



## Press Corps/The Economist

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### Press Corps

**Reporters:** Oscar Barra

**Topic:** DISEC/Relationship between disarmament and sustainable development

Today is day two of the MMUN conference. Yesterday here at the Economist we covered the World Health Organization, specifically the Middle School A & B committees. The topic yesterday was accessible and affordable healthcare.

Today we visited the same committees, as they gave quick and detailed responses to our questions yesterday and today. Today's topic was about pandemic preparedness, which was based on the COVID-19 pandemic years past and how to combat another one if it arises.

In Committee A it is a very diverse room. There are powers in the health field like Finland and some less powerful up-and-coming countries like Brunei and Cote D'Ivoire. This prompted many interesting conversations.

Pandemic preparedness is still a priority in many countries, even though this pandemic happened half a decade ago. The many viruses and infections that had sprouted from COVID-19 prompted many countries to keep this issue on their agendas for funding.

Just like yesterday, Finland agreed to another interview for Topic 2. We were quite happy because Finland is a giant in this field and their solutions won't always just help themselves, they box out many countries for funding as they know they are more well-off than many of their allies.

We asked Finland about some of the unique ways that they combatted COVID-19 and stayed so quick to keep their country safe. They replied, "We stayed in front of the disease with many strategies. First, we created an app that notified the people who had COVID and who were in contact. We also used lockdown very early in the virus, and more than 80% of our citizens are vaccinated."

Latvia had a very similar strategy, we asked Latvia about their COVID-19 stats, and they replied, “We were very quick to the virus, but it still hit us hard. We made sure we were one of the first countries to socially distance ourselves and we really recommended our citizens to get the vaccine.” We asked Latvia how they thought they could handle another virus if it happened right now, and they confidently replied, “With the strategies in place from COVID-19, we are confident we will handle another virus very well.”

Countries like Brunei didn't fare so well, however. Brunei got hit hard, and they didn't deal with it. The delegation cited his government as the issue, saying, “Our government failed to respond appropriately, and it showed. We tried to create a new vaccine, but it ultimately failed. If another virus like this happens ever again, we have to listen to the WHO and start focusing on ways to combat it if this ever happens again.”

Finland, being a leader in this category, proposed starting a world fund to help out the countries who don't have the money or resources to combat these viruses. This would massively benefit places like Brunei who would be given a chance to keep their country safe and not be in trouble when these viruses roll around again.

Communication is key during a world virus, and in the committee, it was stressed. Many countries felt like even their allies weren't being as supportive and helping them out and many countries felt like they had to combat the virus alone. In turn, one of the key solutions that was brought up was staying together during times of need, and creating a fund between ally countries if any of them need any help.

In all, day 2 of the conference was a success, and many delegations got to work together to help make the solutions that will benefit these countries when they need it.