

## **FUMUN 2019**

### **General-Secretary**

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## **FUMUN 2019 Debate Topics and Descriptions**

### **International Court of Justice (Israel vs. Palestine Border War)**

The focus of this committee will be to assess the current situation with the Israeli Settlements in the West Bank. Historically, the Middle East and Israel have fought wars with each other, and Israel has annexed lands that were once part of Palestinian-held territories. The United Nations ruled that the Israeli settlements held no legal validity and constituted an obstruction to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. The Israelis justify their actions, saying that lands being held are either religiously sacred or empty plots of land acquired from war. Despite past condemnation, the number of Israeli settlements have grown. Israel has even started construction of a wall that was deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) back around 2004. Construction of the wall is still continuing though. The ICJ may have deemed it illegal, but the judgement has had no effect on dealing with the current matter. Judges are asked to be a part of the International Court of Justice and to follow up on recent events related to the Israeli Wall and other events related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other border disputes between Israel and Palestine.

### **Committee on Climate Change**

Climate change is one of the major issues of our time and most likely a defining moment for living future generations to come. Leadership is needed from politicians, businesses, scientists, and the public everywhere! We have developed the effective tools to help slow down climate change. Yet, despite developments from the Paris Agreement, we lack the ambition and leadership to do what needs to be done. What makes this matter disturbing is that this is not the first time we were warned about climate change. Scientists have repeatedly warned the international community about climate change, but leaders have refused to listen. Few leaders have followed what science demands, and the results of this reality have pushed us closer to catastrophic scenarios throughout parts of the world. Perpetrated by the developed countries, the poorest nations feel the effects of these scenarios. Innovations are waiting to be implemented. It is up to delegates now to come up with resolutions so that targets from the Paris Agreement are met.

### **Crisis Committee: Nicaraguan Civil War**

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands more have been injured in Nicaragua during clashes with government forces. The people shout that '[they] are not afraid!'.

Peaceful protests began in April 2018 over pension cuts. The police then cracked down on the protesters while President Ortega eventually dropped the pension cuts. But, the problem in Nicaragua has deepened due to police brutality and the lack of government accountability in recent years. The people are fearful for their lives, and demonstrators, coming from all levels of society, are not backing down. They want democratic reforms and President Ortega to resign. Talks between the government and protesters have repeatedly failed and the violence has continued. Protesters strongly believe that the only way to solve this crisis in Nicaragua is to have elections. But, Ortega is refusing to step down. Protesters view that Ortega wants to continue and expand his power over Nicaragua, using guns and violence. President Ortega and the protesters are not stepping down from their positions, and it is up to delegates to come up with a resolution to resolve the clashes between the people and government of Nicaragua. Events and further developments will unfold in this committee session. Delegates are asked to think outside the box and be flexible as developments unfold.

### **General Assembly: Children, Not Soldiers!**

Tens of thousands of children are associated with armed forces and groups in more than 20 countries around the world. Children have become part of the frontlines for violent conflicts going on in the world. Children are recruited as spies and informants associated with armed groups. When children are captured and arrested, they are not treated as victims. Instead, they are denied protection that is guaranteed by international norms. Mandates and projects have been initiated, but more work must be done in order to combat the use and reliance on child soldiers. Delegates are encouraged to work together to promote more incentives for countries not to rely more on child soldiers.

### **Crisis Committee: Marshall Islands**

The Marshall Islands has been historically the location of a maritime dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina, and the disputes have lasted for years with no clear answers to questions due to all of the ambiguities of maritime zones, island bases, and ocean space under the jurisdiction of the Marshall Islands. The area is prone to military conflict, and it is up to delegates to discuss and answer unanswered questions related to the disputed zones. Events, related to the Marshall Islands, will occur while the committee is in session. Delegates are asked to be flexible as developments occur.

### **Crisis Committee: Cyber Security**

This committee is going to be discussing issues, including the formulation of rules of internet governance, the role of the UN, regional cooperation, and capacity-building, involving cyber issues. Back in 2017, Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer for Microsoft, said that “cyberspace is the new battlefield.” Attacks on cyberspace are in fact attacks on private property related to laptops, phones, data center servers, and even cables that directly connect data centers. Students must discuss and develop responsibilities that

are incumbent because of the development of technologies. Recently, the UN has adopted two resolutions on cyber security, proposed respectively by the Russian Federation and the United States. Delegates will take on roles of countries and establish a dialogue to make compromises and establish a united front on cyber security. Since it is a crisis committee, events and further developments will occur while the committee is in session. Delegates are asked to be flexible as developments during the committee unfold.

### **Committee on the 2015 European Migration Crisis (Historical)**

Going back in time, we look at the Refugee Crisis back in 2015 as if it were occurring today. The Syrian Civil War has reached its 4th year and refugees are traveling from war-torn Syria to the Europe via Turkey and Greece. The immigration influx poses challenges for Europe and the European Union. In addition, a large influx of migrants from North Africa are risking their lives, crossing the Mediterranean to get to Italy. ISIS is on the rise, prompting more people to flee to Europe. Delegates, representing European and African nations, will be debating and deliberating how they will address the Refugee Crisis. Delegates have full discretion on how they want to deal with the crisis. They can advocate for similar past policies countries have enacted or they can approach differently, using appropriate resolutions. Creativity is highly encouraged!

### **World Trade Organization – Trade War Between U.S. and China (Crisis Committee)**

Since 2018, trade tensions have risen between the United States and China. President Trump has vowed to introduce tariffs on Chinese goods, and China has introduced retaliatory tariffs on U.S.-made goods. The United States comes from the position that China's laws undermine intellectual property rights. From the U.S. perspective, China commits unfair trading practices and steals ideas and technologies from foreign companies. On the contrary, China believes that it has strengthened Intellectual Property Rights on the basis of previous international agreements. China criticizes U.S. tariffs, saying that the economic restrictions on its technological products are unreasonable. Both countries are now before the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Panel, debating the legality of U.S. tariffs imposed on China. Delegates are asked to encompass the WTO Dispute Panel and to hear arguments from both the United States and China. In this crisis committee, at least 2-3 delegates will be representing country officials, respectively from the United States and China. Further economic events will occur while the WTO hearings are in session. Delegates on the Panel will ask questions to both countries throughout the committee sessions and issue an opinion on the economic disputes between the US and China.