

September 26, 2019

Dear Model UN Advisor,

As this year's conference director for Fairfield University's Model United Nations Club, I am pleased to invite your school to participate in the seventeenth annual Fairfield University Model United Nations High School Conference, scheduled for **Friday, November 8, 2019**. For the past seventeen years, Fairfield University has welcomed Model UN participants from high schools throughout the region. Our conference has become larger and more competitive with each passing year, thanks to you and your students.

This year's conference will feature the following eight committees:

- International Court of Justice: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Committee on Climate Change
- General Assembly: Child Soldiers
- Crisis Committee: Falkland Islands Conflict
- Crisis Committee: Cyber Security
- Committee on the 2015 European Migration Crisis (Historical)
- World Trade Organization – Trade War Between U.S. and China (Crisis Committee)

This year's invitation letter includes conference registration details and paragraph descriptions of each committee. Background guides for the above-mentioned committees will be made available in the fall.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of this invitation, please email me at nicholas.trewartha@student.fairfield.edu or our president, Jessica Castillo, at jessica.castillo@student.fairfield.edu with your school's mailing address. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us with any questions regarding the conference. We look forward to seeing you in November!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Trewartha
Conference Director, Fairfield Model United Nations
nicholas.trewartha@student.fairfield.edu

Fairfield University Model UN High School Conference 2019

Welcome to the seventeenth annual Fairfield University Model United Nations High School Conference. The conference is a fantastic way to involve high school students in global discussions. The one-day conference takes place on Fairfield University's campus, and is organized and chaired by Fairfield University's Model United Nations Club.

This year's conference will be held on **Friday, November 8, 2019**.

Model UN Conference

Registration

All delegations will pay a registration fee and an additional per delegate fee. **A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to secure your registration.** Fees include all conference materials and lunch on the day of the conference.

<u>Delegate Fee</u>	<u>Registration Fee</u>
\$35 per delegate by September 30, 2019	1-7 delegates (\$80) 8-12 delegates (\$100)
\$45 per delegate after September 30, 2019	13-20 delegates (\$120) 20+ delegates (\$130)

Due to increasing demand regarding delegation spaces, we ask that you please secure your assumed number of delegates as soon as possible. This will ensure that as many students per school can attend, as well as give our team ample opportunity to prepare on our end. Thank you!

We have prepared an online payment system. You must go to this URL (<https://modelun.fairfield.edu/>) to register for the Conference.

FUMUN 2019

General-Secretary

Nicholas Trewartha: nicholas.trewartha@student.fairfield.edu

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.

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: Falkland Islands

The Falkland 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 Falkland Islands. The area is prone to military conflict, and it is up to the delegates to discuss and answer unanswered questions related to the disputed zones. Events, related to the Falkland 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 the 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 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.