

Dear Esteemed Delegates--

Welcome to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization! My name is Ben Atwood, and I am deeply privileged to be your chair for YUNMUN XXX. I am currently a fourth-year student at Yeshiva College studying English literature, and a rabbinical student at YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. I hail from Teaneck, New Jersey, attended Frisch High School, and subsequently shipped off for two years of study at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. While I never participated in YUNMUN in High School, this is my third year on staff: I worked as an administrative assistant for COPUOS and an assistant chair for the African Summit.

I have spent many of my summers working with teenagers of various ages and backgrounds, and I believe YUNMUN combines the supreme elements of both school and camp. You all, as delegates, arrive at the conference prepared to learn from your coaches, your teammates, and recorded research; to engage your peers in passionate yet considerate debate; to present your acquired and critically analyzed knowledge to your fellow delegates and committee chairs. You will also have a truly enjoyable experience, having fun and creating relationships that will remain with you forever. My first experience on YUNMUN two years ago was truly transformative, and I know it will be the same for you all, as well.

UNESCO believes governments lack the ability to create internal and external peace without the wholehearted commitment of their citizens. UNESCO further believes the optimal method of fostering peace in the minds of the world's citizens lies centrally in education, science, and culture. What we learn from the moment of birth until the present moment, the way we understand the natural processes that govern our way of life, and the customs and behaviors surrounding us every day shape so much of our unique identities. However, we live on a brilliantly diverse planet that correspondingly houses an eclectic array of systems of education, science, and culture. Many national understandings of these three elements clash with those of other countries and regions, generating many important questions for UNESCO to interrogate: should we implement the same cultural program in African countries as European countries? Is there one ideal system of education for the entire globe? What happens if one society's traditions clashes with the commonly accepted science of the day?

As a result of these questions, delegates will be expected not merely to harbor a superficial comprehension of their respective country's positions on our topics, but to fully digest and embrace their nations' unique identities and perspectives. I can assure you that our committee sessions will only be lively, engaging, and impactful if each delegate brings to the conference not elementary research but the full embodiment of their country's principles and commitments. This year, we will be debating two topics that breed much friction in today's

political discourse: the introduction of private schools into public schools systems and the impacts of automation and artificial intelligence on underdeveloped countries. These issues are real, influence the lives of almost every citizen of our globalized world, and if we treat them with the curiosity, the dignity, and the passion they deserve, I am confident we will come out with genuine solutions. Our committee also bears the title of a tech committee, a unique novel structure of committee that will surely add a special twist on our discussions. 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.

Good luck on your preparations, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at benjamin.atwood@mail.yu.edu.

Ben Atwood

Chair, The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
YUNMUN XXX