

Ean Fish

AS: Welcome Letter

YUNMUN XXXVI

Delegates of AS,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVI! I am very excited and privileged to serve as the Chair of the African Summit (AS) at this year's Model UN conference.

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Ean Fish. I'm originally from Los Angeles, California, where I went to Shalhevet High School, followed by a year in Israel at Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush) and a second year at Yeshivat Torat Shraga. I am now a senior entering my third year at YU, majoring in mathematics and minoring in finance. This will be my third and final YUNMUN, and I can't wait for an amazing conference. In high school, I unfortunately did Model Congress instead of Model UN. At YU, I am a member of the Honors Program, I am on the Chess Team, and I am a mentor for the new Finance Accelerator program. This upcoming summer I will be interning at Bank of America in their capital markets division; B" I get a return offer...wish me luck!

AS, the African Union Summit, while not an official United Nations body, is an independent organization promoting peace, unity, and sustainable development across the African continent. The African Union was founded in 2002 and has 55 member states; it is currently headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For practical purposes, AS will operate like other committees at YUNMUN, and you should refer to the Delegate Handbook for procedural details. It is advisable to research how other UN bodies have addressed our topics and what your country's positions have been in those contexts.

Our first topic of the conference will be **The Rise of Coups and Political Instability in Africa**. Africa has experienced over 15 coups since 2000 and seemingly the number is only rising. Questions to be addressed should concern the preventative steps and recovery plans the African Union can take. The second topic will aim to address the **Exploitation of Children in Africa**. Children's primary school enrollment has plateaued after years of improvement and thus the African Union Summit needs to tackle some of the underlying causes. Some ideas to think

about: what is the role of education in reducing poverty? How can the AS rehabilitate children that are affected by the conflict? What measures of accountability can the AS institute hold those guilty accountable.

You should familiarize yourself with your country's views and records, as well as those of other prominent countries. Remember that you are representing the ideas of your nation, not your personal thoughts on the subject. I highly encourage you to prepare thoroughly for the conference and to be prepared to lead thoughtful, insightful discussions as we work. As always, discussions will start at a foundational claim but they will invariably shift, so a deeper understanding of your country's views will allow you to keep up with the discussions.

Remember that all position papers, with citations, will be submitted through Turnitin and that YUNMUN has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. AI usage is strictly forbidden.

If you have any questions at all or want to introduce yourself, please don't hesitate to contact me at efish1@mail.yu.edu.

I am so excited for an amazing conference, and I cannot wait to meet you all!

Best of luck,

Ean Fish

Chair, African Summit

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