



International Press

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SMIS MUN ' 24

ENGAGE . EMPOWER . EVOLVE

JOURNALISM

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings, Journalists!

It is with great enthusiasm and zeal that we welcome you all to the maiden edition of SMISMUN, where we hope to make your experience with the International Press Corps the most fruitful one yet!

It is an immense honour to serve on your editorial board, and we earnestly hope that you will take this opportunity to write your finest articles, host riveting press cons, foster connections, and make memories that will last you a lifetime.

We expect your diligence and commitment towards your role, be attentive and respectful in your committees, and do not hesitate to ask for assistance or advice should you need it.

We believe that the IP is the heart of an MUN, after all it is the journalists that liaise between the inner sanctum of the United Nations and the watchful eyes of the public.

Your pivotal role as a journalist encompasses your responsibility to purvey veridical content to the outside world while upholding the pillars of journalism; Truth, Accuracy, and Objectivity. Understand the gravity and limits of your power and exercise discretion when deciding what to write about, any form of frivolous reporting, factual inaccuracy or libel/slander will not be tolerated in the slightest.

The International Press Corps is encouraged to work as a united body; The spirit of journalism extends past your individual competition and focuses on the overarching mission of quality research and content. Prioritise teamwork and cooperation where you can, it elevates your experience as a journalist and helps you hone skills that will serve you past this academic simulation.

Research is of utmost importance, take the time to understand the proceedings of the committee and delve deep into the geopolitical dynamics behind them, you may find yourself with a better comprehension of the world around you. Quality research will alleviate any qualms you may find with the IP and ensure your success as a reporter, it is worth taking the extra step towards.

We will be available at all times for any clarification, and of course, to push the limits of your journalistic prowess. We look forward to interacting with you all on this enriching forum and eagerly await the exceptional articles you have in store for us.

All the very best,

Sai Preethi Polu, Head of International Press

Elina Medhi, Editor-in-Chief

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PRESS

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from all the corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees. As the delegates/diplomats, representing countries from all over the world gathered under a roof to engage in deliberation, the International Press records all the crucial moments in words as well as photographs. The International Press has always been an indispensable part of any Model UN and serves the most pertinent function of documentation of the deliberation.

The primary motive of the Press team thereof shall be to provide an unbiased platform for astute journalists and amateur photographers, to channel their sublime thoughts into concrete content generation. One of the most important tasks that journalists in the International Press perform is formal reporting. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the best thought-out and concise way possible, and for this purpose, they are supposed to take notes and submit articles that contain the major discussions in their respective councils. A good news article ought to be articulate, brief and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion.

While at the conference, you are required to keenly observe the goings-on, and take note of worthy instances, prepare reports, conduct research, formulate opinions, conduct interviews and polls, and preside a press conference for the Delegates. Our vision is to ensure that this is a learning experience, and we hope to embark upon this journey creating a magnificent fusion of words and experiences. There will be obstacles in your path, but to learn, you've to be willing to push yourselves. In the words of William H Gass, 'The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.'

There are three things which come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation.

1. **Research:** Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.
2. **Unity:** The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters, who need to be working in synchronization with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of team-work, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.
3. **Code of Conduct:** Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS

Opinionated Editorial

An Opinionated editorial (Op-Ed) is an article that appears opposite the editorial page of practically all newspapers. This is a place where the writer gets an opportunity to pen down his/her perspective on the agenda. Research is of utmost importance and opinions must be backed by relevant facts. These are one of the most impactful articles and creativity here is boundless.

Word Limit - 500 to 600 words

Beat

A beat-based article is a specialised article where the Reporter presents an in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise. It involves amassment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. Requiring clear observations and grasping power, beats should be devoid of the reporter's opinion.

Word Limit - 250 to 350 words

Creative Piece / Feature

'But out of limitations, comes creativity.' This is the only submission where the reporters are allowed to explore any format of their own. It just has to adhere to the agenda of the respective committee. A major contributor to your freestyle working autonomy, will be the submission of a creative piece, which can be a poem, or a set of haikus, or a short story, as long as content is original and absolutely your own individual brainchild. This gives you the poetic ability to play with words and ideas, albeit in keeping with the agenda, as your piece should revolve around a central theme that is drawn off the agenda, in whole or part.

Word Limit - 150 to 800 words

Interview

An interview provides an opportunity for a personal interaction with a delegate/EB member. It should be utilized to bring out those aspects which might not otherwise be highlighted in the course of the conference. The questions must be precise and must be verified by the Executive Board of the International Press. Reporters are to ensure that the essence of the views put forth remain intact.

Word Limit – 350 to 500 words

Consolidated Report

A piece written in reported speech exclusively, this submission focuses on how the entire committee's proceedings went, and gives a concise account of the same. Ideally to be written

in paragraphs, this piece provides the reader with an overview regarding the happenings of the committee during the duration of the conference.

Word Limit – 300 to 350 words

Opinion Poll

This particular type of article allows you to express your opinion in any manner you want. Again, the content needs to be restricted to the agenda. The use of graphs, pie-charts or any other statistical analysis is highly encouraged.

Word Limit – 250 to 350 words

Press Conference

The Press Conference is another opportunity for the reporters to ask the representatives about any of their statements or policies in the committee. Reporters must establish dialogue with the representatives and are required to adhere to diplomatic courtesy. Decorum and composure regardless of the situation must be maintained. Moreover, facts must be derived from credible sources; if challenged, the burden of proof rests on the reporter.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All reporters are expected to strictly adhere to the deadlines allotted to them. The deadlines for each day will be notified at the beginning of the first session for the day.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

✓ Reporters are required to adhere to British English.

✓ Formatting Guidelines:

Font - Times New Roman

Size - Title - 14 points, Bold

By-line - 13 points, Italics

Body - 12 points, Alignment – Justified

✓ By - lines are mandatory for all types of submissions.

✓ The submission files should be in the format:

Name_Type of Submission_Committee_Day

For example: Preethi_Beat_UNHRC_Day1

✓ Abbreviations are to be used only once they have been introduced.

For example: A Life sentence in the United Kingdom (UK) does not necessarily mean a prisoner will spend the rest of their days in prison.

✓ Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly. Cite your sources and references without fail.

✓ Refrain from referring to a delegate by his/her/their name. Address them by the profile/country they are representing.

For example: The Delegate of India highlighted the mass influx of refugees into the country post the Rohingya Crises.

✓ Deadlines are of prime importance. In the words of William Shakespeare, 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.'

✓ Numbers beyond within hundred must appear in words here as, anything beyond hundred can be expressed in numbers.

✓ Stick to the timeline of your committee. If your committee is based on an event in history, adhere to the time period of that event.

✓ Avoid using contractions in sentences. For example; use 'do not' instead of 'don't', 'cannot' instead of 'can't'.

✓ Sentences must be well punctuated with the inclusion of semi colons, full stops, apostrophes, and hyphens/dashes wherever necessary.

✓ Relevant pictures must be attached to each of the assigned articles. The source/credit for the picture must be given to the appropriate source/photojournalist using the textbox feature in word.

For example:

✓ Diplomatic courtesy must be maintained while reporting. Ensure that negative language used by any representative is expressed very subtly without offending anybody.

✓ In your articles, refrain from mentioning things like, 'The Board entertained a motion to break for lunch.'

✓ Refrain using terms such as 'moderated caucus', 'unmoderated caucus', etcetera. Instead use words such as 'formal debate', 'informal debate'.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The members of the press corps (reporters) will be marked on the following set of general criteria. However, the individual heads may follow additional parameters, which you may request at the end of the conference.

Grammar and vocabulary

Structuring and formatting (syntax)

Press conference

Content (substance and creativity)

Orderliness (punctuality and sticking to word limits)

Research and diplomacy

Demeanour (being present in committee during all times, dressing as per code, behaviour, etcetera)

Readability and relevance of content submitted

Brownies points

'Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air.' - Henry Anatole Grunwald

DECORUM ON CAMPUS

SMISMUN is dedicated to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment on the conferencing platform. Delegates must adhere to the following guidelines:

Respect and Sensitivity: Delegates must demonstrate utmost sensitivity and avoid making derogatory comments related to race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, origin, or disability. Valuing diversity and respecting differences will lead to a better understanding of global perspectives.

Thoughtful Language: Delegates should use constructive language and avoid offensive terms during discussions to enhance the quality of debates and create a positive experience.

Privacy: Delegates should seek consent before taking photos of fellow participants to respect personal boundaries and create a trustworthy conference environment.

By adhering to these guidelines, delegates contribute to a conference that embodies SMISMUN's values of respect, inclusivity, academic rigor, and global understanding.

Only through collective commitment can we achieve the enriching experience that SMISMUN aims to provide.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct on the SMISMUN website (<https://smismun.in>) for the conference for further information on the consequences of breaching the above mentioned rules for decorum.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings delegates!

As IP photojournalists, your role is to capture the conference's key moments and atmosphere. Your photos should tell the story of the event, highlighting the energy, emotions, and significant interactions.

Each day, you'll submit 25-40 photos, including candid shots, action moments, and submission-related images. Focus on creativity, detail, and storytelling.

By the end of the conference, the most outstanding photojournalist will be recognized with a special award for their exceptional work!

DAY 1

1. PORTRAITS

4 EB Pictures

2. COMMITTEE SESSIONS

4 from Assigned Committees

3. MONOCHROME

4 Black & White Pictures

4. STORY BASED

4 Pictures that tell a Story

5. PRIME PICS

6 Best Pictures

6. REFLECTION

3 Pictures - Create a Mirror-like Effect

DAY 2

1. PORTRAITS

4 EB Pictures

2. COMMITTEE SESSIONS

4 from Assigned Committees

3. MONOCHROME

4 Black & White Pictures

4. STORY BASED

4 Pictures that tell a Story

5. PRIME PICS

6 Best Pictures

6. BALANCE

3 Pictures which have Symmetry/ Leading Lines

DAY 3

1. PORTRAITS

4 EB Pictures

2. COMMITTEE SESSIONS

4 from Assigned Committees

3. MONOCHROME

4 Black & White Pictures

4. STORY BASED

4 Pictures that tell a Story

5. PRIME PICS

6 Best Pictures

6. CREATIVE SUBMISSION

3 Pictures with Unique Composition & Framing

MARKING SCHEME

CLARITY

COMPOSITION

CONNECTION TO THEME

LIGHTING

FOCUS

PUNCTUALITY

DEMEANOUR