



## **Press corps/British Broadcasting Corporation**

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**Reporter:** Antonio Verdi

**Topic:** UNODC/ Preventing the distribution of fake medicines

Today in the MMUN 2019 in the UNODC committee, the delegates are discussing the importance of preventing fake medicines distribution. Although initially, they had very different ideas, they all reached a friendly solution. The BBC is very concerned about this problem, and that is why we decided to report it.

The BBC noticed that the Republic of Uruguay was leading this committee, having much more arguments and solutions than other countries. For example, one of their proposals was to put bar codes in the real medicines, and it was later corrected to QR codes so you can scan it with your smartphone and know if it is fake or not.

Because of the success of Uruguay during the committee discussions, the BBC decided to interview one of the delegates. We asked them about the older people that do not know how to use a smartphone or people who do not even have one. What will they do to know if the medicine is fake or not? After thinking more deeply our question, the delegate told us the following: “They will only be in some specific drug stores set by the government where you can buy the medicines. The others will be illegal and banned”. The BBC decided to ask the Republic of Uruguay about the other drug stores and what will happen with them economically

if only the governments were able to sell medicines. The Uruguayan delegates didn't think about this point of view, and after thinking for a while, they told us that the other drug stores could require special permission from the government to operate legally if they qualify for it.

Uruguay and Norway were leading the committee at that point. During an interview made to the delegates of Norway, we asked them about the suggestions they have to solve this issue, and they gave us five suggestions that were all taken in account in the final agreement. Their suggestions were: "Fully aware of the impact fake medicines have on society, expressing their concern about the mortality rate, keeping in mind each country's sovereignty, bearing in mind the declaration of humans rights, recommend and promote universal health care in order to obtain authentic medicines, and make the United Nations help, more deeply by controlling prices and paying a percentage of the medicines costs with economic support from successful companies and developed countries government."

Afterward, all the delegations agreed the following: "Fully aware of the impact fake medicines have on society, expressing their concern about the mortality rate, keeping in mind each country's sovereignty, bearing in mind the declaration of humans rights, recommends and promotes universal health care in order to obtain authentic medicines, and makes the United Nations help, more deeply by controlling prices and paying a percentage of the medicines costs with economic support from successful companies and developed countries government, deeply concerned about the mind altering effects of fake medicines, encourages an increase in border security in member states, emphasizes the importance of raising awareness of fake medicines in school, public areas, television and radios, supports the work currently being done by organizations such as WHO and Interpol, calls upon pharmaceutical company to utilize technology in order to secure the packaging of authentic medicines, suggest the usage

of online databases in order to monitor and verify medicines dealers and finally, make the usage of QR codes mandatory in medicines to verify its veracity”.

This was a very successful committee that ended up in a very good agreement for all the delegations involved.