



SMUN 2024
DELEGATE
PROSPECTUS



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SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Esteemed Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, it is my greatest honour to welcome you to Singapore Model United Nations 2024, and my utmost pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you as we embark on this extraordinary journey of diplomacy and discovery.

Singapore Model United Nations has a rich history as a beacon of academic exchange, providing a platform for bright minds from diverse backgrounds to speak on pressing issues. This year's conference theme, "Reshaping the World Order: Challenges and Opportunities," encapsulates our collective endeavour as we are increasingly confronted with profound shifts in geopolitical dynamics. From technological advancements to humanitarian crises and political unrest, the challenges we face are as diverse as they are complex. Yet, amidst these challenges lie unparalleled opportunities for collaboration and progress; the duty is hence thrust upon us, as global citizens, to seize these opportunities and chart a course towards a more just, sustainable, and prosperous world.

Throughout the conference, I encourage you to explore the myriad ways in which we can collectively reshape the world order for the betterment of all. As delegates, you possess the power to drive meaningful change through your ideas, your actions, and your unwavering commitment to dialogue and cooperation. I hope you will take this opportunity to engage in rigorous debates, negotiate with diplomacy and tact, and craft thoughtful solutions.



SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

As we convene in the vibrant city-state of Singapore, renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, economic robustness, and commitment to sustainability, let us draw inspiration from its spirit of resilience and innovation. It is my hope that this conference catalyses meaningful change and leaves an indelible mark on us when we return to our respective communities.

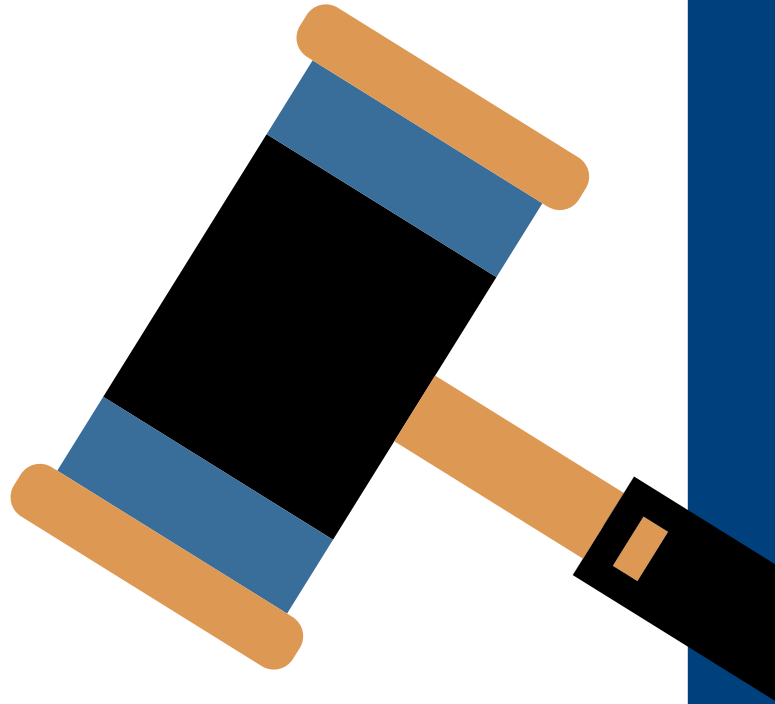
In closing, I wish you all a memorable and enriching experience at Singapore Model United Nations 2024. May you seize this opportunity to forge lasting friendships, expand your horizons, and emerge as empowered leaders poised to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

Warmest regards,

Jason Ong Han Meng (Mr.)
Secretary-General
Singapore Model United Nations 2024



01



ABOUT SMUN



What is Model United Nations?

A Model United Nations (MUN) is a conference which involves students from pre-university and college-level institutions negotiating and formulating solutions to global problems. The topics discussed are issues pertinent in current affairs and international relations which requires multilateral diplomacy and cooperation to be resolved. Student participants will research on, and simulate various states or non-state actors (such as Non-Governmental Organisations) in bringing their individual agendas to the discussion with the goal of negotiating a solution that is agreeable to the interests of the majority.

History of Singapore Model United Nations

Singapore Model United Nations, or SMUN, prides itself as being one of most established Model UNs in the Singaporean circuit, and will be going into its 21st iteration in 2024. Through building upon the successes of our past 20 conferences, we have managed to amass approximately 500 participants in attendance in recent years. We have continually received excellent reviews from our participants, with special mention to our efficiency, hospitality and academic standards. SMUN has indeed distinguished itself from other MUN conferences in the region with its organisational and academic excellence. As a testament to the academic capabilities of the SMUN staff, the delegation led by SMUN Secretariat members achieved the 'Best Group Delegation Award' at Citi-Pan Asia Model United Nations 2017, hosted in Taipei City. Our staff members had also participated and won awards in the Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference 2017, with others having staffed other prestigious international conferences such as Harvard Model United Nations 2018, which is hosted by Harvard University and frequently touted as the Olympics of MUN.



The Organiser: NUS Political Science Society

SMUN is the National University of Singapore (NUS) Political Science Society's (PSSoc) flagship event. NUS PSSOC, founded in 1967, aims to help local and international students remain abreast of current affairs. Apart from Singapore Model United Nations, NUS PSSOC also organises multiple other events, such as forums and dialogues with high-profile individuals in the diplomatic and political spheres. NUS PSSOC played a crucial role in establishing Singapore Globalist, an online international affairs publication that is part of the Global21 network of student-run international affairs magazines.

Host University: National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) has been consistently ranked top in Asia, as well as ranked among the top universities in the world. Hosting the 2024 iteration of SMUN in NUS enables SMUN's participants to experience not only world-class education infrastructure, but also engage with some of Asia's brightest minds within NUS's vibrant campus community.

Designed for the entire NUS community, on-campus facilities are strategically integrated and highly accessible through internal shuttle buses. An educational hub complete with residential spaces, teaching facilities and study clusters, NUS has created a lively intellectual, social and cultural environment that distinguishes the University through excellence in learning and student engagement.

Conference venues are complete with amenities that enhance the experience of the user, rendering it more conducive for conference sessions to take place. All venues are equipped with air-conditioning and are conveniently located near study areas for delegates to interact and communicate.





02


ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Delegates and faculty advisors may opt for on-campus accommodations during the duration of the conference. The accommodations are available for both local (Singaporeans or those residing in Singapore) and international conference attendees, but priority will be accorded to international attendees in the event of over-subscription.

The information for on-campus accommodations is as follows:

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| Total Stay Duration | 5 days, 4 nights | |
| Check-in | 3 June 2024, Monday, 1500 hrs SGT (UTC +8)* | |
| Check-out | 7 June 2024, Friday, 0830 hrs SGT (UTC +8)* | |
| Location | Ridge View Residential College @ National University of Singapore (25 Lower Kent Ridge Rd, Singapore 119081) | |
| Room Type | Single-bed, fully air-conditioned | |
| Accommodation Rates (Full Duration) | International Delegate | SGD \$320 |
| | Local Delegates | SGD \$350 |
| | Faculty Advisors | SGD \$400 |

**Check-in and check-out timings are subject to change. International delegates or faculty advisors staying in Singapore beyond these dates must arrange their own accommodations.*



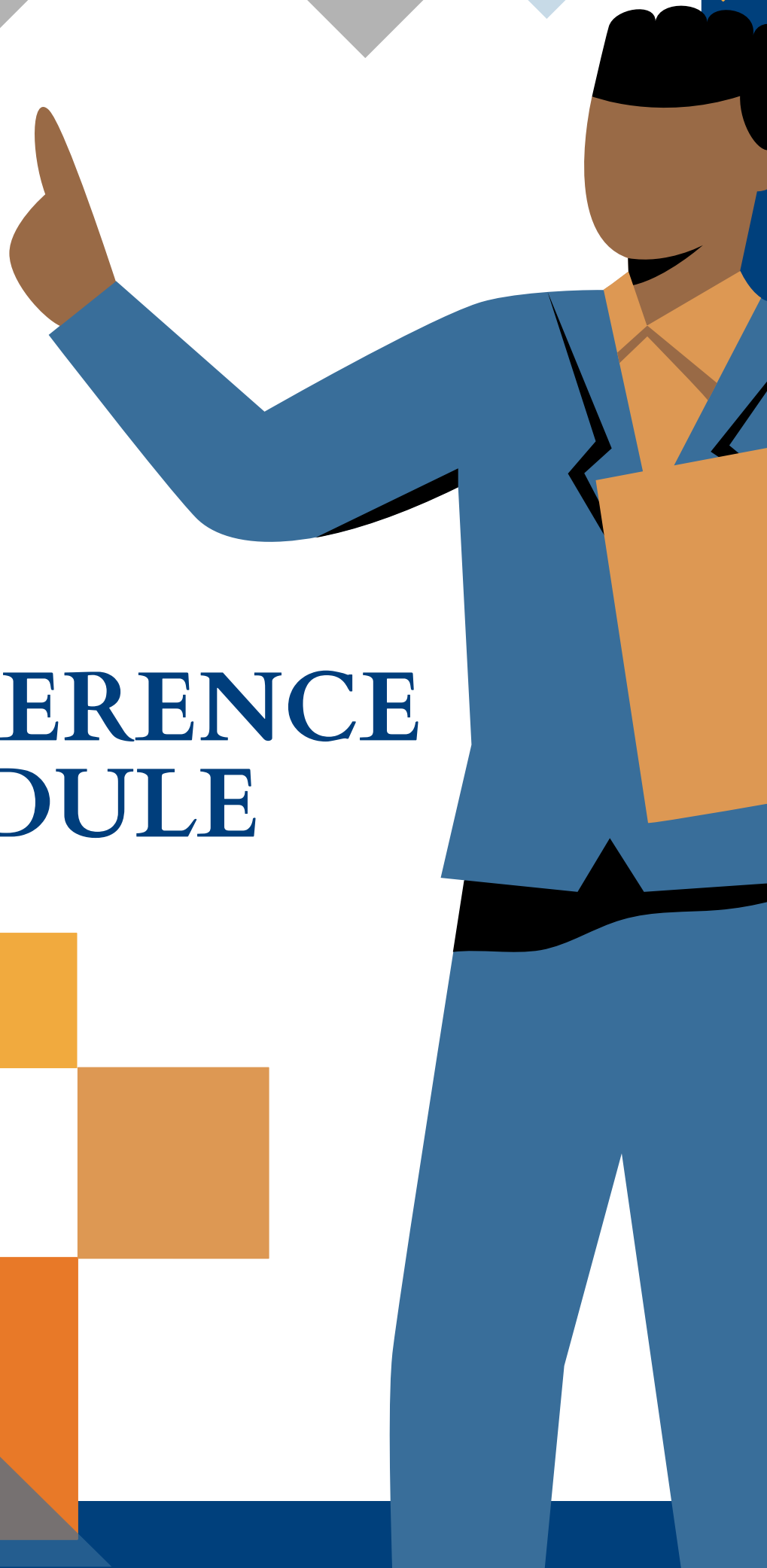
Each room accommodates only one delegate or faculty advisor. Residents may access the common facilities such as washrooms, showers and laundry machines. The residences are within walking distance of other recreational facilities, such as food establishments and study spaces. Internal shuttle bus services will also be available between 0715 hrs and 2300 hrs to ferry delegates across the campus.

Delegates or faculty advisors who wish to opt for on-campus accommodations may indicate their interest in the appropriate sections when filling in the registration form. All queries regarding accommodations may be directed to our Liaisons Directors, Ong Qian Lin (Ms.) and Shanice Yee (Ms.), by email via liaisons@singaporemun.org.



03

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



Day 1 (4th June 2024) Tuesday

| | Group A | Group B |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 0800 - 0900 | Registration | |
| 0900 - 1130 | Opening Ceremony | |
| 1130 - 1200 | Movement to Council Venues | |
| 1200 - 1300 | Lunch | Council Session 1 |
| 1300 - 1400 | Council Session 1 | Lunch |
| 1400 - 1600 | | Council Session 1 |
| 1600 - 1615 | Tea Break | |
| 1615 - 1830 | Council Session 2 | |

Day 2 (5th June 2024) Wednesday

| | Group A | Group B |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0900 - 1200 | Council Session 3 | |
| 1200 - 1300 | Council Session 4 | Lunch |
| 1300 - 1400 | Lunch | Council Session 4 |
| 1400 - 1500 | Council Session 4 | |
| 1500 - 1515 | Tea Break | |
| 1515 - 1800 | Council Session 5 | |

Day 3 (6th June 2024) Thursday

| | Group A | Group B |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0900 - 1200 | Council Session 6 | |
| 1200 - 1300 | Lunch | Council Session 7 |
| 1300 - 1400 | Council Session 7 | Lunch |
| 1400 - 1615 | | Council Session 7 |
| 1615 - 1630 | Tea Break | |
| 1630 - 1830 | Council Session 8 | |
| 1830 - 2200 | Socials | |

Day 4 (7th June 2024) Friday

| | Group A | Group B |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0900 - 1130 | Council Session 9 | Council Session 9 |
| 1130 - 1230 | Lunch | |
| 1230 - 1400 | Council Session 9 | Lunch |
| 1400 - 1650 | Closing Ceremony | |

Socials

SMUN not only offers you the opportunity to be involved in rigorous debate on pressing world issues, but also ensures that you enjoy their conference experience both during and after council sessions. SMUN traditionally organises a Socials event in the evening, before the last day of the conference, to allow for the diverse crowd of international and local delegates to mingle with each other and forge meaningful friendships.

At SMUN 2024 Socials, delegates can look forward to an invigorating experience bonding with their council mates, through various exciting activities such as carnival booths, free flow live stations, performances, game shows and more! Upon successful registration for the conference, all delegates and faculty advisors are invited to participate in Socials at no extra cost. You will enjoy a fun-filled evening not to be missed.



04

HOW TO REGISTER





How to Register

1. Access the Singapore Model United Nations website at <https://www.singaporemun.org/>
2. Click on “Registrations” → “Delegates”.
3. Fill in the registration form with the appropriate information. Do double check your entry before submitting.
4. After submitting the registration form, we will email you within 3 - 5 working days to confirm that we have received your form as well as provide further payment instructions.
5. Once payment has been made and verified, we will send you an e-receipt to confirm your registration.
6. Kindly await your council and country/portfolio allocations, which will be released by **11 May 2024**. Please note that council and country/portfolio allocations will be withheld until payment is made and verified by the SMUN Secretariat.

Eligibility

SMUN 2024 will be accepting both local and international delegates and faculty advisors to partake in our conference. All delegates must be between the ages of 15 and 25 (within the calendar year) and formally matriculated in an education institute (e.g., secondary school, junior college, university) to be eligible. Local delegates in their gap year (e.g., awaiting university semester to begin, recently graduated) or currently serving their National Service are also eligible for the conference.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, you may check your eligibility status by emailing our Deputy Secretary-General (Administration), Darius Lee (Mr.), via administration@singaporemun.org.

SMUN 2024 Registration Fees (Per Pax)

| | Early Registration (3 February - 10 March 2024) | Regular Registration (11 March - 31 March 2024) | Late Registration (1 April - 7 April 2024) | NUS Student Rate |
|------------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| Delegates | SGD \$130 | SGD \$150 | SGD \$170 | SGD \$80 |
| Faculty Advisors | SGD \$50 | | | |


For SMUN 2024, we will be accepting PayNow and bank transfers as the only payment methods. Singapore schools or institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Education may opt for MOE-IFAAS as a payment option. To facilitate timely release of council and country/portfolio allocations, registrants are advised to make payment as soon as possible, in accordance with the stipulated deadline in emails sent.

SIGN-UP OPTION 1: INDEPENDENT DELEGATE (SOLO DELEGATE)

Individuals who are interested to participate in SMUN 2024 as a delegate may follow the registration processes outlined above and make payment accordingly.

SIGN-UP OPTION 2: SCHOOL/INSTITUTION DELEGATIONS

Delegates may sign-up through their schools or institutions. Invitations will be sent to all Singapore and international schools and institutions once the registration phases open. If your school did not receive an invitation, you may request for a formal email invitation from our Liaisons department by emailing liaisons@singaporemun.org.



Each school/institution delegation must contain a minimum of 5 delegates, and a maximum of 20 delegates. Schools or institutions wishing to send more than 20 delegates must register more than 1 delegation. All school/institution delegations must be endorsed by the school/institution, and led by an appointed head delegate and teacher/faculty member in-charge, who will liaise with the SMUN Secretariat on behalf of their delegation. The head delegate must also fill in the registration form on behalf of his/her delegation, and fill in the required details of every single member of the delegation. A “Best School Delegation” award will be handed out to the delegation with the most outstanding performing delegates and presented during the Closing Ceremony.

Payment must be made by either the head delegate or the school/institution in a single transaction on behalf of the entire delegation via the appropriate payment methods. An e-invoice will be issued via email to the head delegate, along with payment instructions. Singapore schools or institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Education may opt for MOE-IFAAS as a payment option by providing their sub-business unit code at the end of the registration form. An e-invoice will be issued through the vendors@gov portal with a credit term of 30 days.

SIGN-UP OPTION 3: FACULTY ADVISORS

Faculty advisors refer to all accompanying teachers and/or mentors of participating school/institution delegations. Registered faculty advisors will be issued with a lanyard granting admission to all council venues at all times of the conference. Faculty advisors may observe conference and council proceedings, but may not intervene in such proceedings. Faculty advisors will have access to the catered lunch buffets and be able to attend the Socials event.



SIGN-UP OPTION 4: INDEPENDENT DELEGATIONS

Delegates may opt to sign up in delegations on their own accord. Members of independent delegations do not need to be affiliated (e.g., same school). Each independent delegation must contain a minimum of 5 delegates, and a maximum of 20 delegates. A head delegate must be appointed within each independent delegation, who will liaise with the SMUN Secretariat on behalf of their delegation. The head delegate must also fill in the registration form on behalf of his/her delegation, and fill in the required details of every single member of the delegation.

Payment must be made by the head delegate in a single transaction on behalf of the entire delegation via the appropriate payment methods.

For all registration-related queries, please email our Liaisons Directors, Ong Qian Lin (Ms.) and Shanice Yee (Ms.), via liaisons@singaporemun.org. For all finance-related queries, please email our Finance Directors, Annika Liu (Ms.) and Desiree Wee (Ms.), via finance@singaporemun.org.

05



COUNCILS AND TOPICS

Councils and Topics

| Council | Topic 1 | Topic 2 |
|--|--|--|
| General Councils | | |
| Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (SPECPOL) | The Question of the Legality of Outer Space Mining | The Question of Reviewing Treaties on Nuclear Proliferation |
| United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) | The Question of Managing Marine Mineral Resources | The Question of Ecosystem-based Adaptation |
| World Health Assembly (WHA) | The Question of AI Regulation in Healthcare | The Question of Combating Increased Vaccine Scepticism |
| Regional Bodies | | |
| African Union (AU) | The Question of Burkina Faso's Internal Situation | The Question of Foreign Intervention in Regional Security Issues |
| Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) | The Question of Regional Economic Recovery | The Question of Safeguarding Indigenous Rights |



| Council | Topic 1 | Topic 2 |
|--|---|--|
| European Council (EUCO) | The Question of Reasserting European Unity | The Question of a Coordinated Response to the Migrant Crisis |
| Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) | The Question of Promoting Economic Development | The Question of Digitising Public Communications and Services |
| Specialised Councils | | |
| BRICS+ | The Question of Expanding BRICS+ | The Question of deDollarisation in the Global Economy |
| Legislative Assembly of Singapore (LAS) | The Question of Merger with Malaya | The Question of Trade Unions and Worker Strikes |
| United Nations Security Council (UNSC) | The Question of the Cyprus Issue | The Question of the Right to Self-determination |
| Historical Joint Cabinet Crisis (JCC) | "La Violencia" | |

Special Political and Decolonisation Committee

Space, the final frontier. So many questions to answer, yet so little time. In today's global order, the legacy of big-power rivalry has remained and even expanded to new horizons of competition, including outer space. The advancement of science and technology has drawn new claims for untapped outer space resources. Yet, exploring new and underregulated grounds poses questions of ethics and legality. To what extent can space exploration and mining of resources be condoned? What kinds of regulations should be put in place? With the rise of private actors, how can countries ensure a fair share of space exploration? Addressing this question becomes crucial as ambiguous wording and a lack of foresight plague the current outer space treaties, giving rise to a myriad of misinterpretations by bad actors.

“You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have some kind of nuclear weapon.” ~Frank Zappa

It seems that everyone wants to be a country now? This security dilemma between major powers has yet to be resolved, and the question of a nuclear armageddon still weighs heavily on the world. To what extent should countries comply with treaties, given their national interests? How should the committee woo new countries into signing a moratorium on testing? What changes can be made to ensure that the treaties are truly future-proof? These questions still loom heavily, and it's anyone's game.

Whether it be about space mining or nuclear weapons, it's a game of time. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee emerged to focus on forwarding cooperation in specific areas, including special political missions, atomic-related reviews, and the peaceful uses of outer space. Will you be able to race the clock and come to a decision? Or will the world be heralded into a new age, unprepared?



Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (cont.)

The Question of the Legality of Outer Space Mining

The Outer Space Treaty was created and subsequently ratified by the international community in 1961. This agreement laid down the fundamental principles governing the peaceful usage of outer space.

However, in recent years, due to the ineffectiveness of treaties concerning specific bodies such as the Moon and asteroids, countries have seen this as an avenue to begin planning harvesting the potential resources that come on these celestial bodies. It may be necessary to reconsider existing treaties and look to find a solution that creates an equitable distribution of the aforementioned resources.

The Question of Reviewing Treaties on Nuclear Proliferation

On 2nd November 2023, the Russian Federation enacted laws that withdrew its ratification of the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty). This move was stated to be mirroring the United States' stance on nuclear weapons, as the United States has yet to ratify the treaty even though they are signatories on the matter.

The withdrawal, coupled with the tensions in Russia and Ukraine, is expected to amplify nuclear testing in the surrounding regions. It will hence be necessary to navigate existing agreements and examine whether it is possible to establish a pause on the currently alarming development of nuclear power.



United Nations Environment Assembly

Established in 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly, UNEA serves as a testament to our commitment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For more than a decade, the assembly convenes biennially to address pressing environmental challenges. Amassing 193 member states, UNEA stands as the highest-level decision-making body for all concerns related to the environment.

The rapid transition towards renewable energy has increased the demand for mineral resources. The ocean possesses tremendous potential in resolving the climate crisis with its sizable amount of mineral resources below its surfaces. However, exploitation of such products may cause irreversible harm to the ecosystem and marine environment. On one side of the spectrum is a renewable, low-carbon future. Whereas on the other end is the preservation of marine biodiversity, a Common Heritage of Mankind.

Besides that, as we combat the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, it is urged for a cross-sectoral approach to build a sustainable future. The highly interlinked nature of these three crises depicts the issue at hand: Ecosystem-based adaptations, the use of ecosystems and biodiversity to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. As ecological threats rarely happen within the administrative boundaries of a state, it is crucial to consider how states can cooperate in a way which mirrors the urgency of an imminent climate breakdown.

Climate crises, economic impacts, social implications, political disruptions - there has to be a trade-off made. Our future may very well lie in your hands.



United Nations Environment Assembly (cont.)

The Question of Managing Marine Mineral Resources

The accelerated global transition towards renewable energy has resulted in a significant increase in projected mineral usage, which is essential in supporting this pivot. Given recent discoveries of seabed deposits, as well as the increasingly apparent limitations of terrestrial mining, the deep sea and its vast resources offer immense potential to resolve our climate crisis. Yet, the scramble for minerals under the sea may lead to unprecedented impacts on marine biodiversity, the effects of which we can yet measure.

Hence, as the highest-level decision-making body on matters relating to the environment, whether the UNEA can develop effective frameworks to safeguard the common heritage of mankind (CHM) will be pivotal in determining whether we can respond to the climate crisis in a just, sustainable and equitable manner.

The Question of Ecosystem-based Adaptation

The triple planetary crisis characterised by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution underscores the interlinked nature of the most pressing environmental issues faced by humanity, necessitating a holistic approach to build a liveable future. Consequently, ecosystem-based adaptation – utilising nature and ecosystems – is a vital solution to alleviate the impacts of climate change on communities, while safeguarding the biosphere we depend on.

Given the disastrous impacts climate change has had on human wellbeing, it is critical for the UNEA to build upon the momentum created by the landmark 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and extend its discussion into how biodiversity and nature-centric solutions can be implemented to protect both people and our planet, enhancing states' adaptive capacities and transboundary cooperation to address cross-border ecological threats.



World Health Assembly

Why are there existing gaps in global healthcare systems? What do inequities look like on the ground? Where should global policies and frameworks come into place? When will the next healthcare crisis strike? Who should join the World Health Organisation (WHO) in making key decisions? How does progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals affect individual welfare? These are questions that, for the past 76 years, countries have convened at the WHA to discuss each year.

Being the frontier of international policy making in healthcare, the WHO acts as a compass for healthcare institutions in a fast-changing global ecosystem. Hence, as the supreme decision-making body of the WHO, the WHA seeks to provide yardsticks for global actors in responding to pressing questions of today. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare systems, the WHA is faced increasingly with the mammoth task of addressing the uncertainties — and assets — brought about by the usage of AI. The WHA thus treads a fine line in steering international action towards regulatory policies while crafting roadmaps for further development.

While we look toward issues of the future, the WHA continues to tackle the after-effects of past events as deep-rooted issues surfaced during the pandemic still plague our society today. Anti-vaccine movements founded then continue to gain traction worldwide, presenting communities polarised for a multitude of factors. To that end, the WHA acts as a node in rallying global actors, seeking to build a future-ready, undivided international community in the face of prospective healthcare crises.

As we pore over these issues at SMUN 2024, delegates should look forward to slightly more than just conventional Model UN discourse, and towards unwrapping layers of nuance and dynamics in the WHA at SMUN 2024.



World Health Assembly (cont.)

The Question of AI Regulation in Healthcare

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new frontier for technological innovations. Vaccine development, data administration and disease diagnosis are only the tip of the iceberg of the massive improvements to productivity in the healthcare sector that AI yields. While this massive boost will indubitably improve healthcare, there are fears that the nascence of AI, a lack of understanding of its shortcomings and threatening patient's privacy may result in decreased safety and confidence in healthcare systems. There are also concerns that it may widen the inequities found in healthcare systems between developing and developed countries and potentially undermine efforts to improve the environment. To that extent, regulation that governs the use of AI and its development is key to unlocking its potential while negating its pitfalls. As the world's foremost coordinator of public health policy, it is up to the WHA to deliberate on this issue.

The Question of Combating Increased Vaccine Scepticism

In 2024, the world may have recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic, but the anti-vaccination movements remain. With increased global migration and global warming, the likelihood of a future pandemic has never been higher. With a politically powerful anti-vaccination movement, the threat of a botched vaccination operation against a future pandemic has never been more apparent, and the re-emergence of once-extinct diseases has never been more dangerous. As such, it is up to the WHA, which once brought together nations on the brink of starting another world war to vaccinate the world, to formulate a public policy framework that addresses the messaging presented by the groups, the lack of international cooperation and the lack of trust in key government institutions.



African Union

The African Union (AU) was established in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which spanned from 1963 to 1999. Established to promote the unity and solidarity of African countries within the continent, the African Union stands strongly for independence. It aims to protect the rights of the African people and to foster international cooperation and coordination among its member states to overcome the diversity of challenges in the present day.

Since its humble beginnings as the OAU in the 1960s, the AU has experienced substantial growth in both its membership and influence, positioning the AU as a prospective economic powerhouse and a powerful player in the regional and global stage.

However, amidst its ascent, the AU faces escalating regional challenges, such as heightened political stability, delineated by persistent civil wars and military coups. The collapse of several states and overhauling of democratic institutions have undermined the AU's pursuit of democracy within the region. The predicament in Africa has been further exacerbated with issues such as poverty, famine, and insufficient access to clean water, bringing about concern for the African standard of living. This raises crucial questions about the AU's ability to effectively deal with the problems faced by countries in the continent, and fulfilment of its mandate as a regional body.

Will the African Union shape a brighter future for its members within the continent? Only time will tell.



African Union (cont.)

The Question of Burkina Faso's Internal Situation

Burkina Faso lies in a state of abject instability. It remains plagued by persistent violent extremism – an issue successive military juntas have failed to address, delaying the restoration of a constitutional order. Considering the potentially deleterious effects a state collapse would have on regional peace and stability, it is crucial for the African Union to step in. Beyond strengthening Burkina Faso's internal response and capacities, the AU must enhance regional cooperation to create the foundations of a sustained peace.

Whether the AU is able to strike an equilibrium between its proposed doctrine of non-indifference and state sovereignty will serve as a barometer of its effectiveness, and a reminder of its potential as the continent grapples with further political upheaval.

The Question of Foreign Intervention in Regional Security Issues

The rise in extra-continental intervention and activism by sub-regional organisations has exposed the insufficiencies of Africa's security architecture in addressing pertinent security issues within the AU. The lack of proper frameworks augments the potential for such foreign involvement to further divide the region and undermine Pan-African solidarity.

While it is crucial for the AU to establish key principles regarding foreign intervention, growing external security dependencies and the privatisation of foreign intervention have further complicated this endeavour. Ultimately, debate must consider notions of state sovereignty and the patterns of interaction set with external powers in order to truly enhance collective security.



Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

Established in 2011 as a response to long-standing American hegemony in the Americas through the Declaration of Caracas, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a regional bloc comprising 33 Member States seeking to improve regional integration and cooperation. Despite criticisms and roadblocks, such as in the Bolsonaro administration's withdrawal of Brazil from CELAC in 2020, citing 'overly leftist' and 'anti-democratic' sentiment before rejoining under the Lula administration in 2022, CELAC has nevertheless served an important role in establishing Latin American and Caribbean states as a region open to dialogue through the facilitation of interactions between Member States and extra-regional governments.

CELAC's six organs include the Summit of Heads of State and Government, which sets the general direction of the Community's work, while the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopts resolutions to implement and act upon the goals set out by the Summit. At this convening of CELAC's Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, despite differing stances on these contentious topics, Ministers will be tasked with reaching a consensus for vital action, whether through cooperation, compromise, or coercion. CELAC has reached a consensus before, but whether it will once more, lies in Ministers' hands.

The Question of Regional Economic Recovery

Average economic growth in Latin America this decade is projected at 0.8% – less than half that of the 1980s, in the aftermath of the Debt Crisis. The current economic slowdown may be attributed to a multitude of reasons, including slow post-pandemic job recovery, the Russia-Ukraine war's effect on commodity markets, and the tightening of monetary policy among wealthier nations to curb inflation.



Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (cont.)

At present, recovery strategies among Latin American states remain fragmented, and priorities vary between states with different economic situations, necessitating agenda-setting at a regional level for a unified way forward. It remains to be seen, therefore, if CELAC can harness and integrate the vast under-utilised economic potential of the region without magnifying divisions further.

The Question of Safeguarding Indigenous Rights

Natural features in Latin America such as the Yucatan Peninsula and the Andes have long been the cradles of civilisation, giving rise to the Mayans and Norte Chico. Today, they remain home to countless indigenous communities and tribes, though this status quo is more threatened than ever. The pursuit of economic development in the region has encroached upon indigenous interests increasingly often, yet indigenous communities are often powerless to resist.

A lack of transparent and substantive consultation and consent mechanisms abets abject disregard for indigenous interests; meanwhile, seeking legal redress remains unviable to most indigenous people, owing to low levels of literacy and the absence of formal protections for these communities. States should endeavour to uphold CELAC's principles of human rights and the rule of law where individual governments have failed indigenous communities, and foster intergovernmental cooperation in advancing their social interests.



European Council

“I love Europe, but I loathe the European Union.”

~ Nigel Farage, British Eurosceptic

Europe is under attack. To its East, a brutal war of attrition pits an autocratic state set on swallowing its smaller, weaker neighbour against the political unity of Europe. To its South, those who seek out the shores of the Old Continent in search of new livelihoods are met with border patrols, fences of iron, and an unyielding populace. And in its very heart, a tsunami of Euroscepticism, nativism and xenophobia threatens the very foundational pillars of the EU.

Standing between this tsunami and the EU is the European Council, its “supreme political authority”, where 27 national leaders vociferously defend their interests, set the very agenda through which the EU ameliorates its principal predicaments, and decide the very future of Europe.

The Question of Reasserting European Unity

Heralding the end of the Cold War, the EU rose out of the ashes of a tumultuous past, its roots entwined in the soil of shared dreams, aspirations, and a collective yearning for a prosperous Europe. Nations, once divided by history’s cruel hand, now find themselves at the crossroads of destiny.

A European federation, once championed by the proponents of European integration, now seems unreachable — the bellicose rhetoric of Eurosceptics resounds far and wide. Against the waning popularity of the EU, EUCO must adapt before the damage to European unity becomes irrevocable.



European Council (cont.)

The Question of a Coordinated Response to the Migrant Crisis

A spectre is haunting Europe: the spectre of irregular migration. All the restraints of insular actors — restricted asylum, border enforcement, forced deportation — have been employed to exorcise this spectre.

The shadow of the 2015 migrant crisis still looms over the EU amidst an increasingly volatile and nationalist landscape. As nations continue to bear the brunt of illegal migration, the clock is ticking for the EUCO to coordinate a response, lest history repeat itself.



Pacific Islands Forum

“Haggling over anodyne communiqués”. That is the sentiment of analysts and observers towards the Pacific Islands Forum. Yet, The Pacific Islands Forum serves as the only medium for Oceania-based countries to enhance cooperation among themselves to facilitate the economic and social well-being of their people by combating the pressing issues its littoral island states face.

With their vast exclusive economic zones, spanning large parts of the Pacific Ocean, the Pacific Islands could become critical partners as countries look to the oceans for deep-sea minerals. Yet, this potential is not realised due to little to no industrial, consumer or investment activity among member states. With the United States and China looking for a region free of influence, what better time to grow potential into possibility than the present?

Digitising the Pacific Regions seems to be a dream, for the low internet penetration and digital literacy levels mandating specialised approaches to digitisation across the Pacific Islands. Looking ahead, to maintain public trust and security, it is crucial for states to implement robust protections against cyber threats and personal data breaches, thereby preventing digital systems from becoming vulnerable targets for malicious actors. With digitalisation and economic growth going hand-in-hand, digitisation is crucial for the Pacific Islands, but doing so in a way that minimises foreign political influence serves as an insurmountable barrier.

Delegates are expected to balance compromising and negotiating as a bloc along with pushing for their own national interests. Carpe diem, delegates - will you harbour an era of peace and prosperity to the Pacific Islands, or will they succumb to the depths of the Pacific Ocean at SMUN 2024? Acta, non verba!



Pacific Islands Forum (cont.)

The Question of Promoting Economic Development

Across the Pacific islands, economic activity primarily revolves around a select few trades including fishing and tourism. The absence of high-quality, diversified economic opportunity precludes the positive feedback loop driven by economic growth, leaving governments unable to fund social and infrastructure spending. Economic stimulus, if any, is often provided by wealthier neighbours.

Economic dependence on foreign partners does not only restrict States' autonomy in setting out economic policies – States' defence and foreign policy alignments can also be swayed by creditors' whims. It is thus imperative that states utilise the PIF as a platform for collective decision-making regarding the economic future of the region, and stage a united front in negotiations with external partners amidst mounting diplomatic pressure.

The Question of Digitising Public Communications and Services

Faced with rising sea levels, Pacific island leaders have looked to digitise their government and consular services, which would allow administrative functions to be maintained without a physical presence. Notably, however, disparities in internet penetration and digital literacy necessitate differentiated approaches to digitisation across the region, while the linguistic and cultural diversity of Pacific islanders must be accommodated thoughtfully to ensure inclusivity.

Moving forward, states must also implement adequate safeguards against threats such as cyberattacks and the leakage of sensitive personal data in order to maintain public trust, and prevent digital systems from becoming a known single point of vulnerability to malicious actors. Given these considerations, the PIF must prove its value as a regional platform, consolidating current efforts while charting a long-term collective vision for the Blue Pacific Continent.





BRICS+

Introducing delegates to the BRICS+ council, one where you shall take on the task of defining the alliance's true role in the international arena.


A supranational governmental organisation? A group of states brought together, characterised by contested multilateralism? A catalyst for global South-South cooperation? A showdown with the US?

With the ascent of a multipolar world, traditional international organisations have become less fit-for-purpose, hence facing diminishing relevance. In response, BRICS+ has emerged as an informal alliance to champion advancement for emerging economies and developing nations. Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the alliance's influential members offer compelling benefits, drawing many countries to seek membership as a strategic lever for deeper entrenchment into the global economy.

Notwithstanding, challenges loom large. The 2008 financial crisis, alongside unstable economic performance following the onset of the pandemic, and general pessimism regarding the impartiality of Bretton Woods Institutions from the global South, all call into question the viability of the US dollar retaining its status as the most prominent reserve currency in international transactions. Evident through the rise of regional development banks and regional financing agreements among the members in the alliance, the establishment of a common currency to challenge the US dollar's hegemony remains a quintessential question.

From Arria Formula meetings to other specialised debate procedures, delegates can expect to engage themselves in robust discourse, and tread across the murky waters of geopolitics and macroeconomics. That being said, while understanding the theoretical nuances within this complex topic is critical, the true test lies in debating about them in a real-life setting, at SMUN 2024.





BRICS+ (cont.)

The Question of Expanding BRICS+

For the past few decades, the United States has been the undisputed global superpower, utilising its power to push its own agenda around the world. To mitigate the effects of the United State's influence in these regions, the foremost regional powers in said regions met together for the first time in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009. 15 years and 14 summits later, the initial BRIC coalition expanded by seven member states, resulting in the name BRICS+. However, with a group as opinionated and divergent on foreign policy matters, the quest to expand its ranks becomes a daunting task. This is especially apparent when considering issues, like membership criteria, newcomer incentives, among others. Thus, the BRICS+ alliance will have to decide how the organisation will be shaped in the coming years and how it will achieve its long-stated goal of creating a sustainable multi-polar world order.

The Question of deDollarisation in the Global Economy

Since the end of the second World War, the US dollar has been the default global currency, used in many nation's reserves and most international transactions. However, in an era of unprecedented instability, many countries agree on one thing: their reliance on the US dollar has to end. As the most significant diplomatic bloc representing such countries, BRICS+ faces an uphill challenge of decoupling the global economy from the US dollar, be it through a common currency, non-US dollar denominated trade deals or other means. Will they be able to successfully accomplish their goal, or would they wreck their economies and the bloc's tenuous unity by trying?



Legislative Assembly of Singapore

On 2 June 1955, the Legislative Assembly of Singapore (LAS) became Singapore's unicameral legislature, moving the country further towards independence. Moreover, reforms in 1958 granted Singaporeans universal suffrage and full self-governance, with the LAS now governing most internal affairs. In 1959, amid political violence and industrial disputes, the PAP's Lee Kuan Yew led his anti-colonial coalition to a landslide election victory, successfully courting both Chinese and English-educated voters. However, tensions eventually arose as Lee's moderates and trade unionist Lim Chin Siong's leftists clashed over ideology and direction. Eventually, Lee called a motion of confidence in his premiership, forcing lawmakers to take sides in the PAP's intra-party conflict.

On 20 July 1961, Lee's gambit failed. In SMUN 2024's version of Singapore's history, an untimely series of lawmakers' deaths, along with Lim's early release from prison and victory in Bukit Timah, toppled the incumbent PAP in an upset. With public confidence in the PAP damaged, Lee was forced to work with the newly formed Barisan Sosialis (BS) to prevent snap elections.

Now at a crossroads, the LAS faces several issues: First, with the BS demanding the resignation of British-appointed Speaker Sir George Oehlers, the LAS must elect a new Speaker to resume its functions. Next, the question of merger is still pending before the LAS, which must simultaneously quell British and Malayan concerns, decide the status of the Internal Security Council and craft a palatable arrangement that determines Singapore's future in a unified Malaysia. Lastly, Singapore's industrial conflicts have recently escalated, with the erstwhile Singapore Trades Union Congress also dividing into moderate and leftist factions. To avert another spate of mass strikes, the LAS must rapidly secure industrial peace.

Can you steer Singapore through these turbulent times? Join us at the LAS, and the fate of this unborn nation will be yours to decide.



Legislative Assembly of Singapore (cont.)

The Question of Merger with Malaya

Independence, but at what price? After the shocking ouster of the People's Action Party government at the height of the independence debate, the political scene has rearranged into a state of tenuous stability. The debate rages on yet. There is no doubt in anyone's minds about the necessity of merger, but there is still so much more to be argued out.

For instance, what is the future of the Internal Security Act? How should Singapore be represented in the federal government? What areas can Singapore retain autonomy over? And, most crucially, who will be in charge of whatever new order asserts itself? The question of merger is the future of a nation... and the fate of every political faction in Singapore.

The Question of Trade Unions and Worker Strikes

In Singapore, every political faction has a stake, one way or another. For businesses, strikes are a threat. For workers, unions are their only hope. And stuck in between are the politicians. Following the split of the Singapore Trades Union Congress, two new organisations have arrived, each unashamedly leaning one way politically. Since the Bus Riots, none would underestimate the necessity of regulating the unions in one way or another; but what could satisfy everyone?

There are political difficulties in siding directly with either the National Trade Union Congress or the Singapore Association of Trade Unions, and reunification is almost a pipe dream. Cracking down on strikes will be unpopular with the people, but not doing so would draw the ire of businesses. Sometimes, perfect cannot be the enemy of good, especially with a more important merger question on the table.



United Nations Security Council

Well-known for making history, the 15-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC) needs no introduction. Empowered with the ability to enact legally binding resolutions, the UNSC is behind some of the most momentous decisions of our time. Yet, the UNSC has also become infamous for inaction in times of crisis. Too often, the notorious veto kept it gridlocked when decisiveness was needed most, and the most powerful council on earth was left powerless to protect the innocent.

Over Christmas in 1963, carnage erupted across the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, as enmity between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities came to a head. Ever since a Turkish invasion in 1973 and the subsequent birth of the de facto state known as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the island has been divided. Tensions between the ethnic groups continue to simmer, and previous reunification talks fell through. Amidst these troubling circumstances, all eyes are on the UNSC to navigate the fraught geopolitical situation and ensure peace and security.

Article 1 of the UN Charter stresses the importance of the principle of self-determination, which enshrines the right of people to choose their government and chart their destiny. This is an important right to uphold, in the name of liberty and human rights. Unfortunately, what follows all too often in the wake of independence movements is violence and destruction, as seen in the formation of states like South Sudan, Kosovo, and Eritrea. The UNSC must resolve the risks that these developments pose to global security. The council's action could just be all that stands between vulnerable communities worldwide and untold bloodshed and strife.

The challenge is great, but the task is of utmost importance. If the world is to be spared from the horrors of war, the UNSC must not fail. Delegates venturing into this geopolitical arena will learn that with great power comes great responsibility indeed.





United Nations Security Council (cont.)

The Question of the Cyprus Issue

On 20th December 1963, the world saw a bloody Christmas in the European states of Turkey and Cyprus. Ever since the following coup d'etat and subsequent occupation in the Northern region of Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriots have held de facto control, renaming it the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'.

This country is yet to be recognised internationally. As a result of the border disputes, the UNFICYP (UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) was formed, to mediate and diffuse tensions, as well as maintain a buffer zone between the countries. Due to contrasting opinions on land borders, there are ongoing disputes with respect to the EEZs of the countries, and also the neutrality of the UNFICYP, as it is partially funded by the Cyprus government. As such, a reevaluation of the mandate may be necessary, alongside possible expansion to cover points such as equitable distribution of the resources, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Question of the Right to Self-determination

The principle of self-determination states that a group of people with similar views can seek to create their state, and we have seen many examples of independence movements that gave this principle credence such as the formation of Eritrea, Kosovo, Bangladesh and notably Ukraine. The key point is international recognition and respect of a people's common right to determine their sovereignty.

In recent years, the right to self-determination has been invoked in many notable cases such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Due to contrasting definitions of what constitutes self-determination, many of these cases have yet to obtain international recognition. For example, what constitutes a group of people having a legitimate claim (whether on the basis of race, religion, or simply common belief) is still a political issue. Additionally, whether they are to be given a minority status or completely secede from the parent state, is another question to be considered.



Historical Joint Cabinet Crisis

No one can really trace back the origins of La Violencia. Some say that it was rooted in the Thousand Days' War, where war first broke out between the two parties; others say that the 1930 elections, with the liberals breaking the conservatives' hegemony, paved the way for a breeding ground of violence by 1948. Regardless, bipartisan tensions had been said to reach its highest point on 9 April 1948, when the popular liberal presidential candidate, Jorge Gaitán, was assassinated, kickstarting a decade of anarchical violence.

In the Historical Joint Cabinet Crisis of SMUN 2024, delegates will have a chance to not just step into the shoes of party officials, but also in various paramilitary groups, crime syndicates and peasant bandits. Delegates will have to thread the deep waters of guerilla warfare while protecting their country from organised crime both within and beyond Colombia. The JCC is for any advanced delegates who are up for a challenge, or for anyone who is interested in post-WWII Latin American history.

La Violencia

The year is 1948, and the Cold War has just begun, along with questions of post-war recovery and wars of independence. Colombia, however, has been shielded from these events, fighting its own battle of bipartisan tensions between the conservatives and the liberals. All hell broke loose on 9 April, when Jorge Gaitán, the leader of the Liberal Party, was assassinated in Bogotá. From here onwards, the fight for peasantry support, plantation monopoly and political dominance will only ramp up.

Welcome to La Violencia.





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