

To the delegates of COPUOS,

E.T, Alien, Spaceballs, The Martian, Muppets From Space, what do these all-time classics have in common? OUTER SPACE! Welcome to the wildest (and by far the most exciting) committee in the history of committees.

My name is Adam Baron, your chair at this year's Yeshiva University National Model UN Conference. I come from Teaneck NJ, where I attended TABC (AKA "The Academy"). After four glorious years of high school, (which included my first trip to YUNMUN) I decided to take my talents to Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh, where I wandered the streets of the old city for a year. At YU, I study finance and real estate and am currently the Sy Syms School of Business Class President. I have spent time as the president of the real estate club and Private Equity club and am also lucky enough to be the vice president of YU's banking society. Last year I decided to "chill" with the business stuff and was asked to be an assistant chair at YUNMUN on UNICEF. This year will certainly be different, but I am excited to be a part of YUNMUN's first-ever virtual conference.

Now that you know a little bit more about me, we can take a look at the mission at hand. PEACE IN SPACE. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs founded the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for one simple reason, the first satellite had been sent into space, and nobody knew what was next¹. COPUOS was created to utilize the resources of the UN to research, promote, and ensure the peaceful uses of outer space. Since the 1950's things have certainly changed. While the US once considered creating a real Star Wars inspired attack satellite (No joke, look up Strategic Defense Initiative), things have been much calmer in space. Just last year, President Trump created the space force, which was met with some scrutiny and concerns regarding the militarization of space². To make things even more interesting, there are now private companies (i.e SpaceX) that are looking to explore and possibly attempt to colonize space.

Space is the last frontier, and the exploration, colonization, and possibly the weaponization of space falls into the hands of...YOU, the members of COPUOS! COPUOS was tasked with "reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encouraging space

¹ <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/history.html>

² <https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/>

research programs, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space”³ and that’s exactly what we will be doing during our time together.

Finally, a few words about policies as well as tips for succeeding at YUNMUN. First, a word of caution: as part of this conference and committee, you are representing a country and therefore, your papers should reflect the positions of the country and not your personal positions. Next, it is recommended that you review the delegate handbook (can be found online at yu.edu) to be up to date with procedures and guidelines. Additionally, please note that this year COPUOS will be operating as a technology committee. For more information on technology committees, please see the FAQ sheet, Technology Committee Procedure Guide, and YUNMUN Technology Committee Explained which will all be posted on the YUNMUN website. As a technology committee, COPUOS will be expected to foster complex and nuanced discussions on our topics at hand, while using technology to enhance efficiency and learn more, especially considering the change in conference format this year. Lastly, please be aware that all position papers will be submitted to turnitin.com, an online service that identifies plagiarism, to ensure that your work is indeed your own.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to introduce yourself, please feel free to contact me at Aibaroon@mail.yu.edu

Looking Forward,

Adam Baron

Chair, COPUOS YUNMUN XXXI

³<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html>