



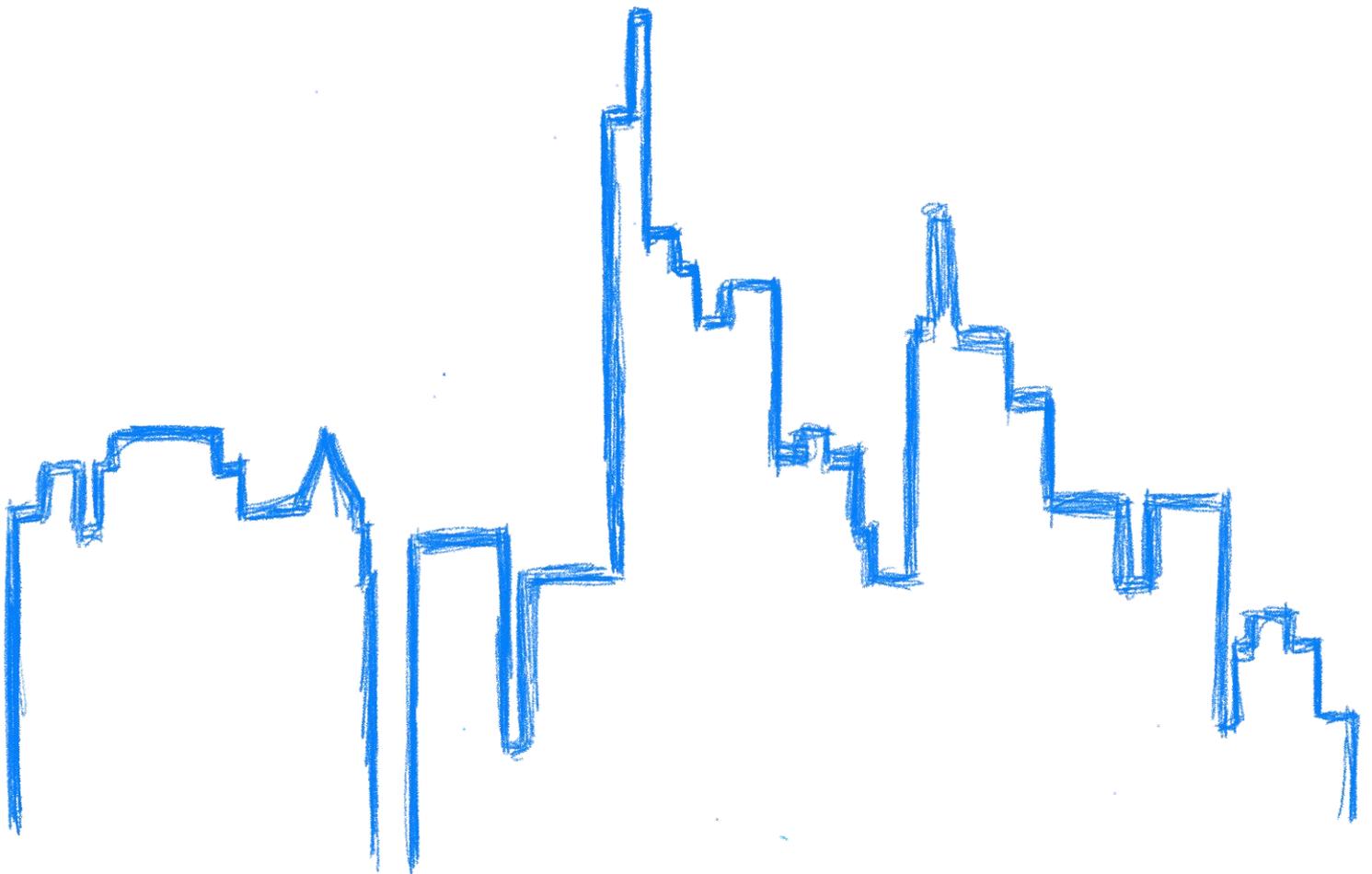
Main Model United Nations Conference

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16th Session

5th to 7th of March 2021

Conflicts, Concerns, Cooperation - a Coup of Conventional Politics



Background Guide

Non Governmental Organisations

Honourable delegates,

Welcome to the MainMUN 2021! I am very pleased to welcome you to the NGO section of MainMUN! I am Evy de Joode and I am incredibly excited to be the coordinator for this year's MainMUN NGO-representatives. A short introduction: I am 20 years old and originally from the Netherlands. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Global Responsibility and Leadership at the University of Groningen. I participated in four different MUNs. This is, however, my first time being part of the organisational team and thus, also my first time being a NGO coordinator. Even though I am super excited, this is all also very new to me and I can imagine that some of you may feel the same way. If you have any questions about what to do and how to prepare, please do not hesitate to contact me via *MyMUN* or contact the MainMUN staff directly via contact@mainmun.de . I can also imagine that you have questions about the online environment this MUN will be held in. Again, please do not hesitate to reach out. Many things will become clearer when you are at the conference. We will also have time to talk about some details there and go through some of the final questions you may have. I recommend reading the Rules of Procedure (RoP) thoroughly, so you understand the processes in the committee and how to interact properly with other delegates and the chairs. There will be a RoP video to watch beforehand to help you understand the different MUN processes better and I recommend doing so prior to the conference. At the beginning of the conference you will have enough time to ask me any further questions regarding the RoP. In addition, it is very important that you read and understand the information in this background guide and prepare at least two topics of the MainMUN committees which you want to deal with during the conference. For communicating with your co-delegate, you can use the platform *MyMUN*. After your assignment you can go to the 'committee' section and specify 'NGO'. Here you can see who else has the same position as you. By clicking on their account, you can come into contact with them. Please share your topics in order to avoid preparing the same topics for the same committee twice.

Best of luck with your preparations and I cannot wait to see you soon!

Kind regards,

Evy de Joode



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1. NGOs – General

“A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information.”¹

NGOs operate in many forms. They can offer analysis or expertise on specific topics and thus operate as early-warning systems. They can also help to implement international agreements, regulations or treaties. Every non-governmental organisation named and described below has a specific issue they monitor and work on.

2 NGOs – At the United Nations

Since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, NGOs interact with them in many different ways. As the United Nations state themselves:

“NGOs contribute to a number of activities including information dissemination, awareness raising, development education, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and in the contribution of services and technical expertise.”²

In Article 71 of the United Nations Charter, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), lies the cornerstone for the cooperation of the United Nations and NGOs. This is further enhanced in E/RES/1996/31, which defines among others the consultative status of NGOs at ECOSOC. This consultative status is an inimitability within the United Nations and allows non-governmental organisations to interact directly with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. The status of an NGO at ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies is split up in three forms: 1. the general consultative status, 2. Special consultative status, 3. Roster status. For this simulation, all NGOs simulated at MainMUN 2021 are given the general consultative status in all committees, so this background-guide will only focus on that status. The consultative status allows NGOs the access of all bodies. At the United Nations, they can attend meetings and submit oral as well as written statements concerning the Council’s focal theme for the particular year. The oral and written statements are limited to one each per NGO at the same time, if it’s not requested

¹ <https://ngos.org/>

² <http://csonet.org/content/documents/Brochure.pdf>

otherwise. Written statements must be handed in to the respective chairs during a caucus. For the oral statements the representative of an NGO can pass a note to the chairs with the wish to be set on the speaker's list. At MainMUN, the procedures are a bit different. Please check for the exact rules: **4. How to interact as a NGO representative with MainMUN**

2.1 Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation³ is a nonpartisan non-profit organisation, which is focused on reducing the threats of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and warfare through political public education, expert policy analysis, research, and engagement. The centre was founded in 1980 out of their sister organisation - the Council for a Liveable World. This council was founded in 1962 by Leo Szilard. It has been advocating for a more ethical approach to U.S. national security and foreign policy. The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation's knowledge on reducing the threats of war and nuclear weapons has been acknowledged by the media and policymakers and is fully supported by contributions of other foundations and individuals.

Important milestones from the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation include:

- Supporting diplomatic negotiations on the limits of Iran's nuclear program resulting into a framework agreement reaching the 5 permanent members of the UN security council, Germany, and Iran;
- Endorsing major agreements such as but not limited to:
 1. Strategic Arms Reduction (START) treaty and New START Treaty;
 2. Conventional Forces in Europe treaty;
 3. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces agreement;
 4. Chemical Weapons Convention;
 5. Biological Weapons Convention.
- Establishing a nuclear testing moratorium in the United States;
- Eliminating funding for the nuclear "Reliable Replacement Warhead and "Bunker Buster";
- Ensuring funding for important non-proliferation programs focused on keeping nuclear weapons out of terrorist's hands;

³ <https://armscontrolcenter.org/about/>

- Pressuring the U.S. Administration to withdraw military troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

2.2 Child Empowerment International

Child Empowerment International⁴ (CEI) works on reducing the cycle of poverty in areas where there is civil unrest. They do this through empowering and educating marginalised children. The organisation primarily works in war-torn areas. They provide children with education and healthcare in refugee camps and displaced people camps. For the past 20 years, CEI has provided help for children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, violent experiences, and other war related trauma by for example providing day schools to children without access to education. The aid provided by CEI builds on bringing long-term independence to children. They create opportunities for each child to reach self-actualisation, self-resilience and self-sustainability by empowering children to strive in higher education or other trainings in valuable life skills. The organisation was established in the year 2000 and is funded through donations.

Important milestones for Child Empowerment International include:

- Care for 6800 children in 80 different schools;
- Establishment of sustainable fishing farms in Kalapuwa Sri;
- Founding of the Lance Berkman Learning Center;
- Founding of the Bryant and Kristen Young Computer Lab in Kalapuwa;
- Founding of schools and leadership labs in Sri Lanka and Uganda;
- Providing humanitarian relief during the crisis in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami.

2.3 Doctors Without Borders

Doctors without borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF)⁵ was founded by 13 journalists and doctors on 22 December 1971 in Paris and is an internationally operating emergency relief organisation, which responds to epidemics and natural disasters while also providing medical aid in conflict areas. However, their aid is not just emergency related. MSF's mobile treatment

⁴ <https://childempowerment.org/our-work.html>

⁵ <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/who-we-are/how-we-work>

makes healthcare accessible in rural areas. The organisation also provides long-term care in areas where the healthcare infrastructure is dysfunctional.

Besides providing aid, MSF also works in the research and advocacy field. The Manson Unit is a team of experts working on improving the aid that Doctors Without Borders provide. Together with other organisations, this unit established the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDI). Since the founders of the organisation were doctors and journalists, they also advocate for fairer access to medication, challenge the high costs of medication and fight against the absence of treatment for many diseases. This MSF Access Campaign has its headquarters in Geneva.

2.4 Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW) was founded in 1978 in America. HRW was previously called “Helsinki watch” and focused on monitoring the Soviet Union’s adherence with the Helsinki accords (1978). As the organisation grew in size and broadened its focus points, the name “Human Rights Watch” was established. HRW is an NGO that investigates and reports on human rights abuse and violations all over the world.⁶ In line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the NGO addresses governments, armed groups and businesses, trying to push them into changing their policies and legislation making. Together with different organisations, HRW protects activists and helps bringing justice by holding abusers accountable. The investigations the Human Rights Watch organises are spread over approximately 100 countries. Through the organisation’s thorough investigations, it is able to expose its findings from across the globe via social media and other news platforms. HRW meets with governments, the UN, rebel groups, and corporations to actively speak up and advocate for change. Since HRW strives for complete independence, they refuse government funding and carefully check all received donations to ensure consistency with their values and missions.

Important recent milestones of Human Rights Watch:

- Increasing the pressure on Venezuela’s government;
- Pressuring the US into releasing children from abusive Texas border facility;
- Pressuring the UK to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia;

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/about/about-us>

- Pressuring Indonesia to uphold rights of people with mental health conditions;
- Bringing justice after Bosco Ntaganda got 30 years in prison for war crimes.

3. Topics at MainMUN 2021

The slogan of the MainMUN conference 2021 is: “Conflicts, Concerns, Cooperation - A Coup of Conventional Politics”

Below you see all the topics of the different committees. Please make sure that you know which topics are concerning the NGO you represent.

(You can also find links to the short description of the topics under **6. Research recommendations**)

World Health Organization

- Making Health Updates Accessible to Everybody
- Establishing Research and Safety Standards in the Development of Affordable, Life-saving Vaccinations

United Nations Security Council

- The Use of Natural Resources as Weapons in Conflict Situations
- De-escalating Tension in the Persian Gulf

World Food Programme

- Assisting Schools to be Able to Provide at Least One Healthy Meal per Student per Day
- Empowering Small Local Food-Related Businesses in Order to Achieve Zero Hunger

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

- Eliminating Financial Means for the Development of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors.
- Truth and Reconciliation: Bolstering the Purpose of The Chemical Weapons Convention.

Crisis committee

- The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

4. How to interact as a NGO representative with MainMUN

Since MainMUN 2021 will take place online, the ways you may interact at the conference will be different than in previous years. Please have a careful look at the RoP for elaborate instructions. Stated below are some ways to shape the general debate:

4.1 Informal negotiations

Like every other delegate at MainMUN, the core of your work will lay in the informal negotiations, convincing delegations of the United Nations to support your ideas or to help you even implement them in the resolutions. In every caucus, you have the possibility to negotiate with the other delegations at MainMUN. If the committee you want to influence is in an unmoderated caucus you could get in contact with delegates and you can try to promote the position of your NGO. These are the opportunities to either convince delegates of your stance on a topic, or if your stance is similar to the one of the national delegates, to discuss a way how to cooperate to shift the debate into your desired direction. You have several options how to engage in the debate with the help of another delegate:

- Help to write a resolution, or you can suppose what to write in a resolution;
- Look for allies who try to convince other players of your common ideas;
- Inform yourself about the ideas of other delegates and help to enhance them;
- Ask delegates to yield their speaker's time to you;
- Try to convince other delegates from your stance.

There is also a way to communicate with delegates who are currently in formal session, which is to pass notes to them. Passing notes will be possible through the use of the conference platform Ryver.

4.2 Writing Press Releases (contains short example)

All press releases will be published on the MainMUN Blog/ Newsfeed. At the conference, you will be told where to submit press releases. In effect, a press release is public and thus available for everybody, so it is a good way to address crucial topics and to openly show your position to the delegates. You can use a press release for almost any message you want to send to the rest of MainMUN. It should contain no more than 250 words and not less than 50 words.

Example: A new way to approach Peace and Security in Europe! By Amnesty International

In the last couple of hours, the delegation of Sweden in the OSCE showed up with several good approaches, how to solve armed conflicts in Europe. Amnesty International fully supports the approaches of the group led by Sweden, which are supporting working paper 1.1 in the OSCE to implement a new satellite-based monitoring system of European combat zones. This new monitoring system would lead to a new possibility for the OSCE to show what and who is really battling on Europe's battlefields. As this tool can be used to monitor the human rights violations on European territory the working paper 1.1 will be fully supported by Amnesty International and every country truly fighting human rights violations!*

*Example based on the MainMUN 2018 conference

4.3 Ways to Shape the Debate in the Committee

Besides the informal negotiations and the press releases, there are also many ways to explicitly address a whole committee. In formal debate, you are generally allowed to watch and listen to everything discussed in committee.

Speech for delegation/ Request for a speech

You can ask delegates to yield their speaking time to your NGO in every committee. However, this delegation must be on the speakers list, and when this national delegation is asked to hold their speech, they can yield the speaking time to you as an NGO delegate. Then you are allowed to speak for the duration of the speaking time to the committee, with the possibility to formally promote the stance and the ideas of your NGO

Oral and Written Statements

As described above under 2, NGOs will have a special status at every committee at MainMUN 2021. In real life, NGOs are allowed to previously hand in one oral and one written statement at the annual meeting of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. At MainMUN, you are allowed to only hand in one written statement at the time, but after the statement has been published to the committee, you as NGO representative are allowed to send a new statement to the Chairs. You can send a note expressing the wish for a speech at any time. Then you will be set on the speakers list and granted the same amount of speaking time as the delegates in the committee.

Right to vote

Whatever you do to shape the debate of the committees, you have to be aware that you are not allowed to vote in any of these committees. Therefore, you must ensure that you convince as many delegates as possible of the position of your NGO and that you have seen/ heard of as many resolutions as possible on the topics you want to work on. These are the keys to shape the debate effectively. And be reminded that you can't observe the voting procedure, as it is closed to the public.

Committee	Possible ways of interaction/ to shape debate				
	Right to speak/make written statements	Exclusion of the public	Speech for a national delegation	Informal negotiation	Right to vote (procedural/substantial)
WHO	X/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
UNSC	X/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
WFP	X/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
OPCW	X/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Crisis Committee	X/Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X

Maybe you will have some questions regarding this point. You can send us a message before the conference or just ask about your competences at the conference. The most important thing is that you prepare your topics thoroughly! There is only one exception:

The Motion to Exclude the Public

There is only one other possibility when you cannot attend a formal or informal session in a committee. Whenever the motion "Exclusion of the public" is voted upon and passes in the committee, all NGO representatives, the press and any other guests such as faculty advisors are obligated to leave the meeting for 30 minutes. This motion can be brought up as often as the committee wishes.

Please be aware that you are not allowed to raise any motions as a NGO representative. However, you are allowed to raise points at any time. It is also not allowed to attend the voting procedures.

5. Your Task at MainMUN 2021

Your task as an NGO representative is to influence the debate with information related to your NGO and try to get your positions covered in the resolutions! For this you have to promote your organisation's positions and convince other delegates of these. For the preparation we expect you to at least be aware of the general position of your NGO and prepare at least two of the topics listed under 3., fitting to the theme of your organisation. Please take a look at the background guides of these topics and prepare ideas for possible solutions in accordance to the aims of your NGO. At the conference, you should at least release two press releases per NGO per day and you should also try to hold two speeches on topics you were working on for the duration of the conference.

6. Research recommendations

Find the Background Guides of the committees:

World Health Organization: <https://mainmun.de/committees/who/>

Security Council: <https://mainmun.de/committees/sc/>

World Food Program: <https://mainmun.de/committees/wfp/>

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons:

<https://mainmun.de/committees/opcw/>

Crisis Committee: <https://mainmun.de/committees/crisis/>

Other recommended Sources:

General Information on NGOS and the United Nations:

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/Brochure.pdf>

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation: <https://armscontrolcenter.org/>

Child Empowerment International: <https://childempowerment.org/>

Doctors Without Borders: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/>

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This NGO background guide is primarily based on the MainMUN NGO background guide from the 2020 conference written by Tim Mulhanga & Kübra Pala.

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