

Dear Delegates,

My name is Zachary Greenberg, and I am so excited to serve as your chair for UNESCO this year's Model UN and to meet you all. It should be a day full of engaging conversations and discussions and I am sure we will learn a lot together. And on that note... Get pumped for YUNMUN XXXI!!!! Wooooo!

Some quick background information about me. I am a Senior in the Sy Syms School of Business majoring in Business Intelligence with a double minor in Finance and Psychology. At YU, I am the student body president and captain of the NCAA Men's Cross Country team. I am from Bergenfield, New Jersey and went to Moriah for elementary school, TABC for high school, and Netiv Aryeh for Yeshiva. Additionally, I've been to Disney 22 times... be prepared. Last year I was the Administrative Assistant for CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) and that was my first experience with Model UN, so don't worry if you're new!

Our topic this year, Education Response to COVID-19, is one that all of us can relate to. I'm sure it has not been easy for any of you to adjust to virtual learning and it's so rough that it put a damper on all of our social lives. However, I hope through our discussions we will see that there can be long term positive effects from this challenging period which has forced us to adapt to a virtual world.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, seeks to achieve peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture. UNESCO asserts that peace is [built upon](#) "intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity" which is why they played such an active role in helping countries adjust to COVID-19 and provide adequate education. This has not been easy for many poorer countries who do not have the proper technology resources and the pandemic has only further shown the disparate educational systems between wealthier and poorer countries.

It is our job in this year's Model UN to come up with practical solutions to help children across the planet get proper education. Your job as delegates is to research and understand where your country currently stands regarding education and how they adjusted to the pandemic. As a Committee, we will get to explore all of the different cultures, values, and histories amongst each of your respective countries.

I urge you to begin your research for the conference with the aims and goals of UNESCO, as it 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.

Please note that this year UNESCO will be operating as a technology committee. For more information on technology committees, please see the FAQ sheet, Technology Committee Procedure Guide, and YUNMUN Technology Committee Explained which will all be posted on the YUNMUN website. As a technology committee, the slight changes in procedure will allow complex and nuanced debates with the expectation of more in depth resolutions and discussions. With the change in conference format this year we will be using technology to enhance efficiency and learn more on our topic, while ensuring traditional aspects of YUNMUN will remain intact. That being said, delegates should come well researched and prepared to seriously debate the issues at hand. Lastly, I would like to remind you that your papers will be submitted through Turnitin, so please ensure that all your work is in fact your own.

Feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns at [zygreenb@mail.yu.edu](mailto:zygreenb@mail.yu.edu)

May the force be with you,

Zachary Greenberg

Chair, UNESCO