

Dear MES Delegates,

I would like to welcome you to YUNMUN XXVIII Middle East Summit. My name is Sam Gelman and I will be your chair for this conference. A little bit about me: I was born in New York City but moved to Houston when I was eight and have lived there ever since. After finishing my high school career at Robert M. Beren Academy I attended Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi in Jerusalem for two years. I am currently a junior in Yeshiva College where I am majoring in political science and minoring in media studies. This will be my fourth YUNMUN conference. I started as a delegate in DISEC in 11th grade, moved to the World Food Program in 12th grade, and served as the assistant chair on the Security Council last year. I have never participated in the Middle East Summit but I am excited for the new committee and the issues it will raise.

On that note, the Middle East Summit is one of the most intense and important committees at the conference. It brings countries with different views, personalities, and goals together in the hopes of laying down the foundation to build a better world for tomorrow. It brings together a region filled with strife, conflict, and bloodshed in order to solve some of the most complex and complicated issues facing the international order including the Syrian Civil War, terrorism, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These issues not only affect the region but the world at large as well as we have seen with the current migration crisis and the rise of terrorism in Europe. Together, we will tackle some of these issues with the hope that we can bring a bit more security to the world we live in today.

For new and returning delegates, it is important to look at the YUNMUN website and go over the resources that have been made available for you. During the committee session it is expected that you be familiar with rules and structure of the committee. You should also research your countries in depth, looking into their histories as well as their current position on the world stage. My wish is for everyone to be engaged in the discussions we will be having so we can have the most diverse, complex, and rich debate possible.

It is also important to remember the you are representing the position of your assigned country, not your own personal opinions and beliefs. The chairs will be familiar with all your countries' positions and you will be penalized when you deviate from the stated and known position of your country. The Middle East is tricky and controversial, but I know that we are all capable of remaining professional and diplomatic just as they are in the UN. While YUNMUN is a competition, it is also a great opportunity to make friends that will be with you for the rest of your life.

When in committee sessions, please make sure to be kind and courteous to the other delegates as well as the YUNMUN staff. We are all coming to have fun but there is a line and it should not be crossed. I hope that you will all come together to pass resolutions that provide logical and efficient solutions to the issues we will be discussing. **Please remember that while subcommittees and sanctions are helpful, they will not solve the problem on their own.**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the conference in general or our specific committee please do not hesitate to contact me at [samuel.m.gelman@mail.yu.edu](mailto:samuel.m.gelman@mail.yu.edu).

Looking forward to a fun, productive, and memorable conference.

Sam Gelman  
Chair, Middle East Summit