



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXII

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOPIC: UN REFORM



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General Assembly UN Reform

Hello, delegates! I'm Daniel Yoon, and I am this year's chair for the General Assembly. I am a senior at SM, and this will be my fourth year in MUN. I hope I can use my experience to make this committee the best that it can be. In MUN, people can find what topics or style of debate they enjoy most and for me this is crisis committees. Hopefully this year's SOCOMUN will give you an opportunity to find what you prefer debating about and experience with the General Assembly. Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing SM Ice Hockey, snowboarding, going to the beach, and writing.

Hello delegates, my name is Brennan Miller-Jones, and I am a junior. I have been MUN for 3 years. MUN has helped myself improve public speaking and has expanded my knowledge on current events. My goal for our committee is for you to have a great experience and learn many new things. Outside of school, I play lacrosse and love to surf. I look forward to meeting you all at the conference and good luck!

Hello, delegates! My name is Kylie McInnes. I am a sophomore and I have been doing MUN for one year. Outside of MUN, I love to cheer, swim, and go to the beach! I wish you the best of luck with this conference. The best conferences are the ones where you are confident in what you know and make many comments. Be sure to know your topic well and do not procrastinate! Good luck, I know you all will do well! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the conference.

Welcome to the SOCOMUN conference, an exciting opportunity for delegates to engage with the Model United Nations program! As a delegate, you will represent a country and engage in discussion and debate on a range of pressing global issues. Throughout the conference, you will participate in formal and informal consultations, guided by your chair. During formal consultations, you will deliver individual speeches that draw upon your pre-committee research to present solutions and statistics relevant to the topic at hand. These speeches will be two minutes long and will provide an opportunity for all delegates to share their perspectives and ideas. In informal consultations, you will engage in more casual discussions with other delegates to explore potential solutions and work collaboratively to draft resolutions. This collaborative process will allow you to connect with like-minded individuals and develop creative solutions to complex issues. During formal debate, one-third of your resolution group will present the solutions that you have agreed upon and drafted during the committee. The presenters will then respond to questions from other delegates about the resolution. Finally, you will participate in a voting bloc where you will vote on the various resolutions formulated by the groups during the informal consultations. It is important to note that veto power does not apply in this conference. If you have any concerns or questions about how the committee will work during SOCOMUN, please reach out to ga.socomun@gmail.com for assistance.



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Background:

At 78 years old, the United Nations plays a significant role in international politics by promoting equal rights and global peace. However, in the modern world, the organization has been criticized for making decisions that have little impact on actual events and for failing to act in specific areas of international conflict. Many countries, particularly those in Asia, Africa, and South America, feel underrepresented due to the lack of diversity among the UN's permanent seats. The UN was initially established as a small organization in the post-war environment of World War II, consisting primarily of European nations united in their efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully and prevent violence. Over the past 78 years, the UN has grown significantly, becoming an organization with 193 member countries and six organs that address different types of conflicts. This massive expansion has led to a lack of centralization, making it challenging to pass and implement resolutions effectively. To address this issue, the UN has introduced various solutions, such as the 17 sustainability goals and the UNTAI (United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative), to promote transparency and accountability within UN bodies. As the world continues to change, the UN adapts to new challenges and seeks flexible solutions to remain effective. In 1997, Secretary-General Kofi Annan took office and proposed Track One and Track Two reform proposals. These reforms brought higher emphasis to areas of humanitarian aid, human rights, development, and peacekeeping. These reforms were continued by the following Secretary Generals Ban Ki Moon and Antonio Guterres, but much remains to be improved.

The United Nations comprises various organs that tackle urgent issues in different regions of the world. One of these organs is the World Health Organization (WHO), which provides accessible aid to refugees from nations affected by political tensions or war. However, despite their efforts, the aid these refugees require is not always delivered due to limitations and delays in executing passed resolutions for more pressing conflicts. Unfortunately, these failures disproportionately affect developing nations that rely on support, protection, and growth from UN member countries. When solutions prioritize urgent issues faced by developed nations, it may result in economic or political crises in developing nations.

To address the lack of transparency in the UN, the organization has implemented UNTAI. Since 2007, UNTAI has aimed to increase transparency in secretariats, funding, global issues, and passed resolutions. The UN recognizes the importance of ensuring that all nations are represented and supported, regardless of their economic or political power. By increasing transparency, the UN hopes to address the limitations and delays that prevent aid from reaching those who need it most.

The Security Council, another essential organ of the United Nations, is responsible for discussing and resolving global affairs. The Security Council is one of the most controversial issues faced by the UN today. As the resolutions passed by the Council hold significant power and influence in the international community, its five permanent members - the United States of America, United Kingdom, China, France, and Russia - possess veto power to maintain world peace. However, this arrangement presents multiple issues. Firstly, veto powers may prevent the validity of resolutions from being considered, as a disagreement between two of the five members can lead to vetoing. During the Cold War, for example, the Soviet Union vetoed 20 unresolved issues in the United Nations in opposition to the United States. As a result, no action could be taken. Secondly, the permanent seats only represent a small portion of the world's



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population, with no representation from South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, or Western Asia countries. This lack of diversity in the Security Council has led to resolutions being passed that do not reflect the views of all continents and countries. To address this issue, the United Nations has collaborated with NGOs such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), which aims to develop a sustainable economy worldwide, to achieve successful reform. Overall, many small and medium sized countries demand a more democratized system to make the Security Council more transparent and efficient.

The United Nations, cognizant of the growing ineffectiveness of its operations and organization, took steps to revitalize the work of the General Assembly. A series of resolutions including A/RES/70/305, A/RES/71/323, A/RES/72/313, A/RES/73/341, A/RES/74/303, and A/RES/75/325 were adopted to create a code of ethics and oath of office for Presidents of the GA. The UN also implemented other programs to ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of all its organs. In 2018, the UN mandated a reform under A/RES/72/279 of the General Assembly, which aims to decentralize the current secretariat and create a more unified system that promotes transparency, accountability, and equal resource distribution. This initiative is aligned with the SDGs, which aim to improve global quality of life by 2030. These goals cover a wide range of areas from global equality rates to improved air quality. Furthermore, A/RES/32/197 was proposed to update the resident coordinator system that manages the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) responsible for delivering aid to nations to meet the SDGs. While these resolutions have helped to change the structure of the UN, further adaptations are needed to achieve the 2030 SDGs and enhance the UN's role in global safety.

Possible Solutions:

When tackling complex issues like UN reform, it is important to use a combination of short-term and long-term strategies to develop practical, feasible, and dependable solutions. These solutions should be well considered and comprehensive, considering all aspects of the issue at hand. Additionally, it may be useful to draw from past or current UN solutions to create more cohesive and implementable resolutions. When proposing initiatives for change, it is essential to support them with clear plans detailing how goals will be achieved and the necessary actions to make them happen. Resolutions will be a crucial component of the conference, and they will be presented through speeches and resolution groups. To make proposals more memorable, it is advisable to come up with unique titles, acronyms, or action plans that reflect your country's perspective. While keeping in mind your country's policy, try to make your solutions applicable to other countries, whether developed or developing. Even if your country's policy does not align with the majority, it is important to stay true to your country's perspective, as you are representing your nation at the conference.

When it comes to the reform of the United Nations, it is crucial to address the need for new management and increased transparency while implementing systematic changes to all UN organs. Additionally, specific issues within individual organs can be addressed and solutions proposed, such as the issue of the permanent seats in the Security Council. When discussing the Security Council, delegates should prioritize their country's policy. Countries that are not well-represented in the Security Council may advocate for a shift in power away from the current permanent members, while countries with permanent seats or those in support of them may argue for their continuation or offer a compromise that promotes equal representation. It is important to



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note that funding should not be a primary concern during committee discussions and can be addressed through the UN Fifth Budgetary Committee.

Questions to Consider:

These questions do not have to be directly answered by delegates in conference but should be considered when drafting speeches, caucuses, comments, and resolution papers. With these questions, the chair hopes to expand each delegate's research on the topic into different areas as well as provide ideas on how to address the topic.

1. What solutions has your country implemented or proposed to reform the UN body? How could they be implemented on a larger scale?
2. Is your country in favor of permanent chairs and veto power in the Security Council? If not, what would be a better alternative to the permanent chairs?
3. What NGOs could be involved with the UN to implement systematic change directly into UN organs? Does your country work directly with any of these NGOs?
4. In what ways can the United Nations be reformed to become more effective in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals? How could this peace and equality be implemented into society through the UN?
5. How can the UN become reformed to focus on fulfilling the SDGs in developing nations that need more aid and attention?
6. How can accountability and transparency be successfully incorporated into all aspects of United Nations management?
7. What are some previously adopted resolutions about UN reform? How could these resolutions be implemented in future resolutions on a greater scale?
8. What are some previous resolutions that failed regarding UN reform? How could they be changed to become successful?

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