



Delegation Name: WHO

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Honorable President and Distinguished Delegates,

The World Health Organization is an organization affiliated with the United Nations and conducting international studies on public health. The ultimate effects of the current global economic crisis are difficult to estimate: not only is the crisis far from over, but its impact will also be felt long after a global economic recovery is in place. Nevertheless, international collaboration during this sharp economic recession has been more sustained and stable than the course of international cooperation during two previous economic downturns that matched or exceeded its severity: the Great Depression of 1929-33 and the global recession of 1981-82. In both of those earlier cases, economic nationalism grew, and existing modes of cooperation either collapsed or were threatened by unilateralism and corrosive forms of regionalism. In the present crisis, although concrete steps for deepening global economic cooperation have not been agreed upon, discussion of such measures continues in multilateral settings, such as the recent Group of 20 Summit in Pittsburgh. This apparent stability in economic cooperation may not last, but these initial promising signs merit explanation, particularly when compared with the record of earlier economic crises.