



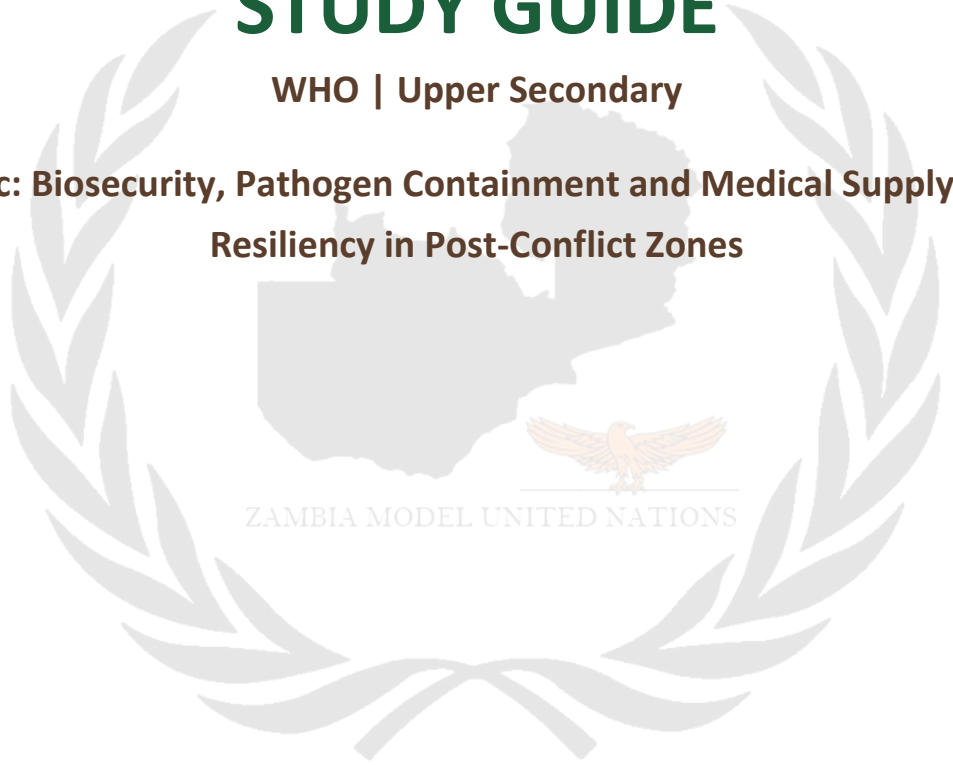
LUSAKA OAKTREE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
LOTSMUN 2026

***Architects of Accountability** • Redefining Power, Peace and Progress*

STUDY GUIDE

WHO | Upper Secondary

**Topic: Biosecurity, Pathogen Containment and Medical Supply Line
Resiliency in Post-Conflict Zones**



ZAMBIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Message from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to LOTSMUN 2026.

This year, under the theme “Architects of Accountability: Redefining Power, Peace and Progress,” we invite you to consider not only how decisions are made but who is responsible for them, who is affected by them and how meaningful change can be achieved.

Model United Nations is more than an exercise in public speaking. It is an opportunity to understand complex international problems, challenge assumptions, negotiate with people who may disagree with you and transform competing ideas into meaningful solutions.

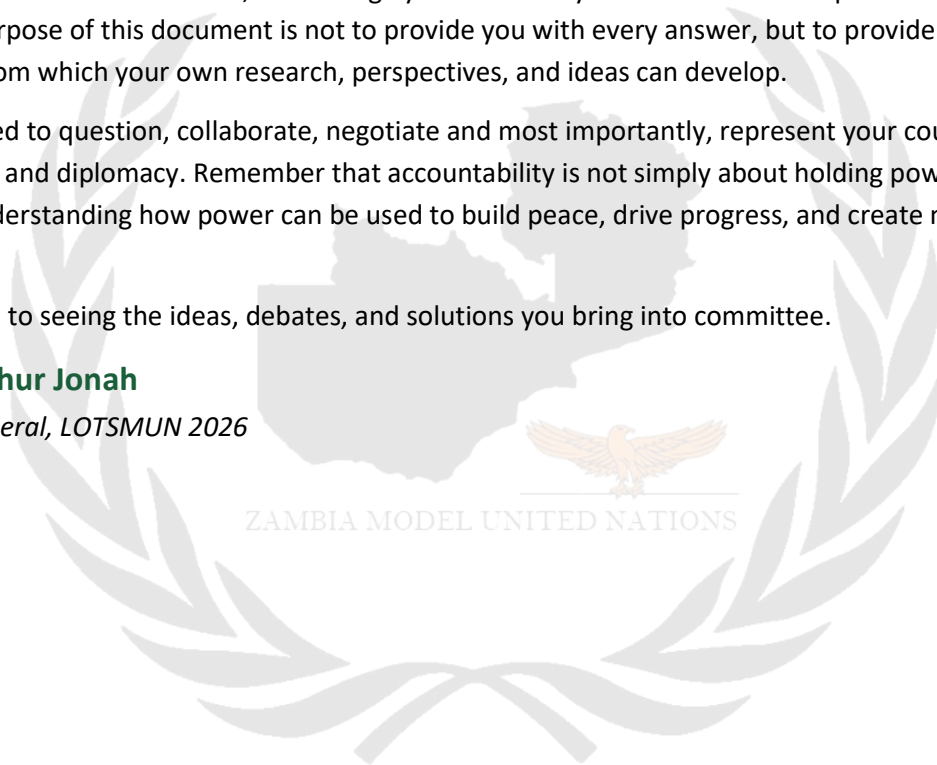
As you prepare for this committee, I encourage you to look beyond the information presented in this study guide. The purpose of this document is not to provide you with every answer, but to provide you with the foundation from which your own research, perspectives, and ideas can develop.

Come prepared to question, collaborate, negotiate and most importantly, represent your country’s position with accuracy and diplomacy. Remember that accountability is not simply about holding power responsible; it is about understanding how power can be used to build peace, drive progress, and create meaningful change.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, debates, and solutions you bring into committee.

Malenji Arthur Jonah

Secretary General, LOTSMUN 2026



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1. The World Health Organization

1.1 What is the WHO?

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency that coordinates international health work, with 194 member states.^{1,2} Its member states meet each year at the **World Health Assembly**, which in May 2025 adopted the world's first Pandemic Agreement.³ The WHO also runs emergency operations, including a logistics hub in Dubai that is its largest source of medical countermeasures.⁴

In this simulation, you are a **member state** at a WHO meeting. WHO cannot order countries to act. It advises, sets standards and helps states agree on shared rules, so this committee's choices affect how well health systems recover from war and how safely dangerous germs are handled. Here are the bodies and instruments you are most likely to cite:

Body or instrument	What it does
World Health Assembly	WHO's decision-making body. It adopted the Pandemic Agreement on 20 May 2025. ⁵
International Health Regulations (IHR)	Rules for reporting and responding to health threats that could spread across borders. The 2024 amendments came into force on 19 September 2025. ⁶
WHO Hub for Global Health Emergencies Logistics (Dubai)	WHO's main pre-positioned supply depot. From 2018 to 2025 it supported 150 countries and delivered supplies valued at \$260 million. ⁷
Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)	A 1972 treaty banning biological weapons. It has 189 states parties and a working group is negotiating stronger compliance and verification. ⁸
WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual (2020)	The global standard for safe laboratory work, using a risk-based approach. ⁹

¹ World Health Organization. Q&A: International Health Regulations: amendments. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/international-health-regulations-amendments>

² World Health Organization. WHO Pandemic Agreement. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/who-pandemic-agreement>

³ UN News. Nations adopt historic pledge to guard against future pandemics (World Health Assembly, 20 May 2025). <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163451>

⁴ WHO. WHO Global Logistics Center (Dubai hub). <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/who-global-logistics-center>

⁵ UN News. Nations adopt historic pledge to guard against future pandemics (World Health... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶ World Health Organization. Q&A: International Health Regulations: amendments... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

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⁸ Global Biodefense. Biological Weapons Convention Working Group addresses verification and biosecurity (11 August 2025). <https://globalbiodefense.com/2025/08/11/biological-weapons-convention-sixth-session-addresses-verification-and-biosecurity/>

⁹ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240011311>

2. Introduction to the Topic

War damages more than buildings. It wrecks water systems, hospitals, laboratories, roads and the routes that bring medicines. When fighting slows or stops, the risks remain: diseases spread among displaced people, vaccination stops, and stores of dangerous germs may be poorly guarded. This topic joins three ideas. **Biosecurity** protects against the misuse or accidental release of dangerous biological agents. **Pathogen containment** means keeping disease-causing germs under control, in laboratories and in outbreaks. **Medical supply line resilience** is the ability of the chain that delivers medicines and equipment to keep working under pressure.

Here is one way the problem develops:



This is a simplified picture. Not every conflict leads to every step, and many communities show great resilience. The policy question is how to break the chain at the points where it is easiest to do so.

2.1 The scale of the problem

Attacks on health. WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care recorded 1,348 attacks in 2025 and 1,981 deaths, more than double the 944 deaths in 2024. Sudan accounted for 1,620 of the deaths.¹⁰

Supply routes. When war involving Iran began on 28 February 2026, WHO said its Dubai hub had halted, holding up \$18 million in supplies and affecting over 50 emergency requests from 25 countries.¹¹

1,981 deaths from attacks on health care in 2025 (WHO data)	189 states parties to the Biological Weapons Convention	25 countries with emergency supply requests affected when the Dubai hub halted
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Figures come from different organisations and dates, and several conflicts are still changing. Always check the date and who produced each number.

2.2 Why is it hard?

Health care is a target. Hospitals are protected under international humanitarian law, and Security Council Resolution 2286 says they should not be deliberately attacked, yet attacks have become "almost daily".¹²

Supply chains rely on a few routes. The Dubai hub normally fulfils over 500 emergency orders for 75

¹⁰ MSF. Attacks on medical care in armed conflict reach record levels (report Medical Care in the Crosshairs, 22 January 2026). <https://www.msf.org/attacks-medical-care-armed-conflict-reach-record-levels>

¹¹ Health Policy Watch. WHO: War with Iran paralyzes Dubai's global humanitarian supply hub (March 2026). <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-war-with-iran-paralyzes-dubais-global-humanitarian-supply-hub/>

¹² Doctors Without Borders. Health care remains under attack 10 years after key UN resolution (UN Security Council Resolution 2286). <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/health-care-remains-under-attack-10-years-after-key-un-resolution>

countries a year, so one disruption reaches many places.¹³ **Rules on dangerous pathogens are weakly checked.** The BWC has 189 states parties, but verification is still under negotiation and disagreement over the working group's mandate prevented a Special Conference in 2025.¹⁴ **Rebuilding costs.** WHO says Ukraine's health sector needs \$23.6 billion over the next decade.¹⁵

2.3 Rules and tools to know

There is no single treaty on this topic. These are the frameworks and tools delegates are most likely to use:

Rule or tool	What it says
UN Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016)	Reaffirms that hospitals are protected under international humanitarian law and "should not be deliberately attacked, damaged, or prevented from functioning". ¹⁶
IHR (2024 amendments)	Create a new "pandemic emergency" alert level, and WHO says they do not let it impose measures on any country. ¹⁷
Pandemic Agreement (2025)	Adopted by 124 votes to none with 11 abstentions. It sets up a Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system and a global supply chain network, and opens for ratification after the PABS annex is agreed. ^{18,19}
BWC and WHO biosafety guidance	The BWC bans biological weapons and its working group is discussing compliance and verification. WHO's manual uses risk assessment to balance safety with access to laboratory services. ^{20,21}

¹³ Health Policy Watch. WHO: War with Iran paralyzes Dubai's global humanitarian supply hub (March... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁴ Global Biodefense. Biological Weapons Convention Working Group addresses verification and... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁵ WHO Europe. 3000 attacks on health care in Ukraine verified by WHO since full-scale invasion (8 May 2026).
<https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/08-05-2026-3000-attacks-on-health-care-in-ukraine-verified-by-who-since-full-scale-invasion>

¹⁶ Doctors Without Borders. Health care remains under attack 10 years after key UN resolution (UN... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁷ World Health Organization. Q&A: International Health Regulations: amendments... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁸ UN News. Nations adopt historic pledge to guard against future pandemics (World Health... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁹ World Health Organization. WHO Pandemic Agreement... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁰ Global Biodefense. Biological Weapons Convention Working Group addresses verification and... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²¹ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

3. Key Definitions

These definitions are written for delegates and adapted from the sources in the bibliography. Learn them, because you will use them in speeches and clauses.

Term	Meaning
Biosecurity	Measures that protect against the theft, misuse or deliberate release of dangerous biological agents. ²²
Biosafety	Practices that prevent accidental exposure to, or release of, biological agents in laboratories. ²³
Pathogen	A germ, such as a virus or bacterium, that causes disease. ²⁴
Containment	Keeping a pathogen under control, either in a secure laboratory or by stopping an outbreak from spreading. ²⁵
Dual-use research	Work that can be used for good, such as medicine, and also for harm.
Medical supply chain	The system of production, storage, transport and delivery that gets medicines and equipment to patients. ²⁶
Resilience	The ability of a system to keep working, or recover quickly, when it is stressed or damaged.
Post-conflict zone	An area where major fighting has slowed or ended, but where damaged services and instability remain.
Attacks on health care	Violence against or obstruction of health workers, facilities, patients or transport, recorded by WHO's surveillance system. ²⁷
Humanitarian pause	A temporary halt in fighting to allow aid or vaccination to reach people. WHO asked for seven-day pauses for polio vaccination in Gaza. ²⁸
Humanitarian corridor	An agreed safe route for aid or people to cross a conflict area.
Pre-positioned stock	Emergency supplies stored in advance near likely need, as in WHO's Dubai hub. ²⁹
Surveillance	Watching for disease and collecting health information so that outbreaks are found early. ³⁰

²² WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²³ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁴ World Health Organization. WHO Pandemic Agreement... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁵ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁶ WHO. WHO Global Logistics Center (Dubai hub)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁷ MSF. Attacks on medical care in armed conflict reach record levels (report Medical Care in the... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁸ WHO. Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip (16 August 2024). <https://www.who.int/news/item/16-08-2024-humanitarian-pauses-vital-for-critical-polio-vaccination-campaign-in-the-gaza-strip>

²⁹ WHO. WHO Global Logistics Center (Dubai hub)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁰ US CDC. Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, Democratic Republic of the Congo, August 2018–November 2019 (MMWR). <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6850a3.htm>

Term	Meaning
Cholera	A disease caused by contaminated water or food, spread when water and sanitation fail. ³¹
Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2)	A polio virus strain that can spread where vaccination coverage is low. ³²
PABS	Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing, the system in the Pandemic Agreement for sharing samples and the benefits from them. ³³
International humanitarian law (IHL)	The laws of war that protect civilians and medical care. ³⁴
Accountability	Making sure that people and institutions answer for what they do, through rules, checks and remedies.



³¹ Nature. Cholera surges in war-torn Sudan as water systems collapse (2025). <https://www.nature.com/articles/d44148-025-00348-2>

³² WHO. Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip (16... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³³ World Health Organization. WHO Pandemic Agreement... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁴ Doctors Without Borders. Health care remains under attack 10 years after key UN resolution (UN... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

4. Case Studies

These cases show the problems and some responses in real life. Facts come from the sources in the bibliography. Many events are recent and still developing, so check dates and treat allegations carefully. **You must represent your assigned country's view.**

4.1 Sudan: collapsing health services and cholera

Since early 2025 cholera has spread across 11 Sudanese states, with more than 50,000 confirmed cases and 1,350 deaths. The destruction of water treatment plants forced communities onto contaminated sources, 70% of hospitals in conflict zones were reported non-functional, and millions of displaced people lived in crowded camps without clean water. Insecurity and logistics hampered vaccination.³⁵

4.2 Gaza: polio and humanitarian pauses

In July 2024 poliovirus (cVDPV2) was detected in environmental samples in Gaza, which had been polio-free for 25 years, and three children with suspected paralysis were reported. WHO and UNICEF planned two vaccination rounds for over 640,000 children under ten, with at least 95% coverage needed each round, and asked all parties for seven-day humanitarian pauses.³⁶

4.3 DRC: Ebola in a conflict zone

The Ebola outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri ran from August 2018 to June 2020 and caused 3,481 cases and 2,299 deaths, the second largest on record. WHO says over 303,000 people were vaccinated, 250,000 contacts registered and 16,000 local responders deployed.³⁷ The CDC found that armed conflict interrupted control activities, displaced tens of thousands, fed community mistrust and made health workers targets.³⁸

4.4 Ukraine: rebuilding while under attack

WHO had verified more than 3,000 attacks on health care in Ukraine by May 2026, about 80% on outpatient clinics, hospitals and care facilities, and about 20% on ambulances. In 2026 to date, deaths were nearly four times the 2025 level. In 2025, WHO helped 1.9 million people, supplied medicines and equipment to nearly 1,000 facilities, trained over 2,500 health workers and helped evacuate more than 6,400 patients. It says rebuilding the health sector needs \$23.6 billion over ten years.³⁹

4.5 The Dubai hub: one point of failure

WHO's logistics hub in Dubai supported 150 countries from 2018 to 2025, delivering \$260 million of supplies, and in 2024 to 2025 it reached 97 countries with 1,091 orders.⁴⁰ On 5 March 2026 WHO announced the hub had halted after war involving Iran closed airspace and restricted cargo. It said \$18 million of supplies could not be delivered and \$8 million of shipments could not reach the hub, including \$6

³⁵ Nature. Cholera surges in war-torn Sudan as water systems collapse (2025)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁶ WHO. Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip (16... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁷ WHO. Ebola outbreak 2018–2020, North Kivu–Ituri. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/Ebola-2019-drc>

³⁸ US CDC. Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, Democratic Republic of the Congo, August 2018–November... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁹ WHO Europe. 3000 attacks on health care in Ukraine verified by WHO since full-scale invasion (8... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁰ WHO. WHO Global Logistics Center (Dubai hub)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

million of medicines for Gaza and \$1.6 million of polio laboratory supplies. WHO also noted a 70% funding gap in its regional emergency operations.⁴¹

4.6 Biosecurity: rules that are not yet verified

The BWC has 189 states parties and only eight states remain outside it. A working group has been drafting proposals on cooperation, scientific review, national implementation and compliance verification, possibly including on-site inspections and declarations modelled on other arms-control bodies. The group was urged to finish by the end of 2025.⁴² WHO's Laboratory Biosafety Manual, published in 2020, gives a risk-based approach to keeping laboratories safe while keeping services accessible.⁴³ Consider how such standards could apply in places where laboratories or storage have been damaged.



⁴¹ Health Policy Watch. WHO: War with Iran paralyzes Dubai's global humanitarian supply hub (March... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴² Global Biodefense. Biological Weapons Convention Working Group addresses verification and... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴³ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

5. Major Actors

5.1 Countries and regions

Your delegation may represent any country, and your country may not be listed here. The table shows broad patterns only. **Always check your country's recent statements, laws and policies before you rely on them.**

Type of country	What to expect
Countries in or recovering from conflict	Need supplies, rebuilding funds and safe access, and often stress sovereignty over how aid enters. ^{44,45}
Donor and logistics states	Fund emergency operations and host supply hubs, and often stress accountability and reporting. ⁴⁶
Neighbouring and transit states	Face refugee flows and outbreak spillover, and control routes that supplies must cross. ⁴⁷
States with strong science and labs	Can offer training and biosafety support, and often stress verification and security. ^{48,49}
States outside major agreements	Eight states remain outside the BWC and some abstained on the Pandemic Agreement, so expect concerns about cost and control. ^{50,51}

Almost every state says it wants to protect patients and prevent disease. The disagreements tend to come over **access** (who may cross borders and front lines), **verification** (how far others may inspect) and **money** (who pays for stocks and rebuilding).

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⁴⁴ WHO Europe. 3000 attacks on health care in Ukraine verified by WHO since full-scale invasion (8... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁵ Nature. Cholera surges in war-torn Sudan as water systems collapse (2025)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁶ WHO. WHO Global Logistics Center (Dubai hub)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁷ US CDC. Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, Democratic Republic of the Congo, August 2018–November... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁸ WHO. Laboratory biosafety manual, 4th edition (2020)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

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⁵¹ UN News. Nations adopt historic pledge to guard against future pandemics (World Health... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

6. Preparing for Committee

6.1 Questions a strong resolution answers

1. **What problem does it solve?** Attacks on care, supply gaps, outbreak control or laboratory security? Be specific.
2. **Who acts?** Name who protects, delivers or inspects: states, WHO, UN agencies or partners.
3. **How is it paid for?** Ideas without funding stay ideas.
4. **Is access secured?** How will supplies and teams reach areas under conflict or restrictions?
5. **Is the supply line resilient?** Are there back-up routes, stocks in several regions and local capacity?
6. **Are dangerous agents protected?** What safety and security standards apply, and who checks them?
7. **Does it respect sovereignty?** Does it balance the affected state's control with the need for aid?
8. **Can it win support?** Will states from different regions and views vote for it?

6.2 Guiding questions for your research

1. Has your country experienced conflict, hosted refugees or supplied aid?
2. How is your country's medical supply chain organised, and how exposed is it to a single route?
3. What laws protect health workers and facilities in your country?
4. Has your country ratified the BWC, and what is its position on verification?
5. What biosafety standards do your laboratories follow?
6. What can your country offer or ask for: money, stocks, training or access?
7. Which countries share your goals, and where would you compromise?

6.3 Where to research

- **WHO** pages on emergencies, the logistics hub and attacks on health care.
- **UN News and UNICEF** for recent field reports.
- **MSF and the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** for data on attacks.
- **UN Office for Disarmament Affairs** for BWC meetings and documents.
- Your country's Ministry of Health and statements at the World Health Assembly.

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