



Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations

SECRETARY GENERAL'S WELCOME

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to our 42nd Tennessee CCE Model United Nations Conference. My name is Gauri Adarsh, and I am incredibly honored to serve as your Secretary General this year. On behalf of the secretariat, we are so happy to have you with us! My captivation and dedication for Model UN first emerged from how it commands us to create a new world view, one in which we as high-school students can become problem solvers, ambassadors, debaters, and passionate allies. If I can make you one promise, it is that coming out of this conference, you will find something that invokes passion and curiosity in you if you so look for it. You will find the desire to change something, whether it be large or small. By listening to your peers and taking part in the debates you will see play out in front of you, you will practice being an ambassador for a cause and defending your stance with powerful evidence and speech. In my time with you, I will try to help that mission as much as I possibly can.

I'd like to briefly discuss my priorities in our four committees: SOCHUM, ECOFIN, DISEC, and SPECPOL: The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM) looks at the shortcomings of human rights guarantees that all civilians should be promised. The world's minorities are treated with compassion in this committee, as we deliberate how to oppose racial, sexual, and gender discrimination and how to assert the rights of refugees, indigenous communities, and human trafficking victims. I know that can be a lot, but I encourage our delegates to look at innovative solutions to solve these overwhelming walls of prejudice by specializing their approach and investing in resources to advance education, literacy rates, legal support, and more for these groups. During this conference, I would like to focus on **gender equality** and how the UN can establish protocol to help **the advancement of women's rights, especially with issues on reproductive rights, human trafficking, and domestic violence**. With the extreme discrepancy we see in male versus female rights around the world, it is necessary to evaluate the system in which women are time and time again discriminated against. Additionally, I believe it necessary to look at **indigenous groups** and the **lack of social services, control over development, and political representation they are given**. Another topic, close to my heart, is the discussion of **social reintegration for past offenders** and the **prevention of recidivism**. Our prison systems are broken and overfilled, and I would love to see intelligent resolutions targeting the problem and offering employment or educational options for low-risk offenders. I ask SOCHUM delegates to take special notice of these topics, along with others that drive the path forward to a world with equality for all.

The Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN) focuses on economic growth and development in a sustainable fashion. In this committee, I urge delegates to fully analyze the consequences of economic development and how best to combat them, so our humanity and our workers do not slip through the cracks while corporations and governments attempt to grow. Throughout history, we have observed a lack of empathy and ignorance to the people who need protection the most. I see this even now through the proliferation of **child labor**

worldwide, with nearly 1 in 10 children being subjected to harmful workplaces which thereby impedes their education & physical and mental health. In that vein, we must discuss other factors making economic institutions unsustainable. It is integral to implement **export diversification** in commodity-based economies, especially in much of Africa, as we've observed this year how rising food and fuel prices have strongly impacted many African civilians. Furthermore, I encourage delegates to look at **economic solutions to curb climate change**, such as a carbon tax and financing sustainable land use, as it's been shown that corporations are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

The Disarmament and Security Committee (DISEC) considers issues relating to international interventions with peace and disarmament efforts. We are living in one of the most globally tense times of modern history, observing conflict after conflict play out in front of us - in this committee, we can strategize on what could provide some aid. This year, I advise delegates to look at **surveillance technology** and how to combat its misuse in international security. Also, the **arms trade** must be looked at as we've seen that non-state actors are able to get access to WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction), making it easier to conduct acts of terrorism. I would also love to see some resolutions on the **drug trade**, specifically the **changing of the drug trade after COVID-19 and how to infiltrate it**.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is what I like to call our miscellaneous committee (other than its specialization on issues of colonization, of course). Anything from The Final Frontier to addressing the frontiers here on Earth is addressed here. One I'd really like to see a closer look at is **terrorism and destabilization in much of the Sahel in Africa**, which can be seen in Mali and Nigeria, as Islamic extremist groups such as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab have inflicted constant terrorism attacks on the region. Resolutions addressing the issue should take careful notice of the conflict and provide a solution that targets the many different factors at play. Additionally, this year, let's look at **neocolonialism**, which is how many countries are exploiting weaker powers for economic gain. Last but not definitely not least, as we delve into the wonders of **outer space**, I challenge delegates to discuss how to best **cooperate with their fellow nations**.

A last note: while these issues all focus on the big picture, the small puzzle pieces are what make up that picture. Present your idea with pride and confidence because we are here to listen to it! To say I'm excited to see the innovative, groundbreaking solutions we come up with is an understatement. Remember that the officers are always here to help you, and that this is a place in which you are free to brainstorm, create, and debate. You make the conference what it is with your brilliance and hard work, and I thank you all endlessly for that and for giving me the honor to work with you. Goodbye for now - we'll see each other again in November!

Warm wishes,

Gauri Adarsh

Secretary General

Tennessee YMCA MUN 2022

Conference B



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SECRETARY GENERAL'S AGENDA

Model United Nations B – Gauri Adarsh

1. Disarmament and International Security

- **Surveillance Technology:** In recent years, governments have been using surveillance technology such as wiretaps, cameras, and drones to watch over their citizens in the name of protecting the country against acts of terrorism. 75 out of 176 countries utilize AI tech for surveillance - including but not limited to facial recognition, smart city/safe city platforms, and smart policing. Chinese and US companies are major sellers of this type of tech, with some Chinese companies offering soft loans to make it easier for developing countries to purchase said technology. However, legislation has not caught up with this rampant use of technology, and it is easy to take the information acquired from such surveillance to violate human rights to privacy and security. There is a strong potential for abuse of knowledge here, and the UN has not yet made a treaty on the issue, even though they have released a set of principles on the matter.

I urge delegates to look at this topic and begin to undo the systems in their countries that allow for such extreme surveillance, especially if that surveillance comes from other countries. As you write your resolution, consider: what are the governmental incentives of not having surveillance technology that are bought from another country? What may be the reasoning behind surveillance technology and what is something else that may be a better alternative? And what type of international law may be best to start legislation about intercountry surveillance?

- **Arms Trade:** The arms trade is defined as both the authorized transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW), along with the illicit trade of such items, and has had a deadly, gruesome effect globally. Its value is currently valued at somewhere between \$125-200 billion - the US is one of the biggest sellers and the MENA region is one of the biggest buyers, greatly affecting terrorist acts and other human rights violations. The ATT (Arms Trade Treaty), passed in 2013, does put restrictions on arms trade, but they have been criticized as not strong enough to effectively prevent the proliferation of the arms trade. As you write resolutions on this, I implore you to consider the multitude of effects the arms trade has on women, children, public health, and governmental corruption. Along with that, what incentives could persuade countries to not sell arms to countries under terrorist attacks or potentially liable customers?

- **Drug Trade Changes:** As documented by the UNODC, drug trafficking routes for opium and morphine are understood well enough for us to know major producers and buyers. For example, Myanmar, Laos, and Afghanistan are major yielders of heroin, and the Balkan and northern routes are used to smuggle it to Russia and Western Europe. Areas in Latin America are often where cocaine trafficking is most prevalent. It is clear that major drug markets have achieved a level of efficiency that is hard to combat, but delegates must look at the causes behind the rise of such markets and how to target the problem in a way that provides a permanent solution. The UN has taken action on drug trafficking in the past, through alternative development strategies and easing government tension, but it has been shown that the clearest way to lower drug trafficking rates is through providing security for national governments who can then police it. I ask delegates to look at resolutions that look at how to provide economic alternatives for the profit of the drug trade, the effect of globalization and COVID-19, and how to ease governmental tensions in a way that allows for change in the drug trade.

2. Economic and Financial

- **Child Labor:** 152 million children – that is how many young souls are put through bone-crushingly intense labour that severely impedes their mental and social development. In many developing economies, parents who may not be making enough may have no other option but to send their children to work; however, the long term effects of this are devastating. Children’s education is taken away from them, along with labor leaving physical and mental scars that do not properly go away. This disqualifies many children from ever getting a stable job at an incredibly young age; additionally, these children are paid almost nothing, so corporations are allowed to thrive off of cheap work easily. In order to stop this abuse, resolutions on increased access to free/stable education, improving economic growth through some other avenue, and legal restrictions to children working must be passed. If you come across a resolution such as this, I’d want you to think: what disincentives can be passed through law that would make a corporation stop using child labor all together? How can you support the families that have no other avenues to make money? How can we have more kids in schools, and how can we inform them that their job is not treating them right if their parents don’t know?
- **Export Diversification:** This term means the move from “traditional” to “non-traditional” exports, and could be the key for many developing economies that are greatly affected by external shocks. For more clarification, instead of focusing on just agricultural, mining, and extractive industries, developing economies may

prosper by emulating a richer country's expanded market. Therefore, a change in the environment or labor force may have an impact on some exports, but the economy would be prepared with other options for exports. The importance of export diversification was seen during the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, where many African countries struggled immensely as the market for commodities was much more unstable. As we address other topics on helping destabilization in many African countries, export diversification is a viable solution for economic stability if implemented.

While promising in African countries, it could be very applicable to other developing economies as well. Resolutions on export diversification should address the factors it needs to be implemented - by expanding private businesses' access to financial services, utilizing new financial tech, and focusing on exporting knowledge-intensive services.

- **Economic Solutions for Climate Change:** A ticking time bomb is always present with us, and that is the imminent threat of climate change, one that grows worse every day. In order to slow our timeline, we must consider what works best: economic barricades, therefore forcing major corporations to develop climate-friendly solutions or lose profit. Two examples are readily present: 1) cap and trade systems where limits are set on pollution and trade for allowances to have more emissions and 2) a carbon tax, where emitters must pay a price for each ton of greenhouse gas emissions. Other ideas include subsidizing renewable energy or ending subsidies for fossil fuels. In this year's resolutions, I want to see a thorough examination of economic options and reasoning for what works best, even if it's a completely new solution. What disincentives will corporations have for greenhouse gas emissions? How can you stop businesses outsourcing pollution to countries without a carbon tax or cap and trade systems? Are there other ways to curb climate change in an effective manner?

3. Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

- **Gender Equality:** Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is that we meet gender equality by 2030 - in order to reach that, I would love to see some resolutions addressing the nuances of the matter. For example, it has been proven that violence against women often happens when 1) a community supports or condones violence done against women, 2) men make the decisions and women are limited in their public and private life, 3) gender stereotyping is common and 4) male peer relations and masculinity are emphasized, along with aggression, dominance, and control being valued. I ask delegates to look at how their resolutions could propose non-gendered advertisements, fix education in their country to put men and

women at equal standing, or have women in governmental positions. I would wholeheartedly recommend that this issue is approached with the nuance necessary – prejudices do not disappear overnight. Instead, let's work towards a world where in day to day life, women are able to have the same opportunities and quality of life as their male counterparts.

- **Indigenous Groups:** For far too long, indigenous peoples have not been given the rights they are entitled to and have been exploited and abandoned by governments. Indigenous peoples have been threatened by growing industrialization, lost their lands and resources, and been at risk for their food production due to climate change affecting natural wildlife. Additionally, indigenous groups are often discriminated against due to differing social traditions or governmental strife and lack political representation and access to social services. On top of all of this, indigenous people have worse health, higher mortality, and higher child imprisonment, showing how they are often neglected in governmental systems.

I implore delegates to make some change on this issue during this conference. Let's ask ourselves how we can better promise indigenous people's political representation, how we can ease tensions between them and their governments, how to improve literacy rates amongst indigenous people (SDG Goal 4), and how indigenous women specifically are in danger of violent crimes. Resolutions on the issue could also acknowledge economic development and the ensuring of healthcare services to these groups.

- **Rehabilitation of Past Offenders:** Worldwide, we have a problem with our criminal justice systems and the way we treat prisoners. Instead of enacting a system where people come out of imprisonment changed for the better, we have made prison a purgatory, where people come out more scarred and unreformed. Not having any other option, many offenders go back to their past crime, especially if it was drug using or low-risk crimes (ex. theft, forgery, money laundering, etc) and end up back in the system. This puts more criminals into already overcrowded prisons and keeps the system of resentment going. Therefore, I urge our delegates to put in systems for comprehensive rehabilitation, where education and job training is provided in order to ensure job opportunities out of prison. Resolutions that fully look at prison reform and changes in policing should be looked at and noted by delegates.

4. Special Political and Decolonization

- **Terrorism and Destabilization in Sahel:** In recent years, the Sahel in Africa has become a

breeding ground for corruption, governmental instability, and terrorism attacks. Such groups as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab have become rampant in the area, utilizing fear tactics and weapons to threaten the entire region. For resolutions targeting this topic, I recommend getting a sense of all the nuances of the conflict and how to utilize specific factors to calm the instability. For example, resolutions could focus on limiting propaganda in the area, opening up more free and fair elections in destabilizing countries such as Mali, putting more governmental investment into economic development, making legislation that could outline where funding should go to, support for security missions, and putting in more peacekeepers to the area (even though peacekeepers necessitate reform as well). Focus on small steps that could help ease the problem; this can go a lot longer than a big step that ultimately fails.

- **Neocolonialism:** Even though we may think colonization has ended, colonialism continues to strangle weaker economies by keeping them subservient to an economic powerhouse. Developed economies are able to easily take advantage of developing economies and influence them culturally and politically in that vein. For example, Sino-African economic relations often take advantage of looser environmental standards and weaker labor practices, and Chinese businesses have even overtaken business to the point where they are more common than local firms. France, the USA, South Korea, and MNCs (multinational corporations) have also taken advantage of many African countries and left their people weaker than before. For resolutions combating this problem, I'd like to see preference of local corporations and investment into those businesses and legislation for countries coming into Africa to cooperate with state governments and serve to help and uplift the community. And a reminder: solutions that are long-lasting and set a precedent for other countries to reverse neocolonialism is what will always work best.
- **Cooperation for Outer Space:** Outer space is a completely new frontier for the global community in terms of cooperation, legal precedents, and economic opportunity. However, companies have begun to look at resource exploitation in space, along with how legal jurisdictions apply to earthly jurisdiction. It is integral for resolutions discussing expansion into space to discuss the nuances of cooperation and addressing the countries who are not participating in space exploration. Additionally, an ethical standard may be helpful to establish for resource extraction and setting up an organization in the future who can provide for limitations and legal boundaries as problems arise is necessary. I urge delegates to look at this issue closely, especially as we continue to explore such a new frontier - setting up guidelines early on allows countries to take advantage of new discoveries without letting greed get the best of them.