Eliana Samuels
Commission on Science and Technology (CSTD): Welcome Letter
YUNMUN XXXVII

Delegates of CSTD,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVII! I'm so excited to serve as the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)!

Here's a little bit about me: I'm a senior at Stern, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. I'm from Great Neck, NY, and went to Central (YUHSG) for high school, followed by a year at Lindenbaum. This will be my sixth (and final) YUNMUN, and I'm so excited to spend it with all of you!

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) focuses on understanding how science and technology can be utilized for innovation on a global scale[1]. At this year's conference, we will be discussing two significant issues: Privacy Rights and Emerging Biotech Regulation & Open-Access Science.

Our first topic, Privacy Rights, centers on establishing international guardrails for technologies with both civilian and defense applications, such as commercial drones or flock cameras. In an increasingly connected world, cross-border data protection directly intersects with intellectual property rights. To balance technological security with equitable innovation, we must address digital exploitation and ensure developing nations can access vital climate and data resources.

Our second topic, Emerging Biotech Regulation and Open-Access Science, addresses the complex ethical and security dilemmas brought by CRISPR, gene editing, and synthetic biology. While lowering the technical barrier to biological tools democratizes scientific research, it also elevates biosecurity risks, potential bio-engineering threats, and IP hoarding by pharmaceutical

1 About the CSTD

monopolies. We must foster equitable, open-access science while building regulatory frameworks that safeguard global public health.

As delegates, your task is to research and understand your country's position on these issues and work with your fellow delegates to engage in meaningful discussions and eventual resolutions. Please make sure to remain consistent with your country's views, and please do not plagiarize (this includes generative AI!). YUNMUN follows the YU Level 1 AI policy: [y]ou may use AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content. All position papers will be checked for the use of proper citations and AI through Turnitin.

Whether it's your first year as a delegate or your last, please be sure to become familiar with procedure. **We are operating as a tech committee, so please make sure to familiarize yourself with the tech committee procedure, which can be found on the YUNMUN website. This also means you must prepare your slides and have them shared with my email address by January 21, 2027**. If you have any questions (or just want to say hi), my email is elsamuel@mail.yu.edu. I can't wait to have an incredible conference with all of you!

Sincerely,

Eliana Samuels

Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development

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1 About the CSTD