



VALUES / **AL JAZEERA**

Code of Ethics

A Message from Al Jazeera's Editor in Chief

By **Sonia Grewal**

Al Jazeera English adheres to the journalistic values of honesty, courage, fairness, balance, independence, credibility and diversity. Nothing surpasses our professional responsibilities, even political or commercial considerations. Our goal is to get the truth while respecting our audiences. Getting a “scoop” is not an end in itself. We will continue to present diverse views and opinions without partiality and bias to our audience. Thank you.

NEWS / **UNITED NATIONS**

Security Council 2050: Is the President of Nigeria truly speaking on behalf of his people?

Waterbola super virus kills infected in 2 days

By **Mary Frank and Grayson Paquet**

SC 2050 receives an update, pausing debate over Waterbola regulation working papers. Al Jazeera reports the Nigerian government is storing large quantities of water for their personal use, while footage of the Nigerian President, bottled water in hand, sheds light on his incapacity to represent his citizens. Meanwhile a group of Scandinavian scientists create a vaccine to stave off the super virus.

“We will make sure we provide everything in our power to help our people... We unfortunately found some individuals who do not share these values,” states Nigeria's president. When asked why direct interviews with citizens are unavailable, the delegation of Nigeria insists that they and their government suffice to speak for their people. Without answering the question, Nigeria repeats, “we respect all citizens equally”.

In response to an inquiry concerning plans to deal with public outlash, Nigerian delegates openly state that “there will be no outlash”. We did not receive information on the president's “anti-corruption campaign”.

The delegation claims that they are stashing the water for their citizens, but they do not find their citizens “at the point of dying”, and so do not feel the need to release it to the general public, regardless of a two-day lifespan of the already infected.

When first questioned, the delegation of Nigeria states that “there is no corruption” in their government; however, upon further thought, the delegation then states that “some corruption exists in all forms of government”. The delegates do not find the statements contradictory.

Countries including Australia and Syria are prioritizing the implementation of the new vaccines for the “well-being of the people”, rather than fixing a corrupt government. When asked if citizens of Nigeria are at risk if corruption is ignored, the delegation of Syria turned the floor to Nigeria, “ask them, they're right there”.

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

WHO: WHO proceeds to discuss the issue of mitochondrial transfer

After passing resolution 1.0, WHO focuses on their next topic

By Yuyang Yan and Jannah Rambaran

“Religious groups should not have the right to dictate the choices of non-religious groups”. Argentina and Norway express this idea during an unmoderated caucus at the World Health Organization. Bolivia, China P.R., and the United Kingdom are also among the nations strongly supporting mitochondrial transfers.

Mitochondrial transfers entail exchanging the genetically-defective mitochondria in an embryo for a healthy strand of mitochondrial DNA from a donor woman. The procedure is reserved for pregnant women with a rare, but destructive, mitochondrial disease that can create permanent impediments to the child.

The UK has already legalized this procedure, with no failed cases of mitochondrial transfers observed. Additionally, Bolivia firmly believes mitochondrial transfers are the only way to allow for healthy children. In fact, this is indeed the case, as mitochondrial transfer is the only effective cure.

Most nations have remained neutral, indicating that they will not implement to procedure yet, but they are supportive of further research. Most of the delegation is concerned regarding practical implementation and regulation of mitochondrial transfers. To this effect, Norway expresses that, as of now, they remain in the stage of learning all the aspects of the procedure. Discussion surrounding appropriate and ethical logistics will take place in the future in Norway.

As for the rest of the delegation, Islamic countries, such as Pakistan, are protesting mitochondrial transfers entirely. They will not support research into the issue at all - they are mainly concerned with the idea of “three-parent babies”. They explain that introducing DNA separate from the natural parents is considered “haram”, and prohibited by the Quran.

A working paper is currently being drafted. Resolutions will be revealed when session resumes.

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

HRC: Resolutions Die; No Assistance Required

Delegates have yet to pass any resolutions or reach consensus

By Chloe Koh and Lawrence Martinez

After a heated two-day debate, the HRC is unable to resolve the debate around the issue of euthanasia, assisted suicide and assisted death. The three resolutions papers presented by Canada, South Korea and China failed to reach the minimum 44 needed delegates.

Canada’s resolution paper shows an opinion in support of the right to choose. Clauses include acknowledging euthanasia as the act of a medical professional intervening directly to initiate the death of a person through the use of medicine and keeping in mind the religious implications of different cultures. The results of voting for this draft resolution are 40 in favour and 52 against. Canada sees the outcome as “unfortunate” but the knowledge we have all gained “can now be applied to our domestic policies.”

South Korea’s resolution paper also favours the right to choose euthanasia. They believe that their resolution paper tries to “develop global criteria for eligibility for these procedures [euthanasia/assisted death].” Clauses include recognizing the importance of respecting and ensuring the sovereign right of nations while considering the autonomy of individual. This resolution failed with an outcome of 12 in favour, 48 against and 6 abstaining.

China’s resolution paper however would not entertain the idea of euthanasia under any circumstances. Their definition of euthanasia includes passive euthanasia as the withdrawal of medical treatment with the deliberate intention to end a person’s struggle and let the individual die naturally and within god's will. This paper was closest to passing, reaching 43 in favour, 18 against and 5 abstentions. Short by one favourable vote, China was disappointed in the outcome finding it “upsetting... but appreciate everyone’s consideration.”

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

UNEP: Heated Debate Results in Nothing

Two draft resolutions are rejected in the answer on establishing a global price on carbon emissions

By Calais Irwin and Jenny Lee

As discussion of a Global Carbon Tax comes to a close, two draft resolutions are proposed and voted on. The first draft, presented by France, outlines the implementation of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in developing countries, and a carbon tax in developed countries. They argue to increase funding for the Green Climate Fund, and to gradually transition to a higher carbon tax over ten years. Opposition is sparked by Japan, who rightfully argues that an “ETS system between only underdeveloped countries has virtually no benefit”. The delegation points out that many of the countries who buy carbon credits tend to be developed themselves. Other countries that fueled the downfall of the first draft, which lost in voting thirty-one to thirty-four include Indonesia, Canada, Haiti, Iran, and China, who sponsored an opposing draft resolution.

Earlier, suspicions arose surrounding Canada’s standpoint on the issue, as they were found to be absent for a portion of the meeting. When questioned on their whereabouts, the delegation declines to answer, but an overheard conversation hints at the discussing of draft resolutions in accordance with values of Iran. Rumors have proven to be true, as detailed in the second draft presented. Included in the draft are innovative solutions to reducing carbon emissions, including the formation of a new council called UNEPAC, which would hold the power to ultimately decide grants and funds, along with the circumstances for countries devastated by climate change. When the bill was presented it failed by one vote, despite Turkey accidentally voting in favour of the bill. With both resolutions failing, the committee is moving on to another gruelling debate on preserving pollinators, in hopes of resulting in a united resolution.

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

Security Council 2018: Horn of Africa Crisis: Terrorism

Kazakhstan’s Predicament Delays Resolution

By Sarah Phillips and Nour Ezzeddine

Recent allegations against Kazakhstan are leading the committee into a very heated discussion. Although it has been discovered to be a mistake, the government of Kazakhstan admits to the funding of the drug cartel that hijacked the ship containing the delegates. Finding a solution to rescuing the missing delegate has been put aside in order to discuss the Kazakh government’s involvement. Kazakhstan states that their government was unaware that this NGO was actually a drug cartel, but continue to be questioned.

Italy is not hesitant in its accusation against Kazakhstan, as Kazakhstan has knowingly funded the drug cartel that put the delegates’ lives in danger. This has led to the question of whether the Kazakhstan government is corrupt, or whether only a few people in their government knew about who they were truly funding. With no communication to the ship available to any country, Security Council can only rely on what little information is available to them. The lack of information leads to assumptions being made about Kazakhstan. This conflict is resolved by a short press release, which clarifies that Kazakhstan was unaware of where their government’s money was going, thinking they were just funding an NGO to help their citizens.

After sorting out the issue with Kazakhstan, the discussion of the resolution paper has begun. The United Kingdom, France, and Russia have been set as sponsors. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, has been instituted for the aid and rescue. Appropriate rescue strategies have also been established. The idea that nations with confirmed hostages will have an instantaneous say has been embraced, in order to refrain from any issues regarding inequality or the marginalization of smaller nations. Satellites will be used to obtain the location of the ship, and NATO will assist to restore communication. After finding the ship, those responsible for the situation are to be repatriated. The United Nations will remain actively seized in the matter.

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

DISEC: “Roasts” Assured

Dignity and integrity are put to the side in committee session

By Apurwa Sharma and Sandhya Sapkota

DISEC initiates a “Roast Fest” in today’s afternoon committee session. It all began when powerhouse Russia signed off on a working paper, going against their own foreign policy. China questions Russia by pointing out that they are sponsoring a paper that is against their foreign policy and is a walking contradiction. The Russian delegate responds, “How can China be criticizing the paper when they can’t even write a paper themselves?” China then asks the other delegates present whether it is better being hypocritical or abstaining and staying true to their own policy. This resulted in China proposing a moderated caucus in which they could “roast” other delegates.

The motion is voted upon and passes with a majority. China is prohibited from further speaking in the caucus. During this time, Zimbabwe and other African nations make light of their devastating famine situation. Al Jazeera questions the integrity of these delegates and whether they truly understand the needs of their people. Alongside this, another remark was brought up after Democratic people’s republic of Korea flustered about how their flames will never go out. In reply Niger says, “How can the flames go out when that is all they rely on as they have no electricity?” No remarks from DPRK could counter these accusations.

Although the caucus only lasted five minutes, the memories made in that short period will last a lifetime, according to sources.

NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

UNODC: Redefining Narcotics

UNODC discusses the push and pull factors of narcotics for the best interests of their civilians

By Gursimran Chhina and Ishnoor Nahal

Across the globe today, the constant problem of lacking a conventional definition of narcotics has added to the issue of drug usage in many moral aspects across the globe. Countries such as China, Germany, and Canada tend on the side of moderate regulation of drug and narcotic usage. As mentioned by China’s delegate, “[we] don’t want countries to ban pharmaceutical drugs [which would lead the] industry to not be able to provide enough medication for the population. [Also], the black market would widen as a result.”. On the same spectrum, Canada believes in upholding pharmaceutical drugs as well. By implementing legislation on the control of using and distributing pharmaceutical drugs, Canada gains sovereignty over a global issue for their own citizens.

On the other hand, some countries wish to continue producing certain drugs in their country; Afghanistan continues to be a leading provider of opium to the world, however, do not want to partake in any recreational usage of narcotics or the drug, as “there is a substantial economic gain from producing opium”. The drugs produced and sold to other countries would elevate the Middle East economy, as well as further drug research in the countries that they are sold to. America stated, “cocaine [will] ruin your brain”, thereby emphasizing the importance of drug control and the severe consequences of lacking such controls on citizens all around the world.

Throughout the council meeting, various aspects of drugs were discussed by the delegations: aspects such as the black market, the recreational usage of drugs, and interestingly enough, religions relation with drugs. Unlike other countries, Iraq and Colombia have touched upon the influence religion has on their government and their decisions when concerning drug trafficking. They take into consideration the push and pull factors when regarding what will ultimately be the best for their citizens.