



Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations

SECRETARY GENERAL'S WELCOME

My fellow delegates,

My name is Julia An, and it is my pleasure to serve as your Secretary General. I would like to welcome you all to the 38th Annual Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations Conference. For almost 40 years, this Model UN conference has immersed delegates in research and debate of our world's most consequential challenges and in understanding the importance of diplomacy and cooperation in bettering our planet. Four UN committees are emphasized in our conference: Disarmament and International Security; Economic and Financial; Social, Humanitarian and Cultural; and Special Political and Decolonization.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee deals with global challenges to peace that threaten the international security regime. Topics in this committee promote cooperative measures aimed at strengthening international stability through lower levels of armaments. I believe that the prevention of genocide & post-genocide reconstruction should be prioritized. For centuries, our history has been marred by genocide, which results in the loss of countless lives and the displacement of targeted groups. While recovering from the genocides of our recent past, we must make strides in preventing the systematic oppression of minorities that often lead to ethnic cleansing and genocide. We must also prioritize regulation of chemical and nuclear weapons, which give unfathomable power to destroy communities and land to small groups of people.

The Economic and Financial Committee focuses on issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions, globalization, eradication of poverty, and agricultural development. I believe green energy/sustainable development is one of the top priorities of the committee. Plans for more efficient and renewable energy use ensures the continued availability of natural resources for future generations and prevents costly natural disaster caused by global climate change. As our global population continues to grow, food security and nutrition is also an important topic to consider. Starvation and malnutrition severely weaken the immune system and becomes almost ubiquitous in developing communities and hinders economic development.

The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee is allocated agenda items focusing on social humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. This committee specializes in issues concerning the advancement of women, the protection of children and refugees, the elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of human rights. This committee should prioritize the elimination of discrimination and systematic oppression based on gender and sexuality. In both developing and developed nations, culture and traditional beliefs continue to play a role in the oppression of people based on gender and sexuality.

Delegates are challenged to combat such oppression in the context of rigid cultural and social beliefs that clash with modern medicine or science. Sex-trafficking and other gender-based violence continues to be a prominent billion-dollar global industry and must also be prioritized.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee evaluates a broad range of issues, including the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, questions of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, Palestinian refugees and human rights, and debate of the peaceful uses of outer space. I would like to prioritize better defining the role of private military contractors in the United Nations and their uses by member nations. As they are relied upon increasingly, a lack of global regulation will result in higher potential for human rights violations. Cybersecurity should also be a priority since growing technologies have created a digital space that remains mostly undefined and unregulated, leaving potential for privacy issues and cyber warfare. This committee should also prioritize the growing terrorism influence around the world. Groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram have destabilized Middle Eastern and African regions and threatens international security. Delegates are challenged to curb the global terrorist influence while minimizing casualties and costs.

These topics cover many of the most complex and difficult challenges to a stable international community. However, I am excited to see how our Model United Nations, as a whole, comes up with innovative and far-reaching solutions to combat these issues. As you will learn, there are many facets to each problem; finding the best solution is impossible without discussion and collaboration. I hope you will be open and respectful to different viewpoints and leave with new knowledge and broader perspectives. Each year, I am inspired by the resolve and energy each delegate has for bettering our world. Each year, I leave the Model United Nations knowing that our world is in good hands.

Best Regards,

Julia An

Secretary General
Tennessee YMCA MUN 2018
Conference A



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SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

1. Disarmament and International Security

- Prevention of Genocide & Post-Genocide Reconstruction: From the Armenian Genocide, Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, and the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, countless lives have been lost or disrupted in numerous countries and times due to ethnic cleansing, genocide, and war. Delegates are challenged to discuss how international communities should be involved in punishment and forgiveness and reestablishing trust and stability in countries impacted by genocide
- Regulation of chemical and nuclear weapons: Chemical and nuclear weapons allow small groups to effectively wipe out communities and large numbers of opposing forces. Radioactive fallout and chemicals can also linger long after the conflict and pose health concerns for both people and land. While chemical weapons are banned worldwide, they are the most used of the triad of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

2. Economic and Financial

- Green energy/Sustainable development: While the Paris Climate Agreement 2016 was a step towards future green energy development, critics have noted that even if pre-determined contributions are met, global temperatures are still expected to increase beyond the target two degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures. Delegates should consider geopolitical factors in determining the best incentives toward maintaining feasibly low global temperatures. This is most important for Least Developed Countries who must consider policies that both encourage tangible growth and are cognizant of the world's global climate problem.
- Food security and nutrition: Starvation weakens the immune system to the point that even an illness as mild as a cold could induce death. More than 790 million people worldwide are suffering from the detrimental effects of starvation, and poor nutrition accounts for nearly half the deaths of young children. Delegates are challenged with finding sustainable solutions for countering starvation in the global sphere despite financial limitations.

3. Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

- Rights of Gender and Sexuality: Culture and social stigma continue to play a role in the continued oppression of people based on gender and sexuality. In many rural or developing nations, traditional approaches to the sexual and reproductive health of women challenge practices of modern medicine.
- Sex Trafficking (Gender-based violence): Slavery still occurs continuously in the international community in the form of sex trafficking, affecting more than 15 million men, women, and children in 2017 alone. This trafficking generates an estimated \$90 billion dollars each year. Delegates are charged with conceiving practical and powerful resolutions to address the calamitous pervasiveness of sex trafficking.

4. Special Political and Decolonization

- The Role of Private Military Contractors: Recently, private military contractors (PMCs) have been relied on increasingly by countries and the UN for peace enforcement, risk assessments, guarding services, and support. The UN uses PMCs for peacekeeping efforts when peacekeeping troops are not sufficient. Since there is little global regulation of PMCs, PMCs are not subject to legislative and public oversight, resulting in potential for human rights violations.
- Cybersecurity: With the advancement of technologies, global cybersecurity has become a prominent issue. Delegates are encouraged to tackle the entire problem such as defining terms, creating an act of aggression policy on war in the cyber realm, or defining individual privacy rights while also looking at cyber terrorism or warfare.
- Growing Terrorist Influence/Education as a tool to prevent extremism: Organizations including ISIS in the Middle East, and Boko Haram in Africa have destabilized the Middle East and Africa. Border security, information sharing, legal measures, and rehabilitation are some areas on which to focus. Delegates should also consider how to promote and fund education for children in developing nations in order to combat extremism.