

Welcome to Yeshiva University Model United Nations XXVIII! My name is Judah Stiefel, and I cannot wait to work with all of you on the United Nations Environmental Programme!

For those who don't know me already, here's a bit about me:

I was born during an historic blizzard in the icy northern tundra that is Fairfield, Connecticut in the winter. When I was three, my parents decided to leave the country side behind and move to the big city, Teaneck, New Jersey. Since then I've resided in what some call, "the other side of Teaneck." I myself was labeled an *other sider*, a badge I've worn with distinction and pride. I attended TABC for high-school where I represented the Dominican Republic in the World Food Program in YUNMUN XXIV, passing crucial legislation to protect the growth and distribution of genetically modified super bananas and various other legumes. Now I'm a pre-med student in YU double majoring in biology and English. (You can decide for yourself whether I'm an English major who's also doing bio or a bio major who's also doing English.) One thing I am sure of and that you can be sure of too is that UNEP 2017 is going to be a totally awesome YUNMUN committee. If you're not already stoked, now is a good time to start!

Now that I've told you a bit about me, here's a bit about you. As delegates of the United Nations Environmental Programme you have the gracious task of protecting the world's fragile ecosystem and preventing an irreversible climate catastrophe. UNEP is a truly unique committee, in that the topics we discuss are full of dual nuance in both political and scientific areas. It also provides you, the delegates, with unique problems totally untouched by other branches of the UN. We will be discussing the issues of 1) Jet Emissions and 2) Poaching, two issues which the world has been struggling with for years. It will take comprehensive knowledge of the two subjects as well as a great deal of leadership and creativity to make strides towards a cleaner and safer world. We want the Earth of tomorrow, the Earth of our younger siblings, to be a place worth living.

As you write your topic papers, keep in mind that you will be representing *not your personal views*, but rather *the views of your country*. Do research and consider how each of the issues pertain specifically to you as delegates. Keep in mind that all papers will be submitted through turnitin.com. Furthermore, I would suggest that each delegate read the position papers of each country to get an understanding of where each delegate stands. Said scores of famous people, "It's all about preparation."

Some last things to keep in mind as you do your research: understand the powers of the UN and specifically the Environmental Programme. UNEP is able only to propose sanctions and cannot pass any binding resolutions, meaning that any resolution passed in our committee should consider how the contents of the resolution will be encouraged or enforced. Here's a link to help you understand the powers of UNEP <http://www.unep.org/about/>. Also consider glancing at the UNEP website to get ideas. Most of all have fun and be creative!

If anyone has any questions you can email me at Jstief96@gmail.com.

Get ready to be the best UNEP YUNMUN has ever seen!

All the best,
Judah Stiefel
UNEP Chair
YUNMUN XXVIII