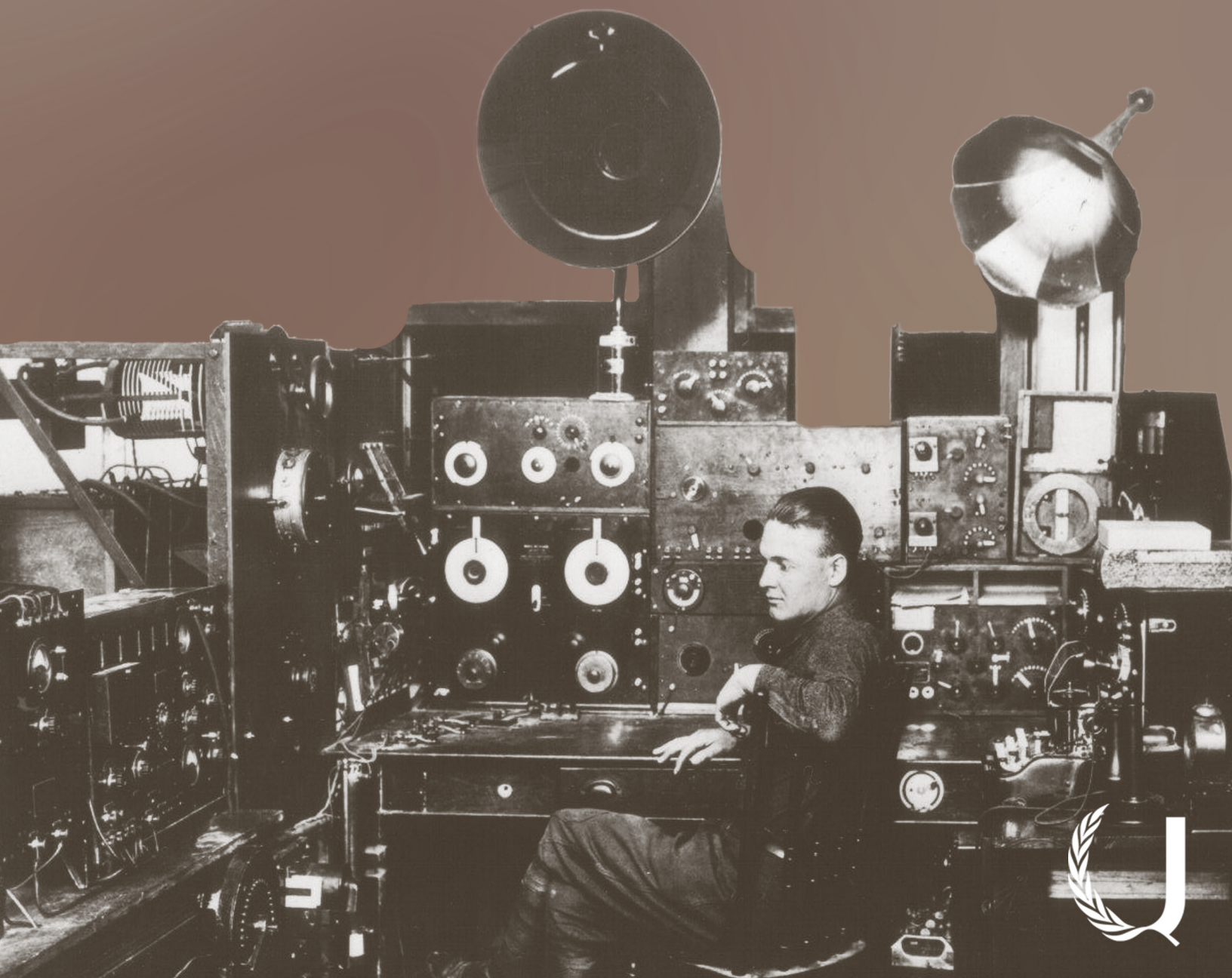


# INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

*DELEGATE BACKGROUND GUIDE*



# *Staff*

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## **DIRECTOR:**

Molly Cong

## **VICE-DIRECTORS:**

Chloe Bray

Faizan Anjum

## **MODERATOR:**

Tom Yun

# ***A Letter From Your Director...***

## **Dear delegates,**

Hello delegates and welcome to UTMUN 2017! We're excited to have you with us at UTMUN this year! If you are reading this, you are probably in the International Press Corps, which is a challenging, dynamic and engaging committee.

The Press Corps even within Model UN functions in a very different way than most committees. For even the most experienced delegates, this may prove to be challenging. I encourage you to reach out with any questions in preparation for the start of committee sessions.

In the Press Corps, you are not delegates. You will be representing news sources as journalists. As such, you have different motives and interests. News publications are first and foremost a corporation and they behave independently and quite differently from states. The publication you represent has distinct interests stemming from its political orientation to the values of parent companies or shareholders. Debate in the Press Corps will function differently as well. You will spend some time discussing the key issues at hand, in a more traditional Model UN format. However, the majority of time will be spent in other committee sessions where you will gather information and formulate an opinion on which to write your articles.

The power of the media in today's day and age is unimaginable. The influence it has over fact, thought, opinion and judgment is immense. It is your duty as a delegate to harness this power to construct opinions and analyses, which will have substantial value. You will be judged on the value of your piece and the writing skill you have employed to posit the value. I hope that I will have privilege to peruse some brilliant pieces of writing.

Best Regards,

***Molly Cong***

molly.cong@mail.utoronto.ca

# INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS



Photo: Eric Lafforgue, Flickr

## ***Meet Your Staff***

I would like to introduce myself and my fellow Vice-Directors and moderators who you will meet in session. We will all play a role in structuring and moderating the debate as well as editing and formatting the articles you write.

### Director, Molly Cong

I am in my second year at U of T, majoring in International Relations, Peace, Conflict and Justice Studies with a minor in Psychology. This is my sixth year doing Model UN and I am excited to chair such an interactive and creative committee this year!

### Vice-Director, Chloe

Hi! I'm Chloe, and I'm very excited to be working as the Co-Vice Director of the International Press Corps this year. I am in my second year at U of T, studying International Relations and Spanish. I have a passion for journalism, and served as the Co-President of my school newspaper in high school. Needless to say, I'm thrilled to be working on this Specialized Committee of "journalists who can traverse through space and time". I am looking forward to meeting you all and reading your news stories!

## Vice-Director, Faizan

Greetings! I am Faizan Anjum, a second year student at UofT and currently pursuing a double major in Economics and Statistics. I've been involved in the Model UN circuit for quite some time now. Around four years ago, I had no idea what MUNs involved, however attending one was a life-changing experience back then. I have been passionate about debating since an early age and also have an interest in world issues. However, Model United Nation Conferences are not only about solving global issues or winning awards, but also dedication, diplomacy and teamwork, which are the traits that a successful delegate must have.

## Moderator, Tom

Greetings, delegates! My name is Tom and I'm excited to be moderating the International Press Corps committee for UTMUN 2017! I am a third-year student pursuing a major in public policy with minors in economics and political science and this is also my third year at UTMUN. Last year, I was the conference's deputy logistics director and before that, I was the vice-director for a GA committee. It's a great privilege to be able to return to UTMUN and I look forward to meeting all of you at the conference.

## ***Position Paper Policy***

All position papers must be submitted no later than Monday, January 23rd, 2016 at 11:59 PM, by emailing your committee director at [molly.cong@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:molly.cong@mail.utoronto.ca). All delegates who fail to submit a position paper will be ineligible for an award.

Please limit your position papers to 2-3 pages. Delegates who do not submit position papers on time will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should be cited, and plagiarized position papers will be dealt with accordingly. Citations are required as a bibliography at the end of the paper, in Chicago style.

To get started with your position paper, read over your background guide carefully. Take a look at the questions for thought. Elaborate by using a reference library or a database provided by your school. Remember, there will be an award for the best position paper, but it will also be an important resource to enhance your own performance in committee.



# ***Roles***

Below is a list of outlets that will be represented in the International Press Corps for UTMUN 2017. All outlets have been chosen for particular reasons. They are not homogenous, with different reporting styles and varying political opinions expressed. To ensure a successful UTMUN session filled with productive and representative writing and debate, please reflect carefully on your particular news outlet and their stance on certain issues, their pedigree, their political orientation, their writing style and the like. We have provided you with short descriptions of all chosen new sources but more research will be necessary. Please read contemporary articles by these sources to keep up to date with their outlook towards particular issues as well as specific regions of the world.

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

The New York Times is an American Daily Newspaper, based in New York City, published since 1851. The newspaper has been known for its comprehensive and reputable news reporting on a wide range of domestic and international issues. The paper's readership is wide with over 1 million copies in circulation daily and is integrated with an online and mobile platform. You will mainly be writing for its News section, under the headings of "International", "National" or "Washington." The NY Times has a very specific and standardized style of writing including but not limited to, using honorifics in regards to people, prohibiting the use of profanities and precise descriptions of torture. The New York Times is owned by The New York Times Company. Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr., the Publisher and the Chairman of the Board, is a member of the Ochs-Sulzberger family that has controlled the paper since 1896.

## **THE WASHINGTON POST**

The Washington Post is an American daily newspaper based in Washington, D.C. and founded in 1877. Its central location in American politics lends itself to its national focus. It features heavy political reporting, particularly with key American politicians and those connected to the White House. It has a large readership though it is important to note that it does not print an edition for distribution past the East Coast. You will mainly be reporting for its main news section, containing international and domestic news, economics and politics. It is one of America's oldest newspapers and is traditional in its reporting style. It has foreign bureaus for reporting in many international metropolises. The newspaper was recently sold to Jeff Bezos by the Graham family, which may signify a change in its reporting tone and style.

## **CNN**

CNN stands for Cable News Network. It was founded in 1980 as the first American television channel to provide 24-hour news coverage. It was also the first all-news television channel in the United States. CNN is owned by Time Warner, which also manages other media organizations. You will be writing for its online publication. Because its history of catering to the American audience, CNN has a liberal and left-wing worldview. It has been accused of supporting the Democratic party in the USA even though this might not be factually true. Although its news is now seen to be accurate and factual, its opinion pieces may lean towards the left and have a western imperialistic worldview.

## **THE GLOBE AND MAIL**

The Globe and Mail is a Canadian newspaper based in Toronto and distributed nationally. Founded in 1844, it is arguably Canada's most authoritative and prestigious newspaper, particularly for international and domestic news. The print newspaper is published daily and has a website that publishes corresponding online content. The Globe and Mail extensively covers international issues through a domestic lens. Additionally, it has a strong background for financial and business reporting, which could be an important and unique element of articles that a journalist can write. Its political orientation has been often scrutinized with no definitive conclusion reached, although its close alignment with the business sector has led to many speculations. The Globe and Mail is owned by The Woodbridge Company, a Canadian corporation that also manages the controlling share of Reuters.

## **BBC**

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is a British public service broadcaster, it is headquartered in London, and is the world's oldest national broadcasting organization. It is the market leader in news providing services in the Western World. Recently, BBC has also started the BBC World Service, which broadcasts in 28 languages and provides comprehensive TV, radio, and online services. BBC's news is seen to be the most factual globally. Accusations that BBC supports a western audience might have been true a few decades ago, but ever since it expanded into a global network, one would expect all sorts of viewpoints to be catered to by the BBC. It is funded mainly by the British government but also raises a lot of funds from private clients.

## **THE GUARDIAN**

The Guardian is a British newspaper daily newspaper, founded in 1821. The publication features an online UK edition as well as two international online editions, based in the US and Australia. The newspaper's middle-class labor origins has led many to link it to the center-left, however, its political orientation should not affect journalist integrity or accuracy when writing articles. It places an emphasis on international news and its connection to UK national politics. It is recommended that journalists stay up to date with its reporting of location-pertinent issues, particularly that of Brexit. In recent years, the newspaper has been recognized to have played an important role in its comprehensive coverage of government surveillance. It is a part of the Guardian Media Group owned by The Scott Trust Limited, a British company unlike many other managing companies as it tends to exercise limited control over the publication's creative decisions, leaving them to the editors.

## **THE DAILY MAIL**

The Daily Mail is British daily newspaper first published in 1896. Though it is a traditional newspaper, The Daily Mail publishes its print paper in a "middle-market" format with a blend of news and entertainment, generally catering to readership that enjoys a more casual presentation style. It also publishes Scottish and Irish editions of its paper with varied content that is more region specific. The online publication of the Daily Mail, Mail Online, also enjoys popular readership and features a more casual writing style. The Daily Mail often takes very Conservative approaches towards politics and is not hesitant to present a firm opinion on

international affairs. It has often expressed views contrary to other British sources such as the BBC. Reading its contemporary articles, particularly towards Brexit, will allow you to better gauge the Daily Mail's editorial stance. The Daily Mail is owned by the Daily Mail and General Trust, which is also based in London.

## **REUTERS**

Reuters is an international news agency founded in 1851 with its headquarters in London, England. Reuters transmits its news in multiple languages including English, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. Reuters employs journalists and photojournalists in over 200 locations worldwide, leading to the publication's balance of international news presented through the local level. You may assume the identity of a foreign journalist when writing about foreign affairs. Reuters publishes solely online but other news publications may purchase their articles and publish them in print. Reuters journalists use the Reuters Handbook for Journalism, which dictates their reporting style as well as maintains accuracy and integrity in the reporting process. Additionally, Reuters adopts a value-neutral approach towards reporting and avoids the use of emotive terms. This policy has been contentious in the past, particularly with regards to crisis and humanitarian situations. Reuters is owned by Thomson Reuters, based in New York City.

## **THE VARSITY**

The Varsity is the student newspaper at the University of Toronto. It is an almost entirely volunteer-run operation and with a circulation of 20,000 copies per week. The Varsity is Canada's largest student paper, rivaling many small town papers. Its political outlook is generally left-leaning, like most student publications.

## **THE ATLANTIC**

The Atlantic was originally created in 1857 as a literary and culture-focused magazine. Today it is a liberal publication offering commentary on a wide range of current issues, appearing in print ten times per year, and on a daily basis online. Best known for its long form pieces, The Atlantic is one of the more "highbrow" publications on this list. As a writer for The Atlantic, you will be producing just one story per topic. While you are not expected to write a 30 000 word piece, these stories should be reported with considerable attention paid to how the story is being reported, not just what is being reported.

## **THE NEW YORKER**

The New Yorker is an American magazine published 47 times per year and daily on their website. Owned by the same media company as Vogue and Reddit, The New Yorker publishes both long form magazine style pieces and shorter articles. Like The Atlantic, The New Yorker places immense value on well-stylized writing and fact-checking. As a writer for The New Yorker, you will be writing one story per topic, focusing on the form of your writing while maintaining its sophisticated style and liberal viewpoint.



## **VOX**

Vox is an online news source designed to help readers “understand the news”. It is a left-leaning, liberal news source that provides contextual information to give readers the full picture. Other members of the Vox Media family include The Verge and Racked. As a writer for Vox, you will be writing explanatory news articles for this new media source, keeping in mind its liberal tendencies and popularity among millennials.

## **VICE NEWS**

Vice News is an online publication and Youtube channel focused on issues of current affairs. It was founded in 2013 and is based in New York City. It is a part of Vice Media, founded in Montreal in 1994, and comprising of the magazine, website, film production company, publishing imprint and record label. Vice News is updated daily and features a journalism style that may be more conducive to reporting on the various committees. It published daily documentary-style essays featuring under-reported stories. Vice features a large range of contributors and as such, varies in its tone and subject matter. However, as an individual delegate, you will be required to develop a voice that is consistent and true. Vice has often approached mainstream topics in unconventional ways, as a counterpoint to more traditional publications. Vice has 34 news bureaus worldwide and its readership is comprised mainly of millennials, though this does not discount the accuracy or quality of their work.

## **BUZZFEED NEWS**

BuzzFeed is an American private Internet media company based in New York City. The firm describes itself as a “social news and entertainment company” with a focus on digital media and digital technology in order to provide “the most shareable breaking news, original reporting, entertainment, and video. BuzzFeed was founded in 2006 as a private entity, with its sole aim to track viral content online. You will be writing for BuzzFeed News, which is distinct and more serious than its Youtube popular media counterpart. However, the audienceship of BuzzFeed remains largely millennial and students, which affects its political orientation.

## **THE ONION**

The Onion is a liberal, satirical news source whose motto is “Tu stultus es”, or, “You are a fool”. Claiming to be “America’s finest news source,” this online publication provides facetious commentary on the current state of American affairs. In writing for The Onion you will be challenged to produce quick, progressive news articles satirizing ongoing events.

## **AL JAZEERA**

Al Jazeera is a Doha-based state-funded broadcaster owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network. Initially launched as an Arabic news and current affairs satellite TV channel, Al Jazeera has since expanded into a network with several outlets, including the Internet and specialty TV channels in multiple languages. Al Jazeera is among the largest news organizations with 80 bureaus around the world. Al Jazeera is owned by the government of Qatar. While Al Jazeera officials have stated that they are editorially independent from the government of

Qatar, this assertion has been disputed. The original Al Jazeera channel's willingness to broadcast dissenting views, for example on call-in shows, created controversies in the Arab States of the Persian Gulf. With Al Jazeera's growing global outreach and influence, some have described the station as a transformation of the very definition of "alternative media. Al Jazeera presents a new direction in the discourse of global news flow and shows voices underrepresented by traditional mainstream media regardless global imbalances in the flow of information.

## **RUSSIAN TODAY**

RT or Russian Today is an English language Russian TV founded in 2005. Based in Moscow, it operates TV networks to audiences outside of Russia as well as maintains an online publication in various languages. Based in Moscow, RT provides 24 hour news with channels in English, Arabic and Spanish. You will be writing for rt.com under headings of general news, America, UK or Russian politics, issue depending. RT is meant for an international readership with the stated intent to improve Russia's image worldwide. RT was created by RIA Novosti, Russia's international news agency. RT tends to focus on contentious world issues such as banking scandals, corporate impact on the global economy and western demonstrations. It has also published articles involving controversial groups and opinions, such as that of Holocaust deniers. Russian foreign policy and political opinion plays a vital role in the news style that is presented by RT. It's content and style has led some critics to accuse RT of being overtly anti-American and propagandistic.

## **HAARETZ**

Haaretz is the oldest daily newspaper in Israel, although its coverage, columnists, and editorials have known to be quite critical of Israeli government policies. Founded in 1918, the newspaper is published in both English and Hebrew, with both editions being available online. The paper has a "broadly liberal outlook both on domestic issues and on international affairs" according to its website. The paper places an emphasis on political analysis and you will mainly be writing for its "World News" or "Middle East News" sections.

## **PRESS TV**

Press TV is an English language news and documentary network, affiliated with Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). It was founded in 2007. IRIB is state owned but managed separately of the Iranian government and is the only legal broadcasting station in Iran. However, the leadership of the IRIB maintains a close relationship with the government and as such, its published news is often considered politically conservative. Press TV has its headquarters in Tehran but has news bureaus around the world including in London. You will be writing for its website, presstv.ir, where English articles are published daily focusing on international affairs with an emphasis on Middle East politics. Press TV presents itself as a source that counters the news coverage of Western sources such as BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera.

## **THE TIMES OF INDIA**

The Times of India is an English language daily newspaper based in India, founded in 1838. The headquarters are in Mumbai and it is the largest selling English newspaper in the world. It has a strong focus on international affairs with an additional specialization in Indian regional news. In addition to its print publication, it also has a website with articles published in categories similar to their newspaper. You may choose to write for either and may need to adjust your style depending on your chosen format. It is owned by the Times Group, an Indian media conglomerate.

### ***Tips for Reporting***

- When reporting on the actions of other delegates, please ensure accuracy of their name, title and country. Additionally, please quote delegates when necessary.
- Delegates should strive to be neutral and accurate in any story they report.
- Please prepare ahead of time when interviewing delegates and ensure questions that are asked stimulate long and informative answers.
- All articles in UTMUN 2017 will be published in print but you may, if appropriate to your news outlet, write in a more casual, "Web article" style.
- Some news sources chosen typically publish long form/magazine style pieces. We do not expect for our delegates to write the same amount as these sources would typically publish. Instead, we expect creativity and uniqueness in these articles/stories.

# ***Committees***

Below is a list of committees that will be present for UTMUN 2017. You are free to write your articles on all committees and their proceedings. Our list includes short descriptions of all committees though the spirit of its debate and discourse of each individual committee is dynamic and subject to change.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

### **World Health Organization**

The WHO will examine the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the shortcomings it revealed about the public health infrastructure. Discourse will focus mainly on 3 periods of the timeline of the spread of Ebola to examine how it could have been better managed.

### **Paris Climate Conference 2015**

The committee will re-negotiate the agreement, which has been deemed by many critics to be ineffective and insufficient to address the root cause of climate change. The hope is that with fresh perspectives, climate change talks can lead to greater success.

### **Disarmament and International Security Committee**

With the evolution of the worldwide security landscape, drone warfare, terrorism and cybersecurity are pertinent issues that demand collective action. Delegates in this committee will discuss these 3 issues and decide what is the role of the international community in governing through dynamism and adversity.

### **Economic and Social Council**

ECOSOC will mainly be addressing issues of income inequality, offshore accounts and Internet access. The widening income gap, the prominence of offshore banking used as 'tax havens' and the increasing standard of Internet access as a barrier to participation and information, is an issue that requires international cooperation.

### **Human Rights Council**

The HR Council will focus mainly on the migration crisis, women's rights and the challenges of internally displaced persons. Delegates will seek to create meaningful discussions on solutions for the refugee crisis, the disparity in the rights of women and the protection of internally displaced persons who require special protection and care.

## **SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES:**

### **The European Council and the UK 2017: Negotiating Terms for Brexit**

This committee will discuss the aftermath of the UK referendum on UN membership. The UK and the EU must negotiate the terms of the UK withdrawal navigating individual and state interests and the potential succession of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- Topic 1: The discussion of trade: Negotiating a new trade deal with the EU
- Topic 2: Immigration and the freedom of movement: What terms for migration will be agreed under new trade conditions?
- Topic 3: Payments towards the EU: Will the UK continue paying its dues?
- Topic 4: Regulations and Financial Services: What role will EU regulations play and what role will Britain's financial sector have in a post-Brexit

### **Council of Ministers of Colombia, 1985: FARC, ELN, and the Drug War**

Colombia has been ravaged by a civil war led by several far-left guerrilla groups and continues to suffer from the consequences of organized crime led by cartels such as the Medellín Cartel. This committee will discuss potential new solutions to bring stability to the country as well examine the US's relationship with Columbia's domestic turmoil.

- Topic 1: The challenge of Revolutionary guerrilla movements: challenges with FARC and the ELN
- Topic 2: The war against the Cartels: how to stop the violence and end drug trafficking (Pablo Escobar)
- Topic 3: Colombia's relationship with the United States, and its involvement in the Colombian drug war (DEA)

### **COMECON, 1985: Salvaging the Socialist Model**

COMECON, the trade and mutual assistance bloc, is called for a summit called by the Soviet Politburo after a period of stagnation. Soviet-style socialism seems to have met its match with western liberal capitalism, but the delegates will attempt to revitalize their economy and save it from capitalism to ensure the future success of the USSR.

- Topic 1: The growth of modern technological development: its role in economic growth and socialist production
- Topic 2: Capital intensive projects: How to revive the stagnating economies of the Eastern Bloc
- Topic 3: Trade liberalization with the Western nations: Can socialism integrate itself with the Western capitalist economies?
- Topic 4: Intra-Eastern Bloc cooperation and diplomacy: Examining democracy and accountability within the Socialist republics and Communist countries



## **United National Security Council, 2017: The South China Sea**

In July of 2016, an historic decision was made by the UNCLOS, ruling in favour of the Philippines in regards to several disputes in the area, with the main concern over the nine-dash line, which includes the disputed territories of the Spratly and Paracel Islands. China has rejected the ruling, which has led to expedient action by the UNSC in order to avoid conflict and escalation.

- Topic 1: The war for fish and oil: The South China Sea Armed Confrontation and the conflict over Spratly and the Paracel Islands
- Topic 2: Japanese and Chinese Hostilities: The dispute over the Senkaku Islands

## **1919: Pairs Peace Conference – Can We Re-Write History?**

With the end of WW1, the Entente has triumphed in a costly and total conflict. The peace treaty must now be negotiated between the victors and the losers. History awaits to see what terms will be agreed upon, as anger and vengeance seem to dominate the upcoming discussion.

- Topic 1: The demilitarization of Germany
- Topic 2: Reparations to the victors
- Topic 3: Territorial concessions; the future of German colonial mandates

## **CELAC (Community of Latin American & Caribbean States) Summit 2017**

South America finds itself in a difficult position in the year 2017 and in the aftermath of the early 2010's. The CELAC Summit will meet to discuss issues of rampant corruption, food shortages as well as evaluate the entire South American project.

- Topic 1: Corruption in government: how to tackle the lack of political accountability in government
- Topic 2: The Pink-Tide Aftermath: Has the socialist revolution succeeded? What is the future of capitalism and neoliberalism in South America
- Topic 3: Crises in Brazil and Venezuela: How to respond to the significant recessions and poverty in both countries

## **CRISIS COMMITTEES**

### **Sengoku Japan**

In this year's Historical Committee, travel to Feudal Japan in the 1570s, a period marked by fractured polities led by a series of warring families competing for control of the Japanese archipelago.

- Topic 1: Ensuring stability among the fractured factions of Japan (heavily dependent upon personal and familial politics)
- Topic 2: Combating the rise of the peasant classes and increased social mobility in Japan (ie: rise of Toyotomi Hideyoshi etc...)

## **Akhenaten's Egypt**

It is year Year 6 of the Pharaoh Akhenaten's reign and his obsession with theological dogma and internal affairs has led to a rapid neglect of the kingdom's foreign affairs; a civil war rages in the Egyptian occupied province of Retjenu (the Northern Levant) and several new international powers, Assyria, Babylon, and Mitanni, vie for control over Mesopotamia and Greater Syria.

- Topic 1: The Atenist Theological Revolution
- Topic 2: The Situation in Retjenu and the Greater Near East

## **9/12/2001**

Perhaps the most important event of the 21st century, the attacks on September 11th, 2001 have shaped contemporary politics, culture, and society more than any other single event in past decades. This committee, simulating President Bush's cabinet, begins the day after the unprecedented attacks; it is your job to unify America and the Free World against this foreign terrorist threat and instill a state of security and healing throughout the United States and in American interests abroad.

- Topic 1: Dealing with the Aftermath of the 9/11 attacks
- Topic 2: Domestic issues in the US (including the Recession of the early 2000s)

## **Joint Crisis: The Lebanese Civil War: 1975**

The Lebanese Civil War was both an intensely internal conflict within the borders of Lebanon and a war with tremendous regional implications for all parties involved, including Israel, Palestinian refugees, Iran, Syria, and even the UN itself. Fought along rigid sectarian lines that have defined Lebanese society for centuries, there were three major ideological factions at play during the planting of the seeds of conflict in 1975: the Maronite Catholics, Shi'i Muslims, and various secular organizations (including Socialists, Communists, and Arab Nationalists (Ba'athists)). This JCC simulation will explore the beginnings of the conflict and The sectarian issues caused by the newly-gained independence of Lebanon from the French Colonial Empire.

## **ADHOC**

The topic of this committee will not be released until the first committee session but it will prove to be intriguing nonetheless. Journalists should not be discouraged to write about this committee.



# UTMUN'17

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University of Toronto  
Model United Nations

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