

Dearest Delegates of UNEP,

I hope none of you printed this out on paper because our trees have already been working overtime trying to create enough oxygen to counter the extreme amount of CO₂ emissions ... Well that got serious real quick. But not as quickly as our greenhouse gas emissions are destroying that amazon rainforest am I right?

Anyways

Ummm

I hope you're excited to join this years UNEP committee in the YUNMUN XXX conference, it's going to be a great time (applause)!

My name is Shira Perton and I will be your chair for this years Model UN Conference. I'm originally an American who was born in Houston, Texas, but when I was five, my parents thought it would be fun to show me what winter really was and we moved to Canada. I grew up in Montreal and went to the Hebrew Academy there. After finishing high school I went to Midreshet HaRova for a year and then did a year of college in Canada studying liberal arts. I transferred into Stern the following year where I've decided to pursue a career in genetic counseling. I love great humor (yes, **funny** jokes are encouraged), running, volunteering, and coming up with random business ideas (and definitely get carried away and think I'm the next Steve Jobs or something). This is my fourth year working on YUNMUN and I am so excited to be your chair!

My first exposure to environmental awareness was when I was growing up and my city passed a law for composting. I remember being so fascinated by the concept of having four different garbage cans in my kitchen; one for paper, one for plastic, one for compost and one for anything else that didn't fall under those categories. It was a wild concept that people could be fined for what they choose to put into their garbage in their own private homes. Yet that was the whole point; we take our garbage and recycling from inside our homes and eject it outside, private to public. This is one reason why we have fallen into the climate crisis we have today, because individuals don't realize how their waste can have an impact on the larger global environment. It is vital to recognize on a larger scale how our mistreatment of our environments are negatively affecting ecosystems all over the world.

At a recent protest in New York City, 16 year old climate and environmental activist Greta Thunberg got up to the podium, and said, "People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are at the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you." The reality of our world is that we appear to be doing more harm than good, with our greenhouse gas emissions rising to unmanageable levels and a disregard to the bigger picture of our ecosystem, we are in

an unfortunate cycle of reacting only once our beloved Asian elephants are close to extinction and our rainforests are mere piles of debris after burning down. Nature is winning the race in this marathon here and it won't be receiving a trophy at the end, because it may not be around to stand on the podium. We need to come up with more innovative short term solutions that will have a long lasting impact on the world and the environment in which we live.

You as delegates have an opportunity to speak up for a topic that can't speak for itself, to advocate for the forests, the animals, the trees, everything around you. YUNMUN was something I loved in high school as it showed me the responsibility and rights we have as the future leaders of our society to know what is happening in our world and how we can positively create change. Your countries have been called upon to help figure out ways to make our world last for eternity that we take for granted.

Just some fun policy talk for a second: you will be submitting your topic papers as the country you represent, not your own personal opinions, so keep that in mind when putting them together. Definitely take a look at the delegate handbook, it's great to make sure you feel fully prepared for the procedures and guidelines of the conference. Lastly, please note that all position papers are submitted to turnitin.com which is a site that detects plagiarism, so please be aware of your references and whose words you are writing.

If you have any questions, concerns or simply want to introduce yourself please feel free to reach out at perton@mail.yu.edu and if you feel like sending me food, flowers, etc (you know, the usual YUNMUN bribes) my address is: 245 Lexington Ave, New York, NY, 10174. Cool cool.

Best,

Shira Perton
Chair, UNEP
YUNMUN XXX