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SOCOMUN XXXIII

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOPIC: UN REFORM



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General Assembly UN Reform

Hi delegates, my name is Fallon Boyle, and I am so stoked to be your General Assembly committee chair for SOCOMUN XXXIII! In my four years of MUN, I have not only developed my public speaking and leadership skills, but also have made lifelong friendships, traveled to some rad places, and discovered my passion of international politics/relations. At school, you can find me on the (flag) football field, on the basketball court, at ASB meetings, or on-screen hosting Eagle TV! Outside of school, you can find me wakeboarding, hiking, listening to country music, or taking pictures of every sunset I can catch. This conference is meant to be a learning experience for students to gain knowledge and a deeper understanding of MUN. I highly recommend researching this topic before the conference to have prior background knowledge, a solid country policy, and some well-developed solutions for committee and speeches. For more help and resources, please visit the SOCOMUN website or contact us with the email below. Remember that what you put into the conference is what you will get out of it, but more importantly, remember that MUN is FUN!

Hello, my name is Kylie McInnes, and I am so excited to be your vice chair for the General Assembly. This is my third year in MUN, and second year helping in the General Assembly committee. Make sure to understand your committee topic very well, and most importantly have so much fun at the first conference of the year! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the conference!

Hello delegates! My name is Emory Ratzlaff, and I am a sophomore here at Santa Margarita. This is my second year of doing MUN and it has helped me learn so much about world conflict and helped immensely with my problem solving and leadership skills. Outside of MUN, I am a part of the girl's flag football team, ASB, and the theater program, Talon Theater. I love to perform, go to the gym, listen to Taylor Swift, hang out with my family, and go to the Spectrum with my friends. I hope that this conference is a great experience for you all and that you have a great time learning and researching about UN reform. Good luck delegates!

Hello delegates, I am Ainsley Boggs. I'm a current sophomore here at SM and have been in MUN for 1 year. Outside of MUN, I am part of ASB and enjoy going to the beach, skiing, surfing, and hanging out with my family and friends. MUN has taught me a lot of skills that have helped me in other aspects of my life such as public speaking and leadership. I hope that this conference is a good experience for you and that you will enjoy learning about the UN reform. Good luck delegates and I look forward to having a great conference.

Once the conference begins after opening ceremonies, delegates will motion to open a speakers list. At this time, any and all delegates wishing to speak will be added to the list to give a speech. Subsequently following a speech, delegates can give comments on the preceding speech before moving on to the next speech. Throughout the speeches, moderated and informal consultations are weaved within and voted on by delegates. Moderated consultations are shorter speeches on sub-topics within the substantial topic, UN reform. Informal consultations are opportunities for delegates to discuss their solutions amongst each other and eventually form blocs called resolution groups. These groups will create a cohesive paper of combined solution called a resolution. Resolutions will be presented and voted upon by the committee. Lastly, debate will close, and awards will be distributed at closing ceremonies. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions prior to the conference by emailing ga.socomun@gmail.com!



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Background

Following the turmoil and destruction of the first and second World Wars, many countries around the world sought an international organization with the purpose of maintaining peace. On January 1st, 1942, the United States, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China signed a document. In signing this document, these countries essentially accepted the terms of the Atlantic Charter and pledged not to negotiate with any of the Axis powers (The History of the UN). In addition to the first five, 22 more countries signed the following day and this led to the birth of what we know today as the United Nations (UN).

Now, the UN has since grown to include 193 Member States and 6 Major Organs. Over the past 79 years, the UN has not only worked to protect peace worldwide, but also has ventured into other related sectors. For instance, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development with the intention of meeting the urgent environmental, political, and economic challenges of today (Background of the Goals). These goals were created with the vision of being met by the 2030 agenda. The General Assembly (GA) was one of the four principle bodies that the UN began with. This organ includes each UN Member State and usually covers a broad range of international issues. The Security Council (SC) was another initial body and is tasked with serving as an International Court of Justice. There are five permanent members and ten non-permanent members who are elected by the GA to serve a two-year term (Intro to the United Nations).

Over the years, the United Nations has been criticized for failing to make a real impact on the issues facing the world. For instance, the Security Council often causes tension within countries of the UN. The SC's five permanent members with veto power consistently make it difficult for resolutions to be passed and matters to be addressed. In turn, many nations feel as though their voices are not represented in a fair way. Overall, the geopolitical rivalries and disunity among SC members weaken its effectiveness and undermine its relevance (The UN Turns Seventy-Five. Here's How to Make it Relevant Again). Additionally, many contend that the UN is incapable of curbing conflict and war. Even though the UN holds troops and peacekeeping officials on the ready to deploy, there have been many instances where these have proven ineffective. Also, the UN is commonly attacked for making large goals or gestures which are too broad. Oftentimes there is a lack of clarity and meaningful action towards these issues. For example, curtailing climate change is a key instance where some have claimed the UN is "all talk but no action" regarding implementation. The UN also does not hold their Member States accountable for issues within their own countries. Like allowing those with records of crimes against humanity, internal aggression, terrorist regimes, and lack of human rights to participate alongside democracies (7 Reasons Why The United Nations Is Bad For The World).

The United Nations has responded to this criticism through different measures. The UN implemented Resident Coordinators as a neutral perspective for improved coordination and leadership on the ground (8 Ways UN Reform is Kickstarting the Decade of Action). Additionally, the UN has worked to address the issue of borders and to transcend this obstacle for improved collaboration between countries. Through the introduction of the SDG Cooperation Framework there is a step-by-step layout for implementation and transparency. The UN database allows for monitoring and digital communication for all those involved. This aims to provide more of a voice to developing nations that may not have access to the necessary resources. Also, the UN Strategy on Youth puts an emphasis on the younger generations and equipping them with



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the knowledge to foster a successful future for the world (8 Ways UN Reform is Kickstarting the Decade of Action). However, there is still much to be done to reach a more strengthened and transformed United Nations.

Potential Solutions

There are so many possible solutions related to the topic of UN reform so be creative. Some ideas to start your research off with are restructuring and expanding the Security Council, safeguarding conflict zones, creating standards for digital cooperation, clarifying the roles of all relevant departments and regional divisions, broadening perspectives, and finally thinking big but at the same time, realistic (The UN Turns Seventy-Five. Here's How to Make it Relevant Again). I advise you to be thorough with your solutions, especially since a major criticism of the UN is coming up with solid ideas but not having a rational way of following through.

Additionally, it is vital to employ a blend of short, mid, and long-term strategies to craft practical, viable, and reliable solutions while approaching the intricate task of UN reform. Solutions should be well researched and thought out. They should also consider each facet and perspective in the issue at hand. Drawing from past or existing UN initiatives can aid in formulating more coherent and actionable resolutions. However, they should strive to do something different. Proposals for change should be accompanied by clear and detailed plans that outline goal achievement and the necessary steps for implementation. Your solutions will play a pivotal role in the conference, as they will be presented through speeches and resolution groups.

To make proposals more memorable, crafting unique titles, acronyms, or action plans reflecting your country's stance is highly encouraged. While creating solutions that align with your country's policy, be sure to strive to make them relevant and adaptable to other nations, whether developed or developing. Even if your country's viewpoint differs from the majority, sticking to your nation's perspective is essential as you represent your country in the conference. If you are lost where to even begin, a great tip is to think of the 5 W's, who, when, why, where, and what. Furthermore, think of how solutions will be able to come about.



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Questions to Consider

To guide your research and preparation, here are some questions about UN reform to consider. These questions will aid in creating effective solutions that are in line with your country policy, which will greatly help you in committee. Please note that these questions do not need to be answered before or during committee but are merely here for guidance and assistance as you examine the issue and develop solutions.

1. What strategies has your country introduced for restructuring the UN body, and how can these strategies be expanded globally?
2. Which NGOs could collaborate with the UN to instigate systemic changes within UN entities? Does your country engage with any of these NGOs?
3. How can the United Nations be reformed to enhance its effectiveness in reaching the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and how can these principles of peace and equality be integrated into society through the UN?
4. In what ways can the UN be reorganized to prioritize the fulfillment of the SDGs in developing nations that require more assistance?
5. How can accountability and transparency be effectively integrated into all facets of United Nations governance?
6. What are some past resolutions pertaining to UN reform, and how can these resolutions be applied on a larger scale in future resolutions?
7. What are examples of previous failed resolutions related to UN reform, and what modifications could be made to ensure their success?



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