



Main Model United Nations Conference
Frankfurt am Main, Germany
22nd Session
26th of February to 1st of March 2026
Daring Democracy



Background Guide

Press

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www.mainmun.de

Table of Contents

1 Words of Welcome	1
2 Committee introduction	2
2.1 <i>What is the IPC in MUN</i>	2
2.2 <i>The Importance and the Role of the IPC</i>	2
2.3 <i>The Impact of Journalism</i>	2
2.4 <i>Code of Conduct</i>	3
3 Committee Format	4
3.1 <i>The Role of the Press Coordinators</i>	4
3.2 <i>The Role of Press Delegates</i>	4
3.3 <i>Daily Procedures</i>	4
4 Types of Content	4
4.1 <i>Social Media</i>	4
4.2 <i>Breaking News</i>	5
4.3 <i>News Report</i>	5
4.4 <i>Opinion Piece</i>	5
4.5 <i>Feature Article</i>	5
4.6 <i>Interview</i>	5
4.7 <i>Press Conference</i>	6
4.8 <i>Press Release</i>	6
4.9 <i>Gossip & Memes</i>	6
4.10 <i>Videos</i>	6
4.11 <i>Infographics</i>	6
5 Introduction to the News Agencies	6
5.1 <i>Fox News</i>	6
5.2 <i>Al Jazeera</i>	7
5.3 <i>Xinhua News Agency</i>	7
5.4 <i>Deutsche Presse Agentur</i>	8
6 Questions to Consider for Your News Agency	8
7 Before the Conference	8
8 Agency statement (former Position Paper)	9
8.1 <i>General guidelines</i>	9
9 Committee expectations and recommendations	10
10 Further Reading	11

1 Words of Welcome

Dear Delegates,

It is my distinct pleasure to serve as your Director of the Press Committee at MainMUN 2026.

I am Alexia Cam-Márquez, a fourth-semester media and communications student. I was the Secretary General of my school's first MUN in 2019, one of the most enriching and heartwarming experiences I've had. I still remember participating in my first MUN as Der Spiegel. It was my first time debating and my first time as a press delegate. To this day, it remains one of my favorite Model UN memories.

On a more personal note, I'm currently interning in PR and Media at the Leipzig Tourism Agency. It's an exciting opportunity that constantly pushes me beyond my comfort zone. It encourages me to develop unique ideas and creative solutions for clients and communicate them effectively. It's much like what we do in this committee, except now I get paid for it!

As for my interests, I am passionate about film photography and Emily Dickinson's poetry and enjoy curating oddly specific music playlists.

As I've said, I have a soft spot for MUN and this committee, so it goes without saying that I'm thrilled to share this experience with you at the conference. I hope that excitement is reflected in our committee's performance.

If you have any questions, please contact me at alexialcamm@gmail.com.

See you soon!

Kind regards,

Alexia Cam-Márquez

2 Committee introduction

2.1 What is the IPC in MUN

The International Press Corps consists of journalists from various news agencies who document the events and progress of the different United Nations committees. These journalists listen in on committee debates and publish articles to share with the public what has occurred. During the conference, journalist delegates will circulate among the committees, publish articles, conduct interviews, and hold press conferences. The press team will inform the rest of the conference about what is happening in each committee and provide updates as the conference progresses.

2.2 The Importance and the Role of the IPC

The Press Committee at this conference is inspired by the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), an organization responsible for informing the public about the progress made at the United Nations, its agencies, organizations, and affiliated missions. Created in 1948, the association started with only 56 members, but today it has over 200 correspondents and producers representing publications, news agencies, and broadcasters from around the world.

The Press Corps is an important and crucial committee in a Model UN conference because, just like in real life, journalists have the power to influence the conference and its outcomes. As a press delegate, you have the potential to change the course of the committee, sway the opinions of delegates, and change resolutions. With your questions and criticism, you can influence delegates. You are the first one who will know when your agency's country's UN representative is making decisions, and you have the obligation of letting the public know what they are and holding the decision makers accountable.

That being said, keep in mind that while freedom of the press is essential, not all news agencies adhere to it. Your news agency may not be the voice of the people. It may not criticize the government. It may not always be interested in the truth. Your job isn't to represent a country. Your job is to represent a journalist from a news agency. You should cover what they would cover and present the news from the conference at the United Nations the way they would. This is why knowing your agency's history and political agenda is important. Research is key.

2.3 The Impact of Journalism

"With great power comes great responsibility"

Known as the fourth pillar of democracy, freedom of the press is essential to the maintenance of a functioning democracy. In our era of social media, which is filled with misinformation, good journalism is needed more than ever. Journalism helps keep the people in charge in check and gives a voice to the civilians. Journalism uncovers the truth and spreads important information so the public will know what is currently happening, and hopefully, the public will act and cause change where it is needed. From corrupt governments to heartfelt stories to injustices against regular people, good and just journalism gives attention to it all. Journalists have the power to shape a new reality for all of us, and so their responsibility to be truthful is grand.

This is why journalists face constant threats and harassment. The truth that journalists can uncover can threaten powerful people, and sometimes that includes governments. In different countries all throughout the world, freedom of the press is nonexistent as the government controls the content that is being allowed to be published. Social media can also play a role in this censoring, as harassment can spread there and pressure journalists to censor themselves for both public satisfaction and their own safety.



(Reporters Without Borders, 2023)

Journalism has cost lives, articles have saved lives, and misinformed articles have cost lives. It's important to acknowledge that.

Journalism is essential to democracy, and it has a profound impact on the lives of many people. For this upcoming conference, we will try to bring this to MainMUN and show how impactful good journalism can be.

2.4 Code of Conduct

- **Not Crossing the Line:** People come to the conference and assume the role of a country, character, or news agency. It is significant to differentiate between the delegate and their role, and it is important to differentiate between your personal opinion and your news agency's bias. Delegates are humans with feelings like the rest of us, and as press delegates, we have a responsibility to make sure to not cross the line and harm the delegate in the process of producing content. Yes, as a journalist delegate, you will need to stick to the policy of your agency, and that policy may include bias against some countries, but you will have to know when to stop and not cross the line in order to not be harmful to your fellow delegates. As editors, we will not release content that we deem harmful and pieces that attack specific delegates - you cannot let your content in this conference get personal. We ask you to come to the conference with this in mind and to find the line so you don't take your role too far. We are all coming to this conference to have fun and meet new people, after all, and we all deserve to achieve just that!
- **AI and Plagiarism:** You are not allowed to use AI to write your articles. You are not allowed to plagiarize from articles that are already written online or ones that are being written by your fellow delegates at this conference. Plagiarism will generally not be tolerated.
- **Misinformation vs. Bias:** While misinformation isn't welcomed in the conference, realistically every news agency has a bias, especially when it comes to UN politics. You will need to represent your news agency accordingly, but avoid taking it to the max and outright spreading misinformation. You are welcome to have your fun working around the rules of technicality and ambiguity.

3 Committee Format

3.1 The Role of the Press Coordinator

The press coordinator, also referred to as 'Editor', 'Chair', will lead the press at MainMUN. This includes creating daily agendas, organizing press conferences, and liaising with chairs of other committees. Furthermore, I will review and edit your articles before they are published. In general, I will be your first point of contact should you need anything or if you have any questions, concerns or just need some advice. Most importantly, I am here to make sure that you have an amazing time and lots of fun!

3.2 The Role of Press Delegates

Press delegates or 'Journalists' will report what happens at the conference in an interesting and engaging manner. For example, you might interview delegates, report breaking news, write fascinating articles, or ask tough questions at the press conference. To make it even more intriguing, each press delegate represents a specific press agency, meaning during your reporting, you should stay 'in character'.

As a journalist, you are required to report the truth. But keep in mind, in accordance with your press agency's agenda, reflecting their political and social bias. Moreover, you should also make sure to be in line with your news agency when it comes to presentation. This means familiarizing yourself with your news agency's style of writing and how they frame and structure articles.

If you have any questions about your role as a press delegate, your press coordinators are ready to help!

3.3 Daily Procedures

Generally, as a press delegate, you have a lot of freedom and independence when it comes to structuring your ways of working. We will meet every morning as a group to look at the day ahead and decide on which committee every delegate will cover. You are then free to write your articles or interview delegates. The MainMUN Press Corps will have its own Instagram profile where all the agencies can post their breaking news, videos, photos, interviews, etc., with previous confirmation from the press coordinator. In the afternoon, we will have another quick group check-in to raise any issues or concerns and discuss potential press conferences or interviews that we can arrange. In the evening, we will have a debrief meeting to reflect on the day and its learnings. However, the press coordinator will be available all day long should you have any questions or if you need some advice. On the last day of the conference, you will present a creative project that will summarize your participation as a journalist and its relevance. The creative project could be anything you want, from a video to a website. The floor is yours to create anything, and if you have any questions regarding the project, do not hesitate to contact the Chair for more information or examples.

4 Types of Content

As press delegates, the content you produce differs from that of the main Model UN committees. Your role is very distinct from that of a traditional delegate, as working papers, draft resolutions, and similar documents are not part of this committee. Instead, you will be responsible for creating a wide range of content. Here are some types of content that may be developed and alternated to stand out while also showcasing creativity:

4.1 Social Media

We encourage you to create different social media accounts for your agency, such as Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Keep in mind that these accounts should focus on the work and content produced during the conference while always considering the design style of your media outlet.

4.2 Breaking News

SHOCKING NEWS! HOT GOSSIP! WILD TWIST! SCANDALOUS RUMOR!

Breaking news are quick, one-sentence, flashy headlines meant to grab the attention of the reader and report fast news; these things you will have to publish immediately so as not to lose the element of surprise (and to make sure you post it before your fellow journalists get the chance to spoil the surprise and get the credit of being first).

Length: a one-sentence flashy headline, maybe combined with a photo.

4.3 News Report

A news report is a common format used to report events and inform readers about an event objectively. It is used to deliver the objective details to the reader in a way that is simple to understand, followed by a deeper explanation of the event. It customarily follows the inverted pyramid structure:

- Catchy headline.
- Opening paragraph: delivers the basic details of the event by covering the 5W (Who, Where, When, What, Why).
- Body: a descriptive paragraph that expands on the event and its details.
- Conclusion: final statements.

Length: 2-3 paragraphs; a photo or picture is required.

4.4 Opinion Piece

An opinion piece, or an op-ed, is an article where you get to show more than just the facts of the events. This is where your agency's bias will shine, as you will get to use it and show it. In an opinion piece, you will talk about the event that occurred in the committee you are covering or perhaps the actions of a specific country in that committee and criticize it in a way you see fit. Whether that is a positive review or a negative one is dependent on your agency and what their opinions are.

Length: half a page to a page.

4.5 Feature Article

A feature article is a longer piece that delves deeper into a specific issue/subtopic in a committee. It gives the facts in detail and educates the reader about the event without a personal opinion (depending on your news agency). It gives you the full scope of the event in depth and presents all the facts; it can also include an interview. They can as well be accompanied by images of the conferences, either taken by you, sourced from the internet (with proper citation), generated with artificial intelligence, or presented as illustrations, graphics, videos, tweets, etc.

Length: half a page to a page.

4.6 Interview

A one-on-one session with another delegate where you get to be the interviewer, and they get to be the interviewee. You will ask them questions and document their answers. We ask that when you do interviews, you will put your agency's bias aside and use their words only and not change them unless they agree to you re-wording what they said (i.e., when writing out the interview / doing a feature article and using partial quotes, you can ask the delegates if you can re-word stuff so that it will flow better in writing).

4.7 Press Conference

During the conference, from time to time, all press delegates will be called into one committee to have a press conference. During a press conference, journalists will get the chance to ask questions to the entire committee as a whole or specific delegates in that committee regarding what that committee has been doing. Before the press conference, press delegates will be updated about what happened in the committee and will be given time to prepare questions before going to the committee.

Press Conferences give you the opportunity to get involved with a different committee as a whole and allow you to voice your thoughts and concerns more prominently. These events also challenge the other committee and help delegates by giving them new outlooks and also allowing them to voice out their stance via your questions. It is a win-win for both journalists and delegates. Always keep in mind that you should coordinate with the dais of the committee you want to hold a press conference with, as well as with us.

4.8 Press Release

After a press conference, delegates will need to publish a press release regarding what occurred during it. Share the questions you asked and report on the responses you got.

Length: a paragraph or two; a photo of the press conference is not a must-have, but deeply appreciated.

4.9 Gossip & Memes

Fun gossip and funny memes are most welcome in this conference, so feel free to submit as many memes as you want during the conference and share fun gossip if you have some too! Just make sure the gossip you are sharing isn't inappropriate, be respectful to your fellow delegates, and bullying is not tolerated in this conference.

4.10 Videos

Videos are a creative way to produce articles and interviews. Pay special attention to audio quality to ensure your message is understood. Remember that videos are subject to the same guidelines as other content and must respect the policies and biases of your press outlet.

4.11 Infographics

Infographics are an excellent way to highlight a particular situation in the world. Often, you can draw connections between different issues. You can add statistics, photos, statements, and other pieces of information, as long as bias and policies are respected.

While these are some examples of the content you can produce during the conference, don't feel limited. I encourage you to think outside the box and propose innovative ways to present your work.

5 Introduction to the News Agencies

5.1 Fox News

Fair and Balanced? The conservative voice in U.S. Media

Fox News Channel is an American cable television news network launched in 1996 as a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's media empire. It is billing itself as the "fair and balanced" alternative to a mainstream press perceived as liberal, with the debut slogan "We Report. You Decide." Fox News was created explicitly to appeal to a conservative audience. Headquartered in New York, the channel quickly grew to become the most-watched cable news network in the United States, reaching tens of millions of viewers. By the late 2010s, it was a major profit center for Murdoch's Fox Corporation and a prominent force in American media and politics.

Fox News' content ranges from daytime news programs to primetime opinion shows, the latter hosted by high-profile conservative commentators. Roger Ailes, a former Republican consultant, served as the founding CEO and shaped the network's combative, populist tone. The channel cultivated a loyal viewership with its outspoken hosts and a presentation style resonating with right-leaning audiences. Fox News forged especially strong links with the Republican establishment, regularly featuring Republican politicians as commentators and giving sympathetic coverage to conservative causes. This approach helped Fox distinguish itself from competitors and dominate ratings through the 2000s and 2010s.

However, Fox News has faced extensive criticism over its journalistic impartiality. Media watchdogs and scholars have described Fox News as engaging in biased reporting that consistently favors the Republican Party and conservative viewpoints. The network has been accused of disseminating misinformation and conspiracy theories on-air, for instance, promoting unsubstantiated claims.

5.2 Al Jazeera

The Opinion and the Other Opinion

The Al Jazeera Media Network, established in November 1996 by the then-Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, serves as a global media conglomerate headquartered in Doha, Qatar (Britannica, 2025). Operating as a private media organization chartered under Qatari law as a "private foundation for public benefit", Al Jazeera receives substantial funding from the government of Qatar and has evolved into one of the world's most influential news networks, with an extensive international reach and significant impact on global media discourse (AllSides, 2025; Council on Foreign Relations, 2017).

The network's mission centers on providing comprehensive news coverage that challenges established narratives and gives voice to underrepresented perspectives. With its founding tagline, "The Opinion and the Other Opinion," Al Jazeera pioneered a paradigm that presents multiple angles to stories, placing human beings at the center of the news agenda while championing journalistic integrity (MEED, 2011). The network expanded beyond its flagship Arabic channel to include Al Jazeera English, launched in 2006 with four strategic broadcast centers in Doha, London, Washington, D.C., and Kuala Lumpur (US-Qatar Business Council, n.d.).

Despite its professional journalism credentials and extensive reach, Al Jazeera has faced persistent criticism regarding editorial independence and alleged bias. The network receives approximately 90 percent of its funding from the Qatari government, allowing it to operate at a perpetual financial loss, which critics argue creates potential for governmental influence over content (Emirates News Agency, 2017; AllSides, 2025)

5.3 Xinhua News Agency

New China, New Perspectives

The Xinhua News Agency, established in November 1931 as the Red China News Agency, serves as the official state press agency of the People's Republic of China. Headquartered in Beijing, Xinhua operates under the direct control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and has grown to become one of the largest news agencies globally, with a vast network of correspondents and bureaus worldwide (Britannica, n.d.).

Xinhua's mission is to disseminate news and information that aligns with the policies and perspectives of the Chinese government. It publishes content in multiple languages, aiming to present China's viewpoint to both domestic and international audiences. The agency has been instrumental in promoting China's image abroad and countering narratives perceived as unfavorable to the CCP (Britannica, n.d.).

Despite its extensive reach, Xinhua has faced criticism for functioning as a propaganda tool for the Chinese government. Organizations such as Reporters Without Borders have labeled it "the world's biggest propaganda agency", highlighting its role in censorship and dissemination of disinformation (Reporters Without Borders, 2005).

In recent years, Xinhua has embraced technological advancements, including the development of artificial intelligence-generated news anchors to enhance its news dissemination capabilities. These innovations reflect China's commitment to leveraging technology in media to further its strategic communication objectives (Xin, 2024).

Xinhua News Agency plays a pivotal role in China's media landscape, acting as a conduit for the CCP's messaging and exerting significant influence over the portrayal of news related to China on a global scale (Britannica, n.d.).

5.4 Deutsche Presse Agentur

The Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa), founded in 1949 in the post-war Federal Republic of Germany, is Germany's largest news agency and one of the leading independent wire services worldwide. Conceived as a successor to the fragmented news agencies that had operated in the Western occupation zones, dpa was established to "cultivate objective news" and to win the "trust of the German public" in a media environment marked by efforts to rebuild democratic institutions and public confidence after the Nazi era (Leibniz Institut for Media Research, 2024). Today, dpa operates as a private limited liability company (GmbH), headquartered in Hamburg with its central editorial office in Berlin, serving as a central backbone of news provision for German and international media (Associated Press, 2025).

From its inception, dpa has defined its mission around independence, factual accuracy, and non-partisanship. The agency's founding statutes enshrine independence from governments, political parties, ideological groups, and economic interests as a core principle, codified in a clause stating that dpa must operate "impartially and independently of influence and interference by political parties, ideological groups, economic or financial groups, and governments". This commitment is reflected in its editorial ethos of prioritizing accuracy over speed, providing fact-based reporting and leaving opinion formation to readers rather than to the agency's journalists (dpa, 2025a).

Deutsche Presse-Agentur thus occupies a central place in the German and European media landscape as a cooperative, professionally run news agency whose legitimacy rests on institutionalized independence, shareholder dispersion, and a deeply codified commitment to factual, non-partisan reporting.

6 Questions to Consider for Your News Agency

- What type of content do they produce?
- What topics are they interested in? Which committees would they cover?
- What are their biases? What is their agenda?
- Where do they stand on the political spectrum?
- What is their history?
- What are their opinions on the topics of the conference?
- What is their goal?

7 Before the Conference

To put it simply, as a press delegate, you must know what is going on at the conference. This, of course, requires some preparation. Here are some suggestions to help you get started.

- Read, read, and read – in particular, from the news agency that you represent. Familiarize yourself with what your news agency covers and how they cover it. Pay close attention to their tone of voice and the structure of articles, as well as any potential bias.
- Read your Background Guide: This document should be the base of your research. You should not start preparing before reading this background guide because it will tell you what your director is expecting from you (in terms of content).
- Read the background guides of the committees. MainMUN has seven committees that discuss various topics. However, I would recommend that you focus on 3 committees that are most relevant to your agency's interests or expertise to make your preparation more efficient. Remember: quality over quantity.

- Contact your co-delegate. Establishing communication early is crucial. Ideally, you can share some preparation work, discuss strategies, start creating the social media accounts, and divide research tasks to ensure a more comprehensive and coordinated approach during the conference.
- Familiarize yourself with the format of MainMUN and the rules of procedure. Some of you might be experienced MUNers; for others, it is their first time - but every MUN has a set of rules that delegates have to follow. While being a press delegate gives you more freedom and you do not have to know every little detail, it is nevertheless important to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure. There will also be a rules of procedure workshop on the first day, which you are welcome to attend.
- MainMun is a crisis conference, which means that at some point, a crisis will erupt to which delegates have to respond in real-time. This is quite exciting, and you are very likely to report on the crisis (and maybe even shape it) as a journalist. As nobody (except for the crisis team) knows yet what the crisis will be, there is not that much you can do to prepare. However, reading through the Crisis Handbook and the Background Guide of the Crisis Committee (in this case, the Security Council) can help you to familiarize yourself with the format.
- Make sure to bring a camera or free up some space on your phone in order to record audio & video and take pictures. Additionally, a laptop or any other device where you can write. A pen and paper are always a must as a journalist, too!
- To communicate with each other and to release your wonderful news stories, we will use the platform 'Ryver'. Closer to the conference, you will receive more information about this, including an invitation to sign up, so make sure to familiarize yourself with the platform.
- Reach out if you have any questions! We are here should you have any questions or concerns about the conference. We will also hold a workshop specifically for press delegates on the first day of the conference to ensure you all have an amazing time at MainMUN!

8 Agency statement (former Position Paper)

In this case, the agency statement is a paper that contains a policy report in which delegates explain their organization's situation in relation to the topic, what they are doing to address it, past relevant international actions in which their country has participated, and proposed solutions. It is vital because it will be the first impression your director gets from you. If you present a great agency, your director will likely be more interested in hearing what you have to say during the committee. While submitting is voluntary, I highly encourage you to do so, as you will receive valuable feedback before the conference to refine your ideas and ensure your participation is impactful.

8.1 General guidelines:

- Agency statements are expected to be between 600 and 1000 words long.
- Make sure to cite every source you use
- Remember to use a plagiarism checker to ensure that your document is 100% original
- Each delegate is responsible for submitting an agency statement by February 16th at 11:59 pm, and it should be uploaded to mymun.

You must choose three topics to be discussed at MainMUN 2026 that you believe are the most relevant and closely related to their agency's mission.

- Heading: Agency statements should always begin with a heading that states the organization the delegation is representing, the committee, and the delegate's name and University/High School (does not apply for independent delegates).

- First paragraph: provide the most essential background information (history, target market, geographical coverage, political tendencies).
- Second paragraph: present relevant articles or pieces published by the agency regarding the three selected topics
- Third paragraph: each journalist must describe the pieces they would like to work on throughout the debate and start crafting an idea for the final creative project (FCP) that will be presented on the last day of the conference. As previously stated, the FCP can be anything, from a video essay to a well-written op-ed.

9 Committee expectations and recommendations

Press corps delegates should leave a mark on every committee they present themselves in, which is why it is important to research and understand the policy of the newspaper you represent, as well as recognize its core values and ideology. This will help you identify your newspaper's position on different topics and save you time. For this, it is essential to have a solid understanding of the other committees. We encourage you again to read the background guides of the committees and do some research to be fully prepared.

Regarding the work you will produce during our committee sessions, punctuality is expected from all delegates, both when arriving at the committee and when submitting pieces of work, as we will follow a set agenda. Additionally, you must adhere to the format and style of your agency, paying attention to their design and writing style so that your work aligns with the essence of your agency.

Lastly, consider the importance of quality over quantity. Finding a balance allows you to complete your tasks more efficiently. Be creative and enjoy your time at MainMUN.

10 Further Reading

Writing a Feature Article:

<https://leverageedu.com/blog/feature-writing/>

Conducting an interview:

<https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/how-to-conduct-interview-as-journalist>

Writing with the Inverted Pyramid:

<https://www.schooljournalism.org/what-comes-around-goes-around-the-inverted-pyramids-popularity-soars-in-a-digital-age/>

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