Dear Delegates,

I am thrilled to be sharing 2019’s Model United Nations topics with you. This year, the vision behind this study guide was to showcase as many different topics as possible that show you the impact your generation (and those after you) will have on this world. From topics involving combating misinformation in the digital age, to issues with maternal and child health, and even to concerns about managing risks and impacts of future epidemics, the goal behind everything is to help you dig into the topics that will affect your generation and how you can be the change to create a pragmatic and resourceful future.

The study guide has an admirable list of resources for you to use as you prepare yourself, and other members of your delegation, for the upcoming conference. The more information and knowledge you have in hand when you arrive on the first day of Model UN, the more efficient and proactive you can be when creating resolutions and sparking discussion in your committee groups. All of this will help your committee to create fantastic resolutions for very complex issues. Come prepared for conversation about your country and begin thinking about all of the information that you need from other delegates to round out your perception of each issue. We want you all to be able to take away a greater understanding of each issue and all the perspectives that it can be seen from.

I hope that you find this study guide to be useful and impactful on your journey into the 33rd Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Model United Nations! Please enjoy your time of preparation—it is just as important as your attendance at this conference!

With anticipation,

[Signature]

Courtney Gysland
Secretary-General of the 2019 Model UN Conference
Contents

2019 ANDERSON MEMBER STATES ................................................................. 1
2019 MONDALE MEMBER STATES .............................................................. 2
2019 COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS ................................................................. 4
RESOURCES & GLOSSARY ........................................................................ 6
PHILOSOPHY OF MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UN ........................................ 7
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ................................................................. 8
GUIDE TO DELEGATE PREPARATION ....................................................... 9
  WRITING STATUS REPORTS ...................................................................... 10
  WRITING POSITION PAPERS .................................................................... 10
  WRITING RESOLUTIONS (AT THE CONFERENCE) ...................................... 11
  RESOLUTION FORMAT GUIDE ............................................................... 12
  INITIATING PHRASES FOR A RESOLUTION ............................................ 13
  SAMPLE RESOLUTION ............................................................................ 14
  WRITING ICJ MEMORIALS ...................................................................... 15
  SAMPLE ICJ MEMORIAL ....................................................................... 16
THE CONFERENCE ...................................................................................... 17
  THE ROLE OF THE DELEGATE ............................................................... 17
  DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES ............................................................... 17
  CAUCUSING ........................................................................................... 18
  ROLE PLAYING ....................................................................................... 19
  SPECIAL AGENCIES ............................................................................. 20
  CRISIS SITUATIONS .............................................................................. 21
TIPS FOR DELEGATE PREPARATION ......................................................... 22
SECURITY COUNCIL .................................................................................. 23
  BACKGROUND ....................................................................................... 24
  FUNCTIONS AND POWERS .................................................................... 24
  VOTING AND PROCEDURE .................................................................... 25
  UNITING FOR PEACE ............................................................................ 25
  DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ............................................ 26
  ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ............................ 26
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Regulating Biological Weapons</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government Transparency and Info Sharing</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Security Council</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Situation in Uganda</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Situation in Afghanistan</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic &amp; Social Council</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global Wage Gap</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Arms Trade and the World Economy</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence During Wartime</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Labor and Education</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political &amp; Security Committee</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cybersecurity Threats</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety of International Travelers</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic &amp; Financial Committee</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Money Laundering</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combating Misinformation in the Digital Age</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social, Humanitarian, &amp; Cultural Committee</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty and Social Exclusion</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Intolerance</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal Committee</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Conditions of Refugee Camps</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Political Committee</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Managing Risks and Impact of Future Epidemics</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effects of Chemical Weapons</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Committee</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civilian Impact of Weaponized Drone Strikes</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Researching for the Model UN Session</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 4 DELEGATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Ecuador</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Korea, Republic of (South)</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 1–3 DELEGATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Dominican Republic</th>
<th>Kuwait</th>
<th>Qatar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Togo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Korea, People’s Republic of (North)</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td></td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
2019 MONDALE MEMBER STATES

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADES 9–12 ONLY!

**NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 8 DELEGATES**

| China

**NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 7 DELEGATES**

| France | United Kingdom | United States

**NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 6 DELEGATES**

| Japan | Nigeria | Peru | Russian Federation

**NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 5 DELEGATES**

| Afghanistan | Ethiopia | Lebanon | Somalia
| Australia | Germany | Mexico | Spain
| Belgium | India | Morocco | Togo
| Bolivia | Iraq | Norway | Uganda
| Brazil | Italy | Philippines | United Arab Emirates
| Chile | Jamaica | Rwanda | Venezuela
| Cote d’Ivoire | Korea, Republic of (South) | Slovakia
| Ecuador | Kuwait | South Africa

**NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 2–4 DELEGATES**

| Algeria | Cuba | Kazakhstan | Saudi Arabia
| Angola | Czech Republic | Kenya | Senegal
| Andorra | Denmark | Kyrgyzstan | Slovenia
| Azerbaijan | Egypt | Malawi | St. Vincent & Grenadines
| Bangladesh | El Salvador | Moldova | Sudan
| Belarus | Eswatini | Mongolia | Sweden
| Benin | Gabon | Nepal | Switzerland
| Burundi | Georgia | Netherlands | Tajikistan
| Cameroon | Ghana | Pakistan | Tunisia
| Canada | Guinea | Panama | Turkey
| Chad | Guyana | Poland | Ukraine
| Colombia | Hungary | Portugal | Uruguay
| Congo, Dem Rep of** | Iceland | Qatar | Vietnam
| Croatia | Ireland | Romania | Zambia

**Notes:**
- **** indicates countries with special status or non-state entities.
- ** indicates countries that are not recognized or have limited international recognition.
## NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 1-3 DELEGATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Eritrea</th>
<th>Macedonia</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Suriname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>Korea, North</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>** Yes, there really are two Congos – slightly similar names, but different nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 1 DELEGATE

| Czechoslovakia | USSR | (No longer countries – only part of Historic Security Council) | ** Yes, there really are two Congos – slightly similar names, but different nations. |
## MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
### 2019 COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Korea, Republic of (South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECURITY COUNCIL</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL – 1979</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Gabon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia*</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Korea, Republic of (South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Dem. Republic of**</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Togo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES & GLOSSARY

RESOURCES

In addition to doing research about countries and topic areas, it is a good idea to research a bit about how Model UN programs and the world work.

www.bestdelegate.com
While many of the resources here are related to competitive Model UN activities (YIG’s Model UN does not emphasize competition), there is a host of amazing info here.

www.mnyig.org
Look under the “Model UN Preparation” menu . . . go to “Model UN Resources”. There is a collection of sites – for UN Info, Country Info, Research & Participation Info and background on different Global Organizations.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adjudication: The legal process of resolving a dispute.

Analytics: Discovery and communication of meaningful patterns in data.

Convention: A general agreement on something.

Global North and South: These are preferred terms in political science when discussing development of countries; to break the racist idea of the “first and third worlds.”

Rapporteur: A person appointed to an organization to report on its findings.

Reparation: Compensation or satisfaction given to a person/group that has been wronged.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P): A doctrine in international politics which details the international community’s obligations to civilian populations in the event their state is unable to ensure their safety.

OCED: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Organized to help stimulate free trade and economic growth.

State: A synonym for country. State is used primarily in international relations style writing to make it clear for international readers.
PHILOSOPHY
OF MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UN

STRUCTURE

The Minnesota YMCA Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations assembly. You will find a diagram of the structure of the real United Nations on the following page. For logistical and educational reasons, the YMCA Model United Nations only simulates certain parts of the actual United Nations. Emphasis is placed on simulating the United Nations for the maximum benefit of the delegates. There are a number of committees and topics in the real United Nations which are not being dealt with at this conference due to time and logistical constraints.

THE UNITED NATIONS’ ROLE

When discussing issues and resolutions at the Model United Nations conference, it is important that the delegates realize what the United Nations is. The United Nations is not a world government. It is an international forum, where a group of sovereign nations meet to discuss international issues. The United Nations can offer solutions to international problems, but it is not in a position to force its member countries to accept any decisions. The reason the United Nations exists is to foster greater communications between countries. In order for the United Nations to produce solutions to problems, there must be a great deal of negotiation. This is one of the skills which will be key to success at this Model United Nations.

International diplomacy has been most successful when nations have found the room to compromise between their national policy and national interests. National policy is a country’s original stance on an issue. National interests are a country’s response to current events. International diplomacy is the search for common ground between national policy and national interests.

The product of the approach that will be taken at this conference will be resolutions which have the support of the key nations involved in each issue. A passed resolution which is strongly contested by a key nation is not a successful resolution. Only one resolution per topic area will emerge from each committee. This is because international diplomacy is a series of near-consensus compromises by nations with competing views. Therefore, to be effective, a good resolution must be approved by all major players. Resolutions among nations are possible, but they require compromise.
GUIDE TO DELEGATE PREPARATION

**Status Reports** help delegates develop a better understanding of their country’s economic, political, and social history. The Status Reports are completed by your country group as a whole and should be a group effort. **THE STATUS REPORT SHOULD BE COMPLETED FIRST – BEFORE THE POSITION PAPERS FOR YOUR COUNTRY.**

**Position Papers** help prepare delegates for intellectual debate and creative problem solving in committees. Position Papers are the basis of General Assembly, Human Rights Council, ECOSOC and Security Council resolutions and should be completed by General Assembly, HRC, ECOSOC and Security Council delegates, with input and assistance from other members of the country group.

**Memorials** help ensure an exciting experience for ICJ members, who will be able to choose the most well researched and pertinent cases for hearing. Delegates of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and Security Council will gain the opportunity to explore their role in the United Nations as a whole.

All these projects require ample research. One of the most rewarding experiences of Model United Nations comes through this process of researching and working with fellow delegates in preparing for the conference. The following pages will provide you with information on how to prepare your status reports, position papers, and memorials.
WRITING STATUS REPORTS

A Status Report in the Model United Nations program is a form designed to guide your research about the country that you are representing. It is intended not only to prepare you, but it will be available to other delegates at the conference wishing to have quick access to information about your country. It is important, therefore, to prepare well-written, in depth answers to the questions asked.

These questions will include areas such as History, Culture, Politics, Religion and Economy. It is important to understand your country’s situation in these areas because they are the main factors in the formulation of policy. Because these forms are meant to be a source of facts for both you and others, they should be answered in a non-biased manner. Please use at least three separate sources in your paper so you get the best possible info.

Only one report per country is required. This report should be researched, organized and written by all the members representing your country, working as a group. A group project will help you discuss and understand the important issues which your country is facing.

Report forms are available at the YIG website (www.mnyig.org). Remember, these forms are designed to guide your research. They will not cover everything you may need to know and you are encouraged to include any other information that you feel is important.

WRITING POSITION PAPERS

A Position Paper is your country’s official opinion on a topic being addressed by the Model United Nations during its session. (Be sure to check and see if your country is already assigned to one or more committees). Your country must submit a position paper for each topic in each committee or organ you are represented in. This applies for all General Assembly committees, HRC, ECOSOC and the Security Council.

The Position papers must be submitted on the official form available from the YIG website (www.mnyig.org). One page is all that is required. Keep the Position Paper short, concise and thoughtful. Be accurate in your presentation. You should be presenting the official opinion of the country you are representing, not your personal opinion or an opinion that may be unrealistic or unduly controversial. You have some freedom to state the position of your country as you wish. It could be helpful to include statistics and give possible solutions to problems. Position Papers will be used as a lead-in to resolutions in committees and Organs.
WRITING RESOLUTIONS (AT THE CONFERENCE)

Resolutions are the basic, formal statements which the United Nations produces to express its collective opinion, suggest a course of action, or commit one or more of its various organs to a specific activity.

When a consensus is reached on a topic of debate within a committee of the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, or within the Security Council, the body expresses its decision in the form of a Resolution.

While most resolutions state policy, some may include an entire treaty, declaration or convention. Resolutions may either be general statements or directions for specific organizations, bodies, or states. They may condemn actions of a state, call for collective action, or, as in the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions.

There will be a limit of one resolution per topic area, which can pass through each committee. Thus, a great deal of negotiation needs to take place in committee to get a resolution that most countries (at least seventy percent) can agree to. In addition, there will be no individual authors to any resolution. The committee itself is considered the author.

The process of writing a resolution begins in the Introductory Stage. During this stage, each country that wants to see certain items in a passed resolution states their position. These stances can come directly from the position papers submitted by member nations.

At this point, the Negotiation Stage begins. Invariably, certain delegations will find fault with a number of the clauses in each working paper. These delegations need to negotiate with other countries in order to find a compromise position which at least a majority of countries can agree to. These negotiations will take place during caucus time.

After the negotiation stage has run its course, the Resolution Stage begins. At this point, if there are still delegations who disagree with the resolution, they can offer amendments to the draft resolution. Amendments to resolutions include additions, deletions, or changes in draft resolutions.

After all of the amendments have been handled, and there is no more debate (or debate has been closed), the Voting Stage begins. If there are still delegations which disagree with certain parts of the resolution, they can move to divide the question into a number of parts. Otherwise voting proceeds as usual. If a majority votes in favor, the resolution passes and goes to the General Assembly Plenary.
RESOLUTION FORMAT GUIDE

HEADING
When presented to an organ or committee, all draft, plenary and other resolutions must be written on the proper forms as provided by the Secretariat. Information on the form must include the organ, Committee and Topic Area.

BODY
The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. There are format rules for resolutions, just as there are grammatical rules for sentences.

1. The resolution begins with the General Assembly for all General Assembly committees and with the Economic and Social Council for all ECOSOC resolutions. The Specialized Agencies use their own names as the introductory line. The rest of the resolution consists of clauses with the initiating phrases of each clause underlined.

2. The next section, consisting of Perambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause and the preamble begin with an underlined word and ends with a comma.

3. Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense, action verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.

CONTEXT
A well-written resolution demonstrates:

1. Familiarity with the problem. Relevant background information and previous United Nations actions are included.
2. Recognition of the issues. Arguments on the topic are specified early.
3. Conciseness. Every clause and phrase should have a purpose.
4. Good form. An otherwise sound resolution will suffer from clumsy grammar and sloppy form.
INITIATING PHRASES FOR A RESOLUTION

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging
Affirming
Anxious
Appreciating
Aware
Being convinced
Cognizant
Concerned
Confident
Conscious
Considering
Contemplating
Convinced
Declaring
Deeply disturbed
Desiring
Deploring
Determined
Emphasizing
Encouraged
Endorsing
Expressing...
- appreciation
- deep appreciation
- bearing in mind
- aware
- considered
- examined further
- received
- regard for
- reviewed
- keeping in mind
- mindful

Noting...
- further
- with approval
- with deep concern
- with regret
- with satisfaction
- observing
- realizing
- recalling
- recognizing
- referring
- regretting
- reiterating
- seeking
- stressing
- taking...
- into account
- note
- welcoming
- viewing with...
- apprehension

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Accepts
Adopts
Affirms
Appeals
Appreciates
Approves
Authorizes
Calls upon
Commends
Concurs
Condemns
Confirms
Congratulates
Considers
Decides
Declares
Deplores
Designates

Directs
Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses...
- its appreciation
- its conviction
- its regret
- its sympathy
- its thanks
- the belief
- the hope
- further...
- invites
- proclaims
- reminds
- recommends
- resolves

Instructs
Notes...
- with appreciation
- with approval
- with interest
- with satisfaction
- reaffirms
- recognizes
- recommends
- regrets
- reiterates
- renews its appeal
- repeats
- suggests
- supports
- takes note of
- transmits
- urges
MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
SAMPLE RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the fact that cultural opinions sometimes do not allow women to receive a formal education,

Keeping in Mind it is illegal in some countries to educate women and girls,

Adapting to this knowledge,

Appreciating the cultures and religions of women and their families, it is not expected that they receive an education if it is to interfere with their beliefs,

Recognizing the danger women are in while traveling to school,

1. Suggests that women under the age of eighteen (18) are accompanied by a guardian or another respected adult to and from school, circumstances permitting,

2. Encourages that women who choose not to receive an education on account of religious beliefs are still taught the basic skills of reading, writing, and simple mathematics, so that they can be economically viable citizens for both themselves and their family,

3. Expects that women have an equal opportunity to be hired for a job and that their pay is equal to that of men in the same rank.

4. Encourages all countries to legalize the education of women

5. Endorses the fact that donations can be made and taxes can be paid to provide funding for the needs of schools to be made up for the new female students.
WRITING ICJ MEMORIALS

To present or respond to a case to the Model International Court of Justice, a party must prepare and present a Memorial. A Memorial must contain three basic elements:

1. Claims of Fact
2. Assertions of Law
3. Prayers for Relief

If a nation is sued in the ICJ, it will be required to submit a counter-memorial, due before the first day of the Model United Nations. Countries being sued will be notified and will be supplied with a copy of the memorial brought against them.

CLAIMS OF FACT
Applicants and Respondents must briefly outline the issues and facts relevant to the case to be decided by the ICJ. Claims of Fact detail the events that lead to the dispute pending before the court. Historical, legal and political research will be helpful in finding and stating the relevant facts. While facts must be truthfully stated, they may be written in the best light of the party preparing the Memorial.

ASSERTIONS OF LAW
This section is the most important part of the Memorial. It contains the relevant principles and sources of law such as international treaties, international conventions, customary law, previous ICJ decisions, United Nations Resolutions and the works of noted international law writers and jurists.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF
In this section, each party requests that the court rule and act in their favor. Applicants will generally ask the court to direct the Respondent to correct the wrong or injustice committed or applicants will seek sanctions or a simple declaration of the rights and duties that exist between the disputing parties. Respondents generally request a dismissal of the case or seek counter-relief against the Applicant(s).

To find ideas for Memorials, watch your daily newspaper and magazines for current world events. All nations sitting on the ICJ are required to author at least one memorial. Nations not sitting on the ICJ are strongly encouraged to write and submit a memorial.

THERE IS NO FORM FOR MEMORIALS – they are simply typed in the same format as the sample Memorial and are limited to 3 pages.
MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
SAMPLE ICJ MEMORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
The Scientists and the People of Japan: Applicants
The United States of America: Respondents
The International Whaling Community

CLAIM:
That the United States of America and the IWC (hereinafter known as the Respondents) have not given Japanese Scientists the opportunity to study the Southern Hemisphere Minke Whales because of claims of killing too many whales in the process,
That the Japanese government has issued permits to the Japanese nationals who give them the right to kill the Southern Hemisphere whales for scientific studies,
That the Japanese Scientists are bringing its whaling activities into conformance with the regulations of the IWC,
That Japan is conducting these scientific experiments for the improvement of all countries’ knowledge of the Minke Whale,

ASSERT:
That such regulations are not in accord with the accepted norms of decisions and regulations made within the United States,
That such a regulation is infringing on the rights of the Japanese Scientists to make new discoveries that could seriously change the world in which we live in,

PRAYERS:
That the court can find that such regulations are unjustifiable;
That the court orders the Respondents to rectify their regulations on Japan’s Scientists so they can kill a minimum number of Minke Whales to continue their complex study.
THE CONFERENCE
THE ROLE OF THE DELEGATE

Each delegation to the Minnesota YMCA Model United Nations conference faces an exciting, challenging task in preparing to represent a United Nations Member. You must do some intensive research on a variety of topics and be prepared to clearly state the position actually held by your country. Moreover, you must be prepared to make impromptu speeches explaining your country’s position on a developing crisis.

An important element of the conference is the depth of responsibility which is placed on the individual delegate to adequately prepare for the Model UN so as to ensure that constructive and informed discussion of the issues will take place.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend all Delegation meetings and participate in practice simulations of United Nations organs.
2. Research your country as a whole and prepare a Status Report, Position Paper and Memorial for the Assembly.
3. Review the purposes, structure and major activities of the United Nations. Every Delegate should study carefully the Rules of Procedure for the organ in which they are involved.
4. Be prepared to participate in caucusing sessions during the conference with them wherein you will agree on common goals and courses of action to meet those goals.
5. Attend all scheduled functions during the Conference.
CAUCUSING

The bulk of United Nations negotiations occurs in caucus groups. In these sessions delegates meet informally, without public scrutiny, to formulate positions and to negotiate with other nations. Amendments to resolutions can be discussed and differences of opinion worked out so that the committee can take some action.

Productive caucusing is not confined solely to your bloc. Agreement on a proposal is only possible if nations of varying political and geographic areas can meet to discuss their differences. As the number of nations that support a view increases, there is a much greater chance for concrete action to take place. This increases the importance of constructive caucusing, rather than confrontation. Delegates to the Model United Nations are encouraged to contact other Delegates before the conference (the Summit is a good opportunity) to discuss common objectives and strategies for realizing those objectives.

Caucus groups may be thought of in terms of voting blocs; that is, Member States which tend to vote together on particular issues in the United Nations. For the purposes of our Model United Nations, we shall consider Caucus Groups as informally organized and structured groups of nations who tend to vote together.

The purpose of the Member States forming Caucus groups is to use the United Nations as a forum for expressing official opinions and as an instrument for protecting their own national interests. Since neither of these goals could be accomplished with all nations pulling in the opposite directions of individual national interests, it has become necessary to combine the common interests of individual nations in an effort to exert a greater amount of political influence within the United Nations.

Caucusing will take place primarily during the periodic recesses of the General Assembly committees and ECOSOC. Countries are encouraged to set up their own bloc meetings with the help of officers or Secretariat members throughout the conference. Countries are also encouraged to apply to host informal gatherings at the conference. Countries may sign up for receptions by the first night of Model UN. Snacks and beverages will be provided for these meetings. For these gatherings, host countries must indicate which other countries they want to invite. See the Special Agencies section, for more information.
ROLE PLAYING

The YMCA Youth in Government Model United Nations program is a simulation of the actual United Nations, where the countries of the world send delegates to act as representatives of the governments of those countries. Your role as a participant in the Model United Nations is to ACT as a representative of the country you are representing for the conference. Your primary goal is to give your government’s views on all the issues in front of your organ, whether you are a member of the General Assembly, ECOSOC or the Security Council. The key here is that you must get into character and play the role of the delegate like you would a character in a play almost. The most important things to remember are:

- You won’t be able to know everything about your country, but the most important tool you have is RESEARCH. The more you know about your country, the government and the people who live there, the better you will be able to make EDUCATED GUESSES about how they would feel about issues.
- Pay special attention to your country’s ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS and EDUCATIONAL status. Understanding how your country’s trade and overall economic status, primary (or official) religion and overall rate of literacy and education will be key to understanding how your country will be able to respond to many UN issues—not all will be able to support certain resolutions because of religious attitudes, etc…
- The closer you stay to character, the more FUN you will have. Part of this conference’s appeal is that you will spend three days acting like someone who most likely has had a very different life than yours, and will therefore have very different views than yours.
- Remember that you are representing your country’s views, and NEVER YOUR OWN VIEWS. While it is tempting to respond as you personally feel, you must remember that this conference is not about speaking how we feel, but as world leaders feel.
- When in doubt about how your country might feel about something, look first to the views of delegates representing countries which might have similar views. In order to do this, you need to understand what countries have many things in common with yours. The only real way to know which countries are like yours is, again, RESEARCH. In addition, this will help you build coalitions and “blocs”.
SPECIAL AGENCIES

CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER
The Conference Resource Center serves as a great resource for delegates throughout the conference. If you have any questions or simply want to update or supplement your research, you may be able to find what you need at the Conference Resource Center. The Conference Resource Center will be the center of crisis, informal caucus, and communication/reference coordination. The Conference Resource Center will be open throughout the conference as a place where delegates may find guidance and information.

The Conference Resource Center will have files of status reports, position papers, and memorials for your disposal. The Conference Resource Center will also have supplementary resources about United Nations Member States acquired from embassies, and other reference materials. Topic information collected by the Secretariat will also be available at the Conference Resource Center.

INFORMAL RECEPTIONS
A Secretariat member may help organize informal caucus meetings. Delegates may also coordinate with the Secretariat members during the conference if they want to host other caucus meetings.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSPAPER
Student editorial staff will write, publish and distribute a daily newspaper to inform participants of conference events. This newspaper will also outline various opinions on specific issues and provide insight on activities of special interest to delegates and advisors, as well as provide the official text of any resolutions coming before any organ of the Model United Nations.
CRISIS SITUATIONS

At various times over the course of the conference, the Crisis Coordinators will be introducing crisis situations. Crises will involve a conflict between a number of nations, and will reflect the current events of the international world. All nations affected by any crisis will be informed of the situation in the form of a communiqué, either from the Secretariat directly or from their "Home Government." Each country should be prepared to deal with any crisis relevant to them. Should a crisis develop, the Security Council shall be the organ which will coordinate any discussion and/or resolution of the crisis. There will be two types of crises that will take place during the conference:

1. **Crises of Peace and Security** will be discussed and voted upon by the Security Council. Only resolutions that have passed through the Security Council on these matters and have been sent to other organs for consideration will be discussed in the General Assembly or ECOSOC. Any delegation that would like to submit a proposal or draft resolution to the Security Council on these matters may do so. The Council may invite any Member to participate, without vote, in the discussion of any matter which the Council considers to be of vital interest to said United Nations Member.

2. **Crises of Economic, Social, Cultural, or Humanitarian Nature** may be discussed in the General Assembly or ECOSOC, if a draft resolution has been prepared and is submitted to the proper officers.

If you are informed of a crisis involving the vested interests of the United Nations Member which you represent:

1. Communicate with your Home Government as directed by the Secretariat in your area.
2. Meet with your country members to work out a strategy.
3. Meet with other nations, friendly or unfriendly, who are also involved in the crisis.
4. Draft a resolution or proposal for the appropriate organ suggesting a response to a crisis which it is discussing.
5. If the organ has not already invited you, send a petition to the Secretariat asking to be allowed to participate in the discussion.
TIPS FOR DELEGATE PREPARATION

One of the most important ingredients to a positive Model United Nations experience is adequate delegate preparation. Delegates must research their countries before they arrive at the conference. This is absolutely essential to the success of the conference. While they need not be experts on international affairs, it is important that delegates look toward the proper sources for information. In addition to research at a local library, here are a few other ideas:

1. Compete the required Status Report. These documents serve as a great starting place for a country delegation’s research. To participate in Model United Nations, each country must turn in a completed Status Report before the conference. Since a completed Status Report makes a good resource, it is highly recommended that each country make multiple copies of this document and bring them along to the conference.

2. Keep informed of current affairs. Since global affairs can change quickly, the Internet and newspapers are often your best source of information. Delegates should start a file that relates to the current state of their nation and its relationship to the rest of the world.

3. Contact embassies of UN missions. Embassies can be an extremely valuable source of current, hard to find information. The UN website has very helpful links to most missions and can be found on the YIG website, www.mnyig.org. There are several useful research links on the site!

4. When in doubt, ask a lot of questions. School or community librarians will be able to suggest other resources. Also, as always, don’t hesitate to call the State Office. The State Staff will be happy to answer questions!
SECURITY COUNCIL

2019 TOPICS

Regulating Biological Weapons
Government Transparency and Info Sharing
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The organ which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is the Security Council. The Council is composed of five permanent members—China, France, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and 10 non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two year terms and not eligible for immediate re-election. The number of non-permanent members was increased from six to ten by an amendment of the Charter which came into force in 1965.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

While other organs of the United Nations may make recommendations to governments, the Council alone has the power to make decisions which all member States are obligated under the Charter to accept and carry out.

The Council may investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction and may recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement. Disputes and situations likely to endanger international peace and security may be brought to the attention of the Council by any Member State, by a Non-Member State which accepts in advance the obligations of pacific settlement contained in the Charter, by the General Assembly, or by the Secretary-General.

The Council may determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. It may make recommendations or decide to take enforcement measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. Enforcement actions may include a call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures short of the use of armed force. Under the Charter, all Members undertake to make available to the Council on its call, in accordance with special agreements to be negotiated on the Council’s initiative, the armed forces, assistance and facilities necessary for maintaining international peace and security. The Council is also responsible for formulating plans to regulate armaments. In addition, the Security Council exercises the Trusteeship functions of the United Nations in areas designated as strategic. The Security Council makes annual and special reports to the General Assembly.

On the Security Council’s recommendation, the General Assembly appoints the Secretary-General.
VOTING AND PROCEDURE

Each member of the Council has one vote. Decisions on matters of procedure are taken by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the 15 Members. Decisions on substantive matters also require nine votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent Members. This is the rule of “great power unanimity,” often referred to as the “veto.” All five permanent Members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not support a decision but has no desire to block it through a veto, it may abstain; an abstention is not regarded as a veto.

A State which is a member of the United Nations, but not of the Security Council, may participate, without vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that the country’s interests are specially affected. Both Members of the United Nations and Non-Members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without vote, in the discussions. However, the Council lays down the conditions for participation by a Non-Member State.

The presidency of the Council is held monthly in turn by members in English alphabetical order. The Council decides its own rules of procedure and may establish subsidiary organs.

The Military Staff committee, composed of the Chiefs of Staff of the five permanent members of their representatives, was established under the Charter to advise and assist the Security Council on such questions as the Council’s military requirements for the maintenance of peace, the strategic direction of armed forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament.

UNITING FOR PEACE

The General Assembly in November 1950, adopted a three part resolution entitled “United for Peace.” Under that resolution, if the Security Council, because of the lack of unanimity of its permanent Members, failed to exercise its primary responsibility in the maintenance of peace, in a case where there appeared to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, the Assembly would consider the matter immediately with a view to making recommendations to Members of collective measures, including the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain international peace and security. If not in session, the Assembly would meet in emergency special session within 24 hours of a request for such a session by seven members of the Security Council (now amended to nine) or by a majority of General Assembly members.
DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Resolutions of the Security Council: The resolution has been the major vehicle of Security Council action. There are two distinct types of resolutions: 1) consensus resolutions and 2) resolutions adopted by vote. The consensus resolution is a creation of the post 1966 Council. The consensus form is ideal for the council for several reasons. It places the emphasis on an image of unanimity when, in some cases, the members would feel obliged to vote against or abstain on a resolution that was formally voted on.

The resolution adopted by vote is the more traditional approach. Resolutions are adopted by vote when, in spite of consultations, the Council members have failed to reach a consensus; any member may object to an attempt to adopt a resolution by consensus, and thereby force such a vote.

Presidential Statements of Consensus: Often the Council finds that its consensus does not fit conveniently into a resolution form. In this case the Council will resort to a Presidential Statement of consensus. The President may, if he perceives a consensus and sees no resolution, wish to consult with Members concerning the substance of a formal statement. The President then reads that statement in a formal session, and the statement is made an official decision of the Council.

Communications of the President of the Consensus of the Body: This is the subtlest of forms available to the Council. This form is like the Presidential Statement of Consensus except that it is less public. This technique is used when the Council wishes to minimize damaging debate.

ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under the Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General.
The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters. On 31 January 1992, the first ever Summit Meeting of the Council was convened at Headquarters, attended by Heads of State and Government of 13 of its 15 members and by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the remaining two. The Council may meet elsewhere than at Headquarters; in 1972, it held a session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the following year in Panama City, Panama.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council’s first action is usually to recommend to the parties to try to reach agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary-General to do so or to use his good offices. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement.

When a dispute leads to fighting, the Council’s first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends United Nations peacekeeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes) or collective military action.

A Member State against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. A Member State which has persistently violated the principles of the Charter may be expelled from the United Nations by the Assembly on the Council’s recommendation.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country’s interests are affected. Both Members of the United Nations and non-members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council’s discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.
2019 TOPIC: REGULATING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Why this is important?
Biological weapons, as defined by the Biological Weapons Convention, are complex systems that disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals, and/or plants. The question of preventing the utilization, development, or procurement of biological weapons has never been more urgent than the present. Developing conflicts, especially in areas with undetected stockpiles coupled with increased access to biotechnologies have pushed this matter into a vital part of global security discussions. Bioweapons programming do not require prohibitive technical and logistical challenges that are present in fields such as nuclear weapon. Biological weapons don’t have a limit on civilian access and aren’t easily traceable, depending on what is created. In an era of modernization and globalization, the world enjoys an unprecedented access information and communication. Recent advances in biotechnology have served to rapidly lower the technology threshold and reduce difficulties surrounding weaponization and dispersion of lethal bioagents. These are often consequences of unintended trends and recent outbreaks like Ebola and Avian influenza.

Topic Summary and Background:
The world’s first encounter with biological weapon attacks in the globalized age of the 21st Century in the form of Anthrax Attacks of October 2011 in the United States. Government agencies were keenly aware of the impossibility of tracking down a perpetrator. The Anthrax attacks played a very large role in pushing the terror of bioweapons to the forefront of global consciousness. Beyond the United States, the Japanese developed extensive programming for Weapons of Mass Destruction, among this programming was Unit 731. Unit 731 was a research and development unit that was responsible for heinous human experimentation for bioweapons delivery systems that drove the Japanese to biological warfare. The Japanese have numerous experiences with using biological weapons including an aerial military that diffused the bubonic plague among the Chinese population as well as anthrax used to destroy crops and force massive populations to starvation as a strategy to consolidate. Biological weapons are watched by two International or United Nations organizations/committees. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Geneva Protocol of 1925. As of November 4th, 2016, 177 states have ratified the treaty made in the Biological Weapons Convention that entered into force in 1975. BWC established the moral argument for banning biological warfare as a tool of war, among other things. The Geneva Protocol also addresses the use of biological warfare. A lot of the information that we have regarding the biological weapons as weapons of warfare are behind the times in their understanding and depth regarding current biotechnologies and uses for terrorism.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can outdated international legislation and interpretive frameworks match the pace of rapid scientific developments?
2. Is there a governing body or United Nations entity that could monitor reports of at-risk research areas for weaponization?
3. Can we create or utilize a body or committee to provide oversight over the scientific community (or extend the current oversight that is being provided)?
4. Does the UN have early detection systems and prompt treatment? If not, how can we develop detection systems and prompt treatment after a biological weapon attack in a large area, covering multiple member states?

Resources
History of Biological Warfare
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1326439/

The Biological Weapons Convention
https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/bio/

Chemical and Biological Weapons Status at a Glance
https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cbwprolif
2019 TOPIC: 
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND INFO SHARING

Why this is important?
2019 is in the thick of the “information age.” The internet, 24 hour news cycle, and growing popularity of social media—especially in the developed world—have lead to a massive increase in knowledge always available for consumption. However, not all information is created equally as there are several restrictions on information worldwide. Most countries have some sort of intelligence agency that oversees and protects sensitive government secrets or initiates spying on government threats to information security as well. Some nations, most famously North Korea and China, censor the internet. Many countries have a censored or state sponsored news media in print and on broadcasted media. In the past decade, many whistleblowers such as Edward Snowden and Julian Assange have made waves by releasing sensitive government documents world wide. What information should be shared and what should be kept secret?

Topic Summary and Background:
Even as far back as the Roman Empire, there have been government secrets. Since then, governments have gone to excessive lengths to protect their information and to collect information from other sources. Many governments use the services of spies and informants to gather and secure information. Most nations have an intelligence agency serving their government as well. Some nations go to such lengths such as restricting the internet or censoring media throughout the country to keep certain pieces of information safe. The Cold War saw an excessive period of government secrecy and security of information across the globe.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. Do citizens have a “right” to government information?
2. Who controls the internet?
3. Do governments have a responsibility to share their information?
4. Are whistleblowers criminals? Should they be punished for their actions?

Resources
Trust in Transparency
https://www.opengovpartnership.org/trust/does-more-transparency-mean-more-trust

Advocating Open Governments
https://www.opengovpartnership.org/

Most Censored State Media
https://cpj.org/reports/2006/05/10-most-censored-countries.php
HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL

Year of Focus – 1979

2019 TOPICS

Situation in Uganda
Situation in Afghanistan
2019 TOPIC: SITUATION IN UGANDA

(YEAR OF FOCUS – 1979)

Topic Summary and Background:
In 1971, Idi Amin overthrew the government of Uganda in a successful military coup. Amin, once in charge, began to murder his political enemies in Uganda—resulting in the death of 30,000 to 50,000 Ugandans. Milton Obote, the ousted President, and his allies all fled to neighboring Tanzania as political refugees. In 1972, a group of exiles in Tanzania formed a guerilla force to invade Uganda and reclaim the control of government from Idi Amin—this attempt failed. Tanzania was sympathetic to the anti Amin refugees in their country as Amin continued to eliminate his political enemies and closest advisors. As tensions continued to strain between the two nations throughout the 1970s, tensions boiled over in October 1978 with Uganda declaring an invasion of Tanzania on October 30th after several weeks of tensions at the border between the two nations. The Ugandan Invasion proved very successful early on, even getting military support from Libya and its dictator Muammar Gaddafi. However, the more skilled Tanzanian Army eventually recovered with the aid of Soviet rocket launchers and other arms support. In total, Idi Amin’s regime is estimated to have killed 100,000–500,000 people.

Resources
Uganda-Tanzania War: The Ousting from Power of Idi Amin

How a Bar Fight Sparked the 1979 Uganda Tanzania War
https://www.pulselive.co.ke/bi/politics/politics-how-a-bar-fight-sparked-the-1979-uganda-tanzania-war-that-brought-to-an-end/694vnlq

Toppling Amin Tipped African Myths

Encyclopedia Britannica on Idi Amin
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Idi-Amin
TOPIC: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(YEAR OF FOCUS – 1979)

Topic Summary and Background:
In 1978, the Communist Party of Afghanistan came to power as a result of a coup overthrowing the president and installing the party backed candidate Nur Mohammad Taraki. The new Communist government instituted many new reforms which were unpopular in the more conservative rural parts of that country. Several groups rose in opposition to the new government regime, known as the mujahideen. The communist government violently suppressed these groups—killing thousands of protesters. This led to increasing tensions that resulted in a nation wide guerrilla war between the Communist government and the mujahideen. The mujahideen, anti-communist forces, were backed by the United States due to that nations strong anti-communist sentiments. Adding to the chaos in the region, in September 1979 Nur Mohammad Taraki was assassinated due to inter-party rivalry. Hafizullah Amin, chief minister of foreign affairs for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, ordered the assassination of President Taraki which did not benefit the nations relationship with other communist nations throughout the world, especially the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government sent an estimated 75,000 troops to Afghanistan in December 1979. Soviet troops upon entering the capital city of Kabul, assassinated President Amin and installed a new president, one much more favorable to the Soviets. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was condemned by much of the international community with Soviet opposition forces being aided by nations within the region and with funding coming largely from the United States.

Resources
Soviet Invasion Afghanistan
https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/revision/6

theY
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

2019

(Agenda Determined by Cases Submitted)
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

BACKGROUND

In 1920, the League of Nations approved the Statute of the Permanent World Court. Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union became parties to the statute, but the court did play a role in world affairs throughout its life (1920 - 1940). In 1945, the Permanent Court was reconstructed as the International Court of Justice by a statute annexed to the United Nations Charter. Thus, all United Nations members are parties to the statute.

REPRESENTATION

Fifteen justices sit on the court. Ten positions are rotated, while five are always held by "The Big Five" (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States). When disputes involve parties not already represented on the Court, and "ad hoc" justice may be appointed by the unrepresented country to act as a full, voting member for that case.

Technically, the justices are to act as neutral arbitrators in all matters presented to them... All but the President, however, do represent a flag and thus, are concerned with serving their nation’s best interests. In preparing for the conference, familiarize yourself with your country’s stance on a wide range of international issues. Members of the Court are expected to strike a balance between serving their country and serving the international community. The more you know, the better justice you will be.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The basic function of the International Court is to decide in accordance with international law, such disputes as are submitted to it. Its jurisdiction comprises all cases on a truly international level that parties submit to it and all matters specifically provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. In resolving issues, the court is not limited to the suggestions made by the submitting parties. They can render any decision which they deem the best solution to the problem. The Court’s power in enforcing its decisions is, however, limited. The strongest move the Court can make is recommending that the Security Council or the General Assembly take action against a nation.
SUBMITTING CASES

To present a case to the ICJ, a party must prepare a memorial. The Memorials must contain (1) the submitting party’s (applicant’s) name and signature, (2) the responding party’s name(s), (3) Claims of Fact, (4) Assertions of Law and (5) Prayers for Relief. All

CLAIMS OF FACT
This is a brief outline of issues and facts relevant to the case. The facts detail the events leading up to the dispute. Historical, legal and political research will aid the finding and stating of relevant facts. The facts must be truthful but may be stated in a manner favorable to the applicant

ASSERTIONS OF LAW
These are the pertinent principles and laws in question. Examples of valid sources of law are international treaties, international conventions, customary law, previous ICJ decisions, United Nations resolutions and the works of noted international law writers and jurists.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF
This is the section where the submitting party asks the court to act in its favor and states its recommended action. Applicants generally request that the Court direct the Respondent to correct the wrong, recommend sanctions against the Respondent or declare what rights and duties exist between the disputing parties. Respondents generally request dismissal or seek counter-relief against Applicants.

PRESENTATION OF CASES

Each party has a designated amount of time to present its case. Judges may ask questions of the presenters at any time throughout the presentation. The basic format for presentation is 10 minutes for Applicant presentation, 10 minutes for Respondent presentation and 5 minutes for rebuttals per side. The format can be altered by the current Model Court.

DELIBERATION

Judges deliberate for as long as they deem necessary. No justices may leave during presentations of deliberations if they plan to vote on the case at hand. They may, however, participate in deliberations even if they have forfeited their vote.

DECISIONS OF THE COURT

Voting is done in closed chambers by roll call. Official opinions must then be written for the majority opinion and for each dissenting opinion. The President will make the assignments. All opinions will be collected and announced in the General Assembly.
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL

2019 TOPICS

Global Wage Gap
International Arms Trade and the World Economy
2019 TOPIC:  
GLOBAL WAGE GAP

Why this is important?
The gender pay gap is an issue as is the lower wages across the board for all individuals in certain countries. The wage gap encompasses all genders and races and has a negative impact on the global economy. The pay gap is the difference in men’s and women’s median earnings, usually reported as either the earnings ratio between men and women or as an actual pay gap. The median value is the middle value, with equal numbers of full-time workers earning more and earning less. In 2016, median annual earnings in the United States for women was: $41,554 and for men: $51,640. Although these wages differ in the United States at 20%, there are plenty of other countries that include gaps of similar size, including Uganda at 17%.

Topic Summary and Background:
In 2016, women working full time in the United States typically were paid only 80% of what men were being paid. The wage gap has an extensive history and has narrowed since 1960, largely due to women’s progress in education and workforce participation. At the rate of change currently, women are expected to have pay equity by 2059. If change continues at the slower rate that has been seen since 2001, women will not reach pay equity until 2119. The gender pay gap has lifelong financial effects including contributing to women’s poverty as well as affecting the poverty level of entire families where the sole earner or breadwinner in the household is female. This poverty would span outside of the working years due to smaller Social Security earnings and pensions come retirement. In 2017, 42% of mothers with children under the age of 18 are their families’ primary or sole breadwinners. Due to this fact, men and children are also directly affected by the gender pay gap. Beyond the United States, the entire world has pay gaps for their women and men. The gender pay gap in weekly earnings tends to be slightly smaller than the pay gap in terms of annual earnings. In 2016, the pay gap in median weekly earnings was 18%. The World Economic Forum reported worldwide gender equality will not happen until approximately year 2095. In 2017, Donald Trump rescinded equal pay protections, including rolling back requirements for federal contractors to comply with labor and civil rights laws and halting implementation of a data collection tool to increase wage transparency.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can the United Nations incentivize corporations and national governments to promote pro-worker policies, increasing employment and wages at the same time?
2. How can the UN partner with non-profit organizations to keep the human rights of laborers intact as well as decrease workplace discrimination?
3. What measures can the UN take to counteract the social harms of wage inequality in the short term? Will these solutions be viable in a larger implementation of wage-equalizing policies?
4. How can the United Nations create an education base and use it as a means for economic growth, increase social progress and stop the vicious cycle of low education that is creating further pay inequality?

Resources
Countries with the Biggest Gender Pay Gaps

Global Wage Gap Continues to Widen
http://www.worldwatch.org/global-wage-gap-continues-widen-0

Global Wage Gap will take 202 years to close says World Economic Forum
2019 TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

Why this is important?
While all states have an inherent right to self-defense and may use arms as a means of security in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and International Humanitarian Law, weapons often cause more problems than they mitigate. Weapons are force multipliers, assisting armed forces and police to generate order and security. But these same weapons may instead bring havoc on a massive scale when government forces start misusing the arsenals at their disposal, arms from legal stocks are diverted into illicit use, or already existing illicit arms arrive in crisis areas. UNODA—United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs holds an international conference and makes annual reports regarding the findings of small arms status in multiple nations. The illicit flow of small arms and light weapons undermine security and the rule of law.

Topic Summary and Background:
Illegal Arms are often a factor behind the forced displacement of civilians and massive human rights violations. The international community, especially the United Nations General Assembly, has shown efforts in innumerable ways and angles to stop the flow of illicit trade within the context of black markets, armed-conflict regions and post-conflict nations. Because the trade is often made between unscrupulous officials and terrorist groups, it often leads the way to armed conflicts and general unrest in given regions, and causing unstoppable violations of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; it is essential for the United Nations to propose a solid solution for the illicit trade of conventional arms. The United Nations previously created a resolution in regards to the trading of Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2013. In this resolution the member states of the United Nations reiterated their primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations to maintain peace and security. This resolution must address this concerns as well as maintain individual rights to possess and use weapons under appropriate circumstances.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What tools can the United Nations utilize to create greater transparency and better tracking methods of large arms trades or weapons movements?
2. Could sections of the resolution created in 2013 regarding Small Arms be utilized in larger weapon sales and mass production/sale?
3. What incentive programs can the United Nations launch for States to closely watch the sales of arms in their country?
4. Can the United Nations recognize certain scale trades to be recognized as a threat and go through a more thorough sales process? If so, how is this implemented? If not, why?
Resources

Asia and Middle East Lead Rising Trend Arms Imports, U.S Exports Grow Significantly

Security Council Adopts First Ever Resolution Dedicated to Small Arms

Mozambique becomes 100th State to Ratify U.N. Arms Trade Treaty
https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20181215/p2g/00m/0in/053000c

New Arms Trade Treaty in Canada
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

2019 TOPICS

Gender-based Violence During Wartime
Child Labor and Education
2019 TOPIC:
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING WARTIME

Why this is important?
Gender based violence during war is an unfortunate reality for people living in war zones across the world. Often this violence stems from either a deliberate strategy to demoralize the population affected during war or as a result of a lack of control of troops.Recently, the Nigerian rebel group Boko Haram kidnapped 200 school-age girls and forced them to cook, clean, and carry out operational tasks for the group such as luring opposing soldiers to areas where Boko Haram would then engage them in combat. Unfortunately, Boko Haram’s actions seem mild compared to those the International Criminal Court sought to restrict in explicitly categorizing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, persecution on the basis of gender, and other forms of sexual violence as crimes against humanity. These crimes can be committed against all people and are not limited by gender except for those crimes which biologically must be limited by gender, such as forced pregnancy for males.

Topic Summary and Background:
A report on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict report, covering 129 conflicts between 1989 and 2009, found that 42% of state actors perpetrated sexual violence during the measurement period, compared to 24% of rebel groups and 17% of militias. Experts caution that this number may be skewed, however, because state actors are easier to recognize due to their recognizable uniforms which are frequently not worn by rebel groups or militias. While reporting these crimes is obviously desirable, the instances of reporting may be skewed due to underreporting. Victims are often unwilling to report sexual violence because of the accompanying shame, societal stigma, fear of retributive violence, or an inability to reach authorities. Further, male victims of gender based violence are often hesitant to report the same, especially if the crime committed against then threatens their masculinity. As is evident, research in this area is lacking. While the underlying issues of gender based violence must be addressed, so to must the issues of reporting the same. By reporting gender based violence as close to real time as possible, the appropriate authorities may be alerted to the same and can appropriately address the problem as it arises. Of note is the recent prosecution of Germain Katanga, a former Congolese warlord, who was accused of rape and sexual slavery. It was well documented that his forces raped women and held women as sexual slaves, but the International Criminal Court failed to convict Katanga of the same at least partially due to the passage of time between the incidents and the attempted prosecution. Gender based violence in times of war is an old and ongoing problem, but it is not a problem without a solution. By using the laws already on the books and expanding reporting, the scourge of gender based violence during war can be properly measured and decreased.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:

1. Who is in the best position to track the data behind gender based violence in times of war? What further resources does this entity need to do its job?
2. Should there be a statute of limitations against reporting instances of gender-based violence during war?
3. How does the United Nations monitor the gender-based and sexual violence that continues past the end of the war?
4. Do political movements, such as America’s #metoo, create a broader awareness to problems based in sexual violence? If so, can it be reproduced on an international scale to promote change? If so, how?

Resources

Gender Based Violence and War

Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence
https://www.sida.se/contentassets/3a820dbd152f4fca98bacde8a8101e15/preventing-and-responding-to-gender-based-violence.pdf

Ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence: War and Peace
2019 TOPIC:
CHILD LABOR AND EDUCATION

Why this is important?
Forced labor occurs when someone enters a certain work or a service against their own free choice and are unable to leave without huge consequences that will hurt them even more. Examples of industries that used forced labor are domestic work, agriculture, construction and commercial sexual exploitation. It is often referred to as modern slavery. This is a huge problem that dominates so many countries in the world, but it is most common in Asia. There are over 40 million victims of forced labor and 11 million of them come out of Asia. Even economically developed countries such as Europe, North America and Australia are facing these issues. Over 40% of these individuals are children under the age of 18. Over 1 in 4 victims of forced labor are children.

Topic Summary and Background:
Forced marriage is also a related aspect of forced labor that disproportionately affects children due their lack of legal rights and often abandoned nature in cases of forced labor lead them into issues of forced marriage. According to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention, forced labor of children is work performed by a child under coercion applied to a third party (other than his or her parents). Children represent the vicious cycle that forced labor often comes in: if one’s parents are coerced into forced labor, it is not a stress for the absolute control that the boss has over the parents to extend to the rights and work of the child, as well. Although child labor is a large issue in itself, its relation to the child’s education is of key importance. A child who is removed from their ability to have an education has detrimental effects on their future as an individual and as an active member in their communities. Although child labor of children between the ages of 5–17 has decreased by 30% since 2000, there are still 168 million child laborers worldwide. Almost half of the child laborers in the world are missing significant amounts of schooling and for those who do manage to do both, their performance often suffers.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How must child labor be defined in legal framework so that it is easily identifiable and able to be prosecuted on a national and international level?
2. How can a child’s education be mandated and enforced above their presence in the workforce?
3. How does the 1930 Forced Labour Convention address the issues of gender, child labor, and other social impacts of forced labor?
4. How can the United Nations impose sanctions on countries who sell trade and sell goods internationally that are products of forced child labor?
Resources
Child Labor
https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor

Child Labor Hinders Children’s Education
https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/child-labor-hinders-childrens-education

Child Labor Related Articles--New York Times
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MONDALE GA COMMITTEES
(Grades 9 – 12)

- Political & Security
- Economic & Financial
- Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
- Legal
- Special Political
- Administrative*

ANDERSON GA COMMITTEES
(Grades 7 – 8)

- Political & Security
- Economic & Financial
- Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
- Legal
- Special Political

*(only for Mondale GA)
POLITICAL & SECURITY COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Cybersecurity Threats
Safety of International Travelers
2019 TOPIC: 
CYBERSECURITY THREATS

Why this is important?
As technology advances and as more and more facets of daily life become digital, there is more risk in traveling the digital information highway. As more pieces of information are gathered and stored on the internet or done so digitally, governments are just as much at risk as everyday citizens. Many government agencies store sensitive information about citizens on digital servers which are at risk of being hacked or compromised by outside parties. Just as government data may be targeted by spies or terrorists, citizen data may also be a target of the government itself. Governmental spying on citizens’ activity online is an increasing threat as well.

Topic Summary and Background:
In the past decade, there have been dozens of high profile data breaches of multinational corporations. This data puts millions of people at risk of having their personal data stolen and mishandled by someone else. This risk is only expected to persist as the world continues to function digitally. The average consumer is not the only one at risk. Large retailers, government agencies, financial agencies, and media outlets are all at risk of being compromised by hackers and viruses.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. Does the United Nations have a responsibility to protect the internet?
2. How can government data be protected online?
3. How can citizens be guaranteed privacy in a public platform?

Resources
Government Hacking

Cybersecurity Tips

Cybersecurity Trends
https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2018/12/03/60-cybersecurity-predictions-for-2019/#645a3a894352
2019 TOPIC: SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Why this is important?
International traveling has many benefits ranging from being a healthier individual to growing a better understanding of the world we live in and the people we who cohabit it with. Studies show that traveling will lower our chances for heart related complications by upwards of 30 percent. When a child experiences other cultures first hand they establish a sense of perspective and personal stance that is captivating to others they surround themselves with. When people travel internationally they begin to formulate their own thoughts and opinions instead of relying on what they read online or see on TV. Adam Galinsky, a professor at Columbia Business School Stated, “Foreign experiences increase both cognitive flexibility and depth and integrativeness of thought, the ability to make deep connections between disparate forms.” Having the ability to safely travel to other countries to experience their culture and way of life is essential to growth. According to a study that was conducted by CNN, more than two-thirds of global respondents, safety and security is of greatest concern when choosing an international travel destination. International travel goes beyond recreational travel, it also extends to travel for journalism and business. On average, every five days a journalist is killed for bringing information to the public. These attacks are carried out by organized crime, militias, local police and even governments. Journalists travel to some of the most dangerous parts of the world to report on the atrocities that are taking place there. They put their lives at risk to bring to light “the story”.

Topic Summary and Background:
International travel has become increasingly dangerous for journalists in recent years. Between 1992 and 2019, 1,333 journalists have been killed, 855 of which were murdered. The recent car bombing that killed Awil Dahir Salad has attracted international attention. Awil and his 3 associates were killed when their car exploded at a military checkpoint near Mogadishu. UNESCO has publicly condemned the killing of journalists such as this. The attacks that international journalists can encounter range from murder, abductions, harassment, intimidation, illegal arrest, and arbitrary detention. In 2017 travel and tourism contributed to $2.6 trillion dollars and nearly 119 million jobs world wide. That accounts for roughly 10.4% of the global GDP. 22.5% of the travel for business and 77.5% was for leisure.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:

1. What protections can be given to international travelers?
2. Whose job is it to protect international travelers?
3. What can be done to discourage attacks on international travelers?
4. Where would funding come from to help protect international travelers?

Resources

Benefits of International Travel
https://www.sais.edu.sg/blog/benefits-traveling-internationally-through-camps-and-field-trips/

Proven Health Benefits of Travel
https://www.nbcnews.com/better/wellness/5-scientifically-proven-health-benefits-traveling-abroad-n759631

Journalist Safety
https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists

Director General Condemns Terror Attack: Somalia Claimed Numerous Lives Including Journalist

Journalism on the Ground: Risks and Importance of International Reporting
https://cpj.org/events/2014/10/journalism-on-the-ground-the-risks-and-importance-of-international-reporting.php

UN Plan on Safety for Journalists
2019 TOPICS

Money Laundering
Combating Misinformation in the Digital Age
2019 TOPIC: MONEY LAUNDERING

Why this is important?
Money laundering is the deliberate hiding of money from government entities to camouflage crimes and illegal sources of income and also as a means of evading income tax and other financial assessments on that income. This is a detriment to member nations of the UN as an estimated 3% of the world’s money supply is “laundered” each year. Billions of dollars are concealed from government officials and therefore taxes cannot be assessed on that money—leaving local and national governments missing out on millions in revenues that could benefit others in the community. The persistence of Money Laundering also means that there are crimes and illegal activity that is going unnoticed and unsolved. Something needs to be done to strengthen UN Member nations and to stop this global crime wave.

Topic Summary and Background:
Money Laundering is the term given to the act of disguising illegal forms of income as legitimate forms of revenue in a financial disclosure of any kind. Disguising money obtained through “dirty” means is like cleaning it—laundering it. Money Laundering is relatively new in the world of crime and law enforcement. The majority of the laws around money laundering were created in the 20th century as a means of taking on organized crime rings and other organizations that conduct less than legal operations around the world. While not an international crime, many organizations of this nature conduct international business. In 1996, the International Monetary Fund estimated that up to 5% of the world’s money supply is laundered each year. Money laundering makes illegal money look like legitimate income, thus concealing white collar crimes from local law enforcement officials. The persistence of crime is a major issue.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What is the international impact of money laundering?
2. What can be done to assist member nations fighting money laundering?
3. How does the United Nations assist member nations in this fight?
4. Should money laundering be an international crime?
Resources
What is Money Laundering?
https://www.int-comp.org/careers/a-career-in-aml/what-is-money-laundering/

Money Laundering in the News

Russian Lawyer at Trump Tower Meeting Charged in Connection to Money Laundering
https://www.npr.org/2019/01/08/683238650/russian-lawyer-at-trump-tower-meeting-charged-in-connection-to-money-laundering-

Israel Becomes Member of Global Body Against Money Laundering Terror Financing
https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-becomes-member-of-global-body-against-money-laundering-terror-financing/
2019 TOPIC: COMBATING MISINFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Why this is important?
This seems to be an ever present issue with the President of the United States, but it is also happening in other places of the world. Misinformation is being spread far and wide by the users and creators of digital information. As we advance in technology, there are more and more platforms in which this information can be altered, created, and not checked for accuracy. Platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and more help provide information to the members of all communities. As more and more of the world is digitized, we have a higher risk of fake information changing the course of our daily lives.

Topic Summary and Background:
Misinformation can come in all different forms and also different levels of consequence. It can stem from an innocent debate where an opinion is stated that may not be based in truth that is then spread to many viewers or readers. It can also be planted information that is from a party that will benefit from the information that is being presented, regardless of its base in fact. A great example of misinformation is the Indonesia tsunami in October of 2018 which had hoaxers telling people that the storm was significantly worse than it was and it was being posted to news sources, causing panic among the community, and the world around them who were concerned for the safety of their family, friends, and part of their global community that were in danger. Misinformation is also extremely common through election seasons. This has led to complete political polarization in many countries.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can the United Nations help combat economic downturn in response to misinformation?
2. What role does the United Nations in providing a safe platform for international viewers of media?
3. What ways can the community and its contributors be held accountable for the misinformation that is spread? How can this be enforced?
4. Can programs be created to detect and “debunk” misinformation before it spreads?
Resources
Indonesia Tsunami: Authorities Fight Hoaxers

Fight Fake News

Google Fighting Misinformation
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/politics/30362903

Facebook and Fake News
SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, & CULTURAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Poverty and Social Exclusion
Religious Intolerance
2019 TOPIC: 
POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Why this is important?
Poverty is most often defined as a lack of economic resources that causes negative social consequences. This is often understated and the never ending circle poverty causes directly affects social involvement. Social involvement can include things as simple as working with other individuals at a job to having relatives, to having participation in politics and being a member of different activities and organizations. The understanding of this topic is seen most in what some people take for granted. Even if people have shelter, clothing, and food, economic problems lead to a lack of ability to partake in social relations at the same rate or level as individuals who are above the poverty line of only functioning at basic necessity. Economic hardship affects standards of life, social consumption, and the ability to partake in activities of leisure which is directly related to the possibility of meeting other people and maintaining relationships.

Topic Summary and Background:
Although the ways social exclusion is portrayed has changed over the years, the fundamental understanding of poverty has not. Being poor is not just about having no money, it is about the effects of not being able to provide more than what is absolutely necessary for survival. Not being able to wear certain brands and have certain products automatically provides a lack of social standing in their community. In the global perspective, how poverty is seen changes based on location. Poverty is on the levels of individuals but also entire nations. A prime example is the perception of a developing nation. These countries have an extreme lack of sanitation, health, and overall, are portrayed as sad, unhappy, and poor. Developed nations feel pity and a lack of respect towards those that they are "helping" with humanitarian aid and functional systems. Clearly drawing a line between those who are poor and those who are affluent.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What is the role of the United Nations in providing aid for those in poverty?
2. How can nations provide and improve opportunities for their citizens to come out of poverty?
3. Can social exclusion be solved without mitigating the issues of poverty? Can poverty be solved without mitigating the issues of social exclusion? If so to either or both, how?
4. How do neighboring countries create a space for aid in poverty-rich nations?
Resources
Poverty: The Past, Present and Future

1 in 5 Hungarians Still at Risk of Poverty, Social Exclusion

In Home Village of Girl Who Died in US Custody, Poverty Drives Migration
2019 TOPIC: RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Why this is important?
Worldwide, there are countless acts of religious intolerance committed each day. These actions are not contained to anything specific and can range anywhere from grudges and judgmental glances to deliberate acts of violence and condemnation of followers of a different religion. Much of the political unrest in the middle east currently is being fueled by radical Muslim groups attempting to take over territory for their God. Much of the Christian church is pitted against each other as there are more than 30,000 different denominations of the Christian faith who don’t always get along well with one another. Conflict in Southeastern Asia against Catholics, indigenous peoples in the United States, Muslim and Christian conflicts in the Middle East, religious suppression in Russia and the former Soviet Bloc all continue to plague the globe with unrest and violence.

Topic Summary and Background:
Religious intolerance, arguably, has led to the cause of more wars and the deaths of more people than anything else in the history of the world. Did you know that during the 1400s it was a sin to drink coffee in the Christian Church? The reason why: coffee was a drink common in the arab world since the 10th century and if the Muslims had it- it must’ve been the work of the devil. Ever since the dawn of civilization, mankind has had some notion for how the universe works and for how the natural world maintains order. Most ideologies agree that some larger than man, celestial force or being is in charge of maintaining order here on earth by controlling and manipulating chance, destiny, and the natural workings of the world around us. Regardless of one’s belief system, most people are very strongly religious. Most religions hold that if a follower does not uphold the values and regulations of that particular institution, that they will be judged poorly and condemned to eternal suffering based on their life on earth. Eternal destinies are not something taken lightly among religious laity all around the world and therefore, religion leads to a lot of conflict. Many religions are convinced that theirs is the “correct” version of the story and hold an enemy image of any other competing religious identity.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What makes something a “religion”?
2. How shall religious identity be protected?
3. Should actions that are motivated by religion be protected as religious expression?
   a. Are crimes committed in the name of religion protected as expression?
   b. Are crimes committed in the name of religious intolerance hate crimes?
4. Do religions need to be protected by the UN or its individual member states?

Resources
Religious Intolerance on the Rise
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/sep/20/religious-intolerance-on-rise-worldwide

Religious Intolerance in India

Religious Intolerance in Canada
LEGAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Health Conditions of Refugee Camps
Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents
2019 TOPIC: HEALTH CONDITIONS OF REFUGEE CAMPS

Why this is important?
Refugees are coming to refugee camps in search of safety and more stability than the countries that they are fleeing from. They are often fleeing from political unrest and violence and religious persecution. When coming to these camps, the only thing that refugees are thinking of is a chance at survival and potentially finding resettlement in another country. Sadly these camps become a permanent home for some who then want to leave just as desperately as they wanted to leave their native country. The conditions in refugee camps are often missing running water and electricity, food is extremely lacking, and they often have infestations, contaminations and diseases that are rampant through the camps. The UNHCR also recently reported, in early 2018, that sexual assault is rampant in many camps. Not only does it affect their personal health, it is directly affecting refugees’ mental health.

Topic Summary and Background:
Plenty of countries have created refugee camps to house individuals who have fled their native countries due to war, political unrest, religious persecution, and lack of appropriate resources. These camps seem to be constantly underprepared for the amount of refugees who arrive and the condition in which they arrive in. Due to health issues that are often preexisting from their travel to the camp or from fleeing their native country, lack of food and water become even more detrimental to the state of the refugee camp. This also provides understanding for the spread of disease and infestations that become a part of normal structure inside of the refugee camps all over the world.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can aid that is supplied be more effective for higher volumes of refugees?
2. What part can the United Nations play in providing assistance in the idea of creating more permanent settlements?
   a. Is this a practical solution and guide for future camps?
   b. How would it affect the current state of health inside the camps?
3. What solutions can be provided by the support of many countries to to contain illness, manage water and food supplies and create a sense of overall safety?
4. What punishment can be obtained for individuals who create and run unsafe refugee camps?
Resources
9 Maps and Charts that Explain the Global Refugee Crisis

Children 'Attempting Suicide’ at Greek Refugee Camp

Rohingya Girls Face ‘Prison-like’ Conditions in Refugee Camps

No food, no medicine and little hope: The many challenges Rohingyas face
2019 TOPIC:
RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Why this is important?
With over two million children in the United States experiencing parental incarceration, their rights and safety are of great importance. The children of our future need an appropriate and balanced understanding of the world to become great leaders and citizens of their respective nations. Parental incarceration has shown to be devastating to children’s mental health, behavior, homelessness and intergenerational inequalities. In most studies of the childhood experience, parental incarceration is often considered an adverse childhood experience. Studies have documented that difficulties include psychological distress, confused explanations given to child, immediate and drastic changes of childcare arrangements, difficulties in maintaining contact with parents as well as loss of family income and enormous stigma associated with parents being incarcerated. This often predicts home and school moves for the children. In every single one of these difficulties, none of them can be controlled by the child, so where do we find their rights? Do they have any?

Topic Summary and Background:
Often times political policies are crafted and aimed at reducing crime and eradicating issues such as gun violence and predatory offender registries. They are not seen being formulated around family well-being and child safety. While looking at many of the statistics surrounding incarceration, Oregon, US, has signed in a bill of rights for children with the aim of creating policy that helps children maintain contact with their incarcerated parents and reducing the negative effects and outcomes associated with having family incarcerated.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can governments supply a better roadmap to communicating with parents through the process of their incarceration?
2. Should communities create family supporting projects that encourage contact with parents and children when separated?
3. How can the United Nations be involved in creating a more positive atmosphere for children who lack rights when their parents become incarcerated?
   a. Is there a solution where the UN is not directly involved, but can lead?
4. How do non-profit organizations and government fit into these situations and work together seamlessly?
Resources

Children of Incarcerated Parents in the US

Report Highlights Trauma that Thousands of Families Experience with Incarceration
https://www.texastribune.org/2018/12/07/family-incarceration-texas-prison-system/

End Children’s Trauma, Harm By Prioritizing Them When Parents Arrested, in Court
https://jjie.org/2018/12/05/end-childrens-trauma-harm-by-prioritizing-them-when-parents-arrested-in-court/
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Managing Risks and Impact of Future Epidemics
Effects of Chemical Weapons
2019 TOPIC: MANAGING RISKS AND IMPACT OF FUTURE EPIDEMICS

Why this is important?
Between January 1918 and December 1920, over 500 million people worldwide were infected with the influenza. Between 50-100 million individuals, roughly 3-5% of the world’s population at that time. The spread of this disease was unprecedented at the time, it spread from Europe, to the Americas, to remote Pacific islands and even to the Arctic. A large factor for the widespread of the disease was the increased travel around the world. With modern transportation soldiers, civilians and businessmen were able to travel throughout the world more easily and affordably.

Topic Summary and Background:
The number and diversity of epidemic events has been increasing over the past 30 years, a trend that is expected to intensify. It is estimated that the world population will reach 11 billion by 2100, and one of the consequences of this population rise would be new challenges in controlling disease outbreaks, scientists say. With the population rising it is also predicted that there will be a boost in new infectious disease and drug resistant bacteria. A recent example of this would be in 2009 when the Swine Flu claimed the lives of thousands of people. We have also had Ebola hemorrhagic fever in 2014 in western Africa as well as the Zika Virus spreading wildly through the Americas in 2016. The Zika Virus was the first mosquito borne virus to cause birth defects in humans. We have been able to beat these outbreaks in a fairly timely fashion due to cooperation between countries and agencies. If countries divide themselves and refuse to work together, these diseases and outbreaks will continue at a faster pace and be more destructive and deadly.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What can be done to ensure disease doesn’t travel via international travel?
2. Would vaccinations be a successful tool in the battle?
3. Who will be responsible for helping fund these necessities?
4. What role do the United Nations carry in the fight to keep member nations safe from preventable diseases?
Resources
Health Epidemics Through History

Scariest Disease Outbreaks

Managing Risk and Impact of Future Epidemics

Spanish Flu Spread
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu#Spread
2019 TOPIC:
EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Why this is important?
It is estimated that 1,300,000 people were affected by poison gases during the First World War. Only 90,000 of them died from their encounter with gas. Chemicals in warfare are not known for their fatality rate— but more for their devastating effects on the lives of those who survive. Soldiers who did not die from their encounter with poison gas in the First World War lost their sight, hearing, suffered massive chemical burns, respiratory problems, and suffered disfigurement that lasted the remainder of their lives. The issue of chemical warfare is not something lost in history. The current unrest in Syria has seen the repeated use of gas attacks on militants and civilians alike. The same effects of the chemicals witnessed in 1915 are still being observed as the conflict continues. This is still a pressing issue that impacts thousands of people around the world.

Topic Summary and Background:
The idea of using chemicals in warfare surfaced during the 19th Century. In fact, the same poison gas that was used during the First World War was actually invented by a United States scientist during the American Civil War in 1862. The use of chemicals as a new implement of warfare was first done in the First World War by the German Army in 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres. Ever since the introduction of cannons to warfare in the 13th Century, defenders against these weapons knew that they could survive by fortifying their defenses stronger than the cannon’s power. Build walls higher, thicker, wear heavier armor, use more black powder, etc. These were the normal defenses of warfare against heavier armaments from an opponent. However, as was demonstrated in the First World War, chemical warfare is much harder to defend against as there is no way to fortify— the weapon isn’t a firearm or create a projectile.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What weapons are “chemical?” How shall they be classified?
2. Does the United Nations have a role in regulating the weapons of warring nations?
3. Do chemical weapons have a place in warfare?
4. How could the United Nations monitor use of chemical weapons in warfare?
Resources
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Brief History of Chemical War
https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/magazine/a-brief-history-of-chemical-war

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
https://www.opcw.org/
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

2018 TOPICS

Maternal and Child Health
Civilian Impact of Weaponized Drone Strikes
2019 TOPIC:
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Why this is important?
The health of mothers and children is heavily interrelated and affects many aspects of life. Maternal health can be defined as the mother’s health through pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Almost all maternal and child deaths occur in less developed countries, especially concentrated in Africa. Although attention to maternal and child health has been growing, there are still plenty of mothers and children under age five that have died. Improving maternal and child health is seen as critical to fostering economic development. The largest barriers that prevent exceptional health during this time of pregnancy and early childhood are a lack of funding and limited access to services and medical professionals.

Topic Summary and Background:
Each year, as estimated 5.6 million children under the age of five die from largely preventable or treatable causes. In addition to these children, 303,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth each year, and millions more experience severe adverse consequences. Key interventions that decrease the risk of maternal and child mortality include skilled birth care, immunizations, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets. These are just some of the solutions that have shown to contribute significantly in the life saving efforts for mothers and children. The Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted in 2015 also include global maternal and child health targets including SDGs 2 and 3 to reduce MMR and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five as well as ending all forms of malnutrition.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can member nations provide better access to and quality of medical personnel and supplies for mothers and children?
2. How can the United Nations better partner with member nations to provide the maximum amount of support for their futures?
3. What global health programs currently exist that can be expanded upon or revamped to further ensure the safety and quality of care?
4. What can individual community members do to ensure their own health?
Resources
Africa Infant Mortality

Maternal and Child Health
https://www.cfhi.org/maternal-child-health

Health Minister to Attend Global Summit on Maternal Child Healthcare

U.S Government and Global Maternal and Child Health
2019 TOPIC:
CIVILIAN IMPACT OF WEAPONIZED DRONE STRIKES

Why this is important?
Drones take the human element out of the cockpit of traditional military aircraft. Just as they take the human out of the cockpit, they also remove human judgement and emotion from the cockpit as well as drones are used for a much more precise purpose. There have been issues in the past 20 years of increased risks in civilian safety with the use of pre-programed drones carrying out strikes on military targets. Drones have risen in popularity during the increased unrest in the middle east since 2001. With the rise in use and functionality of such drones, there has also been an increase in intentional and unintentional civilian death and injury. Approximately 3% of deaths caused by drone strikes in Yemen alone are civilians. By year’s end in 2015, it was estimated that the United States had amassed 6,000 civilian casualties in drone strikes in the Middle East. The injury of civilians is inexcusable and cannot be ignored.

Topic Summary and Background:
Japan, during the Second World War, famously utilized their Kamikaze air attack technique. Kamikaze was a tactic that involves intentionally flying aircraft into targets as a means of inflicting massive damage upon that target. Since the dawn of manned flight in the early 20th Century, pilot safety has been a primary concern and point of constant revision by those in the aviation industry. Through the course of aircraft warfare in the past 100 years, the use of aircraft has resulted in thousands of pilot deaths and injuries. Completely removing the pilot from the plane would remove any and all risk of the pilot being injured in flight. Thus, the drone came about. Similar to any remote controlled airplane available as a child’s toy, the drone is a much larger, unmanned aircraft that militaries around the world have used in place of manned aircraft missions to protect pilots and aircraft alike.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What protections can be given to civilians in warzones?
   a. Whose job is it to protect civilians in warzones?
2. Is it ethical to use unmanned military equipment?
3. Who is responsible for civilian casualties committed by unmanned military equipment?
4. Does military equipment have to be manned in order to be used?
Resources
General Information About Drones
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unmanned_combat_aerial_vehicle

In Defense of Drone Strikes
https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-drones-work-the-case-for-washingtons-weapon-of-choice/

Civilian Casualties and Drones

Geneva Convention Protocols
https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions
RESEARCHING  
FOR THE MODEL UN SESSION

One of the best ways to get the most recent information on the country that will be represented at the Model United Nations is by researching your topics through the UN website. The United Nations maintains a host of links to member nations as well as many other sources of helpful information.

www.un.org

There are also resources on the YIG website. Find our “Model UN Resources” webpage.

www.mnyig.org