

Dear Delegates of Middle East Summit,

My name is Ellie Blanchard, and it is an honor to serve as your chair and welcome you to the Middle East Summit of YUNMUN XXX!

Before we get started, here is some background information about me: I grew up in New York City but crossed the bridge every day to attend Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls in Teaneck for all four years of high school. I then spent a year and a half learning at MMY in Israel before coming to Stern College for Women. I am currently a senior, majoring in Biology and minoring in Psychology but YUNMUN always has been such a special aspect of my college experience. This will be my sixth YUNMUN conference. I served as a delegate all four years of high school; two were spent in DISEC and two right here in MES. Last year, I was privileged to assume the role of Assistant Chair of MES and now it is a true privilege for me to serve as your Chair of MES going forward.

The Middle East Summit, though not technically recognized as a committee in the United Nations, has consistently earned the reputation of being one of the most prestigious and serious committees in this conference. This is largely due to the constant activity and intense conflict in the region, a geographical area filled with economically and politically powerful countries. I am looking forward to seeing this committee follow this path and discuss our two topics in a serious and focused manner, in order to collaborate as much as possible and formulate articulate solutions to the pressing matters at hand.

Given the high-level mission and collaborative capacity of our committee, we will accordingly define our functions and powers in terms of those of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). These will enable our committee “to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments... determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken... call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression... [and] take military action against an aggressor.” Please see this concise webpage<sup>1</sup> to review the limited UNSC functions and powers that MES is adopting for YUNMUN XXIX and note that we are not adopting any further procedures unique to the UNSC, nor its characteristic veto powers.

Strong research and preparation will, of course, be essential to your dynamic contributions to our discussions. Our topics are complex and necessitate a developed familiarity with your country’s foreign policies, international relationships and topic-related actions. You should start, however, by thoroughly researching the social, economic and political histories of your countries, as well

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/functions.shtml>

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as UN General Assembly resolutions, UNSC resolutions and evolving conditions of our two topics.

Please note that subcommittees and sanctions will be insufficient towards resolving our topics on their own, especially given the other substantial powers wielded by our committee. I advise you to contemplate practical and creative solutions in advance of the conference. Especially given the roughly twenty-person size of our committee and the two-thirds majority required to pass a resolution, you should bear in mind that conflicting resolutions will not be allowed to pass.

Your topic papers are a material means by which myself, our Assistant Chair, and Administrative Assistant can evaluate your facility with both your country’s position and our committee’s topics, but please refrain from providing an overview of either topic in your position papers. Limit your treatment of each topic to your country’s position by citing your country’s outlook, actions and geopolitics. Our committee staff will be aware of your country’s positions and will only tolerate their accurate representation. I trust that your papers will uphold academic integrity, but just as a heads up, all papers will be screened through Turnitin as routine conference procedure.

Whether this is your first or fourth YUNMUN conference, you should read through the YUNMUN webpage, and particularly the Procedure Guide in the Delegate Handbook by which we will firmly abide. I hope that no matter your initial comfort level or degree of experience, you will feel empowered to meaningfully engage in our discussions and ultimately find the conference deeply rewarding. I expect that together we can cultivate a committee environment that balances vibrant debate with genuine kindness, support and respect — for delegates, staff and all nationalities represented. Lasting friendships and connections can be born on YUNMUN, even through the most rudimentary working papers and heated negotiations.<sup>2</sup>

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at [eblanch1@mail.yu.edu](mailto:eblanch1@mail.yu.edu) if you have any questions, thoughts, concerns or if you just want to introduce yourself! I am really looking forward to a stimulating, fun and constructive conference together.

Ellie Blanchard  
Chair, Middle East Summit  
YUNMUN XXX

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<sup>2</sup> Katz, Dena, YUNMUN XXIX Welcome Letter