Talya Naggar

Middle East Summit (MES): Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVII

Hi everyone! Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVII! My name is Talya Naggar, and I will be chairing the Middle East Summit (MES) this year. I look forward to seeing each of you engage thoughtfully with some of the most complex issues facing the international community. This committee provides an opportunity to challenge yourselves intellectually, think critically, and develop meaningful solutions to develop meaningful solutions to challenges in the Middle East. Throughout the conference, you will strengthen your research, public speaking, and collaboration skills while navigating the complexities of diplomatic debate. I encourage each of you to approach this experience with dedication, professionalism, and an open mind, making the most of this opportunity to grow as delegates and leaders.

To briefly introduce myself, I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts, home of king Drake (Drake Maye) Maye. I attended high school at Maimonides School before spending a gap year studying at Shaalvim for Women. I am currently a senior at Stern College, majoring in Political Science with a minor in American Studies. I am a Lieberman Scholar at the Senator Joseph Lieberman-Mitzner Center for Public Service and Advocacy and I serve as President of the Yeshiva University Political Action Club. This year marks my sixth YUNMUN conference. I participated in high school for three years, and this is my third year participating at YU. Looking forward to #6!

The Middle East sits at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe and is home to some of the oldest civilizations in human history. It is the home of a wide range of nations, faiths, languages, and political systems. It also faces some of the most pressing challenges in the world today: competing national and religious identities, security threats, contested resources, humanitarian crises, and the ongoing search for lasting stability. Diplomacy has reshaped the region before, from the Camp David Accords to the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan to the Abraham Accords. The MES carries that tradition forward by having delegates, each representing a different country, debate and negotiate the issues that most define the region.

Success in MES depends on understanding what each country values, fears, and hopes for. Every delegate must be able to step into their country's shoes and speak for it accurately and respectfully. Representing a position is not the same as endorsing it, and doing so professionally, even when it is uncomfortable, is the mark of a skilled diplomat. Your job as delegates is to represent the identities of your countries. What do they stand for? What are they willing to compromise on and what are nonstarters? In order to achieve the truly global perspective that is at the heart of MES, it is imperative that each delegate be knowledgeable and well-researched about their country's core beliefs, priorities, and current state of affairs.

This knowledge will be applied to our two committee topics:

1. Regional economic integration through trade, investment, and cooperation across the Middle East
2. Syria's political transition and the rebuilding of an inclusive government after Assad

Please read both topic papers on the YUNMUN website for a better understanding of what we will be addressing. Also, write and submit a position paper on each topic representing your country's stance on these issues.

Our expectations for delegates are as follows:

- Attendance at EVERY committee session (barring extenuating circumstances)
- Knowledge of and adherence to procedure
- Accurate representation of your country's position (not your own)
- All claims and stats must be supported by a verifiable source. No Wikipedia or AI-generated sources.
- Adherence to AI Policy. YUNMUN follows the YU Level 1 AI policy: "Polish, with disclosure. You 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." Any position papers flagged for improper AI usage will not be eligible for awards. Please be sure to cite your sources carefully.

The YUNMUN XXXVII conference is going to be incredible, and I am so excited to meet you all! As you prepare, remember to stay true to your country's position and cite your sources. If

you have any questions, thoughts, concerns (or just want to say hi), feel free to reach me at tnaggar@mail.yu.edu . Good luck with your prep, and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Talya Naggar

Chair, Middle East Summit

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