



INTERNATIONAL PRESS FORUM

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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14TH CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS


CANIMUN
2017


United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

A WELCOME FROM YOUR COMMITTEE STAFF

Canadian International
Model United Nations

February 23-26, 2017

Lord Elgin Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario

www.canimun.org

*CANIMUN is an initiative
of the United Nations
Association in Canada*

300 - 309 Cooper Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G5



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by Evan Schneider

Dear International Press Forum – CANIMUN 2017 delegates,

Welcome delegates, to this year's International Press Forum at the 14th Canadian International Model United Nations Conference! We are very excited and honoured to have you all join us in Ottawa for one of the most highly regarded Model United Nations Conferences in Canada. We hope you are all excited to enter the always invigorating world of Journalism!

Journalism has for a long time been strategically involved in the development of social movements, working-class uprisings, as well as in promoting democracy and freedom of speech. Furthermore, to this day, Journalism plays a major role in the way our world is shaped. It is through journalistic work and real-time quality reporting that citizens get the opportunity to keep up to date on what happens on the front lines. The delegates in this committee have a very important task of relaying the happenings of the conference as a whole to the entire population in attendance at CANIMUN.

In the International Press Forum, delegates take on the role of an editor of a news source and produce articles as well as interact on various social media platforms about the various committees present at CANIMUN. The important detail to note is that delegates (who will now be referred to as journalists) should write their articles from the perspective of the newspaper they represent. If the newspaper you are assigned takes on a subjective approach and strongly supports one country's stance and opinions, your writing should try to reflect this notion. Keep in mind that we want you to try to act the role as much as possible. We ask that you prioritize the editorial line of the news source you represent, in order to produce a realistic environment during the conference. Do feel free to bring in your own ideas, but also keeping the opinion of your news source in mind, just the way the other delegates in the other committees would do so! Sometimes, one newspaper would prefer the stance and opinions raised in one particular committee given that it relates to the country in which the media is more present and influential. However, in the IPF, we challenge delegates to strongly look at the editorial policy and opinions of the newspaper you are assigned and apply the stance and writing style of your newspaper to other committees. By undertaking this challenge, you will be able to explore the kind of journalist you are and how your writing can vary from topic to topic, while still maintaining the integrity of your newspaper. Additionally, it will allow us to discover the extent to which your writing can adapt to different issues and stances throughout the conference.

It is important for you to have a strong understanding of the history of your newspaper, the features of the newspaper's style, information about its editorial policy (if they are biased, if they focus on one topic more than others, the background of their writers, etc). Also, we strongly encourage you to look into the journalists of your newspaper, as there might be some very famous names for you to keep in mind.

Canadian International Model United Nations 2017
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Please keep in mind that we will need all Position Papers submitted to us by **February 16th, 2017** by the latest at our email: ipf.fip@canimun.org.

The committee environment will simulate that of a newsroom and you will constantly be on the go. We will equip you with the skills and knowledge to go forth and report on what takes place at CANIMUN. Every step of the way, you can rely on us to help and guide you to ensure that your publications are well versed and communicated.

We look forward to working with all of you!

Sincerely,

Kirthana Sasitharan
Editor-in-Chief

Lilia Brahimi
Deputy Managing Director

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The International Press Forum (IPF) is not a traditional United Nations (UN) committee. Rather, the IPF, which exists solely in the context of CANIMUN, represents the collection of international press agencies that gather from around the world to report on the activities of the UN. Each agency is unique, emerges from a particular cultural and ideological context, and has its own unique relationship with its host state. Whether embedded in conflict zones, communities, or in the halls of the UN, journalists (and the IPF more generally) are integral components of the UN's strategy to promote sustainable development, democracy, human rights, and peace.

The establishment of the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) represented another firm commitment from the UN to maintain a strong international press. The UNCA is a professional organization that consists of approximately 200 journalists, representing various major news agencies, publications, and broadcasters around the world. The organization also provides reporters with a direct avenue for resolving disagreements with the UN Secretariat, and sponsors press briefings, awards, and journalism fellowships within the UN.

In 1993, the UN General Assembly recognized the importance of the international press in pursuing the UN's goals by establishing May 3 as World Press Freedom Day. On May 4, 2013, as a part of that year's World Press Freedom Day, UNESCO adopted the San Jose Declaration, which reaffirmed the UN's commitment to securing the freedom of expression for all members of the media. This Declaration calls upon UNESCO, member states, regional intergovernmental organizations, and journalists to continue working together to protect the safety and freedom of journalists internationally.

Given the unprecedented growth of the Internet and the increase in citizen-based journalism that has been enabled through social media, the media's central role in international affairs will continue to expand and develop in the future. As agents of the press, you must respect the role of the press in the past, and simultaneously act to push its mandate and goals into the future. The IPF promises to be a challenging and rewarding committee that provides delegations the opportunity to explore this fascinating and unconventional approach to the UN.



IPF WORK DURING CANIMUN 2017

Admitting highly qualified students that are working towards degrees in a wide array of disciplines, the International Press Forum (IPF) seeks to build onto the diverse post-secondary educational preparation of the knowledge and skill set of professional journalists. These developments take place over an intensive weekend where student-journalists take part in reporting on the debates and deliberations of CANIMUN 2017.



These goals will be achieved through a three-pronged approach:

First, delegates present at the conference having already expanded their knowledge of the social, political, cultural, and economic perspectives of the news outlet assigned to them by CANIMUN staff (a listing of available news outlets is provided later in this document).

Second, delegates are prepared with a concrete understanding of the various media seen within contemporary journalism. The convergence of the media that is resulting from the electronic revolution means that flexibility and versatility in all areas of media constitute the best preparation for all aspiring international journalists. Delegates will discuss the role of the media within the scope of influencing International Relations.

Third, individual interests are encouraged through the incorporation of a variety of opportunities available at CANIMUN for the delegate. This provides the delegate with a creative outlet to explore issues and distinctive requirements of different journalistic and media-related work settings that are of interest to them.

Journalistic Etiquette and Ethics:

- Reporters should try to write their articles on different committees ex. If one reporter writes about General Assembly, the other reporter should write about security council
- All articles should aim to be within 300 to 500 words
- All articles must be submitted ON TIME in the email account in order to be edited
- You may interview delegates during unmoderated caucuses if you would like to know more details about what is being discussed

- Avoid using “I” in any of your writing
- Use the editorial and writing style of your respective news source when writing your articles (e.g. If your news source is very left wing and strongly advocates for equality, make sure your writing style reflects this ideology- this is not being opinionated, this is writing according to the standard and style of the news source)
- Refer to delegates by the country or representative party they are representing i.e. Delegate from Guatemala
- Delegates will be STRONGLY encouraged to submit articles in both English and French. We ask that delegates DO NOT use translator applications to write their articles in French, however, if you have any concerns, please feel free to direct them at the Director or Deputy Editor
- Delegates are expected to remain PROFESSIONAL and RESPECTFUL during the course of the conference and remain on TASK.

1. What to expect

The IPF consists of a team of journalists and two staff members acting as the Editor-In-Chief and the Deputy Managing Director. As a committee, the IPF will produce online editions of *The CANIMUN Gazette* daily that will be emailed out to delegates, while a limited number of printed versions will be available. As well, journalists will be updating and maintaining several social media platforms throughout the conference, including the official CANIMUN Gazette Blog, as well as the CANIMUN Twitter account and Facebook page. The *Gazette* will be made available through the CANIMUN website.

In addition people will be able to comment and discuss the various articles on our social pages – incentivizing discussion and showing the importance of media in the political sphere. Delegates will be participating in Press Conferences within each committee over the course of the conference. The information obtained from the press conferences can be included in an article, tweet, Instagram post, or on Snapchat.

The IPF will be bilingual. Hence, we encourage our journalists to write in either English or French, and/or both! Delegates are invited to be as creative as possible, and encourage new ideas and direction for the forum.

Delegates will send articles to: ipf.fip@canimun.org upon the deadline.

2. The CANIMUN Gazette

The CANIMUN Gazette is a printed publication that will contain five to six 200-300 word articles. Delegates WILL BE required to take and submit photos with every article, which may be featured in the final edition in order to complete an article and enrich the reader's experience and understanding of a subject matter.

Upon arrival at the conference and the first meeting, a daily deadline for articles to be submitted for the print edition of The Gazette will be co-constructed with members of this committee. Deadlines will be MANDATORY and must be met. If you do NOT meet your deadlines, your articles will be in jeopardy of NOT being published.

3. Distribution of the Gazette

The Gazette will be made available through a newsletter and online and it is the responsibility of delegates to promote and encourage the visioning of the outlet. Journalists can promote the Gazette during Press Conferences and within breaks to other delegates.

4. Social media

Journalists will be using Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat as the primary methods for engaging with delegates at CANIMUN.

Journalists will be expected to live-tweet, Instagram upload, and Snapchat the happenings of the conference, as well as participate in press conferences. All journalists will be tweeting from the IPF twitter account using their news source's abbreviation to sign off. Journalists will also be using the Instagram account of the IPF committee to upload videos and pictures, and they will sign off each post with their new source's abbreviation. Passwords for Twitter and Instagram will be provided on the first day of the conference.

5. International news outlet

Delegates of the IPF will be assigned to one of the journalist positions that follow. Assignment will be based on each delegate's demonstrated interest and French language skills. Delegates may make a case for a particular news outlet that they wish to take on by emailing the Editor (please keep in mind delegates will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis so have your top three choices listed). Upon receiving an assigned news outlet, delegates are required to research and familiarize themselves with their outlet's specific style and content, as well as making themselves knowledgeable of the social, political, cultural, and economic perspectives of their assigned news outlet.

Participating outlets:

1. New York Times: (<http://www.nytimes.com>): New York City, United States of America
2. Al Jazeera: (<http://www.aljazeera.com>): Doha, Qatar
3. The Economist: (<http://www.economist.com>): London, United Kingdom
4. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: (<http://www.cbc.ca>): Ottawa, Canada
5. Fox News: (<http://www.foxnews.com/>): New York City, United States of America
6. British Broadcasting Corporation: (<http://www.bbc.co.uk>): London, United Kingdom
7. China Daily: (<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/>): Beijing, China
8. Russia Today (<https://www.rt.com/>): Moscow, Russia
9. The Globe and Mail: (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com>): Toronto, Canada
10. Jeune- Afrique: (<http://http://www.jeuneafrique.com>) Tunis, Tunisia
11. Le Figaro (<http://www.lefigaro.fr/>): Paris, France
12. Le Monde (<http://www.lemonde.fr/>): Paris, France

6. What delegates should bring:

It is essential that delegates participating in the IPF bring the following items with them to committee sessions:

- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ Notepad
- ✓ Pen/Pencil
- ✓ Camera/Camera phone
- ✓ Audio recording device (or a cell phone with this function)
- ✓ Chargers for your equipment
- ✓ Earphones (for transcribing)

It is not mandatory that each delegate have personal access to all of the preceding items; however, proper notice, in the order of four (4) weeks prior to the commencement of CANIMUN 2017, must be given to the Director of the IPF to allow for the necessary accommodations.

Please contact the Director / Editor-in-Chief, Kirthana Sasitharan at (ipf.fip@canimun.org), should you have any questions, concerns, or require accommodations.



FURTHER INFORMATION TO CONSIDER

Learning the style guide and editorial policy of your publication is essential to the aforementioned three-pronged guiding principles of the IPF, and is also an essential component of the experience. Delegates are asked to consult their individual news source's policies as well as Wikipedia and other informational resources in order to further their understanding of the style and editorial guides. The resources that follow act as starting points for delegates to acquire knowledge of their selected publication's guides; however, delegates are also encouraged to become a daily reader of their assigned publication. The print edition of the publication is preferred to the online edition, and can be found in local stores that specialize in selling international newspapers. For those assigned to a publication that is not available in print, please refer to the website information provided on Reuters. If possible, it is also suggested to download your outlet's mobile application (Android, iOS).

1. Style guides:

If a style guide is not readily available for your assigned publication, please refer to The Reuters Style Guide (website information below).

New York Times:

Siegal, Allan M. and William G. Connelly. (2002). *The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage: The Official Style Guide Used by the Writers and Editors of the World's Most Authoritative Newspaper*. Random House LLC.

The Globe and Mail:

McFarlane, J.A. and Warren Clements. (2003). *The Globe and Mail Style Book*, Ninth edition: A Guide to Language and Usage. McClelland & Stewart
McCarten, James. (2013). *The Canadian Press Stylebook: A guide for writers and editors*. The Canadian Press.
http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/STYLEBOOK.20041110.style_3020/Stylebook/National/

The Economist:

<http://www.economist.com/styleguide/introduction>

British Broadcasting Corporation:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/journalism/news-style-guide>

The Reuters Style Guide

The Reuters Handbook of Journalism (available online) can be consulted for those publications that do not have a style guide readily available. Please see the following sources:

Main Page:

http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php?title=Main_Page

Standards and Values:

http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php?title=Standards_and_Values

Guide to Operations:

http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php?title=A_Guide_to_Reuters_Operations_-_text%2C_pictures_and_video_news

General Style Guide:

http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php?title=The_Reuters_Style_Guide

2. Editorial Guides:

If an editorial guide is not readily available for your assigned publication, please refer to the outlet's general profile on standards and practices.

Al Jazeera

- http://www.allied-media.com/aljazeera/Aljazeera_Network_Editorial_Policy_and_Guidelines_for_Advertisements.html

New York Times

- <http://www.nytc.com/who-we-are/culture/standards-and-ethics/>

Fox News

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadcast_Standards_and_Practices_\(US\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadcast_Standards_and_Practices_(US))

For further reading in preparation for CANIMUN 2017, consult the following books:

Recommended reading: The following guides can be located in print at university libraries and for purchase online or at local bookstores:

Kovach, Bill and Tom Rosenstiel. (2007). *The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should*

Know and the Public Should Expect. Three Rivers Press.

McCarten, James. (2013). *The Canadian Press Stylebook: A guide for writers and editors.* The

Canadian Press.

Taras, David. (2015). *Digital Mosaic: Media, Power, and Identity in Canada.* University of Toronto Press

Cribb, Robert, Dean Jobb, David McKie, and Fred Vallance-Jones. (2006). *Digging Deeper: A*

Canadian Reporter's Research Guide. Oxford University Press.

Hardt, Hanno and Bonnie Brennen. (1995). *Newsworkers: Toward a History of the Rank and File.*

University of Minnesota Press.

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Sotiron, Minko. (2005). *From Politics to Profit: The Commercialization of Canadian Daily Newspapers, 1890 – 1920*. McGill-Queen's University Press.

COMMITTEES AND CANIMUN 2017

CANIMUN features eight unique committees, which are all real United Nations bodies. The International Press Forum is similar to the UN News Centre or the UNCA. Below you will find information on the seven other committees present at the conference as well as the selected topics, given that you will have to interact with delegates from all committees and write about each committee at some point during the conference. As a journalist, your role consists of acquiring general knowledge of the current events and developing a critical mind when faced with certain situations. We strongly encourage you to do some research about the following topics and UN bodies in order to be sufficiently prepared to endorse your Journalist role.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The Security Council is the primary international actor responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and is also considered as the most powerful decisive organ of the United Nations. The Security Council takes the lead in identifying the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and it calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In certain situations, the Council is entitled to impose sanctions or authorize the use of force with the aim to maintain and restore international peace and security. As the Security Council may adopt new agenda items based on recent international events, it is strongly recommended for delegates to be aware of the international news in the months leading up to the conference.

Topics

THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CAUSED BY GLOBAL TERRORISM

There is little doubt that a rise in terrorism over the past few decades has led to a series of new challenges for the global community. New threats to international security raise difficult questions for governments around the world. Delegates will have the opportunity to address some of these questions, and work together to create a collaborative multilateral framework for combating these issues.

THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

The UN Security Council has the exclusive power, within the UN system, to authorize the use of military action, and the only body that can propose binding resolutions. It is for this reason that the UN Security Council must take up decisive actions once and for all in addressing the spiraling situation in Syria. The SC has already taken measures to target ISIS's finances but this alone is not enough. Delegates will have the opportunity to take up solutions to diplomatically solving the Assad question and looking at possible coalition action against ISIS.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter, the International Court of Justice is the only judicial and one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It is located at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The role of the ICJ is to settle legal disputes submitted by UN Member States through applications in accordance with international law. Moreover, the Court gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN Organs and specialized agencies. In this committee, delegates will not be representing sovereign states; rather they will take the role of a judge of the Court and resolve the cases in collaboration with the 15 judges presiding the court, including the President and Vice-President of the Court (CANIMUN staff).

Topics

CERTAIN IRANIAN ASSETS (“ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”)

In the face of the threat that terrorism poses, the United States Supreme Court ruling on seizure of the Central Bank of Iran’s assets in order to compensate the relatives of those killed in the 1983 bombing in Beirut inevitably raises the question on the status of those entities that have traditionally relied on immunity from enforcement proceedings, and that may now be deprived of their rights to property and freedom of commerce. Judges will have to examine the fine line between confiscation and compensation in accordance to the applicable international law, in order to decide if the seizure of Iranian companies’ assets is legally sound. A decision of this kind may constitute an important precedent in a world where terrorism remains a challenge for the 21st century.

IMMUNITIES AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (“EQUATORIAL GUINEA V. FRANCE”)

State immunity is a fundamental concept derived from sovereign equality. Unfortunately not all states adhere and defer to state immunity of other nations. Equatorial Guinea v. France is a pending case of the ICJ that deals with immunities and criminal proceedings. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea brought an action to curtail France’s pursuit of trial of the senior government official of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on charges of money laundering. Moreover, it sought to define the legal status of the building which houses its Embassy in France. This is the first time that the Court engenders a dispute related to large-scale corruption, offering delegates to look at expanding case law on criminal jurisdiction and immunities in the context of large-scale corruption.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main intergovernmental body of the UN that is exclusively dedicated to the promotion of women’s rights and empowerment, and gender equality. Drawing from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the CSW meets annually in New-York, at the UN Headquarters, to review particular themes and to take measures on a priority theme. In March 2016, during its 60th session, the CSW had

discussed about the role of women's empowerment in achieving sustainable development, and the elimination of sexual violence against women and girls. The CSW reports to the Economic and Social Council by formulating recommendations.

Topics

THE LINK BETWEEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 shed light on many global issues, including the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the world (Goal 5). Despite the establishment of targets to meet this goal, women are still underrepresented in political and public institutions, generally have a lower income than their male counterparts, and have less access to education and health resources. By addressing the three main dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental), delegates will reflect on the link between achieving sustainable development (and the subsequent SDGs) and empower women throughout the world. Through their work in committee, they will come up with concrete policy recommendations to fulfill the SDGs objectives.

IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Women and girls throughout the world can face many obstacles when it comes to access to healthcare resources, such as sexual violence, unequal gender relations, and lack of education. Delegates will come up with solutions and recommendations on how women's access to healthcare resources could be improved in order to achieve gender equality. The topic covers a broad range of issues ranging from sexual violence, access to healthcare services, sexual-transmitted diseases, and mental health.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

This committee will be simulated in French

Established in 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) aims to achieve lasting peace by promoting intellectual solidarity through educational, scientific, and cultural means. In order to fulfill this objective, the UNESCO works on the following priorities: universal education, building intercultural understanding, pursuing scientific cooperation, and protecting freedom of expression. UNESCO delegates will look at a range of unique and dynamic issues, focusing on and initiatives to promote cultural and sexual diversity, as well as the protection of freedom of expression and media.

Topics

THE INCLUSION OF LGBT+ PERSONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

UNESCO plays a key role in the implementation of the SDGs and promoting the inclusion of all people in this process. The inclusion and promotion of the rights of the LGBT+ community is critical in the process of sustainable development. As the United Nations organization responsible for protecting and promoting education and culture, this committee will give delegates the opportunity to take part in an important discussion about including and integrating the LGBT+ community in the implementation of the SDGs.

SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION THROUGH MEDIA PLURALISM AND DIVERSITY

The media plays a major role in everyday life around the world. Journalists and media personnel often get put in dangerous situations, both at home and abroad. As a cultural and educational organization, UNESCO is able to work to improve physical and political protections in place for journalists and media personnel. Delegates will have the opportunity to examine some of the most pressing issues surrounding the media and freedom of expression, and explore creative and effective ways to protect journalists and their work.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme is a United Nations body charged with coordinating global environmental activities which promote sustainable development and sound public policies. The UNEP develops international instruments and encourages partnerships between member countries in order to achieve its goals. The agency is part of several Implementing Agencies and seeks to protect future generations without neglecting current ones. Delegates in this committee will have the opportunity to use an innovative approach to examine and discuss two unique topics.

Topics

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

For many developing and developed countries, tourism is an important and growing industry, yet also one with the potential to adversely affect the environment. Ill-managed tourism can often lead to crises such as deforestation or over-consumption of resources, while a focus on sustainable tourism has the potential to help different economies. While the development of sustainable tourism certainly has its challenges, it is an interesting and incredibly relevant topic of discussion. It has the potential to support local economies and decrease poverty, if correctly guided by the delegates of the UNEP.

IMPLEMENTING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

The UNEP has improved public accessibility to information regarding efficient ecosystem management, by sharing online research results, and has played a large role in helping create educational frameworks on environmental issues. A key issue facing the committee is helping implement education strategies for all career paths and the critical role each plays in the future of a sustainable environment. By addressing methods of implementing and engaging students from all professional fields in the importance of environmental sustainability, delegates can look at ways to build a stronger, greener economies around the world.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the main United Nations body mandated to protect refugees and ensure that their rights are protected. The agency assists countries or the UN in the repatriation and resettlement of refugees as it believes that everyone has the right to seek asylum. Since its formation in 1950 the UNHCR has received two Nobel Peace Prizes. In a time when refugees are a major issue facing the international community, UNHCR delegates at CANIMUN 2017 will have the opportunity to discuss some of the most pressing topics surround the global refugee crisis.

Topics

IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN TO END STATELESSNESS

In 2015 the UNHCR launched a Global Campaign in an attempt to end statelessness by 2024. The campaign is accompanied by The Global Action Plan and a set of 10 goals the UNHCR has put into place, including ensuring that no child will be born stateless, resolving major existing situations of statelessness and removing of gender discrimination from nationality laws. Delegates will be able to discuss the progress of the Global Action plan over the past year and will examine ways to ensure that the goals of the Action Plan are met by 2024.

DEVELOPING AN INNOVATIVE, FUNCTIONAL AND REUSABLE BURDEN-SHARING FRAMEWORK FOR REFUGEES

One of the biggest impediments to effective management of the current refugee crisis is the distinct lack of action on the part of states that are not proximal to the conflict. Countries such as Jordan and Lebanon (with little territorial or economic capacity) can now boast that they host refugees in numbers nearly equaling their own populations (millions), while countries such as Canada (with huge territorial and economic capacity) have failed to meet refugee intake goals as low as 25,000. Delegates will have the opportunity to look into creating an innovative and lasting framework through which both current and future refugee crises can be solved. This discussion will require delegates to be both collaborative and creative in considering potential issue-linkages and appropriate incentives for ensuring international cooperation both now and in the future.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The General Assembly is known as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the United Nations. This organ is composed of all 193 Member States of the United Nations, which promotes the essential pillars by which the organization was founded: equality and sovereignty. The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee) focuses on issues concerning disarmament and world peace. Delegates in this committee will have the opportunity to study and debate some of the key issues surrounding international security today.

Topics

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

During its 70th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Two of the key themes outlined in these objectives were development and world peace. A key challenge for the General Assembly First Committee will be examining the relationship between disarmament and development. While the two forces are mutually reinforcing, they do not automatically happen together. Decreased armed violence, military expenditures and reduced military tensions must come with sustained efforts to eradicate poverty and stimulate economic growth. Delegates will be able to examine at how to allow these forces to work in tandem, and work towards achieving a more sustainable and peaceful world.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

As technology continues to improve and develop around the world, information and telecommunications have played an increasing role in the security frameworks of national governments and international community. In recent years, many countries around the world have prioritized domestic efforts taken at the to strengthen information security and there have been increasing efforts to promote international cooperation in that field. For this topic, delegates will have the opportunity to examine various issues surrounding this topic, including possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level.