



### WHO: Zika Virus

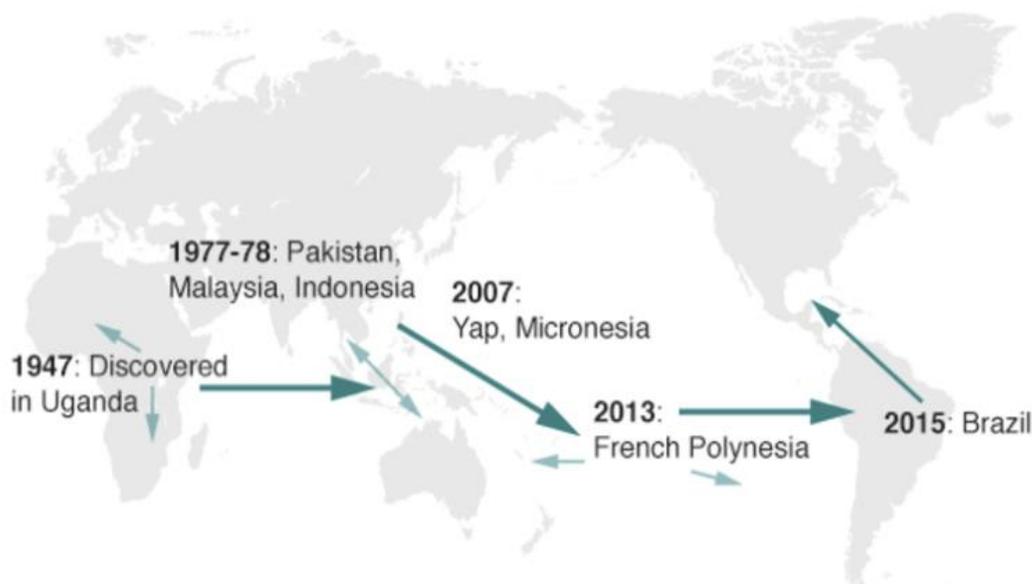
Hello Delegates! My name is Mansour Lawand, and I'll be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2016-2017 Conference. This is my second year in MUN and Junior year in high school. I moved to the U.S two years ago from the magical land of Canada, and have since then forged quite a life here in sunny SoCal. I am enrolled in the IB program and several AP classes and have very quickly learned that sleep is not necessary for human survival. In school I participate in practically no clubs because I can't be bothered to. I used to run Cross country and Track though my schedule this year has decided to put an end to that. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with friends outdoors, going on adventures, tinkering in my garage and building custom computers. I can't wait to see what's to come in committee and I look forward to a weekend with you all. If you have any questions feel free to email me at: [novicewho@gmail.com](mailto:novicewho@gmail.com)

#### **I. Background**

Zika is a virus that is spread by mosquitoes, specifically the daytime-active Aedes Mosquitos. In most cases, there are no symptoms though in a few cases, Zika can trigger paralysis. In pregnant women, it may cause birth defects such as microcephaly due to the virus being transmitted to the fetus. When present, symptoms are mild and last less than a week. They include fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. There's no vaccine or specific treatment. Instead the focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration, and acetaminophen for fever and pain. When infected it is advised that Aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen should be avoided.

Zika was originally found in the Zika Forest in Uganda in 1947 in a rhesus monkey, and then reappeared in 1948 carried by mosquito. Sexual transmission of the virus has also been reported and is known as a way of transmission between humans. Zika did not start spreading at an alarming rate until sometime in 2013, though its presence was not truly confirmed until 2015 when it reached Brazil and spread throughout the Americas.

#### **How Zika virus spread from Africa**





## **II. United Nations Involvement**

The UN responded immediately to the outbreak allocating agency power to outline solutions. The result of which was the Zika Strategic Response Framework as well as the establishing of a trust fund to finance to aid in the overcoming of this virus. The Zika strategic response emphasizes certain steps in overcoming the virus. Detection, Prevention, Care & Support, and Research. Certain NGOs have also made strides in helping combat the Zika virus, The Women on Web NGO has proposed the delivering of free medication that would terminate a pregnancy if deemed necessary. Due to the recent nature of the Zika Epidemic International attention and plans has not yet fully manifested itself. Therefore state involvement in combating the virus has taken more precedence over NGO and UN involvement beyond formulating a structure and framework on which to operate. Here is an outlined Infographic Simplifying the Strategic Response Plan: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/response/strategic-response.pdf?ua=1>

## **III. Possible Solutions**

As Zika is a relatively new issue there is ample opportunity for delegates to come up with various solutions. Delegates are encouraged to be creative in their solutions, while subsequently adhering to country policy and utilizing realistic methods of solving a problem. Solutions should encompass many aspects of solving a problem including both plans for the short and long term. Possible short term solutions include the distribution of care packages including essentials such as mosquito nets, repellent etc... Long term solutions would focus on educating people on the presence and danger of Zika as well as how to avoid it and what to do when contact is made. Allocating country power to researching a cure and using various NGOs and Agencies to furthering said research is also recommended

## **IV. Country Bloc Positions**

Latin American Bloc: The Latin American Bloc has been adversely affected by the recent outbreaks. The result of which is active participation in the research of the disease, the control of spread along with protection of people through education and the distribution of repellent along with other aids.

Asia/Pacific Bloc: The Zika virus is found to be active in south Asian nations such as Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia. Nations of this bloc have participated alongside WHO in order to further fight this issue. Due to the geography of Asian countries mosquitoes can breed and spread with haste and thus pose a threat. The Asia/Pacific Bloc believes that this epidemic should be solved immediately and hopes to help in any way that they can.

European Bloc: Europe has had few people infected with the Zika virus. The only documented cases being travelers coming from infected countries. Despite not being extremely affected Europe has worked very closely with the World Health Organization in order to combat the recent outbreaks. The bloc has placed emphasis on risk assessments through examination of



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travelers that have travelled from infected nations, in turn securing their borders from the virus. Because of their compliance with the decisions, they have also activated the Early Warning and Response System for Medical Emergencies.

African Bloc: Although the virus originated in Africa, there hasn't been a tie to the newer outbreaks of Zika virus. Due to the older virus outbreaks being of a different strain this region has not felt much effect from the virus. Mosquitoes in African regions prefer a jungle ecosystem over than of cities resulting in fewer cases. Studies of the African strain of Zika, however, may open windows in attempting to find a cure or develop a vaccine.

Western/North American Bloc: Due to the exclusion of the North American Bloc on the spread and lash of this disease, not much action has been taken in trying to curb the virus. Being that this bloc houses the more wealthy nations, Western countries have aided in research and funding in order to combat Zika internationally.

Middle Eastern Bloc: Due to the absence of the main species of mosquito that spreads the virus the Middle East has remained out of the struggle against Zika. Middle Eastern Countries would focus mainly on keeping their borders secure and develop a screening and detection process for the virus to help defend against its spread.

#### **V. Questions to Consider**

1. How can solutions used to combat malaria and other mosquito borne diseases apply to this same situation?
2. How can proposed solutions be bettered to function in developing nations?
3. How has your country been affected and what were the countermeasures?
4. What have countries around yours proposed in regards to the current situation how does this affect your nation and the international community?