

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXVIII! My name is Ben Strachman, and I am excited to be serving as the Chair of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) this year!

A little bit about myself: I'm from Providence, Rhode Island, and I attended Maimonides High School. After that, I spent two years in Israel at Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush), and I am currently in my second year of YU studying Philosophy and Economics. I first attended YUNMUN as a delegate to DISEC in 2014, and last year I served as the Assistant Chair of the Middle East Summit Committee.

As the First Committee of the United Nations, DISEC plays a key role in addressing important issues in weapons disarmament and international security with the goal of achieving global peace. This conference, we will be tackling two important issues—Topic 1: The Conflict in Yemen, and Topic 2: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

As individual delegates and as a committee, your responsibilities include researching your topics and your country's positions on them, being engaged and active throughout the conference, and passing resolutions to resolve the challenges raised by the topics outlined above. It is important to remember that your duty as a delegate is to represent your country, not your own personal beliefs. This requires research and strategy, and will be a challenge. Whether you are a new delegate or a returning one, it is important that you know the YUNMUN rules and procedures outlined in the delegate handbook fully. As a reminder, all position papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism.

Participating in YUNMUN is an experience unlike any other, where you gain and learn from the conference in direct proportion to the amount of work and preparation you put into it. In preparation for and during the conference, delegates practise researching, writing, public speaking, and working with a team all while making friends and, most importantly, engaging with some of the most critical issues facing the world today. Model UN is both a competition and an incredible opportunity for individual growth, so I therefore encourage and expect you all to prepare thoroughly for the conference and work rigorously during the conference to address the topics by arguing passionately and strongly for your country's positions and collaborating with other delegates to build and pass resolutions.

I look forward to meeting each of you and creating a great conference together, please feel free to reach out to me to simply introduce yourself, ask questions about the topics or the conference, or for any other reason by emailing me at benjamin.strachman@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

Ben Strachman
Chair, DISEC
YUNMUN XXVIII