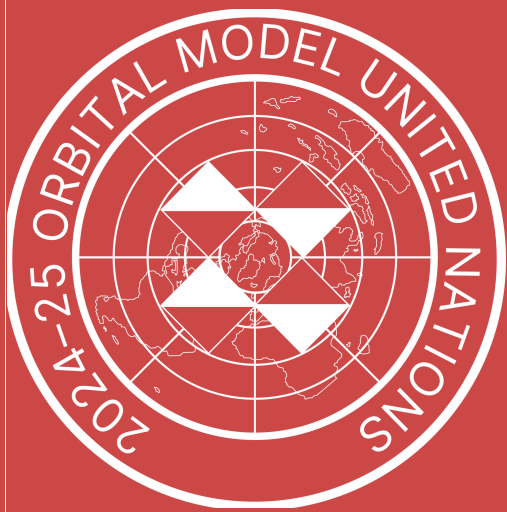


ANIMAL TESTING

To what extent should animal testing be used to develop vaccines and drugs in the case of new pandemics?



THE FIRST SESSION:

Written by Hana Domicelij

On the second day of this year's Model United Nations, the third session started with the motion for an unmoderated caucus of 40 minutes. After this, the caucus kept getting extended. At the end of the caucus the countries: France, Mexico, Russia, Norway, South Korea, South Africa, Austria, and United Kingdom came to a resolution together called Project BLED: Balanced Legislation for Ethical Drug Testing. They recognized the critical role of animal testing while still emphasizing the suffering of animals and lack of enforcement to regulate the unnecessary and inhumane use of animals. The importance of the 3Rs, rule-replacement, reduction, and refinement, is important and must be recognised worldwide.

THE FINAL SESSION:

The BLED project which was agreed on also includes the Riedler Index for Animal Testing which will rank the countries from 1-5 on a scale for severity of the use of animals. As written, they consist of 5 levels with level 1 being: the countries who have entirely banned animal testing and rely only on alternatives. Level 2: using animals only on strict guidelines and in cases of emergencies like pandemics. Level 3: Nations with moderate animal testing practices and developing alternative methods but lacking proper oversight. Level 4: excessive animal testing and poor compliance. Finally, the 5th level: countries with documented severe animal mistreatment, lack of oversight, and failure to implement humane regulations. In the end, their project was accepted.



FINALISING THE RESOLUTION:

They agreed that they will also regularly check on animals with the state organs, identify regions where mistreatment is more prevalent, and the countries who are ranked 4-5 will receive a 2-year improvement deadline. However, if the deadline is not met, the country will face severe sanctions. Furthermore, education on the topic of animal testing should be conducted, the 3Rs will be implemented, there will be a global data sharing platform, taxations and indicatives for ethical research, government oversight on drug approval and a call to action. At last, we ended the session with a bit of fun. The delegates got a couple minutes to write amusing comments or letters in the gossip box.



one of the chairs of animal testing : Isabella Magil