



Establishing a Universal Action Plan for the Zombie Pandemic Mini-Simulation: Background Information

UN Body in Focus: World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO Facts:

- WHO's constitution came into force in 1948. WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group and is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations.
- It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, disseminating valuable health knowledge, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries, and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- WHO has 194 member states.

Background on Zombies:

- Zombies desire human flesh; they will not eat other zombies.
- Zombies cannot be killed unless their brain is destroyed. There is no cure for zombies. The zombie virus causes 100% infection and 100% death.
- Any human being bitten by a zombie will inevitably become a zombie. The zombie menace is transmitted through direct contact with infected bodily fluids (it is not air- or waterborne).
- Zombies do not retain human emotions or memories. They cannot be trained.

Relevant Information – Zombie pandemic and the containment of communicable diseases

- WHO is the center of an international public health network. Regional health institutions, such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and national health institutions, such as the Centers for Disease Control in the USA, provide information to WHO. These institutions are essential for disseminating information.
- Major pandemics often have earlier “herald waves,” which predate the biggest outbreaks and can provide advance warning.
- Suppression of information and the spreading of misinformation are counterproductive and cost lives.
- Advances in international travel cause diseases to spread widely and quickly.
- Quarantine procedures and facilities are essential for containing and potentially halting the spread of the zombie pandemic.

Priorities to be discussed



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- International early warning systems;
- Penalties for nations that fail to accurately report zombie threats;
- Quarantine procedures and facilities as well as refugee centers;
- The proper role of WHO in a zombie pandemic;
- Financial and technical responsibilities of reporting and containing a pandemic (developed countries vs. lesser developed countries)