

# UNDGC

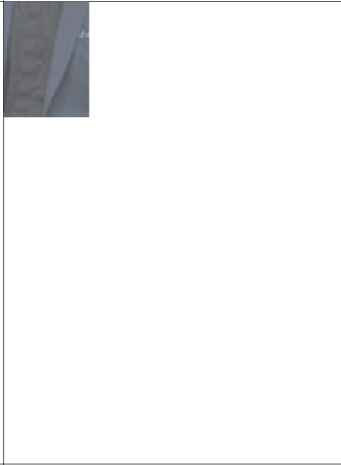
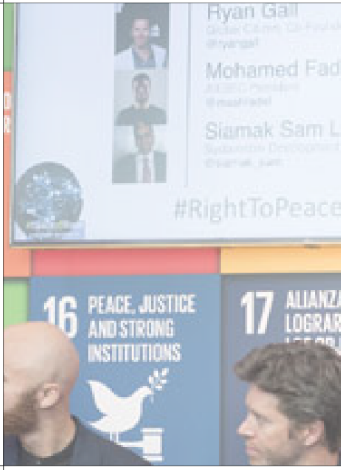
Specialized Committees

[www.gtmun.gatech.edu](http://www.gtmun.gatech.edu)

October 5-6, 2026

Committee  
Department of  
Global Communications

Georgia Tech  
Model United Nations



# ***Bridging technology and diplomacy.***



Georgia Tech  
Model United Nations

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#GTMUN2026



# Letter from the Secretary General



Esteemed delegates,

My name is Henry Bui, your Secretary General for the 2026 edition of the Georgia Tech Model United Nations Conference, also lovingly known as GTMUN. As your Secretary General, I would like to give you all a warm welcome as you begin your journey this conference cycle.

Every year at GTMUN, we see hundreds of you delegates spend hours speaking about your ideas, deliberating with others about the efficacy of solutions, and collaborating with compatriots to draft extensive resolutions. It is always impressive to see each delegate's ability to tackle these very significant issues affecting the real world today, proposing novel solutions, creatively applying international policy, and synthesizing resolutions that solve these urgent questions comprehensively and on a global scale.

I am especially excited to see everything you all will achieve this October. With over 1,000 delegates attending, this will be the largest GTMUN to date, and with it, we are bringing you 18 diverse committees to further test your abilities. Each committee has been carefully crafted to open unique perspectives and to allow each delegate to apply their skills in possibly new, unique ways. I hope that in the midst of being lost in deep research rabbit holes and hours of debate in each session, you all are satisfactorily challenged and that you all leave with joy and excitement in the work you accomplish.

Outside of the Scheller building where you will debate for two days, you will find that many of the skills you have used will be applicable to other aspects of your professional career: your ability to speak publicly, to improvise and adapt, and to act diplomatically. As a computer science student and teaching assistant, I have found that my experience in Model UN has been some of my most valuable. It has taught me to be confident in what I say, and it has taught me how to work with people with all different kinds of backgrounds and perspectives. One of our core values at Georgia Tech is that we thrive on diversity, and that is something that shines strongly at GTMUN.

As you prepare for committee, I want you to remember the most important thing you should get out of GTMUN—even more important than demonstrating your abilities or honing your skills for your professional career—is having fun. Not every speech has to be perfect, and not every unmoderated caucus has to go your way! Take the opportunity to try eccentric things in your speeches and diplomatic approach, and take the opportunity to meet new people. Do not forget that you are surrounded by many others who have similar goals, aspirations, and interests as you do! You might find a future close friend. Though competing is quite fulfilling (and the prospect of awarding is exciting), it can also be very stressful, so it is critical to find joy in what you are doing.

Once again, we, the GTMUN Secretariat, are excited to see everything you will achieve.

Good luck & have fun,

Henry Bui

Secretary General of GTMUN 2026

# ***Disclaimer***

Model United Nations provides an opportunity for delegates to engage diplomatically with topics of global importance and explore possibilities for conflict resolution in a meaningful way. Many of the topics at hand may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter. We ask delegates to be respectful and professional when engaging with their committee and communicating with fellow delegates and GTMUN Conference staff. The content warning below is meant to warn you of potentially controversial topics that are present in the content of this background guide, as well as content that may appear in other aspects of the committee (e.g. debate, speeches, directives), so that you can prepare yourself before reading this background guide and participating in the committee. At GTMUN, we take equity violations very seriously and require delegates to fully comply with our equity guidelines. Failure to do so will result in an immediate disqualification from awards, and you may be asked to leave the conference. Please remain respectful in committee, and avoid overgeneralizations as well as take into account individual differences and contexts during your speeches. If you have any questions regarding our equity guidelines, we encourage you to contact one of our staff members. If, because of this committee's content warning, you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our staff via email at [gtmunconference@gmail.com](mailto:gtmunconference@gmail.com).

# Editorial Policy Memo

Delegates are expected to submit an Editorial Policy Memo (EPM) in lieu of a position paper before the start of the committee. EPMs should be written as if they are an internal document distributed to journalists at the publication in question.

## Formatting:

- Double-spaced 12-point text
- Times New Roman
- No longer than two pages
- Should not include section headers.
- Citations are not necessary. EPMs should, however, provide reliable backing for key claims (i.e. "A study from the Pew Research Center shows...").

The EPM is assessed on the following:

## Actionability:

- How the findings apply to real-world scenarios.
- Whether problem-solving frameworks are discussed.
- Discussion of measurable outcomes.
- Introducing and suggesting required tools and resources.

## Reasonableness:

- The extent to which it upholds accuracy, fairness, and truth.
- Enforcing ethical practices regarding plagiarism, and source protection.
- Suggesting realistic actions and solutions.

## Detail:

- The use of unambiguous language and avoiding vague directives.

## Mechanics:

- Stating the immediate reason for the memo.
- Define the publication's core audience and journalistic objectives.
- Providing justification for directives.

Delegates should consider answering the following key questions in their EPM:

**What steps, if any, should this publication take to address the spread of misinformation and "fake news" on social media?**



Voters in Brazil during said elections

The rapid spread of misinformation on social media undermines public trust in journalism and creates confusion among audiences. In Brazil, misinformation campaigns during elections spread intentionally misleading claims about candidates and electoral institutions and went completely undetected by media companies (“Amnesty Report,” 2026). This significantly influenced public opinion, highlighting the global impact of this issue. Because

of the unprecedented and globalized rise in misinformation, similar interventions to prevent it are likely to be effective in both less and highly developed news economies. UNDGC members have the opportunity to establish their credibility as sources of truth within their communities, and should discuss the measures their publication plans to take regarding this goal.

### **What strategies should this publication implement to enhance digital engagement while maintaining journalistic integrity?**

In an increasingly online world, fostering engagement and capturing audience attention is crucial for journalism’s survival. Publications must navigate the delicate balance between creating compelling content and avoiding sensationalism or clickbait practices that could compromise long-term credibility. Many large organizations have failed to address this transformation, using engagement tactics such as tabloid sensationalism and distorting the truth. Delegates should explore approaches that preserve the essential character of their publication while increasing visibility to audiences online and on social media.

### **How can this publication protect the relevance and financial viability of local and community journalism?**

Local journalism plays a critical role in keeping citizens informed about their communities, holding local governments and institutions accountable, and fostering civic engagement. For instance, in Indonesia, local journalism is credited with spurring recent pro-democracy protests. Yet, press consolidation and the rise Social media has led to the decline of local stories, meaning that only big-picture news



Young Indonesian protestors

is broadcasted on popular media and people are becoming less aware of events happening on a smaller, more personal, scale. Delegates should articulate what, if any, plan their publication has to sustain local and community journalism.

**How can a publication respond to surveillance threats to protect journalists and their sources?**

Considering the UNDGC's commitment to the protection of journalists, delegates should navigate initiatives that protect the news from critical intrusions like spyware, network traffic monitoring, and censorship. Delegates may consider counter-surveillance measures and legal frameworks to uphold journalistic ethics and press freedom.

**What are the ways in which publications can prevent AI from spreading misinformation?**

Media outlets must continually keep up with the rapid evolution of AI, and invest in helping audiences distinguish fact from fabrication. When false information becomes known, the credibility of news sources are threatened and audiences lose their ability to rely on them. Delegates should discuss the methods through which they want to hold media outlets and AI companies accountable, and the ways in which they plan to maintain and prove integrity.

# Committee Overview

The United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC) was established in 1946, by General Assembly resolution 13 (I), to promote global awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations.

Operating across a global network spanning 60+ countries and 80 languages, the United Nations Department of Global Communications brings the UN's work to audiences worldwide. The department consists of journalists representing international news organizations that cover UN activities, and reports annually to the UN General Assembly's Committee on Information, which is responsible for overseeing their work and providing guidance on policies, programmes and activities.



Members of the UNDGC

The UNDGC's mandate is to communicate the ideals and work of the United Nations to the world; to interact and partner with diverse audiences; and to build support for peace, sustainable development and human rights for all. Inform. Engage. Act. (Proposed Programme Budget for 2026. Part 7, Section 28, Programme 24, 2025).



Members of the UNDGC

The committee was initially founded to produce multilingual news and information; use technology and social media platforms to amplify the UN message; execute communications campaigns on pressing issues; and conduct outreach activities.

Currently, the UNDGC is responsible for disseminating information on the UN to government agencies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the general public. The organization promotes better public awareness and understanding of the aims and principles of the United Nations by organizing public events, coordinating seminars and conferences, and formulating communications strategies on priority issues and launching global campaigns.

One of the core missions of the UNDGC includes

supporting the work of journalists and news organizations covering the United Nations. Recent years have seen a rise in modern digital surveillance technologies such as facial recognition, artificial intelligence, spyware and much more. This has made journalists the targets of critical digital attacks, surveillance, harassment, and violence (“Journalists & Online Abuse,” 2026). These attacks harm journalism in countless ways. For instance, they compromise the integrity of journalistic activities and the confidentiality of sources, making them more reluctant to share crucial information. This can also result in significant mental health issues and damages to public trust.

Another issue facing the UNDGC is the rise of misinformation due to Artificial Intelligence. In this digital age, audiences are being misinformed due to the rapid development of artificial intelligence tools, making reliable news sources increasingly important. According to The University of Florida College of Journalism and Communication, the number of AI-enabled fake news sites increased tenfold in 2023 (Shin, 2025). Artificial intelligence now has the ability to easily generate realistic text and images which can be used to fabricate information and evidence. This can potentially thwart audience perception of political circumstances and lead to mistrust in the media. (Campante et al., 2025).

## Committee Format

At GTMUN, UNDGC delegates represent international news organizations that cover UN activities. Delegates will convene for fast-paced crisis-style sessions to tackle issues like the increased surveillance of journalists and the rise of AI-driven misinformation. Delegates are also tasked with reporting on committees across GTMUN through opinion pieces, social media posts, video or podcast segments, and long-form articles.

## Timeline of a Session

Committee sessions will open with a short, crisis-style, debate where delegates are encouraged to discuss topics on their editorial policy memos and set directives for



A cover of the satirical news site The Onion

the committee to follow in their reporting. During this time, delegates will discuss pressing issues facing journalism, and will work to pass directives to protect the integrity and quality of their upcoming work as is relevant to their respective publications.

After voting on directives, delegates will be given the opportunity to write about emerging stories on events occurring in committees throughout the conference. During each session, delegates use the time to report on conference events, and are expected to produce one “short piece”. Short pieces must cover the conference’s major events clearly and objectively, ensuring that key developments and delegate decisions are communicated across committees in an engaging way.

### *Types of short pieces:*

- Articles (400-500 words): A well-structured piece presenting information in a way that adheres to the policies and writing styles of respective news agencies.
- Video (2 minutes): News-report style video highlighting key events and stories.
- Interviews (4-5 minutes): Interviews are one-on-one conversations with delegates that are conducted to collect information on ongoing events and strengthen a journalist’s arguments. Delegates can conduct interviews during Unmoderated Caucuses or breaks between sessions. Interviews should be transcribed before submission and can only be recorded with the permission of the interviewee.

Additionally, delegates are expected to provide live updates every 10-20 minutes on events in committee. At the end of each day, delegates are expected to present one editorial or opinion piece (600 words or 3 minute video).

## ***Opinion Editorials***

Opinion editorials, or op-eds, are pieces where authors express their opinions, perspectives, and arguments. The purpose of an op-ed is to engage with an opinion and make informed judgements about the topic at hand. It is crucial for op-ed writers to support their argument with thorough research and credible sources, ensuring their opinions are well-substantiated and persuasive. Op-eds are distinct from pure opinion pieces in that they are evaluated based on the facts used to support the author’s insight, and how they convey informed viewpoints through knowledge as opposed to just sharing an opinion.

A successful op-ed typically includes:

- A headline that grabs audience attention
- An engaging introduction that introduces the main argument

- Sufficient context and background information
- A main argument that uses evidence to support claims
- Counterargument that includes rebuttals of and considers opposing views
- Conclusion with a call to action intended to motivate readers

## *Questions to consider*

How can a journalist adhere to their company's priorities while also refraining from misrepresenting their sources? It is important for journalists to maintain transparency in their reporting. However, this often comes at the cost of their agency's values. Delegates must consider ways to respect the writing styles and priorities of their assigned company while also staying true to the word of delegates and other sources.

Are the arguments I am making well-justified? Delegates must ensure that their arguments have substance. A well-structured argument considers specific details of the debate or topic it is covering, backing up their arguments with facts, data, expertise, and solid reasoning. For example, a journalist reporting on a committee's resolution might want to consider specific proposals and why they do or do not support them rather than merely stating "the delegates suggested promising solutions".

What rhetorical strategies are likely to engage the audience? Journalists may want to consider whether their topic might benefit from appeal to emotion, reason, or authority.

What specific actions or changes do you want the audience to support? Be sure to clarify what you want your audience to do after reading your op-ed. A call to action can encourage readers to change their behavior, continue meaningful discussion, or support a policy.

# Positions

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reuters</b>             | International news agency established in London in October 1851. Typically covers breaking global news surrounding politics, business, and financial market updates                                                                                                             |
| <b>Al-Jazeera English</b>  | English-language news channel launched in Doha, Qatar in November 2006. Primarily covers stories from the Global South and conflict zones                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Associated Press</b>    | Non-profit, independent, news agency established in New York City in 1846. Its primary focus is delivering factual and nonpartisan news across a vast range of categories                                                                                                       |
| <b>Wall Street Journal</b> | The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) was established in New York, printing its first edition on July 8, 1889. It was founded as a way to deliver news to the Wall Street Stock Exchange                                                                                                |
| <b>Asahi Shimbun</b>       | The Asahi Shimbun was founded on January 25, 1879, in Osaka, Japan. It is widely regarded for its journalism as the most respected daily newspaper in Japan                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Le Monde</b>            | Le Monde is a democratic and pro-European French general news media founded in 1944, at the end of World War II. Le Monde seeks high-quality, accurate, and verified information to report on all aspects of public life to international, national, economic and cultural news |
| <b>Der Spiegel</b>         | Germany's leading news magazine, committed to reliable investigative journalism. The news website first went up on 25 October 1994 covering topics ranging from politics, business, and science, culture and entertainment to media, society and sports                         |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>RudawMedia Network</i></b> | An independent media establishment that covers topics on a global scale. Rudaw Media Network's headquarters are in Erbil, the capital city of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and was founded in 2008. The paper raises issues that would become important matters of popular discussion, they also interview global leaders and officials often                                            |
| <b><i>El Nacional</i></b>        | A Venezuelan publishing company founded in 1943. El Nacional has been described as one of the last independent newspapers in Venezuela since the increase of censorship in Venezuela. It is an anti-government newspaper that became exclusively online due to paper and toner shortages                                                                                                  |
| <b><i>Telesur</i></b>            | Telesur is a Latin American multimedia platform launched in Venezuela in 2005. Telesur aimed to promote the unification of the people in South America. Not only is it a news platform, but the company aims to direct political change by influencing peoples' attitudes and beliefs surrounding matters of public policy and civic engagement                                           |
| <b><i>The EastAfrican</i></b>    | A weekly newspaper first published in Kenya in 1994 by the Nation Media Group. The paper covers the news stories of countries in the region in-depth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b><i>Balkan Insight</i></b>     | A news-reporting website that is widely considered one of the most comprehensive independent English news sources in the Balkan region. The paper works to provide the public with reports on regional issues. Balkan Insight offers free daily news access and premium access to investigative reports, features, interviews and profiles on the latest business and political headlines |
| <b><i>La Stampa</i></b>          | La Stampa is an Italian news publication founded in 1867. Published daily, their work spans everything from daily Italian life to international politics. La Stampa is one of Italy's oldest publications                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Yonhap News Agency</i></b> | Yonhap is a Seoul-based South Korean newsmedia group. The agency was established in 1980, and is the only Korean news group that collaborates with foreign publishers. In addition, Yonhap has a services-exchange program with North Korea's Korean Central News Agency                                           |
| <b><i>Asia Times</i></b>         | Asia Times is an English-language digital Asian news platform founded in 1995. Asia Times is dedicated to providing nuanced geopolitical and geo-economic news and commentary. The company prides itself in its independence and identification as one of the world's most objective and least biased news outlets |
| <b><i>The Times of India</i></b> | The Times of India is the world's bestselling newspaper. It is a Conservative, English-language newspaper published in India in 1838                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b><i>The Continent</i></b>      | The Continent is Africa's most widely distributed newspaper. It is a weekly newspaper designed to be shared on WhatsApp. It was published by a non-profit in 2020                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b><i>Caixin</i></b>             | Established in 2010, Caixin is a Chinese media group offering financial and business news through online content, mobile apps, conferences, and books                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b><i>Meduza</i></b>             | Meduza was founded in 2014 and has since become the world's largest independent Russian-language news outlet. It is an independent channel that is committed to becoming a trustworthy source of information                                                                                                       |
| <b><i>Elkhabar</i></b>           | El Khabar was founded in 1990 before the beginning of political censorship in Algeria. The outlet now focuses on politics, sports, health, society, and social protests                                                                                                                                            |

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