



2027 DELEGATION HANDBOOK

38th Annual Session

“...In the face of global catastrophe more than 80 years ago,”
Guterres said, “the United Nations was created as an act of
defiance.

“The defiance of people who refuse to surrender the future to
fear.

“The defiance against the self-defeating notion that might
makes right.

“The defiance of countries that know our futures are bound
together.

“The defiance of hope. ...”

*-- António Guterres, Secretary-General, address to the Opening of the
General Debate of the 81st Session of the GA 22 September 2026 New York, UN
([https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2026-09-22/secretary-generals-address-
the-opening-of-the-general-debate-of-the-81st-session-of-the-generalassembly](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2026-09-22/secretary-generals-address-the-opening-of-the-general-debate-of-the-81st-session-of-the-generalassembly))*

Photo on Front Cover: Launch Event of Muscat Plan of Action for Indigenous Leaders and Peoples
Dominique Rankin (Kapiteotak), Ancestral Heritage of the Anicinape First Nation, attends the launch event of the Muscat
Plan of Action for Traditional and Indigenous Leaders and Peoples in Countering and Addressing Hate Speech and Pre-
venting Genocide and Atrocity Crimes and their Incitement through Peace Mediation.

Unique Identifier UN71141688

Production Date 06/11/2026

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Global Goals



The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, otherwise known as the **Global Goals**, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Specifically, the 17 goals are:



• **Goal 1. No Poverty** – End poverty in all its forms everywhere



• **Goal 2. Zero Hunger** – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



• **Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being** – Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages



• **Goal 4. Quality Education** – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all



• **Goal 5. Gender Equality** – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



• **Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation** – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



• **Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy** – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



• **Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



• **Goal 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



• **Goal 10. Reduced Inequalities** – Reduce inequality within and among countries



• **Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities** – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



• **Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production** – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



• **Goal 13. Climate Action** – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*



• **Goal 14. Life Below Water** – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



• **Goal 15. Life on Land** – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



• **Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



• **Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals** – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS	1
GEMUN Recommended Resources	7
GETTING STARTED/OVERVIEW OF GEMUN 2027	11
GEMUN 2027 Calendar	12
Suggested Overview of year's activities	13
GEMUN TOPICS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION Summary list	19
Committees and Topics Background Information	21
COUNTRY RESEARCH	41
Country Display	41
Role playing	42
Public speaking	43
Committee Assignments	44
Position Paper	45
RESOLUTION WRITING	51
What the UN can and can't do	51
Sending in resolutions	57
RESOLUTION ACTIONS IN COMMITTEE	59
Amendments	59
Combining Resolutions	62
RULES OF PROCEDURE LONG FORM	65
HOSTING A PRACTICE SESSION	73
AT THE CONFERENCE	75
Registration/ Lunch	75
Code of Conduct	77
IMPORTANT: Adult Behavior at GEMUN	78
Closing Ceremonies	79
Page System -- How to sign pages up, Procedure at conference	79
GEMUN PEACE PRIZE	81
GEMUN CHALLENGE	81
PREAMBLE TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS	82
RULES OF PROCEDURE SHORT FORM	inside back cover



United Nations Peace Bell Ceremony Observing International Day of Peace

Khalilur Rahman, President of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, rings the Peace Bell during the ceremony held at UN headquarters in observance of International Day of Peace (21 September).

Unique Identifier UN71150515 Production Date 09/09/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.

PREFACE

The GEMUN Delegation Handbook is intended to give all participants an understanding of how each aspect of the program can work together to educate toward a future world living in harmony and recognizing our interdependence.

It is hoped that everything included in the handbook will be read carefully and used by all who plan to take part in this endeavor. This includes adult sponsors (advisors), delegates, observers, and any others needing information about the program.

HOSTING GEMUN

Thank you, **University of Texas at Dallas, Jindal School of Management (JSOM)** and **One Earth One Chance (OEOC)** for hosting GEMUN and for all your help and amazing support!

About JSOM: Jindal School faculty members prepare students for a global understanding of life and work and continue to cultivate the next generation of thought leaders, innovators and change-makers.

<https://jindal.utdallas.edu/about-the-jindal-school-of-management/>

About OEOC: One Earth One Chance is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit organization in Parker, TX. Its goal is to raise awareness about ecological issues, engage citizens in collective action against climate change, and help conserve the natural resources for future generations.

<https://www.oneearthonechance.org/goals>

PHOTO CREDITS

- Earth graphic page 69 donated by Mark Sutton.
- All other photos used with permission from United Nations Photo. (<https://dam.media.un.org>)



OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The following was excerpted from the website of the UN Cyberschoolbus.
(Reprinted with permission of United Nations Global Teaching and Learning Project and United Nations
Department of Public Information, Outreach Division. All rights reserved.)

The UN logo shows the world held in the “olive branches of peace”.



Introduction to the history and work of the United Nations

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the UN Charter had been ratified by a majority of the original 51 Member States. The day is now celebrated each year around the world as United Nations Day.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

There are currently 193 Members of the United Nations. They meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest thing to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote, however, none of the decisions taken by the Assembly are binding. Nevertheless, the Assembly's decisions become resolutions that carry the weight of world governmental opinion.

The United Nations Headquarters is in New York City but the land and buildings are international territory. The United Nations has its own flag, its own post office and its own postage stamps. Six official languages are used at the United Nations - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The UN European Headquarters is in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. It has offices in Vienna, Austria, and Economic Commissions in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Amman in Jordan,

Bangkok in Thailand and Santiago in Chile. The senior officer of the United Nations Secretariat is the Secretary-General.

The Aims of the United Nations:

- * To keep peace throughout the world.
- * To develop friendly relations between nations.
- * To work together to help people live better lives, to eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world, to stop environmental destruction and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms.
- * To be a centre for helping nations achieve these aims.

The Principles of the United Nations:

- * All Member States have sovereign equality.
- * All Member States must obey the Charter.
- * Countries must try to settle their differences by peaceful means.
- * Countries must avoid using force or threatening to use force.
- * The United Nations may not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country.
- * Countries should try to assist the United Nations.

The Predecessor: The League of Nations

The League of Nations was founded immediately after the First World War. It originally consisted of 42 countries, 26 of which were non-European. At its largest, 57 countries were members of the League. The League was created because a number of people in France, South Africa, the UK and the US believed that a world organization of nations could keep the peace and prevent a repetition of the horrors of the 1914-18 war in Europe. An effective world body now seemed possible because communications were so much better and there was increasing experience of working together in international organizations. Coordination and cooperation for economic and social progress were becoming important.

The League had two basic aims. Firstly, it sought to preserve the peace through collective action. Disputes would be referred to the League's Council for arbitration and conciliation. If necessary, economic and then military sanctions could be used. In other words, members undertook to defend other members from aggression. Secondly, the League aimed to promote international cooperation in economic and social affairs.

The End of the League

As the Second World War unfolded, it became clear that the League had failed in its chief aim of keeping the peace. The League had no military power of its own. It depended on its members' contributions; and its members were not willing to use sanctions, economic or military. Moral authority was insufficient.

Several Big Powers failed to support the League: the United States crucially never joined; Germany was a member for only seven years from 1926 and the USSR for only five years from 1934; Japan and Italy both withdrew in the 30s. The League then depended mainly on Britain and France, who were understandably hesitant to act forcefully. It was indeed difficult for governments long accustomed to operating independently to work through this new organization.

The Institution of the UN Charter

Even as the Second World War raged, the leaders of Britain, China, the US and the USSR, under intense pressure from the press and public, discussed the details of a post-war organization. In 1944 representatives of China, the UK, the US and the USSR meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, prepared a blueprint for an international organization. Towards the end of the war representatives of 50 countries gathered in San Francisco between April and June 1945 to hammer out the final text that would lay the foundations of international cooperation. This was the Charter of the United Nations, signed on 26 June by 50 countries. Poland, the 51st country, was not able to send a representative to the San Francisco conference but is considered an original member.

Although the League was abandoned, most of its ideals and some of its structure were kept by the United Nations and outlined in its Charter. The ideals of peace, social and economic progress remained the basic goals of the new world organization. However, these were developed to fit the new and more complex post-war world.

The League's Council was transformed into the Security Council consisting of the five victors of the war as permanent members and ten other countries serving two year terms. The five permanent members - China, France, the UK, the USSR, and the US were given veto power, which means that decisions taken by the Security Council can be blocked by any of the five permanent members. This is significant firstly because the Security Council is the principle UN organ responsible for ensuring peace, and, secondly, because it is the only body whose decisions are binding on all Member States. Since the creation of the UN the balance of Big Powers has changed and over one hundred new Member States, mainly non-Western, have joined. With these changes have come increasing demands to reform the Security Council.

The brief provision for Social Activities in the League's Covenant was turned into a comprehensive prescription for international economic and social cooperation, with the aim of achieving conditions of stability and well-being recognised as essential for peaceful relations among nations. Under the aegis of a new organ, the Economic and Social Council, the work of existing and anticipated Specialized Agencies in the fields of labour, education, health, agriculture, development and many others would be coordinated within the UN system. Racism and repression demanded that another, new, people's element should enter emphatically into the Charter, that of rights. Many sorts of rights, from the right to self-determination, which encouraged the independence of colonized peoples, to general human rights, which aimed to protect individuals, are enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and two Covenants which have become major, standard-setting additions to international law.

The UN System

The basic structure of the United Nations is outlined in the organizational chart on the following page. What the structure does not show is that decision-making within the UN system is not as easy as in many other organizations. The UN is not an independent, homogeneous organization; it is made up of states, so actions by the UN depend on the will of Member States, to accept, fund or carry them out. Especially in matters of peace-keeping and international politics, it requires a complex, often slow, process of consensus-building that must take into account national sovereignty as well as global needs.

The Specialized Agencies, while part of the UN system, are separate, autonomous intergovernmental organizations which work with the UN and with each other. The agencies carry out work relating to specific fields such as trade, communications, air and maritime transport, agriculture and development. Although they have more autonomy, their work within a country or between countries is always carried out in partnership with those countries. They also depend on funds from Member States to achieve their goals.

Recently, international conferences organised by the UN have gained significance. UN conferences have been held since the 1960s, but with the Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, they turned into real forums for deciding on national and international policy regarding issues that affect everyone such as the environment, human rights and economic development. Since the Earth Summit, UN conferences have turned into forums in which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can voice their concerns alongside those of governments. (For a list of Meetings and Events at UN Headquarters and around the world – <https://www.un.org/en/events-and-news>) Such conferences focus world attention on these issues and place them squarely on the global agenda. Yet, once the international agreements produced by these conferences are signed, it is still up to each individual country to carry them out. With the moral weight of international conferences and the pressures of media and NGOs, Member States are more likely to endorse the agreements and put them into effect.



**Secretary-General Addresses
World Artificial Intelligence
Conference Meteorological Forum**
Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the opening session of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference Meteorological Forum.
Unique Identifier UN71146252
Production Date 07/17/2026
City/Location Shanghai, China
Credit UN Photo



The United Nations System

Can you find your committee on this chart?



PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- #### SUBSIDIARY ORGANS
- ##### Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies
- Disarmament Commission
 - Human Rights Council
 - International Law Commission
 - Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
 - United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
 - Main Committees
 - Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

- Counter-Terrorism Committee
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

COMMISSIONS AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Functional Commissions

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions⁶

- ECA Economic Commission for Africa
- ECE Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ESCW Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies⁸

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNGEGN United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- UNGIM Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Research and Training

- UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNIRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

- Military Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping operations and special political missions
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies
- Sanctions Committees

Research and Training

- UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNSSC United Nations System Staff College
- UNU United Nations University

Other Entities

- ITC International Trade Centre (UN/CTAD)
- UNCTAD¹⁴ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNHCR¹⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNOPS¹⁶ United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA¹⁷ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-WOMEN¹⁸ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS³

- CTBTO Preparatory Commission
- Provisional Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- IAEA¹⁹ International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICC International Criminal Court
- IOM¹ International Organization for Migration
- ISA International Seabed Authority
- ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- OPCW Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- WTO² World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

HLPF⁹

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES^{1,3}

- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO International Labour Organization
- IMF International Monetary Fund
- IMO International Maritime Organization
- ITU International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UN TOURISM World Tourism Organization
- UPU Universal Postal Union
- WHO World Health Organization
- WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP⁵
 - IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - IDA International Development Association
 - IFC International Finance Corporation

DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES⁷

EOSG Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DCO Development Coordination Office

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DGACM Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

DGC Department of Global Communications

DMSPC Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

DOS Department of Operational Support

DPO Department of Peace Operations

DDPA Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

DSS Department of Safety and Security

OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OCT Office of Counter-Terrorism

ODA Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OIOS Office of Internal Oversight Services

OLA Office of Legal Affairs

OOSA Office for Outer Space Affairs

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

SRSG/VAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNODC¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva

UN-OHRLS Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

UNON United Nations Office at Nairobi

UNOP² United Nations Office for Partnerships

UNOV United Nations Office at Vienna

UN YOUTH United Nations Youth Office

This Chart is intended to provide a graphical reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations system and is for informational purposes only. The relevant rules of the organization concerned should be consulted in order to establish the legal status, functions and reporting lines of each entity shown in this Chart. The Chart does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations system. Published by the United Nations Department of Global Communications. 25-00005 – March 2025 © 2025 United Nations. All rights reserved worldwide.

Notes:

- 1 Member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
- 2 The United Nations Office for Partnerships is the focal point vis-à-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- 3 These organizations are separate and independent from the United Nations. They have been brought into relationship with the United Nations through relationship agreements.
- 4 The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent on 1 October 1994.
- 5 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- 6 The secretariats of these organs are part of the United Nations Secretariat.
- 7 The Secretariat also includes the following offices: the Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
- 8 For a complete list of ECOSOC subsidiary organs see un.org/ecosoc.
- 9 HLPF was established by the General Assembly. Meetings of HLPF are separately convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS** as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt of the United States holding a Declaration of Human Rights poster in French. [Exact date unknown]

UN7757163 Production Date 11/01/1949

New York, USA Credit UN Photo

GEMUN RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

For additional internet resources, go to <http://www.gemun.org/resource.shtml>

Below are some of the resources we found helpful in preparation for GEMUN. To access the links, go to GEMUN Handbook (gemun.org/handbook.html), download the pdf of the inside pages and click on the links.

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

In September 2015 World Leaders committed to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development: 17 goals to achieve 3 extraordinary things in the next 15 years.

End extreme poverty. Fight inequality and injustice. Fix climate change.

To realise these Goals everyone, however young they are, needs to take part. So join the movement, teach young people about the Goals and encourage them to become the generation that changed the world.

<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/climate-neutral-now>

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics>

<http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

<http://www.globalgoals.org/>

<https://globalgoalsweek.org/>

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

<https://sdgs.un.org/>

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

Sustainable Development Solutions Network

<http://unsdsn.org/>



UN News Centre

The official News page of the United Nations -- <https://news.un.org/en/>

World Statistics Pocketbook

<https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/Publications/StatisticalPocketbook/>

The World Statistics Pocketbook 2025 edition (Series V, No. 49) is the forty-ninth in a series of annual compilations of key statistical indicators prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Up to 50 indicators from more than 20 international statistical sources are presented in one-page profiles for 30 world geographical regions and over 200 countries or areas of the world.

The Pocketbook profiles are organised into 5 sections; general information, economic indicators, major trading partners, social indicators, and environmental and infrastructure indicators. This issue presents data for the economic, social, environmental and infrastructure sections generally for three reference years - 2015, 2020 and 2025 - when available, or the most recent data previous to these years, back to 2000. For the general information and major trading partners sections the reference year is 2025 and 2024 respectively, unless otherwise footnoted. The indicators in the profiles cover the following topics: communication, crime,

development assistance, education, energy, environment, finance, gender, health, international tourism, international trade, labour market, national accounts, population and migration, price and production indices and science and technology. Free download.

Basic Facts about the United Nations

<https://shop.un.org/books/basic-facts-about-un-42nd-ed-18393>

This comprehensive handbook designed for the general public explains the structure of the United Nations, how the Organization works, the main issues it addresses and its importance for people everywhere. In addition to setting out the various roles played by principle UN organs and related organizations, Basic Facts about the United Nations documents the Organization's contributions to international peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, humanitarian action, international law and decolonization. Appendices contain current data on UN membership and peacekeeping operations, as well as contact information for UN information centres, services and offices. This latest edition, published in 2017, has been revised to take account of significant developments in the world and the Organization since 2014.

Release Date: May 2017 | Sales Number: 17.I.2 | Print \$20 | pdf \$10

(may be read for free online at <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789210584906/read>)

United Nations Climate Action

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>



FROM UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES:

UNDP -- Human Development Report

Work for Human Development

<http://hdr.undp.org/>

Human development is about expanding the richness of human life rather than simply the richness of the economy. It focuses on people and their opportunities and choices.

UN Environment

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories>

News, Stories and Speeches

UNEP/GRID

<https://unepgrid.ch/en>

GRID-Geneva is part of the Early Warning and Assessment Division of the UN Environment Programme's global group of environmental information centres, known as the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) network. GRIDs-Geneva and Nairobi were the first centres to be launched in mid-1985.

ReliefWeb

<http://reliefweb.int/>

ReliefWeb is the leading humanitarian information service provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). We deliver fast, reliable updates from 4,000+ sources, including NGOs, governments and research centers to the humanitarian community.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Global Optimism

<https://globaloptimism.com/>

Global Optimism exists to catalyse transformative actions in our world. We firmly believe that the most effective movements are powered by the solidarity of stubbornly optimistic people, recognising the scale of the challenges we face, and choosing to take action now.

The Elders

an independent group of global leaders working together for peace and human rights.

<https://theelders.org/>

Our vision is of a world where people live in **peace**, conscious of their **common humanity** and their **shared responsibilities** for each other, the planet and future generations, where there is universal respect for **human rights**, where poverty has been eliminated, where people are **free from fear** and oppression, and are able to fulfil their **true potential**.

UN80 Initiative

<https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/en>

The UN80 initiative is the United Nations' ambitious, system-wide reform effort to respond to a vital question: 'How can the UN adapt to become more agile, integrated, and equipped to respond to today's complex global challenges amid tightening resources?'

The United Nations Foundation

<http://www.unfoundation.org>

The United Nations Foundation was started in 1998, after Ted Turner pledged \$1 billion to UN causes. The UN Foundation strengthens and supports the UN and its causes through a blend of advocacy, grantmaking, and partnerships.

UN GA 81

<https://unfoundation.org/unga81/>

The 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) opens on September 8, 2026. Two weeks later, **General Debate** kicks off Tuesday, September 22, 2026.

[**NOTE for GEMUN: The General Debate is the once a year opportunity for a representative from each nation to speak to the General Assembly -- gadebate.un.org/en -- Here you can find the speech that will help you know your country's positions on the issues that they care about the most.]

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2026

A youth representative from Saudi Arabia is seen at the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2026 - Working With And For Young People: Shaping Inclusive And Sustainable Solutions For The 2030 Agenda.

Unique Identifier UN71136338

Production Date 04/16/2026 11:47:05 AM

City/Location New York

Country United States of America

Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías



Pact for the Future

<https://www.un.org/pact-for-the-future/en>

Adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Pact for the Future and its annexes – the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations – is the most wide-ranging international agreement in decades, designed to make the international system more inclusive, effective and fit for 21st-century challenges.

The Pact covers a broad range of themes, including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

Global Digital Compact

<https://www.un.org/digital-emerging-technologies/global-digitalcompact>

Started in September 2024, The Global Digital Compact is a comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation and governance of artificial intelligence.

Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

<https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en>

Established with Resolution A/RES/79/325 on 26 August 2025, the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI serves as the first global scientific body on Artificial Intelligence (AI), bringing together leading experts to assess how AI is transforming our lives.

The Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence has released

Thematic Brief on AI Agents, Misalignment and the Risk of Losing Human Control.

<https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en/thematic-briefs/ai-agents-misalignment-risks>



High-level Meeting to Launch Global Dialogue on AI Governance

A view of the dais at the high-level multi-stakeholder informal meeting to launch the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance. From left to right are: Arnoldo Ricardo André Tinoco (left), Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, President of the Government of Spain; Secretary-General António Guterres; Annalena Baerbock, President of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly; Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM); and Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

"Today, we launch the Global Dialogue on AI Governance at the United Nations – the world's principal venue for collective focus on this transformative technology," Secretary-General António Guterres said at the meeting.

The Global Dialogue on AI Governance is expected to become the world's principal venue for collective focus on AI and aims to create a shared space for governments, industry, civil society, and scientists to exchange best practices and foster common approaches.

Unique Identifier UN71119816 Production Date 09/25/2025 City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Laura Jarriel

GETTING STARTED

Overview of GEMUN 2027

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

GEMUN (Global Elementary Model United Nations) is a program for elementary and middle school students and is operated on a nonprofit basis for educational purposes. This book serves as a guide to participation. The program seeks to:

1. Study and promote world peace and the means necessary for its development.
2. Inform and educate youth, starting in elementary school, in the activities, purposes and principles of the United Nations System.
3. Develop participants' abilities to think globally and use goodwill in leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and other skills necessary in a modern interdependent world society.
4. Demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of exchanging ideas, understanding different perspectives, and cooperation in pursuit of common goals.

Due to the unique role-play format, student-delegates gain valuable firsthand experience about existing international relations. It is suggested that teachers and other adults allow the children to do as much of the work themselves as possible. This will enhance all benefits of their learning.

Through submission and oral defense of written resolutions addressing critical global issues, delegates sharpen public speaking, research, study, diplomacy, thinking, writing and interpersonal skills. Through preparation of creative cultural displays about their country and study of their country's contribution to the human family and the world, they garner a genuine appreciation of other cultures.

The vital importance of the United Nations' role in the complex world of today and in the future is increasingly apparent to everyone. The students who participate in this program will end the school year better prepared to assist intelligently with that future.



General Assembly Opens 81st Session

Participants stand for a moment of silence during the 1st plenary meeting of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly.

At dais are, from left to right: Secretary-General António Guterres; Khalilur Rahman, President of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly; and Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).

Unique Identifier UN71150501

Production Date 09/08/2026

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Loey Felipe

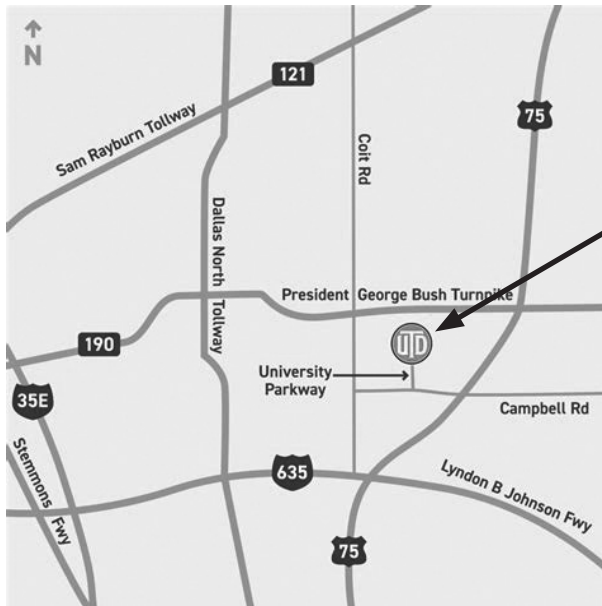
GEMUN 2027 CALENDAR

IMPORTANT DATES -- PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

October 9	Registration due (postmarked)
Sat., Oct 31, 2026 (9 am-12 noon)	First Delegate Workshop*
[G. B. Dealey Montessori Academy 6501 Royal Ln. Dallas, TX 75230]	Overview--Committees, Topics, Positions and Position Papers discussed
February 13, 2027	Position Papers, Committee Assignments due (postmarked or emailed)
February 13, 2027 (9 am-12 noon)	Second Delegate Workshop*
[location same as First Workshop]	Resolution Writing, Debate Procedure
March 22	Resolutions due (emailed)
April dates [& locations] to be assigned...	Practice Session(s)*
May 7 (Friday, 9 am-3 pm).....	GEMUN XXXVIII*! -- UTD, Richardson, TX
May 8 (Saturday, 9 am- 5:30 pm).....	GEMUN XXXVIII*! -- UTD, Richardson, TX

Some meetings may be on Zoom. We will send email if this is necessary.

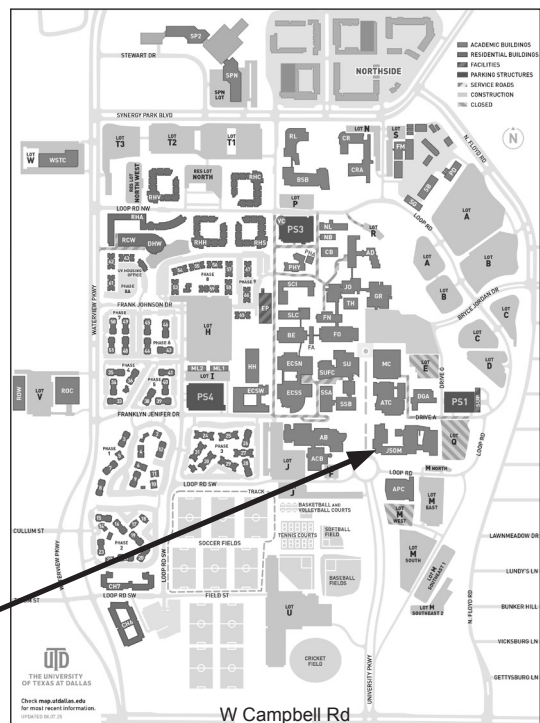
***BRING PAPER, PENCIL & GEMUN HANDBOOK TO ALL SESSIONS!**



MAY CONFERENCE

Directions to University of Texas at Dallas (800 W Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75808)

Building where GEMUN conference
will be located:
JSOM Jindal School of Management



UTD campus map

Suggested Overview of year's activities

Heading

(approx. dates)

- ☐ Country selection and registration (August-Sept 30th)
- ☐ Study UN System and structure, SDGs good place to start (Sept)
- ☐ Begin studying assigned country (Oct)
- ☐ Begin creating Country Display (Oct)
- ☐ Handbooks hopefully available for 1st workshop (Oct/early Nov)
- ☐ 1st Workshop on committees and position paper (Oct/early Nov) -- attend if possible; if not, the material is all in handbook
- ☐ Committee selection/Based on interest, delegates select committee (after 1st workshop)
- ☐ Fill out Country Questions and watch GA speech for your Country (Nov)
- ☐ Study problems of the world (Topic Research for Position Paper) (Nov-Dec)
- ☐ Begin writing Position Paper (Dec-Jan)
- ☐ Committee Assignments, Position Paper due by 2nd Workshop (Jan/early Feb)
- ☐ 2nd Workshop (Jan/early Feb) -- attend if possible; if not, the material is all in handbook
- ☐ Study problems of the world (Topic Research for resolutions) (Jan-Feb)
- ☐ Begin writing Resolutions (Feb-Mar)
- ☐ Resolutions due (early March)
- ☐ Complete Country Display (late March)
- ☐ Study problems of the world (Committee topics and background, each delegate focuses on their own committee to prepare for Conference)
- ☐ Study Rules of Procedure (April)
- ☐ Attend Practice Session (April)
- ☐ Final preparations (last two weeks before Conference in mid May) This time should be spent preparing each delegate for committees. They need time to read all the resolutions in their committee and to prepare statements and positions etc.

A sample letter to parents:

(Submitted by a sponsor, to give you an idea of what you may choose to do. Modify as appropriate.)

Dear Parents,

Your child will be participating in a very exciting program this year: Global Elementary Model United Nations (G.E.M.U.N.). Along with the opportunity to participate in this unique program comes responsibility and commitment.

Students will be taught the history, purpose, and workings of the United Nations. They will research the history, culture and official positions of their chosen country. They will research, write and debate resolutions designed to solve global problems. The highlight of the program will be participation in the GEMUN Conference on _____. Here they will participate through role-play as a delegate from _____. Your class fee of \$_____ covers the cost of the required handbook and Conference participation. An additional \$_____ will be paid during the spring semester to cover the costs of creating the country display for the Conference.

The preparation for the final program will be done primarily at school, but some special sessions are necessary to fully prepare the students. The dates for these are TBA and will be announced as soon as possible. We will let you know if online or in person and locations when we know. These usually last from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on a Saturday morning. Attendance is required.

Statement of Commitment

I have carefully read the above. _____ has my permission to participate in the G.E.M.U.N. program.

Requirements

Each participant must:

- Participate in a cooperative manner.
- Do weekly homework assignments.
- Attend all outside workshops.
- Write reports, a position paper & a resolution by given deadlines.
- Bring work to class already printed; do not send electronically.
- Represent the chosen country to the best of his/her ability.

Signatures

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Suggested Class Materials

1" to 1 1/2 " white binder with clear envelope front
Dividers marked: Topic Research, Country Info, Papers

On the following pages is an example of an outline for a year's classwork for GEMUN. This list of ideas may be helpful. The purpose is to give you ideas which may spark your own creativity. GEMUN is a tool through which many required basic subjects can be enlivened and renewed in the interest of your students.

NOTE: Some GEMUN meetings may be online. Please adjust the information below when needed.

***Example* Outline of classwork for the year for GEMUN**

GOALS:

1. To acquaint students in elementary and middle school with the United Nations System.
2. To help students become aware of global problems as well as global solutions to those problems.
3. To encourage students to interact and debate about these issues.
4. To introduce students to cultures of other nations.
5. To help students begin to think in terms of international cooperation to solve world problems.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The students will learn the principal organs of the United Nations System and the work of the specialized agencies.
2. The students will be encouraged to communicate with the U.N. Mission of the country they represent, and to learn about the position of their country on certain global issues.
3. The students will research to the level of their ability the topics assigned for their committees.
4. The students will each write a resolution based on their research.
5. The students will be given the opportunity to debate with their peers to find solutions for the problems presented.
6. The students will prepare a display (about their country) for their peers and the general public, to be part of an exhibit on the final day of the conference. The purpose of the display will be educational. Each display may have a participatory aspect for observers.

ACTIVITIES:

Stage 1: Nations of the World & the United Nations System

I. Discussion—What is an individual? (Who am I? What is my name? What is my family name? What is the name of my city? my state? my nation?)

- A. What is a *nation*?
- B. What is our nation called?
- C. What are some *symbols* of our nation? (Talk about symbols if necessary: the symbols on our money, our flag, the seal.)
- D. What do we think makes our nation *different* from other nations? *the same* as other nations?
- E. Try to draw a picture of the world from memory, putting in place the equator, the oceans and continents, and as many nations as you can include. (After everyone is finished, let them compare their map with a global map.)

II. Discussion—The United Nations—the world family of nations

- A. What would happen if each person in your family decided they would do only what they wanted to do for themselves?

- B. How do we bring cooperation into the family?
- C. Until the United Nations was started, that is what all the nations of the world did—think mainly of their own interests, not really trying to find a way to cooperate with other nations.
- D. Look at a world map of the United Nations. Discuss the different areas of the world with the students.
- E. Make a list of the countries the students are most interested in, asking each student to tell why.
- F. After allowing time for discussion about each nation, ask each student to decide on their top five choices to role-play.
- G. Give each student three votes, and tabulate the top five choices. Send these choices, plus the registration fee, to the Staff of the Model United Nations.

III. Structure of the United Nations System

- A. Using the chart of the United Nations System on page 5, talk about the six principal organs of the United Nations. If the students are not familiar with the terms, word games may be appropriate.
- B. Matching game to teach Specialized Agencies, other Organizations in the System, and other United Nations Organs.

Stage 2: Problems of the World

(From now until the conference, watch news programs weekly, if possible, and find newspaper and magazine articles related to the committee topics.)

I. Discussion—What are some problems families have?

- A. How do we handle family problems?
- B. What are some world problems?
- C. How do we think that we (humanity) can solve these world problems?
- D. Which of the Specialized Agencies or other Organs of the United Nations System could possibly help solve the world problems named?
- E. Discussion of the particular topics assigned for each committee by the Secretariat to be covered in this year's session. (This is covered in the 1st Delegate Workshop.)

II. Library trip with the children to find books on the committee topics.

III. Complete Position Paper form provided in the handbook, and mail or email it to the staff by the deadline. The information is found in all the resources you've accumulated, plus the Ambassador's speech from the plenary session of the United Nations.

IV. Individual and small group study of resources to begin to define areas of interest shown by the children. Copy and file articles and pages of particular interest to the children on their topics.

Stage 3: Study on Assigned Country

I. Library trip with the children to find books on the nation they will be role playing.

II. Study of the nation.

- A. One possible general outline (of course you will make your own variations):
 - 1. A family living in your country
 - a. how families live (what the homes are like)
 - b. build a model of a village (or city)
 - c. turn one corner of the room into a "house" typical of your country (furnishings, typical decorations in the homes), customs of living (manners, courtesy)
 - d. what the people eat (recipes)
 - e. how the people dress (clothing, jewelry)
 - f. how families take care of babies

2. Creative art work

- a. Visual arts: brief art history of the country; drawings or paintings (examples and experiential); art and clothing (make outfits of native dress for each participating delegate; if you wish); local crafts
- b. Music and Dance (instruments, and indigenous, ethnic or folk, and modern dancing)
- c. Storytelling or folk tales, heroes
- d. Poetry

3. Nature and Science

- a. natural resources from the country: crops; native flora and fauna; local minerals available
- b. geographical information: land formations; land area types (deserts, mountains, rain forests, etc.); temperature variations, weather

4. Language(s) of the nation

- a. brief introduction (counting, hello, thank you, etc.)
- b. the ambassador may wish to write his/her opening speech to the General Assembly in the native language, and have an “interpreter” accompany him/her to the podium (but please keep the total time within the requested one minute limit)

5. Games from your country

6. Special holidays for your country (you may wish to celebrate one or more during the year, as it is celebrated in your chosen country)

7. Symbols of your country

8. Money

B. Social or cultural groups of people from different countries are located in many urban areas. We have found these groups very happy to visit schools to help us understand their cultures. Some may have a center you can visit.

III. Study of the United Nations System (proceeds *along with* the study of the country)

A. The six main organs

1. The Secretariat
2. The General Assembly, with the Main Committees
3. The Security Council
4. The Trusteeship Council
5. The Economic and Social Council and the Specialized Agencies
6. The International Court of Justice

B. The Specialized Agencies and Programmes

1. Make a list with the children of all of the aspects of the planet (rain forests, weather, mountains, rivers, oceans, etc.).
2. Make another list of all the aspects of humanity and human relationships (children, the elderly, people without enough food or housing, education, industry, trade, etc.).
3. Using a list describing the Specialized Agencies and Programmes of the United Nations System, categorize your lists made in #1 and #2 above.
4. Choose one Specialized Agency, and write to the agency for all available information in English.
5. Study not only what the chosen Specialized Agency does in “your” country, but also what they are doing in the rest of the world.

IV. Make a display using the work you have done during the year about your country. This display can include interactive materials such as worksheets, word games or puzzles, costumes other children could try on, etc. Display it at school and at the Model United Nations. (See 'Country Research' section for more on displays.)

Stage 4: Writing Resolutions

I. Identify the problem on which each child would like to write his/her resolution.

- A. Using your Position Paper, identify several good ideas for resolutions.
- B. Brainstorm with each child or in small groups to help narrow his/her topic.

II. Writing the resolution (IMPORTANT: FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY)

- A. Acquaint each student with the section in the Delegate Handbook on resolution writing.
- B. Use the preambulatory and operative phrases listed in the Handbook. Help the group write a resolution together on a topic the group selects.
- C. Ask each student to begin on his/her selected topic, using different appropriate phrases, not the same as in the example.
- D. Help the students individually, or in pairs, to polish their work.
- E. Type the work or have the students type it. Double check for errors.
- F. Send resolutions to the staff by the due date.

Stage 5: Rules of Procedure

I. Practice occasionally in class after the Rules of Procedure are introduced at the 2nd workshop. If you are not able to attend the workshop, use the appropriate pages in the handbook.

II. Practice more frequently after your resolutions have been sent to the Secretariat.

III. When you receive the resolutions to be debated at the conference,

- A. Practice with those resolutions.
 - 1. Help delegates brainstorm ideas of possible answers to questions that may come up in debate.
 - 2. If any of the resolutions from your school are to be debated, have the whole delegation help brainstorm possible debate opposition, so all delegates can be as prepared as possible.
 - 3. Help the delegates organize files of the articles collected over the year, to bring to the conference. These will be of assistance during debate.
- B. Negotiate for co-sponsors of your resolutions.
 - 1. If you or the children see another resolution or resolutions in the packet which agree with your country's policies, you may want to plan to contact the author early at the conference, to ask if you can co-sponsor their resolution.

Stage 6: Final Preparations

I. Check to be sure each delegate who wants to wear **native dress** to the opening ceremonies has it available.

II. Make finishing touches on your **country display**.

III. Make sure the ambassador has a **speech** (about one minute in length) to present to the assembled delegates during the opening ceremonies.

- a. These speeches generally welcome delegates and guests to the assembly and set general policy for the nation.
- b. The ambassador might make a statement about particular problems in his/her nation.
- c. He/she could choose to make the speech in the native language but must be accompanied by a "translator" who immediately translates the speech into English, the official language of GEMUN, and the total time should still be within requested limit, about one minute.

Stage 7: Culmination—Main Conference

Stage 8: Review the Conference

I. Ask each child or the group as a whole to write:

- A. What they thought was very good about the session or not so great
- B. Any **suggestions** they might have to improve the event for the following year (if any of their suggestions might be helpful, send them to the GEMUN staff, in writing).

II. Discuss with the group what they think they learned during the year, and if they can think of any way they could have been better prepared.

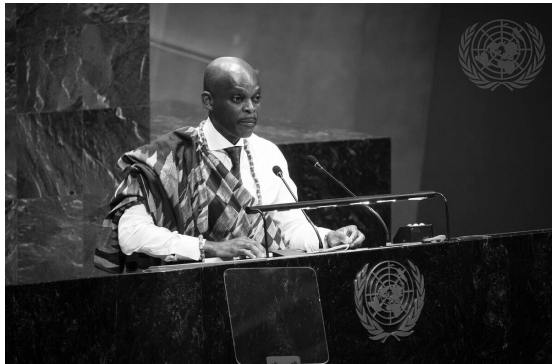
COMMITTEE TOPICS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Summary list -- GEMUN 2027

Go to www.gemun.org and click on 'GEMUN Committees, Topics and Links'.

Under each committee are a list of links to help you begin your research.

Please note: the order of precedence of the topics is not indicated by the order in which they are listed. All topics are equally deserving of the attention of the committees. The debate is more interesting if all topics are covered. In the past, when a large number of the resolutions submitted have been on the same topic, after one or two of these resolutions were debated, the others received little interest from the committee. Try to make your resolution an interesting and creative solution.



GA Adopts Resolution on

Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation

Robert Dussey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Togolese Abroad of Togo, introduces draft resolution "Correct the map: rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world's regions, particularly Africa" during the 114th plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The Resolution was later adopted by recorded vote with 164 votes in favour, 1 against, and 6 abstentions.

Unique Identifier UN71150234 Production Date 09/04/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Loey Felipe

ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)

Universal Access to Quality Healthcare,
Addressing the Aging Population and Elder Care,
Reducing Global Inflation,
Reducing Trade Barriers Especially in
Developing Countries,
Responsible Mining,
The Impact of Misinformation on Civil Stability,
Access to Mental Health Care
Sustainable Development
Open Agenda

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

Children in War Zones;
Child Labor;
Children in Poverty or Famine;
Healthcare for Children;
AI Usage in Schools;
The Juvenile Justice System
Open Agenda

GA (General Assembly)

Housing Crisis
Technology and Future Generations
Global Vaccine Skepticism
Migration and SDGs
Climate Change and Displacement
The Humanitarian Crisis and Reconstruction of Gaza
Regulating AI and Emerging Technologies
Open Agenda

SC (Security Council)

Regional Conflict Caused by Climate Change,
The Exploitation of Tech for Terrorism,
Security Against Biological Weapons,
Violence Against Medical Facilities,
The Humanitarian and Militaristic Crisis in Syria,
The Houthi Rebels in Yemen,
Terrorism in the Sahel Region of Africa
Open agenda



Commemoration of 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda

A view of the statue "Kwibuka Flame of Hope", a gift from the Republic of Rwanda, in the garden at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Kwibuka flame symbolizes the resilience and courage of Rwandans since the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, when more than one million people, overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also Hutu and others who opposed the genocide, were systematically killed following years of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech exacerbating ethnic tensions. A commemoration was held today of the 32nd anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda on the occasion of the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Unique Identifier UN71135017 Production Date 04/07/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías

WHO (World Health Organization)

Combating the 2026 Ebola Outbreak,
Distributing Aid in Conflict Zones,
Access to Healthcare in Rural Communities,
Dealing with the Effect of Climate Change on
Public Health,
Lack of Mental Health Support for Veterans,
Preventing Future Widespread Pandemics,
Mental Health Representation in Media
Open Agenda

CSW (Commission on the Status of Women)

Period Poverty,
Maternal Mortality,
Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence,
The crisis in Afghanistan,
The gender pay gap,
Child marriage,
Access to Justice and Legal Inequalities
Open Agenda

HRC (Human Rights Council)

Safety and Protection of Journalists,
Religious Persecution,
Lack of Post Conflict Reconstruction,
Race-based Discrimination and Violence
Rights to Digital Safety and Privacy
Mistreatment and Abuse in Prisons
Migrant Worker Safety and Rights,
Human Trafficking of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Open Agenda



Secretary-General Visits Syria

SG António Guterres visits Saydnaya, the site of the notorious military prison operated by the former Assad regime, where thousands of detainees were reportedly tortured and killed during the conflict in Syria. ... The Secretary-General is visiting Syria in the wake of important institutional milestones in the country, most notably the establishment of the People's Assembly and Constitutional Court. Attention is now increasingly turning to constitutional development and preparations for elections. The UN's engagement in Syria seeks to support the country's political transition, recovery and institution-building.

Unique Identifier UN71147481 Production Date 07/25/2026
City/Location Damascus, Syria Credit UN Photo/Ali Haj Suleiman



Secretary-General Briefs Press on Ebola Situation

UN Secretary-General António Guterres (at podium) briefs reporters on the status of the Ebola virus outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Unique Identifier UN71149281

Production Date 08/27/2026 9:54:00 AM

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Mark Garten

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)

Fossil Fuel Regulation,
Biodiversity Loss,
Deforestation,
Rising ocean temperatures,
Plastic pollution,
Soil Degradation,
AI consumption of water
Open agenda

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Food Waste,
Water Scarcity,
Agrifood Systems,
Desertification of Arable Land,
Sustainable Land Use,
Food Deserts,
Precision Agriculture with Artificial Intelligence
Open Agenda

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)

Nuclear Proliferation,
Nuclear Sterile Insect Technique (SIT),
Use of atomic energy to help counter climate change,
Nuclear Fusion,
Nuclear Power Plant Security,
Radioactive cleanup
Radiation in cancer treatment,
Atomic Energy and Artificial Intelligence
Open Agenda

Committees and Topics Background Information GEMUN 2027

“Now is the time we must double down on climate action. We can and must get on the right path. By cutting greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience and adaptation and ensuring exceedance of 1.5°C is as small and short as possible.”

— Inger Andersen, UNEP chief 9/2/26
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/09/1168240>

Request from GEMUN's Secretariat:

- Please note: the order of precedence of the topics is not indicated by the order in which they are listed. All topics are equally deserving of the attention of the committees.
- The debate is MUCH more interesting if all topics are covered. (At times, many resolutions submitted to a committee have been on the same topic, and after one or two of these resolutions are debated, the others receive little interest from the committee. Try to make your resolution on an interesting and unique aspect of the subject, so it stands out. Or, try using Open Agenda, which includes any other topic **that relates to the committee**, but is not listed. Open Agenda is encouraged as it cultivates more extensive debate and creativity.)

Please make sure parents are aware of the topics to be covered in each committee.

PLEASE NOTE: Some committees, especially HRC and CSW, have dealt with more mature subject matter than others in the past, and some parents and/or adult sponsors may not be comfortable with their younger delegates participating in these discussions. GEMUN does cover real world topics, and to help solve these issues, action must be taken. We hope your delegates will be aware and prepared to participate in debate involving all topics as they come up.

These links will help with research for many committees:

<http://gemun.org/resource.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/>

<https://unu.edu/our-world>

<http://www.un.org/climatechange/>

<https://sdgs.un.org/>

<http://gemun.org/topics.html>

<http://www.globalgoals.org/>

<http://www.se4all.org/>

<https://unfccc.int/>

<http://www.unido.org/>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

The General Assembly (GA), established in 1945, is one of the six main organs of the UN. The committee addresses issues of global development, international law, peace and security. Through the committee, they work to solve specific goals to attain peace, security, poverty eradication, protect our common environment, promote the rule of law, safeguard human rights, and strengthen the other UN bodies. All 193 member states of the UN are included in this committee's debate on the large collection of international subjects covered by the Charter of the United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml>

Housing Crisis

As city populations rise and rent increases, there is an increasingly high rate of homelessness all over the world. Secretary General of the UN Antonio Guterres called housing “a human right and fundamental to human dignity” at the World Urban Forum in Baku in May 2026. Right now, over 1.1 billion humans live in informal settlements around the world, with millions in unsafe living conditions because of it.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167530>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167533>

Regulating Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

Rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies are transforming economies, governance, health care, education, and daily life around the world, creating new opportunities for innovation while raising complex ethical, legal, and security challenges.

<https://www.un.org/en/ai-advisory-body>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

President of General Assembly Attends Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva

Annalena Baerbock (left), President of the 80th session of the General Assembly, addresses the opening session of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance Geneva, Switzerland.

Unique Identifier UN71144098

Production Date 07/06/2026 9:32:24 AM

City/Location Geneva, Switzerland Credit UN Photo/Irina Popa



Technology and Future Generations

As social media and technology continue to dominate the foreground of global culture, increasing concern among screen addiction and social media has arisen. In December 2025, Australia became the first country to place a ban on social media for children under 16; however, these measures have proven to be mostly ineffective. Overuse of screens at a young age is widely proven to be detrimental to brain development, and an addiction to social media can lead to difficulty concentrating, cyberbullying, and other harmful effects.

https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168129?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=693dfad785-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_08_13_12_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-693dfad785-107440054

Global Vaccine Skepticism

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, global vaccine skepticism has been on the rise. This is especially an issue because some vaccines are important from “herd immunity”, meaning that if almost all of a population is vaccinated, the disease cannot circulate as easily. Current vaccine skepticism has resulted from a small number of isolated, adverse reactions to the COVID-19 that were blown out of proportion in the media, leading to widespread misinformation and suspicion. The World Health Organization (WHO) has a goal to help countries achieve global coverage of at least 90 percent for essential vaccines by 2030.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168124>

Migration and SDGs

Today, military conflict, increased natural disasters, and an ease of transportation have resulted in millions of migrants and refugees around the world - around 304 million. Many of the UN’s SDG’s (sustainable development goals) are related to migrant populations: SDG target 10.7 calls on countries to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, and other targets directly related to migrants or migration refer to the health workforce in developing countries (3.c), mobility of international students (4.b), human trafficking (5.2, 8.7 and 16.2), labour migration (8.7 and 8.8), remittances (10.c) and

legal identity (16.9). Further, SDG target 17.8 calls for disaggregating data by migratory status. Yet, many migrants are not afforded these protections.
<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/migration>

The Humanitarian Crisis and Reconstruction of Gaza

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has resulted in widespread humanitarian suffering, large-scale displacement, severe food and medical shortages, and massive damage to essential infrastructure like schools, homes, and hospitals. The war has severely affected the already critical humanitarian situation in Gaza which has impacted all of the 2.1 million residents. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has consistently pushed for full, unhindered humanitarian access and has warned that the crisis has reached “horrific proportions” with families confined to shrinking spaces resulting in “families left with nowhere to run”.
<https://www.unrwa.org/>

Climate Change and Displacement

Climate change is increasingly contributing to human displacement through rising sea levels, desertification, prolonged droughts, extreme weather events, and other forms of environmental degradation, placing growing pressure on communities, governments, and international humanitarian systems. Millions of people face the loss of homes, livelihoods, and access to essential resources.
<https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/climate-change-and-displacement>

Open Agenda

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

SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)

The Security Council addresses topics of maintaining peace, international security, violence, and war. It also examines weapons management, regional disputes, and terrorism. The Council has the unique ability to pass sanctions and peacekeeping deployments. Security Council is composed of ten members who serve two-year terms and the P5, or five permanent members, who are China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the United States. The five permanent members have "veto power," which allows them to individually prevent a resolution from passing. These regulations create a need for consensus and cooperation.
<https://news.un.org/en/news/topic/peace-and-security>

Regional Conflict Caused by Climate Change

Climate change drains resources and escalates severe weather, creating competition and instability. The climate crisis also leaves governments vulnerable to security issues and regional tensions. This fuels an ongoing security issue in many high-risk areas.
<https://unfccc.int/news/conflict-and-climate>

(cont.)

Security Council Meets on UN Peacekeeping Operations

Mingzhu Xu, Senior Police Adviser, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), briefs the Security Council meeting on United Nations peacekeeping operations.
Unique Identifier UN71087512

Production Date 02/27/2025 City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



The Exploitation of Tech for Terrorism

With the constant improvement in artificial intelligence and other modern technologies, there is the potential for it to be used for terrorism. When used maliciously, emerging tech can help terrorist groups recruit members, find support, and facilitate violent activities. Placing restrictions on and monitoring emerging tech allows UN member nations to counter terrorism through technology.

<https://techagainstterrorism.org/home>

Security Against Biological Weapons

Biological weapons are disease-causing organisms or toxins that are used as military mechanisms. However, advances in gene editing and AI-enhanced biology have made the production of these weapons more efficient. Although the UN has agreements to hopefully prevent the use of diseases in war, these changes in technology and a lack of enforcement ensures that this is a constant concern for the Security Council.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161596>

Violence Against Medical Facilities

In 2016, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2286, which condemned violence against health care workers and hospitals in war zones. However, a decade later, this is still a very prevalent issue. Thousands of attacks on these facilities occur each year, including the direct destruction of hospitals, raids on supplies, and the repurposing of medical buildings.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168144>

The Humanitarian and Militaristic Crisis in Syria

The war in Syria has been over since December of 2024, and the country has made significant progress, but they're still plagued by unrest and conflict from terrorist groups. There are 3 million internally displaced people and 40 million metric tonnes of concrete rubble. The UN is helping with humanitarian aid.

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/Syria%20situation%20overview%20-%20Global%20Appeal%202026.pdf>

SG António Guterres visits the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, one of the most significant historic and architectural landmarks of the Islamic world.

The SG is visiting Syria in the wake of important milestones in the country, most notably the establishment of the People's Assembly and Constitutional Court. Attention is now increasingly turning to constitutional development and preparations for elections. The UN's engagement in Syria seeks to support the country's political transition, recovery and institution-building.

Unique Identifier UN71147410 Date 07/25/2026

City/Location Damascus, Syria

Credit UN Photo/Ali Haj Suleiman



The Houthi Rebels in Yemen

The Houthis engage in acts that threaten the peace, security, and stability of Yemen. They also frequently commit war crimes, such as obstructing humanitarian aid. They target commercial ships in the Red Sea and attack infrastructure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The UN is currently working to combat this problem, but more must be done.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168151>

Terrorism in the Sahel Region of Africa

The Sahel region accounts for over half of global terrorism related casualties. Terrorist groups like JNIM (Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) are expanding

their reach. Life saving services, including some of the UN's own, have been reduced due to fuel shortages. Humanitarian need is high, and the Sahel requires a cohesive solution.
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1167940>

The Situation in The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo(DRC) is in a transition state towards peace and stabilization, but still remains one of the world's most complex displacement crises. After being affected by floods, political unrest, economic hardship, serious epidemics, and conflict, humanitarian needs have soared and are at an all time high. There are nearly nine million displaced people in the DRC, and it is expected to surpass that by the end of 2026. UNHCR is promoting early solutions for internally displaced peoples, but more must be done.
<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/ga2026-drc-situation.pdf>

Open Agenda

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a Principal Organ of the United Nations System (see page 5 in this handbook) and was established by the UN Charter in 1946. It is in charge of “promoting higher standards of living, full employment, economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social, and health problems; facilitating international culture and education; encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”
<https://ecosoc.un.org/en>

Universal Access to Quality Healthcare

Many people around the world still lack access to affordable and quality healthcare. Poor healthcare systems can lead to higher death rates and the spread of preventable diseases. Member States of the United Nations can work together to improve healthcare infrastructure, train medical workers, and expand access to essential medical services.
https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab_1

Addressing the Aging Population and Elder Care

As life expectancy increases, many countries are experiencing growing elderly populations. This historically significant change in the global population requires adaptations to the way societies are structured across all sectors. For example, health and social care, transportation, housing and urban planning. Working to make the world more age-friendly is an essential and urgent part of our changing demographics.
https://www.who.int/health-topics/ageing#tab=tab_1

Yoga for Healthy Ageing on International Day of Yoga

A view of the event held in the garden of the United Nations Headquarters to mark International Day of Yoga 2026 (21 June) on the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing".

Unique Identifier UN71142217 Production Date 06/18/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Mark Garten



Reducing Global Inflation

High inflation has increased the cost of food, energy, housing, and other basic necessities around the world. This creates financial hardship and slows economic growth. The United Nations provides a forum where international cooperation is possible to promote stable economic policies, and support vulnerable groups.
<https://data.imf.org/en/news/imf%20data%20brief%20may%2027>

Reducing Trade Barriers Especially in Developing Countries

Trade barriers can make it difficult for developing countries to grow their economies and compete in global markets. Lowering unnecessary tariffs and improving trade agreements can increase economic opportunities and reduce poverty.
<https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/topic/trade>

Responsible Mining

Mining provides valuable resources that are needed for technology, infrastructure, and renewable energy. However, some mining practices harm the environment and violate workers' rights. Countries need to adopt ethical mining standards that protect both people and natural resources.
<https://www.unep.org/topics/energy/renewable-energy/critical-energy-transition-minerals>

The Impact of Misinformation on Civil Stability

Misinformation spreads quickly through social media and can increase political tensions, violence, and public distrust. False information can make it more difficult for governments and organizations to respond to crises effectively. Countries should promote media literacy, encourage responsible online platforms, and support access to accurate information.
<https://unu.edu/publication/misinformation-disinformation-and-crisis-trust-public-institutions-0>

Access to Mental Health Care

Mental health is a vitally important part of overall well-being, yet many people cannot access the care they need. Stigma, high costs, and shortages of mental health professionals remain major barriers. Many mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost, yet health systems remain under-resourced and treatment gaps are wide all across the world.
https://www.who.int/health-topics/mental-health#tab=tab_1
<https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/treatment-care>

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the international community's most urgent priority, and the core aim of the post-2015 development agenda. ECOSOC operates at the center of the UN system's work on all three pillars of sustainable development--economic, social and environmental. ECOSOC is the unifying platform for integration, action on sustainable development and follow-up and review.
<https://ecosoc.un.org/en/key-issues/sustainable-development>

Open Agenda

<https://ecosoc.un.org/en>

2026 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Annalena Baerbock, President of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, addresses the 2026 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (7 – 15 July).

Unique Identifier UN71145347

Production Date 07/13/2026 9:34:09 AM

City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also known as UN Environment, was established in 1972 in Kenya in response to the Stockholm Conference. UNEP is dedicated to the betterment of managing the Earth's resources and treatment of the environment. The mission is to "provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."

Fossil Fuel Regulation

Due to the burning of fossil fuels, the world has reached record-breaking greenhouse gas emissions as of 2026. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide levels in the atmosphere are at their highest, with industries around the world continuing their release of such planet-warming gases. Despite these setbacks, countries around the world are innovating new ways to harness energy without fossil fuels and releasing damaging chemicals into the atmosphere and surrounding environment.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167561>

Biodiversity Loss

Biodiversity is the variety of species within an environment; this variety ensures that the ecosystem is resilient to changes and can flourish despite various challenges to the environment. However, due to increased pollution and overexploitation of the environment, the biodiversity of many ecosystems around the world are decreasing at alarming levels. Researchers have seen an average of 68% decline in population sizes of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians between 1970 and 2016. Such drastic downward trends indicate the massive amounts of damage caused by humans to the natural world. Biodiversity is an irreplaceable health indicator of our planet.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity>

Deforestation

Forests play an incredibly important role in our global ecosystem; not only do they provide key habitats for over 90% of the world's species, they are also carbon sinks. Carbon sinks are places where carbon is absorbed and stored rather than released into the atmosphere, and they are key to preventing the acceleration of global warming. However, recent deforestation has caused the loss of many forests around the world, which destroys such carbon sinks and even accounts for 8% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Some forests are cut down to create more land to grow crops and others for products such as wood or oil.

<https://www.unep.org/topics/forests>

Rising ocean temperatures

About 91% of the excess heat trapped in the Earth's climate system caused by greenhouse gases has been absorbed by the ocean. Heat that is already stored in the deeper layers of the ocean can eventually be released to the Earth's surface, which will result in more surface warming. Not only that, but the temperature change within the ocean has been the reason for phenomena that affect several species. This includes but is not limited to coral bleaching, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, changes in marine diversity and weather patterns. Rising temperatures in the ocean not only affect the ocean life but also the life of the global human population.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/ocean-impacts>

Plastic pollution

In 1950, the world produced 2 million tonnes of plastic; now, it is over 450 million. When plastic isn't recycled, incinerated or kept in sealed landfills, it becomes a great threat to the environment. It puts many

marine species at risk of ingesting it suffocating or being entangled in it. Once the plastic has reached the environment, it can break into smaller pieces called microplastics. These have been found in many different ecosystems around the world. Additionally, reports show that greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with a plastic product's life cycle are expected to double by 2060. Studies also estimate that without intervention in 2050, the global plastic industry will be responsible for 20% of the total oil consumption and 15% of global carbon emissions.

<https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/plastic-pollution>

Soil Degradation

The world's land provides oxygen, food, and water – vital to life. However, according to the UN, up to 40% of the soil in the world has been degraded. Studies estimate that if we continue to misuse the land, by 2050, the degraded surface area would be the size of South America. When soil is degraded, it affects food security, water availability, and ecosystems. It is also responsible for terrestrial biodiversity loss and the destruction of many habitats of plants and animals. Moreover, our soil is in charge of regulating the planet's temperature as it stores carbon emissions created by human activities. And when land is degraded, it loses its ability to store carbon, contributing to climate change and rising temperatures.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/land>

AI consumption of water

The number of data centers built to meet the expanding computational demands of AI has raised concerns. The amount of water they need in order to cool down is one reason. Data centers can be classified in two categories to describe the amount of water they need to function: hyperscale data centers and non-hyperscale data centers. The second type, which is the one used to power AI, consumes an estimated amount of 200 million gallons of water per year. Additionally, researchers say that the AI platform, ChatGPT, consumes a 500 ml bottle of water for 10 to 50 medium-length responses. This has severe environmental consequences, since pulling large volumes of water can result in lowering groundwater levels, causing competition in agriculture and harming local wildlife.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167658>

Open Agenda

www.unep.org/

A New Partnership to Accelerate Achievement of SDGs in Dryland Ecosystems

Sheikha Hind bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Vice Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, speaks during the high-level roundtable: A New Partnership to Accelerate the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Dryland Ecosystems, held during the Second World Summit for Social Development.

The Second World Summit for Social Development is held in Doha, Qatar. Building on the 10 Commitments of the landmark 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Copenhagen Declaration, the Second World Summit aims to accelerate action on poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, and social inclusion, ensuring that no one is left behind in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. It further aims to address persistent gaps, reaffirm global commitment to social development, and give new momentum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Unique Identifier UN71124670 Production Date 11/06/2025

City/Location Doha, Qatar

Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, or UNICEF, was created in 1946 after World War II for the welfare of children worldwide. This committee focuses on bettering conditions for children internationally. UNICEF has the mission of ensuring safe, healthy, happy childhoods for every individual. The future of the world relies on the youth of today. The United Nations is helping children across the globe through UNICEF with countless programs, achieving goals such as lowering child mortality and providing education for children internationally.

Healthcare for Children

Millions of children continue to die due to causes that could easily be prevented with quality healthcare and stronger health systems. These causes include mental health conditions, injury, malnutrition, and environmental hazards. Children living in poverty or with disabilities are more prone to getting cut off from essential healthcare services, and children living in war zones, natural disasters, or other humanitarian crises are at higher risk for disease and malnutrition. In some areas, healthcare is too expensive or too inaccessible. In other areas, health systems are not equipped to support routine health interactions or do not have medical supplies or personnel to provide basic, essential, and quality care services. This makes children much more susceptible to illnesses and the effects of human emergency.

<https://www.unicef.org/know-the-facts/challenges-solutions/lgbtq-youth-bullying-and-violence-at-school>
<https://www.unicef.org/blog/parenting-lgbtq-children-mental-health>

One World, One Game, One Goal: Football as a Catalyst for Youth Mental Health and Well-Being
Catherine M. Russell (on screen), Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), addresses the global celebration of football and youth mental health event "One World, One Game, One Goal: Football as a Catalyst for Youth Mental Health and Well-Being".
Unique Identifier UN71146274
Production Date 07/17/2026 City/Location New York, USA
Credit UN Photo/Loey Felipe



Child Labor

Child labour violates children's rights and deprives them of their health, safety, and education. Not all work performed by children is child labour, however, if the work is dangerous, prevents children from attending school, or negatively impacts physical and mental development, it is considered child labour. Armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and economic instability further increase children's vulnerability to this exploitation by limiting access to education and forcing families into difficult financial circumstances, making poverty one of the main drivers of child labour, as families depend on the income earned by their children to provide basic needs. It impacts children in countries worldwide, making it a severe global issue.

<https://www.unicef.org/stories/child-labour>
<https://www.unicef.org/stories/poverty-drives-child-labour-gaza>

Children in Poverty/Famine

Children are some of the most vulnerable populations affected by global poverty and famine. It deprives children of access to food, healthcare, education, clean water, and protection. It therefore also impacts their overall development. Global poverty and famine was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic through the disruption of essential services. Conflict is one of the main drivers of famine as well, with children affected

by armed conflict being further exposed to displacement and violence. The number of children experiencing acute hunger worldwide has more than doubled over the past decade, leaving millions at risk of disease, developmental delays, severe wasting, and death.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166414>

AI Usage in Schools

As AI is becoming more advanced, it is also becoming increasingly common in education. Children have begun to adopt AI technologies more than three times faster than adults. AI technology can support learning by improving access to education for children with disabilities, helping teachers with their tasks, and providing personalized instructions for students. However, the fast speed at which the software has been integrated into schools also creates problems because without proper safeguards AI systems may collect excessive personal data, expose children to harmful or inappropriate content, reinforce bias, or make decisions that negatively affect students' educational opportunities. Technology companies, schools, and governments share the responsibility of creating safe, and fair AI systems to keep children's best interests in mind.

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-are-adopting-ai-technologies-more-three-timesfaster-adults>

The Juvenile Justice System

The Juvenile Justice System was designed to protect children's rights, well-being, and development. Detention can have negative effects on children's physical and mental health, education, family relationships, and future opportunities. Children within the juvenile justice system are also very vulnerable to violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation. UNICEF stresses the importance of preventing violence in all justice settings by creating child-sensitive procedures, training justice professionals, and ensuring access to psychosocial health, and social services. Justice systems are responsible for fair procedures to ensure children's privacy and protection from discrimination.

<https://www.unicef.org/topics/juvenile-justice>

Children in War Zones

Millions of children globally are living in active war zones or are forcibly displaced due to violence and conflict. As a result of this, children's rights are threatened daily, as they lack access to basic services including safe water, food, and healthcare. According to the United Nations Security Council, there are six grave violations against children living in war zones: the killing and maiming of children, recruitment of children for the armed forces, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence as a war tactic, abduction, and no access to humanitarian aid. Globally, 1 in 6 children are growing up in an unstable environment with exposure to violence, destruction, and fear.

<https://www.unicefusa.org/what-unicef-does/emergency-response/conflict>

Open Agenda

<https://www.unicef.org/>

Hope Football Championship for Amputees in Gaza

Dozens of players are taking part in the Hope Football Championship for Amputees in Gaza, demonstrating that disability does not mean inability, and that passion for sport can become a pathway to healing and empowerment.

The tournament was organized by the Palestine Amputee Football Association and hosted at the Ittihad Shabab Deir al-Balah Club Stadium in Gaza City. According to local health organisations in Gaza, more than 6,000 cases of limb amputation were recorded over the past two years of conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, requiring urgent and long-term rehabilitation. Children represent an estimated 25 per cent of all amputee cases, while women account for nearly 13 per cent. Assistive devices continue to be in short supply which is deepening the suffering of those living with war-related disabilities.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

PLEASE NOTE: This committee has dealt with more mature subject matter than others in the past, and some parents and/or sponsors may not be comfortable with their younger delegates participating in these discussions. GEMUN does cover real world topics, and to help solve these issues, action must be taken. We hope your delegates will be aware and prepared to participate in debate involving all topics as they come up.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) was created March 15, 2006 by the UN General Assembly. The HRC's mission is to "work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented." The HRC is made up of 47 member states that oversee the promotion and preservation of global human rights.

Safety and Protection of Journalists

Around the world, journalists help people stay informed through sharing events and reporting the news that affect society. However, many journalists face dangers such as violence, threats, harassment, censorship and imprisonment while doing their jobs. When journalists are not protected, it becomes harder for people to access reliable information and understand what is happening in the world. This can weaken the freedom of expression and make it difficult to hold the government and other powerful groups accountable.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168164>

Religious Persecution

This persecution is when people are treated unfairly, attacked or punished due to their religious beliefs or values. Across the globe, people are not permitted to practice their religion freely because of fear of violence or discrimination. Religious persecution can also separate communities and force civilians to leave their homes and become refugees. To address this issue, countries must work together to make this discrimination end for all.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2026/05/combating-religious-hatred-and-violence-against-faithgroups>

Lack of Post Conflict Reconstruction

After wars end, many communities are left with destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure and a limited access to necessary resources such as healthcare, clean water, food and education. Without efforts to properly rebuild, people are left in impoverished conditions which makes it difficult to survive. This issue affects countries as well, without recovery, governments may struggle to provide basic services, protect civilians and sustain stability within the country.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/reconstruction/>

(cont.)



Human Rights Council Commemorates 20th Anniversary

A representative of Mexico addresses the informal high-level discussion held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Human Rights Council.

Unique Identifier UN71142408

Production Date 06/19/2026 12:32:46 PM

City/Location Geneva

Country Switzerland

Credit UN Photo/Violaine Martin

Human Trafficking of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Human trafficking is a large issue across the globe. People are sold into industries such as sex trafficking, labour trafficking, and trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Both men and women, as well as children, are targeted by human traffickers. Asylum seekers and refugees have a higher likelihood of being trafficked, due to their vulnerable position.

<https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration/traffickingpersons>

Rights to Digital Safety and Privacy

With recent advances in technology, privacy has become increasingly fragile. Technology and AI can create false information and images that are nearly impossible for humans to detect, therefore spreading misinformation. Technology stores user information beyond what most people realize, and AI has advanced enough to pick faces out of a crowd, eroding privacy worldwide. Not only that, but this fear of constant surveillance impairs the ability of activists, as well as limiting freedom of speech and expression. Over time, this can cause severe mental health issues.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/06/digital-surveillance-related-chilling-effects-must-be-addressed-long-term>

Mistreatment and Abuse in Prisons

Incarcerated people often are placed in unfair conditions and are treated poorly. Inmates are forced to work in conditions that don't meet human rights standards, such as the Nelson Mandela Rules. They are given limited health care, overly long work hours, and low wages. Not only that, but inmates also face sexual harassment, exploitation, and violence.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164396>

Migrant Worker Safety and Rights

Migrant workers are constantly treated unfairly and put in dangerous positions. Migrants are at risk of having their documentation taken once they enter a new country, and being forced to do unforeseen amounts of labour to attempt to get it back. Not only that, but migrants can also find it harder to get good jobs due to limitations, either due to their migrant status or the fact that they are not in possession of their documentation. Migrant workers are in positions that leave them vulnerable to exploitation, harassment, violence, and more.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167459>

Race-based Discrimination and Violence

Racial discrimination is the act of treating people differently and unfairly due to their race. Discrimination based on race, and the violence that occurs because of it, has been an issue for centuries. People of certain races are prevented from having the same rights and freedoms as others in countries all over the world. Discrimination can also appear in the form of violence, which has been recognized to be a cause, as well as an effect, of armed conflict to varying degrees.

<https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism>

Open Agenda

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/>

Human Rights Council Commemorates 20th Anniversary

A representative from the Dominican Republic attends the informal high-level discussion held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Human Rights Council.

Unique Identifier UN71142339

Production Date 06/19/2026

City/Location Geneva

Country Switzerland

Credit UN Photo/Violaine Martin



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO), created in 1948, strives to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. WHO's goal is to ensure people have access to universal health care in order to provide well-being. Through their work, they address problems such as human capital across the life-course, noncommunicable diseases prevention, mental health promotion, climate change in small island developing states, antimicrobial resistance, and elimination and eradication of high-impact communicable diseases.

Distributing Aid in Conflict Zones

Wars and armed conflicts lead to much loss of life and injury in the conflict zones, resulting in a large need of medical aid and assistance. The active bombings and bomb threats put any aid distributors at extreme risk, leading to a significantly smaller amount of aid actually making it into the zone and into the hands of those in need. In some conflicts, aid is even purposefully targeted and stopped from getting to the affected communities by the aggressors. The main issue here is not how much aid or what aid is needed to be sent, but rather how can we ensure that the necessary aid successfully makes it to the conflict zones.

<https://www.un.org/en/our-work/deliver-humanitarian-aid>

Access to Healthcare in Rural Communities

Access to healthcare means being able to receive medical care whenever needed. Compared to most cities, rural communities have much less available doctors and medical staffers to keep up with the populations' needs. This is an extreme issue especially because chronic conditions, bad health habits like smoking and drinking, and obesity are more common in rural communities. The lack of advanced medical technology and infrastructure put rural communities at risk and make quality healthcare nearly or completely inaccessible.

<https://www.who.int/activities/addressing-health-inequities-among-people-living-in-rural-and-remote-areas>

Opening of 25th Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A view of a participant at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held on the theme: "Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health, including in the context of conflict".

The 25th session of the UNPFII is held between 20 April - 1 May.

Unique Identifier UN71136650

Production Date 04/20/2026

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías



Dealing with the Effect of Climate Change on Public Health

The effect of climate change does not stop on the environment, it even affects public health. Climate change affects soil and kills crops, leading to food shortages and malnutrition crises. Additionally, many diseases that live in water such as diarrheal disease thrive in high temperatures, and as temperatures rise due to climate change, the diseases' impacts do too. The environmental effects mentioned above do affect public health as well when climate change leads to natural disasters, causing death and injury to populations hit by the disaster. Studies show that around 3.6 billion people live in areas already affected or soon-to-be affected by climate change, so if we don't act fast, public health will only be in more danger.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

Mental Health Representation in Media

For years, TV and film have largely portrayed mentally ill characters as dangerous, unpredictable, and many more hurtful characterizations that have a negative effect on mentally ill individuals. Instead of showing your average person going through depression, the depressed character appears manic, unhygienic, unable to live their life, but this is only the case for extreme cases. The media has continued to refuse to portray mental illness as a common thing that many people go through, and instead show it as something to fear and look down upon. What the average person sees in the media relating to mental illness often causes them to be ashamed of something they can't change and lessens the chances of them seeking the help they need.

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/how-the-media-can-combat-mentalhealth-stigma-and-discrimination>

Combatting the 2026 Ebola Outbreak

The 2026 Ebola outbreak was first detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and later spread to Uganda. Ebola is a serious and often deadly disease that can quickly overwhelm healthcare systems, especially in areas with limited medical resources. There are currently no widely approved vaccines or specific treatments for the 2026 strain, making containment more difficult. Ongoing armed conflict, population displacement, and broken healthcare systems have further complicated efforts for surveillance, treatment, and contact tracing.

<https://www.un.org/en/spotlight-on-ebola>

Preventing Future Widespread Disease Outbreaks

To prevent future widespread disease outbreaks, strong public health systems, early disease surveillance, and international cooperation are needed. Countries must invest in detecting outbreaks, boosting healthcare infrastructure, and improving lab capacity to identify and respond to new health threats before they can spread worldwide. Fair access to vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, and trustworthy health information is also crucial for protecting vulnerable groups and reducing the impact of future epidemics and pandemics.

<https://www.who.int/activities/preparing-and-preventing-epidemics-and-pandemics>

Lack of Mental Health Support for Veterans

Military veterans often face mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders due to their service. Many veterans receive treatment, but some face obstacles that hinder their access to necessary care. Mental health issues can be treated; however, many people around the world still lack effective care. Without adequate support, these issues can harm veterans' relationships, job performance, physical health, and overall quality of life.

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/mental-health>

Open Agenda

<https://www.who.int/>

Hope Football Championship for Amputees in Gaza

Dozens of players are taking part in the Hope Football Championship for Amputees in Gaza, demonstrating that disability does not mean inability, and that passion for sport can become a pathway to healing and empowerment.

The tournament was organized by the Palestine Amputee Football Association and hosted at the Ittihad Shabab Deir al-Balah Club Stadium in Gaza City.

According to local health organisations in Gaza, more than 6,000 cases of limb amputation were recorded over the past two years of conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, requiring urgent and long-term rehabilitation. Children represent an estimated 25 per cent of all amputee cases, while women account for nearly 13 per cent. Assistive devices continue to be in short supply which is deepening the suffering of those living with war-related disabilities.

Unique Identifier UN71127486 Production Date 11/16/2025 City/Location Gaza City, Gaza Credit UN Photo



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization was established in October 1945 and is a specialized agency geared towards ending worldwide hunger. The FAO's goal is to establish food security for all and make sure that people around the world have access to healthy food so that they can live an active and healthy life. The committee takes care of collecting and evaluating information about nutrition, food, and agriculture and related topics, including fisheries, marine products, forestry, and primary forestry products.

Food Waste

Approximately thirty percent of all food produced in the world is wasted, which can cause problems far beyond the food industry. Food waste contributes to approximately 8% of all greenhouse gas emissions and can worsen deforestation due to the need for extra land to grow food that will ultimately never be consumed. This problem can also worsen food insecurity, as the wasted food could ultimately help feed millions of people. Additionally, food waste is measured to cost the global economy approximately 940 billion dollars per year due to wasted resources and lost revenue for agricultural workers. It is important to address such a pressing issue for the global environment, economy, and social sphere.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day>

Agrifood systems

Agrifood systems hold incredible potential for the global climate, economy, and food industry. It sustains economies by employing a significant portion of citizens around the world and provides the global community with food and other important products that are then sold and bought in global markets. Agrifood systems are also important in a social aspect as well; they are a major employer of women, with 36 percent of working women globally involved in agrifood systems. Agrifood systems are currently threatened by the changing climate, an increasing number of natural disasters, and resource scarcity. Since they play a crucial role in the global economy, social sphere, and the food industry, the United Nations should implement more ways to promote and sustain agrifood systems.

<https://www.fao.org/food-systems/en/>

Water Scarcity

Climate change and other subsequent environmental pressures are putting a strain on global water sources, causing major conflict and stress over such resources. The United Nations sent a warning declaring that the world has entered a time of "water bankruptcy" in which billions of people lack proper access to fresh water. This puts intense strain on the agricultural sectors of several countries since these industries rely heavily on the use of freshwater sources, resulting in economic damage and a lack of food for many communities. Many countries are attempting to develop new forms of agriculture in order to make up for their lack of water, but such attempts still fall short of success.

<https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-scarcity>

Sustainable Land Use

To feed a growing population, agriculture already uses nearly half of all land that has vegetation. By 2050, farming is expected to take over an extra area of land twice the size of India, destroying wild ecosystems. In addition to that, since humans are starting to need more and more timber and wood to make paper products, we would need to have land that is the size of the United States just for commercial forestry. Because most global protection laws focus only on tropical rainforests, farming timber is rapidly wiping out unprotected grasslands, wetlands, and savannas.

https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/documents/fao_factsheet/land.pdf

Food Deserts

Food deserts are areas with limited or no access to fresh food, usually because of the lack of nearby grocery stores. About 5 million people in the U.S. lived in communities with no access to grocery stores in 2023—and that number is rapidly increasing each year. Research done before has shown that a poor diet is associated with a lot of negative health outcomes, such as cancer, diabetes, and more.

https://unece.org/climate-change/press/food-deserts-food-forests-how-cities-can-shape-moresustainable-food-systems?_cf_chl_f_tk=NO4mT1PYjltPnfj7oUd.WY4yxf78O5UWEZX3v6Mp8bc-1783041786-1.0.1.1-xwrqcUzQ67CcqofPBAttP1VXjeez1ebJ7tmWuIGMSYU

Precision Agriculture with Artificial Intelligence

There is a growing concern that big tech firms could take control over farming by using data collected from government-funded AI tools. These programs, aimed at helping farmers, might instead trap them in software ecosystems that allow tech companies to monitor, manage, and possibly control farming operations, while also placing a bad strain on local resources because of the high energy demands of AI data centers.

https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/A33%20-%20Carcamo%20-%20AI%20apps%20in%20agriculture%20need%20a%20justice%20lens%20to%20address%20risks%20and%20provide%20benefits%20to%20smallholder%20farmers_0.pdf

Desertification of Arable Land

Human-caused climate change is creating a big shift towards drier conditions, with arid zones now covering over 40% of the world's land. This expansion threatens global food security and mainly impacts regions in Africa and Asia, resulting in significant economic losses. It occurs when fertile farming soil degrades permanently and turns into dry, non-nutritional desert dust. This causes the parts of the Earth to lose the ability to grow crops and sustain communities.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/desertification-day/background>

Open Agenda

<https://www.fao.org/home/en>

Event on “Her Land Her Rights Advancing Gender Equality and Land Restoration Goals”

Inna Modja (second from left) performs during the event “Her Land. Her Rights: Advancing Gender Equality and Land Restoration Goals”. The high-level event marks the 2023 Desertification and Drought Day with a focus on policies and actions needed to advance women's land rights and promote stronger female leadership and decision-making power in sustainable land management.

Unique Identifier UN7989714 Production Date 06/16/2023
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

PLEASE NOTE: This committee has dealt with more mature subject matter than others in the past, and some parents and/or adult sponsors may not be comfortable with their younger delegates participating in these discussions. GEMUN does cover real world topics, and to help solve these issues, action must be taken. We hope your delegates will be aware and prepared to participate in debate involving all topics as they come up.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was created by an ECOSOC Resolution June 21, 1946. Made up of 45 states responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls globally, CSW works with governments, society, and the UN to strengthen and protect women's rights by "documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Period Poverty

Millions of women and girls around the world cannot afford proper menstrual products. Period Poverty is defined by the lack of affordable and accessible menstrual products, inaccessibility to hygiene and sanitation facilities, and not enough education on menstruation as a whole. It is often caused by the pricing of menstrual products and stigma when talking about periods. The pink tax is an example of something that causes period products to be more expensive.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/period-poverty-why-millions-of-girls-and-women-cannot-afford-their-periods>

Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality is defined by the death of a woman caused by complications during pregnancy or childbirth. Over 700 women die every day from preventable causes in relation to pregnancy or childbirth. Most deaths occur in lower to low-middle income countries, especially in those with limited access to healthcare. Reducing maternal mortality works with the Sustainable Development Goal 3, Good Health and Wellbeing. It aims to allow for healthy lives and a lower global maternal mortality ratio of less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/maternal-mortality/>

The gender pay gap

The global gender pay gap remains one of the most persistent economic injustices of our time, with women earning roughly 20 percent less than men for work of equal value. This disparity is driven by a mix of issues, including occupational segregation, discriminatory hiring and promotion practices, and the "motherhood penalty." The motherhood penalty often pushes working mothers into lower-paying, part-time, or informal jobs due to the unequal burden of domestic labor mothers face. The gender pay gap is harming the work of the United Nations towards Sustainable Development Goal 5, gender equality.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/equal-pay-day>

(cont.)



Opening of 70th Commission on Status of Women

Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, addresses the opening of Seventieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is taking place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 19 March 2026. The priority theme for the Commission is: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers. The review theme is: Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Unique Identifier UN821386

Date 03/09/2026 City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Access to Justice and Legal Inequalities

Access to Justice for Women and girls remains a critical global challenge, with women holding only 64% of the legal rights of men and facing systematic barriers, including discriminatory laws and gender bias legal system. The unequal access to justice for women is partly due to the lack of affordable legal aid and low legal literacy. Access to justice for women requires legal reforms and work towards gender equality.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2026/03/no-country-in-the-world-hasreached-full-legal-equality-for-women-and-girls>

Child marriage

An estimated 640 million women and girls alive today had child marriages. Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or union between a child under the age of 18 and another child or an adult. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence. Child brides often become pregnant during adolescence and have a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Girls who marry during adolescence are also less likely to stay in school and receive higher education.

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage>

Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence

Nearly 75% of women worldwide have experienced some sort of violence online. Technology facilitated gender-based violence, TFGBV, is an act of violence carried out by one or more persons that is amplified in part or fully by the use of technologies or digital media against a person based on gender. TFGBV includes but is not limited to doxxing, cyberbullying, online gender and sexual harassment, etc. TFGBV carries significant safety, economic, and health consequences for women and girls as well as for society as a whole.

<https://www.unfpa.org/TFGBV>

The crisis in Afghanistan

Since 2021, almost 100 edicts which restrict how women and girls move through society have been instituted and enforced in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is in what is described as the world's most severe women's rights crisis, and in many places women are being banned from public spaces. Women in Afghanistan are not allowed to move freely in public without being accompanied by a male guardian, often a husband. The Taliban is working to remove all equality between men and women before the law as well as authorising violence against women. This happens by allowing husbands to carry out punishments, including physical violence, in the home. Without women having rights in Afghanistan, achieving global gender equality is much harder.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167152>

Open Agenda

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>



Security Council Meets on Situation in Sudan and South Sudan

Lilian Riziq, Founder and President of the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN), addresses the Security Council meeting that heard reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan.

Unique Identifier UN71147684

Production Date 08/06/2026 City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is an organization within the United Nations that is the international center for cooperation in the nuclear field. The Agency was founded in 1957, in response to the fears from discoveries associated with nuclear technology. It was created with assistance from member States and partners worldwide to overcome challenges and promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. The IAEA's dual mission is to promote and control the Atom, contributing to international peace and security.

Nuclear Proliferation

Nuclear Proliferation is defined as the spread of nuclear weapons, while Nuclear Non-Proliferation is the practice of reducing the spread of nuclear weapons to new countries. In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons went into place. 191 states have joined the treaty, including all five of the nuclear weapons states recognized by the treaty. It was extended indefinitely in 1995.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167387>



Press Briefing on Iran and Non-proliferation

Jérôme Bonnafont (at podium), Permanent Representative of the Republic of France to the UN, briefs reporters on Iran and non-proliferation.

Unique Identifier UN71141429

Production Date 06/09/2026

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Mark Garten

Nuclear Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)

The Nuclear Sterile Insect Technique (widely referred to as SIT for short) is an environmentally friendly method of pest control. This technique uses ionizing radiation to sterilize insects raised in a lab. The insects are either exposed to controlled doses of gamma rays or X- rays, which damage their reproductive cells. The sterilized insects are then released into areas that are struggling with control of insects. Over time, since the sterilized insects cannot reproduce, insect populations decline.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/sterile-insect-technique-and-biological-control-how-radiation-helps-fight-pests>

Use of atomic energy to help counter climate change

Atomic energy is extremely useful in the fight against climate change. As it does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions during operation, is one of the lowest carbon producing energy sources, and it takes up less space and raw materials than other sustainable energy sources, such as solar and wind, it is one of the most climate friendly options available today. Despite this, atomic energy only provides about 10% of the world's energy. Further utilizing atomic energy can help lower carbon emissions to counter climate change.

<https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-power-and-climate-change>

Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear Fusion is the process by which two lighter atomic nuclei combine to form a single heavy nucleus. During Nuclear Fusion, a massive amount of energy is released. Fusion reactions take place in a state of matter called plasma. This reaction is what powers the sun and stars. Scientists and engineers have been looking for ways to use the power of Nuclear Fusion for decades . If Nuclear Fusion can be fully harnessed,

it will be able to provide massive amounts of energy with little to no emissions or radioactive waste. It is estimated that the first prototype commercial nuclear fusion reactors will be in use by the 2030s, but some have placed estimates in the 2050s.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/fusion-energy-in-2025-six-global-trends-to-watch>

Nuclear Power Plant Security

Nuclear Power Plant Security is essentially the prevention and detection of, as well as the response to theft, trespassing, sabotage and other malicious acts involving Nuclear Power Plants. Ensuring the security and safety of these power plants requires a defense network capable of defending and swiftly eliminating diverse threats such as cyber attacks, physical intrusions, and many more. Because of this it is important to ensure that all Nuclear Power Plants are secure.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167540>

Radioactive cleanup

While nuclear power is a very efficient energy source, it still needs to be handled with extreme caution. Radioactive waste and material from these powerplants can contaminate the local environment and communities around it. When contamination occurs, swift and thorough remediation of the affected area is critical. If these clean up efforts are delayed or the nuclear material was mishandled, the long-term negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystem will be harmful.

<https://www.iaea.org/topics/radiological-environmental-remediation>

Radiation in cancer treatment

Radiation therapy is a common way to treat cancer that uses high energy particles or waves to destroy or damage cancer cells. By specifically targeting the genetic material of these cells, radiation therapy prevents them from growing and dividing. This treatment can be used alone or in addition to chemotherapy and or surgery. Advanced techniques such as stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) allow for precise targeting of tumors, while reducing the damage done to surrounding tissue. While radiation therapy does have its side effects, these are kept under control with supportive care. This establishes radiotherapy as a vital tool in cancer treatment.

<https://www.iaea.org/topics/cancer-treatment-radiotherapy>

Atomic Energy and Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to improve the efficiency of a nuclear power plant's operation and maintenance. While nuclear power plants need to become cheaper for more countries to adopt it and use it over other energy sources. Artificial intelligence has the potential to minimize the operation costs of a nuclear plant, and in turn can make nuclear power more accessible.

<https://www.iaea.org/bulletin/enhancing-nuclear-power-production-with-artificial-intelligence>

Open Agenda

<https://www.iaea.org/>

**General Assembly Commemorates
International Day against Nuclear Tests**
Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament
Affairs, addresses the 108 plenary meeting of the General
Assembly, a high-level meeting to commemorate and
promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

Unique Identifier UN71149586

Production Date 08/31/2026

City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías



Country Research

"Hate speech is a grave and growing threat to peace and security. ...We must break this outrageous cycle -- through education, support for those targeted by abuse, stronger interventions by governments and technology companies, and deeper engagement with traditional and Indigenous leaders – the focus of the **Muscat Plan of Action** launched here today. ..."

-- *António Guterres*, Secretary-General, 11 June 2026,
Secretary-General's remarks at the launch of the Muscat Plan of Action

GATHERING COUNTRY INFORMATION

Look for interesting and detailed information about the country, going to as many sources as possible. Some suggestions that have been found to be helpful:

1. There may be whole books about your country in the children's section at the library. Some countries have been formed within the last few years, and would only be included in recently published books.
2. Embassies and consulates are very helpful. There may be one near you, or you could get an address from the Mission in New York. A Google search should help if you need the mailing address, phone, etc.
3. Some useful links are listed on our Resource Page at <http://www.gemun.org/resource.shtml>
4. To find a person who was born or has lived in your country, call a local college and ask for the International Student Office, or there may be a local social group. Usually someone will be very happy to spend time with your group to teach about life there.
5. Ask your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, principal, friends, classmates, neighbors—everyone you know—if they have any information about your country.
6. Read international news outlets and/or listen to World News on radio, television or online.

COUNTRY DISPLAY

A great way to learn about the culture of your country is to create a country display, which adds unique creativity to the conference as a whole. This is not required, but if you do decide to put together a display, first, read once through all the information you have gathered about the country, its people, geography, culture, economy, government, food, language, commerce etc. This will give you a general overview of the country to help you get started. Individual students in your group may find different points of interest, or a few students may want to work together on one project. Where there is interest, there is indication of a starting place for a project to contribute to your country display.

Everyone has at least one special talent — drawing, painting, writing, sculpturing, making up word games or mazes, or some other unique way to express ideas. This talent can be used in the creation of part of the display, or you may wish to explore a unique area of expression.

The purpose of a display is to help people who visit GEMUN learn something about the countries represented. It is always more interesting to learn through more than one of your senses, so the displays can be designed to involve not only sight, but also smell, touch and hearing. Students who plan the displays can try to give the public not only something to look at, but also something to do. **PLEASE NOTE: FOOD cannot be part of displays**, due to large clean-up fees in the past. It is very important to clean thoroughly under and around your display tables before leaving campus.

Some examples of the ways students have contributed in the past to their country display: a linoleum cut of an endangered species from the country, arranged on the table with crayons and sheets of paper to make a rubbing; clay sculptures of famous art objects in the country; a drawing of a famous person from the country who contributed to the world; copies of an interesting maze, with pictures and information about the country incorporated; examples of games played by the children in the country, with instructions how to play; samples of art and crafts which are part of the country's culture; a map painted by the students, with interesting facts about the geography, people, flora and fauna. Most important -- every student should use their creativity! This part of GEMUN is about learning from constructing the projects. The more interactive, the better. (Photos of examples of displays which were brought to GEMUN in the past can be seen at www.gemun.org)

NOTE: We learned that it may be a good idea to use copyright free photos. Here are a couple of sites, in case you might need them: <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://unsplash.com/s/photos/copyright>

Displays are set up Saturday morning, and we do our best to put out awards by around 3 pm. The judges look for quality of work, interesting cultural information, attractiveness and most of all, creativity. **All work should be done by the children, not adults.** In the same symbolism that the flags of the United Nations are displayed at the same level, the displays in the lobby are seen as contributions to this event rather than as a competition with winners and losers. Therefore, the awards symbolize a contribution to GEMUN by the giving and sharing of information, culture, images and the personality of each country represented.

PLEASE NOTE: For security and staffing reasons DO NOT SET UP your display until Saturday, the second morning of the conference, and DO NOT leave any expensive items unattended. Neither GEMUN nor the host college can be responsible for lost items.

ROLE-PLAYING

ROLE-PLAYING means acting as if you actually are from the country you are representing at GEMUN. This may be similar to the way you usually think and act, or it may be very different. If the policies of your country are different from your own ideas about a topic, you have a challenge, and an opportunity to look at the subject from a different point of view.

The point of debating a resolution is to pass the best possible version of the resolution. When role-playing your country, you have the opportunity to support a perspective in your committee and use that perspective to improve the resolution. Your Position Paper should be your guide in roleplaying. Your country's perspective may be against a topic entirely, and representing their view could include speaking and voting against the resolution. However, in the spirit of working together, it could also mean speaking against a resolution, not with the intention to fail it, but rather

(cont.)

to convince other delegations to amend the resolution to make it better. This is why role-playing is important. In roleplaying your country, you can come together as a committee to an agreement towards ideals like peace and ending hunger, even when a solution on a topic cannot be reached.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

GEMUN is a Place Where Your Voice Should Be Heard!

The following was contributed by a GEMUN Sponsor who is also a long-time Theatre Arts teacher: The GEMUN Conference is an exciting experience for everyone who attends. It is a fantastic opportunity to practice sharing ideas and working together to find solutions to issues in today's world.

Your voice will be one of your most powerful instruments at the conference. Whether you are giving an opening speech, making a speech for or against a resolution, or talking to other committee members during a caucus, the way you use your voice will have an effect on those who are listening. It's how *your* ideas are heard!

Be prepared as much as you can. Do your research on your country, the other countries you will be working with, and the issues being discussed. (The best way to reduce stage fright is to be prepared!)

We think about what we are going to say, but we don't give much thought as to how we say it. So... Exercise your muscles and train your ears to hear the right sounds--Using **Tongue Twisters!** You can find LOTS of these on the internet and even make up some about your country or the conference!

1. Say the tongue twister VERY SLOWLY two times, over exaggerating every possible sound in each word. This means beginnings, middles and endings! This really works your facial muscles and makes you very aware of what your lips, tongue, and jaw are doing to make each sound.
2. Second: Say it a little faster. Still over pronounce every sound, like you were speaking to someone who was listening to really loud music with their headphones on. They can't hear you much, but they can see your mouth.
3. Third: Say it a little faster, still over pronouncing. If you can get through the tongue twister without leaving out a sound (record yourself or have someone listen to you who can't see you), then say it even faster.
4. Keep on going this way until you can say the tongue twister really fast and VERY CORRECTLY.
Examples:
 - If a black bug bleeds black blood, what color blood does a blue bug bleed?
 - Rubber Baby Buggy Bumpers
 - Crisp Crusts Crackle and Crunch
 - Six Thick Thistle Sticks
 - Toy Boat, Toy Boat, Toy Boat
 - Unique New York, Unique New York
5. If you are speaking very clearly, people close to you will hear you quite well. But when people are far away, you must *PROJECT* the sound of your voice all the way to those people. Projecting is *not* yelling, but it is a way of making the voice louder.
 - a. **Open your mouth wider.** (More sound comes out!)

(cont.)

- b. **Stand/Sit tall and take a deep breath before you speak.** (Supports the sound coming out)
- c. **Breathe into your diaphragm**, or your belly, instead of breathing into your chest. Practice breathing so that your belly feels like it is inflating like a balloon as you inhale, and deflating as you exhale. This will create a more powerful sound as you speak!
- d. **Point your mouth in the direction of the people.** (This is why you never look down at a paper that you don't have memorized. LOOK UP by holding the paper up a bit, but don't cover your face. People understand words better when they can see the speaker's face.)
- e. **Take your time.** When we are nervous or uncomfortable, we tend to speak faster or so softly and "mumbly" that we cannot be understood. Slow down. That gives everyone time to hear and think about what you've just said.
- f. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!** (Speak to someone and have them move farther away each time, or record yourself, farther and farther away from your recording source)

Committee Assignments

As you are working on your Position Paper, some delegates may notice an interest in the topics to be discussed in one or another of the different committees.

Every country delegation is asked to send a delegate to General Assembly (GA), if at all possible. **If your country is a member of Security Council (SC), you MUST have a delegate seated in that committee. If you represent one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, you MUST have a delegate in BOTH SC and GA.**

PLEASE NOTE: Some committees often have more mature subject matter for topics, and might be inappropriate for younger delegates. Adult sponsors and parents are responsible to make sure the topic content of the committees is appropriate for delegates assigned to them.

****VERY IMPORTANT -- COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS LIST****

When you send your Position Paper (at the time of the 2nd Workshop), include a list of all committees in which your country will have a delegate. Specify the number of delegates in each committee. Due to the very limited size of some committee rooms, 1 delegate per committee is best.. The accuracy of this list is important for our preparations for the conference. These numbers are used to prepare specific materials needed by each delegate at the conference and to plan the layout of the committees. If your group has changes after the list is sent, please let us know asap. **All groups might consider preparing alternate delegates, if possible, in case a delegate drops out late in the year. This would help maintain consistent numbers for planning purposes.**

If committees get too large for the size of the rooms, as the fire code requires, we may have to ask some delegates to move to another committee before the conference. This has been necessary in the past. We need your help to avoid this problem.

Position Paper

RESEARCHING FOR YOUR POSITION PAPER

First, there is no 'wrong' formatting. This research is for you -- to give a you 'wish list' of ideas when it's time to write a resolution, and to help you debate other resolutions at the conference.

Where to start? Fill out the **Country Questionnaire** on the following pages. You might also use trusted news sources or the mission website of the country (doing a Google search should help you find it).

• **Section I** -- The Position Paper (see form on next page) is general country data which should be found easily with a little research. Date of entry into the UN can be found on the UN Member States' web page (www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states). For more information about your country, click on the country name.

• **Section II** -- Try to state the position of your country in a few words. The major concerns and positions of your country should be in the speech given in the **General Debate** of the current year's General Assembly session. (To find this year's speech, go to gadebate.un.org/, or 'Ask DAG' at ask.un.org and put the country name in the search field. Ask DAG will be updated, but there will be a delay after the session is over.) This speech covers all topics of top interest to your country. Positions may not always be obvious from the speech. It helps to go through the entire speech, and mark references to topics in the GEMUN committees. PLEASE NOTE: Some topics may not be included in this speech, some may only be implied. ***It is not necessary to include a statement of position on every GEMUN topic in your paper!*** It may be possible to get an idea about the interests of the country on only **one or two topics in each committee**. Don't worry; find what you can.

Have this research with you when you attend the conference! (We try, but you can't be sure anyone at the conference will have time to do prompt research for you.)

SOME SHARED IDEAS ON WRITING A POSITION STATEMENT

One way that's been suggested to think about Section II of the Position Paper is in three general steps, but this must be adjusted to be what works best for each individual group:

1. Brief **BACKGROUND**: facts on the specific issue/topic. No opinion in this part, just facts.
2. **POSITION**: stated as briefly and as clearly as possible. This is your country's perspective on the specific issue/topic.
3. **IDEAS**: a "proposal for action" without any specific details -- a wish list, so to speak.

SENDING IN YOUR POSITION PAPER & COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

One Position Paper per country needs to be submitted, ***with committee assignments***, by the DEADLINE (the date of the 2nd Workshop).

Email: gemunstaff@gmail.com

May also be MAILED TO:

GEMUN, 6005 Royaloak Dr., Arlington, TX 76016

USE THIS SHEET FOR EACH COUNTRY YOUR SCHOOL IS REPRESENTING. FILL IN SECTION I, AND ATTACH AS MANY PAGES AS NEEDED TO COMPLETE SECTION II.

COUNTRY DATA AND POSITION PAPER

(One per Country)

SECTION I -- Country Data

Country: _____ Date of entry into UN: _____

Continent: _____

Neighboring countries: _____

Capital: _____

Major Cities: _____

Population: _____

Major Religion(s): _____

Ethnic/Racial Groups: _____

Official Language(s): _____

Form of Government: _____

Monetary Unit: _____

Major Exports: _____

Major Imports: _____

SECTION II -- Position Statement

On a separate paper, write a Position Statement on topics that your country considers to be of major concern (For more detail, see description under Researching for your Position Paper, previous page).

Please be sure all delegates from the country have a copy of the entire position paper, to help research resolutions and for debate at the conference.

COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

(This is given as an *example*, to be used to the extent needed by your group, to **help you prepare to write your position papers.**)

Name of your country:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Continent:

B. Region of continent (Central/South America, East Asia/Pacific, Southeast Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Middle East/North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Western/Eastern Europe, Other):

Member of International Organization (OAS—Organization of American States; AU—African Union; SAARC—South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation; Arab League; others)?:

Neighboring States:

C. Cities: Capital:

Major Cities:

D. Size (area in square miles):

Population Density (per square mile):

E. Total Population:

F. Average Life Expectancy:

G. Literacy rate (%):

H. Official Language(s):

I. History, early and recent:

J. Major religion(s) and their influence:

K. Ethnic/Racial group(s):

L. Form of government (dictatorship, democracy-parliamentary or presidential, limited monarchy, oligarchy); Current leader of Government:

Member of an international political organization (EU, NATO, CIS, others)?:

(cont.)

List countries with which your country has friendly relations—trade partners, etc.
(allies)

List countries with which your country has adversarial relations—trade competitors,
etc. (adversaries)

M. Economic System (Capitalism, Socialism, Communism, other):

Type of Economy (agricultural, industrial, diversified, other):

Monetary unit:

National Resources (mineral, forestry, agricultural/animal [legal & illegal], human
resources [labor force], energy resources, positional resource [canals,
bays & seas, straits, coast line, geo-stationary orbit]):

Imports:

Exports:

Member of Economic Organization (OPEC, EFTA, CIS, ASEAN, WTO, others)?:

II. UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION:

A. When did your nation join the United Nations?

B. When did your country become a nation? Did the United Nations help your country
become a nation? How?

C. If your country was a colony, give the mother country's name and explain what
effects the change has had.

D. Is your country a large, medium or small contributor to the U.N. budget?

E. Is the U.N. involved in any way in health issues of your country? If yes, what are
they?

F. Which countries are considered friendly? Which ones are considered adversaries?

III. CULTURAL, SOCIAL

A. What is the predominant ethnic group in your country? What is the relationship
between different groups?

B. What is your country's official policy toward other ethnic and cultural groups within its
borders?

- C. Is your country affected by refugees from neighboring countries because of ethnic disharmony or because of other reasons?
- D. How does your nation support improved education within and outside its borders?
- E. Is your country part of a recent break-up of another country or has it recently (last 40 years) been decolonized?

IV. ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- A. How is your country classified (developed, developing, least developed)?
- B. Is your country giving/receiving economic assistance? To/from whom? How much?
- C. Does your country have transnational corporations within its borders? If yes, has your country ever nationalized any of their holdings?
- D. What is your country's per capita income? What is the unemployment rate?
- E. Does your country contain any corporations that invest abroad? In what nations?
- F. Is your country currently under economic sanctions of the UN?

V. HUMAN RIGHTS:

- A. Does your country view human rights as an internal affair?
- B. To what extent does your country adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
- C. What are your country's concerns on:
 - 1. Terrorism
 - 2. Torture
 - 3. Rights of women
 - 4. Rights of children
 - 5. Rights of minorities
 - 6. Religious rights
 - 7. Rights of migrant workers
 - 8. Rights of refugees
 - 9. Rights of indigenous people
 - 10. Rights of workers
 - 11. Other forms of rights (disabled, detainee)

(cont.)

D. How does your country view Human Rights in:

Lebanon	Pakistan	Bulgaria	El Salvador
Iraq (Kurds, Sunnis, Shiites)	Afghanistan	Poland	Brazil
Iran	Somalia	Georgia	Paraguay
Israel (PLO)	Nigeria	United States	Uruguay
Turkiye (Kurds)	Kenya	Mexico	Belize
Syria	South Africa	Cuba	Colombia (drugs)
Sudan	Croatia	Haiti	China
Vietnam	Guatemala	Indonesia	Nicaragua
Romania	Yugoslavia	Honduras	Cambodia
Bosnia-Herzegovina (Serb/Croat/Muslim)	(Serbs)	(religious)	Myanmar
			Uzbekistan

VI. DISARMAMENT:

- A. Does your country possess nuclear arms? If not, does it have the potential?
- B. Does your country fear a threat from countries which do have nuclear power?
- C. Has your country signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- D. To what extent does your country support disarmament or test ban treaties?
- E. Other than nuclear capabilities, what other type of warfare does your country have in its arsenals (tanks, jet planes, bio/chemical)? Have these been used? When? Against whom?
- F. How does your country obtain its military arms? From a foreign country? Which one(s)?
- G. Does your country supply or sell arms to another country? Which one(s)?



Resolution Writing

WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS CAN AND CAN'T DO

Take into account when writing your resolution that the United Nations' realm of action is limited. The U.N., which is an organization composed of its member states, not a separate entity on its own, has a few specific tools that it can use to achieve solutions to a wide variety of problems. The U.N. has a budget that it raises through fundraisers, partnerships with private and non-profit organizations, and dues from member countries.

Can

- The U.N. can use the money in its budget to buy supplies and equipment and pay employees to carry out programs all over the world.
- It can use its money and personnel to research world problems/conditions and possible solutions.
- The U.N. has arbiters and negotiators on its payroll that it can send to troubled areas to try and prevent the breakout of violence or to try and restore peace after a conflict has occurred.
- The U.N. can call for nations or groups to come to the table to discuss their conflicts and appoint another, uninvolved nation to arbitrate, if that nation agrees.
- The U.N. can call for summits or meetings to solve special problems.
- The U.N. can set up new committees whose main responsibilities will be to oversee the progress on a certain topic or subset of topics.
- The U.N. can send peacekeepers to conflict areas.
- The U.N. can call for economic sanctions on a country in an attempt to coerce that country into accepting U.N. regulations on, for example, human rights or nuclear non-proliferation.
- The U.N. can educate and encourage populations to act in certain ways.

Can't

- The U.N. cannot make laws, prohibit or impose behavior on either individuals or nations.
- The U.N. cannot make war on any nation or violate any nation's sovereignty, or interfere with the right of each nation's government to make and enforce its own laws.
- The U.N. cannot force any nation to join in imposing sanctions on another country.

The U.N. relies largely on the powers of persuasion, diplomacy, and the cooperation of its component member states.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
DO AS MUCH RESEARCH AS POSSIBLE BEFORE GEMUN. WE DO
RESEARCH AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT DON'T ALWAYS
HAVE TIME TO DO IT FOR YOU AT THE TIME YOU NEED IT!**

WRITING RESOLUTIONS—GETTING STARTED

1. As a group, identify a classroom, school or community problem.
(See RESOLUTION EXAMPLE #1)
2. Using the example phrases on following page, write PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES that capture your concerns and state how the problem affects your school, classroom or community.
3. Using the example phrases, write OPERATIVE CLAUSES to put into words ways you feel the problem can be solved.
4. After learning this process in relation to a familiar problem, you can transfer these skills to the international problems considered in GEMUN committees. (RESOLUTION EXAMPLE #2)

FINDING A TOPIC AND WRITING YOUR RESOLUTION

After writing your Position Paper, based on your research from news sources, next you will each choose a topic on which to write a resolution. (You can start on gemun.org/topics.html)

IMPORTANT: A resolution is about how to solve a problem that impacts many people, **not only one country.** Remember, we can't accept a resolution about one country alone. This is a good time to also review the core purposes of GEMUN and the United Nations, as included in our Statement of Purpose, the Charter of the United Nations, and also the GEMUN Challenge.

IMPORTANT: It is becoming increasingly important to emphasize whenever possible the universal values expressed in these texts. GEMUN delegates can encourage cooperation rather than being extremist and uncompromising, even if their own government might put forward the latter as a public position. GEMUN delegates can balance what they have learned about the country they are role playing with their own idea of what they see as the right direction for the future!

FORMAT INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT: *The structure of a resolution is always **ONLY ONE SENTENCE** and needs to fit on the front of one page in 11 point font or larger.*

A RESOLUTION HAS FOUR PARTS: Heading, Subject, Preambulatory and Operative Clauses.

1. HEADING

The heading serves as identification for the resolution, and informs the reader of three things:

- 1) WHERE the resolution will be submitted – the body in which the resolution is initiated,
- 2) WHAT is the topic of discussion – the specific topic or problem addressed by the resolution, and
- 3) WHO are the author(s) – the country or countries proposing the resolution. See example resolution #1 where the heading is bracketed. Can you find the heading on example #2?

2. SUBJECT

Just as every sentence has a subject, so must every resolution. The subject tells you which committee will be taking the action. Look at example resolution #1 in the following pages, the subject is marked. Can you find the subject on example #2?

RESOLUTION EXAMPLE #1

Heading	—	SUBMITTED TO: Director of Our School TOPIC: The Problems of Name Calling PROPOSED BY: The Sixth Grade Class
Subject	/	1. <u>THE STUDENT BODY,</u>
Preambulatory Clauses		2. <u>ALARMED</u> that negative behavior among students results in name calling, and 3. <u>ACKNOWLEDGING</u> the problems of the classroom such as, stereotyping, 4. hurting feelings, disrespect for one's peers, and 5. <u>DEEPLY DISTURBED</u> at how these behaviors usurp curriculum time, and 6. <u>OBSERVING</u> that this needless time-wasting is also affecting students' 7. performance, and 8. <u>TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION</u> that students of all classes should take 9. action in helping to insure maximum learning time:
Operative Clauses (Each numbered, in addition to line numbers.)		10. 1. <u>EMPHASIZES</u> that students should only be called by their given birth names; 11. and 12. 2. <u>REQUESTS</u> that no student be called by a name another student has made up; 13. and 14. 3. <u>ENCOURAGES</u> teachers to sanction the behavior of name calling; and 15. 4. <u>RECOMMENDS</u> that students who do not conform after classroom 16. punishment should be penalized by the headmistress; and 17. 5. <u>DECLARES</u> that the students who do not observe this behavior of calling 18. students by their birth names should be suspended after five violations; and 19. 6. <u>EXPRESSES THE BELIEF</u> that if name calling persists there be a class 20. penalty; and 21. 7. <u>FULLY BELIEVES</u> that with the help of the students and staff of this school 22. we will have a disturbance-free learning environment.
	↑	
		Line Numbers

RESOLUTION EXAMPLE #2

SUBMITTED TO: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
TOPIC: Radioactive Waste Management
PROPOSED BY: Angola

1. IAEA,
2. CONSCIOUS that advancements in the field of nuclear energy will create more radioactive waste over
3. time, and
4. NOTING WITH GRAVE CONCERN that there has been an alarming rate of accidents with the
5. transportation of radioactive waste, and
6. ALSO AWARE that there have been multiple accidents involving the storage of radioactive waste, and
7. HAVING CONSIDERED the grave repercussions to the climate and security of the world if radioactive
8. waste is not effectively secured and stored, and
9. ANXIOUS for action on the contentious issue of radioactive waste disposal:
 10. 1. SUGGESTS that high level and low level radioactive waste be stored in deep geological repositories
 11. (300 m or 1000 ft.), that are stable and isolated; and
 12. 2. FURTHER REQUESTS that a Commission on Radioactive Waste Management (CRWM) is set up
 13. consisting of IAEA member countries which would:
 14. a. oversee all research/analysis on radioactive waste management/transport,
 15. b. make sure research is conducted safely,
 16. c. educate the public living near areas with nuclear storage facilities or nuclear reactors, and
 17. d. look at the possibilities of improving nuclear waste management techniques used at present; and
 18. 3. RECOMMENDS that when applicable, all findings be presented to UNEP and the GA and any other
 19. related committees; and
 20. 4. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that funds be appropriated by countries which will be used to attempt to
 21. put recommendations from the CRWM into play; and
 22. 5. URGES that a global monitoring system be set up which will:
 23. a. actively monitor the globe for any potential emergencies involving long-term storage or containment
 24. of nuclear materials during transport,
 25. b. assist in cleanup and proper disposal of any nuclear waste that breaches storage or the temporary
 26. cask holding nuclear waste in transportation,
 27. c. protect nuclear waste storage facilities and nuclear waste in transport, and
 28. d. assess and recommend how to improve systems so that such events do not occur again; and
 29. 6. COMMENDS all member states supporting this resolution.

3. PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble clauses introduce the resolution. They explain the problem in a logical sequence and tell the WHY behind the solution you suggest in the operative clauses. They give past action, reasons for the action, and sum up your concerns. Referring to action on the issue taken in the past by the United Nations makes the resolution very authentic and gives it a realistic foundation for the new proposal included in the operative clauses of your resolution.

The first word of each preamble clause sets the “tone” for the statement which follows (and must be in ALL CAPS and **bold** and/or underlined). Tone has to do with the strength of your conviction about the topic. Therefore, the stronger your conviction about a statement, the stronger the first word. The words in this list all start preamble clauses, NOT operative clauses.

IMPORTANT: Each clause in the preamble is followed by a comma (,) plus the word “and.” The last clause in the preamble is followed by a colon (:). Go to the example resolutions in the following pages. Can you find the preamble clauses in each resolution?

Some possible initiating phrases for preamble clauses:

ACKNOWLEDGING

AFFIRMING

ALARMED

ANXIOUS

APPRECIATING

APPROVING

AWARE

BEARING IN MIND

BEING CONVINCED

COGNIZANT

CONCERNED

CONFIDENT

CONSCIOUS

CONSIDERING

CONTEMPLATING

CONVINCED

DECLARING

DEEPLY DISTURBED

DEPLORING

DESIRING

DETERMINED

EMPHASIZING

ENCOURAGED

ENDORING

EXPECTING

EXPRESSING

APPRECIATION

DEEP APPRECIATION

FULFILLING

FULLY

AWARE

BELIEVING

BEARING IN MIND

GRIEVED

GUIDED BY

HAVING

ADOPTED

APPROVED

CONSIDERED

DECIDED

EXAMINED FURTHER

RECEIVED

REGARD FOR

REVIEWED

VIEWED WITH

APPREHENSION

KEEPING IN MIND

MINDFUL

NOTING

FURTHER

WITH APPROVAL

WITH DEEP CONCERN

WITH REGRET

WITH SATISFACTION

WITH GRAVE CONCERN

OBSERVING

REAFFIRMING

REALIZING

RECALLING

RECOGNIZING

REFERRING

REGRETTING

REITERATING

SEEKING

STRESSING

TAKING

INTO ACCOUNT

INTO CONSIDERATION

NOTE

WELCOMING



United Nations Secretariat Building

A view of the United Nations Secretariat building with member states' flags.

UN7757770 Production Date 10/01/2001

New York, United States of America

Credit UN Photo/Andrea Brizzi

4. OPERATIVE CLAUSES

The operative clauses of a resolution tell the reader what ACTION is being proposed to solve the problem described in the preamble. The operative clauses should be the strongest part of your resolution.

Remember to **INCLUDE AT LEAST TWO OR THREE** operative clauses in your resolution. **Resolutions submitted containing only one operative clause, or none at all, will be sent back as unacceptable.**

The first word or phrase (for examples, see below) of each operative clause is a verb, indicating the clause which follows. It must be in **ALL CAPS** and **bold** and/or underlined. Language and tone play an important part in determining the strength of your operative clauses.

IMPORTANT: Each operative clause is numbered, in addition to the line numbers to the left of each line of the resolution -- look at the examples on the next two pages. Each operative clause ends with a semi-colon (;) plus the word "and", except for the last, which is followed by a period (.). For operative clauses containing several subclauses, each subclause should be preceded with a letter and followed by a comma (.). The second to last subclause should end with ", and" (comma and) and the last should end with "; and" (semicolon and). You can see this in the example resolutions.

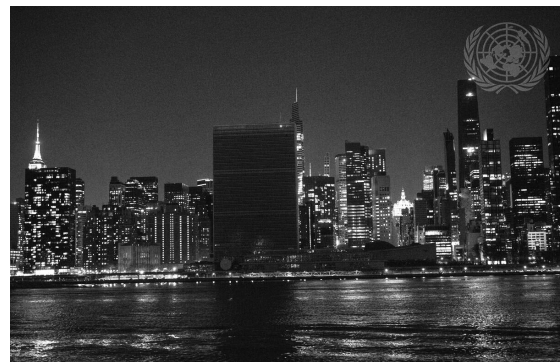
NOTE: If you use an acronym in your resolution, use the whole name the first time it is used. (Example: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the Heading in sample resolution #2.)

Some possible initiating phrases for activating or operative clauses:

ACCEPTS
ADOPTS
AFFIRMS
APPEALS
APPRECIATES
APPROVES
AUTHORIZES
CALLS UPON
COMMENDS
CONCURS
CONDEMNS
CONFIRMS
CONGRATULATES
CONSIDERS
DECIDES
DECLARES
DEPLORES
DESIGNATES
DIRECTS
EXPRESSES
APPRECIATION
CONVICTION
REGRET
SYMPATHY
THANKS

EXPRESSES (cont.)
THE BELIEF
THE HOPE
FURTHER
INVITES
PROCLAIMS
REMINDS
RECOMMENDS
REQUESTS
RESOLVES
INSTRUCTS
REAFFIRMS
RECOGNIZES
RECOMMENDS
REGRETS
REITERATES

RENEWS ITS APPEAL
REPEATS
SUGGESTS
SUPPORTS
TAKES NOTE OF
TRANSMITS
URGES
WELCOMES



UN Headquarters Turns Off Lights to Commemorate Earth Hour

The United Nations commemorates Earth Hour by turning off the lights at UN Headquarters and other buildings around the world. Earth Hour is a global initiative commemorated annually in March to focus attention on people-driven solutions to protect the planet and build a sustainable future.

A view of a dark Secretariat Building and the New York City skyline from across the East River.

Unique Identifier UN71134433 Production Date 03/28/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

SENDING IN RESOLUTIONS

ADULT ADVISOR: PLEASE SEND ALL RESOLUTIONS ELECTRONICALLY to gemunstaff@gmail.com in a format that will open in googledocs and allow us to edit. (If shared in googledocs, please share with this email address: marti.cockrell@gmail.com)

- 1) **ONE** resolution **PER DOCUMENT**.
- 2) File name: country name and committee (example: PeruUNEP.doc).
- 3) Please attach ALL resolutions from ONE country to ONE EMAIL.
- 4) **Resolution must print out on one page in font no smaller than 11 pt.**

When typing resolution, please refer to the Format Instructions on the preceding pages.

No more than ONE RESOLUTION PER COUNTRY PER COMMITTEE will be accepted. (The exception to this 'one resolution per country per committee' rule is in Security Council. It is a very small committee, so two resolutions per country MAY be accepted at the Chair's discretion.)

RESOLUTIONS NOT ACCEPTED BY CHAIR OR RECEIVED LATE

If resolutions are received AFTER deadline (see calendar), or not accepted by the Chair, they may be "NEW BUSINESS," which means they will not be debated until after all resolutions in the Regular Business Resolution Packet. In other words, New Business resolutions will be put at the **end** of the Agenda, and will be brought up in committee only at the discretion of the Chair of the committee. ALL RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING NEW BUSINESS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY. **NO HARDCOPIES ACCEPTED**, even at in person conference.

NOTE: In the past, we have tried to ensure that each of the resolutions accepted for the Regular Business Resolution Packet are debated before the conference ends. However, due to the number of delegates, this may be difficult. **The Chairs have decided it may be necessary to cap the number of resolutions accepted. Any extra resolutions will be treated as New Business.**

FINAL CHECK LIST

ADULT ADVISOR READ BEFORE SENDING RESOLUTIONS!

1. ADULT ADVISOR PLEASE CHECK AND SEND ALL RESOLUTIONS VIA EMAIL, formatted as requested. (Delegates don't send, have your advisor send.)
2. Resolutions MUST print out on **one (1) page**, minimum font size 11 pt.
3. DELEGATES: Don't put all research into resolution, save some details for speech.
4. Follow the form in the examples. **Don't forget line numbers**.
5. DO NOT send hard copies. **Send electronically only (not scanned).**
6. No more than **ONE resolution** per country, per committee (except SC) will be accepted, but all resolutions submitted may not be accepted, due to time considerations.
7. **REMEMBER, SEND RESOLUTIONS BY DEADLINE** on Calendar.

SUMMARY of RESOLUTION WRITING

SUBMITTED TO: Global Elementary Model United Nations (GEMUN)

TOPIC: Guidelines for resolution selection

PROPOSED BY: Secretary-General

1. THE SECRETARIAT,

2. AWARE that there is a great deal of confusion about how the Secretariat selects
3. resolutions, and

4. CONSCIOUS of the hard work and effort each delegate puts into writing a
5. resolution, and

6. REGRETTING that all resolutions submitted to GEMUN may not be selected or
7. discussed:

8. 1. REQUESTS all delegates to keep in mind the proposed guidelines while
9. writing resolutions:
10. a. the resolution must meet the deadline or else it will be considered as
11. New Business, and possibly won't be debated,
12. b. the ideas in the preambulatory clauses should define the problem,
13. state who the problem affects, state where the problem is, and state
14. why this problem needs to be heard by the United Nations, and
15. c. solutions in the operative clauses should include how the solution
16. will be accomplished, who will be involved in the solution, and thanks
17. to organizations or countries that have helped in solving the problem; and

18. 2. RECOMMENDS to delegates who truly want their resolutions to be selected
19. to try to include the efforts of current United Nations activities and agencies
20. and actual United Nations resolutions; and

21. 3. ENCOURAGES all delegates to use these guidelines as an aid in writing a resolution;
22. and

23. 4. FULLY BELIEVES that if these resolution guidelines are followed, there will no
24. longer be any confusion over how resolutions are selected by the Secretariat.

Resolution Actions in Committee

DEBATE IN COMMITTEE AND USE OF TIME

Questions about Rules Of Procedure for debate might have been answered in a workshop earlier in the year, or at a Practice Session, but don't hesitate to ask your Chairperson about anything you don't understand. You can ask questions during a recess, or in writing to the Chair, if there is no urgent need to interrupt the work of the committee.

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: Each delegate can help the Chair keep the work of the committee moving smoothly and efficiently. If everyone works together, it is very possible for all resolutions to be given sufficient time and receive the full consideration they deserve.

CAUCUSING

CAUCUSING is informal discussion about the topics being debated in each Committee. A motion to caucus is in order when a delegate sees the need for clarification between two or more opposing points of view.

Caucusing is one of the best tools available to all delegates. During caucuses you will have a great opportunity to promote your ideas. Your speech supporting your resolution is important, but alone it will not have as much influence unless combined with face-to-face negotiations.

Caucusing can take place between you and your allies as well as your adversaries. There may be some nations that formally would not meet to negotiate, but under the informal and private conditions of a caucus, they might have the opportunity to come to an agreement on an issue.

IF YOUR RESOLUTION IS TABLED

If your resolution is tabled for any reason, don't panic. When you have an opportunity, ask your Chairperson what to do. They will be glad to help you, and will do all they can to see that your resolution has a chance to be considered and voted on by the Committee.

AMENDMENTS

If someone gives a speech against your resolution, listen carefully, because you may agree with a point they make for disliking part of it. If this is the case, call for a caucus, and together write an **AMENDMENT** that will actually improve the resolution!

If you would like to vote for someone else's resolution, but can't agree with every point it contains, or want to add something, an amendment may be in order. Caucus with the author of the resolution first, to see if you can agree on new wording. If so, it would be called a "**Friendly**" Amendment. Friendly amendments are automatically approved and added to the resolution.

Amendments can also be "**Unfriendly**." An unfriendly amendment is submitted by someone other than the author of the resolution, without the author's approval. It has to be debated and voted on separately, before the final vote on the resolution.

(continued)

AMENDMENT FORM

Please fill out completely, including each line to be amended.

Resolution Sponsor: _____ Subject: _____

Amendment Sponsor: _____ Resolution number: _____

Amendment Co-sponsor(s): _____ Type of amendment: _____ Friendly
_____ Unfriendly

Insert A: _____

Insert B: _____

Insert C: _____

Insert D: _____

Insert E: _____

Insert F: _____

IMPORTANT: Amendments must be written on an **Amendment Form** (facing page). If we are in person, use the instructions below, so staff can best understand what is intended.

There are three types of amendments (not a huge difference between them, but when a resolution is typed up later, how clearly details are described can make a big difference):

#1 - To eliminate words or phrases, mark through those to be eliminated; see example below.

#2 - To insert new words or phrases, write in the new word(s), OR indicate the location of the insertion by noting "Insert A, B, C..." and print the language to be inserted in the appropriate space on the Resolution Amendment Form; see example below.

#3 - To change one or two words or a phrase, mark through the word(s) to be changed and write in the new word(s), OR mark through the word(s) to be changed, indicate "Insert A, B, C..." and print the new word(s) in the appropriate space on the Resolution Amendment Form; see example below.

Example:

ALL amendments are marked on the Resolution. Some also need to be written on the Amendment Form. Examples of all types are shown below.

Types of Amendments:

Resolution

Amendment Form

Types of Amendments:	Resolution	Amendment Form
	Example Amendment on Resolution SUBMITTED TO: Commission on the Status of Women TOPIC: Women's Rights PROPOSED BY: Togo 1. CSW, 2. EXPRESSING concern that women in Togo and many other countries, such as Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have very little to no women's rights such as: 3. a. Equal rights to employment, 4. b. Stop violence towards women, 5. c. To be treated equally, and 6. d. The right to an adequate standard of living, including: food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, and 7. e. and <i>Insert A</i> 8. ALARMED that some women do not know their rights, and 9. REGRETS that some people around the world think women's rights are not an issue, and 10. DEEPLY DISTURBED by the fact that one in three married women suffer domestic violence at home in South Africa, and 11. <i>Insert B</i> 12. CONGRATULATES Morocco for giving women greater protection of their women's rights within marriage and divorce by passing a new family code in 2004, saying that 13. women may file for divorce if there is harm, absence, no respect from the spouse, no support from the spouse, and/or abandonment, and 14. EMPHASIZING that if women know their rights, then individual countries can grow overall from the improvement in the education of health, education that will become stronger, increased number of jobs to be able to fill, and extra pay women will receive in their jobs and bring home to their family, and 15. <i>Insert C</i> 16. CONFIDENT that other countries will follow Denmark's and Brazil's leads and elect female leaders: 17. <i>Insert D</i> 18. 1. EXPRESSES THE HOPE that in the future women will learn their rights; and 19. 2. URGES the founding and funding of more organizations like Crossroads International, which 20. a. Travel around the world to educate women about their rights, 21. b. Try to eliminate poverty, 22. c. Give child relief, and 23. d. Help train leaders and workers; and 24. 3. FULLY BELIEVES that with help from countries of the UN, there can be a great impact on helping women put their rights into action.	Example Resolution Amendment Form Resolution Sponsor: <u>Togo</u> Subject: <u>Women's Rights</u> Amendment Sponsor: <u>China</u> Resolution number: _____ Amendment Co-sponsor(s): _____ Amendment type: ☒ Friendly ☐ Unfriendly #2 → Insert A: <u>, and education</u> #2 → Insert B: <u>and that there is significant domestic violence against women in many other countries as well</u> #3 → Insert C: <u>CONFIDENT</u> #3 → Insert D: <u>women worldwide will know their rights and participate fully in the change we propose</u> Insert E: _____ Insert F: _____

COMBINING RESOLUTIONS

It is not uncommon to find one or more resolutions in your committee very similar to your own. If there are several resolutions that are *too* similar, the majority of these will not receive the attention they deserve during debate. Especially if your committee has a large number of resolutions, **COMBINING** resolutions is likely to be highly encouraged. (**NOTE:** Be aware that your resolution can **ONLY** be combined with your permission.)

Consider locating and speaking to the author(s) of resolution(s) similar to yours, if that is the case, as soon as possible at GEMUN. You can call for a caucus once your committee is in session. Remember, only compromise on details, not the main purpose you have in mind. If you need help, you can always ask your Chair.

You and the authors of similar resolutions may choose to combine your ideas and present one new resolution. Remember, the main ideas need to relate to each other and not stray away from the original topic. By combining your resolutions, the new resolution should be stronger and have a much better chance of being debated and passed by the rest of the committee.

In most cases, up to three resolutions can be combined at a time (more or less may be allowed, at the Chair's discretion). Each Co-Sponsor is allowed to give a speech in support of the new resolution. Co-Sponsors can only be the original authors, but other delegates are encouraged to help. If changes in original wording are needed, an Amendment Form may also be required.

IMPORTANT: Combine resolutions according to the following instructions:

- If we are in person, complete the **Combining Resolutions Form**.
- **Choose a Primary Resolution** that will be the basic resolution (i.e., ONE resolution which will be the foundation used on which to note all changes and insertion of language from other resolutions to be included in the final resolution).
- **Copies of all resolutions to be combined** must be attached to the Combining Resolutions Form (see example).

There are different types of changes when combining resolutions:

#1 - To insert language from another resolution, indicate the location of the insertion by noting "Insert A, B, C..." and mark the language from the other resolution(s) as "A, B, C..." accordingly; see example Combination on next page. This type of change does not need to be re-written on the Combining Resolutions Form.

#2 - To eliminate words or phrases, mark through those to be eliminated; see example.

#3 - To insert new words or phrases, write in the new word(s), OR indicate the location of the insertion by noting "Insert A, B, C..." and print the language to be inserted in the appropriate space on the Combining Resolutions Form; see example Combining Resolution Form.

#4 - To change one or two words or a phrase, mark through the word(s) to be changed and write in the new word(s), OR mark through the word(s) to be changed, indicate "Insert A, B, C..." and print the new word(s) in the appropriate space on the Combining Resolutions Form; see example.

Example:

ALL changes are marked on the Primary Resolution. Some also need to be written on the Combining Resolution Form (next page). Examples of all types are shown below.

NOTE: Text of #1 does not need to be re-written on the Combining Resolutions Form.

Combining Resolution Form

Example COMBINING RESOLUTIONS FORM

Please complete and attach to original resolutions for combination.

Co-Sponsors: Argentina / China
(original authors of combined resolutions only)

Combined resolution subject: Disaster Risk/Climate Change Reduction

Insert A: _____

Insert B: _____

Insert C: flooding which is the primary disaster resulting from climate change

Insert D: _____

Insert E: _____

Insert F: _____

Primary Resolution

Example Combination (primary resolution)

#3 → SUBMITTED TO: General Assembly
TOPIC: Disaster Reduction: Flooding
PROPOSED BY: Argentina / China

#2 → 1. GA,
2. DEEPLY DISTURBED by the effects of ~~floods~~ *disasters resulting* in flooded houses, washed cars,
3. destroyed goods, loss of power, building ~~villages and~~ *destruction* out
4. ACKNOWLEDGING that Asia has experienced the most tragic ~~floods~~ *disasters* in countries such as
5. China and Bangladesh, and
6. OBSERVING that people won't be returning to their homes for a while until the flood
7. subsides and often find all that they own destroyed, and
8. GRIEVED by the fact that there are always loss of lives to loved ones who survived, and
9. DETERMINED to have a solution to deal with ~~this problem~~ *Insert C* to protect everyone:

#1 → *Insert A*
#2 → *Insert B*
#1 → *Insert C*

10. 1. RECOMMENDS nations consider using the solution designed by various teams of
11. architects and engineers from La Plata and Buenos Aires were assembled to assess the
12. situation; Adolfo Rossi, one of the leading architects suggested technical solutions to
13. avoid flooding such as better systems of drainage pipes and "retention lakes", a system
14. used in Brazil; and
15. 2. APPROVES of the solution to use internal tanking which refers to the process of
16. waterproofing internal structures whether this is the ground floor walls and floor or
17. subterranean cellars and basements by using a rigid propylene structure that encloses the
18. walls (and floors) and guides the water into channels where it is pumped outside the
19. property; and this maintains the structural integrity of the property while making it warm
20. and habitable; and
21. 3. ENCOURAGES natural solution options including:
22. a. Water retention which is a major factor in handling flooding, with a need to slow it
23. and store it by restoring and expanding and floodplains along rivers and creeks;
24. increasing wetlands throughout the watershed; and utilizing rain gardens and storm
25. water retention at home and around businesses,
26. b. Improvement of drainage characteristics is critical to handle water volume and
27. velocity by diversion of channels with natural vegetation and meanders; create two
28. stage ditches to increase capacity; and naturalizing dikes or levees with native
29. plantings,
30. c. Encourage more sustainable natural systems to let nature function properly through
31. Riparian buffers and filter strips; develop streamside forests and wetlands; and
32. increase land management practices to reduce topsoil loss, and
33. d. Adapt the built-environment with green features through the use of smart growth
34. which keeps floodplains for nature's intended uses (no construction or filling
35. floodplains); decrease impervious surfaces by providing more natural absorption; add
36. vegetation and beautification of flood structures where possible; and
37. 4. URGES all nations to contribute funds to help pay for this important cause.

second resolution to be combined

Example Combination (second resolution)

SUBMITTED TO: GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TOPIC: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
PROPOSED BY: CHINA

1. GA,
2. AWARENESS that the disaster risk reduction are the front lines of China, and
3. MINDFUL that the disaster risk reduction is one of the main leaders for climate
4. change, and
5. **#1** → *A* **ALARMED** that global temperature increases range from 1.4 degrees celsius to
6. 5.8 degrees celsius by the end of the 21st century, and
7. **#1** → *B* **SEEKING** how to prevent global warming, and
8. CONSCIOUS that there are other disasters to deal with, and
9. AWARE that while preventing disasters, bonds are being created, and
10. DETERMINED to help anyone and everywhere, and
11. WELCOMING anyone that wants to help, and
12. ACKNOWLEDGING that it is difficult to adapt to climate change, and
13. CONSCIOUS that if the field of disaster risk reduction do their job then China will
14. aim for disasters to only take 1.5% of their gross domestic product:
15. 1. URGES that every country should aim for lower costs for disasters; and
16. 2. CALLS UPON other nations to trust in others and to help each other; and
17. 3. CONDEMNNS all nations who participate in global climate change.

COMBINING RESOLUTIONS FORM

Please complete and attach to original resolutions for combination.

Co-Sponsors: _____

(original authors of combined resolutions only)

Combined resolution subject: _____

Insert A: _____

Insert B: _____

Insert C: _____

Insert D: _____

Insert E: _____

Insert F: _____

RULES OF PROCEDURE -- LONG FORM

The GEMUN Philosophy in a Debate Context

When it comes to how debate works, GEMUN's mission is twofold:

- educational: delegates learn about complex international relations, hone public speaking skills, and develop a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure, and
- more important: the commitment to seeking peace through the practice of active goodwill.

GEMUN believes that a concerted will-to-good can and does bring about real change in the world. Thus, debate at GEMUN should foster each delegate's ability to use goodwill in all contexts, particularly in exchanging ideas, understanding different perspectives, and finding common-ground solutions to shared problems. Committee business at GEMUN is intended to further this aim by abandoning the old ways of conflict and argumentative debate in favor of compromise, cooperation, and dialogue. (Explained more in the GEMUN Challenge)

It is our hope that each delegate will embrace this spirit of goodwill and bear in mind that the ultimate aim is not to advance their own resolution or argument merely for the sake of "winning," but rather to advance the shared interests of humanity in a spirit of concord and peace.

Goals of These Rules

1. Clarity: GEMUN's Rules of Procedure seek to establish a clear order to committee business, such that every delegate has the opportunity to participate fully in the committee. It is important, therefore, that each participant understand what these rules mean, and when each motion is appropriate ("in order").

2. Healthy Debate Atmosphere: GEMUN also seeks to give due sensitivity to the wide age and developmental range of delegates, not to mention differences in social and economic circumstances, ability, native language and experience. The spirit of these rules is to protect the interests of all participants, not just those with the most experience or loudest voices, in service of GEMUN's mission and philosophy.

Scope of Rules

The rules in this handbook are the official rules of GEMUN and will be used throughout the GEMUN conference for the orderly conduct of business. No other rules of order or procedure shall apply. NOTE: The Chair is ultimately in charge and has Chair's Discretion on all committee matters.

COMMITTEE RULES

Getting Started

Quorum

At the first formal session of the Committee, and after each recess, the Chair shall call the roll to determine which delegations are present. The number of delegations present at the time of the roll call determines whether or not there is a **sufficient number of member countries to conduct business** (quorum). Delegates must signify '**present and voting**' at every roll call in order to

(cont.)

establish voting privileges for their nation. If a delegate comes in late to the session, or leaves the committee for any reason and misses a roll call, they must notify the Chair **in writing** that they are 'present and voting' when they are seated. At least one-third of all delegations must be present for business discussion to occur. A majority of delegations must be present for voting to take place.

Agenda

1. The Secretariat will arrange the resolutions numerically and in a logical order according to topic and country. The order of the agenda corresponds with the numbers in the top right corner of each resolution, e.g. 'GA-17.'
2. The order of the **agenda** may only be altered at the discretion of the Chair.

Points and Motions Related to *How the Committee Conducts Business*

1. During any discussion, a delegate may rise to a **Point of Order**. The purpose of this point is to call the attention of the Chair to an infraction, misapplication or violation of these Rules of Procedure. This point shall immediately be decided upon by the Chair based upon these rules. A delegate rising to a Point of Order shall not speak on the substance of the resolution being considered. (C-10 Point of Order)*
2. **Personal Privilege** relates to the rights and comforts of the members of the committee. This Point allows any delegate to voice barriers s/he may be having to fully participating in the committee. If the Chair judges that the delegate's point is a valid question, it shall immediately attempt to satisfy the delegate's need. (C-14 Point of Personal Privilege)*
3. **Point of Clarification** is used to ask questions about parliamentary procedure, or the status of business, or any other relevant question dealing with the business of the committee. The point shall be directed to the Chair, shall be used for clarification only, and may interrupt the current business. All Points of Clarification made to debate or oppose a statement will be ruled 'out of order' by the Chair and may be re-stated as Points of Information. (C-11 Point of Clarification)*
4. **Motion to Adjourn** a committee implies that all business of the committee has been completed. The motion to adjourn is, however, in order at any time. It shall not be debated, and must be put to an immediate vote. It is subject to the order of precedence set in the short form on the inside back cover. (C-17 Motion to Adjourn)*
5. Unlike Adjourn, the **Motion to Recess** allows the committee to take a break from conducting business, which resumes as usual once the recess is over. Any Motion to Recess must include the time when the committee shall return to order. Requires a majority vote. When the committee resumes, business shall continue as it would have, had the committee not recessed. The Chair reserves the right to recess. This motion is not debatable. (C-15 Motion to Recess)*
6. **Motion to Caucus** may be made if a delegate wishes to discuss amending or combining resolutions, negotiating a particular point, etc. All procedures concerning caucus are the same as those concerning recess, except that delegates are not permitted to leave the room during said caucus. (C-16 Motion to Caucus)*
7. A motion to **Withdraw** a motion or proposal may be made by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided it has not been amended. A proposal thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any delegate. (C-7 Motion to Withdraw a Proposal)*

Adjusting the Agenda (the Order of Committee Business)

1. A delegate may submit a request to the Chair to move to **Table** an amendment and/or resolution. The purpose of tabling is to set aside the proposal currently under discussion and allow the committee to move on to discussion of other matters. In the interest of time, the Chair may elect

*See "RULES OF PROCEDURE -- SHORT FORM" inside back cover.

(cont.)

to declare the request out of order. The motion to table a resolution will be considered **only** if the author is not present or the resolution needs further work. Excessive abuse of the 'table' motion by a delegate will result in disciplinary action. Tabling is a decision made by the Chair and is not voted on by the committee. (C-3 Motion to Table)*

2. A delegate may move to resume discussion of a proposal previously tabled by moving to **Take from Table**. Important business must be conducted after a proposal is tabled for this motion to be in order. Furthermore, it is in order only when there is no unfinished business on the floor. Taking from table is a decision made by the Chair and is not voted on by the committee. (C-4 Motion to Take from the Table)*

3. During discussion of any proposal, a delegate may move to **Postpone Debate**. This motion must state a time at which debate on the proposal shall resume and a reason to postpone. When that time is reached, debate will be resumed as soon as the floor is not occupied by a delegate or a voting procedure. The motion only applies to agenda topics and resolutions, and is a decision made by the Chair. (C-5 Motion to Postpone Debate)*

Debate

1. After a resolution has been introduced, the delegation presenting the resolution may be offered the opportunity to speak in favor of the resolution. All other delegates who wish to speak regarding the resolution, whether for or against, must have the Chairperson's permission to address the committee.

2. The Chairperson may choose to formulate a **Speakers List** from those delegates signifying a desire to speak. If the Speakers List has been set and you would like to be added, send a note to the Chair.

3. Any delegate may move to **Limit or Extend Debate**. The motion may limit the number of speakers, the number of times a delegate may hold the floor on a question, the length of debate on a particular resolution and/or topic, or any combination of the above. The motion requires a majority to pass, and is not debatable. (C-2 Motion to Limit or Extend Time of Debate)*

a. If the committee has limited the time of debate, the Chairperson shall call a delegate to order if s/he has exceeded his/her allotted time.

b. If a delegate's speech on a proposal has time limitations, s/he may also yield to **Points of Information** regarding the topic at hand, within an additional time allotment.

4. **Point of Information** is used to request information from the speaker relating to the topic being presented. This must be asked in the form of a question **through the Chair**, not directly to the speaker, and therefore **does not include personal pronouns relating to the speaker**. The Chair may rule out of order any question considered irrelevant. (C-12 Point of Information)*

a. The speaker reserves the right to answer a Point of Information as best bolsters their argument. However, once a speaker has yielded to a Point of Information, s/he must answer. If a speaker does not yield to a Point of Information from any given delegate, that speaker must yield the floor.

b. The purpose of Point of Information is to challenge a claim being made by the speaker or to point out a deficiency or inaccuracy in the speaker's argument. This means that sometimes, the "question" being asked will not be "answered" directly. If a delegate sincerely requires an answer in order to understand what is being discussed (for instance, defining a vocabulary term), the appropriate avenue is a Point of Clarification (see above) and is answered by the Chair.

c. To preserve the spirit and flow of debate, save time, and allow all delegates opportunities to participate in debate, **'follow-up' questions are not allowed** and will be ruled out of order by the Chair. If a delegate feels the speaker has not sufficiently answered their Point of Information, that delegate may volunteer for the Speakers' List. Otherwise, they should wait their turn until other delegates wishing to ask questions have raised their Points of Information.

*See "RULES OF PROCEDURE -- SHORT FORM" inside back cover.

5. When the debate for a resolution is completed, before the next scheduled recess, the Chair may elect to grant the **Right of Reply**. Right of Reply is an opportunity to counter an inaccurate or insulting statement made by another delegate that **specifically impugns the personal or national dignity of the delegate** requesting the Right of Reply. Right of Reply is not to be used as an avenue for furthering debate. Requests for the Right of Reply must be submitted to the Chair in writing. The Chair may limit the length of the delegate's reply time. Decisions to grant, or not to grant, the Right of Reply shall not be subject to debate or vote.

6. After one speaker for and one speaker against a proposal have both been heard, a delegate may, at any time, **move the Previous Question** to bring the proposal to a vote of the committee. If the motion is seconded, the Chair may move to an immediate vote. (C-8 Motion for the Previous Question)*

Amendments

1. An **Amendment** to a resolution adds to, deletes from, or revises any part of that resolution. All amendments must be submitted in writing to the committee Chair before they are considered by the committee. Copies of the Amendment Form are available from the committee Chair.

2. A **Friendly Amendment** to a resolution has the support of the author and the co-sponsor(s) of the resolution being amended.

When a Friendly Amendment is moved, the Chair shall ask each of these parties if they accept it. If accepted, the Friendly Amendment is part of the resolution. If it is rejected by any of these parties, it shall not be considered a Friendly Amendment. Friendly Amendments must be labeled as such when submitted to the committee Chairperson.

3. If an amendment is rejected by either the author of the resolution, or co-sponsor(s), it shall be deemed an **Unfriendly Amendment**. At the Chair's discretion, debate will begin on the amendment.

4. The Chair may rule "out of order" any amendment which is judged to be a waste of the committee's time. Amendments of this nature, for example, might change the intent of the resolution or make trivial or absurd changes in its wording.

5. A secondary amendment must relate to the primary amendment and the main motion. Resolutions may only be amended **twice**.

6. If more than the amendment process is needed, delegates may wish to **Combine** up to three resolutions (may be 1 or 2 more, if Chair deems it essential in best interest of committee) which have very similar goals. In doing so, the committee can accomplish the goal of all concerned and also may save some of the committee's time.

Voting

1. Each member nation shall have one vote. No delegate may cast a vote on behalf of another nation.

2. Of those members who are marked as "present and voting," only those casting an affirmative or negative vote shall be tallied to determine whether a resolution passes. Thus, members who abstain are technically present but not voting on this particular resolution. Their votes do not "count" toward determining a majority, or failure to reach a majority, related to the passage of a resolution; only a majority of votes actually cast is required to pass a resolution. (example: 8 y, 8 n, 5 a, fails)

a. The Chair may use their Discretion to ask for abstentions during a placard vote; in this spirit, if the placard has not been raised either for or against, the member automatically abstains.

b. During a roll call vote, members should signify that they abstain if they have been marked as "present and voting" but do not wish to vote either for or against the resolution.

c. Members must signify "present and voting" at any roll call or, in writing (if not present during roll call) in order to establish voting privileges for their nation.

*See "RULES OF PROCEDURE -- SHORT FORM" inside back cover.

(cont.)

3. After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting procedure, no delegate may interrupt the proceedings, except with a Point of Order in connection with the actual voting procedure. Pages and Processors will guard the doors for no entrance. There will be no note passing during voting procedure.

4. **Division of the House** demands a roll call vote be taken as opposed to placard vote. It can be moved only after the Previous Question has been moved, and is only effective for one vote, then returns to placard vote. (C-9 Motion for the Division of House)*

a. During a roll call vote, the Chair may permit members to explain their vote. To request this right, a member nation must state its vote followed by the phrase, "with rights." The right of explanation shall be granted after voting but before the results are announced. No questions may be asked of delegates speaking "with rights" during voting procedure. Vote changes will be called for after delegates "with rights" are recognized. Delegates cannot change their vote to "with rights" at this time. The Chair may limit the time allowed for these explanations. Voting procedure is not complete until the vote has been announced.

b. A motion to **Reconsider** a proposal will be in order only when made by a **delegate who voted against the resolution, and in a roll call vote ONLY**. Reconsideration requires a majority vote of the committee. This motion is in order when there is not another proposal on the floor, and is not debatable. (C-6 Motion to Reconsider)*

5. A resolution may be declared an **Important Question** (only in GA) by the President, requiring a 2/3 majority of those present and voting to pass. This **ONLY** refers to major items such as those concerning changes to the Charter of the United Nations.

*See "RULES OF PROCEDURE -- SHORT FORM" inside back cover.

(cont.)



“Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.”

-- *Kofi Annan*, 1938-2018

SPECIFIC FOR SECURITY COUNCIL

Quorum

A quorum of members (10 of 15 members) with at least 3 Permanent Members (China, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom or France) is necessary to conduct business. A simple majority is required to pass procedural motions. A quorum of members (10 of 15 members) which includes all five Permanent Members must be present to vote on resolutions.

Voting:

1. All votes on FINAL approval of resolutions require a 3/5 majority of those present and voting AND no objection from a permanent member.
2. **Use of the Veto:** Veto is the term applied when one of the five permanent members (see above) votes “against” a resolution; in the event that one of these 5 countries does vote against a resolution, the resolution immediately fails, even if theirs is the only vote against it. In fact, a permanent member cannot vote “against” a resolution and not use veto power. If a permanent member does not want to automatically fail a resolution, but does not want to vote “for” it, they may “abstain” from voting. The veto only applies to votes on resolutions, not procedural votes. Because of the serious consequences, permanent members have the responsibility, and duty, to thoroughly debate and consider the issue at hand before using their veto power.

Attendance for Debate:

1. Because the Security Council is one of the most influential and powerful committees of GEMUN, it is very important that all members attend all sessions, and arrive on time.
2. Visiting Delegation: Any member of the U.N. who is NOT a member of the Security Council may take part in a specific debate, if a majority of the Council invites the visitor or if the visitor has brought the issue before the Council. Issues brought before the Council by a visiting delegation must be approved by the Council President. Visiting delegates have no vote. Visitors may request the members of Security Council to put forth a motion or proposal.



Security Council Holds Arria-Formula Meeting on Education in Sudan

Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed addresses the Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting entitled "Safeguarding Education in Sudan: Investing in Peace, Recovery and Stability".

Unique Identifier UN71147776 Production Date 08/07/2026
City/Location New York, USA Credit UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Role Play for Parliamentary Procedure (An example to help you practice.)

List of Parts:

Chair --

Narrator --

[United Kingdom]* --

[China]* --

[USA]* --

[Japan]* --

****This is ONLY given as an EXAMPLE, to be modified and used by the Secretariat at the 2nd Workshop, to give delegates an idea about how Parliamentary Procedure works in committee.**

Chair calls the committee to order and has a roll call.

Chair: “We’re going to go ahead and get started. We’ll start with the first resolution, GA1. Will [United Kingdom]* come up and read their resolution?”

[United Kingdom]* reads the resolution.

Chair: “Are there any points of clarification?”

Narrator [explains Point of Clarification]

[China]* raises placard, Chair recognizes [China]*.

[China]* says, “Point of Clarification,” asks for the definition of the word “ ... a word chosen from the resolution.” (NOTE: Chair should know the definition of the word.)

Chair answers.

Chair asks, “Does the delegate wish to speak for his (or her) resolution?”

Narrator [suggests to audience how to be prepared to give a speech in support of their resolution.]

[United Kingdom]* gives speech.

Chair asks, “Are there any Points of Information for the delegate?”

[USA]* raises placard. Chair recognizes [USA]*.

[USA]*: “Point of Information.”

Chair: “Will you accept a Point of Information from [USA]*?”

[United Kingdom]*: “Yes.”

Narrator: [explains Point of Information]

(cont.)

[USA]*: “How does the delegate plan to [... a question about the resolution]*?”

[UK]* answers.

[USA]*: “Do you really think [... another question about resolution]*?”

Chair: “You’re out of order, delegate.” (Gavel)

Narrator: [explain why he’s out of order]

[USA]* raises placard, waits to be recognized, and restates question in proper form.

[UK]* answers.

Chair asks for any more Points of Information, there are none, and the delegate yields the floor.

Chair asks for motions on the floor.

Narrator: [explain speakers’ list -- not necessary to motion for]

[Japan]* raises placard, Chair recognizes [Japan]*.

[Japan]*: “I move to limit the speakers’ list to one For, one Against.”

[USA]*: “Second.”

Chair: “All ‘For’ limiting the speakers’ list to one ‘For’, one ‘Against’, raise your placards.”

Chair: “We’re now forming a speakers’ list.” [Japan For, USA Against]

The two speakers speak without interruptions.

Chair asks for motions. [USA]* raises placard, Chair recognizes [USA]*.

[USA]*: “I move the Previous Question.”

[China]*: “Second.”

Narrator: [explain voting -- Placard vs Division of House -- Division of House is NOT same as Previous Question]

Chair: “We will now vote on whether or not to Move the Previous Question.” After voting -- “We are now in Voting Procedure. The Pages and Processors will please secure the doors, there will be no more note passing or talking. (Pause to wait for doors to be secured.) All for GA1 please raise your placard.” (USA votes against, everyone else for.)

Chair: “With 3 ‘For’, 1 ‘Against’ and 0 Abstaining, this resolution Passes.”

Narrator: “Any questions?”

HOSTING A PRACTICE SESSION

1. Sign up around the time of the second Delegate Workshop, or contact GEMUN staff to have your school added to the **April** Practice Session Calendar. We will try to match you with at least one Secretariat member, who will be asked to volunteer to head the Practice Session at your school (if you are within reasonable driving distance). Saturday morning from 9 - 12 is usually the best time.
2. Confirm a meeting place to hold the session (library, a classroom, etc.). **Rooms needed:** one room large enough to hold everyone expected (we will ask for rsvps after sending out an email announcement), plus two or three smaller break-out rooms (that will hold at least 25 per room, please) into which the group can be divided.
3. Place signs on the entrances of your building informing the visiting students where the practice session is being held or have students from your school waiting at each entrance to greet and direct the visitors to the sessions.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Have a **copier available** and ready to use to copy resolutions.
5. Provide refreshments for the students and the adults with them at the break mid-morning. Food should not be put out until break time, please.

AFTER RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED -- FINAL PREPARATIONS

Once the deadline to send in resolutions has passed, the Secretariat and GEMUN staff read through them all, make corrections, and the Chairpeople have a meeting to discuss the agenda in each committee. The resolutions are numbered by the Chairs in the order in which they will be debated and copies sent to all participating groups, a week or two before the conference. The purpose of sending the resolutions out before the conference is to allow time for delegates and their adult sponsors to see the resolutions in each committee.

This allows some time for research, to help give power to debate. Keeping in mind each country's positions (on Position Papers), each delegation can decide together which resolutions to support, and which to oppose. Look to see if there are resolutions your delegation would like to vote for, with some changes. If only minor changes are needed, plan to **caucus** with the sponsor of the resolution, and try to have it **amended**, or **combined**, if more changes seem necessary. (See 'Resolution Actions in Committee' for more information.)

Write a supporting **speech for each of your resolutions** before the conference. This speech should give fine points and details which don't fit into the one page resolution. The author of the resolution will be given an opportunity by the Chair to give a speech after reading the resolution to the committee. It should be convincing, telling everyone why they should vote for the resolution.

Everyone needs to bring their Handbook, Position Paper, a pencil and all research you have collected on your committee's topics. Research at the conference is possible, but limited.

PREPARATION TIPS FROM GEMUN CHAIRS FOR ADULT ADVISORS

1. Have your delegates rehearse reading their resolutions aloud before they come to GEMUN.
2. Make sure each delegate understands all the words in their resolution.
3. Remember that you can't help your delegates debate during GEMUN. Help them ahead of time.
4. Practice role-playing your countries within your group, before GEMUN.
5. Help the delegates research their country's position on ALL topics in their committees.
6. Teach them to project their voice, loud enough for a person at the back of the room to hear.

NOTES

AT THE CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION

There are **four separate Registration Tables** for **four different groups**. All tables are open for registration at once. Please check in at each appropriate table as soon as possible upon arrival.

- **Sponsors Register Here** – the group's adult Sponsor signs in, reads letter (see example letter on next page), and carefully follows the very important instructions in the letter
- **Ambassadors Register Here** – one delegate for each country signs in
- **Pages Register Here** – please take registered Pages to this table as soon as you arrive
- **Observers Register Here** – all Observers need to sign in and get a badge

WHO ARE 'OBSERVERS'?

Observers are guests who come with participating groups, or who are interested in watching GEMUN in action in order to be able to participate in the future. All Observers must go by the Code of Conduct on following page, and younger Observers must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

OPENING CEREMONIES, AMBASSADOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Following a welcome by the Secretary-General, the Ambassador (head delegate) of each country will be called to speak to the assembly. This speech is an opportunity to welcome all participants, and to state your country's goodwill hopes for the outcome of the conference. **NOTE:** With time constraints for 50 or so speakers, each speaker must know that ALL others' are of equal value and interest to your own. Therefore, each speaker please limit your speech to ONE minute!

After Opening Ceremonies, all delegates go to their committees. The Chair calls them to order, makes introductions, and debate begins after a review of parliamentary procedure and short practice.

THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING STAFF

The GEMUN Coordinating Staff (including the Peacekeepers in light blue caps) are here to help in every way possible, both during preparation and at the conference. The handbook and workshops cover mostly everything for preparation; but we realize questions might arise which are not addressed, and there is troubleshooting needed during the conference. We are here to help. Please feel free to contact us at any time. (email: gemunstaff@gmail.com, ph: 817-819-7081)

LUNCH

In the past, the campus food vendor has planned lunch so it can be as efficient as possible for everyone. An email with details about menu, cost and detailed guidelines goes out in early Spring. Lunches are ordered before the conference and prepaid by check, so the caterer can purchase enough food. Lunch tickets are included in the adult sponsor's Registration packet.

All committees are dismissed at the same time for lunch. Adult sponsors must remain in the lunch area with their students during the entire lunch period. Anyone not buying lunch tickets is fully responsible for their own lunches. **No one is ALLOWED to bring lunches into committees.** Adults are responsible to keep lunches brought by the group, distribute them at lunch and eat with delegates in the GEMUN designated lunch area. All delegates must return to committee on time after lunch period ends.

PLEASE NOTE: Below is an example of the letter given to Sponsors at GEMUN 2026 Registration. There will be some changes in the letter you receive at this year's conference.



This is here to give you an idea how to be prepared at Registration.

GLOBAL ELEMENTARY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

6005 Royaloak Drive, Arlington, TX 76016, U.S.A.

e-mail -- gemunstaff@gmail.com

Web Page -- <http://www.gemun.org>

Friday, May 1, 2026

Welcome to GEMUN XXXVII!

- **FIRST, PLEASE DO THESE THREE THINGS:**

1. **PICK UP AND HOLD ALL DELEGATES' CELL PHONES**, DURING REGISTRATION. There is **NO CELL PHONE** use by delegates in committee rooms. (If you need a bag to put them in, ask at Registration table.)
2. Please fill out the slip you were given and the '**Delegates' Names Sheets**' CAREFULLY -- the accuracy of award certificates your group receives depends on the spelling and READABILITY of the names on these sheets.
3. ****READ the entirety of this letter carefully, and please be sure you understand every point.**

AFTER completing the above three requests, take the Delegates' Names Sheets back to the Sponsors' Registration table to have them approved, and **ONLY THEN** sign for and pick up your Sponsor folder.

- **Contents of your folder:**

1. A map of the GEMUN conference on campus, with locations of committees and all designated GEMUN areas (GEMUN participants MUST STAY within these areas of the campus),
2. An Agenda,
3. An Early Registration Form for next year,
4. Your lunch tickets, if you ordered the catered lunch. Tickets are marked Friday and Saturday. These tickets are like cash, please make sure the delegates don't lose them!
5. Participation Certificates -- for both the school/group and delegates, and a GEMUN seal to put on each one. If you make a mistake while filling them out, there are extras in the Info Center, so **PLEASE do this sometime at the conference**, don't wait until we've all gone home!
6. Sponsors' name badges -- **EVERYONE needs to wear a badge the ENTIRE time** we are on campus (on BOTH days), so we can all be easily identified as being with GEMUN. PLEASE DO NOT LOSE your name tag. Come to the Info Center immediately if it is missing. ****NOTE**** If someone comes as your guest, they MUST register as an OBSERVER and receive a badge.

- **VERY IMPORTANT, please be sure everyone in your group is aware:**

- Adults are not allowed to interfere in delegate or Chair activities when the committee is in session. If you see something needing attention or have a question, ask GEMUN Staff for help.
- **NO CELL PHONE USE IN COMMITTEES.** Move into the hall if you need to use your cell phone for anything.
- Seating for Observers and Sponsors is limited in committees. Please be considerate and let others take a turn.
- **NO FOOD OR DRINKS (except water) ALLOWED IN COMMITTEE ROOMS FOR ANY REASON.**
- **DELEGATES ARE NOT ALLOWED** back into any committee buildings DURING LUNCH. Please **STAY WITH YOUR KIDS** during the entire lunch break.

All groups are **REQUIRED to have at least one adult on premises during the conference**. The cell number you give us at Registration is in case of emergency. If there are messages for your group at any time during the conference, this number will be called. **If this number changes for any reason, please let the Information Center know to make the change.**

GEMUN Staff are available in the Information Center and halls during the conference, to answer questions. For GEMUN Security to be effective, everyone's help is required. Thanks very much for your commitment and hard work this year!

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. English is the official language of the GEMUN conference.
 2. Delegates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner suitable to their role as diplomats. This includes practicing diplomacy, dressing appropriately and maintaining decorum in the corridors and meeting rooms (no running in halls if in person, being respectful if online).
Suggested dress for the GEMUN conference:
 - a. Business attire: BOYS — suit or slacks (not jeans) with dress shirt and optional tie.
 - b. Business attire: GIRLS — slacks/skirt and blouse, or suit. Skirt at least fingertip length. Comfortable shoes are best (no stilettos, no bare feet). Dresses business-like.
 - c. Ethnic dress — For authentic cultural dress, please keep it appropriate and professional.
 3. Participants must wear name badges during all functions and confine their activity to the area near committee rooms or in the lunch area designated for GEMUN by the host college. Name badges must be worn **around the neck**, easily visible at all times.
 4. **In all in person GEMUN sessions, the use of electronic devices is prohibited.** Adult Sponsors are required to pick up and hold all delegates' devices before in person sessions begin. Chairs and Co-chairs may use their devices for GEMUN related communications only. All adults must silence cell phones in committee and go into hallway for phone or any other conversations. **NO LAPTOPS** in committees.
 5. Delegates are under the immediate guidance of their adult Sponsors, and are expected to follow their individual school rules, along with the GEMUN Code of Conduct.
 6. Each school/group is required to have at least one adult representative with a cell phone available. A list of these phone numbers will be taken at Registration. This list must be updated if needed at any time during the meeting, in case of emergency.
 7. **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** (except water) can be brought into in person committee rooms.
 8. It is hoped that **GEMUN delegates are present for the full conference.** If something happens and they can't be, the staff must be notified as early as possible, so the chairs know ahead of time. Each delegate remains in their committee while at GEMUN, unless dismissed by the Chair.
 9. **Observers** have seating available in each room. The number of seats available when we are in person is determined by the Fire Code and no standing in back of room can be allowed. Please be considerate of others needing a place in the room, and take turns if the seats are full. Moving around to different committees or sitting in the hall are possible options.
 10. **Adults may not interfere in any way** with delegate or Chair activities during the time a committee is in session. If there is any question, ask GEMUN Staff, **DO NOT** approach the Chair.
 11. Participants may be barred from taking part if there is failure to comply.
- I understand and agree with ALL of the above Code of Conduct.**

Student's Signature_____

Sponsor's Signature_____

The host college has graciously agreed to host the GEMUN Conference.
Please keep this in mind, and review the Code of Conduct before attending.

ADULT BEHAVIOR AT GEMUN

1. **Chairpeople have authority over all activity in the committee.** Adults may not interfere in any way with delegate or Chair activities during the time a committee is in session. If you have a question, ask GEMUN Staff, DO NOT approach the Chair. If interference occurs and persists, the Chair may use their discretion to ask that individual to leave the committee.
2. **If all Observer seats in a Committee are full,** please wait in the hall until seating is available. See #9 on Code of Conduct on previous page. Please be considerate of all Observers.
3. **PLEASE PICK UP AND HOLD ALL delegates' electronic devices** during in person sessions.
4. Adult Sponsors must ensure their students follow GEMUN rules at all times on campus. Adult Sponsors need to remain with their delegates as much as possible, we especially need your help supervising them during lunchtime.
5. **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** allowed in committee rooms. **Lunches must NOT be with delegates in committees. Everyone should eat during lunchbreak only.**
6. All participants (adult Sponsors and all delegates) are expected to be present for the ENTIRE CONFERENCE as much as possible, or notify staff -- see hours on the Calendar and Agenda.
7. All schools/groups are required to have at least one adult representative on premises at all times. The GEMUN Staff may need to contact the representative in case of emergency. (Give a cell number at Registration and keep it updated on our list in the Info Center, if it changes, please.)
8. In the state of Texas, photos taken in a public place are ok to post as long as they are not used for advertising.

ADULT SPONSORS' ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An adult Sponsor for a GEMUN delegation has a very special and multifaceted role to play throughout the year. The first and most familiar role is as teacher, to educate delegates in the many areas in which they need to expand their knowledge.

Another, perhaps less comfortable, role the GEMUN Sponsor must play is as support for the students in **gaining independence** needed for success. Delegates, as well as the Secretariat (many of whom are still somewhat inexperienced also), are learning on-the-job. Growing into leadership positions often includes mistakes and awkward moments which the **adult Sponsors and parents must stand by and watch without interfering.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE IN COMMITTEE

The Page System is provided for communication. **Cell phone/other devices use by delegates is prohibited at all GEMUN in person sessions.** Delegates' devices must be in the custody of their adult Sponsor during in person sessions.

Chairs, Co-chairs, Staff and Processors may be seen using their cell phones. It is for GEMUN related business only.

GEMUN Sponsors and Observers are asked to leave the committee and go out in the hall if they need to use their cell phone for any reason.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

After Committees have adjourned, all delegates go to the Closing Ceremonies. During the entire Session, the Secretariat observes delegates in and out of Committees, and may choose to recognize some outstanding achievements. Cooperation among delegates is much more important than competition at GEMUN, and will determine awards (see "GEMUN Peace Prize" and "GEMUN Challenge" on the previous page). Outstanding Resolutions are also recognized.

Participation in this program is an outstanding achievement in itself, and a certificate for each delegate and one for the school are given to Sponsors at Registration.

PAGE SYSTEM

The purpose of the Page System is efficient communication throughout the in person GEMUN Conference. Pages pick up and deliver notes about resolutions, policy questions, research requests to the Information Center during the conference, etc. To prevent abuse of the Page System, a Page Processor reads all messages before delivery. Processors decide whether a message is personal or GEMUN-related. **If they do not pertain to GEMUN, they will not be delivered. No scraps of paper will be delivered.** Notes must be in English, the Official language at the GEMUN conference.

HOW TO SIGN PAGES UP FOR THE MAY CONFERENCE

Contact the Page Manager (gemunpages@gmail.com) with questions.

The Page Manager will send out a page application via email after the 2nd Workshop.

Main criteria found to be necessary regarding bringing pages:

1. All pages need to be able to work ALL DAY BOTH DAYS of the conference. They can't arrange to leave early, or for a substitute on the second day.
2. Each page needs to be mature enough to work with the Processor in the committee assigned and not require the constant presence of an adult from their school or family in the room.
3. They need to be able to read well enough to easily read all country names.

PAGE SYSTEM PROCEDURE AT MAY CONFERENCE

1. The **Page System** is used when Delegates from various Countries communicate with others either in the same Committee, or in other Committees. Processors will have a designated Mail Envelope to hold any mail to leave the committee room. Pages must not carry mail without this Envelope or take it in a restroom. Pages also run errands to the Information Center for Committee typing, etc.
2. When a Committee is in session, Delegates hold notes up for the Pages to bring to the Processor. The Processor is in charge of deciding whether or not the content is GEMUN business, presented in the accepted format.
3. First, the notes must be LEGIBLE! Inappropriate notes will not be delivered. Any notes which are personal, written on scraps of paper, or incorrectly addressed are considered inappropriate. **English is the official language of GEMUN, and all notes must be in English only.**
4. If the note is in good form, the Processor helps the Page see to which Country it is addressed,

(cont.)

and it is delivered by the Page. If it goes to another Committee, it is sent to the Information Center with the Page, who puts it in the mailbox of the Committee to which it is addressed. Mail **FOR** the committee, from other committees, will be picked up from the mailbox in the Information Center and brought back to the committee Processor, who will sort it and have the Pages deliver the messages to the delegates to whom they are addressed.

5. If there is material to be typed, it is sent with a special colored-paper-form attached (see next page) to the Information Center and put in the appropriate box. (The Committee Chair or Co-Chair are in control of this process.)
6. PAGES will be Registered to work in a specific Committee. This assignment is not subject to change by anyone except the GEMUN Page Manager.
7. The Processor must have a cell-phone number to contact a designated person on campus for each Page, in case a Page needs specific attention, and to meet the Page for lunch. The cell phone number will be given to the GEMUN Page Manager at Registration.

NOTES BETWEEN DELEGATES (white paper)

Every message must be on the white printed note paper supplied by GEMUN. (It is available from the Page Processor in all committees.) In the past, back and forth notes have become so sloppy that they can't be read or delivered, so we are trying this system to see if it helps our Processors and Pages. No scratched-out addresses will be accepted.

ONE reply can be sent on the same sheet of note paper, **if it is in the same committee**. If there is more to exchange, a new piece of note paper needs to be used.

If a reply is needed **between committees**, use a new piece of note paper.

This is printed on the outside of the note paper:

The communication inside will be the message from one delegate to another.

Processors send Pages on frequent trips to the Information Center to deliver and pick up mail. Any messages for the Staff which are sent to the Information Center will be delivered if it is clear who they are from, and to whom they go.

FROM: Committee_____
Country_____
TO: Committee_____
Country_____

RESEARCH REQUESTS (colored paper)

First, please have delegates do as much **research BEFORE the conference** as possible, and bring it, because there is no way that the Info Center staff or the Chairpeople have enough time to do all the research for everyone. But, if they still need some research from the internet for a new business resolution, an amendment, or debating, they can send a request to the Information Center.

Yellow Research Request Forms can be obtained from the Chairperson. The Form needs to be filled out and returned to the Co-Chair who will approve and send it. The Co-Chair will make the decision whether or not the Request is URGENT and, if so, will attach an **orange** strip. URGENT Research Requests will be given special priority as much as possible. All other research (ROUTINE) is on yellow paper only. ALL research should be for **specific information** and NOT require printing multiple pages.

**NOTE: Use of laptops and other electronic devices are not allowed
in Committees for any purpose.**

GEMUN PEACE PRIZE

“Over the years we have come to realize that it is not enough to send peacekeeping forces to separate warring parties. It is not enough to engage in peace-building efforts after societies have been ravaged by conflict. It is not enough to conduct preventive diplomacy. All of this is essential work, but we want enduring results. We need, in short, the culture of peace.” - Kofi Annan

Since 2002, a Peace Prize may be presented to a Delegate at GEMUN. To all participants, if you notice any of the following behaviors, please call them to the Secretariat's attention:

1. An attitude of Goodwill toward ALL others.
2. Deliberate and helpful negotiating in a difficult situation.
3. Great cooperation with other Nations and Delegates.
4. Actions taken to promote Peace and to avoid conflict.

NOTE TO CHAIRPERSONS: Try to find a participant who lives up to the GEMUN Challenge! Please take note of any of the above and send the information to GEMUN Staff in the Information Center. Remember that we are looking for those who are truly making an attempt to work for peaceful solutions to problems, or those who are making great effort to clear up any relationships which are not peaceful. In other words, the Peace Prize goes to a person who truly shows a peace-loving heart and helps GEMUN participants feel as if they are working for a world in peace and harmony!

GEMUN CHALLENGE

Everyone interested in assisting the GEMUN process of working out new ideas for peace knows that old relationships of antagonism must be altered. The youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

GEMUN is an opportunity to allow an entirely **new type of creativity in relationships**. Who among the inhabitants of our planet will be willing to "see" through the "old" outworn antipathies and go forward in cooperation with the spirit of peace? It could very well be some of those among the delegates of GEMUN! **The United Nations' Charter holds the essence to model.**

Our challenge is one which has been with humanity for aeons. It is the difficult challenge to live in freedom, harmony and cooperation, sharing resources. It is not impossible to bring about a human mindset where the long sought manifestation of a world without violence will exist. The populace of the world must be educated to realize that the possibility is more than a dream. It will happen as the people of goodwill begin to mobilize a will-to-good, and refute any lesser attitudes.

Active goodwill has a tremendous power! It is contagious and will cut right through the fogs of mistrust. Since the human family has never experienced it in total, the requirement for totally new ways of relating must be worked out through the inspired creativity of those who will accept nothing less.

In GEMUN, it is intended that the old ways of dealing with world problems through conflict and argumentative debate shall be abandoned in deference to **understanding compromise, cooperation and dialogue among individuals and nations.**

Little by little, the spirit of peace shall inspire and rule the hearts and minds of all humanity. GEMUN has the opportunity to help in bringing this about through **modeling a new vision** shared by the entire world group.

Preamble to the *Charter of the United Nations*:

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

determined

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

and for these ends

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.



Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2026

Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Special Representative to the UN and Director of the ILO Office for the United Nations, addresses the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2026 - Working With And For Young People: Shaping Inclusive And Sustainable Solutions For The 2030 Agenda.

Unique Identifier UN71136208 Production Date 04/16/2026 City/Location New York, USA

Credit UN Photo/Manuel Elías

NOTES

RULES OF PROCEDURE -- SHORT FORM

Reference	Order of Precedence	Motion	Action	Interrupt	Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote
C-10	1	Point of Order	Object to Procedure	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
C-14	2	Point of Personal Privilege	Complain about noise level, etc.	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
C-11	3	Point of Clarification	Request information from the Chair	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
C-12	4	Point of Information	Question speaker through the Chair	No	No	No	No	Chair
C-7	5	Withdraw	Remove proposal from consideration	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
C-15	6	Recess	Recess a meeting (may be amended as to duration)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
C-16	7	Caucus	Suspend business to have a closed recess	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
C-3	8	Table	Remove proposal from consideration	No	No	No	No	Chair