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About GTMUN

Conference History

The Georgia Tech Model UN High School Conference is a two-day conference for high school students on Georgia Tech’s campus, located in the heart of Atlanta. Established in 1998, GTMUN has strived to provide delegates with unique insight and perspectives into the most complex and pressing global issues faced by world leaders. GTMUN prides itself as being a venue in which the brightest minds in the region can come together to learn the significance of diplomacy, gain new perspectives on global issues, and gain a meaningful understanding of teamwork, leadership, and collaboration.

The conference has grown in size over the years and now attracts schools from the entire Southeast and beyond. Run by Georgia Tech students from a variety of majors, GTMUN offers a range of committees and issues for high school students to enjoy. Our Model United Nations simulation places delegates at the forefront of global issues and allows delegates to develop a profound understanding of the UN. Through negotiation, compromise, and shrewd manufacturing, students learn the process and challenges of diplomacy. GTMUN fosters these challenges by ensuring delegates accurately represent their countries and balance national interests with those of the international community.

2015 Secretariat

Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the conference please do not hesitate to seek out any member of the Secretariat or find a Staff Member to do so.

Andrew Hull  Secretary General

Andrew Hull is a fourth year Computer Science major with a minor in International Affairs. He has been involved with GTMUN since 2012 and previously served as Secretary General for GTMUN 2014. Andrew has managed the GTMUN website, overseen the development of the committees and topics, as well as developed the registration materials provided prior to the conference. He is the contact for high school programs and other external groups should there be questions or concerns prior to the conference. During the conference Andrew will be a liaison between the conference staff and faculty advisors.

Anna Malcom  Undersecretary General for Administration

Anna Malcom is a third year Nuclear and Radiological Engineering major with a minor in Scientific and Engineering Computation and has competed in MUN since 2010. Anna joined the collegiate team her freshman year in 2013 and currently serves as the Recruitment chair for the program along with her position as an Undersecretary. Anna has worked to develop the registration materials and conference information provided prior to the conference. Throughout the conference Anna will be available to answer any administrative concerns and will be ensuring the conference runs smoothly.
Laura Bernstein  **Undersecretary General for Crisis**

Laura Bernstein is a fourth year Business Administration major and Spanish minor. She first became involved with Model UN in high school as a delegate and has been an active member of the GTMUN conference since 2013, and has previously been the crisis committee director and Chief of Crisis. Laura has worked closely in the development of the committee topics and background guides and the development of the crisis committee for GTMUN 2015. During the conference she will work with the crisis staff to facilitate the crisis committee and will be available to answer any questions or concerns.

Jenilee Trew  **Undersecretary General for Policy**

Jenilee Trew is in her fifth year at Georgia Tech and is an International Affairs masters’ degree candidate who completed her Bachelors this past summer. Jenilee joined the Model United Nations Program at Tech in the fall of 2012 and has served as a committee Director, as well as Finance Officer, PR/Recruitment Officer, and currently serves as Operations Officer for the collegiate team in addition to her position as Undersecretary General for Policy. Jenilee has overseen the staff training and development of the rules of procedure for GTMUN 2015. During the conference she will be working with the staff to ensure committee sessions run smoothly and will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Schuyler Cottrell  **Undersecretary General for Finance**

Schuyler Cottrell is a second year Mechanical Engineering major with a minor in International Affairs. He first became involved in Model United Nations as a freshman in high school as a delegate on his high school team, and immediately joined the GTMUN Program at the start of 2014. Schuyler has previously been a Director at GTMUN 2014 and is an active delegate on the collegiate team. He has worked closely in the development of the GTMUN budget and in handling conference finances. During the conference Schuyler will be available to answer any questions or concerns.

Vince Pedicino  **Faculty Advisor**

Vince first joined the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs in 1995 as an undergraduate student. He is currently the Graduate Advisor and provides student services support to all MSIA and PhD students as well as coordinates the graduate programs. He manages the registration process for all International Affairs and serves as a faculty resource on institute technology systems. He is also responsible for the School’s social media efforts and websites. Vince also proudly advises several of the departmental student groups including the Ambassadors program, the International Affairs Graduate Organization, the Model UN programs, and Sigma Iota Rho. Vince teaches courses on Comparative Politics and European Politics as well as the Model UN preparation course.
Conference Policies

In general, GTMUN expects and REQUIRES all delegates to act in a professional manner during his or her participation in this conference. The policies that are provided for delegates in this guide are intended to protect delegates while they are in the City of Atlanta and at Georgia Tech as well as to ensure that the conference is a good experience for everyone involved.

Respect

Delegates are to show respect to others at all times while participating in GTMUN. This means that all delegates should respect staff members, fellow delegates, faculty advisors, guests of the conference, Georgia Tech faculty, and anyone else that they come in contact with during the GTMUN Conference. This applies in all circumstances. Delegates are responsible for the manner in which they treat other delegates in caucus, the content of notes passed during committee, and all other ways in which they interact with others. Any delegate who is not respectful to other participants will not be considered for awards at the end of the conference. Any delegate who shows extreme disrespect, including vulgar notes, will be asked to leave the conference and will become the responsibility of the their advisor.

Location

The dates that have been chosen for GTMUN are days that Georgia Tech does not have classes. For that reason, the number of Georgia Tech students who will be on campus during the conference will be less than that of a typical day of class. However, there will be a large number of students that live on campus that will have continuous access to some of the same buildings that will be in use during GTMUN. Delegates are not to associate with these students under any circumstances. Delegates are also required to remain in their respective debate areas at all times. Committee directors will assign locations where caucusing is acceptable, and will closely monitor those places. This is for the protection of all delegates. In addition, the staff requires that delegates wear their credentials at all times. Delegates are not allowed to remove them for lunch, caucus, or for any other reason. Any delegate that leaves the building without express permission from their Director will be asked to leave the conference. The location for the 2015 conference is the Scheller College of Business located at Tech Square. There will be security present at all times, and the building is handicap accessible.

Dress

The dress for GTMUN is Western business attire. All delegates at GTMUN are expected to be dressed appropriately, and there are no exceptions to this rule. For men, a blazer or business suit is appropriate. A business suit is often best; tuxedos, while excellent for formal social events, are not recommended for a business conference. For women, skirts or slacks with a blouse, or dresses are acceptable, provided that the tops are not excessively low-cut, and that the skirts are not short. Dresses and skirts should still be professional; prom dresses and dresses for other social events are not proper attire for a formal conference. Jeans, shorts, athletic shoes, sandals, or t-shirts are not acceptable under any circumstances. All decisions concerning the acceptability of a delegate’s dress will be made solely at the discretion of the GTMUN Secretariat, and delegates dressed offensively will be expected to leave the conference.
Technology

The GTMUN Conference has a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, unless you are a participant of the Press Corps committee. Delegates are not to use laptop computers, tablets, or cell phones in committee. Should a delegate be seen using any of these technologies at any point during the conference, he or she will receive a warning from the committee Director. Should the behavior continue, the Director will contact the Secretary General to inform the faculty advisor for further action. If a delegate needs to use their cell phone for an emergency purpose they may inform the committee Director and will be permitted to step outside to make the appropriate phone call. Should a delegate require the use of technology due to a disability, he or she will be allowed access to the technology. Faculty advisors must notify the Secretariat prior to the conference about the student with the disability and their technological needs so that we may make appropriate accommodations.

Preparation

The GTMUN Conference asks all delegates to do the appropriate research in order to be sufficiently prepared for debate. All delegates will be asked to write a Position Paper on each topic presented in their committee background guide and submit it prior to the conference start. It should also be noted that it is AGAINST GTMUN policy to accept pre-written resolutions. While it is expected for the delegates to be well versed in the opinions and policies of the nation they represent, any pre-written resolutions, clauses, or amendments will not be accepted by the Dias. Delegates attempting to use pre-written documents may not be considered for awards.

Consequences

GTMUN is only successful if delegates gain knowledge and experience from their participation in the conference. It is very important, therefore, that the GTMUN staff carefully and quickly handle any situations dealing with delegate behavior during the conference before they hinder the ability of another to effectively participate. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. If a delegate persists with inappropriate behavior after a warning, GTMUN staff will notify the delegate’s faculty advisor. GTMUN also reserves the right, in extreme circumstances, to bar a delegate from further participation in the conference if necessary. The delegate will be placed under the supervision of the faculty advisor in such a case.
Things to Remember

Location/Parking Map

- GTMUN 2015 will take place from October 12-13, 2015.
- GTMUN 2015 will take in the Scheller College of Business at Georgia Tech, located at 800 West Peachtree, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30308 in Tech Square.
- It is located adjacent to the Barnes and Nobles Book Store, and across the street from the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.
- The entrance to Scheller is located on West Peachtree Street. All other entrances will be locked for security purposes.
- There will be security present throughout the conference and conference identification must be worn visibly at all times.
- Parking is located adjacent to the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Parking passes were purchased with registration or you can pay for parking by taking a ticket when you enter and paying the daily fee upon exiting. The deck is marked on the above map and is accessible from Spring St.
- There are numerous dining options within walking distance of Scheller along 5th Street including Ray’s New York Pizza, Barrelhouse, Waffle House, Tin Drum, Chuck’s Famous Sandwiches, Moe’s Southwestern Grill, Gyro Brothers, Subway, Yogli Mogli and Starbucks.
GTMUN 2015 Rules of Procedure

1. These Rules of Procedure are considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. Interpretation of these Rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Secretary General and his or her designate(s).

Rule 1

Dates of Convening and Adjournment

The Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary General. The dates shall be October 12-13 2015.

Rule 2

Place of Sessions

The Assembly shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary General. The meeting location shall be The Scheller College of Business, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.

Rule 3

Invitation to Silent Prayer or Meditation

Immediately after the opening of the Assembly, the Director may invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to private prayer or meditation.

Secretariat

Rule 4

Composition of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will be composed of the Secretary General, Undersecretary General for Administration, Undersecretary General for Policy, Undersecretary General for Crisis, and Undersecretary General for Finance. All Directors, Assistant Directors, and Staff Members are considered designates of the Secretariat.

Rule 5

Statements by the Secretariat

Any member of the Secretariat, at any time, may make oral or written statements to the body concerning any question under consideration.

Dais

Rule 6
Composition of the Dais

The Dais shall be comprised of the Director and Assistant Director(s) of the committee.

Rule 7

The Director

The Secretariat shall appoint a Director who shall hold office and chair the committee for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat. If the Director finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, the Assistant Director will assume the role of Director.

Rule 8

General Powers of the Director

In addition to exercising powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere in these Rules, the Director shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the session, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to a vote, and announce decisions. He or she shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order. The Director may, in the course of discussion of an item, propose to the Assembly the limitation of the time to be allotted for speakers, the limitation on the number of times each representative may speak, the closure of the list of speakers, or the closure of debate. He or she may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of debate on the item under discussion. The Director may also, for any reason, rule any points or motions dilatory or out of order.

Rule 9

The Assistant Director

The Secretariat shall appoint at least one Assistant Director who shall hold office and co-chair the committee for the duration of the session. The Assistant Director shall serve as Acting Director in the absence of the Director, unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat. Alternatively, if the Assistant Director is unable to perform his or her functions, a new Assistant Director shall be appointed for the remainder of the term at the discretion of the Secretary General or his or her designate.

Conduct of Business

Rule 10

Official and Working Language

English shall be the official and working language of each committee. Any representative wishing to address the body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide simultaneous translation into English and, for a speech, be afforded an equal amount of time to introduce the translation in addition to the original speech.
Rule 11

Quorum

The Director may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one-third of the members of the committee are present. The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Rule 12

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary General and communicated to the members of the Assembly at least forty-five days before the opening of a session.

Rule 13

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda provided by the Secretary General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the opening session. Motions to reorder the agenda shall be accepted and debated in each committee. The Director may limit the allowed number of speakers for debate upon the order of the agenda. At any time, delegates may move to set the agenda and each motion shall immediately be put to vote. Majority vote of those present in the body shall determine the order of the agenda items.

Rule 14

Speeches

No representative may address the committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Director. The Director shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Director may call a speaker to order if his or her comments are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 15

List of Speakers

Members may be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after they have spoken. After the initial establishment of the list of speakers by the Director, any representative wishing to be added to the list must submit, in writing, their request. Any representative has the right to make a motion that the list of speakers be closed or, if already closed, reopened. This motion is not subject to debate, and requires the support of the majority of members present to pass. If the list of speakers becomes exhausted, formal debate automatically concludes and the committee proceeds directly into voting procedure.

Rule 16

Time Limit on Speeches
The Director may determine the initial time limit for speakers. The committee may, by a majority vote, limit the time allotted to each speaker and/or the number of times a representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, however, two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When a delegate exceeds the allocated time, the Director shall call him or her to order without delay.

Rule 17

Yields

If a speaker concludes his or her substantive speech before the allotted time has expired, he or she may yield the remaining time to the Director, another Speaker, or to Questions.

Rule 18

Points of Order

To correct an error in procedure, a representative may rise to a point of order during the discussion of any matter. The Director, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, shall immediately decide on the point of order immediately. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Director to the Director General by informing the Director in writing. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19

Points of Personal Privilege

Any representative may rise to a point of personal preference if the noise in the chamber is too loud, the speaker cannot be heard, if the temperature of the room is uncomfortable, or for some similar reason. If and only if a question requires immediate action may a representative exercising a point interrupt the current speaker.

Rule 20

Points of Information

Any representative may rise to a point of information to direct a question, concerning procedure, to the chair. The point may concern a clarification regarding the Rules of Procedure, the United Nations, or the direction of the proceedings. This point is in order only when the floor is open to formal debate.

Rule 21

Rights of Reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative’s State, the Director may permit a right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal. Requests for any rights of reply must be submitted to the Director in writing.
Rule 22

*Moderated Caucus*

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may move for a Moderated Caucus, or a suspension of the formal rules of debate, by specifying a time limit, speaking time, and a topic. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be immediately put to a vote, requiring the majority of the members present, or present and voting, to pass. The Director shall moderate the committee and set all limitations during the specified time period.

Rule 23

*Unmoderated Caucus*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for an Unmoderated Caucus, or suspension of the meeting, specifying a length of time for the suspension. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be put to a vote, requiring the support of a majority of the members present, or present and voting, to pass.

Rule 24

*Tabling of a Topic*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for tabling the topic of debate. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two representatives opposing tabling the topic, after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote. If a motion for tabling of the topic passed by two-thirds of the members present, or present and voting, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken. The committee shall immediately proceed to consider the next agenda topic.

Rule 25

*Closure of Debate*

A representative may, at any time, move for the closure of debate on the item under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to a vote. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present, to pass. If the committee favors the closure of debate, the committee shall immediately move to voting procedure on all proposals introduced under that agenda topic.

Rule 26

*Adjournment of the Meeting*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for the adjournment of the meeting. This motion requires no debate and shall be put to a vote, requiring the support of a majority to pass. After adjournment, the committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time; adjournment of the final meeting shall adjourn the session.
Rule 27

Order of Motions

Motions before the committee shall have precedence in the following order:

1. To suspend the meeting,
   a. Unmoderated Caucus
   b. Moderated Caucus
2. To adjourn the meeting,
3. To table the topic of discussion,
4. To close debate on the item under discussion, and
5. To suspend the rules.

Rule 28

Working Papers

Working papers shall be submitted to the Director, with the names of at least four sponsoring members and a minimum total of ten members recognized by the Secretariat who would like to see the committee consider a working paper, unless specified by the Director. A working paper shall retain the required number of sponsors to remain in debate and shall be written in the correct format. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the working paper for circulation of copies to the delegates. The Director, however, may permit the discussion and consideration of working papers without such working papers having been circulated. The Director, at his or her discretion, may also set a limit to working papers that may be introduced.

Rule 29

Sponsorship of Working Papers

Working papers must have a minimum of four sponsoring members and a minimum of ten signatory members wishing to see the committee consider the proposal, unless specified by the Director. Observer delegations may not be counted as sponsoring members of proposals; observer delegations may be counted as a signatory member.

Rule 30

Withdrawal of Motions and Working Papers

Any motion made may be withdrawn, by its sponsoring representative, from the floor before it is entertained by the Director and action taken upon it. Likewise, the sponsors of a working paper may withdraw their working paper at any time before voting procedure has commenced, provided that no amendments have been submitted for the working paper. A motion or working paper thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 31

Draft Resolutions
Once a working paper has been approved by the Dais, it shall be typed and numbered. Any member of the Committee can move to introduce the Draft Resolution at which point it will be distributed to the committee as a draft resolution. This does not require a vote. Immediately following its distribution the Sponsors will receive a right to a five-question question-and-answer session with the committee to facilitate discussion. Only draft resolutions, alongside any amendments to the draft resolution, may be considered during voting procedure.

**Rule 32**

*Amendments to Draft Resolutions*

Substantive amendments to draft resolutions may be submitted to the Director. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the amendment for circulation of copies to the delegations. The Director, however, may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments without such amendments having been circulated.

**Rule 33**

*Procedure for Amendments to Draft Resolutions*

If all of the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the draft resolution itself shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the adoption of the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the body for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

**Voting**

**Rule 34**

*Voting Rights*

Each Member State with full membership of each committee shall have one vote on all substantive and procedural matters. Each Observer Delegation of each committee shall have one vote on all procedural matters. Observer Delegation members do not have a vote on substantive matters.

**Rule 35**

*Majority Required*

Unless specified elsewhere in these Rules, procedural decisions of the committee shall be made by a majority of the members in attendance of the committee. Substantive decisions of the committee shall be made by a majority of the members in attendance that cast an affirmative or negative vote with all abstentions disregarded from the majority calculation.

**Rule 36**

*Meaning of the Phrase “Present and Voting”*

For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase “members present and voting” shall mean the members casting an affirmative or negative vote. All members must cast an affirmative or negative vote on all procedural motions. However, on substantive motions members may
abstain from voting, provided they are not recorded on the roll as “present and voting.” Members who abstain from voting are not considered as voting.

Rule 37

Method of Voting

Committees shall normally vote by a show of placards, but any member may request a roll call vote on any item of substantive consideration. The roll call vote shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members. The name of each member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply, “Yes,” “No,” “Abstain,” or “Pass.” The results of voting shall be listed in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members. Only one pass is allowed per delegation per vote, and any member wishing to pass relinquishes their right to abstain from the vote. Any member may also request to adopt an item of substantive consideration by acclamation. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be put to a vote, requiring no opposition to pass. However, a motion for a roll call vote during voting procedure shall take precedence over a motion to adopt by acclamation.

Rule 38

Conduct During Voting

After the Director has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except to a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting. The Director may permit members to explain their vote, either before or after the voting if a request has been submitted, in writing, before the commencement of voting procedure. The Director may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The Director shall not permit any sponsor of a proposal or amendment to explain his or her vote on his or her own proposal or amendment. Explanations shall be permitted only if a member has voted in a manner contrary to what was made apparent during debate.

Rule 39

Assembly During Voting

At the beginning of voting, the page system will be suspended and entry into the chamber will be prohibited. The permitted assemblage in the committee room during voting procedure will be composed of the Dais of the committee, all full members of the committee, all observer delegation members of the committee, and any members of the Secretariat.

Rule 40

Voting on Draft Resolutions

If two or more draft resolutions are related to the same topic, the committee shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted.

Rule 41

Voting on Amendments
When an amendment is moved to a draft resolution, the amendment shall be voted upon first. When two or more amendments are moved to a draft resolution, the committee shall vote on the amendments in the order they are received. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended draft resolution shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment if it adds to, deletes from, or revises part of the draft resolution without having the full support of all sponsors of the draft resolution.

Rule 42

Division of Draft Resolutions and Amendments

Immediately before a draft resolution comes to a vote, a representative may move that sections of a draft resolution or amendment be voted on separately. The motion for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. The Director may limit the time allowed for these speeches. At the completion of these speeches, the committee shall move to an immediate vote. If the motion for division is carried, each section of the draft resolution or amendment that has been divided shall be substantively voted on separately. If a majority of the members present vote in favor of the divided sections of the draft resolution or amendment, the sections are returned to the draft resolution or amendment as an annex. If a majority of the members present vote against the divided section of the draft resolution or amendment the section will be considered rejected by the committee. If all operative sections of the draft resolution or amendment have been rejected, the entire draft resolution or amendment shall be considered rejected.
GA 4: Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Description of Committee

The General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is the United Nations main policymaking and representative body. Its purpose is to create and deliberate policy and unite countries around the world. As a whole, the General Assembly has brought countries together to discuss important topics and worked to maintain peace within member countries since its foundation in 1945. The General Assembly is structured such that the President presides over the General Assembly with 21 Vice-Presidents. The General Assembly is run through the Plenary Committee, General Committee, Credentials Committee, and six main committees:

- General Assembly First: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)
- General Assembly Second: Economic and Financial (ECOFIN)
- General Assembly Third: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM)
- General Assembly Fourth: Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL)
- General Assembly Fifth: Administrative and Budgetary Committee
- General Assembly Sixth: Legal

The Charter of the General Assembly allows it to approve the UN budget, establish financial assessments of Member States, elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and other bodies, and provide recommendations on each of the topics discussed by the six committees as well as issues not being discussed by the Security Council. Any resolutions passed by any body within the General Assembly are recommendations, not mandates, as only the Security Council has power to create binding documents.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly is Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL). SPECPOL focuses on topics relating to decolonization, and topics not specifically covered by the other General Assembly Committee mandates including "Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace." In the most recent session of the General Assembly, SPECPOL focused primarily on peacekeeping.

Membership and Voting

Membership

All 193 Member States of the United Nations have representation within the General Assembly and each of its committees. Two Permanent Observers, Palestine and Holy See have representation within each of the General Assembly Committees.

Voting

In accordance with General Assembly Rules of Procedure, each Member State will have one vote. Decisions to important questions such as recommendations with respect to the

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1 “Functions and powers of the General Assembly.”
2 Stephen Frankel and Mary Regan, eds. The PGA Handbook.
3 Ibid.
4 “Special Political and Decolonization.”
maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions will require two-thirds majority of Members present and voting.⁵

### Current Members

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⁵ Rules of Procedure [The General Assembly], chapt. 12, Voting, rule 82.
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Topic 1:

Transnational Airborne Atomic Radiation
Topic One: Transnational Airborne Atomic Radiation

Introduction

As the world strives towards renewable energy sources, nuclear energy seems to increasingly be the energy source of the future. There are several factors that encourage the use of atomic energy as the shift towards renewable energy continues. One of the most substantial factors is population. It is projected that the number of people living in urban settings will double by 2050. These projections alone are not sustainable with certain types of renewable energy sources, particularly noting the level of strain that would be placed upon centralized energy systems. The second vital factor favoring nuclear energy above other renewable sources is the urgent need to drastically reduce carbon emissions worldwide. Climate change is an immediate threat and with many technologies aimed at renewable energy and carbon emissions reductions still in the works, nuclear energy has already proved its functionality.

Currently there are 31 countries that rely on nuclear energy as a source of power; of those, sixteen depend on nuclear energy for a quarter of their total energy supply while eleven get approximately one third of their totally supply. The United States of American currently leads the world with 99 functioning reactors while France, who places second with fifty-eight reactors, acquires three fourths of its energy from nuclear sources. Developing nations across the world are simultaneously increasing efforts to obtain nuclear energy. These this dramatic jump in nuclear energy usage, public and environmental safety become a top priority. With disasters such as Fukushima and Chernobyl fresh in the minds of leading policy makers, airborne radiation proves to be a continuing threat to the livelihood of nuclear energy.

Topic History

Chernobyl was one of the prominent historical examples of the dangers of nuclear power. The accident occurred in 1986 and resulted from a flawed reactor design coupled with inadequately trained operators. Thirty people died in the initial weeks following the accident due to acute radiation poisoning. Between Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Belarus, approximately five million people lived in contaminated areas with 400,000 of those individuals within the contaminated area strictly controlled by authorities. While most of the released radioactive material was contained locally with debris, lighter materials were carried by wind across Europe. Reports released by the Chernobyl Form–created in 2003 by the IAEA and other United Nations organizations–indicate

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1 Dickenson, David. "Should Developing Nations Embrace Nuclear Energy?"
2 "Nuclear Power Today."
3 "Operational & Long-Term Shutdown Reactors."
4 "Chernobyl." World Nuclear Association."

Chernobyl Explosion

Chernobyl Form –created in 2003 by the IAEA and other United Nations organizations- indicate
that those exposed to high levels of radiations, were at an increased risk of cancer in the long term.

Another more recent example of the effects of transnational airborne radiation occurred with the Fukushima accident following the devastating tsunami. The accident that resulted in all three cores at least partially melting occurred in March 2011 and released large amounts of radiation over a four to six day period. Roughly 100,000 people were evacuated and relocated as a safety precaution. Largely attributed to stringent safety measures, no deaths have been attributed to the nuclear accident. With radiation traveling by wind and water, public health concerns remain a primary concern.

One of the most significant developments towards international radiation safety occurred in December 1955 with UN resolution 913. This resolution outlined the establishment of the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The IAEA is another one of the leading organizations involved in transnational airborne radiation control. The IAEA is widely known for its international basic safety standards that per the IAEA Statute must be upheld. The International commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) is also a prominent international organization focused on radiation protection.

**Current Situation**

Despite the disasters at Chernobyl and Fukushima, airborne contamination by nuclear substances is tightly controlled. Nuclear energy continues to grow; of the 56 countries that contain research reactors, only eight of them are classified as nuclear weapon capable. This trend shows that increased international regulations on proliferation of weaponry knowledge have encouraged peaceful practices of nuclear technology. With this large surge of investment and interest, increased focus has turned to waste management and safety. Transnational airborne atomic radiation has largely been an issue left to individual members states, particularly given the notion of organizations such as the IAEA enforcing stringent safety regulations to minimize this potential harmful effects. Remediation is one of the primarily tools used in waste management for airborne radiation. Many of these methods are individually developed based on a case-by-case need and heavily rely on monitoring and detection of radiation.

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5 “Fukushima Accident.”
6 “69/84. Effects of Atomic Radiation.”
8 “Nuclear Site Remediation and Restoration during Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations.”
In terms of international action, in December of 2014, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee passed its most recent resolution concerning nuclear airborne contamination. Resolution 69/84 highlights the importance of the work of the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. This resolution also notes the need for steady funding for the committee to that its research can continue to educate member nations on the importance of nuclear safety. The United States of America (US) has been at the forefront of the nuclear energy renaissance and continues to emphasize the importance of sustainable nuclear energy while also continuing to stand firm for hardline international safety measures. The United States, in recent years has developed incentives through means such as the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to encourage private reactor design and development.\(^9\)

Despite this US renaissance, IAEA set international nuclear growth in member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at zero. Thus the global hope for increases in renewable atomic energy lies with non-OECD countries further increasing the need for stringent safety regulations. This proves increasingly true with companies such as the French AREVA, which with active backing from the French government, has been in the process of reactor sales to developing nations, particularly within the Middle East. There are estimates by the IAEA that the total percent of nuclear-generated electricity produced by non-OECD countries will jump from 4.3% to 15% by 2030, especially with continued economic benefits from parties involved.

**Directive**

Looking ahead this committee should consider several factors. First and foremost is the spread of nuclear technology to developing nations. This primarily raises concerns over the general safety of such technology. It also includes factors such as: technology proliferation –and the potential negative implications of this-, personal training, and strict adherence to safety guidelines. As has been shown in the Fukushima situation, even in the most secure locations, accidents happen. This coupled with unstable governments, violent extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIL searching for weapons of mass destruction, and lacking secure infrastructure leads to questions on how waste management as well as safety guidelines will be enforced.

The second factor that this committee must consider is international organizations and their role in airborne radiation control. As the proliferation of nuclear technology continues, will these new countries join organizations such as the OECD and the IAEA in order to safely administer these technologies? Or will the nations rely on those selling the products? Building off this, one must consider the implications of non-compliant countries once this technology is gained.

The final and possibly the most vital aspect, is the role of nuclear accidents in transnational airborne radiation. Given that a large portion of airborne contamination occurs from events such as this, how will international remediation efforts be coordinated? Especially considering these upcoming nuclear nations.

\(^9\) Goldemberg, José. "Nuclear Energy in Developing Countries."
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Topic 2:

Ensuring Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Topic Two: Ensuring Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Introduction

In recent years, technology has advanced so much that humans are now capable of leaving the surface of Earth. Outer space in the immediate surroundings has been explored, but similar to technology used irresponsibly, it can be exploited for purposes such as spying, weapons, or terrorizing. With the potential negatives of space exploration in mind, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its seventy-seven members, including inter- and non-governmental organizations, monitor launchings and work towards the common goal of ensuring that the regions of outer space are used ethically and responsibly.\(^1\) Resolutions stemming from this body consists of factors including: maintaining close contact with organizations concerned with outer space matters, providing information on space activities, but not duplicating technical and scientific exchanges, and lastly, to promote cooperation internationally in outer space activities.

This committee contains a Scientific, Technical, and Legal subcommittee that meets annually in Vienna to implement decisions that comply with the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Treaty, which was intended primarily to prevent outer space from becoming the next battlefield.\(^2\) At the 2006 meeting, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) was created to "ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle".\(^3\) The European Union (EU) has also had a hand in space security by initiating the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICoC). The intent of the principles and guidelines are outlined: that "[it is] all countries’ inheritable right to use space for peaceful purposes; protection of security and reliability of space objects in orbit; consideration for states’ legitimate defense interests."\(^4\) This code of conduct is in place to have security benefits made available quickly in order to create rules for "both civil and security space activities."\(^5\)

Topic History

During the late 1950’s, the world’s first satellite was launched. Immediately, the United Nations sought to prohibit the use of space for "military purposes and placement of weapons of mass destruction."\(^6\) International space law became a possibility when the General Assembly agreed to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space in Peaceful Purposes.

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\(^1\) "United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs."
\(^3\) "What Is UN Spider?" UNOOSA.
\(^4\) "Outer Space." Critical Issues.
\(^5\) Ibid.
\(^6\) "UNODA - Outer Space: Transparency and Confidence Building."
of Outer Space in 1967, which outlined how the moon and other celestial bodies could not be claimed by individual nations or used for placing nuclear weapons in or around them.

In the 1980s, after more innovation on satellite technologies, there was a proposal in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to prevent anti-satellite weapons. In 1993, this same group released a confidence-building report on outer space, which ensured that the provisions that the CD was making were being received well by other nations. As recent as 2006, the draft version of this proposal was submitted to the CD by the governments of People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

In January 2011, the General Assembly created a group of governmental experts (GGE) to study transparency and confidence building measures (TCBMs) that were being implemented in outer space. Three sessions were held by the GGE, and their report was submitted on the 68th meeting of the General Assembly. The report outlined a framework on how to go about having experts visit national space facilities, risk reduction, and the process of exchanging information between states regarding space policy and activities. There was also a brief exclamation to have the Office of Disarmament Affairs, UN entities, and the Office of Outer Space Affairs to coordinate and reinforce one another.7

Current Situation

The fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space met on June 2014 in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Over the duration of the assembly, the Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had conversations varying from the developments in global navigation satellite systems, long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris, and even on the weather in space. The its fifty-third session held discussed the capacity of building in space, legislation for peaceful exploration and usage of outer space, space debris litigation measures, and a “general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.”8 From the Legal Committee’s report, there was talk of United Nations treaties being applied to outer space. The European Telecommunications Satellite Organization - Intergovernmental Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO)9 recently declared that it had accepted the rights and obligations under the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. This allowed for more transparency for all 49 members involved in EUTELSAT-IGO.

Along with talks of accepting and ratifying treaties, there was discussion on revising the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. With powerful mechanisms in an unstable environment such as the void of space, this was a crucial conversation to have in terms of regulating the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space. The review called for ensuring that whatever was being

7 Ibid.
8 "Outer Space." Critical Issues.
9 "European Telecommunications Satellite Organization." EUTELSAT Igo.
conducted in outer space needed to be in the best interest of preserving life and having peaceful outcomes. This also led to the conclusion that the Legal and Scientific and Technical subcommittees would need to communicate more in order to appropriately look over the use of nuclear power in outer space as it pertains to new legal instruments.

Additionally, the assembly had talks about space and water as well as the climate change in space. When presentations were completed from various countries, it was stated that the assembly had the overall opinion that, with proper resources and space-derived data, policymakers could begin to make better decisions when it comes to not wasting water resources. Some of the covered topics about water dealt with “management of water resources by remote sensing in Syria” and “use of Earth observation data for water resources assessment and management in India.” With the space-derived data, countries could monitor climate change, floods, droughts, and improve forecasts all from technologies in space. Dealing specifically with climate change, the committee reviewed satellite data that could detect changes in the sea-level rise, flooding, and storms and how all this data can help international assessments made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

**Directive**

With all of the committees and intergovernmental groups involved with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, there is a great deal of scrutiny over how space will be used in the coming years. The committee needs to continue to examine the future retrieving satellite data and contributing to research to determine global trends for water conservation and conserving bio-systems. There also needs to be routine check-ups on satellites and nuclear powered mechanisms in orbit for safety issues as well as ethical checks. If too many objects are near orbit, the chance of a collision increases, so monitoring the location and status of the major objects in space needs to be a committee priority so as to not cause expensive and potentially life-threatening accidents.

With increased privatization of activities in space, COPUOS has stated that it will need to move forward with being the overall governing body of outer space for all organizations, public or private, that reside in outer space. With uncertainty to how every piece of equipment in space is being used, there may be organizations determined to sabotage various satellites or mechanisms with the intent to cause harm. In this case, self-defense measures need to be implemented and evacuation procedures on manned-craft need to be prioritized to prevent heavy casualties in the case of sabotage. If there ever were an accident, collision, or an excess of space debris, a cleaning procedure would need to be implemented to clear the path for satellites to travel without a chance of piercing expensive and sensitive equipment.

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10 Ibid.
11 Ibid.
Bibliography


