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FORUM: World Health Organisation (WHO)

QUESTION OF: Supporting Cholera Outbreak Response.

SUBMITTED BY: Finland

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Qatar, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, The Republic of South Korea, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA)

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION,

Concerned with the lack of medical personnel and sufficient infrastructure and resources in cholera affected areas,

Viewing with appreciation the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) which thrive for Great health support (Goal 3) and Clean water (Goal 6) for everyone,

Recognizing the role of international cooperation in combating cholera outbreaks, including the importance of coordinated responses through Global Force on Cholera Control (CTFCC),

Expressing its appreciation for UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), a UN Sub-organization which strives to legitimize cholera as a global threat, particularly in areas with inadequate access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare services,

Emphasizing the importance of equity in healthcare access to ensure all regions, including marginalized populations, receive timely treatment and public services for cholera,

1. Calls upon the international community, including all Member States, UN agencies such as WHO, and humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross or Direct relief to:
 - a) mobilize resources to supply cholera treatment kits, vaccines, and other essential materials to the affected areas, including:
 - i. cholera treatment centres equipped with necessary medical supplies,
 - ii. oral rehydration salts and intravenous fluids to treat dehydration,
 - iii. cholera vaccines as part of vaccination campaigns in high-risk areas,
 - b) launch public health education campaigns such as organizing workshops and including it in the curriculum as well as creating public campaigns in order to:
 - i. educate communities on the transmission of cholera and how to avoid it,
 - ii. raise awareness about cholera symptoms and the need for urgent medical treatment,
 - iii. inform the public on the importance of seeking care immediately when symptoms appear;

2. Seeks increased vigilance and enhanced surveillance in the early stages of cholera outbreak, for efficient data reports and tracking of progress, through:
 - a) addressing the specific needs of marginalized groups, including pregnant women, children, and the elderly, in order to ensure that these populations receive targeted interventions during cholera outbreaks;
 - b) utilizing rapid tests as a tool to detect an increase in cholera patients on a community or local level,
 - c) building health systems that are resilient and sustainable, preparing:
 - i. developing solutions such as water purification systems,
 - ii. building or rehabilitating centres in schools, healthcare facilities, and public spaces,
 - d) building awareness among local communities in detecting early signs of cholera outbreak as part of the overall surveillance mechanism;

3. Asks for increased engagement and support for the cholera outbreaks by:
 - a) creating of a system through which cholera outbreaks are reported but also the infected individual to be able to seek treatment,
 - b) supporting community and local efforts on clean and safe water resources and basic sanitary requirements,

4. Identifies the urgent need to prioritize people-centered approaches to cholera outbreaks, by empowering and supporting local communities through ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) preventing and mitigating the spread of cholera through simple hygiene practices, like handwashing and safe food preparation,
 - b) ensuring that cholera treatment centers are accessible, culturally sensitive and free from stigma,
 - c) protecting fragile groups, including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities, by offering selected interventions tailored to their needs;

5. Encourages the implementation of climate adaptation strategies in areas prone to cholera outbreaks due to environmental factors, by:
 - a) urging member states to consider the impact of climate change on water sources and the spread of waterborne diseases when designing their national health response plans,
 - b) promoting the development of sustainable environmental practices that improve water quality and reduce the spread of cholera through:

- i. specialized public campaigns and seminars ensured,
- ii. ensuring qualified and effective scientific teams are assigned to research on cholera outbreak responses.