

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to formally welcome you to YUNMUN XXX. My name is Shira Levy, and I am thoroughly excited to serve as your chair for SPECPOL this year.

I am a senior at Stern College, majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Women's Studies, and aspirations to work as a clinical psychologist. I grew up in West Hempstead, attended Central for high school, and spent a wonderful year learning in Migdal Oz. This is my sixth year attending the YUNMUN conference. I first attended YUNMUN as a delegate for UNEP, then WHO and CTC. When I became a student at YU, I served as an administrative assistant for Security Council and then as chair of UNESCO.

SPECPOL, or the Special Politics and Decolonization Committee, was first established with a mandate limited to matters of decolonization, but after vast improvement globally in that effort, it merged with the Special Political Committee, which was created to deal with specific political issues.¹ Today, SPECPOL addresses a range of distinct issues which include five decolonization-related agenda items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive view of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, the Report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices, and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.²

I urge you to begin your research for the conference with the rich history of SPECPOL, specifically the historic success in the decolonization effort. The history of SPECPOL and its efforts will inform and direct your research in our upcoming debates. While researching and writing position papers, please keep in mind that in this conference you will be representing a country and your position should properly reflect that of your country's view, not of your own.

Our topics for this conference will deal with SPECPOL's responsibility towards non-self governing territories that vote against independence and accountability in human rights violations by multinational corporations. Delegates should come well researched and prepared to seriously debate the issues at hand. Feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. I will be available via email at slevy3@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

Shira Levy
Chair, SPECPOL
YUNMUN XXX

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Fourth_Committee

² <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/>