



American Model United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health

The Commission on Population and Development is pleased to present to the ECOSOC Plenary a comprehensive summary of our second topic, Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health. The body began discussion of this topic by emphasizing the controversial aspects of this topic, and thus a greater need for consensus building by incorporating those aspects into the following report instead of into working resolutions.

With that attitude, the body first recognized the lack of accessible health care within rural and conflict affected populations, and targeted short-term solutions in the form of mobile clinics that would be comprised of medical professionals from the region and from NGOs, and providing in particular but not limited to, women's health care at no cost. The body came to agreement on this issue and a resolution was passed.

The second issue the body dealt with recognized the need for long-term improvement pre and post-natal care for the mother and infant, particularly in effort to stop mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS. The body encouraged further consideration of solutions to this problem, for example by the distribution of home infant-delivery kits. The body reached consensus after implementing several friendly amendments to a resolution on this issue, and it was successfully passed.

Deliberations over these topics yielded dissention between the short-term and long-term goal differences between them. It was constructively decided that the short and long-term actions to combat this problem would be too dissimilar to combine into one resolution and thus the two passed individually. In addition, our deliberations over these resolutions raised the concerns of cultural sensitivity; these concerns were addressed by noting that all care provided to the target populations of our resolutions would be localized.

The last topic on the floor recognized the lack of women's reproductive rights and access to health care, in particular for HIV/AIDS. The body called for better access to women's health services including medication for HIV/AIDS, more comprehensive reproductive and HIV/AIDS education, and for revocation of support from those member states in human rights violation, especially in the treatment of women.

Deliberations over these topics raised significant divisions within the body. Although the body had suggested keeping controversial aspects within the report instead of resolutions, we found that the controversial aspects of this topic were too inherent to the issue to keep separate. These aspects created divisions over national sovereignty and the adherence to cultural and religious tradition in regards to reproductive health and education. After deliberations over this did not yield to ideological breakthroughs, the body did agree on the overall support of women's health in this resolution, and it was successfully passed.

After passing these resolutions the body found that we did not have ample time to fully discuss additional working resolutions. On the overall issue of Reproductive Rights and Reproductive health, our delegates mutually noted the need to continue to uphold the rights of the previous work of this committee and urge the ECOSOC Plenary to consider the work done during this session.

