacles preventing vaccines from reaching developing countries. First, economic barriers and strict intellectual property rights make it difficult for low-income countries to access life-saving vaccines at an affordable cost. Second, while developed countries are rapidly securing vaccine supplies, developing countries are struggling with insufficient cold chain and logistics infrastructure, which are vital for transporting vaccines without spoilage. Finally, the concentration of vaccine production in specific geographic regions and the slow pace of technology transfer are preventing these countries from developing their own production capacity, thereby making their external dependence chronic.



Background Information

Many years ago—specifically in 480 B.C.—the Plague of Athens began. The disease spread when slaves arrived at the port of Piraeus during the war, and it lasted for four years, killing 25% of the population. Since then, thousands of different diseases have spread throughout the world or to certain countries.

However the development of vaccines was a turning point in the history of healthcare. Immunization is a global health success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce risks of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defenses to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds.

We now have vaccines to prevent more than 30 life-threatening diseases and infections, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. Immunization currently prevents 3.5 million to 5 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza and measles.

However, access to vaccines has not been equally distributed worldwide. The speed and scope of vaccine distribution in some countries were incomparable to those in others. While developed countries have advanced healthcare systems, the same cannot be said for countries with limited resources. This inequality has made it difficult for populations in some resource-limited countries to receive life-saving vaccines.

Immunization is key to primary health care, an indisputable human right, and one of the best health investments money can buy. Vaccines are also critical to the prevention and control of infectious disease outbreaks. They underpin global health security and are a vital tool in the battle against antimicrobial resistance.

On the other hand ,as an example, the COVID-19 pandemic strained health systems, resulting in dramatic setbacks. The most recent data for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DTP) immunization coverage underscores the need for ongoing catch-up, recovery and system-strengthening. Or measles, because of its high transmissibility, quickly exposes immunity. In 2024, the routine first dose of measles vaccine was missed by 20.6 million children – far from the 2019 level of 19.3 million children.

As a result, the fact that millions of people remain vulnerable due to inequities in access to vaccines against preventable diseases among different population groups is a critical global health priority that must not be overlooked.

Past Actions Taken

Over the past decades, a large number of studies have been conducted on vaccines to help stop the diseases that prevent people from living longer. Thanks to these studies, millions of people have been able to survive.

COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (2020)
COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which was launched in April 2020. It is established and led by GAVI, and it is responsible for the global distribution and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine. A total of 195 countries and regions have joined the facility as donors or participants. While high- and middle income countries finance themselves in this program using their own resources, 92 low-income countries have gained access to free doses and support thanks to the over $12 billion in donor funds provided for the Gavi COVAX AMC.

Globally Relevant AIDS Vaccine Europe-Africa Trials Partnership (2017)
GREAT is a collaboration with Oxford University, IAVI, Imperial College London, KAVI-Institute of Clinical Research at the University of Nairobi, the Uganda Virus Research Institute-IAVI HIV Vaccine Program, the MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit,

the Kenya Medical Research Institute-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, and the Center for Family Health Research Zambia. European and African researchers from eight different organizations have teamed up to advance a HIV vaccine candidate, HIVconsvX, designed to prevent infection throughout the world.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (2000)

The Gavi Vaccine Alliance helps ensure that more than half of the world's children are vaccinated against some of the world's deadliest diseases. Gavi changes its focus every 4–5 years. Between 2000 and 2005, Gavi focused on three underutilized vaccines. Between 2006 and 2010, it continued its efforts to strengthen health systems and improve access to healthcare. To achieve these goals, it collaborates with leading organizations and scientists. It has also carried out numerous initiatives under Phases 3, 4, and 5. The final Phase 6 is scheduled to take place between 2026 and 2030.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (2017)

CEPI is a global partnership working to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biological countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats. Its mission is to ensure that everyone in need has access to vaccines and other biological countermeasures by accelerating their development against epidemic and pandemic threats. They have previously conducted research on eight different diseases. Their most notable goal is to investigate and characterize a new disease or outbreak within 100 days of its emergence. This means that the time from the identification of the threat to the vaccine's initial approval and readiness for large-scale production is just over three months.

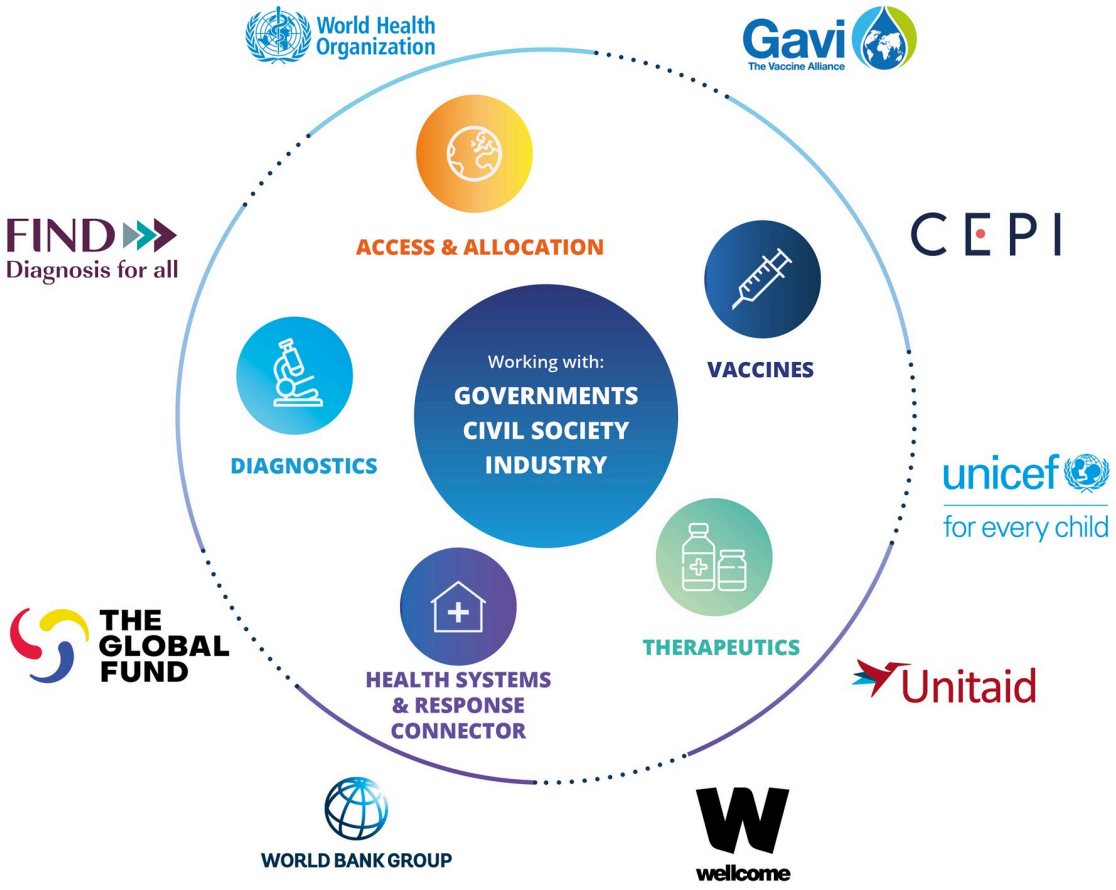
UNITAID (2006)

Unitaid was founded by a visionary group of countries whose continued support has enabled us to reach hundreds of millions of people with lifesaving care and advance the standard of global public health. They save lives by making new health products available and affordable for people in low- and middle-income countries. They identify innovative treatments, tests and tools, help tackle the market barriers that are holding them back, and get them to the people who need them most – fast. Unitaid focuses on diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, women's and children's health etc.

FIND-Diagnosis For All (2003)

FIND launched as a global nonprofit organization at the 56th World Health Assembly with the aim of bringing together countries, communities, funders, policymakers, healthcare providers, and developers to promote innovation in diagnostics and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems. Their work has saved one million lives and reduced healthcare costs by 1 billion US$ for patients and health systems.

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (1996)
IAVI is a global nonprofit scientific research organization that develops vaccines and antibodies for HIV, tuberculosis, and emerging infectious diseases. We take a full-circle approach to product development, from the grassroots level to the lab to legislative bodies. Their mission is to translate scientific discoveries into affordable, globally accessible public health solutions. And their vision is a world where all people have equitable access to innovative vaccines and therapeutics.



Major Countries Involved

United States of America: USA is the largest vaccine manufacturer and donor. It has also made a significant contribution to COVAX. In terms of health policies, it ranks among the top globally.

China: They have shipped large quantities of vaccines such as Sinovac and Sinopharm to developing countries.

With the emergence of the coronavirus in this country, they have played a major role in vaccine diplomacy, thanks to the vaccine industry they have developed.

India: The Serum Institute, one of the world's largest vaccine production centers, serves as a hub and is one of COVAX's main suppliers. However, its decision to stop exports during the pandemic caused a crisis.

United Kingdom: The country where the AstraZeneca vaccine was developed is also one of the founding supporters of COVAX. In the early stages, it faced criticism for "vaccine nationalism."

Germany: Through collaborations with companies such as BioNTech, it has become a hub for mRNA vaccine technology. It provides funding and donations through the European Union.

Brazil: Between 2016 and 2021, Brazil has faced a problem in the field of immunization. The national vaccination rates decreased significantly, falling below 70%**.** In 2019, Brazil was in UNICEF's list of the 10 countries with the highest number of unvaccinated children**.** But they've improved significantly from where they were.

South Africa: They have the largest vaccine industry in Africa and continue to develop vaccines. Their goal is to distribute the vaccines they produce throughout Africa and to other continents.

Canada: Canada is a champion of equitable access to immunization. They are a key donor to immunization partners such as: GAVI, CEPI… Canada's support for Gavi has helped immunize more than 1 billion children. Also Canada contributed $45 million to the Medicines Patent Pool and the WHO mRNA Technology Transfer Programme.

Switzerland: Switzerland is home to organizations that play a significant role in equal vaccination and immunizations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they sent a large number of vaccines to other countries.

Indonesia: Indonesia has a much larger population than the number of vaccines available, making it one of the major countries facing vaccine inequality. By receiving assistance from COVAX, it has found a temporary solution to the lack of vaccines in the country.

Japan: Japan, one of COVAX's largest financial contributors, has donated vaccines, particularly to Asian countries. It also advocates for health equity through its "human security" policy.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

What measures should be taken to prevent the same inequalities from occurring in the next possible pandemic?

How can a blockchain-based system be implemented to prevent vaccine wastage and diversion to the black market?

What resources are needed to set up a simple and secure registration system to track which citizens have been vaccinated, and how can it be established?

What are the main obstacles to equal access to vaccines in developing countries?

How can developed countries establish sustainable funding systems to facilitate global access to vaccines?

How can a balance be struck between ensuring the public's right to access healthcare and preventing the complete violation of intellectual property rights (IPR)?

What is the importance of international organizations (particularly WHO), and how can cooperation with these organizations be established?

To prevent vaccine production capacity from being concentrated solely in certain countries, how should the supply chain for the necessary raw materials be safeguarded under international law?

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