



## **Main Model United Nations Conference**

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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**SDGs – Leave No One Behind**

# **BACKGROUND**

# **GUIDE**

NGO

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*Main Model United Nations Conference 2023*

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# 1. Word of Welcome

Welcome to Main Model United Nations (MainMUN) 2023! We are delighted to welcome you as members of one of the NGOs we will simulate. In the following, we will give you a brief explanation of what your purpose and your tasks will be at the conference. As a representative of a non-governmental organisation (NGO), your role will be to represent the interests and goals of your organization. You will advocate for your ideas and ideals and convince the opposing committee of your position. During your discussions, you have the option of asking the NGO Coordinators questions your group could not answer when it comes to NGOs. We will work with you guys and answer your questions so that you can end the discussion successfully.

For your information, here are some rules that the NGO representatives must observe:

- You consult the countries.
- You are allowed to partake in moderated caucuses.
- You can take the time that is yielded to you during discussion and ask the countries for time to speak.
- You are not allowed to vote since you only have a consulting function.

In this guide you will also find an explanation about your role at MainMUN 2023

We will introduce ourselves now that the practicalities are out of the way. Your NGO Coordinators will be Milona Goitom and Betül Özkan. We are both political science students at Goethe-University. It will be our first MUN in person for us both, which is very exciting! We hope you feel the same way and take as much knowledge and joy from this experience.

## 2. General Rules and Guidelines

Specific rules must be followed and kept in mind to ensure smooth conference proceedings and a diplomatic atmosphere.

### 2.1. Decorum

The most important rule is to respect the conference and its people. Please stay in diplomatic conduct and be respectful to delegates and chairs by addressing them with “honourable chair/distinguished delegate” or any other honorific address. Decorum further means not disturbing the committee sessions. If you enter a committee while a delegate is giving a speech, it is polite to wait by the door and only walk to your seat when the delegate has finished their speech. Also, please do not interrupt the chair or any delegate during a speech, as it is impolite and undiplomatic.

## 3. NGOs

At MainMUN 2023, we will simulate four distinctive non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

- Amnesty International
- Doctors Without Borders
- The Women’s Refugee Commission
- Reporters Without Borders

The following chapters give you a brief overview of the NGOs. In addition, you will need to research your allocated agency in more detail to represent it during the conference properly. For this reason, you find the respective topics of all committees here:

### 3.1. Topics at MainMUN 2022

#### 3.1.1. INTERPOL

- I. Streamlining the International Actions Against Human Slavery

#### 3.1.2. Security Council

- I. The Situation in Central Africa

### **3.1.3. Human Rights Council**

- I. Combating Human Rights Violations Against Minorities
- II. Eradicating Exploitative Working Conditions for Incarcerated People

### **3.1.4. UNWOMEN**

- I. Ensuring Access to and Legality of Reproductive Health Care and Reproductive Rights
- II. Representation of Women in Higher Education Faculty and Executive Positions

### **3.1.5. General Assembly**

- I. Establishing Sustainable Food Systems
- II. Big Data for Sustainable Development

### **3.1.6. Peacebuilding Commission:**

- I. Peacekeeping in the Sahel Region
- II. Integrating Youth into Peacebuilding

For every committee you will find a Backgroundguide about the topic(s) on our website <https://mainmun.de/>.

## **3.2. Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is a British non-governmental organisation focused on human rights. The organisation has more than ten million members and supporters around the world. The organisation's mission is to campaign for "a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments" (Amnesty International 2019: 1).

Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961 and is independent of any political ideology, economic interest, or religion. Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for

compliance with international laws and standards. It mobilises public opinion to pressure governments that let abuse take place. Amnesty considers capital punishment the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights (Amnesty International 2023). The organisation was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for defending human dignity against torture, and the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in 1978. Amnesty has the third longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights in international human rights organisations. It is independent of all governments, all financial actors and of political or religious beliefs. Nowadays, it works regionally to support activists worldwide, working towards abolishing all breaches of human rights. Furthermore, Amnesty International holds governments accountable, that cannot defend their citizens' human rights or are even the ones breaking them (Amnesty International 2023).

### **3.3. Doctors Without Borders**

“MSF was created in the belief that all people should have access to healthcare regardless of gender, race, religion, creed or political affiliation, and that people’s medical needs outweigh respect for national boundaries” (MSF 2023).

Founded by 13 journalists and doctors in 1971, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also commonly known as Doctors Without Borders, is a self-governed, member-based international humanitarian medical non-governmental and non-profit organisation with nearly 63 000 members (MSF 2023a). MSF responds to epidemics and natural disasters while providing medical care in armed conflict zones. All actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality, which every member agrees to honour. Assistance is to be provided to people in need regardless of race, religion, creed or political convictions Médecins Sans Frontières observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance and claims full and unhindered freedom in exercising its functions. Members undertake to respect their professional code of ethics and maintain complete independence from all political, economic or religious powers. To uphold this Charta neither government funding nor contributions from companies and industries whose activities may conflict with the goals of MSF are accepted (MSF 2023a).

In 2021 MSF operated in 72 countries, with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen and South Sudan being the biggest in funding and staff numbers. However, due to the rise in the number of migrants and refugees entering Europe, MSF also provides arriving migrants and refugees with psychological and medical first aid, for example in Italy, as well as conducts search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea (MSF 2023b).

### **3.4. The Women's Refugee Commission**

The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) was founded in 1989 by a group of women and was a part of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) until 2014. Since its beginning it has been working to protect and improve the lives of refugees, women, children and youth worldwide. The WRC has accomplished many great things throughout their 30 years of offering help and advocating for women's rights. In 1990 they helped to craft the UN High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) first-ever policy on the protection of refugee women (WRC 2023a). The primary mission of the WCR is to improve the lives of women and children displaced by war and conflict (WRC 2023b). One measure is identifying the needs and problems of the affected and finding solutions to better their living situations. Their website describes their vision for an ideal world, where displaced women and children are safe and healthy and have their human rights respected and protected (WRC 2023b). Until now, the WCR has helped female, and child refugees better access to sexual and reproductive rights. Now displaced women are more likely to find pleasing workplace. The commission also advocates for their rights especially topics regarding sexual and gender-based violence. The WCR is also collaborating with different local and international organisations to fight for the rights of refugees (WRC 2023c).

### **3.5. Reporters Without Borders**

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is a non-governmental organisation and, a non-profit organisation. It was founded in 1985 in France and had been defending the right to freedom of information since then. RSF's mission is to fight for a world where everyone can access free and reliable information, they firmly believe that people need this right to form opinions and be aware of current issues. They have a wide variety of actions to fulfill their mission (RSF 2023). The RSF informs about press freedom every day in five languages, they defend and advocate for journalists in need of help, and they call on governments or international organisations to ensure that the right to freedom of information is guaranteed. Their work is founded in line with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognises the right to receive and share information regardless of frontiers (RSF 2023).

## **4. How to interact as an NGO representative with MainMUN**

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 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;
- Talk with the news agencies in order to build public pressure on countries;
- 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.

### **4.2. 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!<sup>1</sup>

### **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 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 2023. 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 2023 it is only UNWOMEN). 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Example based on the MainMUN 2018 conference

## **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 about your competencies at the conference. You can always go to the coordinators, Betül and Milo, and ask them. Secondly, during unmoderated caucuses you could also go to the respective committee chairs, they will also be able to help you most of the times.

You are almost always allowed to observe formal sessions and with the aforementioned strategies to shape the working papers and debates. The most important thing is that you prepare your topics thoroughly! There is only one other exception to your presence in the committee:

### **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.

## **5. Your Task at MainMUN 2023**

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.

## 6. Bibliography

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