



Main Model United Nations Conference

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Challenges of a Changing Global Order – Responding to Emerging Conflicts

A blue-tinted photograph of a UN truck with a large front-mounted shredder, parked in front of a building with a UN flag. The truck is the central focus, with its large front wheel and shredder mechanism clearly visible.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Main Model United Nations Conference 2022

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1. Introduction

Honourable delegates,

Welcome to Main Model United Nations (MainMUN) 2022! We are very pleased to welcome you as member of one of the respective NGO's we will simulate.

If you have any questions about what to do and how to prepare, please do not hesitate to contact us via *MyMUN* or contact the MainMUN staff directly via contact@mainmun.de. 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 us 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 we cannot wait to see you soon!

2. 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. Further, 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.

3. NGOs – At the United Nations

Since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, NGOs interact with them in many 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 are split up into three forms:

- 1) the general consultative status,
- 2) special consultative status,
- 3) roster status.

For this simulation, all NGOs simulated at MainMUN 2022 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 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 an NGO representative with MainMUN.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/civil-society/page/about-us>

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

3.1. International Committee of the Red Cross

Based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the ICRC (the International Committee of the Red Cross) is a non-governmental, neutral organization aiming to provide humanitarian support and assistance for victims of war and armed conflicts.³

The IFRC (The International Federation of the Red Cross) has an observer status within the United Nations General Assembly since 1994, offering it the possibility to participate in international reunions of high importance, and be involved in negotiations and resolutions within structures of key international organizations. Furthermore, the ICRC has been binding working agreements with various international partners.

The International Committee of the Red Cross's main purpose is protecting the lives and dignity of victims of wars and other situations of violence and to assist them.⁴

3.2. Greenpeace International

Greenpeace International is an independent organization that uses campaigns to spread awareness of their main issues – peace and environmentalism. The non-governmental organisation was founded in 1971 in Vancouver, Canada. Nowadays the headquarter is based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The principle of Greenpeace International is to “ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity”. To reach awareness from humanity and especially from politicians the work of Greenpeace is based on a variety of principles such as:

- **“protect** biodiversity in all its forms
- **prevent** pollution and abuse of the earth's ocean, land, air and freshwater
- **end** all nuclear threats
- **promote** peace, global disarmament and non-violence”⁵

All actions that are taken by members of Greenpeace International is guided by peacefulness and nonviolence. Further, the members are personally accountable for any effects their actions have. Financially, Greenpeace International is fully independent of any government, political parties or bigger companies.⁶

³ <https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are>

⁴ <http://www.ifrc.org/>

⁵ <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/explore/about/values/>

⁶ <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/explore/about/50-years/>

3.3. Terre des Hommes

Terre des Hommes is a movement that was founded in 1960 by the Swiss/French citizen Edmond Kaiser founded in Lausanne (Switzerland). It was initiated in order to respond to help of children in need located in Algeria. Many children were brought to Switzerland in order to provide sufficient health care. During this time, many different organisations were founded across Europe. These groups formed the Terre des Hommes International Federation.

The main goal of Terre des Hommes lies in the protection of children's rights in all its varieties such as means of living, education, protection and care against violence.⁷

Terre des Hommes' **vision** is to guarantee:

*"For every child, a childhood. Every young person empowered. Every community engaged."*⁸

3.4. 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 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. 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 that 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;
- Pressuring Indonesia to uphold rights of people with mental health conditions;
- Bringing justice after Bosco Ntaganda got 30 years in prison for war crimes.⁹

⁷ <https://www.terredeshommes.org/about/our-history/>

⁸ <https://www.terredeshommes.org/about/mission/>

⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/about/about-us>

4. Topics at MainMUN 2022

The slogan of the MainMUN conference 2022 is: “Challenges of a Changing Global Order – Responding to Emerging Conflicts”.

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**)

4.1. Crisis Committee

- I. Cyber Security as a Sitting Duck - Fighting Cyber Terrorism in the Digital Age?

4.2. United Nations Security Council

- I. Stabilizing Regions Threatened by the Resurgence of Non-State Actors
- II. The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

4.3. ECOSOC

- I. Finding Ways towards a Sustainable and Healthy Food Production
- II. Sustaining Economic Opportunities in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

4.4. UNEA

- I. Supporting Sustainable Energy Development in the Combat Against Climate Change
- II. Ensuring Safe Access to Clean Water in Crisis Situations

4.5. COPUOS

- I. The Question of Space Exploration by Private Actors
- II. Ensuring Continuous Peaceful Use of Outer Space

5. How to interact as an NGO representative with MainMUN

Since MainMUN 2022 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:

5.1. 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 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 propose 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 of 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.

5.2. Writing Press Releases (Contains a Short Example)

All press releases will be published on the 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

5.3. 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 the committee.

Speech for a 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 2022. 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 an 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 must 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 shaping the debate effectively. And be reminded that you can't observe the voting procedure, as it is closed to the public.

Maybe you will have some questions regarding the conference or just ask about your competencies 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 an NGO representative. However, you are allowed to raise points at any time. It is also not allowed to attend the voting procedures.

6. Your Task at MainMUN 2022

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 must 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 look at the background guides of these topics and prepare ideas for possible solutions in accordance with 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.

7. Research Recommendations

Find the Background Guides of the Committees:

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

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: <https://mainmun.de/committees/copuos/>

The United Nations Economic and Social Council: <https://mainmun.de/committees/ecosoc/>

The United Nations Environmental Assembly: <https://mainmun.de/committees/unea/>

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/>