

Jacqueline Englanoff
MES: Welcome Letter
YUNMUN XXXIV

Delegates of the Middle East Summit,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to YUNMUN XXXIV! My name is Jacqueline Englanoff, and I will be your chair for this year's conference.

Before we get to the more important matters, allow me to introduce myself. I am from Los Angeles, California, where I attended Shalhevet High School and participated in three YUNMUN conferences. I then spent a year learning at Midreshet HaRova before starting at Stern College. I am currently a senior majoring in Political Science and concentrating in International Relations with a minor in Business and Management from Sy Syms School of Business. Previously, I had the privilege of serving as the Assistant Chair of DISEC and the Chair of UNHRC. Outside of YUNMUN, I am the president of YUPAC (Yeshiva University Political Action Club) and am involved in the Schneier Program for International Affairs at YU. The topics we will be addressing, and the Middle East as a whole, hold deep significance to me, and I hope we can all explore, educate ourselves, and collaborate to develop innovative solutions to the genuine and pressing matters in the region.

Our first topic will be Iranian proxy activity in the region and our second topic will be religious tolerance, specifically regarding the Sunni-Shia divide. The Middle East Summit provides a forum for discussion and problem-solving of the issues that face our region. Your primary task is to find common ground among diverse viewpoints and interests, leading to the creation of resolutions that address the topics at hand. Diplomacy, negotiation, and consensus-building will be your tools in finding peaceful and effective solutions to the challenges you will encounter.

As you may quickly discover when you begin your research (as I just did), the Middle East Summit does not actually exist in the UN. This presents both a unique opportunity and challenge as we begin our work. For all intents and purposes, the MES will function like the other committees at YUNMUN, and you can refer to the Delegate Handbook for procedure. Like most committees of the UN General Assembly, the MES resolutions may contain language of support or opposition, recommendation, and refer specific matters to the Security Council. While you will not be confined

to researching past resolutions of the MES (because, again, they do not exist), it is recommended that you look into how other UN committees have addressed these topics and what precedent your countries have set in those occasions. Due to the nature of the Summit, delegates will be challenged to think critically and outside the box to come up with realistic recommendations that accurately represent the views of the Member State.

I highly encourage you all to use this opportunity to educate yourself on some of the most pertinent issues our world faces, research topics thoroughly, and familiarize yourself with any aspects of the topic that spark your curiosity. Position papers should address the opinions of your country, not your own. They should also be used as a starting point for your exploration of the topics, so please make sure that you come to the conference prepared with more substantive ideas on the matters. Furthermore, there is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, and all papers will be submitted via Turnitin.

I truly am looking forward to meeting all of you and making this an incredible conference together! If you have any questions or comments, or if you just want to share a fun fact, please feel free to reach out to me at jenglano@mail.yu.edu!

Best,

Jacqueline Englanoff

Chair, Middle East Summit

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