

General Assembly Officials' Introductions

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you a bit about whom we are. We'll try to keep this as casual as possible, there will be plenty of time for formal speeches and motivational pitches soon enough. Please read on and we hope to likewise get to know you through our forums (more on that in the GA Info Package)!

President of the General Assembly

Dear Delegates,

It's great to finally be directly in touch with you!

I'm originally from Finland, but I've lived seven years of my life abroad, first in Romania and later South Africa, moving back home after High School. I absolutely loved both experiences and they're an essential part of who I am – they're for sure one of the many reasons I'm drawn to the UN. I study marketing at the Helsinki School of Economics, though I'm currently taking a year off to work on the board of my student union. It's a fascinating time to be involved, as my school is set to merge at the end of the year with two other universities and the student unions will follow suit. Maneuvering between three quite different organizations with strong cultures working towards a common goal is plenty of daily practice in diplomacy! In my free time I'm quite involved in MUN and try to play tennis whenever I can. I'm also part of Making Commitments Matter, a research initiative studying the implementation of UN agreements at a national level.

I'm intrigued by the way organizations come together and function; there is something extraordinary about how individuals can come together and accomplish things so much greater than the sum of its parts. Studying and managing these organizations provides constant challenges, chances to meet new people and space for personal growth; in short they are endlessly rewarding. All this in the context of helping others with unassailable determination sounds almost too good to be true, but this just about sums up what the UN means to me. I'm proud to be part of such a fabulous team of GA Officials at GMUN and without further ado will give them a chance to introduce themselves.

Looking forward to meeting you soon,
Petri

1st Committee

Chair

Hi,

My name is Paul Gathara and I am from Nairobi Kenya. I am currently in my 3rd year of study for a Bachelor of laws degree at the University of Nairobi. Much as I love the law, my passion is community development and youth empowerment and I spend most of my time developing and working to implement project proposals. There are two quotes that really inspire everything I do in life, the first is by George Bernard Shaw: "*Youth is wasted on the young*" and the second is from the bible "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*"

It bothers me that the first quote by Bernard Shaw should be true and yet everywhere there are youth not nearly doing as much as they could with their lives. Perhaps the problem is that they are simply not bothered or perhaps they lack adequate information about what the problems are or what they could be doing to solve them. This brings me to the second quote which in my experience is the sad truth. I see many young people doing very little with their lives and for some of them it is not because they have no vision of what or where they would want to be, but because they lack the knowledge of how they can make their dreams a reality.

I firmly believe that it is the responsibility of those of us who have access to such knowledge to work towards ensuring that it is passed on to those who really need it. Global Model United Nations is to me a platform for the youth not only to debate current issues and provide theoretical solutions to problems but also to share and explore new ideas and to create networks through which to develop and implement projects to better their communities.

I am truly excited and humbled to be a part of GMUN 2009 and I look forward to meeting you all in Geneva.

Cheers,

Paul

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Vice-Chair

Dear delegates,

I am Akhmed Tillayev, senior student International Relations, the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent/Uzbekistan. Originally I come from Uzbek-Afghan border city Termez. Apart from my studies I work as an intern in the Center for Political Studies, analytical department.

Three years ago when I was a freshman, I participated in my first MUN game at my university, it was Security Council session, and I represented China. That the very game I think motivated and inspired me to spread the idea of Model UN around my country. Two years ago, we, couple of motivated students, established first MUN program in our Republic, since then we are doing our best to attract more and more young enthusiastic people of Uzbekistan to experience this unique opportunity to delve into the United Nations.

My role in the upcoming GMUN is a vice-chairperson of the first committee (Disarmament and International Security). I am so excited that I was chanced to get a place among the General Assembly officials, and participate in the great GA workshop in New York. Each single MUN program around the world tries to simulate UN sessions as closely as they can, in other words they try to simulate the reality. During our workshop in UNHQ I felt myself something between the reality and simulation, since the whole our workshop was based on the meetings with REAL high UN officials, UN ambassadors, secretaries, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the committees. I am more than sure that for every GMUN GA official that week in NY was a tremendous experience, which we are so excited to implement in Geneva.

-A.

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2nd Committee*Chair*

Dear delegates (hopefully dear new friends),

my name is Mateusz Drapczyński and I am very happy and proud to serve you as the Chairperson of the 2nd Committee during GMUN 2009. I have just graduated my high school and become a student of economy. When I was a 13 year-old, little, shy boy I joint my first Model UN and truly fell in love with it! It has changed my life and happily brought me to first in history Global Model United Nations. I come from a small city in Western Poland, where I had a chance to organize the biggest MUN in Poland- POLMUN. I have participated in 12 MUNs, 4 as a Chair and 2 as a main organizer. For me Model UN is not only a possibility to discuss the most crucial aspects of the present world, but also a place to make new friendships and prove that young people, that you and me, that we are able "to heal the world, make it a better place".

GMUN is definitely a lifetime experience and I am truly grateful for giving me such a wonderful chance to join it. In case of any questions or just to say "hello", do not hesitate to write to me.

Yours,
Mateusz Drapczyński
drapczynski@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Dear Delegates!

My name is Margarita Briones Garcia, I'm 22 years old and I'm from Puebla, Mexico. I study the eighth semester of International Relations in Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (BUAP).

When I finished the high school I didn't know what career to study, so I reviewed the International Relations plan, besides I participated as observer in the MUN of the University, and this experience changed my life because during the debates I understood the importance to analyzing the international context and at that moment I didn't have any doubts and decided to study this career. Nowadays I am very pleased with this decision.

At this time, for me it is a great honour to participate in GMUN 2009 and to be the Vice-Chair in the Second Committee and share this forum with you, I am sure that together will achieve very good results.

I welcome you to this Committee.
You can contact me if you have any questions or doubts.

Yours,
Margarita Briones Garcia
mbg.azul@gmail.com

3rd Committee

Chair

My name is Melissa Seif, I am originally from Lebanon, though I have lived in the States for three years! I study Medicine at the Lebanese American University, however, I will be moving shortly to the U.S to continue my MED studies at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

I first started with MUN when I was 16 years old. I participated in a regional conference representing Kuwait in the UNDP and obtained a Secretary-General's award. This motivated me to pursue the "MUN life" so I joined the Global Classrooms LAU- Model UN working under the UNA-USA as a trainer to 1000 delegates and as the Director to the ECOSOC, the 1st year and the Chair of the WHO, the 2nd. I am also, currently, a member of the executive board and head of youth in an Environmental NGO (Human Environmental Association of Development).

People ask me: "What does MUN have to do with your major?" "How do you find a link between both?" Well, here is the message that I want to send: The beautiful thing about the MUN is applying its concept to your everyday life. MUN teaches me how to deal with everyday problems and from there we, as a community, can move on to bigger issues like "World Peace".

What is the use of all the conferences we attend, if we can't learn, just a simple thing, that will change our lives and the lives of others forever. This is why I chose the 3rd committee; this is how I learn to combine between the sociological and the physical issues of people. It helps me to, hopefully, become a better doctor, and most importantly, a better human being!

Cheers,

Melissa M Seif
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Vice-Chair

Hello!

It is my pleasure to write to you as Vice Chair of the 3rd Committee.

I come from London, a place of many cultures. I love the diversity of the world, but I believe that human dignity belongs equally to all, whoever they are and wherever they come from. I have lived in Mexico for a year, where I studied, volunteered and researched corruption for my thesis (I survived!) and have just graduated from International Relations with Spanish at the University of Birmingham. I have the great privilege of starting a Masters this year at the London School of Economics in Development Studies to continue trying to understand the problems that concern us in GMUN- and most importantly, how to overcome them.

I am currently planning my wedding two weeks after GMUN (!), although normally I prefer just to go on adventures with friends, make new friends from far-off places, eat and cook exciting foods, sing and play the guitar. I sometimes work for Amnesty International as a street fundraiser in London- no two days are the

same! My experiences of MUN have shaped my path significantly and fuelled my passion for human rights and dignity, and I hope GMUN will shape us more than any MUN we have participated in before. I am so excited to meet you and put our brains together for the good of our shared world.

My best wishes,
Sophie
sophiepollard@hotmail.com
sophie.pollard2 (Skype)

4th Committee

Chair

Hello!

I'm Barbara Bravo, I'm from Brazil and I live in Rio de Janeiro. I attend International Relations at Pontifical Catholic University, but I'm moving to Washington D.C. next December to finish my studies at Georgetown University. As all of you, I spend most of my free time at MUNs, as a delegate and organizer. Last year I had the pleasure to be Secretary-General of ONU Jr., that is a MUN for high school students.

I was very young when I decided to study International Relations and work at the UN, and this was influenced by the fact that my dad used to work as a Peacekeeper in the Middle East. After have been in more than 30 MUNs, GMUN is for me a new beginning, once there are so many differences between what we are used to see in models and UN practices. More than this, GMUN is a chance or all of us to get closer to the UN, learn about it and then make changes in our national models, transforming them into an experience that will be closer to the UN that was before. I'm pretty much sure that a lifetime experience has just begun for all of us.

Regards,
Barbara
barbara_bravo45@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair

Akachukwu is a Nigerian with a great passion for a positive change in his community and the world as a whole; that is why I will be attending this programme to learn more on how to do this. I would soon be concluding my academic work at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka where I am studying computer science.

Having to meet you would be a very great pleasure for me to meet with youths of equal vision and share and improve on our experiences of previous MUN programmes. It would really be a great time for all of us.

Looking forward to meeting you all. Do have a safe trip to Geneva.

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