# Table of Contents

About GTMUN .......................................................................................................................... iii  
Conference Policies .................................................................................................................. iv 
Things to Remember .................................................................................................................. v 
GTMUN 2015 Rules of Procedure ............................................................................................. vi 
General Assembly Plenary ....................................................................................................... 17 
  Description of Committee ...................................................................................................... 17 
  Membership and Voting ......................................................................................................... 17 
  Current Members ................................................................................................................... 18 
Topic One: Moving Towards Enforcement of the CTBT .......................................................... 21 
  Introduction ............................................................................................................................. 21 
  Topic History .......................................................................................................................... 21 
  Current Situation .................................................................................................................... 22 
  Directive .................................................................................................................................. 23 
Bibliography .............................................................................................................................. 24 
Topic Two: Drug Legalization .................................................................................................... 26 
  Introduction ............................................................................................................................. 26 
  Topic History .......................................................................................................................... 26 
  Current Situation .................................................................................................................... 27 
  Directive .................................................................................................................................. 28 
Bibliography .............................................................................................................................. 29
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
Assistant Director – Graduate Programs, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

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 place 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 acclimation. 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 acclimation.

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.
General Assembly Plenary

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.\(^1\) 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:\(^2\)

- 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.\(^3\) 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.

General Assembly Plenary

The General Assembly Plenary Committee (GA Plen) is one of the main bodies within the General Assembly. Each new session of the General Assembly opens with the meeting of GA Plen, in which the new President of the General Assembly introduces the session.\(^4\) From there GA Plen discusses a myriad of different types of international issues. The topic of discussion in the Plenary Committee is not limited to a specific category as it is in any of the six main bodies of the General Assembly. Because of that, the Plenary Committee has some flexibility in its discussion.

Membership and Voting

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

\(^1\) “Functions and powers of the General Assembly.”

\(^2\) Stephen Frankel and Mary Regan, eds. The PGA Handbook.

\(^3\) Ibid.

\(^4\) Ibid.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Palau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Panama</td>
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<td>Andorra</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
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<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<td>Holy See</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
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⁵ Rules of Procedure [The General Assembly], chapt. 12, Voting, rule 82.
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Topic 1:

Moving Towards Enforcement of the CTBT
Topic One: Moving Towards Enforcement of the CTBT

Introduction
The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an international agreement that bans the testing of all nuclear weapons in any environment. The CTBT first opened for signature on September 24, 1996, creating a de-facto international norm for nuclear testing. It is the basis for nuclear non-proliferation in tandem with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT. In 1996, the majority of United Nations members became signatories to the CTBT, however, to date, not all Member States have ratified the treaty.

To understand the significance of this, it is important to understand the difference between a signature and a ratification of a treaty. When a party is a signatory, or provides a signature on a treaty, that nation is not bound by the document, they simply are agreeing to move forward in the treaty-making process.\(^1\) If a state ratifies a treaty, that country has indicated its consent to be bound by that treaty.\(^2\)

Though the CTBT has been in existence for almost 20 years, it has yet to be enforced because not all of the forty-four Annex Two states have signed and ratified the treaty. Annex Two states are nations that under were compiled from the IAEA’s April 1996 edition of “Nuclear Power Reactors in the World”, which identified countries that possessed nuclear research and/or power reactors at that time.\(^3\) Today, India, Pakistan and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) have neither signed nor ratified the treaty. Israel, the United States of America, Iran, Peoples Republic of China and Egypt have signed the treaty but have yet to ratify it.\(^4\)

Topic History
The Second World War ended in 1945 with two atomic bombs. Following that, the League of Nations gave way to the United Nations whose first General Assembly resolution was for the establishment of a commission to deal with atomic energy.\(^5\) Since January 24, 1945, the international community has been working to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ensure only peaceful uses of nuclear materials.

In the latter half of the twentieth century there have been numerous attempts to establish treaties and movements against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Below is a brief timeline of events:\(^6\)

- 1959: Nuclear tests banned in Antarctica
- 1963: Partial Test Ban Treaty opens for signature
- 1967: Latin America becomes Nuclear Free Zone

\(^1\) Dag Hammarskjöld. “What Is the Difference between Signing, Ratification and Accession of UN Treaties?”
\(^2\) Ibid.
\(^3\) CBTO. “FAQs.”
\(^4\) CTBTO. “Status of Signature and Ratification.”
\(^5\) UN General Assembly. “General Assembly Resolutions 1st Session.”
\(^6\) “Nuclear Weapons Timeline.”
- **1968**: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opens for signatures
- **1985**: South Pacific becomes Nuclear Free Zone
- **1986-7**: US and Soviet Union discuss nuclear abolition and sign treaty to ban intermediate-range missiles
- **1995**: Southeast Asia becomes Nuclear Free Zone
- **1996**: Africa becomes Nuclear Free Zone
- **1996**: World Courts decide nuclear weapons are illegal
- **1996**: The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) opens for signatures

Despite the great strides taken, there also have been setbacks along the way. The Annex Two nations who have not yet ratified the CTBT each have reasons for not doing so. The United States of America has not ratified the treaty for numerous reasons, the largest of which being that the test-ban could potentially damage the safety and viability of the US’ existing nuclear arsenal.\(^7\) Despite this objection, the US has not tested any nuclear weapons in recent years. Other nations, such as the DPRK and Pakistan have resisted signing onto the treaty because they have nuclear capabilities and want to continue to test them at their will. This poses a threat to the international community because not all of these nuclear materials are registered with the International Atomic Energy Agency, nor are used for peaceful means. In fact, in 2006, 2009, and 2013, the DPRK tested nuclear weapons at underground facilities in the northern region of the nation.

**Current Situation**

Without all of the signatures and ratifications of every Annex Two State, the CTBT will not take full force. Until that time, it does little to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, the most recent ratification of the CTBT occurred on March 20, 2015 by Angola, a non Annex

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\(^7\) Lawrence Krauss. "It’s Time for the U.S. To Finally Sign the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty."
Two state.\textsuperscript{8} As previously mentioned, each Annex Two nation has particular reasons for not signing the treaty, however, recently there have been movements closer towards ratification in some nations.

When Barak Obama began his second term as President of the United States of America, the CTBT once again was a topic of discussion. CTBT ratification was a core part of his arms-control agenda in the 2012 election, and remains so today; however, with the political climate in the United States, “it is going to take a Republican president to bring this off,” according to Linton Brooks, a former head of the National Nuclear Security Administration.\textsuperscript{9} In 2014, Israel was also moving closer to ratifying the treaty. Lassina Zerbo, executive secretary of the preparatory commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), held talks with three Israeli ministers about the CTBT and after which he said, “Israel is probably the one that could ratify first [of the eight countries that must ratify the treaty before it takes effect.] The message I’m getting is not ‘if’ but ‘when’.”\textsuperscript{10}

Despite the forward steps taken by the United States and Israel, the DPRK is highly unlikely to sign and ratify the treaty. The nation is not a member of IAEA, not a party to the NPT or any other treaty or convention against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the past ten years the country has conducted three nuclear tests and although there has not been one in two years, it remains a constant threat to the security of its neighbors.

\textbf{Directive}

The General Assembly Plenary Committee has the goal of adopting a resolution that will continue the process of ratifying the CTBT. For this resolution to be a comprehensive solution, delegates must consider the reasons specific Member States have chosen not to sign and/or ratify the treaty and the effect those reasons have on the international community as a whole.

Some questions to consider in your research:

- What does the CTBT do currently?
- How can it be strengthened in its unenforced state?
- Why are certain States refusing to ratify?
- What concessions, if any, could be made by all parties to move closer to ratification?
- What dangers are posed by nations that do not ratify this treaty?
- How can the UN stop potential threats caused by nations who do not ratify this treaty?

Be mindful to consider national sovereignty throughout the course of debate. It is not the role of this body to step in and demand for a nation to take specific actions. On that note, this body is only able to \textit{recommend} actions, not create binding agreements. Therefore, it is important to work to a solution that all parties involved will agree to willingly without the use of coercion or force.

\textsuperscript{8} CTBTO. “Status of Signature and Ratification.”
\textsuperscript{9} Rachel Oswald. “Obama Official: Scant Hope of Congress Weighing Test-Ban Anytime Soon.”
\textsuperscript{10} David Horovitz. “Israel ‘probably’ next to Ratify Nuke Test Ban Treaty — Top Official.”
Bibliography


Topic 2:

Drug Legalization
Topic Two: Drug Legalization

Introduction

Substances that alter the mind or body in some way to produce a kind of “high” have been the topic of debate for centuries all throughout the world. From the Opium Wars in the 1800s to the War on Drugs of the late 20th and early 21st century, nations have fought over the right to allow them into or ban them from society.

For the majority of the 20th century, drugs have been widely seen as vices and were banned by most counties. Now, however, they have become more popular and mainstream, with nations decriminalizing their possession and even in some cases legalizing recreational use of certain substances. This trend has brought the topic of drug legalization to the attention of the Plenary Committee of the General Assembly for debate.

Across the globe there are numerous countries with different laws pertaining to the use of different types of drugs and their legality. In Holland, for example it is thought that all drugs are fair game, however in reality, “All drugs are forbidden in the Netherlands. It is illegal to produce, possess, sell, import and export drugs," according to Holland.com.1 That being said, coffee shops are only allowed to sell soft drugs (cannabis) and not more than five grams of cannabis per person per day, and are governed by strict laws that control the amount of permitted soft drugs, and the conditions in which it is sold and used.2 In Spain and Italy, cocaine and heroin were made legal for use, but not sale in 1983.3 In the United States of America, the sale and use of cannabis for recreational purposes is legal only in certain states.

This committee will specifically discuss what drugs should be deemed safe enough to legalize without destabilizing the society of a country, how to enforce the decisions of this committee in regards to the previous question, and what actions should be taken by the United Nations against countries that do not follow its guidelines.

Topic History

The beginning of modern drug legalization battles is widely considered to be the Opium Wars between the United Kingdom and the Qing dynasty of China.4 It began when the United Kingdom attempted to get Chinese citizens to purchase their opium, and thus open up a large new market for their lucrative export. The emperor decided to outlaw the trade of opium and seize the drug at ports without compensation, in an attempt to keep the drug illegal and out of his nation.5

He was unsuccessful, as the British won both the First and the Second Opium Wars, and the Chinese people became addicted to opium. Surprisingly, a few short years after the end of

1 "Dutch Drug Policy."
2 Ibid.
3 "The Experience of Foreign Countries and Drug Legalization."
4 Kenneth Pletcher, "Opium Wars."
5 Ibid.
the wars, the UK became the first country to require opium be sold with the seller’s address on it, being the first drug regulation in Europe. From that point on, mind-altering drugs and the drug trade were slowly attacked by nations and international organizations for being immoral, and were criminalized by countries around the world. The use of illegal drugs would not become as popular as it was again until the 1960’s.

During the 1960’s, illegal drug use skyrocketed as counterculture became popular. This prompted the US government to declare a “War on Drugs” in the 1971 to counteract the lucrative drug trade that had grown over the previous decade. This would be the peak of drug criminalization since the Opium Wars, because a few years afterwards calls for legalization began to pop up again among the populous. While the UN did establish the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 1997 with the purpose of stemming trafficking (among other objectives), it has had little effect on the international trend towards legalization. It is at the crossroads between the War on Drugs and the legalization movement that the world finds itself today.

Current Situation

The current opinions about the legalization of illegal drugs are spread all over the spectrum. Mixed feelings exist about the legalization, regulation, criminalization and use of all drugs, from alcohol and caffeine to marijuana and cocaine. These opinions exist in every region as well, making this an international problem requiring international dialogue. Until now, the official position of the United Nations has been to enforce laws against the production and trafficking of most drugs across borders (with the exceptions of alcohol and caffeine, which are legal in almost every member state of the UN).

Legality of Marijuana across the Globe

Today many nations are discussing this topic as a national issue. Holland is one of the best examples of how legalization of certain drugs can benefit society as whole. The Netherlands

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6 Pharmacy Act of 1868."
7 "A Brief History of the Drug War."
8 "Drug Use Prevention." UNODC.
has accomplished public health goals through its drug policy of coffee shops and the sale of marijuana. The nation has a low prevalence of HIV among people who use drugs, negligible incidence of heroin use, lower cannabis use among young people than in many stricter countries, and a citizenry that has generally been spared the burden of criminal records for low level, nonviolent drug offenses. In addition to The Netherlands there are many other countries that have or are working towards the legalization of marijuana. The United States of America is allowing for legalization of marijuana for recreational use to be a state-held decision, and so far some states have voted yes. The Czech Republic passed a medical marijuana bill 2013, and decriminalized possession of the drug. Spain has also decriminalized possession of the drug, creating a grey area for its users. Finally, Uruguay is the first and only nation in the world to fully legalize marijuana.

This committee has the chance to change the position of the United Nations, choosing to accept the legalization and decriminalization of some currently illegal drugs and create the framework for these processes among member states, or choosing to declare its opposition to mind-altering drugs and even encourage banning those that are widely accepted (i.e. alcohol). It is up to the members of this committee to decide the future of UN drug enforcement.

**Directive**

This committee will attempt to determine a course of action on allowing the legalization of currently illegal mind-altering drugs in Member States. The committee should consider the effects of such substances (both positive and negative) and how they are currently being used. Because this topic will provide the committee a chance to shape UN policy on the topic, it is important to keep in mind national sovereignty of each Member State, cultural and social values and norms of each Member State and of course any possible negative ramifications of drug use. Some questions to consider are:

- Should there be any change in UN policy?
- If drugs are to be legalized, which ones should be deemed safe to legalize by the UN?
- What kind of framework should the UN suggest to member states for the legalization of drugs?

Potential solutions to the problems the committee will address are:

- Creating a framework for member states to help them adjust to the legalization of mind-altering drugs
- Reaffirmation in the current policy of combatting mind-altering drugs and their trafficking
- Statement of a new policy, either allowing the legalization of some or all drugs, or increasing the number of drugs not supported by the United Nations

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10 Sam Becker. “10 Countries That Have or Will See Marijuana Legalization.”

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.
Bibliography


