

Bat-Tzion Atik

United Nations Environmental Programme: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Welcome everyone!

My name is Bat-Tzion Atik, and I'm STOKED to be the chair of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) this year! A little bit about me: I'm currently in my third and final year at Stern College for knowledge majoring in Psychology and minoring in Judaic Studies. Do I know what I'm going to do with that? Nope!. I was born and raised in Queens, NY, where I attended Central-YUHSG, and I then went on to spend an incredible year at MMY.

This will be my seventh YUNMUN conference. In high school, I was a delegate on UNESCO, UNHRC, UNICEF, and then I ran it back on UNESCO senior year. As a YU student, I was a part of the media center, and I was the assistant chair for UNOOSA. Aside from chairing YUNMUN's most epic committee, I serve as Co-president of YUPAC (Yeshiva University Political Action Club), sit on the Torah Activities Council, and am part of the Beren Campus Student Government. I'm also a Leadership Scholar (learn more about the scholars programs below)<sup>1</sup>, and I'm a fellow at both the Fuchs Mizrachi School and Maimonides. Anyways, enough about me, now onto the important details.

UNEP is a key body within the United Nations that focuses on driving transformational change on the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature, land, and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste. Through robust science, global coordination and powerful advocacy<sup>2</sup>, UNEP continues to support all UN Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals which aim to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies<sup>3</sup>.

This year, we will tackle two broad, but crucial issues: waste management, and the role of corporate responsibility in global sustainability. In order to solve the climate crisis, we must

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<sup>1</sup> <https://go.yu.edu/academic-scholarships>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/about-us>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unep.org/topics/sustainable-development-goals>

sustainably manage both wastewater and food waste.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, advances in biotechnology offer significant benefits for the global community, but raises the concerns of plastic pollution, and its potential impacts on biodiversity and human health.<sup>5</sup>

Your objective is to understand your country's position to engage in thoughtful discussions and resolutions with your fellow delegates. Be creative, but stay true to your country's stance! Remember, no plagiarizing—papers, as they will be submitted to Turnitin, which will also thoroughly check for use of AI. Papers that are flagged for high AI usage will not be eligible to win awards. If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns (or just want to say hi), feel free to reach me at [atik@mail.yu.edu](mailto:atik@mail.yu.edu). The better prepared you are, the more successful this conference will be. Looking forward to an incredible conference!

Sincerely,

Bat-Tzion Atik

*Chair, United Nations Environmental Programme*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unep.org/topics/ocean-seas-and-coasts/ecosystem-degradation-pollution/wastewater/wastewater-climate-action>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/biosafety/about-biosafety>