



---

VALUES / **AL JAZEERA**

## Greetings

A Message from Al Jazeera's Editor in Chief

By **Sonia Grewal**

At Al Jazeera English, we are committed to providing a 'Voice to the voiceless' and shining a spotlight on the people and stories that would otherwise remain in the dark. We defend the freedom of expression and peoples' right to knowledge. We hope our passion will bring captivating stories and empower our audience. Thank you.

---

NEWS / **UNITED NATIONS**

## Security Council 2050: The Right to Water, at the Right Price

Delegates thirst for a solution to protect future generations

By **Mary Frank and Grayson Paquet**

The Future Security Council 2050 commences discussion on the question of global water scarcity. The main question in council is: what cost would more dependant countries pay in order to receive technology and research? The debate is centred predominantly around larger countries, such as the United States and Brazil, being in a position of advantage and the response of smaller nations.

Brazil makes claims to high-quality water desalination technology, proposing to market to countries facing water scarcity at a reasonable cost. They specify that prices would be flexible according to the affected country, offering "discounts... Like 50% off." A superconductor (with a water-desalinating catalyzer) is a declaration Brazil delegates are making regarding their technology functions, created in coalition with Canada. While protesting that they are pressured to "give away" this technology, Brazil asserts that revenue for their product is their right.

In response to pricing propositions, the delegation of Nigeria reinforces that this "business" would "put countries who are more in need at the mercy of countries like Brazil." Although more independent countries seem to uphold the idea of pricing, the delegation of the United States of America makes it clear that they acknowledge their advantageous position, but do not know if it is necessarily their place to intervene. However, the U.S.A. looks forward to setting standards in the field of distribution.

Discussion of the value of water desalination research surfaced another idea – knowledge is important, but does it compare to the importance of real material water? The question will most likely to be discussed during the next session.

---

NEWS / **UNITED NATIONS**

## WHO: Human Safety or Human Rights?

WHO discusses issue of mandatory vaccination

By **Yuyang Yan and Jannah Rambaran**

"Rights don't matter if you are dead," says Uruguay in the World Health Organization's first committee session of the conference. On the evening of February 22, 2018, members of the WHO held a session to discuss the question of implementing mandatory vaccination. The discussion is fierce as countries vehemently discuss the advantages of vaccination as well as its drawbacks in regards to human rights.

Herd immunity effectively eradicates disease, and is the common goal for all countries present at the committee today. It is created when enough of the population is vaccinated, protecting those who cannot receive vaccinations due to personal circumstances. Uruguay, along with the Republic of South Korea and France all adamantly support mandatory vaccination, claiming it is critical to basic human survival.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Turkey, and Nigeria represented opposing ideologies.

‘On the path to eradicating disease, we should not sacrifice basic human rights,’ the UK delegate passionately stresses.

Countries propose that alternative methodologies do exist to reach herd immunity, such as mass education on the importance of vaccination. However, to this effect, Senegal, Niger, and Nigeria all express that due to failures of the education system, mass education cannot be attained.

Likewise, Senegal and Malaysia declare that their Muslim-majority population cannot receive vaccines due to their religious doctrine, namely the consumption of pork, or gelatin, as a common ingredient in vaccines. Under such circumstances, The People’s Republic of China express that the issue of mandatory vaccination is a domestic decision based on the belief of territorial sovereignty.

The issue is far from reaching a consensus. The Committee Session was suspended after a thorough discussion. More information is soon to be revealed.

---

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

## HRC: Religion and Human Rights

Religion has a heavy influence in the moral discussion of euthanasia

By **Chloe Koh and Lawrence Martinez**

The first meeting of the Human Rights Council finds themselves discussing primarily the factor of religion within the topic of euthanasia. After discussing the logistics of the issue, the topic shifted towards religion and how religious values influence the opinion of the delegates.

Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, and Romania all share a similar outlook on euthanasia as they believe that it is against their religion, whether it be Christianity or Islam, that doctors should not interfere with the lives of patients.

Saudi Arabia states that “religion is not the only reason” as the money that would be spent by “killing [our] citizens” would be better spent towards medicine that will aid them.

Romania states that they are against euthanasia due to their religious demographic consisting of mainly Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians. On the other hand, they also state that a conflict of interest could be at play. Abuse of power could prevent people from refusing euthanasia regardless of their religious beliefs.

On the other side of the debate, France, Netherlands, and Canada had strong ideas towards preserving the right to choose. Canada believes that while religion is an important factor, it is ultimately up to the patient whether they choose to end their life. France believes that euthanasia isn’t “killing off people” but rather giving them the option. The Netherlands states that they don’t conduct euthanasia unless the patient repeatedly asks for it and that they meet the criteria.

Indonesia states that giving the option of euthanasia to “...vulnerable people creates more vulnerability to those people.”

South Korea believes in finding a middle ground, respecting the majority religions of Christianity and Buddhism by giving the option of euthanasia to patients while still enforcing a belief in favouring death by natural causes.

---

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

## UNEP: France as a Global Climate Change Leader?

France leads discussion on Climate Change

By **Calais Irwin and Jenny Lee**

A multitude of opinions are being tossed around during the UNEP council, specifically regarding how various degrees of development across countries could affect the plausibility of a global carbon emission tax. France made headway during the committee meeting, heeding to the limitations of developing countries’ economic power, which could restrict their ability to implement a carbon tax. As expressed by Ethiopia, developing countries might “struggle to meet the standards and technology needed to record statistics for the carbon tax.” In response to this

comment, France is bringing the Green Climate Fund to focus, encouraging increased international engagement in the organization. Enacted in 2015 through the Paris Agreement, the Green Climate Fund outlines the commitment of one hundred and ninety-four countries to mobilize financial aid, giving developing countries the means to reduce their Carbon Footprint.

France has reminded countries that the process of implementing new environmental policies can take time and should not be expected to occur immediately, but contributing to the Green Climate fund will help speed up the process. France's proposition received approval among many countries, acting as a middle ground between underdeveloped and developed countries. However, the proposition has not gone uncontested. Delegates on behalf of Turkey are bringing forth the notion that, although assisting developing nations is essential to reducing global carbon emissions, there are more influential divisions of finance than solely contributing to the Green Climate Fund. One speaker from Russia argued that "If we just have the UNEP going around in a fun-filled 'bag-a-thon,' we won't have any money left to further help developing nations." Other key countries, including the United States, China, Russia, and Canada, are staying quiet on the issues and have yet to voice their approval or propose alternate solutions. For the time being, it appears that France will be the primary country in the spotlight.

---

## NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

### Security Council 2018: Fighting Terrorism in the Horn of Africa

Countries discuss the best method to solve this issue

By **Nour Ezzad and Sarah Phillips**

Although discussions have barely begun, delegates of Security Council 2018 are actively involved in passionate and intense debate. All delegations are being assertive as they search for ways to assist the Horn of Africa in its fight against terrorism. However, passion leads to tension, creating difficulties between nation-states.

Tensions between China and other countries have been quite prominent. The delegates of China are attempting to build upon their ideas, keen on the progression of the Horn of Africa's social disciplines. However, they are facing constant criticism from countries such as Japan and the United States of America. China has been accused of being unable to speak on the topic, as they have been continuously impeached for not being as economically or socially supportive of the United Nations. Japan has stated that they are one of the greatest funders of the United Nations, stating that the United States is one of the world's most powerful political forces. However, like other countries, China is keen on conveying their message.

Discussion escalated between the United Kingdom and the United States of America when discussing possible economic participation. The United Kingdom made it quite clear that there is a need to make the countries in the Horn of Africa economically independent. The United States is immediately questioning measures already in place that makes these countries already economically dependant. The delegates continue to disagree in this matter, as no decision can be firmly made this early in a conference.

---

## NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

### DISEC: To Nuke or not to Nuke

Opposing nations in committee continue to make debate

By **Apurwa Sharma and Sandhya Sapkota**

DISEC has started its night in true DISEC fashion by not being able to decide a topic to debate. However, as the night progresses, the situation is being rectified as the importance of signing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is motioned by South Africa. The CTBT was created due to intensive nuclear testing from 1945 to 1950. The treaty prevents the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing to ensure more global security.

The issue is being fervently debated upon, with Pakistan relying on India regarding its decision. This is an issue if a country cannot be independent in its decision. Japan, who was heavily affected in the Second World War by nuclear weapons, agreed with the treaty. New Zealand and Sudan have committed towards signing the treaty, whereas the famous duo of the Democratic Republic of Korea and United States of America surprisingly agree to oppose the signing. Surprising for the famous peacekeeper United States of America. Only eight of the 44 nations who have claimed to be holders of nuclear arms oppose this treaty.

In an unmoderated caucus, North Korea was asked their viewpoint on weapons of mass destruction. The delegation stated that they need less restrictions regarding the matter, because they were in constant harm from the U.S.A. When questioned about how South Korea is harmed from North Korea having weapons of mass destruction, the

North Korean delegation replied that “South Korea is not a legitimate state”. This poses the question of whether the methods for maintaining global security is being systematically discussed.

---

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

## **UNODC: UN-Oh No-DC**

Al Jazeera apologizes for its lack of coverage in yesterday’s UNODC council

By **Gabrielle Potvin**

Al Jazeera’s press delegation was tragically intercepted on their way to cover debate in UNODC last night. However, word has been delivered to Al Jazeera that the committee has been working hard. A new delegation has been sent to cover all future debates.

The topic currently under discussion is the issue of women in terrorism - often, the roles of women who instigate acts of terrorism go forgotten or ignored. We at Al Jazeera hope that delegates are able to cooperate to reach a solution to this topic.