# Table of Contents

About GTMUN ........................................................................................................................................... iii

Conference Policies ................................................................................................................................... iv

Things to Remember ................................................................................................................................. v

GTMUN 2015 Rules of Procedure ........................................................................................................... vi

United Nations Environmental Programme ............................................................................................ 11
  Description of Committee ...................................................................................................................... 11
  Membership and Voting ......................................................................................................................... 11
  Current Members .................................................................................................................................. 11

Topic One: Limiting the Radiological Impact of Nuclear Accidents on the Environment ............... 15
  Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 15
  Topic History ....................................................................................................................................... 15
  Current Situation ................................................................................................................................... 15
  Directive ............................................................................................................................................... 16
  Bibliography ....................................................................................................................................... 18

Topic Two: The Future of the Arctic ....................................................................................................... 20
  Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 20
  Topic History ....................................................................................................................................... 20
  Current Situation ................................................................................................................................... 20
  Directive ............................................................................................................................................... 22
  Bibliography ....................................................................................................................................... 25
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 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.
Description of Committee

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the body within the United Nations in charge of environmental protection. It was established in 1972, after the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, and has headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The Mission of the UNEP is to “provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”

As the leading global environmental authority, the UNEP sets the environmental agenda for the world. It also promotes the implementation of sustainable and environmentally friendly development within the UN system and serves as an advocate for the global environment. UNEP work includes:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment

Membership and Voting

Membership

All Member States of the United Nations are invited to be members of the UNEP Governing Council.

Voting

Each member of the UNEP Governing Council receives one vote. A majority of members present and voting is required to pass.

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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Holy See</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 “About UNEP.”
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
<p>| Australia | Honduras | Portugal |
| Austria | Hungary | Qatar |
| Azerbaijan | Iceland | Republic of Korea |
| Bahamas | India | Republic of Moldova |
| Bahrain | Indonesia | Romania |
| Bangladesh | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Russian Federation |
| Barbados | Iraq | Rwanda |
| Belarus | Ireland | Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| Belgium | Israel | Saint Lucia |
| Belize | Italy | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| Benin | Ivory Coast | Samoa |
| Bhutan | Jamaica | San Marino |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Japan | Sao Tome and Principe |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Jordan | Saudi Arabia |
| Botswana | Kazakhstan | Senegal |
| Brazil | Kenya | Serbia* |
| Brunei Darussalam | Kiribati | Seychelles |
| Bulgaria | Kuwait | Sierra Leone |
| Burkina Faso | Kyrgyzstan | Singapore |
| Burundi | Lao People’s Dem Rep | Slovakia |
| Cabo Verde | Latvia | Slovenia |
| Cambodia | Lebanon | Solomon Islands |
| Cameroon | Lesotho | Somalia |
| Canada | Liberia | South Africa |
| Central African Republic | Libya | South Sudan |
| Chad | Liechtenstein | Spain |
| Chile | Lithuania | Sri Lanka |
| China | Luxembourg | Sudan |
| Colombia | Macedonia | Suriname |
| Comoros | Madagascar | Swaziland |
| Congo | Malawi | Sweden |
| Costa Rica | Malaysia | Switzerland |
| Croatia | Maldives | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Cuba | Mali | Tajikistan |
| Cyprus | Malta | Tanzania |
| Czech Republic | Marshall Islands | Thailand |
| Dem People’s Rep of Korea | Mauritania | Timor-Leste |
| Dem Rep of the Congo | Mauritius | Togo |
| Denmark | Mexico | Tonga |
| Djibouti | Micronesia | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Dominica | Monaco | Tunisia |
| Dominican Republic | Mongolia | Turkey |
| Ecuador | Montenegro | Turkmenistan |
| Egypt | Morocco | Tuvalu |
| El Salvador | Mozambique | Uganda |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Topic 1:

Limiting the Radiological Impact of Nuclear Accidents on the Environment
**Topic One: Limiting the Radiological Impact of Nuclear Accidents on the Environment**

**Introduction**

Generally, Nuclear Energy is a clean, safe alternative to fossil fuels. It is much more sustainable and emits significantly lower levels of greenhouse gases than oil, coal, or natural gas. However, in the small chance of a nuclear disaster (the probability a large disaster is around one in 100,000), the environmental repercussions can be tremendous and long lasting.

The long-term radiological impact of a nuclear accident is unclear. There are too many factors to consider as radioactivity can affect every part of an ecosystem in many different ways across a long span of time. What is known is that the organisms that humans consume from ecosystems, like corn or fish, are affected the most by radioactivity, and that has a direct impact on people who rely on those organisms for food or products.

Little work and research has been done on limiting the impact of nuclear accidents on the environment; instead, research focuses on how to prevent nuclear accidents in general and then how to protect the people affected by the incident. However, as the environment is under constant stress from multiple sources, it is vital to consider how to protect it from the harmful effects of a nuclear disaster.

**Important Terms:**

- **RadNet** is an US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) run program that monitors air and water for high levels radioactivity after a nuclear accident.

- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** is a United Nations (UN) organization that advocates for the development of nuclear technologies for science and not bombs. It also maintains a classification system of nuclear disasters that it uses to communicate the severity of accidents to the international community.

- The **United Nations Scientific Committee of the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)** focuses on researching and reporting the effects of radiation from nuclear disasters.

- The **International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)** aims to protect the environment from radiation and work to prevent radiation caused diseases like cancer.

**Topic History**

1979 – There was a meltdown at the **Three Mile Island** plant in Pennsylvania, United States. There was little international reaction to the event as almost no harm was caused to the surrounding environment, as the leak was small and quickly contained. Before this accident

---

1 Marius Hofert and Mario V. Wuthrich. “Statistical Review of Nuclear Power Accidents.”
2 Fabienne Gralla and others. “The impact of nuclear accidents on provisioning ecosystem services.”
3 “Historical Radiological Event Monitoring.” EPA.
5 International Commission on Radiological Protection.
there were few safety regulations on nuclear plants, but after many new and safer procedures were adopted worldwide to decrease the chance of an accident.⁶

1986 – There was a massive explosion at the Chernobyl Plant in Ukraine. This is considered the worst nuclear disaster in history and caused the second largest amount of radiation to be exposed to the public, following Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The region was immediately evacuated, forests were bulldozed, and contaminated trees and plants were buried. The area then remained relatively untouched by humans for around 20 years. Despite the massive destruction caused by the radiation from Chernobyl, the area has since recovered. There are still high amounts of radiation, but increased biodiversity has been found in the 10 km radius of the site. Even more unusual, biodiversity lessens the further the distance from Chernobyl. This was due to the lack of human interaction with the area surrounding Chernobyl; the area was left alone since 1986, allowing many animal and plant populations to flourish unhindered.⁷

Radiation most certainly has adverse effects on organisms, yet the ecosystem has prospered.

2011 – A large earthquake and tsunami caused a series of meltdowns and leakage in the Fukushima plant in Japan. Most of the immediate environmental destruction was due to the tsunami, but RadNet immediately began monitoring the air and water across the Pacific Ocean for high amounts of radioactive material from Fukushima.⁸ RadNet did find radiation as far as Alaska, but the levels were so low that it was not deemed a health concern. There is little evidence of significant impact on fish from Fukushima; millions of fish were contaminated, but the radiation levels were so low that it is not a health concern.⁹

Current Situation

The UNSCEAR currently spends most of its resources on research into the radiations effects on the environment and releasing those findings to scientists, governments, and general public. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution in 2011 commending the UNSCEAR on its research and requesting that it continues “to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks” of all radiation related practices. The resolution further goes on to ask each nation to aid in the research.¹⁰ This research will become very important in the case of a radiation leak or spillage as it will lead responders to further understand the effects of radiation on the environment.

However, there has been no action taken by the UN to instruct researchers to focus specifically on the environmental side of a nuclear accident. There is also no UN protocol on how governments should react to a nuclear accident. This may be because of priorities; when

⁶ Green, Hannah. “Case Study of Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.”
⁷ “THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER AND SUBSEQUENT CREATION OF A WILDLIFE PRESERVE.”
⁸ “Historical Radiological Event Monitoring.” EPA.
⁹ Kresser, Chris. “Fukushima Radiation: Is It Still Safe To Eat Fish?”
¹⁰ “Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2014.” UNSCEAR.
an accident happens at a nuclear plant, the immediate concern is in stopping the leak or meltdown. After that, the focus is on evacuating the area around to protect Human health. After that the focus usually is to quarantine the area to avoid any radiation contamination on the people nearby. Only after that do many scientists and government officials begin to worry about the surrounding ecosystem.

Directive

There have been no major resolutions addressing ways to limit the environmental impact of nuclear accidents. Instead, the focus mostly has been on simply limiting the frequency of an accident. The environmental consequences can be seen more as a secondary issue. However, because of the potential damage a nuclear accident can cause on the environment, damage that is not only severe but also long lasting and sometime permanent, it is important enough to be addressed.

Instead of being viewed as the problem itself, environmental impact is viewed as the motivation to solve the problem - the problem of a Nuclear Accident. Best way to limit the effects of radiation on the environment is to prevent the environment from being exposed in the first place. This can be done through increased safety measures at nuclear plants - multiple back-up systems for example. Another way to avoid the environment degradation from exposure to radiation is isolation; if nuclear plants or material are kept in a more deserted area like a desert or wasteland, then they pose less of a threat. However, the logistics of transportation must be considered when building a plant in an isolated location as the workers must be able to travel to the plant and the generated power must be able to reach its location cheaply.

Overall, this committee should focus its discussion on presenting research on nuclear accidents and environmental impact and proposing methods to protect local ecosystems from those accidents. Resolutions may focus on funding specific research, creating policies on location and size of nuclear plants, or encouraging nations to have complex and well thought out plans to stop radiation from spreading in the case of an accident.
Bibliography


Topic 2:
The Future of the Artic
Topic Two: The Future of the Arctic

Introduction

Environmental Issues

The Arctic is roughly defined as the area north of 66° 32’ N. This region, with an average temperature between -30° to 42° F (-34° to 6° C), comprises the Arctic Ocean and eight countries: the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. During the winter, where in some places the sun does not rise for six months, the region is almost entirely frozen over. However, as global temperature changes, so does the future of the Arctic.

The effects of climate change on the Artic are a major international concern. The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world: the average global temperature rose by around one and a half degrees Fahrenheit in the past 100 years, but the average temperature of the Arctic has risen by double that. Normally, the thick layers of snow and ice reflect most sunlight, but as the climate becomes warmer and the Arctic ice cover decreases, less light is reflected and more heat absorbed by the earth. That, combined with the growing Greenhouse effect, leads the temperatures in the region to rise much faster that they would elsewhere. This situation is fragile. A report by the World Wildlife Fund finds that a small change of 2 degrees can lead to the death of many plants and marine animals in the Arctic region.

Economic Potential

Despite its bleak, barren appearance, the Arctic has many natural resources. Over a quarter of the world’s natural gas and a tenth of the world’s oil comes from the Arctic Circle, and the region, especially the Russian sectors, is rich in minerals. As the Arctic warms, the region will become more accessible to developers, fishers, and the shipping industry. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, has made it clear that Russia intends to develop a Northern Sea Route when the increased temperatures make the region safe to navigate in. This will result in territorial disputes as the once unused global commons of the Arctic are being developed and used by major world players.

Topic History

Environmental Issues

Since 1979, ice cover in the Arctic region has decreased by 40%. The region is stuck in a loop: higher temperatures cause ice to melt, less ice allows the earth to absorb more heat from the sun as it is no longer deflected, and more heat being emitted from the earth (in addition to an increased number of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere) leads to a warmer planet. The

1 “All About Arctic Climatology and Meteorology.” National Snow and Ice Data Center.
3 “2 Degrees is Too Much.”
4 “Natural Resources.” The Arctic: Russian Geographical Society
5 “The Emerging Arctic.” Council on Foreign Relations.
6 “Climate Change 101.”
average temperature of the Arctic has increased at twice the rate of the rest of the planet because of this.

![Vanishing Arctic Sea Ice](image)

Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center

A 26% decline was reported in vertebrate populations in the central Arctic region from 1970 to 2004. In contrast, there was also a 46% increase in vertebrate populations in the outer, warmer Arctic regions during that time period possibly due to the new migrations of marine animals to waters that were now warm enough to be inhabited and government efforts to control fishing and whaling. It is difficult to blame climate change with the decreasing animal populations because those populations naturally fluctuate, but there is no doubt that warmer temperatures do have some effect on populations whether beneficial or harmful.7

Economic Potential

Oil was first discovered in the Arctic region in the 1960s, but over 90 billion barrels of oil and 44 billion barrels of natural gas in the Arctic remain untapped.8 This leaves vast potential for developers and oil companies, who now are able to access the region more easily due to decreased ice coverage.

With the ice gone, trade across the Arctic will become a viable option. In 2007, the Northeast Passage, a route between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, was opened for the first time. Russia opened a Northern Sea Route (NSR) that same year. The NSR saw a 1400% traffic increase from 2009 to 2013, and it is still growing. A third route, called the Transpolar Sea Route (TSR), is expected to be navigable and free of ice in around ten years. The TSR will be faster and more efficient than both the NSR and the Northeast Passage and has the potential to further increase ship presence in the Arctic Circle.9

---

7 “WildlifeDeclinesObservedAcrossArcticRegion.”
8 “Circum-ArcticResourceAppraisal:EstimatesofUndiscoveredOilandGasNorthoftheArcticCircle.”
9 “TheEmergingArctic.”CouncilonForeignRelations.
As the potential for development in the Arctic Circle increased, Arctic nations along with indigenous leaders formed the Arctic Council in 1996. Through that body, many disputes have already been settled such as the division of the Barents Sea by Russia and Norway.\textsuperscript{10}

**Current Situation**

*Environmental Issues*

The UNEP has issued many recommendations concerning the Arctic including expansion of protected areas for wildlife and a focus on protecting migratory animals that would be impacted by increased human presence in the region. The UNEP has further asked that the Arctic Council focus on promoting sustainable usage of the natural resources in the Arctic.\textsuperscript{11}

*Economic Potential*

Currently, the cost of developing in the Arctic is still very high; so high that some projects, including a one of the largest off shore drilling projects in Russia, have been abandoned. Shell Co. stopped all drilling operations in the Arctic in 2012 because of the high cost. But as the cost decreases as access increases, Russia, with over two thirds of the known oil and natural gas fields in its rightful territory, will be a major player in any discussion about natural resources in the Arctic. Currently, Russia has troops stationed in the Arctic to protect its interests. As the infrastructure in the region is developed through trade routes and pipelines, the United States and Canada will join Russia in expanding drilling operations in the Arctic, and the United States may have to respond to Russia’s military presence in the region.\textsuperscript{12}

There is no one overarching organization that governs the Arctic to prevent disputes. Instead, there are numerous smaller organizations, including the Artic Council, that focus on different aspects of Artic governance:

- The *Nordic Council* is composed of Scandinavian states and focuses on preserving the way of life of the indigenous people of the Arctic.
- The *International Arctic Science Committee* focuses on research of all aspects of the Arctic.
- The President of Iceland founded the *Arctic Circle* in 2013 to encourage business leaders and political groups to discuss Arctic issues and climate change.
- The *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) was created in the 1950s and has been amended multiple times since. This is the most complete and agreed upon treaty on the Arctic as it clearly defines what part of the Arctic is the territory of one country and what part is not. It then goes on to define and set rules for the un-owned sections of the region. The United States is the only nation with territory in the Arctic Circle that has not agreed to the terms of UNCLOS. However, efforts are being made to have the United States Senate approve UNCLOS on the grounds of legitimizing opposition to China’s actions on the seas.\textsuperscript{13}

Despite many attempts across the years to create an all-inclusive international protocol on climate change, each nation still is in charge of its own policy in this area. The United States,

\textsuperscript{10} Ernst Nordtveit. “Artic Council Update.”

\textsuperscript{11} “Global action needed to conserve Arctic biodiversity.” UNEP.

\textsuperscript{12} “The Emerging Arctic.” Council on Foreign Relations.

for example, has made numerous efforts across the years to reduce car emissions and switch to alternative forms of energy that produce fewer emissions. However, despite efforts in many countries to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the Arctic is expected to be ice-free in the summer by 2030 at the earliest. As of now, current institutions and policies are not developed enough to manage the international reaction to new trade routes and untapped resources. If this is not addressed, the drastic increase in human presence may have severe environmental consequences.

**Directive**

This committee should focus its discussion on the importance of retreating Arctic ice cover and how individual nations and international community can prepare for and respond to the economic and environmental problems that will arise as the ice melts in the Arctic Circle. As the Arctic becomes more accessible and exploited, conflict will most probably arise as the Arctic has been treated as a global common with no specific owner for centuries.

**Things to Consider**

- UNLCOS is currently the most complete agreement laying out clearly the territorial division of the Arctic, but the United States has not yet agreed to its terms. In fact, the United States, Russia, Canada, Denmark, and Norway announced in 2008 that they believe a new system of treaties governing the Arctic, like UNCLOS, is unnecessary and instead those nations pledged to settle disputes through cooperation and negotiation.
- Russia has large amounts of territory in the Arctic, and relies on that territory and the resources in the surrounding ocean for nearly all of its oil and natural gas exports.
- Sovereignty will be an issue as large parts of the United States, Denmark (and Greenland), Canada, and Russia are in the Arctic Circle. Any institutions making rules concerning the environment need to take into account those nations policies.
- The lives of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic need to be respected, and many of the people groups are concerned about the environmental aspects of increased human presence in the Arctic.
- The UNEP often focuses on increased research in the Arctic, and typically works through the Arctic Council to enact change.
- In 2012, China, India, South Korea, and other Asian nations became observer states to the Arctic Council because of the increasing involvements in shipping and drilling in the region.

**Ideas for Solutions**

- A stronger treaty system making clear territorial claims in the Arctic. However, many countries have stated that this is not what they want.

---

14 “Climate Change 101.”
15 “World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability.” UNEP.
16 “THE ILULISSAT DECLARATION.”
17 “OPPORTUNITIES and CHALLENGES FOR ARCTIC OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.”
18 “New Awareness of and Opportunities for UNEP to Address Climate Change in the Arctic.” UNEP.
19 “Enter Asia: The Arctic Heats Up.”
• Harsher environmental regulations would protect the Arctic ecosystem, but could possibly restrict the development of trade and drilling.
• Funding research to find cleaner, more sustainable ways to drill in the Arctic.
• Blocking off sectors of the Arctic and creating international nature preserves.  
• New institutions for international planning and discussion on the future of the Arctic.
• Systems where indigenous people can meet with governments of nations wishing to develop in areas they live in and announce concerns and priorities for future projects.

20 “International Declaration of the Future of the Arctic.” Greenpeace.
Bibliography


