

# Background Guide



CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
AMRITSAR-MODEL UNITED NATIONS

International  
Press Corps.

# ABOUT CISAMUN

We, at CISA, proudly present the launch of the CISAMUN, a venture into the world of Model United Nation. We are just eight years old but we have the precision of winning awards at every MUN we have participated in. And we thought that if we have it then we ought to share it. The sprawling seven acres and the state of the art infrastructure in the charmed city of the Golden Temple, provides us the perfect backdrop to host some of the best schools for an interactive session on global issues.

In these last years, we have we have moved on from infancy to maturity. Our main achievements being a 1700 strong student brigade and their guardians as our shareholders, a committed team of teaching and non teaching staff and a management with a vision.

Young minds have the freshest ideas. Keeping this in mind, CISAMUN wishes to tap this pool of ideas and contribute to issues that matter, in whatever little way possible. United Nations: as the name suggests, thinks globally and that is exactly what we strive for too. Issues ranging from environment concerns and religious intolerance to terrorism and trade have an impact on all, hence the urgency to start young.

We proudly launch the CISAMUN scheduled for the 3rd, 4th and 5th of August 2017.

# A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the first session of the Cambridge International School Amritsar Model United Nations Conference. I am Vansh Aggarwal and I am thrilled to be your Secretary General at CISAMUN '17. Before I go on to the specifics about the conference, I'll start by introducing myself. I am a pass-out from The Doon School, Dehradun. I have been an avid MUNer and have attended and chaired conferences both nationally and internationally. As such, my interests lie mainly in the field of Economics and Politics. I am going to pursue a degree in economics and psychology from the University of Chicago this fall.

As far as the conference goes, I hope you are all as excited as I am to take part in these incredibly unique simulations this year. Each committee will have the opportunity to explore a new dimension of its topics, ranging from the ongoing Syrian civil war to the militarization of the Arctic. Simultaneously, the International Press Core will help make sure that delegates are questioned and made accountable for their actions and decisions. I encourage you to embrace the important role you each will play, as your country's voice is crucial.

I hope these realistic yet challenging simulation will test the intellectual and diplomatic capability of every delegate. I expect all delegates to be 'aware' of the developments in current affairs and be familiar with their foreign policy. Further, I expect everyone to maintain a high level of debate and the committee to adopt a holistic approach towards the agendas. Also, ones ability to lobby and lead blocs will be highly judged upon, as diplomacy forms the core of any Model United Nations Conference. So be prepared for three days of intense debate, heated arguments, lobbying and above all, meeting new people and making friends.

I look forward to seeing all of you here at the holy city this fall.

Vansh Aggarwal  
Secretary General

Mehul singh  
Chairperson

# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Delegates,

I am honored to welcome you all to the first session of CISAMUN. I am Mehul Singh, and I am the Chair for International Press Corps. Through my MUNing journey, I have been fortunate to participate in a number of MUNs as a journalist in Press Corps. This has allowed me to grasp the importance of the task of negotiating multiple opinions that journalists deal with. I believe that it is the presentation of these opinions that shapes public opinion, and as journalists, it is the duty of the press corps to sift through these opinions and report the truth as far as possible.

Through the course of this conference, you will be given a media organization and equipped with the task to present an OP-ED on the agendas and the committee simulations. It is very important to note that your report is not a mere summary but your opinion on the issue. Please note that you will also be required to do some research on the agenda of your committee. Through the course of the committee, you may be required to submit transcribed interviews to give not only your opinion but also that of other delegates present in the committee.

Correspondents will also be expected to attend press briefings of various committees, in which, delegates will be questioned and made accountable for their actions and decisions. Furthermore, please stay updated with the current events to aid you in the committee.

Lastly, you must remember that you have been bestowed with an incredible power to express your own opinions, please do not take that lightly.

I am looking forward to seeing at the conference. May the munning begin!

Regards,  
Mehul Singh  
Chairperson IPO

# Press Corps

## Introduction to the Committee

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

### Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

An important part of contemporary democracy is the press, which in today's sociopolitical climate has a strange range of perspectives. Worldwide, the press serves as the primary link between the United Nations and the global population, and as a part of Press Corps, you will be responsible for upholding this link. Like in reality, it will be essential that the people remain constantly informed about the actions of the committees.

### How will the committee work?

If you are a first timer do not worry. The committee will begin with the reporters going to their assigned committees, you will be required to provide your own insight on these issues and present it in your reports. You will be assigned a media organization and in accordance to its political bias you will write your report. You will also be allocated the committee you are supposed to write the report on beforehand, so please take the opportunity to research thoroughly. On the last committee session of all three days you will be required to come back to the committee for a table room discussion on what all is happening in your allocated committee.

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"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *Article 19*.N.p., n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.

"Journalists." *United Nations*.United Nations, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.

# History and Role of the Press in UN

## The United Nations Correspondents Association:

In order to most effectively work fulfill this committee's ultimate aim of providing objective and continuous coverage of the United Nations, a number of media outlets have banded together to form the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). The UNCA has officially represented the Press Corps, an extension of the UN, since 1995, and unofficially since its founding in 1948, and it plays a key role in ensuring that the press corpsthe most accessible news agency for the 6.9 billion people of the world, comprised of almost 200 journalists from dozens of countries and several publications, broadcasters, and news agencieshas the resources it needs to do its job. More importantly, the UNCA represents reporters in discussions with the United Nations Secretariat in order to resolve global issues. These journalists cover events that occur throughout the United Nations' numerous organs and committees, and participate in press conferences with UN officials and diplomats, transcribing all of this information into concise and informative readers. Despite the many obstacles and risks, the press steps up to fill that essential role as the liaison between the public and the United Nations.

## Remaining an Agency without Bias

There are many different sources from the international community. It is natural that reporters cover issues that are relevant to the nation and audience that views their media; however, it is not justified to use significant bias in their writing. What this means is that although a reporter is not obligated to cover certain stories, as some news sources are clearly publishing propaganda according to the West, if they do cover a story, they should with full integrity and free of bias.

## The Process of Covering Stories

You will be given a media organization and in accordance to that its political leaning will have to present an OP-ED on the agendas and the committee simulation. It is very important your report is not just a summary but based on your opinions.

## RESEARCH

Both the beats and OP-ED will require a substantial amount of previous knowledge on the issues; it is advised for the delegates to:

- ✪ Read the background guides thoroughly of the agenda and understand the committee.
- ✪ Read sample OP-ED and beats from respectful newspapers.

## OP-ED

OP-ED, short for essays that run opposite the editorial page in a newspaper, is powerful vehicles for communicating important arguments. Unlike the rest of a newspaper (as well as other print and social media sites that also welcome opinion pieces) which is written by staff writers, the op-ed page represents a range of voices, from experts to everyday people who bring a fresh perspective to public issues. Understand and research the agendas of other committees. Your OP-ED must be 700-750 words and must be submitted at the second last committee session.



## Op-Ed Style

### The writing process

- ★ Ask, what is the message you want to get across?
- ★ List all your arguments in no particular order.
- ★ Pick four or five arguments that will most appeal to your readers.
- ★ Write your first draft. Connect your theme to your peg in the first paragraph, followed by one to three paragraphs for each supporting reason, with the most important reasons first. One or two paragraphs should conclude by reinforcing your theme.
- ★ Now read your draft and ask: What is the most powerful paragraph here? Is it the closing paragraph? Does a paragraph about one of the four or five arguments point up a particularly absurd part of the plan?
- ★ Whichever one it is, rewrite the op-ed with the most powerful, most exciting paragraph first to grab the reader's attention, elaborate with two or three supporting points in the following paragraphs. Make sure your paragraphs are short and contain one main idea. Use facts, statistics and studies to support your arguments.
- ★ Opinion editors look for articles that are provocative and succinctly argue particular points of view on issues that are dominating the headlines. They do not want pieces that argue all sides of an issue, so express an opinion. Argue your point. Urge action. Warn of danger. That's what opinion pieces are about. They are not about presenting background material with an “on-the one-hand-but-on-the-other-hand” approach.

### ★Beat

In newspaper parlance, a beat is the subject area that a reporter is assigned to cover and write about. Beat reporters can cover everything from local crime to a specific sports team. They develop expertise in their beat, getting to know people and earn their trust so that when news happens, the journalist can report on it with authority and some depth of knowledge.

At the end of the first and second day, you will submit a press briefing which must be 300 words beat (the main topics discussed in the committee). In beat reporting, you just have to mention what is happening in the committee but do remember to be formal.

A good beat reporter is:

- ★ Familiar with general background
- ★ Knows specific language of area
- ★ Asks right questions
- ★ Recognizes newsworthy info
- ★ Writes understandable stories for unfamiliar readers
- ★

## **Interviews**

For interviews make sure to quote delegates word-for-word, and to spell their names and the countries they represent correctly. If you're questioning them, you can ask them to repeat a phrase in order to write it down. All factual briefings should be written in the third person, while op-ed pieces can use the first person. Briefings should be accurate and not deliver views, but you can get citations from delegates that would express a thought-provoking belief. Prepare interview questions ahead of time and if needed improvise, it is not necessary for you to go through with your list. This should provide the reader with a sense of what has happened, or what will be discussed in the article. It should grab the reader's attention, and answer as much of the "who, what, where, when, why" as possible. Remember to take the permission of the respected committee. The chair and vice chair will be present with you, but it is advisable to submit a transcript of the interview.

## **Standardizations**

- ★ Font used will be Times New Roman, Regular, and Size 12.
- ★ Titles should be given to all pieces of writing capturing the crux of your report. They should be five words or less.
  - ★For example:Ebola breaks out, disaster strikes.
  - ★Currency: Only use \$ signs, the use ofUSD is refrained.
- ★ Spacing: One space is used to separate words as well as commas and semicolons.
- ★ Spelling: Reporters should make sure to spell check their reports.
- ★ Numerals: Any number above or equal to 20 must be spelled. The International Number system has to be followed.
- ★ Quotations: Standard English rules are to be followed. If quoting a delegate, do as the following:
  - ★The delegate of United Sates of America stated “.....”



## **International Code of Ethics<sup>3</sup>**

**Below is the list of decorum and ethics followed by the International Press around the world. It is necessary to have set codes for journalistic integrity.**

### **Duties**

1. Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.
2. Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.
3. Aim to attribute information to its source. Where a source seeks anonymity, do not agree without first considering the source's motives and any alternative attributable source. Where confidences are accepted, respect them in all circumstances.
4. Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.
5. Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.
6. Do not allow advertising or other commercial considerations to undermine accuracy, fairness or independence.
7. Do your utmost to ensure disclosure of any direct or indirect payment made for interviews, pictures, information or stories.
8. Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.
9. Present pictures and sound which are true and accurate. Any manipulation likely to mislead should be disclosed.

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**3 "Declaration of the Duties and Rights of a Journalist." *Declaration of the 3 Duties and Rights of a Journalist* | *ethicnet.N.p.*, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.**

## Rights<sup>4</sup>

**As journalists you will have the following rights:**

- ✪ The right to information, together with freedom of expression and criticism, is one of the fundamental liberties of every human being.
- ✪ The rights and duties of journalists devolve from the public's right to have access to fact and opinion.
- ✪ A journalists' responsibility to the public must come before any they bear towards a third party, notably employers and public authorities

## Citation policy

**If you are to cite an excerpt from any other news organization please remembers to cite it properly in MLA format and remember to place it in the bibliography.** The *Modern Language Association* gives style and *citation* guidelines to writers.

If you quote someone else's work in your paper, MLA style needs that you use in-text citations. MLA format uses the author-page method within a parenthetical citation. This means you write the author's last name and the corresponding page number within parentheses at the end of the referencing sentence. Place this parenthetical citation before the sentence's final punctuation mark. An example of an MLA in-text citation is:

“The hand hacksaw is the most commonly used tool to cut metal (Graham 32).”

If you do not cite it, it will be plagiarized. You may use online websites to generate the citations.

## SAMPLE INFORMATION ON AGENCY

**Fox News** is an American basic cable and television news channel owned by the Fox Entertainment. The channel was created by Rupert Murdoch, who hired former Republican Party media consultant and CNBC executive Roger Ailes as its founding CEO. It has been subject to the controversy by many accusing it of being biased and promoting the right wing party. It is generally conservative in nature.

**The New York Times** is an American daily newspaper, originated and constantly printed in New York City since September 18, 1851, by The New York Times Company. Its quality explains why it has 112 Pulitzer prizes.

*Its* editorial page is often regarded as liberal and the chances of a conservative piece are less likely than liberal one.

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(4)"Journalists Ethics Code." Journalists Ethics Code | ethicnet.N.p., n.d. Web. 20 June 2017

**HuffPost** is a politically liberal American news and opinion website; it was launched on May 9, 2005, as an overtly liberal-left commentary outlet/blog and alternative to news aggregators such as the Drudge Report. *It is an American online news aggregator and blog that has both localized and international editions founded by Arianna Huffington, Kenneth Lerer, Andrew Breitbart, and Jonah Peretti. Huffington Post displays left wing bias through story selection and word choices.*

**Los Angeles Times**, commonly referred to as the Times or LA Times, is a paid daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, since 1881, it is liberal and left now but initially, it attracted a lot of Republican readers since it was a big resident Nixon supporter. The Los Angeles Times is the largest metropolitan daily newspaper in the country, with a daily readership of 1.4 million and 2.4 million on Sunday, more than 36 million unique latimes.com visitors monthly and a combined print and online local weekly audience of 4.3 million. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Times has been covering Southern California for more than 134 years.

**Now This News** is a left-leaning digital news company that primarily distributes its content to mobile devices and social platforms. It uses unconventional platforms to spread the news. On December 8, 2015, NowThis News raised \$16.2m in [Series D](#) funding led by Axel Springer. By this time, the company has said that 68% of its audience was millennials between the ages of 18-34. It was announced that this funding would be used to launch more focused channels/

**theguardian.com**, formerly known as **Guardian Unlimited** and **guardian.co.uk**, is a British news and media website owned by the Guardian Media Group. *The Guardian* has a reputation as "an organ of the middle class" is left in nature. It has outgrown its status as local newspapers and now has a complex structure with international presence

**New York Post** is an American daily newspaper, primarily distributed in New York City and its surrounding area. It was established by Alexander Hamilton. It is moderately conservative in bias. They often publish factual information that utilizes loaded words to favor conservative causes.

**The Wall Street Journal** is an American business-focused, English-language international daily newspaper based in New York City. It is highly influential in American conservative circles being one of the biggest skeptics of climate change. It was founded in 1889, and is the largest newspaper by circulation in the US, though it is widely read around the world, especially by those in the finance sector, and is particularly strong in its coverage of international business and American news. In 2007, the Wall Street Journal expanded its global presence by launching an internationally focused site with foreign-language editions of its articles. Arguably this is the number one newspaper in the United States, as the New York Times has taken a stronger presence online, abandoning some of their finances used for their written press.

Note- If you have any queries please mail them at

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- (1) **"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *Article 19***. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.
- (2) **"Journalists."** *United Nations*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.
- (3) **"Declaration of the Duties and Rights of a Journalist."** *Declaration of the Duties and Rights of a Journalist* | *ethicnet*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.
- (4) **"Journalists Ethics Code."** Journalists Ethics Code | *ethicnet*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 June 2017.



## POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the

issue;

- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;

- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;

- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;

- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;

- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;

- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and

- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

## SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

General Assembly Third Committee

Authors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

*Reminding* all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use**

commas to separate perambulatory clauses]

*Reaffirming* its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies

aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

*Noting* with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

*Stressing* the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform,

particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the

grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline

efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief

efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the

private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;



5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance;
7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development;
8. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter. **[end resolutions with a period]**

## PREAMBULATORY AND OPERATIVE CLAUSES

### PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a perambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Preambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or

treaties on the topic under discussion;

- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

### SAMPLE PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Affirming  
 Alarmed by  
 Approving  
 Bearing in mind  
 Believing  
 Confident  
 Contemplating  
 Convinced  
 Declaring  
 Deeply concerned  
 Deeply conscious  
 Deeply convinced  
 Deeply Disturbed  
 Deeply Regretting  
 Desiring  
 Emphasizing  
 Expecting  
 Emphasizing  
 Expecting  
 Expressing its appreciation  
 Fulfilling  
 Fully aware  
 Emphasizing  
 Expecting  
 Expressing its appreciation

Fulfilling  
 Fully aware  
 Further deploring  
 Further recalling  
 Guided by  
 Having adopted  
 Having considered  
 Having examined  
 Having received  
 Keeping in mind  
 Noting with deep concern  
 Nothing with satisfaction  
 Noting further  
 Observing  
 Reaffirming  
 Realizing  
 Recalling  
 Recognizing  
 Referring  
 Seeking  
 Taking into consideration  
 Taking note  
 Viewing with appreciation  
 Welcoming



## OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principles:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

## SAMPLE OPERATIVE PHRASES



Accepts	Encourages
Affirms	Endorses
Approves	Expresses its appreciation
Authorizes	Expresses its hope
Calls	Further invites
Calls upon	Further proclaims
Condemns	Further reminds
Confirms	Further recommends
Congratulates	Further requests
Considers	Further resolves
Declares accordingly	Has resolved
Deplores	Notes
Designates	Proclaims
Draws the attention	Reaffirms
Emphasizes	Recommends
Encourages	Regrets
Endorses	Reminds
Expresses its appreciation	Requests
Expresses its hope	Solemnly affirms
Further invites	Strongly condemns
Deplores	Supports
Designates	Takes note of
Draws the attention	Transmits
Emphasizes	Trusts