

Akiva Joshua Mehlman
DISEC: Welcome Paper
YUNMUN XXXVI

Esteemed and Legendary Delegates of DISEC,

It is my honor to welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Akiva Mehlman and I am privileged to serve as your chair of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) this year.

To briefly introduce myself: I am from Woodmere, NY where I attended DRS Yeshiva High School. After that, I spent a year in Israel learning in Yeshivat Mevasseret Zion Yerushalyim. I am currently a Junior at Yeshiva University, studying Biochemistry, with the ultimate goal of becoming a doctor. I participated in YUNMUN as a delegate for three years, culminating as a delegate in DISEC. After returning from Israel and joining YU, I was eager to come back to YUNMUN, serving last year as an administrative assistant in MES (Middle East Summit). I am thrilled to be Chair of DISEC this year, and I am looking forward to an exciting conference.

DISEC – the First Committee of the General Assembly 🏆 – is tasked with addressing global challenges relating to disarmament, international security, and threats to peace.¹ Its mandate includes promoting cooperative measures for disarmament, recommending solutions to security questions, and strengthening stability in the international system.

Okay, history lesson over – let's jump into what we're really here for: ~~the swag, the cookies, the crazy crisis, the shtick, the delicious dinners,~~ this year's topics! Our committee sessions this year will focus on two critical issues that threaten international peace and security.

First, disarmament of terrorist groups. Both large internationally recognized organizations, and smaller decentralized cells continue to secure firearms, explosives, and other weapons that enable attacks; this contributes and sustains instability in these regions. Operating across borders and outside established international agreements, these groups make it difficult for

¹ [Info | DISEC](#)

states and multilateral bodies to monitor or restrict the flow of arms. Their continued access to weapons fuels violence and undermines regional and global security.

Second, biosecurity and biowarfare. Biotechnology has the potential to revolutionize medicine and improve lives, but it also carries serious risks if misused. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the importance of global preparedness and the catastrophic potential of biological crises. Our discussions will focus on strategies to strengthen biosecurity while supporting responsible scientific innovation.

As you dive into your research and preparations, please remember that you are representing the official stance of your assigned country, not your personal views. Take the time to really understand your country's position, build strong, well-supported arguments, and come ready for a thoughtful and respectful debate. I want the discussions to be highly intellectual and respectful, but nevertheless intense and bold.

Before you submit your papers, please keep the following three ideas in mind: **(1)** As you research and write your position papers, please make sure to provide citations. **(2)** AI must not be used under any circumstances when writing your papers. Doing so would constitute a grave violation of the sacred trust bestowed upon you as an esteemed delegate of the great committee of DISEC, and would result in the disqualification from winning an award (and earning my fellow chairs and my friendship which is arguably more valuable). **(3)** Extra points will not be awarded for occasional humor... but that doesn't mean I won't secretly love it.

I am excited to see the perspectives you bring to these important discussions. Your preparation, creativity, and diplomacy will make our sessions both meaningful and engaging. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jmehlma5@mail.yu.edu or yunmunDISEC@gmail.com or TheBestYunmunCommitteeEver@gmail.com – I would truly be more than happy to offer guidance, support, and advice as you prepare for the conference!

Looking forward to an amazing YUNMUN XXXVI!

Best,

Akiva Mehlman

Chair, Disarmament and International Security Committee

YUNMUN XXXVI