



Judah Berman

MES: Welcome Letter

YUNMUN XXXVI

Delegates of MES,

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVI! I am very excited and privileged to serve as the Chair of the Middle Eastern Summit (MES) at this year's Model UN conference.

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Judah Berman. I'm originally from Boca Raton, Florida, where I went to Katz Yeshiva High School, followed by a year in Israel at Yeshivat Orayta. I am now a senior entering my fourth year at YU, majoring in Biochemistry with minors in Mathematics, Business, and Psychology. This will be my sixth and final YUNMUN, and I can't wait. In high school, I was a part of DISEC my junior year and MES in my senior year, so I'm excited to see things come full circle. At YU, I am a member of the Honors Program, and I am on the pre-med track. I will soon be taking the MCAT and applying to medical schools, so wish me luck! Outside of YUNMUN, I have served as the president of both the Blood Drive and the Wilf Mentorship Program, I am on the board of various clubs and organizations, and I am a member of Washington Heights Hatzalah, where I serve as an EMT.

MES, the Middle Eastern Summit, while not an official committee of the United Nations, is conceptually a fundamental avenue for Middle Eastern powers to promote peace and security throughout the region. In the past, summits similar to this one have centered on issues such as military de-escalation, post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, regional security, addressing refugees and displaced persons, and broader economic, developmental, and institutional cooperation. For practical purposes, MES will operate like other committees at YUNMUN, and you should refer to the Delegate Handbook for procedural details. It is advisable to research how other UN bodies have addressed our topics and what your positions have been in those contexts.

Our first topic of the conference will be the **urgent challenge of transitioning from oil dependence to sustainable economies**. With global energy markets constantly shifting, the need for Middle Eastern countries to find ways to adapt smoothly without destabilizing their economies is greater than ever. Questions to be addressed should concern the social aspect of change, environmental vs. economic considerations, and regional equity. The second topic will aim to address the **Yemeni Civil War**. Since its outbreak in 2014, Yemen's civil war has highlighted the broader regional tensions and proxy dynamics that characterize much of the Middle East. Some ideas to think about: the repercussions for foreign intervention, post-war reconstruction, and the Iranian-Saudi Arabian relationship as a reflection of greater Sunni-Shia dynamics.

You should familiarize yourself with your country's views and records, as well as those of the other key players. Remember that you are representing the ideas of your nation, not your personal thoughts on the subject. I highly encourage you to prepare thoroughly for the conference and to be prepared to lead thoughtful, insightful discussions as we work. As always, discussions will start at a foundational claim but invariably shift, so a deeper understanding of your country's views will allow you to keep up with the discussions.

Remember that you are required to submit position papers, with citations, through Turnitin and that YUNMUN has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. AI usage is strictly forbidden.

If you have any questions at all or want to introduce yourself, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jberman5@mail.yu.edu](mailto:jberman5@mail.yu.edu).

I am so excited for an amazing conference, and I cannot wait to meet you all!

Best of luck,

Judah Berman

*Chair, Middle Eastern Summit*

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