

WELCOME TO

**THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS**



Presented by:

University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Club

University Center for International Studies

With special acknowledgment of:

Asian Studies Center

Center for African Studies

Center for Latin American Studies

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

European Studies Center

Global Studies Center



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WELCOME TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the University of Pittsburgh and all sponsors, I would like to welcome you to the Twenty-Seventh Annual University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference. I am so excited to welcome everyone back for another year, and we hope that we can exceed your expectations and deliver an educational and enjoyable experience to everyone.

We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules and lives to come to this conference. It is our belief that the ability to hold respectful and meaningful discussions about complex and relevant issues is more important than ever, as well as more difficult. We once again convene this conference in the midst of the deadliest war in Europe in almost 70 years, with the pandemic still ongoing in the background of many of our lives, and multiple ongoing civil wars and conflicts throughout the world, some new and some old. Despite these events, it is our hope that delegates will be able to maintain a habit of diplomatic and thoughtful discussion both in the conference and in their lives outside of Model United Nations. Delegates will have the chance to engage with some of these current conflicts, such as the ongoing civil war in Syria in a crisis setting, as well as interacting with some of the side-effects of Russia's war against Ukraine in the SOCHUM committee. We encourage students to think critically and be respectful, yet not to be afraid to engage with challenging or potentially distressing topics. The other topics were chosen to display to delegates the wide array of issues that currently face our world, both in and outside of the United Nations and its policies.

This Conference Manual will familiarize delegates with the rules and procedures of the conference and contains useful information for both novices and veterans. In addition to explicit instructions for writing position papers and drafting resolutions, the judging criteria that will be used to determine awards are also included for your reference. Furthermore, you will find the background guides for each committee in this Manual as well. Please pay special attention to the *Standards of Conduct* specified at the end of this Manual. This section includes the dress code and behavioral terms, which must be strictly adhered to at all times. Failure to attend to these guidelines will result in consequences or even expulsion from the Conference. Please feel free to direct any questions about the Manual and its content to the Secretariat via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com.

Once again, welcome to the Twenty-Seventh Annual University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference! We look forward to seeing you at our conference this October, and it is our sincere hope that this opportunity provides a valuable learning experience for all in attendance.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Plichta
Secretary-General, PittMUN XXVII
University of Pittsburgh Twenty-Seventh Model United Nations



SECTION 1. OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Text excerpted from <http://www.un.org/> and American Model United Nations International's "Issues at AMUNHandbook," copyright September 1996

Delegates participating in Model United Nations should be familiar with the history of the United Nations as well as the rapidly changing role that the organization plays in international affairs.

1.1 ORIGINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The name "United Nations," coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" on January 1st, 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 countries pledged their governments would continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

The United Nations, however, was not the first attempt at international cooperation for peace. In 1899, the first International Peace Conference was held in The Hague to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars, and codifying rules of warfare. It adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes and established the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902. The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the First World War and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security."

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates considered proposals developed by representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States in August-October 1944. Delegates of the 50 attending countries signed the Charter on June 26th, 1945. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24th, 1945, when China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and a majority of other signatories ratified the Charter. United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24th each year.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The primary purposes for which the United Nations was founded are detailed in Chapter I, Article 1, of the Charter:

1. To maintain international peace and security;

2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinctions as to race, sex, language, and religion;
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Since 1945, the United Nations has established itself as a forum for the discussion of international disputes. Also, Member States recognize that the United Nations has established machinery that can be used to solve international problems.

The United Nations seeks, both through its principal organs and various subsidiary bodies, to settle disputes through peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force. It should be recognized that the United Nations is not a world government, nor does it legislate. Rather, the actions of the United Nations, as evidenced by resolutions passed by its bodies, have a strong persuasive effect. The Member States frequently find it within their own best interests to follow U.N. recommendations.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Originally comprised of only 51 members, the U.N. today represents nearly every country in the world with 193 Member States. When states become [members](#) of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the [U.N. Charter](#), an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations.

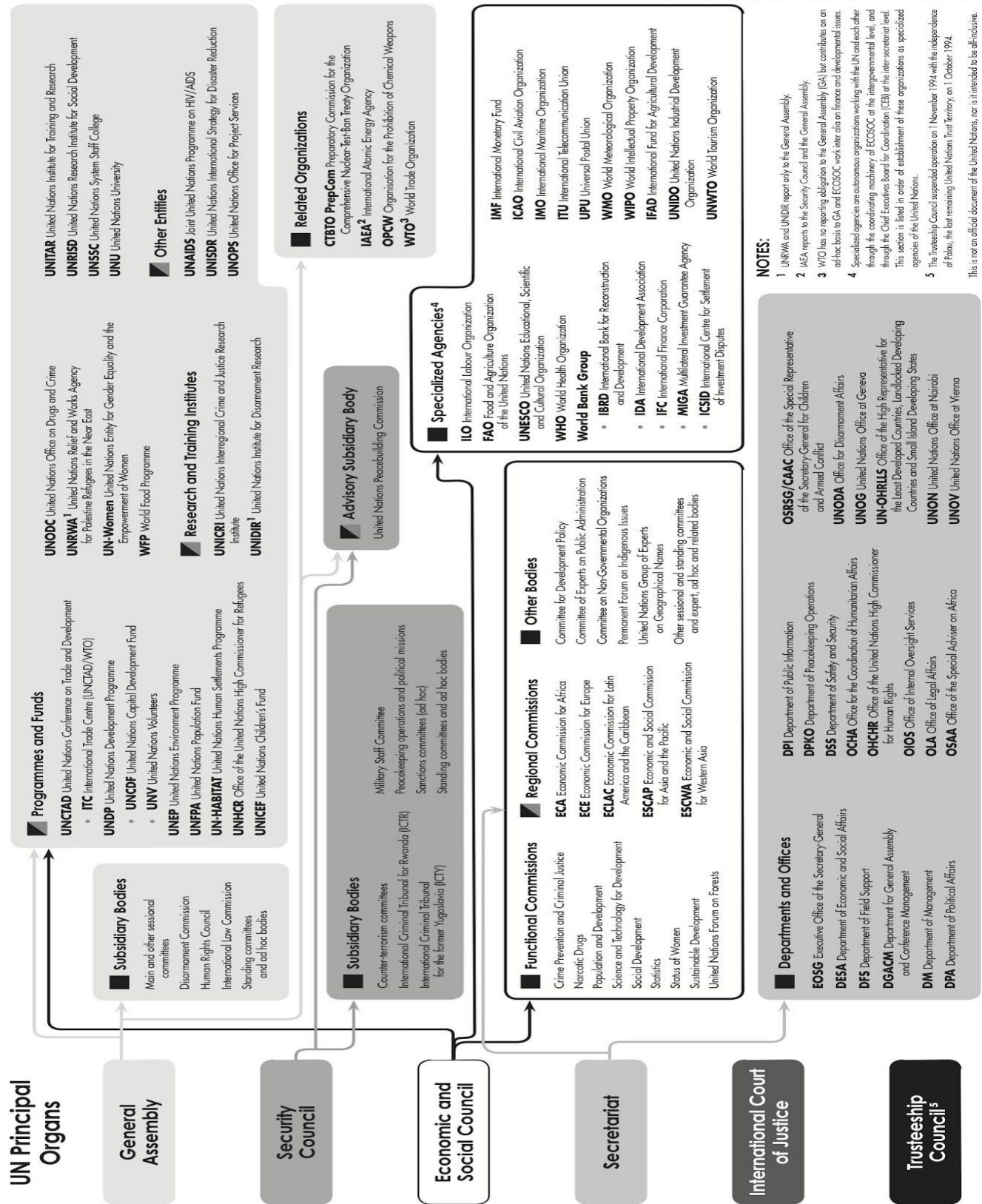
The United Nations is not a world government and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. At the U.N., all Member States — large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems — have a voice and a vote in this process.

The United Nations has six main organs. Five of them — the [General Assembly](#), the [Security Council](#), the [Economic and Social Council](#), the [Trusteeship Council](#), and the [Secretariat](#) — are based at U.N. Headquarters in New York. The sixth, the [International Court of Justice](#), is located in The Hague in the Netherlands.

- **The General Assembly (GA):** The GA is the central organ of the United Nations and has been described as the nearest thing to a “parliament of mankind.” All Member States are members of the GA and each member has one vote. The GA makes recommendations on international issues, oversees all other U.N. bodies, approves the U.N. budget, and apportions U.N. expenses. On the recommendation of the Security Council, the GA elects the Secretary-General and has the authority to admit and expel Member States. Voting in the GA is ordinarily by simple majority, although for “important questions” a two-thirds majority is required.

- **The Security Council (SC):** The Security Council is charged with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. It is the only body that can draft binding resolutions. It has the power to employ United Nations peacekeeping forces and direct action against threats to peace. Fifteen members sit on the Security Council, including the five Permanent Members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) along with ten “at-large” members that are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. A majority in the Security Council consists of nine members voting “yes.” However, a “no” vote by any of the Permanent Members will veto or block the passage of resolutions.
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** ECOSOC is the primary body dealing with the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural work of the United Nations system. ECOSOC oversees five regional economic commissions and six “subject-matter” commissions, along with a sizable system of committees and expert bodies. ECOSOC is composed of 54 Member States elected by the GA for three-year terms. In addition to the six main bodies, the United Nations includes a large “family” of specialized agencies and programs. These agencies have their own charters, rules, and memberships; ECOSOC merely coordinates their activities. Examples include the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- **Trusteeship Council (TC):** In 1945, there were 11 Trust Territories or regions without their own governments. These 11 regions were placed under the TC, which helped them prepare for and achieve independence. With the admittance of Palau as a Member State in 1994, the TC completed its original mandate. The TC today is inactive but is formally composed of the Permanent Members of the Security Council.
- **The International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The International Court of Justice, or World Court, is the primary judicial organ of the U.N. and decides international legal disputes. All U.N. members are automatically able to bring matters before the ICJ. However, a state must agree to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ before it can decide a dispute involving that state, as the Court’s decisions are binding on the parties. Fifteen judges serving nine-year terms sit on the Court.
- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is composed of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Staff. Approximately 16,000 persons are employed as the staff of the U.N., one-third of whom work at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. The other two-thirds work for various subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. The Secretary-General serves a five-year renewable term.

The United Nations System





SECTION 2. ROLE-PLAYING AND PREPARATION

2.1 THE DELEGATE

Delegates are fundamental to any Model United Nations Conference. A Delegate's job is to research the positions of a U.N. Member State on the specific issues that their committee will discuss at the Conference as well as on general issues that influence that nation's foreign policy. Delegates then prepare appropriate documents for debate. See *Preparation*.

On the floor of the Model U.N. Conference, a Delegate assumes the role of the Distinguished Delegate from their respective country with all the rights and responsibilities that this entails. Thus, Delegates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting international diplomats. Delegates should extend courtesy and respect, both in speaking and in behavior, to fellow Delegates, faculty members, and the Secretariat at the Conference. The University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations (PittMUN) reserves the right to expel any Delegate not acting in a courteous or professional fashion. See *Standards of Conduct*.

Each delegation will consist of at least one and at most two Delegates for each Committee on which that delegation is represented. While all countries are automatically represented on the General Assembly Committees, some Committees consist of a select group of delegations.

Delegates draft and discuss resolutions, caucus, and work to reach a universal solution on the issues at hand with fellow Delegates. Resolutions under discussion at PittMUN may be accepted by consensus, adopted, amended, combined, or even debated to the point where no final document can be produced on a given issue.

Name badges, which include the Delegate's country, act as their credentials for the Conference and are **mandatory** at all times during the day of the Model U.N. Conference. No one will be admitted to any Conference area without approved credentials.

2.2 ROLE-PLAYING

Since PittMUN is a simulation of the U.N., the tone of debate will be dramatically different from the "real" U.N. In the U.N., Delegates and their consular staffs spend months in preparation by caucusing "behind closed doors" and interacting with other nations before an issue is brought to a vote. A U.N. Delegate, or Head of State, generally makes a prepared speech that will not be "news" to the other Delegates present.

However, Delegates at PittMUN have only one day to assume the role of their nation's Distinguished Delegate and simulate the actions of the U.N. This consolidation of time leads to many different circumstances with which each delegation will have to contend. For example, Delegates will rarely have the opportunity to make a pre-written speech on an issue. Instead, they will often be forced to react extemporaneously to circumstances as they arise. They may find themselves in a position where it is necessary to reinterpret their nation's position in light of new facts. Delegates should not simply read from their country's established record on the issues presented. They should be prepared to compromise with the other nations represented.

Delegates should research and follow the policies of their countries, modifying them as new circumstances arise. Successful role-playing involves walking a careful line on policy. Note that this in no way gives delegations license to act “out of character.” Avoid the extremes of either reading a country's past statements verbatim or creating ad hoc policy with no previous basis either in past policy or at the Conference. Students attending the Conference are not career diplomats, and most will not have lived in the countries they are representing. It is understood that students will not have a perfect knowledge of their country's policy.

Each delegation is responsible for being “in character,” however. The ultimate responsibility falls to its Faculty Advisor. There is no substitute for extensive preparation on a country and the issues to be discussed *before* attending the Conference. PittMUN expects the members of each delegation to enter the Conference prepared to represent their country with integrity and with more knowledge about their respective nation's policies than any other Delegates present.

Sometimes at a Conference, questions arise as to whether the actions of an individual are “out of character” concerning the country's policy in the real world. At the Model U.N. Conference, if a Delegate feels that another Delegate is not prepared, is misinformed, or is acting “out of character” on a particular issue, PittMUN recommends that:

1. The Delegate revisits the actions taken by the Delegate in question. Is the Delegate “out of character” given the particular resolution and situation on the floor? Have circumstances, either in the real world or at the Conference, changed such that the Delegate could realistically modify the country's stance on a particular issue? Are you certain that you know the actual stance of the country in question on the issue? Many cases of a Delegate appearing “out of character” are actually just misinterpretations of what was said or of a country's previously stated policies.
2. If you still feel that the Delegate is “out of character,” PittMUN asks that you talk to the Delegate about the issue before bringing the problem to the Secretariat. This can be easily done in a non-confrontational manner by stating something like: “I hadn't realized that was your country's position on the issue. Where did you see that?” - or - “I thought I read something in (state your source) about your country having a different opinion on this issue. Have you seen that information?” Directly confronting a Delegate by saying “You're wrong on this” will likely not succeed and could damage your diplomatic relations in the future.
3. The Delegate will likely respond in one of two ways to your question.
 - a. They may provide information that justifies the statements, with a statement such as “I

- did the research and this is my country's view on the issue.”
- b. They may show interest in the new information that has been provided. If the response answers your question, the problem is resolved.

Please note that PittMUN Chairs are specifically instructed NOT to provide advice to Delegates on the issues being discussed. The Chairs' purpose in committee is to facilitate debate objectively. Providing research or assistance to a Delegate on their country position diminishes the Chair's ability to act independently and objectively. Chairs may arbitrate disagreements but will never render an opinion on whether a delegate is “out of character.”

Since all participants at PittMUN are learning about the United Nations as they participate, these situations may arise. PittMUN also asks that Delegates not jump to conclusions about other delegations' role-playing without having a detailed background on the other country's position on the issue(s). Finally, PittMUN reiterates that all Delegates handle potential “out of character” situations diplomatically and with the utmost courtesy shown to all involved.

2.3 THE PERMANENT DELEGATE

PittMUN has decided to eliminate the position of the permanent delegate. All students should participate in the conference as regular delegates.

2.4 THE FACULTY ADVISOR

PittMUN emphasizes that the main role of the Faculty Advisor lies in working with and preparing Delegates before the Conference. Regardless of whether the Faculty Advisor is a class teacher or club sponsor, they can assist the delegation in both logistical and content preparation for the Conference. Logistically, the Faculty Advisor likely will be the main contact for both the Conference and the school administration. This role could include working with finances and group organization, registering the school for the Conference, preparing travel arrangements, and a host of other preparations. Alternately, these roles could be delegated or assumed by the club officers.

In helping a delegation prepare for the specific issues it will face at the Conference, a Faculty Advisor could either develop a full class curriculum or serve as a sponsor for a Model U.N. Club or other organization. They may use a well-established, proven curriculum or utilize this handbook as a guide in preparing the students who will attend. PittMUN strongly recommends that the Faculty Advisor coordinate and run mock sessions to better prepare students and give them a feel for the Conference. The United Nations Association can provide excellent background materials. *See Sources of Information.*

In the interest of fairness, we ask that Faculty Advisors do not assist their students during the Conference. Faculty Advisors will not be permitted to sit with their students while committees are in session. Additionally, PittMUN strongly recommends that Faculty Advisors do NOT grade students based on their performance at the Conference. This very often leads to poor role-playing as students concentrate more on their grade than portraying their country accurately. PittMUN specifically **discourages** grading regarding:

- Students getting *their* resolutions or amendments to the floor or passed;
- Students speaking a certain number of times (stressing quantity versus quality);
- Students making a certain number of motions.

If grading is necessary, PittMUN suggests the following as possible areas for appraisal:

- Pre-Conference preparation (possibly including testing or paper submission);
- Quality of country profiles, position papers, and resolutions submitted;
- Punctuality for assigned committee sessions;
- The effectiveness of the students at the Conference in playing their delegation's role based on direct faculty observations, rather than the quantitative items listed above. This could include:
 - Clearly stating and basing actions on the positions of their countries;
 - Effectively working with other delegations, both on the floor and in caucusing;
 - Effectively working toward a consensus;
 - Developing a post-conference paper based on their learning experience at the Conference.

The interactive nature of the Model U.N. experience provides excellent learning opportunities for students who attend and become immersed in the experience. PittMUN requests that Faculty Advisors not dilute the students' experience by linking grades to quantitative performance at the Conference.



SECTION 3. RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

3.1 SESSIONS

The University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference shall meet every year in regular session commencing and closing on dates and at a location that is designated by the Secretariat.

3.2 AGENDA

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretariat and communicated to delegations prior to the start of the Conference. The agenda provided by the Secretariat shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of consideration for agenda items shall be determined by a majority of Members present and voting in each Committee.

3.3 CREDENTIALS

3.3.1 SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS

Proper registration of a Delegate shall be construed as sufficient evidence of their credentials. Such registration must be submitted to the Secretariat prior to the opening of a session.

3.3.2 THE SECRETARIAT'S AUTHORITY

The Secretariat has the sole authority to decide all questions concerning credentials. Committees shall be bound by the actions of the Secretariat in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any Member State.

3.3.3 OBSERVER STATUS

Those delegations having Observer Status shall be accorded all rights in Committees except the rights to:

- Sign working papers or amendments;
- Vote on any substantive matter.

3.4 PRESIDING OFFICERS

3.4.1 CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND SECRETARIES

The Secretariat shall appoint Chairs and other officers to help conduct the sessions of PittMUN.

3.4.2 ACTING OFFICERS

If the Chair or other officer must be absent during any meeting, or is unable to perform their functions, the Secretariat shall appoint an acting officer to take their place pro tempore or permanently.

3.4.3 GENERAL POWERS OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

In addition to the powers conferred on them by these rules of procedure, the Chair and their designate shall:

- Declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Committee;
- Direct discussions in plenary meetings, ensure observance of these rules;
- Accord the right to speak;
- Put questions to and announce decisions and communications from the Secretariat;
- Rule on points of order;
- Have full discretion over all proceedings in Committee;
- Be responsible for the maintenance of order.

The presiding officer may:

- In the course of discussion of an item,
 - Propose the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers;
 - Propose the limitation of the number of times each Delegate may speak;
 - Propose the closure of the speakers' list or the closure of debate;
- Propose the suspension or adjournment of the meeting or of debate.

3.4.4 VOTING BY OFFICERS

The Chair and other officers do not have a vote in Committee.

3.5 SECRETARIAT

3.5.1 COMPOSITION

The Secretariat consists of the staff members of PittMUN. The Secretariat shall act as the Rules Committee for the duration of the Conference. All decisions by the Secretariat pertaining to the rules shall be final.

3.5.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat shall:

- Appoint the Secretary-General and other officers and staff;
- Draft the PittMUN agenda;
- Amend the rules of parliamentary procedure, except during a session;
- Conduct all other business required for the planning of the Conference;
- Register Delegates and provide credentials before the Conference begins;

- Receive, print, and distribute resolutions and other documents of the various Committees;
- Have discretion to recruit and dismiss staff members and to control all access to the Secretariat's equipment and facilities;
- Have authority to refuse any document submitted by a Delegate for copying or distribution. Delegates may appeal such decision to the Secretary-General. A document may be refused if the Dais finds it inappropriate or purposely disruptive.

3.5.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General shall serve as President of the General Assembly when the body is in session. He or she may designate a Member of the Secretariat to act in his/her place at any time and must do so when absent from the Conference. The duties and prerogatives of the Secretary-General are established by these rules.

3.6 CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3.6.1 QUORUM

The Chair may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when Delegates of at least one-third of the participating Member States are present. The presence of a majority of the participating Member States shall constitute a quorum for voting.

3.6.2 SETTING THE AGENDA

A motion to set the order of consideration for agenda items is in order at the beginning of Committee session. The motion is debatable and a speakers' list shall be established for and against the motion.

3.6.3 SPEAKERS' LIST

The Committee shall have, at all times, a Speakers' List for the topic area being discussed. Separate Speakers' Lists shall be established as needed for procedural motions and debate on amendments. A Delegate may move to open or close the Speakers' List. The motion is not subject to debate and requires a majority vote of the Members present. Members may appear only once on the Speakers' List, but may be added again after having spoken. Upon the exhaustion of the Speakers' List, debate is automatically closed and the Committee enters voting procedures.

3.6.4 SPEAKING RIGHTS

No Delegate may address a Committee without having obtained recognition from the Chair. The Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they have signified their desire to speak and been placed on the Speakers' List. The Chair may call a speaker to order if, in their judgment, the speaker's remarks are irrelevant to the subject under discussion, disruptive, or dilatory.

3.6.5 TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES

A Committee may, by majority vote, limit the time allowed to each speaker on the suggestion of either a Delegate or the Chair. Once the Delegate's speaking time expires in limited debate, the Chair shall call them to order without delay.

3.6.6 YIELDS

When speaking time is limited, a speaker shall yield all or part of their time. The speaker must indicate the intention to yield time before their time has expired.

Delegates may yield to:

- **Another Delegate.** Yielding to another Delegate results in the Chair's recognition of that Delegate for the remainder of the speaker's time. The second Delegate may not yield to a third.
- **Questions.** Yielding to questions results in the Chair's selection of Delegates who have questions for the speaker, with the speaker responding until their time has expired. Questioners shall be selected by the Chair and limited to one question each. All questions should directly pertain to the speech just completed. The Chair shall have the right to call to order any Delegate whose question is, in the Chair's judgment, rhetorical, leading, or not designed to elicit information. Only the speaker's answers to questions shall be deducted from the speaker's remaining time.
- **The Chair.** Yielding to the Chair ends the speaker's time without an opportunity for questions or comments.
- **Comments.** Yielding to comments results in the Chair's selection of two Delegates wishing to speak. Comments must be relevant to the speech just completed, and commentators may not yield after commenting. Comments may not exceed thirty seconds. If a Delegate does not yield before the end of his/her speech, the speech is subject to two thirty-second comments. No comments shall be in order during debate on procedural motions, such as setting the agenda.

3.6.7 RIGHT OF REPLY

If a remark directly *insults* the integrity of a Delegate or a Delegate's State, the offended Delegate may request, and the Chair may permit, a right of reply at the end of the speaker's remarks. The Chair shall impose an appropriate time limit for the reply. The Chair's ruling on a right of reply is not subject to appeal. A right of reply to a reply is not in order. Requests for a right of reply should be made to the Chair in writing and may be denied at the sole discretion of the Chair.

3.6.8 PROPOSALS, DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Proposals must be submitted to the Chair in writing, in correct format with the required number of signatories. **Total signatories must be greater than or equal to one-half the quorum.** The Committee Chair may then at their discretion approve and accept the proposal, at which point it shall be known as a working paper and will be distributed to the Committee, or alternatively the Chair may send the proposal back with suggestions for improvement. *See Quorum.*

Upon the distribution of the draft resolution, the Committee will have an appropriate amount of time to read over the draft resolution. The co-sponsors, upon the *discretion* of the chair, will be allotted five minutes to explain any parts of the resolution, or answer any structural or grammatical questions. Delegates may ask the co-sponsors questions by raising their placards and waiting to be called on by the chair. Any explanations, questions, or answers shall be included as part of the five minutes allotted to the co-sponsors.

No draft resolution shall be put to a vote in Committee unless copies have been circulated to all delegations. If copies are required for distribution, the Chair must sign the original before submission to the Secretariat.

Delegates **may not** bring pre-written proposals or working papers to the Conference. **Pre-written proposals will not be considered by the Committee.** See *Reference Guide to Working Papers and Resolutions*.

3.6.9 DECISIONS OF COMPETENCE

A motion to question the competence of the Committee to discuss a draft resolution or amendment is in order only immediately after the draft resolution or amendment has been distributed to the floor. The motion requires a majority to pass, and is debatable to the extent of two speakers for and two against.

3.6.10 ON MOTIONS IN GENERAL

Substantive motions are motions relevant to the subject under discussion: motions for adoption of a resolution, recommendations, etc. Procedural motions are motions affecting the rules of procedure, conduct of the session, conduct of an individual Delegate, or personal safety.

Any Delegate (including those with Observer status) may offer a motion at the appropriate time by verbal application to the Chair. All motions offered to the Committee shall be considered only when seconded, except where otherwise stated.

Motions are stated as follows: "I move that..." "So moved," or "I make a motion that..." Motion is a noun, not a verb: "I motion that..." is incorrect.

The Chair may rule motions to be in order, out of order, or dilatory. The Chair may rule a motion in order if it is appropriate and there is enough time for debate. The Chair may rule a motion out of order if, in their judgment, the motion is repetitive, redundant, or will not further debate at that time. The Chair may rule a motion dilatory if, in their judgment, the motion is purposely disruptive or denigrating to debate or the Committee. An out of order motion may be appealed to the Chair; a dilatory motion may not be appealed.

3.6.11 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS OR MOTIONS

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion or proposal thus withdrawn may be re-introduced at any time by any Delegate. When a proposal is re-introduced, it shall be considered as a new proposal.

3.6.12 PRECEDENCE

Oral or written statements from the Secretary-General or their designate shall take precedence over all other business. The Chair and other officers may accord themselves precedence for the purpose of clarifying rules or explaining any business before the Committee. Otherwise, the order precedence of motions is as follows:

1. Point of Personal Privilege
2. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
3. Point of Order
4. Appeal the Decision of the Chair
5. Suspension/Adjournment of the Meeting
6. Reconsider a Motion, Issue, or Proposal
7. Decisions of Competence
8. Open/Close Speaker's List
9. Unmoderated Caucus
10. Moderated Caucus
11. Postponement and Resumption of Debate
12. Closure of Debate

3.6.13 POINTS

There are three points that exist in Model United Nations. The points are to be used for the purposes outlined below and *not* for substantive speech.

- **Point of Personal Privilege.** A point of personal privilege shall be used to attempt to rectify violations of the rights, health, or comfort of any or all Delegates. These may include, but are not necessarily limited to, a disturbance or disruption of business, an interference with the Delegate's ability to participate in the proceedings, or threats to the safety of any or all Members. Points of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker. The Chair shall immediately rule on the validity of the point of personal privilege and decide whether and how to rectify the situation.
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.** A point of parliamentary inquiry may be used to make inquiries on parliamentary procedure. If a speaker attempts to make a substantive comment, rather than have a parliamentary matter clarified, the Chair shall call them to order immediately. At the Chair's judgment, points of parliamentary inquiry shall be submitted in writing. A point of parliamentary inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.
- **Point of Order.** During discussion of any matter, a Delegate may rise to a point of order to indicate an improper usage of parliamentary procedure. The Chair shall immediately rule on the point in accordance with these rules of procedure. A Delegate may *not* appeal the ruling of the Chair. A Delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on any other matter. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker. Following a point of order, if a Delegate is still unsatisfied with the ruling of the Chair, they may submit a request in writing to the Chair

requesting that the Secretary General review the Chair's ruling. The Secretary General shall consider all requests.

3.6.14 APPEAL THE DECISION OF THE CHAIR

A Delegate may appeal decisions made by the Chair, unless otherwise stated. The Chair may briefly defend the ruling. An appeal shall immediately be put to a vote. A "Yes" vote indicates a desire to overrule the original decision of the Chair. A "No" vote indicates that the Delegate does not wish to overrule the decision of the Chair. The Chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by "Yes" votes from a majority of Members present. Dilatory rulings cannot be appealed.

3.6.15 MODERATED CAUCUS

A Delegate may move for a moderated caucus. They must specify the time limit for the caucus, the speaking time for each speaker, and the motion must garner a second from another Delegate. The motion is not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote. A majority of Members present must vote for the motion for it to pass. The Delegate who successfully moves for a moderated caucus will be allowed to be the first or last speaker at their option.

3.6.16 UNMODERATED CAUCUS

A Delegate may move for an unmoderated caucus. They must specify the time limit for the caucus, and the motion must garner a second from another Delegate. The motion is not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote. A majority of Members present must vote for the motion for it to pass. Successive unmoderated caucuses may not exceed twenty minutes.

3.6.17 SUSPENSION/ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

At this conference, a Delegate may move for the suspension of the meeting for *lunch only*. Such motions are not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote, unless ruled out of order or dilatory by the Chair. A simple majority is required for the motion to pass. Suspension of the meeting suspends all Committee functions until the next meeting within the Conference.

A Delegate may move for the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions are not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote, unless ruled out of order or dilatory by the Chair. Adjournment of the meeting suspends all Committee functions for the duration of the Conference and requires a majority of Members present to pass.

3.6.18 CLOSURE OF DEBATE

A Delegate may, at any time, move for the closure of debate, regardless of the number of Delegates on the speakers' list. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair. The motion shall be voted upon, requiring a two-thirds majority of the Members present to pass. If the motion passes, all debate on the agenda item is ended and the Committee shall immediately proceed to vote on all working papers introduced under that agenda item.

3.6.19 POSTPONEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

During the discussion of any matter, a Delegate may move for the postponement, or tabling, of debate on the agenda item under discussion. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote, requiring a majority of Members present to pass. If the motion passes, the topic is tabled. The Committee must re-set the agenda to an alternate topic. A motion to resume debate passes with a two-thirds majority and debate continues where it was postponed.

3.6.20 RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

When a draft resolution or amendment has been adopted or rejected, the Committee, if decided by a two-thirds majority of Members present, may reconsider it. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which it shall be put to an immediate vote. The motion should be made at the conclusion of voting procedure after all draft resolutions or amendments are voted upon. The motion may be ruled dilatory if, in the Chair's judgment, a previous successful draft resolution or amendment will create a contradiction with the draft resolution or amendment for reconsideration.

3.7 VOTING

3.7.1 VOTING RIGHTS

Each participating Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote. Official observers may participate in debate but cannot vote. A vote may be cast only by raising a placard, with the exception of roll call voting. *See Observer Status.*

As soon as a motion to close debate passes, or the Speaker's List is exhausted, the Committee is in "voting procedure." No one may enter or leave the room until the procedure is complete. This includes Delegates who would otherwise have the right to vote but are absent when voting procedure begins. No voting *in absentia* will be permitted.

3.7.2 CONDUCT DURING VOTING

After the Chair has announced that the Committee is in voting procedure, no Delegate shall interrupt the voting except with a point of personal privilege or point of order relating to the conduct of the voting procedure.

3.7.3 VOTING PROCEDURE

For procedural matters, a Delegate may vote either in the affirmative or negative. All Delegates who are present must vote on procedural matters, and no roll call vote will be permitted.

For substantive matters, a Delegate may vote affirmative, negative, or abstain. If a delegate feels that a given vote diverges from their Member State's policies, the Delegate may vote with a right of

explanation. In this case, the Delegate will have thirty seconds to explain the vote at the conclusion of voting procedure. Immediately prior to a vote, a Delegate may motion for a roll call vote. A roll call vote is always in order on substantive matters. In this case, Delegates shall vote verbally in English, by English alphabetical order. If a Delegate is not prepared to vote when called upon, they may pass. Delegates choosing to pass will be returned to in English alphabetical order after all other delegates have cast their votes. Delegates may not pass a second time.

3.7.4 DEFINITIONS OF PASSING VOTES

For procedural matters, votes requiring a simple majority pass when more than fifty percent of Members present vote in the affirmative (the fifty-percent-plus-one rule). For example, six Members present must vote affirmative for a procedural matter to pass both when ten Members or eleven Members are present. Likewise, Votes requiring a two-thirds majority follow the two-thirds-plus-one rule: nine Members present would need seven votes in the affirmative to pass a two-thirds majority.

For substantive matters, votes requiring a simple majority pass when more than fifty percent of Members *present at the last quorum check* vote in the affirmative. Likewise, votes requiring a two-thirds majority require more than two-thirds of Members *present at the last quorum check* to vote in the affirmative. Note that this may not be the number of Delegates present if quorum has not recently been updated. The exception to these voting rules is the veto power of the permanent Members of the Security Council. *See Security Council Veto.*

3.7.5 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Decisions on important questions before the General Assembly shall require a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. Important questions may include:

- Budgetary questions;
- Admission of new Members to the United Nations;
- Suspension of the rights and privileges of Membership;
- Questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system;
- Recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Committee may declare any issue an important question. On such a motion, the Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which it shall then be put to an immediate vote, requiring a two-thirds majority of Members present for passage. Amendments to an important question also require a two-thirds majority. Any question not declared an important question shall be decided by a simple majority vote of Members present and voting.

3.7.6 DIVISION OF WORKING PAPERS AND AMENDMENTS

Immediately before a proposal or amendment is voted upon, a Delegate may move that parts of the proposal or amendment be voted on separately. The motion shall be voted upon by majority rule. If more than one motion is made for division, the divisions shall be voted on in order from most to least destructive, as determined by the Chair. If all operative clauses of a working paper are rejected, the working paper shall be regarded as having been rejected as a whole. After voting upon all divided

portions, all portions that were successful are then voted upon as a whole. The Chair may refuse to divide a working paper or to pass a working paper if, in their judgment, it is rendered incoherent by the proposed division. The preamble of a working paper cannot be divided.

3.7.7 VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

An amendment may add to, delete from, or revise any part of the proposal. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Chair prior to voting procedure.

Amendments may be friendly or unfriendly. Friendly amendments are those that all co-sponsors have agreed upon, and will be automatically adopted into the proposal without a vote.

An unfriendly amendment is one that at least one of the co-sponsors has not agreed to, and shall be voted on separately from a working paper. When an unfriendly amendment to a working paper is proposed, the amendment shall be voted on before the working paper. When two or more amendments are proposed, the Committee shall vote on them in the order that they are submitted. However, where the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote if the first one is adopted.

3.7.8 VOTING ORDER ON WORKING PAPERS

If two or more proposals are related to the same question, the Committee shall vote on them in the order submitted.

3.8 SECURITY COUNCIL VETO

The five permanent Members of the Security Council in the United Nations possess a veto power in the Security Council. By voting “No,” a permanent Member can veto a draft resolution and it shall fail, regardless of the number of affirmative votes. If a draft resolution specifically targets a permanent Member, as determined by the Chair, that Member may not use the veto power to defeat said draft resolution. The veto may not be used in procedural matters. However, out of a desire for a fairer competition, to avoid unfair advantage and mitigate the factor of luck, and to increase the need for diplomacy, **PittMUN does not use the Security Council veto in its UNSC committee.**

3.9 STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Committee normally proceeds in the following manner:

1. Call to order.
2. Announcements and explanation of rules, if necessary.
3. Roll call.
4. Determination of order of agenda items.
5. Opening of speakers' list.
6. Speeches and motions.
7. Caucuses, as necessary.
8. Voting.
9. Adjournment.



SECTION 4. PREPARATION

Text excerpted in part from American Model United Nations International's "Issues at AMUN Handbook," copyright September 1996

4.1 PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

Delegates should become familiar with several topics before their participation in the Conference so they can represent their countries or positions to the best of their abilities.

- **The U.N. System.** Students should be aware of the purpose and goals of their committee as well as how it fits into the United Nations system. *See Structure of the U.N. and The United Nations System* chart.
- **General background of the country or position.** Students should gain a historical context in their study of the country or position to better understand policies towards specific issues. Suggestions for research include: population, type of government, natural resources, trade data, allies, adversaries, previous colonial status, etc. Much of this will be included in the recommended country profile. *See Country Profile.*
- **Specific background.** Crucial to Model U.N. research are the country's previous views on issues, especially those to be discussed at the Conference, and how those views have changed. A position paper will help guide this research. *See Position Paper.*
- **The delegation's relationship with the international community.** Knowing where the country you represent fits in the current world geo-political context, as a complement to your country-specific research, can answer many questions that may come up during the simulation, especially concerning illegal substances, industry, colonization, and health.
- **Views of other delegations.** Though difficult to research, it is important to know other countries' stances on the Committee's agenda topics. Most likely, Delegates will learn other delegations' formal policies during committee.
- **Past U.N. action.** Many topics have been previously discussed and acted upon by the United Nations, but the problems still persist. By knowing past action, Delegates may be able to build on them to bring the problem to a resolution. Also, knowledge of the problem's origin is beneficial so that a historical prospective can be brought into debate.
- **The PittMUN rules of procedure.** While the rules for PittMUN set by this manual are similar to those of the real U.N., there are discrepancies between them and also between rules from other conferences students may have attended. *See Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.*

Delegates should take advantage of all the people in their delegation by assigning different topics to each individual to research and report to the group.

4.2 COUNTRY PROFILE

PittMUN recommends that in addition to position papers, each delegation prepare a country profile, which may be copied or neatly removed from this book. Most of the information can be found on the CIA World Factbook (www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook).

COUNTRY PROFILE

COMMITTEE: _____
 DELEGATION: _____
 HIGH SCHOOL: _____
 DELEGATE NAMES: _____

1. General Information

Conventional Long Form Country Name _____
 Government Type _____
 Chief of State _____
 Head of Government _____
 Language(s) (note which, if any, are official) _____
 Population (include yr of statistics) _____
 Major religions (include %s) _____

2. History

Describe this country's founding (how, when, from whom, etc.) _____

If your country has controlled colonies, where and for how long? Do you have friendly relations with your former colonies? _____

If your country was ever a colony or occupied territory, in whose sphere of influence and for how long? _____

3. Geography

Size (in sq. miles or sq. km) _____
 Bordering countries _____
 Capital & major cities _____
 Major ports _____
 Major waterways _____
 Climate _____

4. Status of Living

Annual per capita income (include yr) _____
 Literacy rate (of total population; include yr) _____
 Birth rate (include yr) _____
 Death rate (include yr) _____
 Infant mortality rate (include yr) _____
 Unemployment rate (include yr) _____
 Major ethnic/cultural issues _____

Current refugee/Internally Displaced Persons concerns _____

5. Politics

Political allies/blocs _____

Conflicts; both past and present _____

Do women freely participate in the political process (vote, hold office, etc.)? _____

Is there freedom of speech and of the press in this country? _____

Does this country regularly hold elections? _____

What are the active political parties, and is more than one party tolerated? _____

6. Economy

GDP and growth rate (include yr) _____

Major trade partners _____

Major exports and total amount (include yr) _____

Major imports and total amount _____

Amount of ODA (Official Development Assistance) given _____

Amount of ODA received _____

Agricultural products _____

Industries _____

Natural resources _____

Energy sources (include %) _____

7. Military

Military expenditures (% GNP spent on defense; include yr) _____

Major weapons, arsenal, nuclear capability, etc. _____

Is this country threatened by neighboring countries? Which countries? Do they have nuclear weapons? _____

8. U.N. Relations

Date admitted to U.N. _____

Has this country signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? _____

Has the U.N. ever had to intervene in any conflict involving this country? If so, what conflict(s)? _____

4.3 POSITION PAPERS

A well-written and well-researched position paper can serve as an excellent preparatory tool for committee. It helps to guide preparation among members of a delegation. The position paper will outline your country's policies regarding topics that will be discussed in your Committee.

Please note that PittMUN's policy regarding position papers has changed from previous years. **Position papers are no longer required from all delegates.** Position papers will be optional, but those submitted will be considered for an award. The top three position papers will be recognized at closing ceremonies, with the top paper receiving the Clarke Thomas Memorial Award.

In order to be considered for an award, position papers must be emailed to ucisengage@pitt.edu no later than **12:00PM, October 13th, 2023**. **To be eligible for an award, position papers must adhere to all of the following requirements.**

Position papers will only be accepted if the country and committee are specified (for example, "France in the Security Council"), and only if **both** scenario topics are addressed. All of these formatting requirements **must be followed** to receive consideration for an award:

- Position papers should be attached to an email in .doc or .docx format;
- The file should be named as follows: Country Committee;
- Both scenario topics must be addressed;
- Each topic should be addressed in a separate section, but both should be contained in one file;
- Each topic must be covered in no more than 500 words;
- There should be a header with the country and committee name;
- Student and school names should not appear in the position paper;
- The font should be 12 pt Times New Roman;
- There must be at least **three sources** cited for *each* topic – no specific citation format is required, but the source must be reasonably identifiable;
- **Wikipedia does not count as a source.** Any paper citing Wikipedia will be disqualified.

Please take care to follow these directions. Every year a significant number of position papers are disqualified from award consideration for failure to follow these requirements.

The content of the position paper should follow this format:

First paragraph: Overview of the topic

- General history of this issue
- How this topic affects your country
- Specific events that have occurred related to this issue in the past 3-5 months

Second paragraph: Country's specific history regarding the topic

- Your country's previous policies and actions towards this topic
- Policies and actions of neighboring and/or allied countries
- Neighboring and/or allied countries' reaction to your country's policies and actions

Third paragraph: Goals for the conference

- Propose solutions for the future
- Action that your country believes needs to be taken
- What your country is looking for in a resolution
- Aspects of this topic on which your country is willing to compromise

Answering the questions above will help you to prepare your position papers, and for the actual conference. Sometimes you need to dig deep to find answers to many of these questions. In other cases, your country may be indifferent to a topic. However, in the United Nations, indifference is an opinion, too. Agreeing with a block of countries on one issue may help or hurt you in negotiations in which your country has a vested interest.

A panel of judges drawn from the PittMUN staff will review position papers for the award. Due to the volume of papers, they will not be returned and critique or criticism will not be offered. The judges may disqualify any position paper at their discretion for failure to adhere to the above guidelines or for plagiarism. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will disqualify the student for any award at the PittMUN conference, and the student's teacher will be notified.

Please direct any questions regarding position papers to ucisengage@pitt.edu.

4.4 SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations XXVII

Committee: Special Political Terrorism

Delegation: United Kingdom

The Issue of Terrorism in the Middle East

For many years, the issue of terrorism has plagued the United Kingdom. Racist bombings by terrorists within the country as well as the recent bombings in London by the Irish Republic Army (IRA) have caused us to remain closely engaged in efforts to urge an end to violence and a rebuilding of confidence. These acts of terrorism represent a problem not only for the United Kingdom but also for the world. The bombing of the World Trade Center in the United States on September 11, 2001, shows how terrorism has globally spread and continues to do so. This is a fear that the United Kingdom, along with many other nations, is faced with.

In attempts to minimize the apprehension, the United Kingdom has responded with military action, laws to prevent and prosecute terrorism, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic assistance. We have deployed over 10,000 troops in the Middle East, 4,000 of them in Afghanistan. With the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act of 2001, the United Kingdom enhanced its existing anti-terrorism legislation directly following the events of September 11, 2001.¹ Our Department for International Development has contributed 60 million pounds for humanitarian support, and an additional 40 million pounds in funds have been allocated to United Nations' agencies, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations. We have renewed diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and our government is backing international efforts to control nuclear terrorism with a 250,000-pound pledge to the International Atomic Energy Commission.²

The United Kingdom's overall objective is to eliminate terrorism as a force in international affairs. We plan on achieving our goal by using all political and military means, such as isolating the current Taliban regime from all international support; taking direct action against Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda Networks, and terrorist facilities in Afghanistan; and fragmenting the Taliban regime if there is a refusal to comply with the United States' ultimatum, providing economic and political support to the neighbors of Afghanistan to help with the burden of this conflict, and building the largest international coalition with maximum support from the United Nations. The issue of terrorism is not to be taken lightly. The events of September 11, 2001, IRA bombings, as well as other terrorist acts that have occurred in the world, were aimed not just at the United States and the United Kingdom but also at civilized values and the civilized world. The war against terrorism is being fought not only for our citizens but also for all the people in the world. With the full support of other countries, however, it is possible to cleanse the world of this force of evil.

¹ The National Archives. Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/24/introduction>

² Peter Pringle. Washington Urges N. Korea Embargo. The Independent. June 16, 1994.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/washington-urges-n-korea-embargo-1422896.html>

4.5 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

PittMUN recommends the following sources of information to use when researching:

You may contact **UNA-USA Publications** requesting *A Guide to Representative Preparation*, *A Model U.N. Preparations Kit*, and/or *A Global Agenda: Issues Before the United Nations 2011-2012*. The Model U.N. kit contains many of the most useful U.N. documents for your preparations.

Documents are also available through the U.N. **Department of Public Information/Publications** for *Everyone's United Nations*, *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, and/or *UNDPI Catalog*. You may write to them for a publication list.

UNA-USA Publications
801 Second Avenue, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10017
(212) 907-1300.

*U.N. Department of Public
Information/Publications*
Room DC2-0853
New York, NY 10017
(212) 963-1234

The United Nations Information Center provides copies of U.N. documents free of charge upon request. Call (202) 331-8670.

Many U.N. documents and country resources can be accessed via the Internet. International databases containing information are easily accessible.

U.N. Database

- United Nations: www.un.org
- U.N. Charter: www.un.org/aboutun/charter/
- E-mail addresses for Representatives: www.un.org/members
- U.N. Wire daily newsletter: www.UNFoundation.org
- United Nations Cyberschoolbus: www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus
- U.N. Family of Organizations: www.unsystem.org.
- U.N. Chronicle monthly magazine: <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/index.html>
- U.N. Documentation Center: www.un.org/documents
- U.N. National Government Information: www.un.org/esa/national.htm
- Permanent Mission to the U.N.: www.un.int

Specific Committees

- Security Council: www.un.org/Docs/sc/index.html
- Security Council Resolutions: www.un.org/documents/scres.htm
- General Assembly: <http://www.un.org/ga/>
- Disarmament and International Security Committee:
<http://www.un.org/ga/first/index.shtml>
- Economic and Financial Committee: <http://www.un.org/ga/second/index.shtml>
- United Nations Development Programme: <http://www.undp.org/>
- United Nations Environment Programme: <http://www.unep.org/>
- United Nations Human Rights Council: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>

Country-Specific Information:

- CIA World Fact Book: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook
- Country Reports: www.countryreports.org
- Foreign Embassies of Washington, DC: www.embassy.org/embassies
- Official Government Sites: www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/official.html
- US Department of State Country Information: www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn

Regional Sites

- African Union: www.africa-union.org
- All Africa: www.Allafrica.com
- Britain-USA: www.britainusa.com/index.asp
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO): www.ctbto.org
- EUROPA (European Union): www.europa.eu.int/
- German Federal Foreign Office: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html>
- Global Policy Forum: www.globalpolicy.org
- Google Asia Governmental Sites: www.google.com/Top/Regional/Asia/Government
- Google Middle East Governmental Sites: www.google.com/Top/Regional/Middle_East/Government
- International Atomic Energy Agency: www.iaea.org
- International Criminal Court (ICC): www.icc-cpi.int/home.html
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL): www.interpol.int
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: www.opcw.org

Selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org/
- The Center for Defense Information: www.cdi.org/
- The Center for Strategic and International Studies: www.csis.org
- Citizens for Global Solutions: <http://www.globalsolutionspgh.org/>
- Global Issues: <http://www.globalissues.org/whatsnew/2008/june.php>
- The Henry L. Stimson Center: www.stimson.org/home.cfm
- The Heritage Foundation: www.heritage.org/
- Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org/
- International Crisis Group: <http://www.icg.org/>
- United Nations Foundation: www.unfoundation.org

Television

- Network News Programs
- BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
- CNN: www.cnn.com
- CNN International: <http://edition.cnn.com/>
- C-SPAN: <http://www.c-span.org/>

Radio

- National Public Radio: www.npr.org

- BBC World News Service: www.bbc.co.uk/radio/

Newspapers

- The New York Times: www.nytimes.com
- The Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com
- Financial Times News: www.ft.com
- International Herald Tribune: www.iht.com
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: www.post-gazette.com/

Magazines

- US News and World Report: www.usnews.com
- Time: www.time.com
- The Economist: www.economist.com
- World Press Review: www.worldpress.com

For Students

- The Model U.N. Discussion Area: www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/munda/index.html
- Stanford Model U.N. Site: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/Jonsson/mun.html>

For Educators

- Introduction to the Model United Nations: A booklet and videotape designed to acquaint teachers and students with the workings of MUN.

United Nations Bookshop
46th Street and 1st Ave
New York, NY 10017
(212) 963-7680)

U.N. Publications Office
2 United Nations Plaza
Room DC2-853, Dept. C001
New York, NY 10017
(212-963-8302)

- United Nations Curriculum Guide: A project of UNA-USA, the curriculum guide is an excellent resource for teachers. A descriptive brochure/order form is available from UNA.

Pitt Model United Nations *does not* recommend that students use Wikipedia. While it can provide basic information about an event or a country's policies, it is an unreliable source of information. Students should only use Wikipedia as a starting point and not an actual resource.

Please contact PittMUN via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com if you need any assistance conducting your research.



SECTION 5. JUDGING CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

The Pitt Model United Nations (PittMUN) is a simulation of the actual United Nations and its committees. Delegates to PittMUN are area high school students who are assigned to represent specific countries. The PittMUN Secretariat chooses the committees and the topics that the students will be debating. Members of the University of Pittsburgh's undergraduate Model UN Club moderate the committee sessions. PittMUN is a competitive event, and the delegates are judged by professionals, graduate students, and educators from the community. There are two types of judges: stationary and roving.

Each stationary judge will be assigned to one PittMUN committee and will observe that committee for the entire day-long conference. Together with the committee moderator(s), the stationary judge will select the two country delegations that demonstrated the best performance in that committee to receive first- and second-place awards. (Please note that two delegates acting as a team may represent one country. In such cases, an award will be made to both students.) The portion of the PittMUN manual concerning a judge's assigned committee will be reviewed by the judge in advance of the simulation.

There will also be a team of several roving judges. This group of judges will select the top delegations, or countries, of the entire conference. These are the delegations that performed at the highest level across all committees. First- and second-place country awards will be given to both large and small delegations. Typically, large delegations are those that are represented on at least five committees, while small delegations are those that are represented on four or fewer committees. Roving judges are asked to spend an equal amount of time observing each committee, and to review the portions of the PittMUN manual concerning the debate topics for all committees in advance of the simulation.

Decisions of the stationary judges will be made in consultation with moderators from the relevant PittMUN committees during the judges' meeting at the end of the day. Decisions of the roving judges will be made by a process of cumulative voting led by a member of the PittMUN Secretariat. Stationary judges may participate in the roving judges' discussion, but they do not vote on country awards. The committee moderators and stationary judges may answer questions about particular delegates if necessary to assist with the roving judges' decision process.

Throughout the conference, delegates are only identified by their country and committee. The PittMUN registrar maintains a list containing school information. Judges are not informed of which school represents which country until after the award decisions are made.

Please note that delegations are not required to submit position papers to the PittMUN Secretariat

in advance of the conference. Delegations are invited to submit position papers to compete for the Clarke Thomas Memorial Awards for the strongest papers, but delegations that do not submit position papers will still be eligible to receive awards for their performance at the simulation. The position papers will be reviewed by a separate panel of judges from the team that judges the delegates on the day of the conference.

Delegates are evaluated on the following interrelated criteria:

A. Representation of Country/Position (most important criterion):

- Staying in character of the country/position
- Having relevant information about the country/position
- Being knowledgeable of:
 - The history of the country/position, including its international obligations and the treaties to which it belongs
 - The country/position's allies and adversaries
 - Current events, as related to the country/position, and to the committee in general
- Demonstrating thorough research and prior preparation

B. Knowledge of Topics under Discussion:

- Being knowledgeable of:
 - Past UN resolutions and/or activities
 - Any relevant treaties and/or international agreements
 - Current events, as related to the country/position, and to the committee in general

C. Adherence to Formal Procedures:

- Being familiar with:
 - Resolution-writing
 - Formal Debate
 - Parliamentary Procedure

D. Adherence to Unstructured Proceedings:

- Maintaining diplomacy and overall effectiveness during caucuses
- Practicing conduct befitting of a diplomat

Some delegates may attempt to attract the attention of judges during the course of committee proceedings in order to influence the award outcomes. This behavior is considered out of character and not an accurate portrayal of a UN committee meeting. Delegates will be judged accordingly.



SECTION 6. REFERENCE GUIDE ON WORKING PAPERS AND RESOLUTIONS

6.1 RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are the basis for all U.N. debate, bringing one or several issues to the floor in a form that Delegates can discuss, amend, reject, or ratify as circumstances dictate.

Resolutions usually state a policy that the U.N. will undertake, but in some bodies, they also may be in the form of treaties, conventions, or declarations. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, or require action or sanctions on the part of the Member States. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that nobody other than the Security Council can require action or sanctions from Member States. In some cases, final conventions and treaties may also require action, but this would be only on the part of the signatory countries.

A resolution has two parts – the preambulatory clauses and the operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses state the “why” of the resolution. Why is this resolution being written? Why is this U.N. body concerned with this issue? Operative clauses state the “what” of the resolution. What does this body recommend to resolve this issue?

6.2 WORKING PAPERS

Resolutions first start out as working papers, which are written in the same form (spacing, punctuation, language) as resolutions. After you have written a draft, take it to other Delegates to get their opinions and perhaps their support as a sponsor. Modify the working paper to fit the goals of its supporters. Continue revising the language of the draft until you believe that it is finished. Take the working paper to the chair at any time. The chair will read over the draft to make sure that it is appropriate, approve it, and have copies made for all of the delegations.

It is important to remember that prior to its submission to the Chair, a working paper can **never** be referred to in formal debate or in a speech given from the Speaker’s List. All working papers must be written during the conference. **Working papers that were written prior to the conference will not be accepted.**

Once the working paper has been discussed and changed as much as the sponsors see fit, sponsors must once again submit the draft to the chair. The chair will again review it and, if it is deemed acceptable, will give the draft resolution a designation (e.g., Draft Resolution 1.1) and have the revised paper copied for the other delegations. The draft resolution is formally introduced by one of

the sponsors from the Speaker's List by reading aloud the draft resolution to the body. After that time, the draft resolution may be referred to while speaking in formal debate.

6.3 AMENDMENTS

As stated above, the best time to change a working paper is in the drafting process. However, there will be times when it may become necessary to change it after its formal introduction. This is done with either "friendly" or "unfriendly" amendments. *See Amendments.*

6.4 GUIDELINES

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a resolution:

- Preambulatory clauses can describe the recent history of the situation, referencing past United Nations actions and resolutions, when available;
- Operative clauses include actions which will solve the problem;
- Do not be blatantly antagonistic in the content of the resolution;
- Take into account the viewpoints of other countries;
- Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate existing bodies;
- Don't create new Committees/Commissions/etc. without considering funding or if other similar bodies already exist.

6.5 RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions must be submitted using the following format. Any resolutions received in any other format will **not** be accepted. All Committee titles and topics must follow the exact wordings given in the *Issues at PittMUN Handbook*. Resolutions are:

- One sentence, with preambulatory clauses ending with a comma, operative clauses ending with a semi-colon, and the final operative clause ending with a period;
- Single-spaced throughout resolution, with double spacing between clauses;
- Clauses must begin with proper introductory words/phrases in capital letters;
- Each operative clause must be numbered and indented.

6.6 PREAMBULATORY & OPERATIVE CLAUSES

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging	Expressing its appreciation	Noting further
Affirming	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with approval
Alarmed by	Fulfilling	Noting with deep concern
Approving	Fully alarmed	Noting with regret
Aware of	Fully aware	Noting with satisfaction
Bearing in mind	Fully believing	Noting with zest
Believing	Further deploring	Observing
Cognizant of	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Confident	Gravely concerned	Realizing
Considering also	Guided by	Recalling
Contemplating	Having adopted	Recalling with concern
Convinced	Having considered	Recognizing
Deeply concerned	Having considered further	Referring
Deeply conscious	Having devoted	Seeking
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking into account
Deeply disturbed	Having heard	Taking into consideration
Deeply regretting	Having received	Taking note
Desiring	Having studied	Viewing with appreciation
Emphasizing	Hoping	Welcoming
Expected	Keeping in mind	

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Accepts	Deplores	Offers
Adopts	Designates	Proclaims
Affirms	Draws attention	Reaffirms
Appeals	Emphasizes	Recommends
Approves	Encourages	Reminds
Authorizes	Endorses	Renews
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls for	Expresses its hope	Requests
Calls upon	Further endorses	Resolves
Commends	Further invites	Solemnly affirms
Condemns	Further proclaims	Strongly condemns
Congratulates	Further recommends	Supports
Confirms	Further reminds	Takes note of
Decides	Further requests	Transmits
Declares	Has resolved	Trusts
Demands	Notes	Urges

6.7 SAMPLE RESOLUTION

The Agenda Topic

The Committee Name

Co-Sponsors: Names of delegations who are sponsors

Signatories: Names of delegations who are signatories

The Committee Name,

Recognizing that it is crucial that all proposals, working papers, and resolutions be written in the correct format,

Having studied the resolution format in depth,

Deeply concerned that some nations may still use an incorrect resolution format,

Aware of the fact that pre-ambulatory clauses are followed by commas, while operative clauses are followed by semicolons, and that the last operative clause is followed by a period,

1. Requests that all Delegates read the resolution format in depth;
2. Draws attention to the fact that operative clauses are numbered;
3. Urges Delegates to contact the Secretariat via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com if they have any questions.



SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
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7.1 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Formed in 1945, the United Nations specializes in promoting collaboration and joint policy amongst member states. Within the broader general assembly lies the Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), tasked with addressing world-wide economic and financial issues. Examples of the topics covered by ECOFIN include sustainable development, financial development, and macroeconomic policies.

The current session, chaired by Her Excellency Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria, focuses on specific issues including macroeconomic policy and interdependent globalization, implementation of the New Urban Agenda (a new universal framework of actions regarding sustainable housing and urban development), and expanding economic issues to discuss current conflicts in the Middle East.

The United Nations' Second Committee is currently in its 77th session and is expected to take on roughly 38 draft proposals, all dealing with economic affairs throughout the world today. However, these issues stretch far beyond the confines of the economy; the topics discussed within ECOFIN chambers apply to virtually every aspect of modern life, including access to food, water, and shelter, humanitarian rights in war-torn countries, and the creation of new technologies.

Resource:

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/>

Updating International Canal Regulations

Canals have been an integral component of trade since the advent of human civilization. The Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea in Egypt, has been in use since 1869 and the idea for it has existed since Ancient Egypt. As maritime technology became more advanced, the array of purposes for canals became more varied. For example, an increase in interstate travel caused by canal development allowed for governments to collect taxes from citizens to an unprecedented extent. Canals soon proved to be one of the most effective ways to complete trade. Due to canals, trade did not necessarily only mean local trade. Now, merchants could travel further than ever before on these unrestricted waterways.

However, the topic of canals cannot be addressed without acknowledging geopolitics and land claims. According to the UN's second part of Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, "Every State has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baselines determined in accordance with this Convention". However, this particular clause becomes an issue when assessing canals. Canals are defined as an artificial waterway constructed to allow the passage of boats or ships inland or to convey water for irrigation. Given this definition, canals are inherently conflictual with ideas of statehood/land ownership and the ability to. This can best be explained through the Suez Canal.

Alternative route for shipping while Suez Canal blocked

— Using Suez Canal	— Around Cape of Good Hope
10,000 nautical miles (18,520km)	13,500 nautical miles (25,002km)
25.5 days*	34 days*

*Based on ship's average speed of 16.43 knots

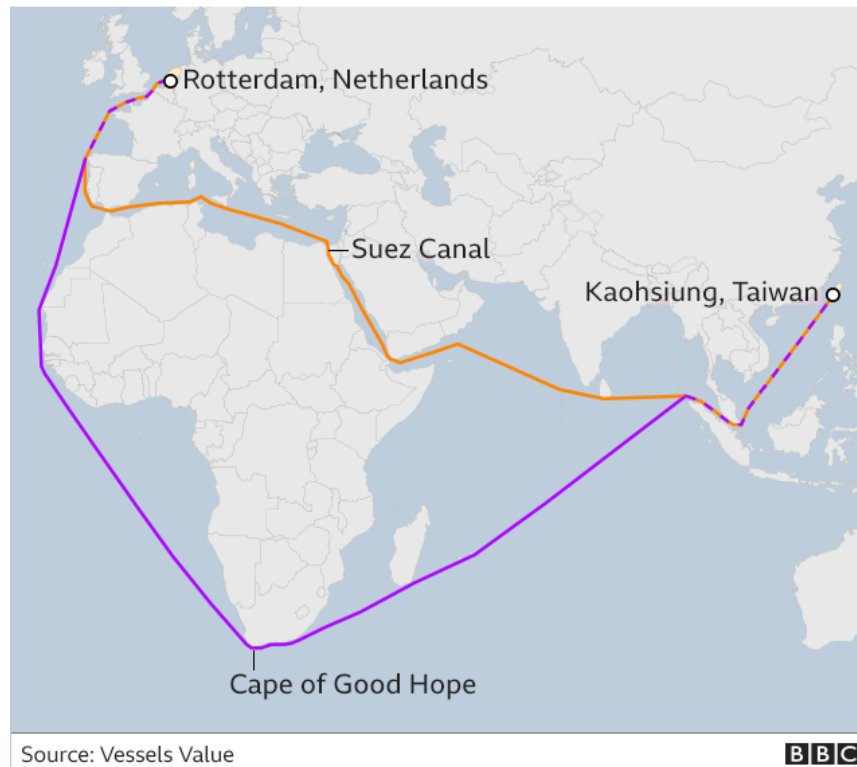


Figure 1 - Suez Canal Efficiency

As seen in the figure above, canals have radically hastened the time that traveling and shipping takes. Traveling from the Netherlands to Taiwan without the Suez canal takes 34 days, while it only takes 25 days when using the canal. Access to canals is regulated by the Suez Canal Authority (SCA), dictating who can and cannot enter the canal as well as handling the logistics of boats entering and leaving the canal. In 2021, a ship titled the Ever Given became lodged in the Suez Canal perpendicularly, and it remained there for six days. Economists estimated that these six days of disuse led to an economic loss of nearly 10 billion USD.

Given the severe economic repercussions that accompany failures in canal regulations, ECOFIN is invested in the prevention of similar events in the future. ECOFIN's current solution has been to invest in technology to assist with the logistics of managing canals. Additionally, ECOFIN monetarily sponsors the authority agencies in nations, such as the Panama Canal Authority (PCA). This monetary support funds the vital agencies that monitor canal access.

Questions to Consider:

1. What additional solutions should ECOFIN pursue to update international canal regulations?
2. How should ECOFIN promote unanimously approved policy in areas of geopolitical tension?
3. How should the individual sovereignty of a nation that has a canal impact its place at the negotiating table?

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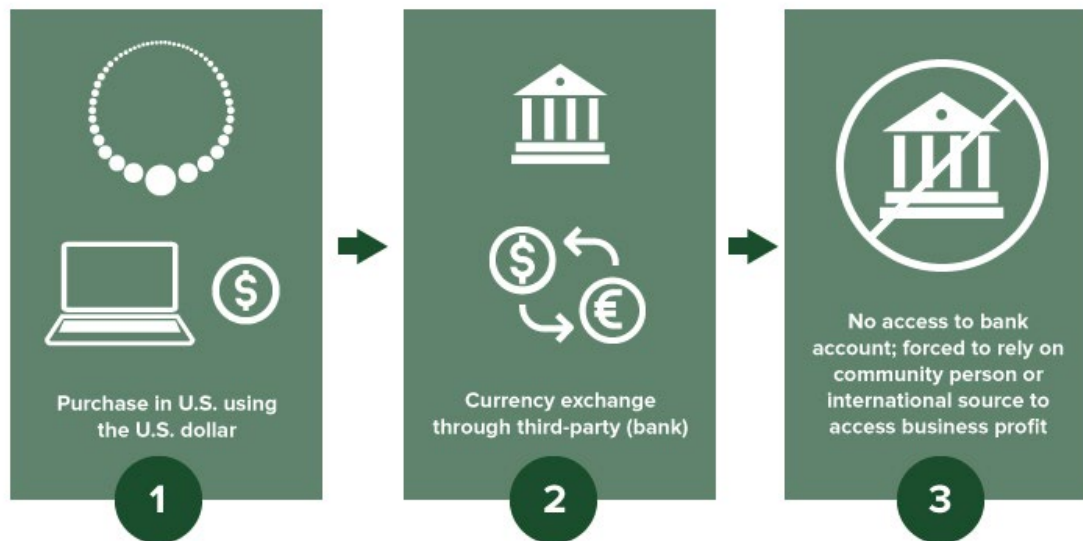
Economic Impacts of Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrency started with Bitcoin and was sold as an electronic cash system, with its first release in 2009. Since then so many other currencies have made their way into the world economy. Crypto stands for encryption algorithms making Bitcoin and other crypto currency not the kind of money one holds in their hand. It is important to understand that the internet and cryptocurrency go hand in hand. Without the internet, cryptocurrency does not exist because cryptocurrency is digital. What is also important to understand is that governments have a hard time controlling cryptocurrency due to its digital manner. Bitcoin, for example, is circulated through large numbers of computers making it difficult for a government to track. This exchange of money through these computers is called blockchains. It is through these block chains that large amounts of money can be transferred without having to go through a long process especially when that money is going overseas.

The money must come from somewhere though. The coins themselves come from a place called server farms, which are usually found in remote places in China. According to Colorado State University there are 25,000 machines in these server farms with only 50 people employed. These server farms are often incredibly bad for the environment due to the fact that they run on coal.

There are plenty of other risks for cryptocurrency. For example, they are high in volatility and have been known to be used by criminal gangs, terrorist organizations, and rogue states, according to the Council of Foreign relations. However, cryptocurrencies are becoming more popular day by day with more people investing and using them. These cryptocurrencies have grown and become trillion-dollar technologies. There is also less equity when it comes to cryptocurrencies. As more cryptocurrencies are added into the economy, more money is as well. People of color, specifically in the United States, are worried about exploitation when using cryptocurrencies.

There are some positives to cryptocurrency. Since the coin is all digital, it does not require a bank account. For people who have a business but maybe do not have access to a bank account, cryptocurrencies allow for money to be spread easily, causing the circulation of money to spread even quicker.



When looking at cryptocurrencies it is important to look at the bad and the good. Cryptocurrencies will continue to be more prominent in today's society and it is your job to decide what to do with that.

Questions to consider:

1. Is it important to incorporate cryptocurrencies in today's economy?
2. How can countries prevent cryptocurrencies from getting into the wrong hands?
3. How can cryptocurrencies be used to bolster certain countries' economies?
4. Is it worth using cryptocurrencies at all?
5. How does crypto affect the environment? Is there a way to make them more environmentally friendly?
6. Who are the main countries that are producing cryptocurrencies? Are they worth getting into business with?
7. Is there a way the government can regulate cryptocurrencies?
8. How can cryptocurrencies become accessible?
9. Are cryptocurrencies truly useful?

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SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
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7.2 SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Introduction

The committee on Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Issues (SOCHUM) oversees issues related to human rights and social and humanitarian affairs worldwide. Committee members discuss pertinent United Nations subjects, including those covering elimination of racial discrimination and protections for women and children. Furthermore, the committee oversees relevant social development topics, such as disability, crime prevention and criminal justice, and drug control. SOCHUM does further work with the United Nations General Assembly to discuss reports and special procedures provided by the Human Rights Council (2006).

References:

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>

Topics:

1. Protection for Freedom of Expression for Journalists
2. Grain Scarcity in Ukraine

Protection for Freedom of Expression for Journalists

According to UNESCO databases, roughly 455 journalists were murdered on the job between 2016 and 2020. For women and minorities, these statistics are much more drastic: 73% of women report experiencing some form of discrimination, whether that be sexual harassment or online threats, in relation to their work.

While the expansion of internet journalism has led to easier news access for many, there has been a growing worldwide trend of countries pushing back against journalists through state-controlled media. Such state-controlled reporting uplifts privately-owned media, which serves the political interests of the state, and effectively reduces, and in some cases eliminates completely, journalistic freedom of expression. The consequences of state-controlled media are already prevalent through the spread of misinformation on global issues ranging from foreign elections, to armed conflicts, to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, violence against journalists, both by the public and heads of state, continue to exacerbate the knowledge gap amongst countries.

As countries lean towards increasing support towards authoritarian leaders, the number of crimes against journalists increases, who are frequently targeted by governments themselves. One of the most famous examples comes from the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi Arabian government. While visiting the Saudi consulate, Khashoggi was apprehended by Saudi

operatives and was murdered and dismembered. When it was announced that Khashoogi's murder was allegedly approved by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Khashoogi's case caused global outcry and in turn helped to expose the fates for many journalists, especially those working under repressive regimes. Similar situations have been exposed in Russia, Mexico, and much of the Middle East, including countries such as Syria and Saudi Arabia. These dynamics make it increasingly difficult for journalists to conduct their work; many journalists report feeling like they are in danger everywhere they go.

Although murder is the most sensational outcome, many journalists sit in jails and prisons instead and endure inhumane conditions. Jailed journalists are forced to sit in solitary confinement, are often denied visits from attorneys or relatives, and are sometimes brutally tortured. Many journalists die in prison for arbitrary offenses and are portrayed as "enemies of the people." In regimes like China, Myanmar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Afghanistan these cruel punishments for journalists are not uncommon, with China, Myanmar, and Turkey having some of the highest percentages of arrested journalists.

The United Nations proclaimed May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993 to shine light on the onslaught of injustices faced by journalists worldwide. World Press Freedom Day is just one part of the larger UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which highlights six main areas: (1) raising awareness, (2-3) standard setting and policy making, (4) monitoring and reporting, (5) capacity building, and (6) research. Since the implementation of this plan, over 50 countries have created or strengthened journalistic protections, multiple ongoing research projects have been created with the purpose of researching journalistic safety, and annual conferences are held around the world. Over 500 lawyers spanning across 30 countries have been trained in matters of journalistic expression and impunity rates have dropped from 95% to 86% in just ten years.

In the next ten years, the goals for the UN Plan of Action are to continue evaluating member nations on their freedom of expression and journalistic protection measures, combat strategic lawsuits against public participations (SLAPPS), which are often used as a weapon to silence journalists, and increase resources available to journalists who may be in dangerous situations.

Despite all of these efforts, crimes against reporters are still rising, especially with online harassment against women and minority reporters. Furthermore, as governments begin to turn more totalitarian, freedom of the press starts to become more and more limited. Increasing numbers of reporters are reported missing each year. These concerns, complemented by the increase of online news reporting, are important to consider in protecting the safety of journalists and freedom of the press today.

Questions to Consider

1. What is my country's stance on journalistic expression, and what kind of history have we had with journalists?
2. How can my country work to fix its own problems with journalists, and how can these methods be applied more globally?
3. Using everything known about current dangers to journalism, how can countries work together to ensure they are protected against crimes like murder, harassment, arbitrary arrests, and inhumane prison conditions.

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Grain Scarcity in Ukraine

On February 22, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine as an escalation of the 2014 Russian attack on Crimea. This invasion has caused a global food crisis: Ukraine is one of the top global producers of wheat with exports valued at \$5.1 Billion just before the war. Ukraine alone provides grain for over 400 million people: 36 countries report importing over half of their grain from Ukraine alone. While Russian representatives have denied such actions, a multitude of worldwide government officials and UN representatives warn that Russian attacks on Ukrainian grain production facilities and seizure of ports in the Odesa region have added fuel to the fire of an already worsening global food crisis.

According to estimates from 2015, over 734 million people were living in poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue, with an estimated additional 71 million people forced into poverty due to increasing unemployment numbers, inadequate housing, and limited access to healthcare, for example. Poverty comes with severe humanitarian concerns, including food insecurity and malnutrition, higher risk of human trafficking, and increased child labor. Furthermore, 60% of the world's poorest people live in areas of active conflict, where access to food is severely decreased. More specifically, over 44 million people are facing emergency hunger levels. While there is enough food for everyone on paper, global armed conflicts, like Russia's war against Ukraine, have significantly diminished the amount of food available, effectively furthering the global hunger crisis.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative, signed on July 27, 2022, focused on exporting grain, other food products, and fertilizers through Ukrainian ports in Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi into the world food market. Since its implementation, over 32 million metric tons of grain have been moved to 45 countries, which, in turn, has worked to combat increasing food prices. Moreover, over 720,000 metric tons of grain have been shipped to areas of active conflict, helping to reduce extreme hunger in its hotspots. However, the Initiative was shortly terminated on July 17, 2023—less than a year after its implementation—following discussions with Russian representatives and subsequent announcement of Russia's termination of participating in the Initiative.

Since the February 2022 invasion, Ukrainian grain production facilities and ports have been the targets of drone and missile strikes. These offenses have destroyed key grain storage and transportation infrastructure, compounding the damages of the Russian Federation illegal seizures of Ukrainian grain production for their own consumption or profit. Internationally, these actions have had the effect of dramatically increasing food prices (the prices of wheat and corn have increased by almost 9% and 8% respectively) and increasing rates of starvation, especially for people in both active warzones, like Yemen and Syria, and countries affected by climate-change induced drought, such as countries within the Horn of Africa.

The Russian Federation's actions extend beyond port seizures and illegal sales of grain. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that since the invasion, over 1,000 healthcare facilities have been damaged. UNESCO has corroborated these findings, adding additional

damages that include 270 cultural sites and 3,467 educational institutions, with 335 completely destroyed, and irreversible damage to ecology, including the destructions of dams, hostile situations in nuclear power plants, and possibly hundreds to thousands of dispersed landmines and missile shrapnel. Humanitarian issues are prevalent as well, the displacement of millions of people has led to higher rates of poverty and food insecurity, and furthered consequences worldwide, as millions of refugees struggle to find temporary homes.

While Russian representatives vehemently deny such allegations, there has been a noticeable decrease in grain accessibility worldwide, which has led to rising amounts of people living in starvation. Currently, there are over 20 million tons of grain sitting in Ukrainian silos occupied by Russian forces. While this number cannot completely eradicate world hunger, it can contribute to feeding an increasingly starving population. As the long-lasting effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to increase the number of people living in starvation, the current shortages of Ukrainian grain experienced around the world is beginning to showcase the long-term consequences of this war. Important issues to consider include starvation, misplaced peoples, and the long-term social and economic consequences of the current situation in Ukraine.

Questions to Consider

1. What steps need to be taken within my country to solve food insecurity both domestically and internationally?
2. Are there ways to negotiate alternative grain production plans? Perhaps those involving other countries?
3. What kinds of long-term effects might the current situation in Ukraine have globally and what can be done to minimize these consequences?
4. Should UN member-states support Russia re-entry into the Black Sea Grain Deal at the cost of undermining the current sanctions against the country?

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SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
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7.3 UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

INTRODUCTION:

UNICEF's, or the United Nations Children's Fund, previously known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, main goal is to protect the universal human rights of children around the globe. It is one of the largest and most prevalent and expansive committees in the United Nations with a presence in 190 countries.

UNICEF was first created on December 11th, 1946. It was enacted by the UN Relief Rehabilitation Administration as an emergency action to combat the humanitarian crisis to women and children caused by World War II. Soon after, the UN expanded UNICEF's role to cover more war relief work, and eventually in 1950 UNICEF goals were altered to cater to the long-term needs of women and children, particularly in developing and violence-stricken nations. However, it was not until 1953 that UNICEF was made a permanent aspect of the UN. Consequently, the word "emergency" was removed from its name, but the original acronym remained.

UNICEF works with various countries to provide basic healthcare to decrease child and infant mortality rates as well as increase access to quality education, especially for children with disabilities. UNICEF also researches the effectiveness of various social programs and works with country's governments to be able to more effectively address children's humanitarian crises through social programs and laws. Furthermore, UNICEF works to create gender equality specifically through ending practices of female genital mutilation and child marriage. Also, though not its main goal, UNICEF also focuses on providing aid to women and children affected by violent conflict and war.

Central American Gang Violence

A UNICEF report in 2015 determined that the top 10 nations with the highest ratios of male homicide victims to female homicide victims are all in Latin America and the Caribbean. Gang violence is the main reason for the disparity between the rates of female and male homicide victims because an estimated 90-94% of gang members are male. However, the statistic that concerns UNICEF the most is in the report's statement that the top 5 highest homicide rates of children exist in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

However, out of all of the regions encapsulated in the Latin American and Caribbean region, gang violence is most prominent in Central America. More specifically gang violence is most prominent in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, or what is known as the Northern Triangle. Gang violence is also the primary reason for the migrations of refugees within the area and out of it, which is primarily done through Mexico into the United States. However, how far away from gang violence a refugee is able to travel is dependent on their financial status. While some migrants have the ability to travel throughout the majority of the region to escape gang violence, others are only able to escape to an area controlled by a rival gang. However, regardless of how far away refugees travel, if the reason for escape is extortion by gangs then the possibility of the gangs hurting or murdering family members or other loved ones is extremely high.

Most of these refugees are unable to return to their home country or neighborhood without a

high risk of being murdered by the very gangs they hoped to escape. As a result, many refugees are willing to take extremely dangerous methods of traveling if it is the only way to do so.

It is believed that an estimated 1.7 million people and 800,000 children are currently migrating from their homes in Central America. Roughly 600,000 of those refugees are from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. These refugees have two choices: travel south through Nicaragua to land in Costa Rica and Panama or travel north and make the long journey towards northern Mexico.

Another consequence of gang violence is the increasing rates of unaccompanied refugee children. In 2019 the UN Refugee Agency (UNHRA) reported that there was a 68% increase in unaccompanied Central American children who were seeking refuge from violence and persecution when compared to data from the year before. It was also reported in the UNHCR study that El Salvador saw a 31-41% increase in poverty as a result of COVID-19, which is expected to lead to increased gang violence since rates of gang violence are linked to poverty levels. Moreover, the increase in poverty has worsened the conditions that UNICEF is finding refugees in and the more basic necessities they need.

However, the biggest barrier to UNICEF providing support to all refugees and meeting their new additional needs is funding. It is estimated that 113.9 million USD is needed to meet the needs of all of the current refugees and help them safely escape gang violence. Most of the funding goes towards providing shelter, clean water, information, and protection from sexual exploitation, as well as health and nutrition services to migrants, which is the standard UNICEF response to a humanitarian crisis. The general public is able to donate towards helping Central American Refugees, but the majority of the funding comes from the general UNICEF budget, of which The United States, The Federal Republic of Germany, and the European Union.

While much is being done to help those who are escaping gang violence, there is very little UNICEF is able to do to combat gang violence. UNICEF does work with nations to increase policing of gangs, but stronger policing and tougher anti-crime laws is the extent of what UNICEF is able to do with gangs often extorting governmental and police officials. While countries like El Salvador have declared a state of emergency and as a result have suspended some civil rights to be able to fight gang violence by often arresting suspected gang members, it is well known that government officials practice secret appeasement of gang leaders. I would recommend providing more background regarding the current policies of President Nayib Bukele (El Salvador) against gangs, which would generate an interesting debate about civil rights/control of gang-related violence and their effects/benefits/consequences on the children population.

Another issue UNICEF encounters when helping refugees is working with nations to allow safe and legal passage from one nation to another, which can prove difficult with many of the nations Central American refugees are escaping to tightening border control and policies regarding refugees.

Questions to Consider:

- Are there ways to further anti-gang action on part of UNICEF and nation's governments without violating a nation's national sovereignty?
- Are there ways to gather funding for UNICEF's programs aimed at helping refugees of gang violence?
- In what ways can UNICEF work with other aspects of the UN and Central and North American nations regarding border control and policies?
- How can UNICEF tailor their standard humanitarian crisis plan to better fit the unique situation in Central America and COVID-19 effects these issues? Is there a way to reduce costs per refugee without reducing the services provided to refugees?

Resources:

- <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/10/ending-el-salvadors-cycle-gang-violence#:~:text=El%20Salvador%20has%20long%20suffered,arrests%20of%20suspected%20gang%20members>
- <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/corruption-crime-and-gangs-central-america-understanding-root-causes#:~:text=Guatemala%2C%20Honduras%2C%20and%20El%20Salvador,implementing%20tough%20on%20crime%20policies>.
- <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/complexities-gang-membership-central-america>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2020/12/5fdb14ff4/death-threats-gang-violence-forcing-families-flee-northern-central-america.html>
- <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/central-america/>
- [https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/displacement-in-central-america.html#:~:text=Worlwide%2C%20there%20are%20now%20around,%2Dbased%20violence%20\(GBV\)](https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/displacement-in-central-america.html#:~:text=Worlwide%2C%20there%20are%20now%20around,%2Dbased%20violence%20(GBV)).
- <https://sites.google.com/site/gangviolence97352/gang-statistics>
- <https://www.unicef.org/lac/media/38241/file/A-statistical-profile-of-violence-against-children-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean.pdf>
- <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies>
- <https://www.unicef.org/lac/informes/perfil-estadistico-de-la-violencia-contral-a-infancia-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>
- <https://www.amnestyusa.org/most-dangerous-journey-what-central-american-migrants-face-when-they-try-to-cross-the-border/>
- <https://www.unicef.org/partnerships/funding#:~:text=UNICEF%20income1%20by%20type,well%20as%20Global%20Programme%20Partnerships>

Child Soldiers in Sub-Saharan Africa

The United Nations defines child soldiers as a child who is associated with an armed force or armed group. These child soldiers act as cleaners, porters, cooks, lookouts, “wives”, and fighters. It is reported that 28% of child soldiers recently released are under the age of 15.

While South Sudan has one of the largest child soldier populations in the world and the UN estimates the current South Sudanese child soldier population to be 19,000, there is no knowledge of what the true number of South Sudanese child soldiers is due to poor birth registration rates and push back from South Sudanese officials regarding reporting child soldier rates.

Some of the pushback from South Sudanese officials stems from the numerous public promises South Sudan has made eradicating child soldiers from both their own military ranks, but the various armed groups who reside in the country. South Sudan has signed several agreements such as the UNICEF United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and South Sudan Child Act. Despite reluctance from South Sudan on providing transparency regarding child soldiers UNICEF continues to monitor child soldier rates through their programs in South Sudan.

Furthermore, only male child soldiers will ever perform any form of fighting or manual labor as the 12% of child soldiers who are female are taken as “wives” of the soldiers and are treated as sexual slaves for both the man who takes them as their “wife” but also to the other soldiers in the camp.

It’s common for female child soldiers to return pregnant or with newborn children when they return home. UNICEF, other humanitarian organizations, and news organizations have worked with numerous stories from released female child soldiers to document their stories of when they were claimed as a “wife” by one of the soldiers, whom they lived with. These men rape their “wives” on a daily basis and would allow their friends to rape their “wives” when they are not in the home. Female child soldiers are kept for extremely short periods of time, with some girls being released after a week. However, despite the short duration, many female child soldiers have been raped by so many different men they do not know who the father of the children they conceive **DURING THEIR TIME AS CHILD SOLDIERS**. Finally, female child soldiers are most often captured during attacks on their home villages.

UNICEF currently has a program to help released child soldiers, which is a 3 year long program and costs 2,000USD per child. Each child is provided with a social worker who is meant to be their main sort of comfort while staying at the center and is provided social-emotional support, healthcare, and basic necessities needed to live by oneself. Also, depending on the age of the child the released child soldiers will either receive traditional schooling or vocational training. During the end of the child’s stay, they are provided resources to return to living in their village and if possible return to their families.

However, released child soldiers face heavy stigma and psychological effects of fighting in a war and repeated sexual assault, as well as the violence experienced before becoming a child soldier, as most child soldiers are captured during attacks on their home villages. They also face the dangers of being connected to the South Sudanese military or armed group as loyalties can quickly shift due to the every changing violence in the region.

Despite the numerous struggles that released child soldiers experience, the UNICEF program is extremely successful at keeping children from being re-enrolled into armed groups through UNICEF’s commitment to keeping the identity of children who go through their rehabilitation programs hidden from the public.

However, despite the success of UNICEF’s rehabilitation programs, the extremely expensive nature of the program has caused it to constantly fear being shut down. In early 2019, it was estimated that the program needed 4.2 million USD to continue to work at its current capacity and that if significant funds could not be allocated to the program it would end in March of 2020. While UNICEF’S rehabilitation program still continues to operate, but funding—both to be able to reach more children and simply continue to exist—continues to be an ongoing problem for UNICEF.

Questions to Consider:

- In what ways can UNICEF address the rehabilitation program's funding issue?
- In what ways can UNICEF work with South Sudan to combat attacks from armed groups on villages?
- Is there ways the social-emotional help released child soldiers are given could be improved to further treat the mental health effects, effect on the families, and disparities between experiences of child soldiers based on gender?
- How can UNICEF work to increase the accuracy of estimated numbers of child soldiers and those who are released?

Resources:

- <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stolen-childhoods>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2018/10/30/child-soldiers-of-south-sudan>
- <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>
- <https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-recruited-by-armed-forces>

FURTHER RESEARCH:**Topic 1: Central American Gang Violence**

- <https://thewire.in/world/what-lies-behind-central-americas-gang-violence>
- <https://blog.uvm.edu/sosten-centralamerica/2019/04/02/gangs-in-central-america/>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115562>

Topic 2: Child Soldiers in Sub-Saharan Africa

- <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/child-soldiers-around-world>
- <https://libguides.cbu.ca/c.php?g=689230&p=4873003#:~:text=Child%20Soldiers%20in%20Sudan%20and%20South%20Sudan&text=During%20the%20second%20civil%20war,had%20enlisted%20children%20to%20fight.>
- <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/where-we-work/south-sudan/>

OTHER RESOURCES USED:

- <https://www.unicef.org/what-we-do>
- <https://www.unicef.org/stories/learning-experience-19461979>
- <https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef/frequently-asked-questions#3>
- <https://www.unicef.org/history>



SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.4 HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

Chairetismós, delegates!

My name is Sarah El-Hefnawy, and I'm excited to be your chair for the Hellenic Parliament this year! I am a junior at Pitt, and I'm double majoring in Psychology and Museum Studies, with a minor in Studio Arts! (and also maybe a Mediterranean Art and Archaeology minor if I feel silly!) I have been doing Model UN since my freshman year of high school, and I am excited to be involved with PittMUN for the third year in a row!

Aside from being on Pitt's Model UN team, I crochet (poorly), oil paint and make ceramics, research modern and contemporary art, learn Esperanto, DJ at Pitt's WPTS radio station, and collect records - I am now up to 110 full-sized LPs! I am a Magee Women's baby and full-time Yinzer, and intern at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Of course, Parliament is our first priority, but if you ever want to chat about college or the opportunities at Pitt, life, or music (I am an old man at heart), I'd be more than happy to!

Greek politics have always been fascinating to me - from ancient times, to Greece's many conquerors, and into more modern issues like those we will discuss today, there is no shortage of rich culture, unique conundrums, and lively debate that can spark from Greek politics! I encourage you to not only look into resolutions that the Greek government passed after our timeline, but to think outside the box! I look forward to seeing what ideas, speeches, and positions you bring to the Hellenic Parliament! If you have any questions about committee, please don't hesitate to reach out to me on my personal email, elhefnawysarah@gmail.com. Kalí týchi!

Sarah El-Hefnawy, Chair

Note to Delegates:

This committee will be in a general assembly format, with delegates collaborating on working papers throughout the duration of committee. You will all be **representing people**, not countries, so you are welcome to use first-person and personal pronouns in debate. Whether those pronouns are your own or reflective of your character is entirely up to you. You may refer to me either as a **chair** or a **speaker**, since the Hellenic Parliament has an elected speaker who presides over debate (which is me lowkey). Most importantly, **this is a historical committee**. The debate will take place in **December 2009**, the peak of the Greek financial crisis. Please do not reference resolutions passed after this date in speeches or in papers as "past resolutions," but you are more than welcome to use these solutions as inspiration for papers in committee! The structure of committee will be almost identical to a typical general assembly room, just with the use of personal pronouns and full names rather than countries. With these brief amendments in mind, let's get started with some background information!

2008 Economic Crash

The 2008 recession had implications felt throughout the world, and Greece is no exception. The U.S. mortgage market collapse and the housing bubble burst are considered the onset of these financial hardships. Since the United States is a major trade partner for Greece, Europe, and the world as a whole, this spurred a global banking crisis and credit crunch, with the repercussions lasting through 2009.

Before the 2008 recession, Greece was already in financial trouble. After hosting the 2004 Olympics, the country brought in an extra 9 billion euros (\$11.6 billion) in debt, bringing both the deficit (6.1%) and debt-to-GDP ratio (110.6%) upwards. In 2005, the European Commission placed Greece under fiscal monitoring, but Greece's debt continued to grow as the country took out more loans. In October 2009, it had been revealed that Greece has been understating its deficit figures for years in order to maintain its status in the European Union. The Maastricht Treaty, the founding treaty of the EU, directly stated that members' debts cannot exceed 60% of their GDP. At a staggering 12 percent deficit, Greece had far surpassed this number. George Papandreou, newly-elected prime minister, was the one who made this revelation after his victory in the national elections in order to improve transparency efforts, but this ultimately caused Greece to suffer in the long run.

The International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank were able to bail out the Greek government. But these bailouts came with strict conditions, such as deep budget cuts, overhauling the government, and tax increases, causing economic shock. December 2009, the point at which committee is set, sees the largest deficit yet - 15.4 percent. How can this be prevented in the future, and is there a more sustainable way to bring the economy back up?

Questions to Consider:

- What steps need to be taken within Greece to reduce the budget deficits and national debt?
- What role should the international community and European Union play, if any, in aiding Greece in this crisis?
- Should taxes be increased in order to garner revenue to pay off the national debt? If so, who will see this uptick in taxes?
- How should the government dissuade public fears about the economic state of the government?
- What methods can be used, in this time of crisis, to stimulate economic and job growth?
- What measures should be taken to ensure transparency in reporting economic figures in the future?

References:

- Explaining Greece's Debt Crisis.* The New York Times, 17 June 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/business/international/greece-debt-crisis-euro.html>.
- Greece's Debt Crisis.* Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/greeces-debt-crisis-timeline>.
- Greek Bailout Crisis in 300 Words.* BBC News, 20 Aug. 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45245969>.
- Singh, Aayush. "A Tale of Two Countries: A History of the Greek Debt Crisis." *Berkeley Economic Review*, UC Berkeley, 10 Oct. 2022, <https://econreview.berkeley.edu/a-tale-of-two-countries-a-history-of-the-greek-debt-crisis>

Greek-Macedonian Naming Dispute

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet... Or so you would think. The naming dispute between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia has been ongoing since 1991. After Yugoslavia dissolved that same year, the former republic called Macedonia in Yugoslavia became the Republic of Macedonia. This has been recognized by over 140 nations, including major international powers such as the United States. The international community seemed to pay no mind to the newly established Republic of Macedonia - except for Greece.

The Greek province, of the same name, is a highly revered cultural historical site for the Greek people. Hailing from ancient Macedonia, the Greek territory and the Republic both honor the legacy of Alexander the Great. Even the Republic of Macedonia's flag features the Sun of Vergina - "a symbol associated with the dynasty of Alexander and his father Phillip." Alexander has long been considered a Greek icon and a central part of ancient Greek history, so many Greek nationalists took offense to the name, with LAOS, a right-wing nationalist political party, making the Macedonia naming dispute an official part of its platform: Macedonia must be nowhere in the Republic's name.

So far, various other names have been used for the Republic. Greece has called it Skopje, after the country's capital, or FYROM, standing for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This conflict has led to the Republic of Macedonia being unable to join NATO or the European Union because of Greece's grudge against its name. Negotiations have taken place with respect to the name, though none have been particularly successful. Prime Minister Nicola Gruevski has arguably worsened relations by naming the Macedonian airport after Alexander the Great and erecting statues of him in the country's capital. National pride is certainly a key aspect of Greek politics, but how far should protecting a historical figure go?

Questions to Consider:

- Is the use of the word "Macedonia" in the Republic's name acceptable, and what distinction - if any - should be made between the Greek Macedonia and the former Yugoslav Macedonia?
- How does the government ensure that future negotiations for the name are successful?
- Can Greece realistically have exclusive ownership over Alexander the Great's likeness, name, and related content? To what extent should that be a focus of national policy?
- What other names should be proposed? Would the Republic of Macedonia be amendable to the names Greece has used for it thus far?:
- To what extent should supranational organizations, like the United Nations and NATO, get involved in this conflict?

References:

- Gjukovikj, Danilo. *Analysis: After 27 Years, Greece and Macedonia Have Resolved Their Contentious 'Naming Dispute.' Here's How*. The Washington Post, 7 Dec. 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/08/02/after-27-years-greece-and-macedonia-have-resolved-the-contentious-naming-dispute-heres-how/>.
- Kakissis, Joanna. *For Two Countries, the Dispute over Macedonia's Name Is Rooted in National Identity*. NPR, 4 Feb. 2018, <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/02/04/582506402/for-two-countries-the-dispute-over-macedonias-name-is-rooted-in-national-identity>.
- The Issue of the Name of North Macedonia*. Hellenic Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.mfa.gr/en/the-question-of-the-name-of-the-republic-of-north/>.

Major Parties

Elections took place on October 4, 2009, and the new Parliament was sworn in on October 6. Voting was mandated, yet there were no penalties for not voting. 160 of the 300 seats of the cabinet are held by PASOK, and party member George Papandreou was elected Prime Minister. Here is a list of the seat-holding political parties in 2009 and their beliefs:

- **PASOK** - *The Panhellenic Socialist Movement*
 - With 160 seats in the 300-person parliament, PASOK is the most represented group in the Hellenic Parliament in 2009. It is the largest left-wing party, especially popular with the Greek middle and lower classes. It is a pro-European social democratic party, taking more of a central-left position as compared to the other left-wing parties represented in Parliament during this time.
- **ND** - *New Democracy*
 - The second-most popular political party in 2009, ND has 91 seats in Parliament. It is a center-right, pro-European, liberal party. As compared with PASOK, ND supports a free market economy with little government intervention. It generally supports civil liberties, free enterprise, and conservative values. ND garners a following from centrists, conservatives, nationalists, and post-modernists alike.
- **KKE** - *Communist Party of Greece*
 - KKE is the oldest political party in modern Greek politics, and it holds 21 seats in 2009. It is a Marxist-Leninist, anti-revisionist, hard Euroskeptic party. KKE is the furthest left political party in the Hellenic Parliament, and Aleka Papariga is the long-time General Secretary of the party. KKE was a key figure in strikes, anti-war demonstrations, and the founding of trade and labor unions.
- **LAOS** - *Popular Orthodox Rally*
 - LAOS is a far-right, populist, Greek nationalist party that holds 15 seats in the Greek Parliament in 2009. It was founded in 2000 by journalist Georgios Karatzaferis after he was ousted from ND. LAOS was founded with Orthodox Christian ideals, and its main stances include banning immigration from outside the EU, not recognizing the Republic of Macedonia “under any name that includes the term ‘Macedonia,’” and large tax cuts for individuals and small businesses.
- **Syriza** - *The Coalition of the Radical Left-Progressive Alliance*
 - Syriza is a progressive, democratic socialist, left-wing populist coalition group. It is comprised of multiple smaller left-wing groups until it became its own independent party in 2014. For the purposes of committee, Syriza is a left-wing coalition and the advocacy group for those smaller political parties and independents - as it was in 2009. It advocates for LGBT rights, secularism, anti-establishment values, and workers’ rights. With its formation in 2004, Syriza is the newest of these chair-holding parties, and the second furthest left, aside from KKE. It holds 13 Parliament seats in 2009.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE MANUAL
Representative List

These are all your representatives from the Hellenic Parliament in 2009, and the representation of each party in committee is (almost!) equal to the party's actual representation in 2009. Please note that the most important thing to consider is your character's party affiliation. Do not worry about trying to research the character themselves, but focus instead on their party.

- *PASOK Members*

- Nasos Alevras, PASOK
- Tonia Antoniou, PASOK
- Chrysa Arapoglou, PASOK
- Christios Aidonis, PASOK
- Alexandros Athnasiadis, PASOK
- Christos Chaidos, PASOK
- Michalis Chrysohoidis, PASOK
- Tilemachos Chytiris, PASOK
- Maria Damanaki, PASOK
- Anna Diamantopoulou, PASOK
- Thalia Dragona, PASOK
- Dimitris Kouselas, PASOK
- Efstathios Koutmeridis, PASOK
- Giannis Koutsoukos, PASOK
- Giorgios Liianis, PASOK
- Andreas Makripidis, PASOK
- George Papandreou, PASOK
- Giorgos Petalotis, PASOK
- Filippas Petsalnikos, PASOK
- Dimitris Reppas, PASOK
- Vassilios Togias, PASOK
- Dimitrios Tsironis, PASOK
- Elpida Tsouri, PASOK
- Theodora Tzakri, PASOK
- Giannis Valinakis, PASOK

- *ND Members*

- Patagonis Adraktas, ND
- Georgios Algoskoufis, ND
- Dora Bakoyianni, ND
- Evangelos Basiakos, ND
- Anna Benaki-Psarouda, ND
- Michalis Chalkidis, ND
- Stavros Dailakis, ND
- Panos Kammenos, ND
- Kostas Karamanlis, ND
- Dimitris Kranias, ND
- Evripidis Stylianidis, ND
- Savvas Tsitouridis, ND
- Apostolos Tzitzikostas, ND
- Lefteris Zagoritis, ND
- Christos Zois, ND

- *KKE Members*

- Liana Kanelli, KKE
- Aleka Papariga, KKE
- Kostas Tazakos, KKE
- Dimitris Tsiogas, KKE
- *LAOS Members*
 - Georgios Georgiou, LAOS
 - Kyriakos Velopoulos, LAOS
 - Makis Voridis, LAOS
- *Syriza Members*
 - Sophia Andriopoulou, Syriza
 - Tassos Kourakis, Syriza
 - Fotis Kouvelis, Syriza

References:

- “13th Parliamentary Term Statistics.” Hellenic Parliament,
<https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Vouleftes/Statistika-Stoicheia/Statistika-Stoicheia-IG-Periodou>.
- “Elections: Greece Parl Oct 2009.” IFES Election Guide,
<https://www.electionguide.org/elections/id/1542/>.

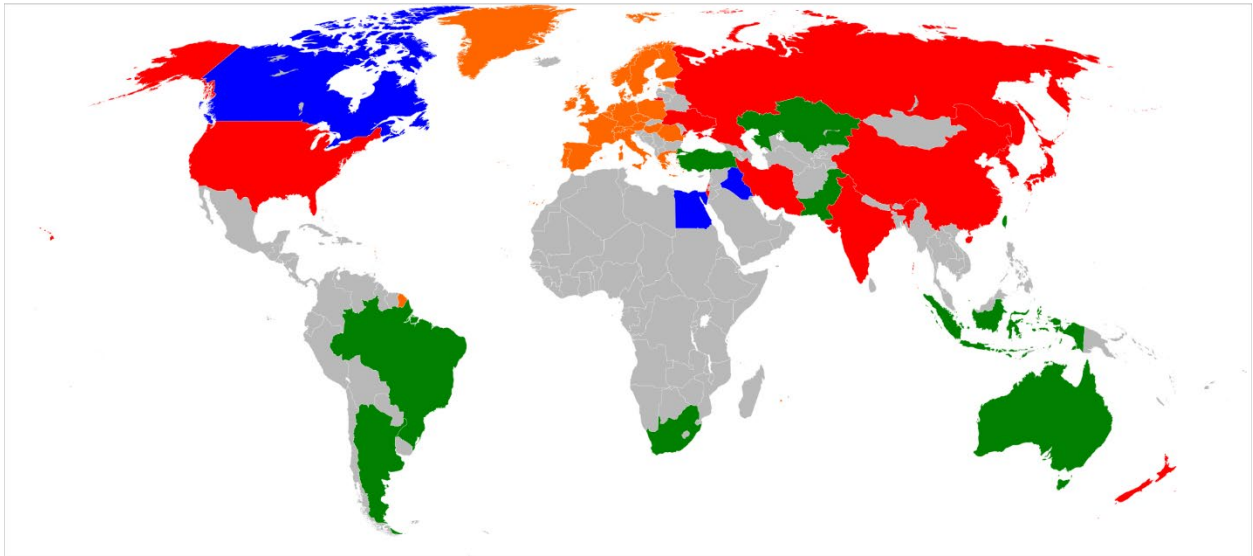


SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.5 INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON SPACE EXPLORATION

OVERVIEW

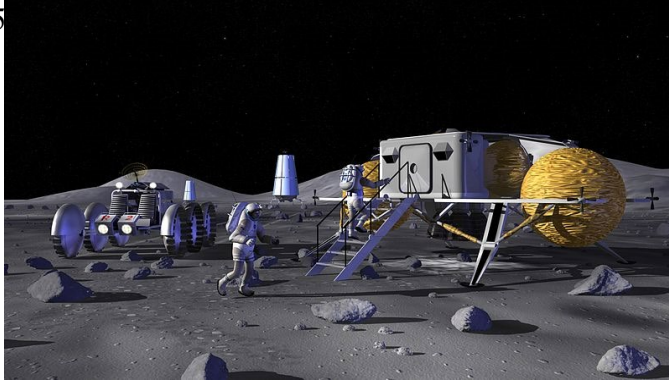


- Confirmed space launch capability
- Confirmed space launch capability (as part of an intergovernmental organization)
- Orbital launch project planned and/or in development
- Abandoned orbital launch project

The year is 2030, and the landscape of space exploration has entered an unprecedented era. The United States has recently announced the development of a permanent manned colony on the Earth's moon for "research purposes," sparking concerns and prompting other space-capable countries to contemplate their role in the future of space exploration. This development has led to the formation of a one-time international summit, the International Assembly on Space Exploration (IASE), which will convene representatives from space-capable nations to discuss and establish guidelines for space exploration in the coming years.

The IASE shall seek to establish a framework for the responsible and equitable development of space exploration. The Assembly should address issues such as land ownership, resource allocation, environmental impact, and potential conflicts that may arise as nations stake their claims on celestial bodies. This committee will also explore cooperative initiatives, such as joint research projects and shared infrastructure, to promote the peaceful and sustainable development of space.

BACKGROUND



Concept art from NASA showing astronauts entering a lunar outpost

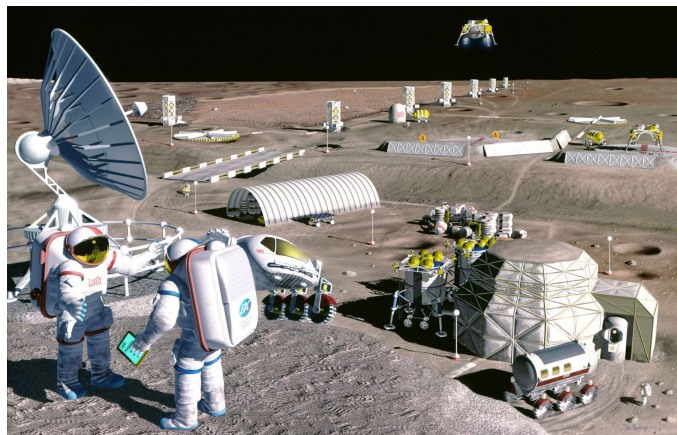
Whether the reasons are scientific, economic, survival, or imperialistic, there is a growing desire for humans to settle beyond Earth. Space exploration was dominated by the United States of America and Soviet Union during the Cold War, but there are now a multitude of countries and individuals willing and able to take part in the high-stakes game of exploring and developing new infrastructure in space. Additionally, numerous private companies — like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin

Galactic — have made significant investments in developing reusable rockets and other space technologies.³ Now that the world has seen unprecedented interest and development in the new frontier, it is vital that world leaders convene to discuss a path forward regarding space exploration and space exploration.

On two separate occasions, the late theoretical physicist and cosmologist, Stephen Hawking, argued for space exploration as a means of saving humanity.⁴ In 2001, Hawking predicted that the human race would become extinct within the next thousand years unless colonies could be established in space. In 2006, he argued that humanity faces two options: either establish manned stations in space within the next two hundred years and build residential units on other planets or face the prospect of long-term extinction.

With high stakes for mankind, the United States has opted to begin the development of a permanent manned colony on the surface of Earth's moon. While the US Government has reiterated the colony's "research purposes," this decision has nonetheless alarmed the international community which sees this as a direct violation of five major treaties on outer space: the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, the Rescue Agreement of 1967, the Liability Convention of 1972, the Registration Convention of 1976, and the Moon Treaty of 1979.⁵

Moving forward, the IASE will be expected to respond to the United States' actions on the moon and clarify the rules for countries to claim territory among celestial bodies. Whether or not territorial claims in space are to be permitted or outright banned is in the hands of the Assembly, and it is crucial for delegates to consider their own country's interests on these matters. Should the Assembly permit such behavior, it is essential to set parameters on what constitutes a lawful territorial claim in space. When and how countries designate lands on celestial bodies is of the utmost importance to this committee, and setting up measures to resolve disputes is also especially pertinent. Two countries



NASA's artistic rendition of an envisioned lunar mining facility

³ [The Private Companies Pioneering the \(New\) Space Race | Afar](#)

⁴ [Stephen Hawking's warning: it's time to get the hell off planet Earth | Vox](#)

⁵ [Space Law Treaties and Principles | UNOOSA](#)

laying claim to the same territory in space, for example, could have devastating consequences for the future of space exploration if guidelines are not developed to mitigate the risk of conflict.

While the United States' new space colony has proven to be a significant point of contention, it has only served to prompt an important discussion on the viability of space exploration at large. The right to claim land on celestial bodies is contested due to vague and outdated treaties, but certain rules may be enacted to consider territorial claims on their merits, controversiality, and more.

Challenges such as resource allocation and environmental impacts are also vital for the IASE to consider. Space exploration alone is a very costly enterprise; according to Mike Chen, co-founder and chief strategy officer of Made In Space, anything sent to space costs about \$10,000 per pound (or €19,500 per kilogram) because it has to be able to withstand G-forces leaving Earth and (of course) still function once it reaches outer space.⁶ Part of this prohibitive cost can be ameliorated by building in space. One such venture aims to utilize 3D printing aboard the International Space Station.⁷ However, while the costs of production and shipment in space are both quite financially constraining, the natural resources required in either process are also undeniably exorbitant.⁸ Therefore, the Assembly should consider regulations on shipping goods and resources to and from space if exploration were to become more common.

Lastly, matters of cooperative efforts could (and should) be examined by the International Assembly on Space Exploration. For instance, one shared interest of all member states may include plans to rehabilitate or replace the International Space Station (ISS) which is set for decommission by NASA in January 2031.⁹ At the same time, some states may prefer to start independent ventures following the ISS's de-orbit, rather than beginning a new shared venture with the international community. Thus, the IASE may determine the best course of action for the ISS after recent developments in space.

UN PRECEDENCE AND INVOLVEMENT

There is very little framework from the United Nations regarding the exploration of space. The aforementioned Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is one of only five treaties and agreements regarding space law. Many of the key principles are as follows:

- The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- Outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- States shall not place nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies nor station them in outer space in any other manner;
- The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- Astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities;
- States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and
- States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.

⁶ [Mike Chen Helps Launch First 3D Printer into Space | The Key Reporter](#)

⁷ [Mike Chen Helps Launch First 3D Printer into Space | The Key Reporter](#)

⁸ [Humans have big plans for mining in space – but there are many things holding us back | UNSW Newsroom](#)

⁹ [ISS End-of-Life Disposal Plan | NASA](#)

None of these key principles or treaties are forced to remain unchanged. Rather, the Assembly is responsible for finding which key principles must stay and which must go in the best interest of mankind, especially considering recent developments in space.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Should the International Assembly on Space Exploration accept the claim of the United States to establish a permanent manned colony on the Earth's moon? What does this mean for the process of dividing up territory in outer space?
2. How can the IASE establish a fair and equitable framework for land ownership and resource allocation on celestial bodies, while taking into account the interests of various nations and private entities?
3. With the extreme costs of production/transportation in space, what measures can be put in place to minimize the environmental impact of space exploration on celestial bodies and to ensure the sustainability of space exploration and settlement?
4. How can the IASE create a conflict resolution mechanism to address territorial disputes and potential conflicts arising from nations claiming the same territory in space?
5. In what ways can the IASE encourage and facilitate international cooperation in space exploration efforts, such as joint research projects, shared infrastructure, and the future of the International Space Station?
6. How can the IASE balance the need for regulation and oversight in space exploration with fostering innovation and competition among nations and private entities in the race to explore and settle beyond Earth?

CHARACTERS

UNITED STATES: SEN. MARK KELLY

Senator Mark Kelly, a former astronaut and current member of the United States Senate, will represent the United States at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in the space industry, Senator Kelly has been a key figure in the development of NASA's space program, flying on four Space Shuttle missions and demonstrating his expertise in space exploration.¹⁰

Moreover, Senator Kelly is known for his non-partisan approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize innovation and research regardless of political affiliation.

Senator Kelly has engaged with the international space community, working to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration. He has also represented the United States in various international organizations and forums.¹¹ His support for space exploration is evident through his efforts to establish partnerships with other countries in the space industry and develop policies to support the growth of the space industry in the United States. Overall, Senator Mark Kelly will be expected to utilize his extensive experience in the space industry, non-partisan approach, international engagement, and support for space exploration to represent the United States at this summit on space exploration.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: DMITRY ROGOZIN

Dmitry Rogozin, the former Director General of the Russian State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS), has been chosen to represent Russia at this summit on space exploration. With

¹⁰ [Mark Edward Kelly | NASA](#)

¹¹ [At Munich Security Conference, Senator Kelly Meets with U.S., Foreign Leaders one year after Russian Invasion | US Senate](#)

extensive experience in the space industry, Rogozin has been a key figure in many of Russia's space missions. As the Director General of ROSCOSMOS, he was responsible for overseeing Russia's space activities, including research, development, and operations.

Rogozin has engaged with the international space community, working to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration and other fields.¹² He has also represented Russia in various international organizations and forums, such as dialogues between Biden and Putin.¹³ His support for space exploration is evident through his efforts to establish partnerships with other countries in the space industry and develop policies to support the growth of the space industry in Russia. Overall, Dmitry Rogozin's extensive experience in the space industry, understanding of international politics, and support for space exploration should be pertinent as he represents Russia at this summit on space exploration.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: ZHANG KEJIAN

Zhang Kejian, the Administrator of the China National Space Administration (CNSA), will be a knowledgeable figure with the tools to represent China at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in China's space program, Zhang Kejian has been a key figure in many of the country's space missions. As the Administrator of the CNSA, he is responsible for overseeing China's space activities, including research, development, and operations. Zhang Kejian's relevance in space exploration is evidenced by his selection as one of Time Magazine's *100 Most Influential People of 2019*.¹⁴

Zhang Kejian has previously engaged with the international space community, working to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration.¹⁵ He has also served China in multiple roles within the Chinese Communist Party.¹⁶ Zhang Kejian's support for space exploration is evident through his efforts to establish partnerships with other countries in the space industry and develop policies to support the growth of the space industry in China.¹⁷ Overall, his extensive experience in China's space program, non-partisan approach, international engagement, and support for space exploration should make him a knowledgeable figure to represent China at a summit on space exploration.

INDIA: DR. JITENDRA SINGH

Dr. Jitendra Singh, the current Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in the Indian government, will be representing India at this summit on space exploration. With a background in science and a career focused on promoting science and technology in India, Dr. Singh has extensive expertise in the fields of aeronautics, atomic energy, and space research. He has been a key figure in developing policies to support innovation and research in India as the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, even helping to orchestrate his country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸ Moreover, Dr. Singh is known for his non-partisan approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize science and research regardless of political affiliation.

Dr. Singh has emphasized the importance of space research in India and has worked to promote India's space program, including the development of the Indian Space Research Organization

¹² [Russian Deputy PM Dmitry Rogozin to visit India ahead of Narendra Modi-Vladimir Putin Summit | The Economic Times](#)

¹³ [Roscosmos CEO hopes NASA prepares stance on dialogue with Russia for Putin-Biden summit | TASS](#)

¹⁴ [Zhang Kejian Is on the 2019 TIME 100 List | TIME](#)

¹⁵ [BRICS Countries Launch Joint Committee To Further Space Cooperation | Outlook India](#)

¹⁶ [Zhang Kejian appointed Administrator of China's space agency | SpaceTech Asia](#)

¹⁷ [China has big plans for its new Tiandu space exploration laboratory | Space](#)

¹⁸ [Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India's Covid success story hailed the world over as a role model in Crisis Management | Indian Government](#)

(ISRO).¹⁹ Unlike many of his peers, Dr. Singh does not have extensive experience in working with the international community, but that shouldn't stop him from building partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in research and development. As a representative of India at this summit, Dr. Singh is expected to bring his extensive expertise in science and technology, pragmatic approach, and emphasis on space research.

JAPAN: HIROSHI YAMAKAWA

Hiroshi Yamakawa, the President of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), has been selected to represent Japan at this global summit on space exploration. With extensive expertise in space exploration, Yamakawa has been involved in various space-related projects throughout his career. As the President of JAXA, he is responsible for the agency's research and development activities in space exploration. Moreover, Yamakawa is known for his non-partisan approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize innovation and research regardless of political affiliation.

Yamakawa has previously engaged with the international space community, working to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration.²⁰ He has also represented Japan in dialogues with various international organizations and forums.²¹ His support for space exploration is evident through his efforts to establish partnerships with other countries in the space industry and to develop policies to support the growth of the space industry in Japan. Overall, Hiroshi Yamakawa's expertise in space exploration, non-partisan approach, international engagement, and support for space exploration will be vital in representing Japan's interests at this global summit on space exploration.

AUSTRALIA: KAREN ANDREWS

Karen Andrews, the former Minister for Industry, Science and Technology in the Australian Government, will represent Australia at this global summit on space exploration. With a background in engineering and a career in the manufacturing industry, Andrews has extensive expertise in science and technology. As the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, she has been a key figure in developing policies to support innovation and research in Australia. Moreover, Andrews used her role as Minister to promote the creation of a Cooperative Research Centre on clean energy and additional funding for the Australian Space Agency.

Andrews has engaged with the international science and technology community, engaging with other countries to promote cooperation in research and development.²² She has also participated in dialogues with other countries, such as Japan, United Kingdom, and Canada.²³ Her support for space exploration is evident through her efforts to establish a national space agency and develop policies to support the growth of the space industry in Australia.²⁴ Overall, Karen Andrews' expertise in science and technology, apolitical approach to negotiations, commitment to international engagement, and support for space exploration is expected to play a tremendous role in her representation of Australia at this global summit on space exploration.

BRAZIL: MARCOS PONTES

Marcos Pontes, a former Brazilian Air Force officer, engineer, and astronaut, has been selected to represent Brazil at this global summit on space exploration. As the first Brazilian in space and a

¹⁹ [Cabinet approves Indian Space Policy 2023 to boost ISRO missions: Dr Jitendra Singh | Times of India](#)

²⁰ [International Cooperation | JAXA](#)

²¹ [Australian Space Agency and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency \(JAXA\) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Space | Australian Embassy in Japan](#)

²² [Australian Space Agency and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency \(JAXA\) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Space | Australian Embassy in Japan](#)

²³ [Australia signs space agreements with the UK and Canada | ZDNET](#)

²⁴ [Australia's new national space agency to be based in Adelaide | The Guardian](#)

key figure in the development of Brazilian space technology, Pontes has extensive experience and expertise in space exploration.²⁵ He is known for his no-nonsense approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize innovation and research above all else. In addition, Pontes has engaged with the international space community, representing Brazil at other major forums.²⁶ He has also emphasized the importance of education, inspiring young people to pursue careers in science and technology, including space exploration.

Trained in the United States, Pontes has been responsible for promoting strong cooperation between Brazil's space agency and NASA.²⁷ He has emphasized the importance of science and technology education in Brazil, inspiring young people to pursue careers in these fields. Furthermore, Pontes has worked to build partnerships with other countries in the international space community, promoting cooperation in space exploration. As the first Brazilian in space and a leading figure in the development of Brazilian space technology, Pontes has extensive expertise in space exploration. Overall, his experience, balanced viewpoint, international experience, and emphasis on education should be utilized as he represents Brazil at this global summit on space exploration.

IRAN: MOSHEN BAHARVAND

Mohsen Baharvand, the current Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs in the Iranian government, will serve as a knowledgeable figure to represent Iran at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in international relations and diplomacy, Baharvand has been a key figure in promoting cooperation and collaboration between Iran and other countries on various issues, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).²⁸ Additionally, he has been involved in various international organizations and forums, advocating for policies that prioritize cooperation and collaboration regardless of political affiliation.²⁹

Iran has been actively developing its space program in recent years and has demonstrated significant capabilities in space exploration and research. Baharvand has emphasized the importance of space research in Iran and has worked to promote Iran's space program. Baharvand has engaged with the international community on various issues; however, this discussion of space exploration may be his very first. Baharvand's expertise in international relations and diplomacy should nonetheless be valuable in promoting cooperation and collaboration between Iran and other countries in the field of space exploration. Furthermore, his diplomatic approach could help to build bridges between Iran and other countries and promote a more cooperative and collaborative approach to space exploration. Overall, Baharvand's expertise in international relations and diplomacy will make him a suitable choice to represent Iran at this international summit on space exploration.

ISRAEL: OPHIR AKUNIS

Ophir Akunis, the Minister of Science and Technology in the Israeli government, will represent Israel at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in science and technology, Akunis has been a key figure in the development of Israel's bold and innovative programs. As the Minister of Science and Technology, he is responsible for promoting the growth of the science and technology industry in Israel.

Akunis has emphasized the importance of space research in Israel and has worked to promote Israel's space program. He has advocated for policies that prioritize innovation and research, and has worked to establish partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space

²⁵ [Marcos Pontes | AS/COA](#)

²⁶ [Astronaut chosen as Goodwill Ambassador for UN industrial development body | UN News](#)

²⁷ [NASA Administrator Signs Statement of Intent with Brazil on Artemis Cooperation | NASA](#)

²⁸ [Ex-Iran Envoy To London Warns End Of JCPOA Jeopardizes Peace | Iran Front Page](#)

²⁹ [Deputy foreign minister says Iran's top priority is good neighborly ties | Tehran Times](#)

exploration.³⁰ Akunis has engaged with the international community on various issues, including space exploration, and has represented Israel in various international organizations and forums. Overall, Akunis's experience in science and technology and emphasis on space research should be apparent in his representation of Israel at this summit on space exploration.

SOUTH KOREA: CHUNG SYE-KYUN

Chung Sye-kyun, the Speaker of the National Assembly in South Korea, will serve as a representative on behalf of South Korea at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in technology and innovation, Chung has been a key figure in the development of South Korea's cutting-edge development. Having served as the Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Energy in the past, he has demonstrated his expertise in these areas. Moreover, Chung Sye-kyun's switch between political parties in the past may demonstrate his dedication to innovative policies over political affiliations.

Chung has emphasized the importance of space research in South Korea and has worked to promote South Korea's space program. He has advocated for policies that prioritize innovation and research, and has worked to establish partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration. Chung has engaged with the international community on various issues, including space exploration, and has represented South Korea in various international organizations and forums.³¹ Ultimately, Chung's interest and experience in technology and innovation, emphasis on space research, and openness to international cooperation will be useful in representing South Korea at this summit on space exploration.

EUROPEAN UNION: MARIYA GABRIEL

Mariya Gabriel, the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, will be attending this summit on behalf of the European Union. With extensive experience in innovation and research, Gabriel has been a key figure in promoting innovation and research across the EU. As the former Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science, she has demonstrated her expertise in these areas. Additionally, Gabriel is known for her balanced approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize cooperation and collaboration regardless of political affiliation.

Gabriel has emphasized the importance of space research in the EU and has advocated for policies that prioritize innovation and research in this area. The EU has been actively involved in space research and has developed its own space program. Moreover, Gabriel has encouraged engagement with the international community on innovation and collaboration.³² She has represented the EU in various international organizations and forums and has worked to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration. Overall, Gabriel's extensive experience in innovation and research, neutral approach, emphasis on space research, and diplomatic background should serve the European Union well at this summit on space exploration.

SINGAPORE: CHAN CHUN SING

Chan Chun Sing, the Minister for Education in Singapore, shall officially represent Singapore at the upcoming summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in education and innovation, Chan has been a key figure in promoting innovation and research in Singapore. As the former Minister for Trade and Industry and the Minister for Social and Family Development, he has demonstrated his expertise in these areas. Additionally, Chan is known for his careful approach to diplomacy, advocating for policies that prioritize collaboration and cooperation between different countries.

Chan has emphasized the importance of technology research in Singapore and has worked to

³⁰ [NASA will consider sending another Israeli astronaut into space | The Times of Israel](#)

³¹ [South Korea's Response to COVID-19: Lessons for the International Community | Perryworldhouse](#)

³² [Viewpoint: We must foster innovation cohesion across Europe | Science|Business](#)

promote Singapore's technology programs. Singapore has been actively developing its technology and innovation programs in recent years, and Chan has engaged with the international community on various issues, including space exploration. He has represented Singapore in various international organizations and forums and has worked to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration, and his extensive experience in education and innovation, diplomatic approach, emphasis on technology research, and international engagement give Chan Chun Sing all the necessary tools to represent Singapore at this summit.

CANADA: NAVDEEP BAINS

Navdeep Bains, the former Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development in Canada, will be representing Canada at this summit on space exploration. With extensive experience in innovation and research, Bains has been a key figure in promoting innovation and research in Canada. He has been a key figure in developing Canada's innovation agenda and has demonstrated his expertise in these areas. Additionally, Bains is known for his non-partisan approach to politics, advocating for policies that prioritize collaboration and cooperation regardless of political affiliation.

Bains has emphasized the importance of technology research in Canada and has worked to promote Canada's space programs.³³ Canada has been actively developing its technology and innovation programs in recent years, despite its diminished space capabilities. Moreover, Bains has engaged with the international community on various issues, including space exploration. He has represented Canada in various international organizations and forums and has worked to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in space exploration. Overall, Bains's focus on innovation and research, non-partisan approach, and emphasis on technology research will be of use in representing Canada at this summit on space exploration.

ARGENTINA: ROBERTO SALVAREZZA

Roberto Salvarezza, the current Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Argentina, will be attending this summit on space exploration on behalf of the Argentinian government. With extensive experience in science and technology, Salvarezza has been a key figure in promoting space-related advancement in Argentina. He has emphasized the importance of space research in Argentina and has advocated for policies that prioritize innovation and advancement in this area.³⁴ Additionally, Salvarezza, as a member of the Front for Victory party, is notable for his dealmaking, reasoned strategy, and alignment with Argentina's official policy goals.

Argentina has been actively involved in space research and has developed its own space program. Salvarezza has been instrumental in promoting science and technology development in Argentina and has represented Argentina in various international organizations and forums, such as the World Federation of Scientific Workers. He has engaged with the international community on various issues, including science and technology development, and has worked to build partnerships with other countries to promote cooperation in this area. Overall, his expertise in science and technology, non-partisan approach, emphasis on space research, and international engagement make Roberto Salvarezza an instrumental figure at this summit on space exploration.

NEW ZEALAND: MEGAN WOODS

Megan Woods, the current Minister of Energy and Resources, has been selected to represent New Zealand at this international summit on space exploration.³⁵ With extensive experience in promoting science and innovation development in New Zealand, Woods has been a key figure in emphasizing the importance of innovation and research in various areas, including space exploration.

³³ [Minister Bains to make a major announcement on the future of Canadian space exploration | Canada](#)

³⁴ [Despite ongoing pandemic, Argentine plans new spatial reactivation | Space Watch Africa](#)

³⁵ [Hon. Dr Megan Woods | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

New Zealand has been actively promoting sustainable development in various areas, including space exploration. Woods's emphasis on sustainability in New Zealand's innovation and research programs could be valuable in promoting sustainable approaches to space exploration.³⁶

Furthermore, her engagement with the international community on various issues, including science and innovation development, could help to build partnerships with other countries and promote a more cooperative and collaborative approach to space exploration. Overall, Woods's expertise in science and innovation, emphasis on sustainability, and willingness to cooperate internationally will make her a key player on behalf of New Zealand at this international summit on space exploration.

UNITED KINGDOM: DR. ALICE BUNN

Dr. Alice Bunn, the former International Director of the UK Space Agency, has been selected to represent the United Kingdom at this international conference on space exploration. Dr. Bunn has extensive experience in space policy and international collaboration, having previously served as the Director of Policy at the UK Space Agency and as a senior policy advisor to the UK government on space issues.³⁷ In her assigned role, she will be responsible for developing the Agency's international strategy and promoting collaboration with other space-faring nations. She will be expected to advocate for UK interests in space exploration, share the UK's expertise in science and technology, and collaborate with other nations on space projects.

As the representative of the UK Space Agency, Dr. Bunn will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to an international summit on space exploration. She should emphasize the importance of international collaboration in space exploration and development, and the need for sustainable and responsible practices in space exploration. She could also highlight the UK's strengths in space technology/innovation, and the potential for the country to contribute to international efforts to colonize space.³⁸ Overall, Bunn's experience and focus on science/technology only contribute to her knowledgeability and commitment to fair diplomacy.

INDONESIA: BAMBANG BRODJONEGORO

Bambang Brodjonegoro, the former Indonesian Minister of Finance, has been selected to represent the Republic of Indonesia at this international conference on space exploration.³⁹ Brodjonegoro has extensive experience in technology and innovation, having most recently served as the Indonesian Minister of Technology and Research.⁴⁰ In his assigned role, he was mainly responsible for designing the short-, medium-, and long-term masterplans of national development and coordinating with other ministries to implement the program.

As the representative of the Indonesian government, Brodjonegoro will strive to release Indonesia from the middle-income trap economy, and increase it to become a major economy country through innovation in space and technology. He should emphasize the importance of inclusion in access to space exploration, pointing back to previous moves to implement science and technology development masterplan as the basis for Indonesia's development.⁴¹ Overall, Brodjonegoro's experience and focus on the economic sector and its overlap with science/technology only contribute to his breadth of knowledge and commitment to inclusive space exploration practices.

TURKEY: SERDAR HÜSEYİN YILDIRIM

Serdar Hüseyin Yıldırım, the first administrator of the Turkish Space Agency, has been selected to

³⁶ [Oil, gas exploration move a 'kick in the guts' for Taranaki | RNZ](#)

³⁷ [Dr. Alice Bunn | GOV.UK](#)

³⁸ [British space launch capability 'strategically significant' | UK Defence Journal](#)

³⁹ [President appoints Bambang Brodjonegoro as Minister of Finance | Antara](#)

⁴⁰ [Presidential Decision No. 113/P/2019 | Indonesian Presidential Memorandum](#)

⁴¹ [About | Bambang Brodjonegoro](#)

represent the Turkish government at this international conference on space exploration.⁴² He has been actively involved in promoting Turkey's space exploration efforts and a champion for making transforming Turkey's space agency into an operational practice. Yıldırım has also highlighted the fact that this access to space exploration should be based on productive cooperation.

Turkey has been increasingly active in the field of space exploration, with ambitions to become a significant player in the global space community. Sending a representative like Serdar Yıldırım to such a summit signals Turkey's commitment to space exploration, international cooperation, and the peaceful use of outer space. Overall, his participation could help foster collaboration with other nations, exchange knowledge and expertise, and contribute to the advancement of space exploration efforts on a global scale.

SOUTH AFRICA: NALEDI PANDOR

Naledi Pandor, the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, has been selected to represent South Africa at this international summit on space exploration. Naledi Pandor is a seasoned South African politician who has held several significant positions, including the Minister of Science and Technology.⁴³ While her primary portfolio is related to foreign affairs, she has been involved in South Africa's efforts to advance its space capabilities and international space collaborations, overseeing the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) during her tenure in the Department of Science and Technology.⁴⁴ Her participation in such a summit should underscore South Africa's desire to play a more prominent role in the global space community. South Africa has been active in space-related activities, with its national space agency participating in various space research and satellite projects. Manned space flight may be an objective of SANSA down the road. Sending a representative like Naledi Pandor to this conference demonstrates South Africa's dedication to space exploration, scientific cooperation, and international partnerships. Overall, her presence at the summit should facilitate discussions on space collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the peaceful use of outer space, furthering South Africa's engagement in the global space arena.

PAKISTAN: MAJ. GEN. AMER NADEEM

Maj. Gen. Amer Nadeem, the current director of the Pakistani space agency, has been selected to represent Pakistan at this conference on space exploration. As the chairman of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), he will be well-suited to represent Pakistan on the international stage to discuss cooperative means to divide territory on celestial bodies. His military background will also provide him with a unique perspective on the importance of cooperation and diplomacy for the "space race" to prevent increased conflict. Under Nadeem's leadership, SUPARCO has been involved in various space-related initiatives, including satellite launches and space research projects. Additionally, SUPARCO has formed cooperative agreements with other national space agencies, such as research projects with China and a memorandum of understanding with Turkey.⁴⁵ Overall, this will make Nadeem an effective delegate on behalf of Pakistan's interests when it comes to space exploration and cooperation.

⁴² [President | Turkish Space Agency](#)

⁴³ [Naledi Pandor | People's Assembly](#)

⁴⁴ [Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor Wins 2016 AAAS Science Diplomacy Award | AAAS](#)

⁴⁵ [Turkey joins Pakistan, China in joint efforts for Space Technology | Pakistan Times](#)



SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.6 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Introduction

The National Security Council is a group of people mainly focused on foreign relations. Founded in 1947 during the Truman presidency, the security council has many people who work as a team to make decisions the United States should make about interacting with other government agencies and making quick decisions about the United States' positions in other countries. The National Security Council also works on homeland security. For this conference it is important to combine foreign policy and Homeland security. The decisions the national security council make highlight the values the United States represents. This organization also is connected to the Secretary of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, as well as a National Military Establishment. However, the most important point of the National Security Council is to make sure the United States stays safe. In this committee, you will all represent different members of the Security Council to create a plan regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The National Security Council has a lot of power in its hands, it is your job to use that power wisely in order for the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan to go as smoothly as possible.

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U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan

The beginning of the tense relationship between the United States and Afghanistan started in 2001 when President Bush decided to invade the country. However, for this conference, our timeline will start on the day President Biden is inaugurated. This means that we will only be focusing on Biden's idea for the withdrawal, not any of the other past presidents. President Biden was inaugurated on January 20th, 2021, but it wasn't until April 14th that he announced the complete withdrawal of the US army from Afghanistan which was stated to end on September 11th. Between April 14th and August 30th, the Afghan government collapsed and the Taliban retook Kabul after years of war with the U.S. military and allies. The United States sent 6,000 troops to assist with the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Despite these support troops, thirteen service members still lost their lives during the withdrawal. Thousands of Afghan citizens made an attempt to flee Afghanistan which led to immense chaos. Despite this setback, the last of the troops were withdrawn on August 30th, 2021. However, what if that didn't happen? Your task is to determine the best way to properly withdraw troops from Afghanistan based on the information at the time.

As the United States Security Council it is important to consider what U.S. citizens would

think about the withdrawal. Most American citizens were split on whether or not they liked the way Biden's withdrawal went. However, most United States citizens think that Taliban-controlled Afghanistan posed a major threat to United States Security. As the National Security Council, it is important to think of what rhetoric of the United States citizens listen to it.

It is also important to understand how much of a role President Biden plays in the withdrawal from Afghanistan; while he takes his advisor's opinions into consideration, he gets the final say on the decision that is made. However, in this conference, you will all work together by creating resolutions to create a new plan to withdraw all U.S. troops.

It is important to remember that there are innocent civilians living in Afghanistan during and after the U.S. troop withdrawal. The original withdrawal plan left Afghanistan in humanitarian shambles. Afghani citizens are now struggling to find food and there has been a significant rise in poverty rates. As the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, the United States and many other countries cut off the economic assistance previously provided to support Kabul. This had a negative effect on the Kabul citizens which rippled into the rest of the country. As members of the National Security Council, it is not only your job to establish a plan that you believe to be the best option to withdraw United States troops but to also consider the Afghani citizens.

Guiding Questions:

1. What do you think is the best way to withdraw; should it be done all at once or in sections or a different way?
2. Do you consider the United States citizens opinion when creating a withdrawal plan? Do you work with any other countries in order to create another withdrawal plan?
3. How involved should the United States be after the Withdrawal within Afghanistan? How does the United States protect service members during the Withdrawal?
4. How does the National Security Council want to evacuate ambassadors to Kabul? Should the United States accept more immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan after the withdrawal?
5. Consider the effect of the Afghanistan economy after the withdrawal consider the negative effects. Does the United States work with other organization such as doctors without borders or the United Nations to help with the withdrawal?
6. Should the United States get involved with women's rights in Afghanistan? How does the withdrawal affect women's rights in Afghanistan?
7. How does the Withdrawal effect the returning of the Taliban. Does the United States care about the Taliban being back in power?

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/12/us/politics/us-withdrawal-afghanistan.html>

<https://www.cfr.org/article/afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis-famine-foreign-aid-taliban>

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

- *President Joe Biden* - President Joseph R Biden Jr. is the 46th U.S. President. He started his career in the U.S. Senate and was a senator for 36 years before becoming President Barack Obama's Vice President from 2008-2016. President Biden has also served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and as the point person for U.S. diplomacy within the Western Hemisphere. President Biden announced the withdrawal of all United States troops from Afghanistan on April 14, 2021. President Biden will have veto power over committee decisions.
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-biden/>
 - <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2573268/biden-announces-full-us-troop-withdrawal-from-afghanistan-by-sept-11/>
- *Vice President Kamala Harris* - Vice President Kamala Harris is the first woman and person of color to ever be sworn in as Vice President of the United States. Before being sworn in as Vice President she was the District Attorney of San Francisco from 2003-2010 and was then the Attorney General of the state of California from 2010-2017, after that she was elected as a Senator for the state of California. Her time in all offices has been focused on women's rights specifically in health care, lowering child poverty, and strengthening the U.S.'s alliances. Vice President Harris is one of President Biden's closest confidants.
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-harris/>
- *Representative (Speaker of the House) Nancy Pelosi* - Representative Nancy Pelosi has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for over 35 years representing California, within her tenure she has become the first female Speaker of the House. Additionally, Representative Pelosi has been a staple of the Democratic party playing crucial roles in the passing of the Affordable Care Act along with the American Rescue Plan. Representative Pelosi is an avid supporter of government transparency and accountability, as well as advocating for human rights around the globe.
 - <https://pelosi.house.gov/biography-0>
- *Senate Leader Mitch McConnell* - Senator Mitch McConnell was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 representing the state of Kentucky, and was first elected as the Senate Majority Leader in 2015. Senator McConnell currently serves on the Appropriations, Agriculture, and Rules committee. He is a strong force within the Republican party and has transformed the federal judiciary. Prior to being elected to the Senate, he was the judge-executive for Jefferson County, he served in this position from 1978-1985 when he was sworn into the Senate.
 - <https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/biography>
- *Secretary of State Anthony Blinken* - Secretary Anthony Blinken is the 71st U.S. Secretary of State. Secretary Blinken has served for over 30 years and for three separate presidential administrations. He served as Deputy Secretary of State for President Barack Obama and served in various other positions for President Obama and President Clinton. Secretary Blinken has extensive experience with foreign affairs specifically in Europe

working with the European Union and with NATO.

- <https://www.state.gov/biographies/antony-j-blinken/>
- *Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin* - Secretary Lloyd Austin is the 28th Secretary of Defense for the United States. Austin is the number one advisor for President Biden on all Department of Defense issues and is a member of the National Security Council. Prior to being Secretary of Defense, Austin was a member of the U.S. Army, serving as the Commanding General of United States Forces - Iraq. Secretary Austin also has served as the Commander of U.S. Central Command where he was responsible for all military activities in the Middle East and Afghanistan, this was heavily focused on fighting ISIS in Iraq and Syria.
 - <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2522687/lloyd-j-austin-iii/>
- *Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm* - Secretary Jennifer Granholm is the 16th United States Secretary of Energy. Prior to being Secretary of Energy, Granholm served two terms as the Governor of Michigan as well as working as the Attorney General for the state of Michigan. Secretary Granholm is leading the effort within the Department of Energy to have zero carbon emissions by the year 2050. While serving as the Governor of Michigan Granholm worked to diversify the economy by preserving the manufacturing sector and adding new sectors such as clean energy.
 - <https://www.energy.gov/person/jennifer-m-granholm>
- *Attorney General Merrick Garland* - Merrick Garland is the 86th Attorney General of the United States. Garland has spent substantial time working in the Department of Justice working with criminal, civil, and national security matters. Garland was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Obama in 2016, however the nomination did not go through. Garland is known for creating consensus amongst judges despite political ideology.
 - <https://www.justice.gov/ag/bio/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland>
 - <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/16/background-judge-merrick-garland>
- *Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas* - Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is the first Latino and immigrant to be the United States Secretary of Homeland Security. Prior to serving as the Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas served as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as well as serving as the Director of U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. While working as Deputy Secretary, Mayorkas negotiated homeland security agreements with foreign governments. Mayorkas also has extensive experience in the immigration system and has helped to ensure the integrity of the legal immigration system.
 - <https://www.dhs.gov/person/alejandro-mayorkas>
- *US UN Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield* - UN Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield was nominated by President Biden to represent the United States in the United Nations as well as to serve on the UN Security Council. Thomas-Greenfield has extensive international affairs experience involving being ambassador to numerous countries and serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of African Affairs as well as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

- <https://usun.usmission.gov/our-leaders/our-ambassador/>
- *Administrator of the US Agency for International Development Samantha Power* - Administrator Samantha Power is the 19th Administrator of the US Agency for International Development. Her main focuses as director are the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict and humanitarian crises, and democratic backsliding. Prior to her Administrator position, Power was the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, where she worked to release political prisoners and care for refugees.
 - <https://www.usaid.gov/organization/samantha-power>
- *Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley* - General Mark A. Milley is the 20th Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff, he is the highest-ranking military officer and is the principal military advisor to President Biden. General Milley has previously served as the Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army as well as serving as the International Security Assistance Joint Command and Deputy Commanding General to the U.S. Forces in Afghanistan.
 - <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/614392/general-mark-a-milley/>
- *Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines* - Director Avril Haines is the seventh Senate confirmed Director of National Intelligence. She has previously served as the Deputy Director of the CIA and she has led the National Security Council's Deputies Committee. Director Haines has worked within all three branches of the U.S. government inside and outside of the intelligence community.
 - <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/who-we-are/leadership/director-of-national-intelligence>
- *Covid-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha* - Dr. Ashish Jha is the Covid-19 Response Coordinator for the Biden administration. Dr. Jha has previously been the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health as well as being the Dean for the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Jha is still a practicing physician, and he has extensive experience with infectious diseases. Dr. Jha is an advocate for the United States using its resources to reform global health.
 - <https://www.usglc.org/positions/white-house-covid-19-response-coordinator/>
- *Presidential Chief of Staff Ron Klain* - Presidential Chief of Staff Ron Klain was chief counsel to President Biden on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was an advisor for President Clinton's campaign. Additionally, Klain was Chief of Staff for Vice President Al Gore and was the Chief of Staff for President Biden during the Obama administration. During the Obama Administration Klain headed the United States response to the Ebola pandemic, which had such success that troops were removed from West Africa.
 - <https://www.biography.com/political-figures/ron-klain>
- *General Austin Miller* - General Austin Miller has served as the Commanding General of the commanding general of the Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command in Afghanistan as well as Command of United States Forces — Afghanistan and the Resolute Support mission. General Miller has extensive military experience and has a hands-on understanding of the situation in Afghanistan.
 - <https://special-ops.org/austin-miller-delta-force-4-star-general/>

- *General James McConville* - General James McConville is the 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. General McConville has been the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division, commander of 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally General McConville has served as the Chief Legislative Liaison and the Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.
 - <https://www.army.mil/leaders/csa/bio/>
- *General Kenneth McKenzie Jr* - General Kenneth McKenzie Jr is the former Commander of U.S. Central Command. He has led 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in Afghanistan, and he has served as the Military Secretary 33rd and 34th Commandants of the Marine Corps. General McKenzie has served as the Deputy to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Stability in Afghanistan.
 - <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2047197/general-kenneth-f-mckenzie-jr/#:~:text=A%20native%20of%20Birmingham%2C%20Alabama,MEU>
- *General Joseph Martin* - General Joseph Martin is the 37th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. General Martin commanded several different units during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also commanded the U.S. Army Operational Test Command. Additionally, General Martin has served as the armor branch chief and chief of the Maneuver, Fires and Effects Division. This gives General Martin extensive experience in military leadership and his work in Iraq gives him extensive knowledge of how the U.S. military is functioning within the Middle East.
 - <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2048739/general-joseph-m-martin/>
- *Admiral Christopher W. Grady* - Admiral Christopher Grady is the second-highest ranking military officer as he serves as the twelfth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs. He has served as a Surface Warfare Officer on several different ships throughout his career and has commanded numerous Naval vessels. Admiral Grady has received numerous medals for his service and is a Joint Specialty Officer.
 - <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/article/2879914/admiral-christopher-w-grady/>
- *Ross L. Wilson*- Ross L. Wilson was the ambassador to Kabul during the withdrawal from Afghanistan. He was in charge of the embassy when the evacuation happened and was the boss of the other people working in the embassy. He was one of the last people to leave Kabul and saw other diplomats evacuating US citizens as well as allies and permanent residence. He resigned from the position in September after the Withdrawal from Afghanistan.
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/12/us/politics/us-withdrawal-afghanistan.html>



SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.7 SECOND PUNIC WAR



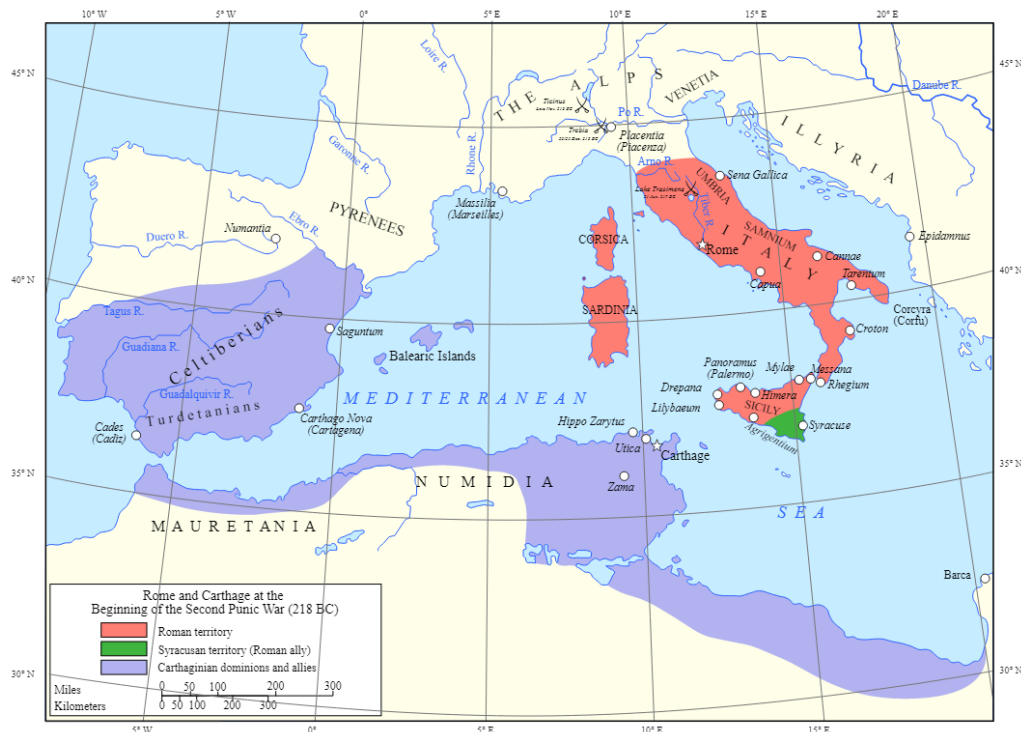
Hannibal crossing the Alps

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello! My name is Christian Bartlett. I'm a junior here at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Finance & Business Information Systems with a minor in Economics. I started my Model UN journey in high school, and knew right away it was a good fit. I've always had a passion for history, politics, and of course: scheming & machinations. Over the course of my Model UN career I've scratched all these itches, and more than that I've come out of my shell in ways I never thought possible. Not only has Model UN improved my public speaking skills exponentially, it's led me to make constantly new and exciting connections with people I'd otherwise never have the chance to meet. I'm super excited to be running this year's 2nd Punic War committee; I even got my Hannibal eye-patch ready! Can't wait to see how you guys manage this turning point in Rome's history, best of luck!

OVERVIEW OF THE 2ND PUNIC WAR COMMITTEE

"I swear that so soon as age will permit... I will use fire and steel to arrest the destiny of Rome" - Hannibal Barca, 9 years old. 238 BC



Map showcasing Rome & Carthage, the two major Mediterranean powers at the time

The year is 215 BC, the 2nd Punic war is raging; and the Roman Republic is truly in its darkest hour. Just one year before, Rome suffered one of the greatest defeats in military history, at the hands of one of the greatest generals in military history: Hannibal Barca. In 216 BC The Battle of Cannae took place in the southeast of the Italian Peninsula, seeing 80,000 Romans go up against Hannibal and his force of roughly 50,000 men. While some accounts differ on the true amount of casualties experienced by the Romans, one of the most commonly accepted statistics is that only

3,000 escaped. Hannibal's casualties seem miniscule in comparison, numbering only 5,700.

The effects of this battle have shifted the landscape of the war. Emboldened by Rome's losses, many of the southern Italian city states rose up and joined the Carthaginian cause. These include Tarentum and even Capua, the second most important city in Italy after Rome. Even beyond the Italian theater of the war it saw other Mediterranean nations such as Macedonia under Phillip the V declare for Carthage, opening up another front for the Romans across the Adriatic Sea. There are even stirrings that Syracuse, a long-time vassal kingdom of Rome controlling the east of Sicily might be considering changing sides, with the death of its pro-Roman king Hiero II & the ascension of his pro-Carthaginian grandson Hieronymus.

The gods still hold out some hope for Rome, all of her Latin colonies and the central Italian city states have remained loyal, and the Roman fleet still maintains control over the Mediterranean. However, the situation is precarious, and could go in any direction. In response to this situation, the Roman Senate has convened a special council consisting of some of Rome's most powerful and influential leaders, hoping they can help guide the Republic through this time of unprecedented crisis.

There are several major issues this special council must consider when looking to deal with this crisis. How will Rome rebuild its armies? The past several years of the war have seen Rome lose one-fifth of its male population aged over 17. Historically Rome recruited everyone from landless peasants, to slaves, to even criminals into its legions after Cannae. However, can these inexperienced and potentially disloyal groups really be trusted with the potential future of the Republic itself? What of the Roman regions abroad in the Latin colonies of Sardinia, Corsica, and even Illyria? Should they be called back to defend Rome and the Republic heartlands, leaving these hard-won colonies to any opportunistic vultures waiting in the wings?

Another pressing matter facing the Senate, is not just the armies that Rome will fight with, but how they will fight. Hannibal Barca is notorious for the tenacity and ingenuity of his tactics, and that has seen him land defeat after defeat to the Romans since he first crossed the Alps in 218 BC. What will Rome do to stop the Carthaginian onslaught, and what cost is the Senate willing to pay for victory?

Moreover, how will Rome react to the changing of the political landscape? Dealing with the southern Italian states who have fled to Carthage's side is important for securing the safety of Rome itself, and their support & supplies might embolden Hannibal even more in his campaign of destruction across the Italian countryside. And now abroad in Greece, Phillip the V and his Macedonian armies threaten Roman colonies in Illyria, and potentially the Italian Peninsula itself should Phillip choose to sail his armies across the Adriatic and link with Hannibal. This would surely spell doom for Rome.

ROME

Legend goes that the legacy of the Roman people can be traced back to the Trojan Aeneas, who after escaping during the fall of Troy eventually travels to the Italian Peninsula where his descendants, Romulus and Remus would later create the city of Rome. Rome under the leadership of its first king Romulus and of the later 6 kings, through the process of raiding nearby cities and villages and the creation of the Roman pantheon would grow the city to even larger heights. Though it would be the formation of the Republic that would bring Rome to even greater heights.



The Roman Senate

In 509 BC the final *Rex* (King) of Rome, Tarquinius Superbus, was overthrown by a group of nobles led by Lucius Junius Brutus. These nobles would form the Roman Republic with the intention that Rome would never be ruled by one person again. The Roman Republic is made up of many bodies, the major legislative and military body is the Roman Senate (pictured above). The Roman Senate has control over much of the lawmaking in the Roman Republic and advises the consuls on matters of the Republic. Military tradition is very prevalent in Roman society and as such almost all senators in the Senate served in the military. The Roman Republic is led by two consuls, who were the heads of state, and had control of the legions used in defense of the Republic. Below them were praetors who assisted the consuls in both civil and military matters. These two positions are the only magisterial positions that held *Imperium*, which allowed them to command armies. It was under this government system that the Roman Republic was able to grow.

Rome's first goal was to take control over the land surrounding them, and to do this they used military force or the threat of it to force the surrounding cities into a system of alliances. In these alliances vassals would send soldiers to support Rome in any wars, giving Rome a large supply of soldiers to use in addition to their own. One of the first major wars that Rome would engage in was against Pyrrhus in Southern Italy from 280-275 BC. In this war Rome fought against professional armies led by the King of Epirus, Pyrrhus, for control over southern Italy. Early on in the war Rome suffered many defeats but inflicted costly losses in return. The war elephants deployed by Pyrrhus were a reason for the success in the conflict and would teach Rome many lessons that would be very important in their later wars with Carthage. Rome's victory in the Pyrrhic Wars not only increased their control over southern Italy, but would put them into another major Mediterranean rival, Carthage.

CARTHAGE

Carthage, unlike Rome, did not have its start as a humble city state, but instead was a Phoenician Colony settled in North Africa around 814 BC. It served as a trading center for the Phoenicians but eventually got their independence and formed their own Punic Republic. Carthage also has its own form of republican government run by the nobility and other wealthy families of the city. Because of its location and Phoenician roots, the city of Carthage is one of the largest trading ports (pictured below) in the Mediterranean and is extremely wealthy.

The Carthaginian Army is very different from the Roman military as instead of being made

up of citizen soldiers or allied vassal troops, Carthage mainly uses mercenary troops in its wars. The true pride of the Carthaginian military is its navy, which is one of the largest in the entire Mediterranean. This navy allows Carthage to protect its trade routes, but also to spread its influence in the Mediterranean eventually leading them to butt heads with Rome.



The City
of
Carthage

FIRST PUNIC WAR

The First Punic War started c. 264 BC, when Rome and Carthage competed for control over the island of Sicily. Both sides wanted influence over Sicily, especially for control over the Greek colony of Syracuse. Most of the war would be centered over the island of Sicily where Roman land armies would find some success, unless they encountered the Carthaginian armies commanded by Hasdrubal. To try and break this standstill, Rome began to experiment with building its first professional navy to first compete with the Carthaginian navy, but also to invade North Africa itself.

To do this Rome had to learn how to create a navy. This was done by finding a Carthaginian ship on the shore and using reverse engineering to create a navy of their own. The Roman navy had their own innovations, mainly adding boarding ramps to the ships, bringing their main advantage, their infantry, to naval warfare. The Roman navy did not immediately succeed, and many Roman fleets were destroyed by both Carthaginian Ships and by bad weather at sea.

In 241 BC Rome and Carthage negotiated an end to the war, with Rome emerging as a victor. In this treaty Rome gained control over the island of Sicily, ending Carthage's control over the island, and forcing Carthage to pay Rome a huge amount of silver. Though not all Carthaginians agreed with the end of the war, mainly the general Hasdrubal who was succeeding against Roman legions in Sicily.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY OF THE 2ND PUNIC WAR

In the year of 219 BC, the bloodied pages of history books would forever be changed with the introduction of one of its most notorious generals. After years of developing plans and bolstering his forces, Hannibal Barca, supreme commander of Carthaginian forces in Ibera, laid

siege to the city of Saguntum. Saguntum was not just any city. A thriving & fortified trading hub in the Mediterranean, Saguntum was under the protection of the Roman Republic. However, Rome was dealing with recent rebellions in Illyria, and could not respond right away. With the fall of Saguntum, and the Roman quelling of Illyria, the Mediterranean was ripe for one of the most thrilling sagas of antiquity.

With the fall of Saguntum, Rome & Carthage made official declarations of war, and the 2nd Punic War began in earnest in 218 BC. Rome quickly dispatched two armies, each led by one of the Republic's Consuls. One army went south under the command of Consul Sempronius Longus to reinforce the Island of Sicily & prepare to invade the city of Carthage itself in North Africa. A second army under the command of Consul Publius Cornelius Scipio marched west through Gaul to assault the Carthaginian holdings in Iberia. This left the remaining fresh & less experienced Roman forces in Northern Italy, remaining only to make sure the Gauls in Northern Italy didn't take the opportunity to revolt.

Hannibal however, had no plans of fighting the Romans in Iberia, or even Gaul. No, Hannibal planned to take the fight to the Roman heartlands itself, Italy. In perhaps his most infamous decision, Hannibal decided to do what no man had done before. In order to take the Romans by surprise and strike at the center of their blossoming empire, Hannibal decided to march his army across the Alps, in the middle of winter no less.



Hannibal crossing
the Alps

This tactic was not without cost, as Hannibal suffered heavy casualties from this March. Attrition from the elements, desertion, and even attacks from hostile mountain tribes all ate away at the strength of his army. In the end though, Hannibal successfully marched through the Alps and emerged in Northern Italy ready to strike at the heart of the Roman Republic.

Using the hostility of the native Gauls inhabiting northern Italy, Hannibal was able to help replenish his armies and begin his campaign of destruction. His first major confrontation was with the Consul Publius Cornelius Scipio, who after realizing Hannibal's plan rushed back to Italy with a small detachment to rally the existing forces of Northern Italy (the rest of the army continuing on to seize Iberia). This engagement of the Battle of Ticinus is a small but clear defeat of the Romans, with Carthaginian cavalry crushing the army Consul Publius had mustered. Publius Cornelius

Scipio almost dies on the battlefield as well, but is rescued by his young son Scipio Africanus. The Roman defeat at Ticinus significantly bolsters Hannibal's recruitment effort among the local Gaul, helping bring his army back up to full strength.

This defeat also notably saw the recalling of Consul Sempronius Longus from Sicily. Under his command, the Romans engaged Hannibal in the Battle of Trebia in December 218 BC. In what would become a running theme throughout the early stages of the 2nd Punic War, the Roman desire for confrontation and decisive victory. Sempronius Longus desired a battle to enhance the prestige of Rome, his family, and help end the war faster. Hannibal exploited such rashness, baiting a trap on the battlefield and out-maneuvering the Roman army handedly, inflicting nearly 25,000 in casualties. The Battle of Trebia helped set the tone for what would be the next few stages of the war.

After raising a new army, Rome next faced Hannibal at the Battle of Lake Trasimene in June 217 BC. Once again, Roman belligerence & impatience got the better of them. Seeing what they believed to be the rear of Hannibal's army along the thin road running between Lake Trasimene and some high mountains, the Roman army quickly rushed to crush their foe. Before they knew it, the main Carthaginian force came crashing down the hills against the Romans, with little room to fight and no room to run the Roman army once again suffered a crushing defeat. Hannibal dealt especially harshly with all his Roman prisoners after battle. However, to raise support in the Italian Peninsula, Hannibal would release all non-Roman prisoners.

As Rome is ought to do in times of crisis, they elected a 6-month dictator, suspending the wheels of the senate to give a man by the name of Quintus Fabius Maximus absolute power over the Roman Republic. Fabius significantly shifted the tactics of Rome, to one of resistance to Hannibal rather than direct confrontation. In what would be eventually coined Fabian tactics, Quintus Fabius focused on whittling down Hannibal's forces, taking down hunting & scouting parties while harassing Hannibal's supply lines.

This tactic was not without cost, as Fabius would suffer dearly politically. For one, the tactic was universally unpopular with both the Roman Senate and the general populace as well. The public viewed the actions as cowardice, with Fabius' army always focusing on securing advantageous terrain and then holding a defensive posture, even as Hannibal's army burnt the countryside. The Roman senators felt Fabius' actions were dishonoring Rome and not doing enough to damage Hannibal's strength. To play into this discontent, Hannibal started to leave any land owned by Quintus Fabius completely untouched, even as he put all the fields and buildings around it to the torch. Rumors spread throughout the Republic about potential collusion with the Carthaginian enemy by Fabius.

By the end of his 6-month term, Fabius' tactics had fallen out of favor, and the consul election of 216 BC once again saw Rome beating its hooves in anticipation of finally confronting Hannibal. The election saw two new consuls, the belligerent Varro and his more cautious co-consul Paullus. Rome soon raised four new legions in its largest army seen to date. Leading roughly



80,000 men, Varro & Paullus soon found themselves in confrontation with Hannibal and his Carthaginians at Cannae. Paullus urged to wait, and find better terrain for the Roman army. However, Varro did not want to give Hannibal the chance to slip away, and felt emboldened by the fact that the Romans outnumbered the Carthaginians nearly two-to-one. And so in August 216 BC, the battle of annihilation, the Battle of Cannae, began.

Hannibal had positioned his weakest troops in the center, and personally led them from atop his personal war elephant. Varro, seeing this weakness in the center of the enemy formation, positioned his strongest forces in the center, and pushed hard. Hannibal had his weak troops slowly give ground, falling backwards until the Carthaginian formation resembled a crescent, with the Roman army pushing ever inwards. Soon the stronger Carthaginian forces broke through the weaker Roman forces on the flanks and began to close the crescent into a circle. The final blow came from the Carthaginian cavalry, having routed the Roman cavalry, crashed into the Roman rear.



Battle of Cannae (216 BC)

The mass of Roman soldiers found themselves encircled completely, and as the knot began to tighten around the Roman army, soldiers found themselves so tightly packed they could barely swing a sword. The slaughter was staggering. By the end of it, of the 80,000 Romans who marched onto the field that day only about 3,000 escaped. Hannibal's casualties were miniscule in comparison, numbering just 5,700. The majority of those losses also consisted of Gauls, not even Hannibal's main Carthaginian fighting force.

Politically the aftermath of the battle shifted the landscape of the war. Many southern Italian city states, more Hellenic in culture than Latin, declared for Carthage. While the large scale Gallic uprising and destruction of Roman hegemony that Hannibal had hoped for did not occur, Roman power and legitimacy had taken a significant hit. In 215 BC Phillip V of Macedon made an alliance with Hannibal joining the war on Carthage's side. This opened up another front across the Adriatic, with Macedon boarding the Roman territories in Illyria. However, rather than calling back Rome's legions abroad, Rome focused on her efforts on rebuilding the armies in Italy. Age eligibility was lowered, landless peasants, slaves, and even criminals were recruited into the legions.

In 215 BC Rome was able to secure a victory in Iberia, crushing Hannibal's brother Hasdrubal and retaking Saguntum. This defeat would see Hasdrubal take his army into Northern Italy and begin to attempt to link with Hannibal's. In a stalemate for some time due to each Carthaginian army (Hasdrubal in the North, Hannibal in the South) having an opposing Roman army of equal strength blocking it, the Romans were eventually able to defeat Hasdrubal's army through cunning deception.

By posting double guards and leaving torches all night, the Romans were able to deceive Hannibal into thinking his opposing army was at full strength. In actuality, a large amount of the

force had snuck up north to reinforce the army opposing Hasdrubal, and was eventually able to crush it and kill Hasdrubal.



Map showcasing the movements of Hannibal's army throughout the war

In 214 BC Syracuse would defect from Roman allegiance due to internal politics. By 213 BC it would be back in Roman hands & by 210 BC all of Sicily was completely under Roman control.

In 211 BC while fighting in Ibera Publius Cornelius Scipio would be killed. However, in 209 BC his daring son Scipio Africanus would seize the capital of Carthaginian Ibera, Carthago Nova. Through a combination of daring tactics and helpful weather he dealt a decisive blow to Carthage's most powerful territory and their access to its valuable silver mines. This would also see a loss in the support of the local tribes, and by 206 BC the Iberian Peninsula was cleared of Carthaginian forces by Scipio Africanus.

In 205 BC Carthage sent an army under the command of Hannibal's brother Mago to try and reinforce Hannibal's depleted forces. However Mago and his army was unable to reach them, suffering several clashes with Roman forces before the army was finally destroyed in 203 BC.

Additionally in 205 BC, Scipio Africanus was elected Consul, and went to Sicily to begin preparing for an invasion of Northern Africa and the city of Carthage itself. By 204 BC Scipio

Africanus had won several battles against Carthage's forces lead by Hannibal's son Gisgo, and was poised to strike Carthage itself. This saw the Carthaginian senate finally recall Hannibal from Italy in 203 BC, nearly 15 years after his first historic march into the peninsula.

The final stroke of the 2nd Punic War came at the Battle of Zama in October of 202 BC. Hannibal fielded a force of 45,000 infantry & 2,000 cavalry. Scipio Africanus fielded a force of 30,000 infantry & 5,500 cavalry. Hannibal's army fought well, but Scipio Africanus had been learning not just from the mistakes of his predecessors, but from Hannibal as well. In an ironic fashion the Battle of Zama went like a lot of Hannibal's previous battles, just not in his favor. It saw the Carthaginian flanks get overwhelmed by Roman cavalry, and soon the rear of his army was being assaulted as well. By the time of the Carthaginian defeat, they had suffered roughly 20,000 casualties, while the Romans suffered about 5,000.

The loss of the war saw extremely harsh terms placed upon Carthage. Once before the 1st Punic War Carthage was considered the preeminent naval power of the Mediterranean, now after the 2nd Punic War it was not allowed more than 10 ships in its navy. Carthage gave up not only all its Roman prisoners, but also all of its war elephants; never again would they be allowed to field them on the battlefield. Carthage was only allowed to make war within Africa, and even then only if given permission by Rome to do so. Not only did Carthage lose all of its Mediterranean holdings (with Ibera and its valuable silver mines going to Rome), Carthage would be required to pay 10,000 silver talents (an ancient unit of measurement) over the next 50 years.

Carthage would never again pose such a threat to Rome, who was now positioned to become the dominant power of the Mediterranean for the next several centuries. The 2nd Punic War was notorious for its great generals and era defining battles, and while at times it looked like the Roman Republic might falter, in the end it came out stronger than ever. The question now stands, standing in the halls of the Roman Senate after the disastrous Battle of Cannae, how will you fare in Rome's darkest hour? Will you follow in the republic's historic footsteps, or chart your own story?

CHARACTER LIST

Scipio "Africanus"

Son of Publius Cornelius Scipio, Scipio Africanus in 219 BC has yet to earn his historical fame. Hailing from one of the greatest patrician families of Rome, Africanus' father, grand-father, and great grand-father had all served as consuls of the Roman Republic. The battle of Ticinus would see Scipio lead a charge that would save his fathers life, and begin to showcase his military confidence & ability.

Publius Cornelius Scipio

The son of Lucius Cornelius Scipio (a consul during the 1st Punic War), and the father of Scipio Africanus, Publius hails from the wealthy and prestigious Scipio family. Having served as Consul during the opening year of the war, and already having several engagements with Hannibal at Ticinus & Trebia, Publius Cornelius Scipio is no stranger to both politics & military command.

Gaius Terentius Varro

A plebian (commoner) by birth, and the son of a butcher, Varro used his inheritance upon his fathers death to kickstart a political career. Rising through the ranks of several aedileships (Elected public office), Varro eventually found himself in the senate. Capitalizing on the unpopularity of Quintus Fabius Maximus tactics during his dictatorship, Varro was able to get himself elected Consul. While Varro is said to have seen some military combat in the First Illyrian War, he is

generally considered inexperienced compared to most Roman generals & consuls of the time period. This inexperience is largely responsible for the disastrous battle of Cannae, which now sees Rome in its current predicament. Will Varro be able to turn the tide of his legacy? Or will he be just another footnote in Rome's long history?

Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus

Hailing from a historic and wealthy patrician family, Quintus Fabius Maximus is the descendent of several prominent consuls from the Roman Republic's history. Famous for his origination of "Fabian Tactics", Quintus Fabius Maximus' exploits as Roman Dictator are covered extensively in the 2nd Punic War section of this guide. After his Dictatorship & Varro's devastating defeat at the Battle of Cannae, the Roman public and senate have begun to shift their view on Fabius' tactics, while he maintains a strong stance against fighting Hannibal directly or even taking the fight to Carthage itself.

Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus

The Gracchus family wouldn't rise to prominence in Roman politics until many years later after the 3rd Punic War. However Tiberius Sempronius is notably the current Consul in 215 BC, the first of his family. Historically during his consulship, Tiberius and the Senate decided to induct volunteer slaves into a new legion. He then went on to lead these troops gaining notoriety as an effective general. Will Tiberius follow in his historic footsteps? Or follow another path to lead both his family & Rome to greater glory?

Marcus Junius Pera

Hailing from the historic Junia family, boasting some of the first consuls of Rome under their belt, Marcus Junius Pera is an astute Roman Senator. Historically, Marcus was elected Dictator after the battle of Cannae. While in this position he immediately set about recreating the armies of Rome to replace the massive amount lost. He instituted a levy, conscripting underage men to fight and even working with Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus to arm slave volunteers. Marcus Junius Pera also cleared away all of the debts of men or any charges of capital offense if they enlisted in the army. Will Marcus bring such radical ideas to the Senate? Or perhaps there may be a fresh solution that he has devised?

Marcus Claudius Marcellus

One of the most significant Roman Generals of the time period, Marcus Claudius saw action in the first Punic War and worked his way through the political system of Rome to be elected consul in 222 BC. He received the highest honor a general can, *Spolia Opima*, when he defeated the Gallic king Viridomarus in single combat and claimed his regal armor as an offering to Jupiter (Roman god of war). A current Praetor (General) of the Roman army, will Marcus Claudius Marcellus be able to help turn the tides of fate in Rome's favor?

Quintus Fulvius Flaccus

Having served several times previously as Consul, Quintus Fulvius Flaccus is no stranger to Roman politics. More than that, he is currently serving as a Praetor in the Roman army and is a well experienced and capable commander. Fiercely loyal to Rome, Quintus Fulvius wants to see any disloyal citizens or allies harshly dealt with, and to see Rome secured. As such, he wants to see Hannibal dealt with on the continent before any troops are sent elsewhere.

Appius Claudius Pulcher

After having spent time serving in public offices throughout Rome, Appius Claudius served as a military officer within the Roman legions. He fought and survived the battle of Cannae, and has now been raised a Praetor with command of an army in the south of the Italian Peninsula. He is greatly worried about the Carthaginian influence on Syracuse and would like to see Rome deal with

Hieronymus' ascension to the throne.

Publius Sulpicius Galba Maximus

A wealthy patrician Publius Sulpicius is an astute military commander who would later win fame after the 2nd Punic War in the 1st & 2nd Macedonia wars. Currently however, he is just a politician within the Roman Senate. However, with this great crisis facing the Republic, perhaps now is the time for Publius Sulpicius to prove his worth to the Roman people?

Jacarius Bellesarios*

A wealthy patrician landowner, Jacarius many of his vast tracts of land burned down by Hannibal's army in the countryside. After the battle of Cannae, the safety of what land (and correspondingly wealth) he has left is increasingly coming into question. There's only so many grapes on a vine, and only so much loss Jacarius can take.

Eugenicus Crassus*

An admiral in the Roman navy, Eugenicus has so far had minor skirmishes with the powerful Carthaginian navy. Being a plebeian he has little personal wealth, however his naval experience has earned him the respect of his men and the people of Rome. Time will only tell how he is able to influence the war in this precarious crisis Rome has found itself in.

Comicus*

A famous plebeian hailing from the streets of Rome, Comicus has become renowned for his Stand-up Philosophy, and always draws large crowds in the amphitheaters of Rome. However, like almost all Stand-up Philosophers, he is completely broke. His influence over the common folk of Rome is not unnoteworthy, and that has seen his invitation to this special council of the Senate.

Tertius Tocanus*

A respected Auger (Priest), Tertius' visions and interpretations of the gods are well respected by patrician and plebeian alike. He holds great sway over the temples of Rome, and with the Battle of Cannae being interpreted by some as an ill omen of the gods, he has been called to the Senate to aid in their deliberations.

Jomus Snarrus*

An effective commander of the Roman cavalry, Jomus Snarrus saw the horrors of Cannae first hand. With the roaring of elephants and thundering of hooves still ringing in his ears, he is a firm believer that Rome needs to sue for peace with Hannibal. While many in the Senate deride that he knows nothing, Jomus knows the Senate can't keep throwing away lives so recklessly, and that they have scant probability of beating Hannibal.

Jacobos Gatsianos*

A wealthy plebeian, Jacobos made his money through commerce. With his hands in most trade flowing around & through the Italian peninsula, especially Wine, he has been hurt especially hard by Hannibal's campaign against Rome. It is in his best interest to see this conflict end in any way possible to get back to lining his pockets with the wealth of the Mediterranean. He is not particularly fond of Comicus, who has often made many stand-up philosophies about Jacobos, and it is rumored that Comicus is married to the woman Jacobos is in love with.

Uncarro Rikis*

The oldest Roman senator, old man Rikis is well respected amongst his peers. More than that he is beloved by the Roman public for his affable old man qualities. He yearns for the glory days of his youth and when he served in the First Punic War. He will stop at nothing to see Carthage crushed once and for all, and holds a personal grudge against Hannibal after fighting his father Hamilcar in the First Punic War.

Crassus Ingnitus Armano*

Known as “The Spider” it is said no whisper is uttered in the Senate halls that Crassus does not know. A mysterious Senator who rose through the Roman government system from being just a poor plebeian, it is thought that Armano’s spy networks extend across all of Italy, and potentially even into neighboring countries.

Secundus Spearos*

A famous orator from the streets of Rome, Decius rose to high regard in the Senate through his superb diplomatic skills & his entertaining plays in the amphitheaters of Rome. Often acting as the third party in disagreements between families and senators, Decius believes the pen is mightier than the sword. It is his hope to find a diplomatic, peaceful way to end this war.

Mattias Plicanta*

One of the greatest architects that Rome has to offer. Mattias is a superb administrator who has designed & constructed many buildings across Rome, and is considered one of the most efficient magisters to ever grace the Republics’ bureaucracy. In this time of crisis his administrative and engineering abilities will no doubt be a useful asset to his political career, and Rome herself.

“*” —> **Means the character is fictional & made up for the purpose of this committee.**

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SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.8 SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

In 2011, mass protests started in Tunisia and Egypt against authoritarian leaders in parts of the Middle East and North Africa, renowned as the Arab Spring. These protests resulted in Tunisian dictator Ben Ali and Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak being removed from power. Seeing the potential for change, these protests rapidly spread across the North Africa and Middle East regions. The protestors were extremely varied in their ultimate goals; however, they all wanted their state's dictator to be deposed. One state in particular where these protests took hold was in Syria.

Syria's protests were different than most of the world because of the violence the Syrian government deployed against the Syrian people. Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad authorized the use of chemical weapons against protestors and anti-government officials. The deadliest of these chemical weapons attacks was carried out in Ghouta in 2013, where the nerve agent Sarin was used to kill between 281 and 1,729 people. This brutality launched Syria into an all-out civil war with national, regional, and international implications.

On a national level the Free Syrian Army has been fighting the official military of Syria. The Free Syrian Army is supported by the United States indirectly, as well as by Turkey and the Gulf States. The official Syrian Army is supported by Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah. At the current point in the war, Bashar Al-Assad and the official Syrian army have regained much of its territory. The United States has also supported the northern Kurdish army, which itself seeks to break away from Syria. In 2014, a new dimension entered the conflict with the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS). ISIS sought to take territory in Iraq and Syria to form their own state. The international community largely united against this new force and, as of now, their influence is a fraction of what it once was.

On a regional level, the Syrian Civil War has functioned as a proxy war between the two major rivals in the Middle East: Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran and Saudi Arabia are locked in a power struggle for the Middle East that is only recently starting to show cracks. Iran supports the Syrian government as one of its key allies in the region. Saudi Arabia supported the rebels to try and gain influence in the Shi'a controlled Syria (with a Sunni majority population). Saudi Arabia fears Iran's spreading influence is a threat to regional stability, while Iran believes that western aligned nations will do anything to ensure its downfall. Any solution to the conflict will need to consider these two nations' interests in the region. Turkey has also sought to grow its regional influence through the war. In 2019, Turkey invaded Syria under pretenses of creating a security buffer against longtime rivals the Kurds.

On an international level the Syrian Civil War has functioned as a proxy war between the

United States and Russia. Syria is one of Russia's few remaining allies in the region from the time of the Soviet Union. Because of this Russia has provided air support to the Syrian military for bombing campaigns. The United States has avoided getting directly involved in the war but led much of the fight against the Islamic State through training of Kurdish militias. This has angered the United States' Turkish allies. Israel has also sought to restrict Iran's influence through a continuous barrage of strategic air attacks against Iranian shipment networks. Israel fears Iran might use the Lebanese pseudo-militia Hezbollah against Israel or Syrians. It is clear to see from this how the conflict has gotten so tangled between warring nations. In order to have a successful resolution, one must untangle this web of competing influences and find a result suitable to our current moment in time.

These conflicts and tensions have continued since then. In 2018, U.S., U.K., and French forces launched air strikes to target chemical weapon facilities due to the detrimental impact chemical attacks have previously had on citizens. Other countries also become involved, such as Israel, who launched airstrikes targeting Iranian forces in Syria. In response, Iran shells Israel back from Syrian territory as well. Syrian forces, shortly afterwards, launched an attack to regain ground from rebels successfully after the rebels negotiated for safe passage elsewhere.

In 2019, Turkey then launched an offensive into Kurdish regions of Syria. The U.S. verbalized that they would not involve themselves in this attack despite previous support for Kurdish forces, lessening more foreign intervention. However, in 2020, Turkey and Russian-backed Syrian forces faced a confrontation following the killing of dozens of Turkish soldiers. Russia then brokered a cease-fire between Turkey and Syria.

It is abundantly clear that the Syrian Uprising of 2011 has not yet ceased. There are several parties involved fighting for power and reform as they see fit, with added complications by foreign powers with their own individual agendas. Negotiation has not been a common tool in the Syrian Civil War.

Questions to consider:

- Should foreign intervention continue? If so, what aspects of intervention should be utilized (diplomatic, military, economic, etc.)?
- How can violence cease and diplomatic negotiations start?
- What is my country's stance on the Syrian Civil War, and how does this affect my decisions on other questions and actions?
- What side's agenda do I most align with according to my own country's agenda? How can we advance this peacefully?

Sources:

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Character List:

Brazil - Brazil is against any sort of military intervention in the conflict. While Brazil does have a history of accepting Syrian refugees, this process was stopped under President Bolsonaro's presidency. President Lula's actions will decide how close Brazil remains to this conflict.

China - China has voted against United States backed sanctions of Syria in the past under their long history of supporting the sovereignty of nations. While China has typically voted with Russia to oppose sanctions they also believe in delivering aid to Syria and other nations. China tends to react extremely cautiously to the affair but continues to encourage peace talks.

Egypt - Egypt remains a long term ally of the United States but also wholeheartedly is in support of the existing Syrian government. They are focused largely on the post-conflict rebuild of Syria and they hope to further their current investments in Syrian construction. Currently they are in support of Al-Assad and Russia but are attempting to hold on to their Western allies

Equatorial Guinea - The main focus of this country has been to express concern for the deterioration of human rights in Syria. While they have not taken a stand on the political problems at play, they are focused on the welfare of the population.

France - France is one of the three main members (along with the U.K. and the United States) pushing for the end of ISIL and opposing Assad's regime. Paris has faced multiple domestic terror attacks due to the regime due to the French government's political support. While France has not had much direct involvement they remain committed to helping allies. France also participated in the US-led airstrikes on April 14, 2018, carried out against Syrian research centers and alleged chemical weapons facilities in response to the Douma chemical attacks.

Germany - Germany remains a strong ally to the United States. They had previously stationed Patriot missiles in the safe zone in Turkey but these have been subsequently removed. Germany is opposed to the United States exiting Syria and has many Turks and Kurds within its borders.

India - India and Syria have a similar national policy outlook. India wants to get closer to the Arab world and the Middle East in order to undercut Pakistan in the region. India is also hoping that better relations will lead to more oil as oil prices are an issue. Due to Syria recognizing Kashmir as part of India, India has resisted calling for a change of regime in Syria.

Iran - Iran and Syria are strategic allies. Iran sees the survival of the Syrian government as key to its own interest. The two have been consistent allies since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran has provided more military specialists to gather intelligence in support of the Assad government.

Iraq – Iraq and the Assad government in Syria are inextricably linked when it comes to the conflict in Syria. The two cooperated extremely closely in the war against ISIS/ISIL, with Iraqi volunteers fighting alongside the Syrian Army to that end. The two are also part of the Russia-Syria-Iran-Iraq coalition, which is an information sharing cooperative group focused on combatting ISIS/ISIL.

Now, Iraq and Syria remain close diplomatically and politically, although their military cooperation has mostly ceased due to the almost complete defeat of ISIS/ISIL in the two countries.

Israel - Israel has been officially neutral on the situation in Syria. However, for decades the two have been seen as bitter rivals for years. Previously, there was some tolerance to Assad but after 2011, the Israeli government has reached the conclusion that Assad must leave power. Israel maintains a passive stance for fear of inviting a direct attack and a worry for the government that may emerge if Assad is defeated.

Jordan – Jordan is not a large or rich country by any means, but it does host an important strategic location in regards to the ongoing conflict in Syria, being one of its neighbors. Jordan has hosted multiple groups of foreign military personnel involved in the conflict over the course of the war, especially during the ISIL/ISIS insurgency. Recently, Jordan has begun a kind of reproachment with Assad's Syria, although they still covertly support rebel groups in the country, although such activities have greatly diminished since their peak earlier in the conflict.

Nigeria - Nigeria is the lead African voice on this issue. They have had similar issues with Boko Haram which makes them susceptible to the plight faced by people in Syria. Nigeria is also a major oil exporter which makes them a major player when talking about Middle East issues.

Qatar - Qatar's first priority in Syria was preventing sectarian conflict in Syria. Qatar has aimed to weaken Iran's influence in the region and advance its own interests by offering support to the Syrian opposition.

Russia - Russia has a long history of alliance with Syria. They have resisted numerous attempts to sanction Syria and are Al-Assad's biggest backer. They actively supply weapons and other munitions to the government. Russia's interest in Syria comes from the Tartus Naval Base and an air base in Latakia as a foothold into the Middle East. Russian-based gas companies constantly have projects ongoing in the area.

Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia has backed Islamist rebel groups including the Army of Conquest. While the two countries were close at one point, Saudi Arabia has now emerged as the main group to finance and arm the rebels. However, Saudi Arabia has reached a rapprochement with Iran which may allow for thawing of relations with Syria.

South Africa - South Africa is very similar to Syria in that it has a long history of ethnic violence due to South Africa's past experiences with apartheid. Due to South Africa's history, many South African citizens have openly expressed support for Kurdish freedom. South African citizens may put pressure on their government to openly interfere and help the Kurds. However, South Africa is also part of BRICS which is a coalition of developing national economies. These economic ties to allies of Syria may cause South Africa's careful neutrality to evaporate.

Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) - The Syrian government led by Bashar al-Assad is at the heart of this conflict. Almost 10% of the Syrian population is Ethnic Kurds, although little of them are presently under the Assad government's control. With ISIS and most of the other resistance slowly whittled away over the last decade or so, the Kurds in the North, alongside Turkey's intervention has

become the primary concern of the government. Syria continues to fight against multiple insurgent groups, but the official government does not believe that any war crimes are being committed on their side and has designated the Kurdish forces as a terrorist group.

Tunisia - Tunisia has recently flip-flopped on the issue of Syria. Although they initially severed diplomatic relations with the Syrian government, Tunisia has pushed and been successful in seeing Syria readmitted into the Arab League.

Turkey - Turkey had previously had good relations with the Syrian government before 2011 and the Arab Spring. Turkey is one of the major supporters of the rebel movement. Since the 1980s, Turkey has been dealing with an internationally recognized Kurd Terrorist Group called the Kurdistan Workers Party whose main goal is to create an independent Turkish state. The anti-Kurd position has caused issues between Turkey and the United States but the two remain allies. In support of the displaced Syrian refugees, Turkey has previously invaded Syria in 2019. Recently, Turkish Armed Forces also launched a campaign of air and ground strikes against Syria in June of this year.

United Kingdom - The U.K. has been in lockstep with the US throughout the situation. While military action is controversial domestically, it is consistent with the United Kingdom's relationship with the United States. Similar to the Americans, the UK is also opposed to Russian involvement in the situation.

United States - While the United States has been focused on combating ISIL (a terrorist group) they also oppose Assad's regime. The US has been fighting a proxy war against the Russians through the battle in Syria. The policy continues to remain to oppose actions taken by the official Assad government.

Vietnam - Vietnam has relatively strong relations with the government of Syria and maintains formal diplomacy with Syria. This is despite their position as a potential ally of the United States due to geopolitics in the South China Sea.



SECTION 8. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

PittMUN asks for your cooperation in maintaining order, both in and out of the committee sessions, and providing a safe, educational, and enjoyable Model United Nations simulation. We encourage you to discuss any questions or concerns relating to these rules with the Secretariat. Our Secretariat will work with the Representatives and their faculty advisors throughout the day in order to maintain the following rules.

8.1 PROFESSIONALISM

Delegates are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times during PittMUN. Members of the Secretariat and fellow Delegates should be addressed with the proper respect due to members and diplomats of the United Nations. Examples of inappropriate conduct include use of derogatory or obscene language and public displays of affection. Additionally, personal electronic devices such as cellular phones and iPods are not permitted in committee. **Please note PittMUN staff will be taking pictures throughout the day for use in promotional materials.** Delegates should maintain professionalism during this time as well.

8.2 ILLICIT DRUGS

Illicit drugs will not be tolerated at PittMUN. Any Delegate using or in possession of drugs will be required to leave immediately and may be subject to further penalties under their school's policy. For further information on the University of Pittsburgh's Policy for a Drug-Free School, see: www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html

8.3 ALCOHOL

The legal drinking age in Pennsylvania is 21. This will be strictly enforced by the Secretariat. Liquor found in the possession of any Delegate will be confiscated, and the Delegate will be required to leave and may be subject to further penalties under his/her school's policy. For further information on the University of Pittsburgh's Policy for a Drug-Free School, see: www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html

8.4 HARASSMENT

An unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment will be considered an act of sexual harassment. Representatives found committing such an act will be asked to leave and might be subject to further penalties under their school's policies. For further information on the University

of Pittsburgh's sexual harassment policy, see:
www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/07/07-06-04.html

8.5 DRESS CODE

The Secretariat requires all Delegates to dress in a manner befitting international diplomats. The appearance of participants at PittMUN provides the first impression of their national character to other Delegates. Attention to proper appearance sets an expectation for professionalism and competence.

The dress code for the PittMUN conference is "business dress," also referred to as "Western business attire."

The following are considered **inappropriate** for the conference: t-shirts, denim (including skirts), spaghetti straps (shoulders and upper arms must be covered), skirts shorter than knee length, shorts, athletic shoes, and clothing with any form of commercial advertising. Shirts and ties are strongly recommended.

Decisions on appropriate attire are at the ultimate discretion of the Secretariat. Representatives who are inappropriately attired may not be recognized during Committee sessions and may be expelled from the PittMUN simulation.

The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any Representative from the simulation due to unacceptable behavior or inappropriate dress. **Strict adherence to the dress code will be observed.**



SECTION 9. SUMMARY OF RULES FOR PITTMUN

See next page

Motion In Order of Precedence	Purpose	Interrupt Speaker?	Debatable?	Speakers Needed?	Vote Required	Additional Information
Point of Personal Privilege	To make a personal request	Yes	No	0	No. Decision of the Chair	Deals with health, unable to continue participation
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	To make inquiries on parliamentary procedure	No	No	0	No. Decision of the Chair	
Point of Order	To correct parliamentary error	No	No	0	No. Decision of the Chair	
Appeal a Decision of the Chair	To reverse the decision of the Chair	No	No	0	Simple Majority	Yes = Overtum No = Uphold
To Suspend/Adjourn the Meeting	To recess or end meeting respectively	No	No	0	Simple Majority	Lunchtime/End Session for the day
Reconsideration of Proposals	Re-open debate on issue or proposal	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	2/3 Majority	
Decisions of Competence	To question competence of committee	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	Simple Majority	Use with digression
Adoption/Revision of Agenda	Approval/revision of Agenda Order	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	Simple Majority	
To Open/Close the Speakers List	To modify the freedom of debate	No	No	0	Simple Majority	Once closed, voting procedure begins
Unmoderated Caucus	To propose an unmoderated discussion with other delegates	No	No	0	Simple Majority	Successive caucuses cannot exceed 20 minutes
To Postpone/Resumption of Debate	Table debate without substantive vote	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	Simple Majority to postpone, 2/3 majority to resume	Defer proposals; Move to next topic
To Close Debate	Move to immediate vote	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	2/3 Majority	Vote on proposals
To Divide the Question	To consider working paper's part's separately	No	Yes	2 Pro 2 Con	Simple Majority	Vote clause by clause

What Can I Do When...

I Have Yield Time?	There Are Unmoderated Caucuses?	I Need Required Signatures?
-Yield to Questions -Yield to Comments -Yield to Another Delegate -Yield to Chair	-Review Research Material -Plan Next Speech -Discuss/Determine Other Delegates' Opinions -Make Alliances -Draft Working Papers -Gain Signatories	-Working papers: sponsors and 25% of committee -Friendly Amendments: all sponsors -Unfriendly Amendments: none needed