YUNMUN
Yeshiva University National Model UN



YUNMUN
DELEGATE HANDBOOK

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Message from the Secretary General



Jared Kinches

Secretary General
YUNMUN XXXVII

On behalf of the Yeshiva University Office of Admissions and the YUNMUN Secretariat, I am truly honored to welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVII, the 37th annual Yeshiva University National Model United Nations! A few months from now, hundreds of students from more than forty high schools will come together for one of the most unique experiences available to Jewish students anywhere in the world. The three days we will spend together in February are the culmination of the countless hours of preparation, research, and hard work you have put into this conference. Having been a delegate myself, I understand the time and effort you invest in this project. Along the way, you develop many valuable skills: public speaking, negotiating, writing, researching, and everything in between. You should be proud of yourself for all you have accomplished and will accomplish by participating in a challenge such as YUNMUN.

I'd like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Jared Kinches, and it is hard to believe that this is my sixth and final YUNMUN. I attended Torah Academy of Bergen County (TABC), where I was a delegate for three years, representing Afghanistan in the now-defunct SPECPOL and Australia and France in Security Council during my junior and senior years, respectively.

Message from the Secretary General (cont.)

I then spent a year and a half learning in Israel, at Mevaseret and Aish. When I began my undergraduate experience at Sy Syms School of Business, I knew I had to get involved in YUNMUN. I sent countless texts to that year's Secretary General asking if there was any way I could get involved, since applications had already closed while I was still in Israel. When he let me know that a position had opened up, I was thrilled. I joined UNEP as the Admin Assistant, and ultimately served as an Undersecretary General at last year's conference. Having the opportunity to serve as Secretary General for this year's conference is a true honor, and helping lead this conference alongside the rest of the Secretariat is one of the most meaningful opportunities I have had during my time at YU. Outside of YUNMUN, I am a member of the Macs tennis team, a scholar in the Lieberman-Mitzner Center (https://www.yu.edu/lieberman), and involved in several other extracurricular activities. I am majoring in finance, minoring in political science, and on the pre-law track with the goal of attending law school in the near future.

Each year, the Secretariat is tasked with choosing a theme for the conference. This year, our theme comes from *Perek Aleph* of *Pirkei Avos*, The Ethics of the Fathers. Hillel teaches, "אִם אֵין אֲנִי לִי, מִי לִי. וּכְשֶׁאֲנִי לְעַצְמִי, מָה אֲנִי. וְאִם לֹא עַכְשָׁיו, אֵימָתַי" meaning: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? But if I am for my own self only, what am I? And if not now, when?" Hillel's message is clear: we cannot wait for others to speak for us. We have a responsibility to develop the confidence and skills necessary to advocate for ourselves, for our Jewish faith, and for our homeland of Israel. We must be prepared to confront difficult challenges and not back down from the fight against antisemitism.

Message from the Secretary General (cont.)



That fight is more important now than ever, particularly as antisemitism has become increasingly prevalent online, where hateful ideas spread to millions of people in a matter of seconds. We must be willing to stand up and make our voices heard above those who seek to spread hate. And this responsibility begins now. Taking initiative does not require a certain title or a position of authority; it just requires willingness to step up and make your voice heard.

That is exactly what YUNMUN represents. This conference provides you with the opportunity to develop and practice the skills you will need to become the voice Am Yisrael needs. You will learn how to negotiate and persuade, how to speak confidently in front of others, and how to defend a position even when it may not be popular. You will learn how to work with others toward an important goal and present solutions to real issues..

Message from the Secretary General (cont.)



This is what Yeshiva University is all about. YU is a place where Jewish students can pursue their passions, develop the skills they need, and take on important challenges around the world, while remaining rooted in our Torah values and Jewish identity. YU prepares the Jewish leaders of tomorrow with the resources, experiences, and connections they need to become a leader in whatever field they choose, whether that leadership expresses itself through politics and advocacy, medicine, law, business, or anything else.

Our YUNMUN staff is an excellent reflection of this. They are a group of students forging their own paths across a wide range of areas of study, while remaining rooted in the same mission and values. I encourage you to get to know the members of the Secretariat, your chairs, and the rest of the staff throughout the conference. They can be valuable resources and guides as you begin thinking about your own yeshiva or seminary decisions, the college process, and beyond. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself and ask them questions.

Message from the Secretary General (cont.)



I am truly humbled to serve as your Secretary-General for YUNMUN XXXVII. I hope that YUNMUN is as rewarding, exciting, and memorable for you as it was for me when I was a delegate. As you prepare for YUNMUN, remember how important the work you are doing is. You are beginning to develop the skills and confidence you will need to make your voice heard. If you have any questions or simply want to introduce yourself, I am always happy to hear from you. My email is jkinches@mail.yu.edu. I cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish.

Sincerely,
Jared Kinches
Secretary General, YUNMUN XXXVII

Message from the Admissions Director

Marc Zharnest

Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Welcome to the 37th Yeshiva University Model United Nations, YUNMUN XXXVII!

When I was in high school and later as a student at Yeshiva University, I always looked forward to February because it meant one thing: YUNMUN. Participating in YUNMUN was one of the most meaningful and memorable parts of my educational journey. The energy, excitement, and passion that fill our campus throughout the conference are truly unlike anything else. It is an experience that can only be fully appreciated by being part of it, and we are committed to making sure your YUNMUN experience is every bit as rewarding and unforgettable.

Over the conference, I encourage you to take full advantage of everything it has to offer. Challenge yourself to think critically, engage respectfully with your fellow delegates, and step confidently outside your comfort zone. Whether you are a first-time participant or a returning delegate, YUNMUN provides a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, strengthen friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues shaping our world today.

For nearly four decades, YUNMUN has continued to grow while maintaining the warmth, personal attention, and sense of community that make Yeshiva University so special. Grounded in our Torah values and commitment to making a positive impact on society, YUNMUN reminds us that thoughtful dialogue, collaboration, and principled leadership can help create a better future.

Message from the Admissions Director (cont.)

YUNMUN is more than a conference. It is an opportunity to connect with students from across North America, broaden your perspective, explore new ideas, and create memories that will stay with you long after the final committee session ends.

We are thrilled to welcome you and are confident that YUNMUN XXXVII will be our best conference yet. Thank you for joining us and contributing your talents, enthusiasm, and voice to this extraordinary event.

Let's work together to make YUNMUN XXXVII an incredible experience for everyone involved.

I look forward to greeting you personally.

B'hatzlacha Rabbah,

Moshe "Ziggy" Zharnest
Director of Undergraduate Admissions and High School Recruitment



Introduction

With the advent of the United Nations in 1945, the world saw the birth of a pillar that would affect international politics forever. Over the past 80-plus years, this organization has blossomed, with nearly four times the amount of its starting members and a plethora of new committees. The United Nations has become one of the most important bodies in the post-modern world.

Coinciding with the birth of this organization, the phenomenon of Model United Nations, and even a Model League of Nations, has given rise. This conference is equipped with a high level of participation on all school levels, and a variety of eclectic delegations from across the nation. This demonstrates the extensive impact the United Nations has had on encouraging students to explore and immerse themselves in the intricate workings of this organization.



Like the real UN, the Model United Nations allows delegates to explore issues plaguing the globe with an open mind. The democratic procedures governing individual participation only aid in creating an environment where free thought is encouraged.

While this thought is best for a true learning experience, it often leads to extreme disagreement. This duality may lead to the successful nature of the organization, as well as to the ineffectual nature. Hopefully, those attending the Model UN conference will attempt to harness its productive elements, thus working not only to imitate this body but to improve upon it as well.

The Role of the Delegate

Each delegate in the Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) faces a challenging task. The delegates must study carefully and be prepared to state, briefly and clearly, the position actually held by the countries they represent on one or more major issues. They should understand the views held by other countries on these issues, and be ready to defend, and sometimes modify, their positions in public debate. In committee sessions, delegates will be expected to present their positions, engage in negotiations with other delegates, and develop resolutions for the issues debated by their committee.

As a voluntary participant in a group enterprise, each delegate should feel a deep sense of responsibility for the success of the Yeshiva University National Model United Nations. No matter how skillfully the secretariat has set the stage and drawn up the agenda, only the delegates can ensure that constructive and informed discussion of the issues will take place and that the committee session will result in a deeper understanding of these issues and the process and machinery of the United Nations.



Before the Conference
A Guide to Delegate Preparation

Research

Once a delegation is assigned its country/countries, it should organize a systematic plan of individual and group study. The following is an outline of the basic research areas that a delegate should cover in this study period:

1. General understanding of the UN structure and system.
2. General understanding of the foreign policy goals and the various geopolitical blocs in the international community.
3. General knowledge of your country's history, economy, internal politics, governmental structure, ideology, social development, and membership in regional or international organizations.
4. Specific and detailed knowledge of the agenda topics.
5. Specific and detailed knowledge of your country's foreign policy, especially as applied to the agenda topics.
6. Specific and detailed knowledge of the YUNMUN rules and procedure.

The primary objective of this preparation should be to familiarize yourself both with the major positions your country has taken and why it has done so. This will give you the flexibility needed to react within the dynamic conference situation. To achieve the most complete results quickly, certain aspects of the preparation should be assigned to each member of the delegation, with joint meetings to discuss research and other preliminary components.

Position Papers

Prior to the conference, delegates must prepare position papers and submit them for publication on the YUNMUN website. A position paper is a delegate's statement of their country's position on the topics issued to their committee. Delegates should submit one position paper for each topic assigned. Each position paper should be approximately one typed, double-spaced page.

Position papers must be concise. The position paper is not a place to prove writing skill or demonstrate breadth of knowledge on the agenda topics; rather, it should clarify the issues, state a position, and suggest solutions from a delegate's national perspective for the benefit of fellow delegates and conference staff.

Each position paper should address three elements: the country's national interests, the country's national policies, and the delegate's opinion on potential resolution components.

National interests are what a country would like to see happen in the world. Because an international issue may affect a specific country more acutely, that country will be more invested in its solution. (For example, terrorism is an international problem, but may be affecting some countries more than others.) National interests are a priority and, as such, are not subject to compromise.

National policies are the country's attempts to secure its personal interests. These policies are open to negotiation.

The opinions reflected in resolutions must be consistent with the country's national interests and policies. Position papers must be submitted prior to the conference in order to be considered for an award.



The Conference
Delegate Walk-Through

1. Roll Call

Each committee will meet for six sessions for a total of about 15 hours. Committee time will be divided between formal debate and caucus. At the start of any committee session, the committee Chair will take a roll call. The committee chair must establish a quorum to declare the committee open and allow debate to proceed.

2. Setting an Agenda

After a quorum is established, a delegate in the committee should move to set an agenda, determining which topic the committee will debate first. The only motion in order at this time will be in the form of "I move that Topic Area X be placed first on the agenda." The motion must receive a second.

A speaker's list will then be established, and delegates will commence debate for and against the motion. This debate could (and should) go on for quite a while, considering the first topic you choose will be the one most of your energy will be spent on. A motion to close debate is in order only after the committee has heard at least two speakers for the motion (to have Topic Area X placed first on the agenda) and at least two speakers against.

A two-thirds vote is required to close debate. If the vote does not pass, the speaker's list is reopened, and the debate continues. When debate is closed, the committee will move to an immediate vote on the placement of Topic Area X first, requiring a simple majority for passage.

3. Formal Debate

After a topic is chosen, a delegate may make a motion to open a new speaker's list (see rules). The passing of such a motion results in the official opening of formal debate. During the formal debate, delegates have the opportunity to share their views with the committee, and parliamentary rules of procedure are in effect.

During the formal debate, delegates will have time to make speeches. During a speech, only Points of Personal Privilege (see rules), Points of Order (see rules), or Points of Parliamentary Inquiry (see rules) may interrupt a speaker.

A delegate must be recognized by the chair in order to rise to the floor to begin their speech. Prior to speaking, a delegate has three options: to yield any remaining time to another delegate, yield any remaining time to questions, or yield the remaining time to the chair (see rules). The committee, as a group, can also control speaker diversity by exercising its right to motion for up to two comments to follow each speech. From this point forward, the delegate's primary role will be to deliver speeches that will aim to pinpoint the problem and outline solution approaches to that issue. As debate continues, delegates should refine their speeches in preparation for developing resolutions.

A motion to caucus/recess (see rules) is in order at any time when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. The chair may, however, rule this motion out of order and the decision is not subject to appeal. During this time, delegates may meet informally with each other and with committee staff to discuss working papers, resolutions, amendments, or other relevant issues.

While formal debate is a time for communication, caucus is a time for negotiation. Parliamentary Rules of Procedure are not in effect, and delegates may talk freely. A motion to caucus, since it is a non-debatable procedural motion, takes precedence over all motions except for Parliamentary Points. Each caucus will be limited to 20 minutes, and delegates are encouraged to seat themselves in geographic blocs to facilitate productive caucuses. (The chair is able to change any seating arrangements.)

4. Working Paper

During the initial phases of developing a resolution, delegates use a working paper. Delegates should not begin writing a resolution without first writing a working paper. A working paper is a rough draft for a resolution that contains what you and the other members of your coalition would like to see in the final resolution. Like a resolution, a working paper must be signed by the committee chair, copied, and distributed to the rest of the committee.

The goal of a working paper is to let authors focus their ideas for a resolution. It lists positions that can be examined for compromise or change and serves as a foundation for a final resolution.
There is no formal requirement for a working paper and no minimum number of signatures required. However, no working paper may be copied without the chair's signature, and it may not be introduced in committee before distribution to the entire committee.

5. The Resolution

The desired product of negotiation is a resolution. At YUNMUN, we allow only one resolution to be passed per topic. Our hope is that the demands we place on the end product will result in a more rigorous and focused process. A resolution must be realistic, thorough, and aim to meet the standards of the majority of members.
Drafting a resolution that would pass committee vote requires focus and diligence. We recommend the following in order to develop resolutions.

Assess the Committee's Reaction to All Working Papers:

- Gauge other delegates' opinions on all proposed resolutions. Find out which clauses were the most popular and which were least favorable.

Outline:

- Take the time to outline your work. Make sure your ideas are consistent and logically organized. A well-organized resolution is easier to present to a committee.
- Make sure you limit the number of actual authors of the resolution. This keeps you in control of the content and prevents further compromise. If compromises are needed, encourage them to be addressed through speeches and amendments.

Announce a Resolution Draft:

- To secure wider support for your resolution draft, put your country's name on the speaker's list and, during your speaking time, announce that you would like to draft a resolution, and during the next caucus, you will read through the resolution. Anyone willing to join and share their views should meet with you then.

Review the Resolution Draft:

- In the next caucus, you and your coalition should gather your allied delegates and all interested neutral parties to review the resolution draft clause by clause. Have one person read the resolution draft aloud and explain the reasoning behind it, asking if there are any comments or suggestions. You may change actual clauses of the resolution or make amendments.
- To make an amendment, submit the point that your coalition feels will either broaden or narrow your support base as a formal amendment during the amendment process. This option gives your bloc time to weigh the pros and cons of the suggestion, and prevents you from making an alteration that could be unpopular.

Submit the Resolution Draft to the Administrative Assistant:

- The administrative assistant is there to help you formulate the most cohesive resolution possible. They are an unbiased member of the committee staff, there to assist delegates with proper resolution-writing procedures. Administrative assistant review is not merely a suggestion; it is a mandatory part of the resolution process.
- In order for a resolution to be introduced to a committee, signatures from one-fifth of the countries present and voting must be obtained. Remind delegates that their signature does not bind them in any way for future support; a signature only implies a desire to see the resolution make it to the committee floor.

Chair Signature:

- After obtaining the required signatures, present the resolution to the chair for his/her signature. Make any of the changes they might point out to you, and then submit the resolution to the administrative assistant to be typed, copied, and distributed.

Passing the Resolution:

- Only after the resolution has been distributed to the entire committee may you formally introduce it. A motion to introduce (see rules) results in a temporary suspension of the speaker's list for the topic, and only three delegates are allowed to make a speech

(considered procedural in nature, therefore yields and comments are out of order) to briefly summarize the contents of the resolution. Debate then takes place by reopening the speaker's list, with delegates free to discuss this resolution or anything else relevant to the topic. No separate speaker's list is established to discuss a resolution. The reason this is done is to allow several resolutions to be introduced at one time.
Once a resolution is on the floor, it can be debated, amended, closed, or voted upon. Once a resolution is introduced, it belongs to the committee as a whole, not just the authors, and the committee may do with it as it pleases.

Motions That Apply to a Resolution:
There are four procedural motions that could come up on the floor.

1. Competence (see rules). This motion is in order immediately after a resolution has been introduced. By making such a motion, a delegate is questioning the competence of the committee to discuss such a resolution.
2. Postponement of Debate (see rules). This is what is known as "tabling"; this motion "un-introduces" a resolution, preventing any further debate or action on that resolution. This motion requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Debate on a resolution that has been postponed can be resumed (see rules); that motion requires only a simple majority to pass.
3. Closure of Debate (see rules). A motion to close debate requires two speakers against closure of debate and requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Since closure of debate is a procedural motion, yields and comments do not apply to the two speeches against closure.
4. Division of the Question (see rules). This is the most complicated and the most widely misunderstood rule. A delegate who motions for Division of the Question is indicating their desire for the committee to only vote upon the passage of certain clauses of the proposed resolution. The motion is in the form of, "I move that we vote only on

clauses A, B, and C, separate from clauses D and E." If there is an objection, the chair will recognize two speakers for and two speakers against the motion to divide the resolution as stated. The committee will vote on whether to pass such a motion for division, requiring a simple majority for passage.
This motion is dangerous because there may be members of your coalition who agree with your resolution as a whole, but disagree with parts of it, and therefore, may be supportive of the division. Division also supplies the opposition with an opportunity to splinter your support base by breaking down your resolution piece by piece through a vote.

Amendment Process:

- Amendments require the signature of one-fifth of the delegates, the signature of the chair and a majority vote to pass.
- An approved amendment may be introduced when the floor is open. The speaker's list will be suspended and a separate pro and con speaker's list is set up to debate that amendment. This speaker's list remains open until a delegate moves for Closure of Debate. Postponement of Debate as well as Competence both apply to amendments as they do to resolutions.
- Amendments should be consistent with the line of reasoning of your resolution and should not alter your intentions. You do not want to have too many amendments though, as they will slow down the pace of the committee, as well as splinter your support base.

Voting on the Resolution:

- Once debate has been closed, the committee immediately moves to a vote. Two motions are in order at this time: Division of the Question (Discussed above) and Roll Call Vote (see rules). In a Roll Call Vote, the chair will call the roll in alphabetical order.

- There are two rounds to a roll call vote. In the first round, delegates may vote Yes, No, Abstain, or Pass. In the second round, those who passed must then vote Yes, No, or Abstain. Delegates may request the right to explain their vote during either the first or the second round. The chair will then ask if there are any changes of votes; no delegate may request a right of explanation if they did not request an explanation in the previous sequences. During a roll call vote only procedural motions are in order.



Rules of Procedure for YUNMUN

1. Opening Date

The Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) Conference shall meet every year in regular session, commencing at a time and place stipulated by the secretary general.

2. Notification of Session

The secretary general shall notify the members of YUNMUN Conference in writing of the opening of a regular session.

3. Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn by the secretary general and communicated to the members of YUNMUN prior to the opening session.

4. Duties of the Secretary General

The secretary general shall provide and direct the staff required by all YUNMUN committees. He/She shall have ultimate authority over all such committees and may at any time designate a member of the secretariat to act in authority. This position is to be filled, if possible, alternating each year between male and female undergraduate students at Yeshiva University.



5. Statements by the Secretariat
The Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by them, may at any time make oral/written statements to any committee or subcommittee at any meeting.

6. Submission of Credentials
The names of the members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General at least 30 days before the opening of the session.

7. Number of Accredited Delegates
The number of delegates allowed on any delegation to the YUNMUN Conference shall be limited to one per committee or council on which the delegation is a member; each delegation is accorded one vote.

8. Functions and Powers of the Chair
In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon them elsewhere in the rules, the chair of a committee shall declare the opening and closing of each committee meeting, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to a vote, and announce decisions. The chair shall have complete control of committee proceedings and is responsible for maintaining order. The chair shall also have a wide range of discretionary powers. The chair has the power to entertain a motion, or to suggest that a particular motion would be appropriate at any given time, or not to entertain a motion, or to suggest that it is inappropriate.

9. Official and Working Language
English shall be the official and working language of all YUNMUN committees.

10. Interpretation
Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official language. In this case, the representative shall provide an interpretation of the speech into the working language. Interpretation will count against the speaker's time if the committee has placed a time limit on speeches.

11. Quorum
The chair may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one-third of the members of the committee are present.
The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any substantive votes taken. A quorum shall be based upon expected attendance as communicated from the secretariat to the chair prior to the opening of the session.

[Security Council Exception:
Majority: All votes, both substantive and procedural, require a majority for passage. A majority shall be taken to mean nine affirmative votes. All substantive votes fail on a negative vote by one or more permanent members (China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the United States).]

12. Majority
Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, committee votes shall require a majority of the members present and voting in order to carry. A majority shall be taken to mean the assent of one half of the members present and voting plus one.

13. Notification under Article XII of the UN Charter
Article XII of the UN Charter bars the General Assembly and Security Council from addressing the same topic simultaneously. The secretary general must inform committees of relevant Security Council matters and when they conclude.

14. Adoption of Agenda in Committee
The first order of business shall be the consideration of the agenda. Only the topics which are on the provisional agenda can be considered. The chair shall entertain a motion to open a speaker's list for the purpose of discussing the topics on the provisional agenda. At any time during the debate, a motion to place one of the topics on the agenda shall be in ord-

-er. In the event of such a motion, the chair shall entertain two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against the motion. If the motion carries, then the chair shall open a new speaker's list for the discussion of the chosen topic, and if it fails, then the committee will continue discussion on all of the topics on the provisional agenda. Once debate on a topic has been closed and all the proposals concerning said topic voted upon, the chair will then return the committee to further consideration of the agenda.

15. Speaker's List

After a topic has been chosen, one continuously open speaker's list shall be followed for all debate on the topic area, except when superseded by procedural motions for which new speaker's lists are created. Speakers may speak generally on the topic area being considered, any resolution or working paper on the floor, or on any proposed amendment to any resolution on the floor. After the initial speaker's list is created, a member may add his/her name to the speaker's list by submitting a written request to the chair.

A member may at any time move that the chair close or re-open a speaker's list. Debate on the closure or reopening of the speaker's list shall be limited to two (2) members in favor and two (2) against the motion after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote.

16. Time Limit on Speeches

A committee may limit the time allowed for each speaker and/or the number of times each member may speak on a substantive question. Before a vote is taken, two (2) members may speak in favor of and two (2) against a proposal to set such limits. During debate on procedural motions, the chair may limit the time allowed for each speaker to a length that he/she may deem appropriate. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the chair shall call the delegate to order.

17. Speeches

No member may address a committee without having previously obtained the permission of the chair. The chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they appear on the speaker's list. The chair may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject matter under discussion.

18. Yields

A member who has been accorded the right to speak may yield his/her time in the following manners:

1. To the chair of the committee.
2. To Point(s) of Information [i.e. questions] from other delegates pertaining to the substance of the speech.
3. To another delegate. The delegate yielded to may not yield to any other speaker, nor may he accept Point(s) of Information. (For further clarification of this rule please see section on Committee Process).

19. Comments on Speeches

A committee may vote to permit comments on speeches after a speaker's time has elapsed and all yields have been completed. Two (2) delegates may speak in favor and two (2) may speak against the motion. The motion must specify the amount of time and the number of comments that will be allowed after each substantive speech.

20. Point of Order

A Point of Order is used when a delegate finds a procedural error made by the chair or another delegate. A delegate may rise to a Point of Order during the discussion of any matter, and the Point of Order shall be addressed as soon as the chair has made a ruling in accordance with these rules of procedure. A member rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the topic under debate.

21. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may be raised by a delegate who is unsure of a particular element of the committee's proceedings. A delega-

-te may not rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry while another speaker is addressing the committee, and may only raise the point regarding matters of parliamentary procedure.

22. Point of Information

If a speaker has yielded remaining speech time to Points of Information, then any delegate may raise his/her country placard in order to ask a question of the speaker. The chair will recognize such Point(s) of Information until the speaker's time has elapsed or if no time limit has been set, then until a time which is to be determined at the chair's discretion.

23. Point of Personal Privilege

A delegate may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege during the discussion of any matter when he/she experiences personal discomfort which impairs his/her ability to participate in the proceedings.

24. Right of Reply

If a delegate's personal integrity is impugned or the good name of his/her country is insulted, then s/he may request from the chair the right to reply to the offender after the offender's speech time has elapsed. If granted, the member receiving the right may speak immediately. The chair shall limit the time allocated for a Right of Reply to no more than one (1) minute.

25. Proposals

All working papers, resolutions, and amendments that a YUNMUN committee produces shall be known as proposals. In order for a resolution or an amendment to be introduced to a committee, signatures from one-fifth of the members present and voting must be obtained and the chair's approval and signature must be obtained as well. A delegate or group of delegates, called proposers, must express their willingness to oversee the proposal on the floor.

26. Competence

A motion to question the competence of a committee to discuss a resolution, a working paper, or amendments, is in order if it is felt that the content of the proposal is outside of the scope of the committee's United Nations commission. The motion is debatable with one (1) speaker for and one (1) speaker against. If the motion carries then the committee will immediately cease all further consideration of the proposal. The provisional agenda has been approved by the secretariat to ensure committee's competence to debate those topics, and hence a motion to question the competence of a committee to address a topic from the provisional agenda is not in order.

27. Amendments

A proposal is considered an amendment if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises an operative clause. Amendments shall be known as non-friendly or hostile amendments. Such an amendment is one that is introduced by member states of the committee who were not original sponsors of the resolution. It shall require the signatures of one-fifth of the countries present and voting. If an amendment is moved to the floor as a hostile amendment, then it will be voted upon at the closure of debate.

28. Motion to Reconsider

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may be reconsidered by the committee during the same session unless the committee, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a Motion to Reconsider shall be accorded to one (1) speaker for and one (1) speaker against, after which it shall be put to an immediate vote. Only resolutions and amendments may be reconsidered.

29. Division of the Question

Immediately before a resolution is put to vote, a member may Motion to Divide the Question. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two (2) speakers in favor and two (2) speakers opposed to

the motion. This motion indicates that the member wishes to consider two or more parts of the resolution separately. Once the Motion for Division has been made, a procedural vote on whether to divide the question shall be taken.
If the Motion to Divide passes, then a second substantive vote shall be taken on each portion of the resolution in the manner specified by the member that motioned the division. Any portions of the resolution that remain after the second round of votes shall constitute the entirety of the resolution that shall then be voted upon. If there is more than one motion to Divide the Question, then the most radical motion shall be considered first. (For further clarification of this rule, refer to the Resolution section of the handbook).

30. Voting Rights
Each member nation of each YUNMUN committee shall have one vote. Countries with observer status may vote only on procedural matters, not on substantive matters. They also have no vote in the plenary sessions.

31. Meaning of the Phrase "Members Present and Voting"
The phrase "Members Present and Voting" means member nations casting an affirmative or negative vote. Member nations that abstain from voting are considered as not voting and shall not be counted in determining the effective number of voting members. Nations with observer status shall not be counted as well.

32. Conduct During Voting
After the chair has announced the beginning of voting, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.
The doors of the chamber must be closed during voting procedure and all non-committee members, with the sole exception of faculty advisors, must exit the room prior to the beginning of the vote. No one may enter or exit the chamber until the voting procedure has been completed.

33. Roll Call Votes

A member may request a Roll Call Vote for a given resolution. The chair may grant or deny this request upon discretion. If granted, each member of the committee shall answer: Yes, No, Abstain, or Pass. Members who pass shall be called at the end of the roster in alphabetical order. A member may pass only once on any given vote.

34. Right of Explanation

If a Roll Call Vote has been motioned for, members may ask for a Right of Explanation after they have stated their vote. Time is given to each member who indicated a desire to state their explanations, in alphabetical order, once voting has been completed. The chair may limit the time for the Right of Explanation.

35. Important Questions

In order for a resolution to be labeled an Important Question, it must fall within one of the following categories:

- Recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security
- Admission of a new member to the United Nations
- Suspension of the rights and privileges of UN membership
- Expulsion of members
- Budgetary questions
- Tabling (Adjournment of Debate)

During the discussion of any matter, a member may motion to Adjourn the Debate on a substantive item under discussion. The chair may rule such a motion out of order. If the motion is in order, then two (2) members may speak in favor of and two (2) may speak against the motion after which time it shall be put to an immediate vote. If the motion passes, debate on the topic is said to be tabled and the topic is placed aside without further action or notes of any kind until the chair entertains a motion to reintroduce the adjourned topic, which requires simple majority. If a topic is reintroduced, then the original speaker's list shall be used. However, if such a motion is never made, then the topic will remain tabled without further discussion or action by the committee.

36. Closure of Debate

A member may at any time move to Close Debate on a topic under debate regardless of whether or not there are still speakers remaining on the speaker's list. The chair shall grant the permission to speak on the Closure of Debate to only two (2) speakers opposing the closure after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote.

The motion shall require two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass. If the motion carries, then debate on the topic will be closed, the speaker's list shall be discarded, and all resolutions and amendments that have been introduced onto the floor relating to said topic shall be brought to an immediate vote.

37. Suspension of the Formal Debate (Caucus)

During the debate of any topic, a delegate may motion to Suspend the Meeting for a Caucus. The motion shall not be debated, but instead shall be put to an immediate vote. The sponsor of the motion must specify the time limit for which the debate would be suspended, and briefly explain the purpose of the proposed suspension. The time limit is subject to the chair's approval and shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes. The chair may rule the Motion to Suspend the Meeting out of order.

38. Recess of the Committee Session

A delegate may motion to Recess the Meeting in order to suspend all committee functions until the next scheduled meeting. The motion is not debatable and the chair may rule this motion out of order. This ruling is not subject to an appeal.

39. Order of Procedural Motions:

Procedural Motions shall be considered in the following order of precedence while committee is in formal session:

1. Motion to Recess the Committee Session
2. Motion to Caucus
3. Motion to Adjourn the Debate
4. Motion to Close Debate
5. Motion to Close the Speaker's List

A member may request that the chair label an item an Important Question, and if the chair determines that the resolution does fall within one of the five above-listed categories, then the motion will be allowed. In order to pass this motion a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required for passage.

40. Appeal of the Chair

A member may appeal against the ruling of the chair on discretionary matters. The chair shall speak in defense of his/her ruling, and the appealing member may speak in favor of the appeal. The motion shall be put to a vote, and the chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

41. Dress Code

All delegates attending the YUNMUN conference must dress in business attire. Men should wear jackets and ties; women should wear skirts or dresses that meet the knee, and blouses that cover the arms. No sneakers or jeans are permitted. The dress code applies not only to committee sessions but also to the entire conference. The secretary general reserves the right to bar a delegate's admission to the committee on grounds of inappropriate attire.

42. Cell Phones and Laptops

No laptops are allowed in the session rooms. If a delegate is caught using a laptop during a session, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Cell phone use must be discreet and not disruptive. [This rule is altered in the technology committee; please reference the separate sheet to see the rules for those delegates taking part in that committee.]

43. Artificial Intelligence

The brief explanation of the AI policy is included in your Welcome Letter and Topic Papers. We still feel it necessary to clarify it here as well.

Last year, Yeshiva University spent a great deal of time crafting its policy on artificial intelligence, with the goal of keeping it conducive to a professional and academic environment while recognizing that, in 2026, AI is a key part of how ideas are created and shared. YUNMUN is committed to that same balance.

For this reason, the conference follows the University's UG1 level of AI use, which allows you to "[p]olish, 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."
The full Yeshiva University Artificial Intelligence Policy can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xznCDfZrE8Ym1SphDqooCfuCHT-clljy/view?usp=sharing

If you are not a member of ICC, please skip to the Appendix section.

Rules of Procedure for ICC*

The International Criminal Court at YUNMUN is grounded in the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court's legal framework, but the conference necessarily adapts these procedures to fit YUNMUN's structure. Delegates will therefore be governed primarily by the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Procedure, the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence, the YUNMUN ICC Legal Authorities, and the materials provided with the annual case. The Rome Statute and other official ICC materials remain important sources of background and substantive law, but they do not supersede YUNMUN-specific rules and authorities unless expressly incorporated.

ICC differs substantially from other committees at YUNMUN. Delegates do not represent their assigned countries, and the committee generally does not operate under the formal YUNMUN procedure. Instead, in a style most similar to a Mock Trial, the delegates will be divided into two sides—the Prosecution and the Defense—and will spend the conference preparing and arguing a criminal case before the Court.

ICC is a courtroom simulation rather than a resolution-writing committee. Formal YUNMUN parliamentary procedure does not apply during any phase of the committee unless the Chairs expressly state otherwise. Delegates will not write working papers, draft directives or resolutions, or vote on committee resolutions. The Court's rulings and final verdict, rather than a negotiated resolution, are the committee's final product.

Legal Counsel will be assigned to each side to assist delegates throughout the conference. The Chairs will moderate committee sessions and serve as the judges of the Court, regulating discussion, ruling on objections and motions, and ultimately deciding the case.

*Ammended by Chairs of ICC, YUNMUN XXXVII

New for YUNMUN XXXVII

Beginning with YUNMUN XXXVII, ICC will operate under a slightly revised structure intended to give delegates more opportunities to prepare before the conference and more opportunities to advocate once they arrive.

The annual case will remain undisclosed until the beginning of the conference. Delegates will not know the factual circumstances, witnesses, exhibits, or charges they will be arguing beforehand. However, delegates will be able to review two standing resources in advance of the conference: the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence, which govern evidence and trial procedure, and the YUNMUN ICC Legal Authorities, which contain the substantive legal framework, standards of proof, pretrial oral-argument framework, and designated case law used in YUNMUN ICC proceedings. The annual case may also supply additional case-specific legal authorities, stipulations, or instructions.

The change is meant to preserve one of the defining features of ICC: the challenge of receiving and developing a case during the conference, while still giving delegates a meaningful way to prepare beforehand. Delegates will arrive without knowing the facts, but they should not arrive without knowing the rules.

Pre Conference Preparation

Before the conference, delegates should carefully review both standing resources: the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence and the YUNMUN ICC Legal Authorities. Together, these materials provide the legal, evidentiary, and procedural framework delegates will be expected to use once the annual case is released. Delegates are not expected to predict the facts of the annual case or research outside law before the conference.

Release of the Case

The annual case will be released at the beginning of the conference. Delegates will have no prior knowledge of its contents.
The case materials may include the charges against the accused, a case summary, witness affidavits or statements, exhibits, stipulations, and additional legal authorities designated for use in that year's case.
After the case is released, delegates will be divided into Prosecution and Defense teams. Each side will then begin developing its theory of the case, analyzing the available evidence, assigning delegate responsibilities, preparing witnesses, and determining how the facts and applicable law support its position.
The case materials supplied by YUNMUN will form the record from which delegates must work. Outside legal authorities or factual materials may not be used unless specifically authorized by the Chairs.

Preperation Sessions

The opening sessions of the conference will be devoted primarily to preparation.
Each side should use this time to understand the entire case rather than simply divide assignments. Delegates should analyze the charges, identify strengths and weaknesses in the evidence, prepare witness examinations, consider potential objections, evaluate exhibits, and determine how the applicable law affects the arguments available to each side.
Teams will have substantial discretion in determining how responsibilities are divided. Delegates may serve as attorneys, witnesses, oral advocates, or take on multiple roles throughout the conference, but each delegate is still expected to understand the broader case. That becomes especially important under the new structure, as legal and evidentiary rulings before trial may change what evidence can be introduced, what testimony can be elicited, or what arguments remain available.

Pretrial Oral Arguments

New for YUNMUN XXXVII, one committee session is expected to be devoted to pretrial oral arguments before the eventual trial.

The case release will include a clearly labeled Pretrial Oral Arguments Packet identifying one or more legal, evidentiary, or procedural questions for the Prosecution and Defense to address during Session IV. The Chairs may clarify the wording of those questions orally, but both sides will receive the same written prompts and reasonable preparation time before argument begins.

These questions may concern, for example, whether a particular exhibit should be admitted, whether testimony is permissible under the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence, whether an expert or expert opinion satisfies the applicable requirements, whether a particular charge or defense may proceed, or another preliminary issue capable of affecting the eventual trial. The number and nature of these questions may vary depending on the annual case.

The purpose of the oral argument session differs from that of the final trial. Rather than examining witnesses, delegates will be asked to apply the law to the facts of the case and respond directly to the opposing side's arguments.

Delegates should use both standing resources when preparing for Session IV: the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence govern evidentiary and trial-procedure questions, while Part V of the YUNMUN ICC Legal Authorities provides the standards and oral-argument framework for pretrial argument.

The hearing will be conducted by the Chairs, who will act as judges. Formal YUNMUN parliamentary procedure will not apply. Delegates will not be required to make motions to open a speakers list, establish speaking time, or begin debate. Instead, the judges will call each issue for argument and recognize advocates from the Prosecution and Defense in alternating order.

Each team will determine during preparation how to divide the argument among its delegates. The Chairs will seek to ensure broad participation and may prioritize delegates who have not yet had an opportunity to speak. Delegates should avoid simply repeating points already made; later speakers should respond to opposing arguments, introduce a different legal or factual basis, or otherwise advance their side's position.

The judges may question advocates at any time. Delegates should therefore be prepared not only to deliver a prepared argument, but also to defend the reasoning behind it and respond to weaknesses identified by the Court.

At the conclusion of the oral-argument session, the judges will briefly deliberate before announcing their rulings. Those rulings will govern the subsequent preparation and trial unless the Chairs determine that reconsideration is necessary.

The inclusion of an exhibit in the case materials does not by itself mean that the exhibit has been admitted into evidence. Certain questions of admissibility may be resolved during pretrial oral argument, while others may be raised during the trial under the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence.

Final Preparation

Following the pretrial hearing, the parties will have an additional opportunity to prepare for trial. This session should be used to respond to the Court's rulings: teams may need to revise witness examinations, reconsider the use of exhibits, adjust legal arguments, or change portions of their trial strategy. The pretrial hearing is not separate from the eventual trial; its purpose is to shape it.



The Trial

The final two committee sessions will be devoted to the trial.
Each side will present an opening statement, direct examinations of three witnesses, cross-examinations of the opposing side's three witnesses, any permitted redirect or recross examination, and a closing argument.
The Prosecution will present its case first, followed by the Defense. Witnesses will ordinarily undergo direct examination followed by cross-examination. Redirect and recross may be permitted in accordance with the applicable rules.
Witness examinations, expert testimony, objections, and the use of exhibits will be governed by the YUNMUN ICC Rules of Evidence and any prior rulings of the Court.

Decision of the Court

After closing arguments have concluded, the judges will deliberate.
The Court's verdict must be based on the evidence admitted at trial, including witness testimony and admitted exhibits, considered under the applicable law, designated legal authorities, and prior rulings of the Court. The arguments of the parties may assist the judges in evaluating the case, but arguments are not themselves evidence. The judges will then deliver the verdict and explain the principal reasons supporting their decision.
ICC is ultimately different from most YUNMUN committees because its final product is not a resolution. Delegates are asked to take an unfamiliar factual record, apply a defined body of law to it, and advocate for a result before a Court. The 2027 changes are intended to strengthen that process: delegates will have more law to prepare in advance, more opportunities to argue during the conference, and a trial shaped not only by what each side planned at the beginning but also by the legal decisions made along the way.

Appendixes

1 Sample Position Paper

This portion of the appendix section will show an example of a position paper that delegates are expected to submit before the conference.

2 Sample Working Paper

As mentioned above, a working paper is essentially the rough draft of a resolution. These documents are written before the resolution and an example of how they look is attached.

3 Sample Resolution

The culminating documents of YUNMUN are resolutions, which are also discussed above in the rules of procedure section. An example of such a document is attached in this section.

4 Areas of Research

The culminating documents of YUNMUN are resolutions, which are also discussed above in the rules of procedure section. An example of such a document is attached in this section.

Appendix #1
Sample Position Paper

DELEGATE FROM SWEDEN:

As we march into the new millennium, it has become increasingly evident that it is not only wise, but necessary, for the world to reflect on the past hundred years. Things have changed rapidly in that time: socially we are more peaceful, economically we are richer, and mentally we are more aware. And with the year 2000 now behind us, the time has come that we put these developing traits to use and look towards the thing that should concern us the most: the future. As a developed country, Sweden has always felt the need to plan for the imminent years to come. Sweden has made great strides in developing an environmentally conscientious economy that is both beneficial and productive. As of now, most activities relate to

"eco-labeling" of products and services: the largest, most necessary step to be taken. As a nation, the people of Sweden wish to work towards the common goal of global sustainable development and pledge "to apply themselves whole-heartedly to the task."

Combating the Deterioration of our Atmosphere

For more than a decade, leading scientists the world over have ranked the problem of outdoor air pollution as one of the highest risk health problems in the global community. Yet despite such conferences as the1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the 1987 Montreal Protocol, and the 1992 U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, the atmosphere is still being exploited and abused at an incredible rate. Every human life in developed countries is shortened an estimated five months simply because of the pollutants that are spewed into our air daily, not to mention the hundreds of direct—and countless indirect— effects that air pollution has on our ecosystem. As a nation deeply concerned about such issues, the country of Sweden feels that strong precautions must be made to preserve the natural state of our already altered atmosphere.

Recognizing that many nations would choose to remain dubious on such issues, Sweden fully supports the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and urges all national governments and U.N. bodies to delegate the financial support necessary to begin mapping a comprehensive collaboration of the health of our planet. Since such information will undoubtedly take a number of years to gather, Sweden also proposes the immediate switch of all countries to an emphasis on pollution prevention, rather than pollution cleanup. Sweden also supports a universal time table to be set up for the phasing out and reducing of such emissions as sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, CFC's, PAN's and other environmentally detrimental gases. Sweden urges for such a reduction to be done on both a national and local level by improving energy efficiency, reducing the use of fossil fuels, increasing the use of renewable energy, slowing drastic population growth, incorporating air, water, and land pollution policies, and phasing in full-cost pricing and so called "green taxes" based on the "polluters pay" principle.



Appendix #2
Sample Working Paper

Committee: Commission on Trade and Development
Topic: Generalized System of Preferences (THAIS)
Submitted by: Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador

Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador believe the THAIS should be set up so that Less-Developed Countries (LDCs) receive preferential treatment from Developed Countries (DCs). To that end, we propose:

1. Each DC reduces its tariffs to the lowest possible level. This level will be determined by the below-created subcommittee.
2. Bilateral trade agreements should be pursued for further reductions in tariffs.
3. Trade preferences should be granted in the following areas:
    a. Agriculture
    b. Manufacture
    c. Semi-manufactures
    d. Raw Materials
4. Decisions on product coverage by preference-giving nations be made in consultation with affected LDC. Annual reevaluation of coverage shall take place with the LDC with disputes going to the below-created subcommittee.
5. A subcommittee of UNCTAD should be created with equal member ship of developed and developing countries. This subcommittee would have the following powers:
    a. To mediate disputes between preference givers and receivers
    b. To make recommendations that all countries should follow
    c. To serve as a forum for airing grievances relating to the THAIS
    d. To report regularly to the secretary general

Appendix #3
Sample Resolution

Resolution 242 (1967)
Committee: Security Council; Topic: Middle East

The Security Council,
Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,
Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace so that every state in the area can live in security,
Emphasizing further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance to Article 2 of the Charter,

1. *Affirms* that the fulfillment of the charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both of the following principles:
    a. Withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the territories occupied in the recent conflict;
    b. Termination of all claims by states belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threat or acts of force.
2. *Affirms* further the necessity:
    a. For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;
    b. For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;
    c. For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;
3. *Requests* the Secretary General to designate a Special Representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles of this resolution;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the special representative as soon as possible.

Appendix #4
Areas of Research

Non-Exhaustive List of Resources

- Reports of the Secretary-General | Security Council
  - (https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/reports-secretary-general)
  - In the Security Council, often there will be publications from the Secretary-General relating to particularly hotbed topics related to global safety and security. This link provides an overview of reports, divided by year, some of which are extensive.
- UN General Assembly Resolutions
  - (https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/)
  - Every year, the General Assembly passes many resolutions, often upwards of 300. This link lists all of the resolutions passed within a given session, divided by number (# Session of GA/# Resolution), title, and then action. A majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote, as explained above.
- Voluntary National Reviews
  - (https://hlpf.un.org/countries)
  - Most (but not all) countries have submitted VNRs, which are (very) long major reports that go through a nation's approach to and current status regarding sustainable development. While they are often explicitly in reference to the 2030 Agenda, which in 2015 provided 17 wide-ranging goals for the globe to stride for, a lot of the information is extremely relevant toward more specialized conversations.
- United Nations - 2024 Calendar of Conferences and Meetings
  - (https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/036/00/pdf/n2403600.pdf?token=XJBCdSWdsLiSLdZpG2&fe=true)
  - This provides an extensive list of the different events that the United Nations hosted/will host in 2024. I'd suggest going through the list of organs (left column) to see if any of them are relevant to your research in your committee, and if so, to see if any documents or statements are particularly helpful for your time in committee.

- Publications | United Nations
  - (https://www.un.org/en/publications)
  - This is a collection of reports put together by UN and UN-adjacent bodies. They don't often have to do with specific nations, but are great gateways to better understanding many different issues on a wide scale. Also, many committees themselves have similar publication hubs on their website. It's definitely worthwhile to find the documents put out by your own committee and see how it can relate to your specific topic.
- United Nations Digital Library
  - (https://digitallibrary.un.org/?ln=en)
  - Perhaps most overwhelming, the Digital Library is a collection of... everything in the United Nations! There are literally millions of different resources here, so I'm sure *something* is helpful.

Topics to Learn About

- Your country
  - What is its geography? Government? Economy? International standing? Voting system? Cultural identity?
  - What factors in your country would lead to a specific understanding of the topic/committee at hand?
- The topic, broadly
  - Have you read the important resources for having a constructive debate about your topic? What are some pressing questions in the field? What is the current state of the global debate on the topic? Has there been positive momentum or not?
- The topic as it relates to your country
  - What is your country's history in this topic? Domestically? Internationally? What has it said and what has it worked on? What about its allies? How does it answer the pressing questions?
  - Is there a descrepency between policies and statements? What about policies and cultural/domestic values?
- International mechanisms
  - What are some types of solutions that can be helpful? What has been successful in different countries? What about internationally? What systems do they use? Which bodies are relevant?

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