

Maternal Mortality: How much longer until mothers can stop worrying about giving birth to a motherless child?

Le Monde Press Agency

Mamie Johnson

Advancing healthcare facilities for the improvement of maternal healthcare was one of the first topics that incited vigorous debate among the delegates of the World Health Organization. WHO has been working to decrease the maternal mortality rate around the world for several decades, but these efforts have yet to result in any significant change. Nigeria felt as if mobilizing maternal healthcare would be the best short-term plan for her country due to the fact that as an underdeveloped nation, Nigeria tends to lose mothers as they are being transported to the hospital. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, stated that as a more developed nation, they believe that they will be able to add a line item in their budget for the donation of materials and supplies to healthcare facilities in need.

Following this conversation, the debate shifted to a dispute regarding the ethics of acknowledging the beliefs of some countries. Peru brought up the fact that “many countries do not want their popular sovereignty imposed upon” after the idea of using the efforts of Doctors without Borders was raised. Greece and Vietnam both agreed that cultural beliefs could be a cause of the poor state of the maternal healthcare system in some countries; however, Lebanon and Turkey quickly responded to these comments by reminding delegates that the ideologies of each country should be both observed and respected as the discussion on improving maternal healthcare continued. Turkey posed that “better education should be the focus of improving maternal healthcare” in the countries that have strict cultural beliefs.

This debate concluded with Kenya mentioning that they had abolished delivery fees, drastically decreasing their maternal mortality rate, therefore, delegates should consider implementing this measure in other countries.