



Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations

SECRETARY GENERAL'S WELCOME

Greetings Delegates!

My name is Atticus Belcher, and it is my greatest honor to have been chosen to serve as your 43rd Tennessee CCE Model United Nations Secretary-General. I would like to be the first to welcome you all to this year's conference. It would be impossible to fully express how influential MUN has been not just on my educational journey but also on my growth as an individual. The most important skill that I have been able to develop from these past few years attending the conference is how to listen to others. Do not just wait for your chance to speak; be attentive to the discussion going on around you. If we all practice this at this year's conference, then I am certain that every single one of you will be able to make a difference to at least one other person. As Secretary-General, it is my job to introduce to all of you the four committees that our conference identifies: DISEC, ECOFIN, SOCHUM, and SPECPOL. I will now share with you all some of the topics that I am most passionate about from these committees.

The Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) Committee operates to ensure and promote international peace. This committee primarily focuses on the disarmament of nuclear, chemical, and other mass-volume weapons. A topic that personally interests me is **the removal of landmines and other explosive remnants from former areas of war**. In countries like Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, millions of landmines have been left undetonated. As a result, civilians are left to discover such weapons. We must actively encourage efforts to work on removing these weapons and ensuring civilian safety in the mentioned countries. Another DISEC-related topic that I feel the need to prioritize as Secretary-General is **the continuation of international nuclear non-proliferation efforts**. We must work together to ensure that global superpowers collaborate in decreasing their nuclear arsenals and holding each other accountable. These efforts will ensure a future of diplomatic peace and stability among UN member states. My third and final DISEC-related issue pertains to **the disarmament of active conflict zones**. It is necessary for us to allocate the UN's resources to implement strategies for disarmament, demobilization, and peace negotiations in current conflict areas, such as Ukraine. By addressing DISEC-related issues, we can pave the way for a future of peace and stability while also promoting cooperation among global superpowers.

The UN's resources must also be directed toward monitoring and regulating issues related to the growth and development of the international economy. The Economic and Financial (ECOFIN) Committee is tasked with advancing global economic growth in a way that addresses expanding international financial gaps. The initial issue I aim to address is **the regulation of the digital**

economy's expansion. It is imperative that we establish positive precedents in the unexplored world of e-commerce. The United Nations should allocate its resources to ensure that concerns regarding data privacy and cybersecurity do not contribute to economic disputes among UN countries. The next aspect I wish to advocate for involves **offering financial assistance to developing nations grappling with overbearing debt levels.** It is unrealistic to expect that a country should simultaneously strive to enhance its standard of living, boost the domestic economy, and manage foreign debt payments. It is the role of the United Nations to explore avenues through which it can extend financial aid to these countries, granting them the leeway to progress. By engaging in these efforts, we can ensure that all nations prioritize the well-being of their population over their economic trajectory.

The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM) Committee plays a vital role in safeguarding international human rights. These encompass a range of issues, including but not limited to promoting gender equality, shielding children from violence, and advocating for universal freedoms. Having previously served as the High Commissioner of Human Rights in last year's Secretariat, this committee holds a special place in my priorities for this year's conference. The foremost concern I intend to address is **bridging the global gaps in education.** Despite campaigns to enhance education in developing nations, UN statistics highlight large disparities in the quality of schools and educational institutions between developed and developing UN countries. I firmly believe that education is not merely a necessity, but an essential human right. Our current efforts fall short of addressing the needs of developing regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central South America. These regions have experienced minimal progress since the outbreak of the pandemic. As Secretary-General, I am committed to actively promoting a global effort to bridge these growing divides in education. The next fundamental right I wish to emphasize is **ensuring free expression and access to information.** Global superpowers like China, Russia, and North Korea engage in limiting public access to information. These trends are dangerous and serve as clear indicators of an authoritarian regime. It is the responsibility of the United Nations to facilitate access to accurate information within these countries, while also holding accountable those who benefit from unjust restrictions. I wholeheartedly encourage all delegates to closely scrutinize resolutions aimed at improving these situations.

The final committee is the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), which focuses on a broad range of challenges with the goal of promoting peace, stability, and self-determination for all peoples. What I believe to be the most important role of this committee is **ensuring that formerly colonized nations continue on a healthy path to equity and individual freedom.** Too often, formerly colonized countries establish governments and build economies that infringe on the rights of their citizens as well as fail to sustain general equity among their country's populations. It is common that these unjust forms of government are a result of limited interference from outside organizations like the UN. As Secretary-General, I believe that it is my

job to work in promoting assistance efforts for countries that are continuing to recover socially and economically from their colonized history. I believe that these efforts will be even more effective if contributed to by former major colonizers. The most significant issue that I have not covered in my letter up to this point is climate change. Our world is in the midst of a mass extinction. Weather patterns are becoming more sporadic. The global temperature is rising exponentially. Countries are at risk of being lost to time. We must use this year to **mobilize UN resources and promote the usage of clean energy in both developed and developing countries**. Only 29% of the world's energy is renewable. This is far less than the amount needed to truly make a difference. We must work on establishing the creation and implementation of clean energy sources in all regions of the world which, in turn, will hopefully set off a global trend that prioritizes our environment. We must also work to **assist sinking island nations such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands**. These countries are the first to fully experience the effects of climate change, and it is necessary that the UN acknowledges this and works to provide them with easy and safe refuge.

The issues that I have just laid out are to be debated with caution and care. Beyond these specific issues, I encourage every delegate to take great pride in their country. Immerse yourself in the issues that you have worked so hard to present. For those not presenting a bill I would like to extend my gratitude. This conference would not be possible without the hard work done by the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Department of Global Communications. You all are the backbone of this conference, and I am beyond excited to see the great work that you all are able to produce this year. I would like to conclude my letter with one last piece of advice: Treat your fellow delegates with respect. We are not on opposite sides here. That's the beauty of this conference. We are all collectively working for one another. I know disagreements will arise; however, when they do I encourage you to take a step back and remember that compromise is the key to advancement. I wish every single one of you delegates the absolute best of luck at this year's MUN and I look forward to working with every single one of you!

Warmest regards,

Atticus Belcher

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Secretary General

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