

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to Yeshiva University's National Model United Nations XXXI!

My name is Adam Auerbach, and I am thrilled to be serving as the chair of DISEC at this year's conference.

First, some information about me. I am from New Rochelle, New York, for those of you not familiar it's part of New York that is not the Five Towns. I attended Yeshivat Frisch for high school, spent two years learning in Yeshivat Hakotel, and I am now a junior at YU where I am studying Political Science and Psychology. When not preparing for YUNMUN, I am a tutor in the Wilf Campus Writing Center, a member of the Student Life Committee, and am involved with Yachad both on and off of campus. After participating as a delegate for two years in high school, I returned to YUNMUN last year as assistant chair for this committee. I have seen what delegates of DISEC are capable of and I am looking forward to seeing what you all will bring to the conference.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee, also known as the First Committee, is one of the six committees in the United Nations General Assembly originally provided for in the United Nations Charter. Pursuant to Article 11 of the United Nations charter, the General Assembly may,

“consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.”¹

Accordingly, the First Committee provides member states with a forum in which they can voice concerns regarding disarmament and international security, as well as creates opportunities for countries to come to a consensus on pressing issues and propose appropriate resolutions.

Since its inception, the Disarmament and International Security Committee has had to confront some of the international community's toughest issues. The committee's first resolution, passed in 1946, addressed the growing concern over the dangers of atomic energy in light of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.² This year, the committee will be discussing the issue of biological weapons, a pressing matter which threatens the safety of the entire global community.

This year's conference will certainly be unique. We have all had to adjust and adapt to our new realities caused by the pandemic, and the same holds true for YUNMUN. While there may be no YUNMUN chocolate chip cookies, I am confident that the same passion, lively debates and productive discourse which I, and I am sure many of you, have come to expect from these conferences will still be found in our sessions. I will do all that is in my power to ensure that this conference is a valuable and rewarding experience for us all, and I cannot wait to see what you will accomplish.

¹ U.N. Charter art.11, para 1.

² <http://bestdelegate.com/how-to-model-un-research-ga-first-committee-disec/>

As you prepare for the conference, please keep in mind that you are representing your country's views, not your own. In addition, all papers will be submitted through Turnitin, so please do not plagiarize!

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hi, please feel free to email me at adauerba@mail.yu.edu. I am looking forward to reading your work and meeting all of you.

Best of luck,
Adam Auerbach
Chair, Disarmament and International Security Committee
YUNMUN XXXI