



# Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations

## SECRETARY GENERAL'S WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sara Ali, and I am so honored to serve as your Secretary General for Model United Nations hosted by the Tennessee Center for Civic Engagement. Model UN is an exciting program that will be celebrating its 38th year this fall. It teaches delegates the importance of synergism, diplomacy, and global citizenship by providing an opportunity for delegates to think critically and research carefully in order to craft unique, meaningful resolutions for real world problems. On behalf of all of the 2018 MUN B conference and the Secretariat, I would like to welcome you to our conference. In order to give you direction when writing your resolutions, I'd like to share certain topics that are important to me from the four main committees: SOCHUM, ECOFIN, DISEC, and SPECPOL.

The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee focuses on empowerment of marginalized people worldwide through eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, tribe, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.. The main topics of priority in this category are the advancement of women, and the resettlement of refugees/ internally displaced peoples. Women are treated unjustly across the world, in countries both developing and developed. Not only is this inherently discriminatory, but it also hinders the economic potential of a country. The same can be said about refugees and internally displaced peoples. They unwillingly leave their war torn homes in search of a new life. While there have been multiple resolutions and initiatives started by the UN to help alleviate humanitarian issues, there is still a cry for help. It's only virtuous of an organization run by humans for other humans to secure basic rights for all people regardless of their background.

The Economic and Financial Committee focuses on issues relating to economic growth as well as financing sustainable development projects in order to maximize economic maturation in developing countries. The main priorities I would like to highlight in this category are Food Security & the Global Water Crisis, as well as development through Advancement of Urbanization. Food and Water Security are huge problems that have always been of great interest and conversation in the General Assembly, however, initiatives and plans need to constantly be renewed in order to match the ever changing world we live in. The kind of variables and nuance that go into writing resolutions for such broad problems need innovation coupled with feasible fiscal planning. The importance of Urbanization is a fairly new phenomenon, but studies show that over half of the world's population lives in cities. Furthermore, it's imperative that we start early and focus on giving cities worldwide the resources they need to protect their residents and develop positively.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee focuses on controlling global threats to peace that target the safety of the broader global community. The most pressing

problems in our modern world regarding this matter include nuclear disarmament and cyber warfare. Nuclear disarmament is becoming more widely debated in context changing international agreements. Moreover, the UN has established countless treaties in the past regarding this problem that I encourage you to consider critically while also assessing current events that may provide causation and offer a deeper understanding of harmful political agendas. With the rise of technology and innovation, Cyber security is also a new focus point. While cybercrime only affects a limited number of countries, its important to consider the power and primacy of the countries that are affected and the subsequent impact of such attacks. Countries have the right to secure themselves and their people from attack, however it is the UN's job to insure that no country is overstepping their boundaries.

Finally, the Special Political and Decolonization committee considers a broad range of unique political issues, like decolonization, atomic radiation, outer space and a myriad of other matters. With the United States' announcement of the creation of a Space Force, it has put into the forefront the issue of new organizations related to outer space. Delegates are encouraged to propose ideas for how to conduct new space agencies. Another pressing problem in this category deals with decolonization and geopolitical conflicts in the middle east, as well as prioritization of peacemaking efforts. The repercussions of the Arab spring are cataclysmic and have resulted in widespread instability that has tremendous negative impacts on a considerable amount of innocent people. Furthermore, the fights for Palestinian and Kurdish statehood are continuing to be warranted by human rights violations carried out by their adversaries. These fights for independence affect a much broader spectrum. Moreover, remember that peacemaking is the most important final step in ending a deeply rooted conflict. With that in mind, look for places that need the UN's assistance in peacemaking operations to help prevent conflict in the future.

These topics cover a wide, broad scope of matters we are facing today. However, it is important to remember the power of civil discussion, careful research, and impactful innovation: three components in ensuring progress for the future. When planning your resolution, I encourage you to learn about your country thoroughly, have conversations with your peers and finally, build the best possible resolution. These guidelines are not limits, just a place to start. I encourage you to think outside the box and come up with a cutting-edge plan to help change the world! I am looking forward to reading your resolution soon. I can't wait to see you in November!

Sincerely,

*Sara Ali*

Secretary General

Tennessee YMCA MUN 2018

Conference B



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## SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

### 1. Disarmament and International Security

- **Nuclear Disarmament:** Towards the end of the second World War, the United States conducted the first nuclear weapons test and proceeded to detonate two atomic bombs on Japan at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While the short term impacts were detrimental, the long term implications resulted in a global increase in nuclear stockpiles leading into the beginning of the atomic age and eventually the weapon race of the Cold War. As the toxic consequences of nuclear weaponry began to be understood, disarmament movements erupted in popularity. Ever since that point, movements have been created, and treaties have been negotiated, but one of the most important is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This treaty acts on three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful use of nuclear energy. When writing resolutions concerning this topic, consider the fact that four members of the UN have not signed this treaty (India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan) and that North Korea withdrew from the treaty in 2003. Moreover, consider the following questions: Should the UN prohibit use of nuclear energy altogether? Does it pose a threat to people and the environment? How should the UN address noncompliant nations? Should the UN be addressing chemical and biological weapons in the same manner? How should the UN address non-member nations that have the potential to stockpile nuclear weaponry?
- **Cyber Warfare:** According to the Director of US National Intelligence, cyber threats are the number one threat facing the United States. Small nations and non-nation states can also take part in cyber warfare. Entities such as ISIS can take advantage of the low cost and minimal risk of being caught. As accessibility of the Internet continues to grow, cyber security will only become more of a pressing matter. While cybercrime seems like an issue that would only affect a handful of countries, the repercussions of these modern battles can be felt globally. Recently, China was accused of attacking the US Office of Personal Management, which leaked the personal data of over 21 million people in 2015. Multiple reports of cyber-attacks continue to arise. It is important to remember that Russia, China, US, Israel, the UK, North Korea and Iran have all been major proponents of cyber security issues. Furthermore, when writing a resolution concerning this issue, consider the following essential questions: In what ways does cyber warfare pose a threat to your country? Can more punishments be put in place for entities caught resorting to cyber-attacks? Is there a way to lessen the damages done by cyber terrorists?

## 2. Economic and Financial

- **Food Security:** Food security is defined by the UN as “the condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. Over the next few decades, the population will continue to increase, the climate will continue to change, the price of food will continue to rise, and environmental stressors will still be present. All these factors will have significant yet highly uncertain impact on global food security. So as we proceed, it is integral that the UN and countries develop adaptive strategies and policies to address the active change and environmental stressors that continue to deplete resources. The resolutions pertaining to food security can include these topics but are not limited to the following: water allocation, land use patterns, food trade, post-harvest food processing, and active regulation of food prices.
- **Global Water Crisis:** There is nothing more essential to life than water. Yet, approximately 844 million people in the world lack access to clean drinking water. Without access to clean and easily accessible water families are locked in poverty for generations, which not only creates a vulnerability to diseases but also stunts the development of countries. Clean water is an integral precedent to development. When writing resolutions pertaining to this topic, please consider the following questions: How much of the poverty rate is attributable to the lack of sanitation and water accessibility in the country? Why is there a lack of sanitation and water accessibility in the country? What are possible solutions to a lack of water sanitation in your country whether it pertains to political instability or ecological stressors?
- **Urbanization Development:** Urbanization and growth go hand in hand, and no one can deny that urbanization is essential for socio-economic transformation and development. However, with this growth comes unintended environmental consequences and resource depletion. Furthermore, it’s important that we shift our productive efficiency towards the direction in which allocative economic efficiency proves most beneficial for both the benefit of the global economy and the security of all people. When writing a resolution pertaining to urbanization development delegates may want to consider the following: What regulations are necessary for shifting productive efficiency? Which factors that drove urbanization in recent history are equally relevant to contemporary urban growth? To what extent is urban growth in the region a by-product of national economic development? What statistics are need to gather context to apply allocative efficiency for a country’s resources?

### 3. Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

- **Empowerment & Protection of Women:** Women worldwide are treated as second class citizens and, even during times of stability within a country, are the last to receive their basic rights of education, healthcare, adequate sanitation, etc.. In times of instability, women are placed in harm's way by being trafficked and raped. Furthermore, this oppressive treatment of women is proven to have adverse effects on a nation's long term economic productivity. Not only are increased literacy rates amongst females as well as access to contraception directly correlated to an increase in prosperity, but in the short term, it significantly decreases rape and trafficking rates. Moreover, when planning a resolution about this topic, consider the following questions in order to ensure a strong impact: How can we help provide protection for women (and others at high-risk for trafficking) during times of instability and turmoil? How can we provide dependable access to education to those living in developing countries and areas where there is no public or private transportation available? How can we educate communities about the medical risks that come with Female Genital Mutilation?

- **Resettlement of Refugees & Internally Displaced Peoples:** Currently, there are 65.6 million displaced worldwide. 22.5 million of those people are refugees while 40.3 live in their own country (IDP). Most of these people come from places like South Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, or more recently, Syria after the outbreak of the civil war during the Arab spring in 2011, and Myanmar, after years of state sponsored genocide of the Rohingya tribe. It's important to remember that a refugee is defined as: "Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence." Bearing this as well as the current situation of refugees and IDPs globally, ask yourself the following when brainstorming possible, high impact resolutions concerning this problem: How can refugee camp conditions improve? How will these improvements be funded? How can the UN help prevent the death rate of those trying to flee? Could human displacement be addressed from its roots by focusing on the conflicts or developments that cause forced migration? Is there one specific case of human displacement that must be addressed singularly and immediately, or could steps be taken for the issue as a whole?

### 4. Special Political and Decolonization

- **Space Exploration/Colonization:** One of the major environmental issues today is the expanding utilization of Earth's assets to support our lifestyle. As an ever-increasing number of countries develop from an agriculture-based economy to an industrial-based economy, their standard of life enhances, which means that there will be greater competition for resources in years to come- truly a tragedy of the commons. Space Colonization and further exploration of unknown could be possible solutions to the issues that we will inevitably face as human population grows at an exponential rate. Furthermore

when writing a resolution pertaining to the topic of Space Exploration and Colonization, ask yourself the following questions: What are possible solutions to microgravity? What type of regulations would be needed for space colonization? What fraction of the UN's budget will this resolution consume? What improvements must be made to established space programs, or is there a need for new space programs?

- **The Levant:** The Levant is an area rife with a multitude of political, social, economic, and cultural issues. Over the last few decades, problems reaching beyond the implications of the Palestinian- Israeli conflict have developed, whether it be the cultural repercussions of the Lebanese civil war, the humanitarian ramifications of the Assad regime in Syria, or the massive influx of refugees and quick creation of camps in Jordan, or the fight for Kurdish statehood in northern Syria, Iraq, and Turkey, there are many angles to take when looking at a very actively changing region of the globe. When writing, ask yourself the following questions: What is the average standard of living of Palestinians vs. the average standard of living of Israelis? How does the UN address the cultural denial amongst Kurds amidst the Syrian Civil War? What are the effects of the Russian intervention in the Syrian Civil War? How does the UN address active Terrorist/Nationalist/Freedom Fighting organizations? Are the Israeli settlements in the West Bank region of Palestine more beneficial or harmful to the residents of the area?

- **Peacemaking:** Peacemaking is defined as: "the active maintenance of a truce between nations or communities, especially by an international military force". The UN uses peacemaking to monitor peace processes in post conflict area. Currently there are 16 peacemaking populations in deployment, and there have been 69 in total since the establishment of UN peacemaking operations. Recently, many wars for independence have been fought, and have adversely led to instability and military coups (i.e. The Arab Spring). When writing a resolution about peacemaking, consider the questions: Does my country have a problem that can be solved by the UN peacemaking force? Could there be other solutions to these issues? Is there a peacekeeping task force in your country that would need removal?