

# TWHSMUN IV



## General Assembly

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Iris Emmanuel, and I'm so excited to be your chair this year for General Assembly. I'm a senior at the Woodlands High School, and I serve as the Publicity officer for TWHS Model UN. This is my third year in Model UN, and I have participated in GA at both TWHSMUN and at HAMUN, the former being the first committee I ever participated in as a MUN delegate.

Although the General Assembly has quite a reputation as a difficult committee, I think it is the perfect learning opportunity and exemplifies what MUN is all about. It gives you the opportunity to pick a topic that interests you and that is of particular concern to your country. The large committee size and the unpredictability of the topic often scares people away from GA but it's precisely these things that I've grown to love about GA. It's one of the few committees that allows you to personalize it, and tests your ability to think on your feet! I would recommend researching your country extensively for this committee, and get to know your country's stances on a variety of issues since you never know which topic you will end up discussing. Additionally, I would also recommend familiarizing yourself with pressing global issues, paying special attention to the topics at the forefront of the news. Above all, don't stress! Even if you don't end up with the topic you wanted, you will still have an amazing conference experience and get a chance to develop public speaking skills and meet new people.

Thank you so much for attending TWHSMUN, and I look forward to meeting you this fall! My co chair and I are thrilled to have you, and are working hard to make this a wonderful learning experience for you. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me. I would love to answer any inquiries you may have.

**Iris Emmanuel**

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United Nations General Assembly Committee Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Shriya Reddy, and I'm so glad to be your chair this year for the General Assembly. I'm a senior at the Woodlands High School and I am part of the Advisory Council for TWHS Model UN. This is my second year in Model UN, and I've participated in UNHCR at TWHSMUN 2022 and was awarded outstanding delegate, and I was in CSTD at HAMUN 2023 and got an honorable mention.

Model UN can be initially intimidating for a newcomer, but if you've ever done Model UN before you'll find it's actually a lot of fun! It teaches important skills such as communication and cooperation. The only way to "win" Model UN is by working together to come up with an effective resolution. Model UN is a lot of organized chaos, and that is something I really came to love about it. It is only as difficult as you are unprepared. Although GA is known for its unpredictability, being well versed in your country's background can help a lot. Keeping up with current events and understanding the general political trends can also help, but most of all it's important to listen to your fellow delegates. GA is great if you're looking for a challenge, if you're looking to try a different type of committee, or if you just can't decide what topic you want to discuss!

Thank you so much for participating in TWHSMUN 2023. I look forward to seeing you this fall. We're excited to meet you all and watch you grow as delegates. My co-chair and I aim to help you along the way and learn more about Model UN. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or my co-chair, we are more than happy to help.

**Shriya Reddy**

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United Nations General Assembly Committee Chair

## Introduction of Committee

The General Assembly, or very commonly referred to as “GA,” is the quintessential embodiment of multilateral diplomacy within the United Nations. The General Assembly is a universal body, composed of all UN member states, in contrast to other UN committees who may have limited membership focusing on specific regions or issues. GA is a unique platform with diverse representation and global perspectives. As the primary policymaking and representative organ since 1945, it fosters inclusive dialogue among member states, addressing a wide array of global challenges and issues. Through non-binding resolutions and consensus-building, the GA guides nations toward a more interconnected, equitable, and prosperous world. The resolutions serve as guidelines and recommendations rather than legally enforceable decisions. Delegates in this esteemed committee have the unique opportunity to represent their nations’ interests, engage in diplomatic discourse, and contribute to positive change on an international scale. Due to the universal membership, GA is typically the largest committee in Model UN conferences, with a multitude of delegates representing various countries, thus making it a very proactive and diverse committee addressing a variety of topics.

## A Note on Research and Preparation

At TWHSMUN, position papers are **required** in order to be eligible for awards. Position papers should be no more than 4 pages in length, and will be due on **October 28th** through the Google Form that was emailed to your sponsor. They should be 12 pt. Times New Roman font, standard margins, and double-spaced. If interested, delegates may use the [NMUN Guide](#) or [Best Delegate](#) for more detailed guidance on constructing a position paper. It is imperative that delegates write the papers utilizing their assigned country’s perspective on the given topic. A good position paper will often include the following components:

1. **Heading:** Use the following format for your heading:

Committee Name:

Topic:

Country:

School Name:

Sponsor Name:

Delegate Name:

2. **Topic Background:** Describe the history of the topic as it would be described by the delegate's country. Include specific examples such as recent international action regarding the topic. If there have been examples of past UN action regarding the issue include them here.
3. **Country Policy:** Clarify the position of the delegation's country on the topic and what recent actions it has taken to enforce this position. Include the relevant statements by prevalent leaders of the state, statistics, and research that support the effectiveness of the policies enacted by the country.
4. **Proposed Solutions:** Detail the delegation's proposed solutions for the issue thoroughly. Each idea should have a clear connection to the correlating problem that it aims to solve and also identify possible obstacles to implementation and how they can be avoided. The solutions should be natural extensions of the country's policy and perspective on the topic.
5. **Works Cited:** Cite all of your sources in MLA format—if this page is not included then the delegate will have committed plagiarism which will disqualify them from receiving an award.

## Potential Topics

### 1) **Media Censorship:**

Media censorship is a pressing global issue due to many parts of the world having their governments and powerful entities increasingly imposing restrictions on media freedom, suppressing independent journalism, and controlling the dissemination of information. Such censorship undermines democratic principles, stifles freedom of expression, and restricts access to unbiased information. Journalists and media professionals face intimidation, harassment, and even imprisonment for reporting on sensitive topics or questioning those in authority. This hampers transparency, accountability, and the public's right to know, thus hindering the progress of societies toward open and informed democracies. The General Assembly must take decisive action to protect and promote media freedom, ensuring that journalists can operate without fear of persecution and that citizens can access diverse and accurate information.

### 2) **Military industrial complex global impact on peace:**

The military-industrial complex's impact on global peace is a matter of grave concern. The intertwining of defense industries with government policies and military spending has created a complex web that can perpetuate conflict and hinder peaceful resolutions. The profit-driven nature of the military-industrial complex often incentivizes the production and sale of arms, leading to increased arms proliferation and the potential for armed conflicts. Moreover, the influence of defense contractors on decision-making processes can divert resources away from social and developmental needs, exacerbating economic disparities and social unrest. To promote global peace and security, the General Assembly must address the influence of the military-industrial complex by fostering transparency and accountability in arms trade, redirecting resources toward sustainable development, and strengthening diplomatic efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.

### 3) **Implementing sustainable tourism practices to protect natural ecosystems:**

There is an urgent need for implementing sustainable tourism practices to protect natural ecosystems worldwide. As tourism continues to grow and evolve, its impact on fragile environments becomes increasingly evident. Unsustainable tourism can lead to habitat destruction, pollution, and overexploitation of natural resources, jeopardizing the delicate balance of ecosystems. By embracing sustainable tourism practices, nations can promote responsible travel that minimizes negative environmental impacts while maximizing social and economic benefits for local communities. This entails adopting ecotourism initiatives, preserving biodiversity hotspots, and implementing stringent regulations to safeguard protected areas. By prioritizing the preservation of natural ecosystems through sustainable tourism, the General Assembly can play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our planet for future generations.

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