

Gavi Steinlauf & Maayan Berkowitz

Security Council: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Dear Delegates of the Security Council,

Welcome to Yeshiva University National Model United Nations, YUNMUN XXXVI! We are honored to serve as your chairs for the Security Council, one of the most influential and high-profile bodies of the United Nations. Over the course of this conference, you will engage with urgent global crises and practice diplomacy at the highest level.

To introduce ourselves:

My name is Gavi Steinlauf, and I am a student in the Honors Program at Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, where I am majoring in finance and minoring in data analytics. This will be my sixth YUNMUN, following my experiences as a delegate, an Assistant Chair, and, most recently, as an Undersecretary General. On campus, I serve as the captain of the YU golf team and am an active member of our TAMID chapter. Beyond my academic and extracurricular commitments, I enjoy spending time on the golf course and the ski slopes. I am deeply passionate about international affairs and strategy, and I am honored to return to YUNMUN this year to chair this committee.

My name is Maayan Berkowitz. I am from Teaneck and attended Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls before spending a year learning in Israel at Migdal Oz. I am currently a senior in the Honors Program at Stern College, majoring in biology and minoring in political science. This year will be my sixth YUNMUN, and I could not be more excited. Over the years, I have served as a delegate in CTC for two years, and I was a part of the Security Council my senior year. Throughout college, I have served as an assistant chair of SPECPOL, and last year as the chair of UNICEF. Beyond YUNMUN, I play on the Stern College soccer team and I am the president of the Yeshiva University Pre-Med Society.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was founded in 1945 as one of the six main organs established at the birth of the United Nations. The UNSC is tasked with the primary

responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. This goal is achieved through the development of friendly relations among nations, solving international conflicts or problems that arise, and promoting overall human rights.¹ The Security Council is unique in that its resolutions are legally binding, and it can authorize peacekeeping missions, sanctions, and even the use of force.²

This year, our committee sessions will focus on two pressing global issues. The first topic we will address is **the crisis of shipping in the Red Sea**. Recent attacks by Houthi forces in Yemen on commercial shipping have escalated into a major international security concern. These disruptions threaten global trade, regional stability, and freedom of navigation through one of the world's most critical maritime corridors.³ The Council will debate appropriate responses, balancing national security, humanitarian concerns, and the need for international cooperation.

Our second topic will be **the treatment of Uyghurs in China**. Reports of mass detentions, forced labor, and restrictions on religious and cultural practices of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang have drawn global attention and condemnation. The treatment of the Uyghur people in China poses a serious violation of human rights that must be addressed.⁴ Delegates will be tasked with addressing the human rights implications of these actions while considering the complexities of state sovereignty, international law, and the Security Council's responsibility to act.⁵

As you research and prepare, remember that you are representing the official positions of your assigned countries, not your personal views. We strongly encourage you to conduct thorough research and use credible sources, making sure to cite your work properly. All position papers will be checked through Turnitin; plagiarism and the use of AI will not be tolerated and may affect your eligibility.

We look forward to a substantive and thought-provoking debate and to seeing how your ideas and research contribute to creative solutions for these crises. The more effort you invest in

¹ <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/what-security-council>

² <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/main-bodies#:~:text=Security%20Council>

³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145382>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/tags/uyghur>

⁵ <https://www.cfr.org/background/china-xinjiang-uyghurs-muslims-repression-genocide-human-rights>

your preparation, the more rewarding your YUNMUN experience will be. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns before the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to us:

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Maayan Berkowitz – mberkow4@mail.yu.edu

We cannot wait to meet you all and begin what promises to be a stimulating and impactful conference.

All the best,

Gavi Steinlauf & Maayan Berkowitz

Chairs, Security Council

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