





DIRECTORS'  
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2019, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual AUSMUN Conference. With over 900 delegates registered from more than 40 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance for their research. It will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics of their respective committee. After a short letter that gives the chairs a chance to welcome their delegates, a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue, and the latest developments of the issue will be presented. In the summary, delegates will have their first quick briefing on the issue where concerns will be defined. Followed by that, the guide delves into the root causes of the issue by identifying its history. Then, a discourse section will look into the issue with further scrutiny by presenting both sides of the topic's debate and examining some of its challenges and influences. Finally, it will aim to provide delegates with the latest activities in regards to the matter and any progressions in its respect. At the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research, and references that they can use for further relevant information. However, it is important to point out that depending solely on the guide will not be sufficient enough to prepare delegates for the conference. It is highly encouraged for delegates to look at the Delegate Handbook on the AUSMUN website and to view the "How to Research" video created by AUSMUN.

The theme of this year's conference is youth empowerment. This is very important as we are the children of tomorrow. Even if delegates are not necessarily planning on pursuing an occupation in the field of law or politics, MUN is an enriching experience to all. MUN is supposed to teach more than just details on a certain crisis, it educates them to work harder, to think on their feet, to learn from others and from themselves, to fall and to fail, and to break free from their fears. It dares them to be without hesitation. It dares them to add to the world. To Speak. To act. To know. We all understand how difficult it is to be a delegate. It requires a suspicious load of work and consumes most of one's energy. But we want delegates to give it their all and to get what they came here for.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by extending my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this background guide in any way or form. It is the collaborative work of the chairs, the AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, we truly hope that you find this background guide of great help and use.

All the best with the conference and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Nada Nassereddin  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2019



FIFTH  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
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Yasmine Mekky



Abdelrahman Hamdan

Esraa Elaraby

# MODERATOR'S WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is with great privilege and honor that we welcome you to the 12th annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN), and to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, also known as the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (GA5).

We are very eager to meet you all. As the chairs of this committee, we expect nothing less than enthusiastic, dedicated, and hardworking delegates that will cooperate in resolving significant issues. This committee is the fifth committee of the General Assembly that takes care of matters related to the United Nations (UN) administrative issues and budget allocations. Furthermore, all the 193 members of the General Assembly are considered to be a part of the fifth committee, but not including the non-member Observer States, Palestine and the Holy See.

The topics to be discussed in this year's GA5 are of high significance as they discuss ideas that are being debated all over the world. Throughout the sessions, delegates will get the chance to propose points, motions, amendments and resolutions on these topics. Most of them will be decided on through either a simple majority or supermajority vote by all the delegates present in the committee. Moreover, different motions or points will require a different type of vote. In order to familiarize yourself with all of them, please refer to the AUSMUN Delegate Handbook.

This conference requires delegates to put in effort to research topics, write position papers, and participate frequently. However, we are confident that if the effort was put in, it will be a very enjoyable and fruitful learning experience for all participating delegates and the chairs. Finally, if you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact the GA5 chairing team on [GA5.AUSMUN2019@gmail.com](mailto:GA5.AUSMUN2019@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

The GA5 Chair

## TOPIC 1

### *Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System*

#### SUMMARY

There is a general misconception when it comes to the words 'transparency' and 'accountability'. The word transparency can be used to mean the availability of information on various topics. However, the actual definition is much more complex. Transparency more accurately refers to the presence of relevant and authentic information that is provided in an appropriate time, which allows significant parties to take appropriate actions, if required. Furthermore, accountability is more accurately defined as the setting of specific and well-known standards that must be followed accurately and timely. Additionally, there also must be a complex, well-defined, and fair set of repercussions implemented in the case that these standards are not followed (Golding, 2014). The topic is defined as the effort to find methods of reducing the current opacity of the United Nations (UN) and making it accountable for its decisions. The lack of transparency and accountability of the United Nations' functions and operations is a very prominent and significant issue that the GA5 will debate. Therefore, the Member States of the General Assembly need to work hand-in-hand to identify and implement suitable mechanisms that will help improve the overall transparency of the United Nations and make it more accountable for its actions.

#### HISTORY

Since its formation in 1945, the 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly have continuously called for an increase in transparency and accountability within the governing body. According to the UN Transparency and Accountability Initiative, during the 2005 World Summit at the 60th General Assembly, the issue of accountability and transparency dominated the conference. This dominance caused a few of the points to be implemented already. However, in 2006-2007, discoveries have come to light regarding administrative misconduct in the United Nations which further escalated the issue and led to the formation of an initiative called the United Nations Transparency and Accountability Initiative (UNTAI). It aimed to find solutions and implementations to the ever-growing problem at hand. Moreover, in the 70th General Assembly, there were further calls for transparency with all Member States. Furthermore, this is an issue that is agreed upon by an overwhelming majority of the 193 members in the General Assembly as the need for a transparent and accountable world governing body is very evident.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Transparency is more than just making information available. Information needs to be relevant, accurate, timely, and accessible, particularly to those who need it and can make use of it for certain tasks. Accountability requires a minimum of characteristics such as standard-setting, examination, responsibility, and authorizations for non-performance in order to assess how the UN system is doing with regard to transparency and accountability in the past and present.

While the level of essential contributions has remained stationary, the growth in funding levels has almost completely been the result of increasing unessential contributions. However, non-essential aids yield to conflicts since they are unpredictable, include significant necessities, and require further layers of reporting, review, and mistaken procedures. Therefore, these procedures result in an uneven budgeting and accounting landscape through the whole system with thousands of particularly established missions in addition to core activities. Furthermore, such capacities and fragmentation can certainly dilute “accountability”, usually resulting in more blurriness and less transparency. In order to improve transparency, most UN internal audit performances have now adopted a strategy of making their reports publicly accessible. This method is said to be worthy because it involves protocols to guarantee that security is accurately managed and preserved. The method also stresses on the importance and concern on the part of the internal auditors to implement the uppermost qualified principles to establishing consensus on their outcomes and to report in a reasonable, balanced, and timely manner. Moreover, work is proceeding to develop a UN System Data Catalogue. This initiative will be introduced as an online service that focuses to present an increasingly complete picture of public UN system data resources. It is throughout the classification of data by thematic coverage and organizational source that this initiative looks to promote data accessibility, transparency, and accountability in the progressively significant area of data sharing.

Within the UN system, many of the real and apparent shortfalls in transparency and accountability have their origins in the short-term. There have been recent improvements, such as the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), that makes sure that Member States representatives who govern the UN body meetings have adequate knowledge on financial and accounting matters in order to understand what they are examining. But the process of shifting mindsets and funding models into longer-term perspectives is long overdue and needs to be pursued immediately.



## PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In July 1994, the Office of the Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was established as an oversight body that works hand-in-hand with the Secretary-General to help him assess the internal transparency and accountability of the staff and resources through the following practices: internal audit, monitoring, inspection, evaluation and investigation services. On an annual basis, OIOS receives more than 200 reports and more than 800 recommendations to improve the internal controls and surpass the primary hurdles to augment the organizational efficiency and effectiveness ("Mandate", 2018). Besides, internal oversight bodies also include the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) and the UN Ethics Office. They mutually share the same goal, which is to foster the accountability and transparency of the United Nations. The IAAC is a body that is in charge of abetting the OIOS and offers advice pertaining the effectiveness and efficiency based on the audit results. Furthermore, the General Assembly created the UN Ethics Office in its Resolution 60/248 (2006) to ensure the UN workforces were working with the utmost degree of integrity ("The UN Ethics Office", 2018).

On the other side, the UN did not restrict the accountability and transparency mechanisms but managed to include external bodies. The UN created the Joint Inspection Unit of UN System (JIU) under the General Assembly Resolution 31/192 of 1976. Overall, the JIU shares the same tasks and responsibilities that internal bodies have, but the JIU has a wide-ranging command allowing its inspectors to assess the entire UN system and its affiliated organizations. Accordingly, it is the committee's role to set further rules and regulations to uphold the transparency and accountability of the UN.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- What additional mechanisms can be put in place to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN system?
- What can be done to highlight accountability and transparency in UN resolutions?
- How should internal mechanisms be implemented across all the UN bodies?

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## TOPIC 2

### *Strengthening the UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Cases in UN Field Missions*

#### SUMMARY

Sexual exploitation or abuse in the United Nations field missions has been an issue of increasing urgency in recent times. In fact, it is estimated that there are at least 50 reported cases annually with the number rising to more than 300 during the years 2003 and 2004 (O'Brien, 2015). According to a report published by the United Nations, currently, the United Nations segments the sexual exploitation and abuse allegations they receive into five parts. Those five parts include: allegations received, alleged perpetrators, victims, investigations performed, and the actions taken to solve each case. Furthermore, when an individual is accused of sexual exploitation and abuse, the UN begins an in-depth research on the credibility of this accusation and the credibility of its source ("Sexual exploitation and abuse," 2018). To summarize, this committee will aim to study the current measures taken against sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as to identify and to implement other appropriate and efficient tactics that can be effective in solving the issue at hand.

#### HISTORY

In the spring of 2014, claims came to light that a number of young children have been sexually abused in exchange for food or money by international troops working in a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (CAR). In terms of the alleged perpetrators, they were mainly from a French military force, identified as the Sangaris Forces, in which they were operating as peacekeepers under the qualification of the Security Council and not the UN command.

Between May and June 2014, six young boys have been interviewed by a Human Rights Office working for the UN mission in the CAR, together with local UNICEF staff. The children stated either that they had been exposed to sexual abuse or that they had witnessed other children being molested. It was only until May of 2015 that the international media outlets began reporting on the claims and a year after the abuses were brought to the UN's attention, the UNICEF followed up with the local NGO. Only then, it located the children and attended on protecting them. Almost two years later, on January 6th of 2017, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has asked Ms. Lute, known as the Special Coordinator, to improve the organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse and to lead a high-level task force in order to enhance the United Nation's actions on ending and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

The UN Special Coordinator, Ms. Lute, stated that “We have to do better and we have to do more”, as she described a new UN strategy that deals with sexual exploitation and abuse. Sexual exploitation and abuse is not a new issue to the UN nor is it unique. But the United Nations has become uniquely involved with this issue. It happens in every part of the system and in every society around the world. In fact, humanitarian operations create a higher risk because of the close continuing serious involvement with a highly vulnerable population.

Secretary-General Guterres proclaimed that he plans to appoint a victims’ rights advocate at the UN Headquarters in order to hold those responsible accountable. He also called on each of the four UN field missions located in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti, that account for the maximum numbers of incidents of sexual abuse.

To provide the necessary assistance needed for victims, actions are being taken in close support with Member States to speak up about this conflict in the field. For instance, immediate and crucial needs are covered by each mission’s budget, while departments are working closely with Member States to conduct DNA tests to establish paternity and ensure recognition of the privileges of mothers and children. Moreover, a trust fund has been initiated to assist victims in which Member States, in coordination with UN humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), contribute to improve the medical and psycho-social aid also provided to support victims.

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS’ PAST ACTIONS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The UN Security Council established the monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements (MARA), which mainly target relevant sexual violence conflicts. The arrangements were decided upon through Resolutions 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), where both resolutions focused on “Women, peace, and security”. The resolutions were further supplemented by Resolution 2272 (2016) on “United Nations peacekeeping operations” that delineated the basic proper conduct that should be carried on by peacekeepers in missions. Finally, Resolution 2272 provided the Secretary-General the authority to assess the measures taken by Member States to address the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) assertions against the peacekeepers in their corresponding countries. Accordingly, the Secretary-General can legally deport the personnel who have violated the set rules and regulations (“Security Council Asks Secretary-General, Coverage and Press Releases”, 2016).

Moreover, the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and the Department of Field Support (DFS) issued the following policy: “Accountability for Conduct and Discipline in Field Missions”. It states the regulations that all UN workers should keep on and it ensures that any violations of the set UN standards by the staff members will be held accountable. On the other side, the media and NGOs are both essential aspects in recognizing the SEA and in assuring that suitable investigations would take place on all cases (“Conduct in UN Field Missions”, 2018). For instance, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) publishes reliable assessments of the performance of the UN regarding SEA, points out the gaps, and provides suggestions on how to decrease that gap (“Holding Abusive UN Peacekeepers to Account”, 2018). Therefore, all the countries should work in concert to fortify the UN response to the sexual exploitation and abuse cases in the UN missions.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- What financial resources will be necessary to implement the Secretary-General’s latest recommendations on combatting SEA?
- What considerations must be taken regarding training of staff in the future PKOs?
- What other systems can be put in place to ensure that victims have access to proper information on reporting?

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