

Yitzy Shaykevich
SC: Welcome Letter
YUNMUN XXXIV

Dear Delegates to the United Nations Security Council,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXIV. My name is Yitzy Shaykevich and I will be chairing SC this year. I am very excited to see each of you display your passion and creativity, as well as contemplate and propose much needed changes; resolution and innovation are one and the same.

I am from New York and attended MTA for high school. This will be my fifth (and unfortunately final) YUNMUN conference. In fact, this will be my second year as the Chair of SC. I am a senior at YU studying the economics of health and science, and will be going to SUNY Upstate Medical University next year. I love being involved on campus, and am the proud Editor-in-Chief of the YU Observer, a student-led newspaper that publishes monthly. I recommend checking it out!¹ I also research under Dr. Radhashree Maitra, co-chair of the Yeshiva College biology department, focusing on treatments for a specific type of colorectal cancer.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) cannot force a resolution on any individual country, making any passed resolution largely symbolic in nature. Even extremely important resolutions passed for the purpose of protecting human rights are mostly funded by only a few willing countries. This includes but is certainly not limited to the WFP,² UNWOMEN,³ and WHO.⁴ While extremely unfortunate for those who benefit from these necessary programs, this skew in funding highlights the dependency the UNGA has on voluntary participation.

I say all this to tell you that in SC, all of that goes out the window. Decisions reached within the SC have the potential to be legally binding.⁵ Therefore, any decision reached may not be simply a

¹ <https://yuobserver.org/>

² <https://www.wfp.org/funding/2022>

³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-donors>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/about/funding>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/how-decisions-are-made-un>

symbolic gesture of goodwill but can be an enforceable law that members are bound to. Due to the importance of SC decisions, the five permanent members, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, can veto any resolution they deem unfit.

For the purpose of YUNMUN, you can consider SC as a high-risk high-reward committee. If a resolution passes, it will almost certainly benefit society. However, passing any resolution will require that none of the five permanent members use their veto. Members with veto power are expected to veto when and only when their country has either previously vetoed a similar resolution or has expressed deep concern with some subject matter in the resolution.

For YUNMUN XXXIV, our committee will be focusing on two significant issues. The first is protecting UN peacekeepers, and the second is addressing Artificial Intelligence. Please read both topic papers on the YUNMUN website for a better understanding of the issues. Furthermore, write and submit a position paper on each topic representing your country's stance on the issue.

Our minimum expectation from delegates in the Security Council is as follows:

- Attendance in all committee sessions is required (barring extenuating circumstances).
- The procedure must be followed at all times.
- One must accurately represent their country's opinion at all times, not their own.
- All claims/stats need reliable sources. News articles are generally fine, Wikipedia is not.
- Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes using generative AI such as ChatGPT. We want to see the hard work you put in.

For those looking to stand out, my "grading rubric" is as follows:

- Speak well and often. Delegates that do not participate or who do not convey their message well will have a tough time persuading others.
- Move the conversation forward. For example, if the same talking points have been used repeatedly, bring something new to the table.
- Cooperation is key. Work with other countries to create resolutions. Trivial disagreements should not affect your decisions unless your country has previously expressed zero willingness to cooperate on the issue.

Whether you are a returning delegate or this is your first conference, please make sure to review the procedure. I would like to see everyone come in well-prepared and in good shape to discuss the topics at hand. Last but not least, make sure to enjoy all aspects of the conference. Remember that just by being a part of YUNMUN, you are educating yourself on how parts of the UN function and how different countries can approach a problem.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at ashaykev@mail.yu.edu for any reason. Whether it is a question on YUNMUN or just telling me how your day was, I am interested in hearing from you.

I look forward to seeing you in February,

Yitzy Shaykevich

Chair, UN Security Council

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