

BERKELEY MODEL UNITED NATIONS



**LXVI**  
SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION

# NGO FORUM



# WELCOME LETTER

Hello! My name is Kendra Singh! I am a third year who will be graduating from Berkeley Economics this year. I'm also completing a minor in public policy. I'm originally from New Jersey and have been doing Model UN since I was 14 years old. I've been involved in economics research, environmental consulting, and political science research. Some fun facts about me are that I love field hockey, my favorite movie is Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and I traveled to Germany for a data science program this past summer! Below is a bit of information about your vice chairs:

Joanne is a sophomore electrical engineering and computer science major, with a minor in art history. This is her second year chairing BMUN, and her sixth year being a member of the MUN community as a delegate and chair. What Joanne finds most rewarding about debate is introducing people to international issues they have never considered before, as well as investigating practical ways to solve the problems of today and the future. Outside of BMUN, Joanne is a member of the Association of Women in EECS; she also enjoys drawing, reading, and visiting national parks. Joanne is looking forward to meeting all of the delegates and hearing their thoughts during BMUN 66.

Madeleine is a sophomore at UC Berkeley studying Interdisciplinary Studies and Political Economics, and concentrating in Urban Studies/Public Policy and Sustainable Development Economics. The international and social work aspect of both these things have a special place in her heart as both of her parents are immigrants hailing from the urban areas of developing nations. She's been able to work with a lot of different non-profit organizations, many of them similar in mission to the ones in this committee. Even though she won't be chairing during the conference, she looks forward to supporting the NGO Forum from over in the Office of Public Information as the Under-Secretary-General of Publications!

Billy is an aspiring chemistry freshman student here at Cal. That means that he is not only interested in international relations, but he is also interested in microscopic reactions. This difference in perspectives led to an interest in chairing the NGO forum, where delegates will represent non-country bodies, providing them with a more pragmatic standpoint upon which they can form solutions by. Billy hopes that all of you will enjoy this committee, and can't wait to see you in March!

Best of luck with your research, and I look forward to seeing you all at BMUN 66!

**Kendra Singh**

Head Chair, NGO Forum

Berkeley Model United Nations, Sixty-Sixth Session

# ADDRESSING LIMITS ON NGOS

## TOPIC SUMMARY

Where there has been assistance from non governmental organizations (NGOs), there has always been resistance to NGOs as well. In the past, resistance against NGOs were mainly seen in authoritarian dictatorships that sought to maintain control over their citizens, and thus saw groups that empowered civil society as a hindrance. Examples of these countries are North Korea, Burma, Syria, and more. However, there has been recent backlash against NGO presence in much more liberal nations; China, India, and Hungary are just a few countries where NGOs are facing increasing legal restrictions on their activities and funding. James Savage, of Amnesty International, has said, "This global wave of restrictions [on NGOs] has a rapidity and breadth to its spread we've not seen before, that arguably represents a seismic shift and closing down of human rights space not seen in a generation," (Sherwood, 2015). These restrictions are severely harmful not only to NGOs, but to citizens of these countries. The typical result of this wave of restrictions is a great decrease in the services offered, or NGOs leaving the area altogether, and taking desperately needed services with them.

## What is an NGO?

The United Nations Department of Public Information defines a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) as “a not-for profit, voluntary citizen’s group that is organized on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good. Task-oriented and made up of people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizen’s concerns to Governments, monitor policy and program implementation, and encourage participation of civil society stakeholders at the community level,” (“DPI/NGO Relations About Us”). NGOs may be funded from a variety of sources, including governments; funding from governments is still considered “non-governmental” as long as there are not government employees in high ranking positions. However, because the image of NGOs is being more frequently associated with more democratic governments, there has been pushback against NGOs all over the world.

## HISTORY OF ANTI-NGO SENTIMENTS

Following the Cold War, many countries had favorable attitudes and policies regarding NGOs in their country and the funds they receive. This is because this was an extremely easy way to gain support of the United States and its allies (“Donors:Keep

Out"). However, since then concerns have grown regarding NGOs, their power, and their backing. The primary reason why resistance to NGOs has spread to much less authoritarian countries is the growth in *hybrid regimes*. Hybrid regimes are governments that combine democratic elements of government with autocratic elements; they are often characterized by lack of transparency, unfair elections, and other corrupt practices (Gange, 2015). NGOs, specifically those concerned with empowering *civil society* and human rights violations, are a threat in these institutions just as they are a threat in authoritarian institutions.

## Civil Society

Civil society is defined by the United Nations as “the ‘third sector’ of society, along with government and business. It consists of both civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations,” (“Civil Society”). In general, civil society includes political parties, NGOs, unions, and other various organizations.

One of the first prominent instances of NGOs helping to disempower a hybrid regime was in 1998 Slovakia. Slovakia, till that point had been under the rule of authoritarian Vladimir Meciar and his party. There had been efforts to unseat Meciar in the past from political parties, however these were unorganized and ineffective. In February of 1998, 35 NGOs banded together to create a civic campaign for free

elections called OK '98. This group helped mobilize voting populations, particularly younger voters, and organized campaigns similar to Rock the Vote in America. They also worked with other local NGOs to educate voters and monitor the actual election. Another organization, MEMO'98, worked to monitor press coverage of the election, disseminate information to the public, and monitor bias in the state-run television channels. The efforts were largely successful; voter turnout was at 84%, the highest it had been in years, and Meciar's party lost (Potocki, 2011).

Similar events happened in several other countries, specifically Croatia, Serbia, and Georgia. All of these events raised concern for the power of NGOs in unseating government power, but the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine made the largest impact. The 2004 presidential election in Ukraine was between Viktor Yanukovich, the current Prime Minister and close political ally of Vladimir Putin, and Viktor Yushchenko, the opposition candidate running on a platform of anti-corruption and anti-cronyism. The results of the first run-off election were close; both Yanukovich and Yushchenko won approximately 40% of the vote. The second run-off election was held a month later, and Yanukovich was declared president. Many voters who were supporters of Yushchenko challenged these results, claiming that the election was unfair and undemocratic. This was the birth of the Orange Revolution, as Orange was the color of Yushchenko's campaign; protests ensued for two weeks, and Yanukovich's supporters

were threatening secession from Ukraine if the results were deemed invalid (Makuch et. al).

The Orange Revolution protesters were successful in their efforts as soon the Supreme Court ruled that the second run-off election would be held again. After this was held, Yushchenko won, with 52% of the vote (Makuch et. al). However, their success had negative consequences. Ukraine faced political instability for the next several years, and Yushchenko did not even come second in the next presidential election. Elsewhere the Orange Revolution was a cause for concern; out of all civil-society-driven movements, it had accomplished the most by far. Governments across Europe and Asia noticed this display of civil society power as marking the beginning of many hybrid regimes and resistance to NGOs (Gershman et.al 36-51). Another notable part of the Orange Revolution was that the many of the local NGOs that led the resistance in Ukraine were funded by the Open Society Institute, an American NGO. This completely reversed any sentiments regarding NGOs and their ties to America, and instead of a positive aspect of aid this became a fear of manipulation by the Western governments and ideologies (“Donors: Keep Out”).

It is important to note that other reasons for restricting NGO influence, outside of hybrid regimes protecting their political power, exist. The most prominent of these is the growing fear of terrorism and terrorist groups forming. Governments often take various measures to prevent money laundering and foreign-financing that help fund

and maintain terrorist organizations, but these policies can have an effect on finances for NGOs and other civil society organizations as well. However, it is unclear whether or not this effect on civil society is intentional or not. A clear example of this happening presently is the new legislation that was passed in Egypt that targets “terrorist-entities”; the legislation is purposefully drafted so that it includes civil society organizations, making it necessary to seek approval for receiving funds amongst other various requirements that hinder an NGO’s operation (Sherwood, 2015).

## **PRESENT DAY LIMITATIONS ON NGOS**

Present day limitations on NGOs are becoming increasingly common and take on several forms across different countries. It is important to note that these limitations have varying levels of severity; some countries have a very open stance against NGOs while others only allow NGOs to function under heavy political constraints that hinder many operations. Many of the more authoritarian governments will specifically target NGOs that are more assertive and concerned with human rights over primarily aid-based organizations.

The most extreme restraint on NGOs is the restriction of people’s freedom of association. This, as mentioned before, is present in countries such as North Korea,

Libya, Cuba, and Vietnam. In Saudi Arabia, most independent NGOs are banned and most existing organizations are those that are established by the government and under its control (Gershman et. al).

A common form of restraint on NGOs is the manipulation of registration regulations to control or prohibit certain groups as they attempt to organize. This manipulation takes form in three ways: 1) governments are either very strict and require every small group to register, 2) they are very frugal in the registrations that they grant, or 3) the laws surrounding organization registration are purposefully left ambiguous (Gershman et.al 36-51). For those governments using the first method, the extraneous amount of registration and bureaucracy needed to register as a group not only prevents groups from forming, but also allows them to be easily monitored by the government. For governments using the second method, the unwillingness to grant registration to groups results in groups that are easily controlled and not truly independent to be allowed to meet, while others are not given legal allowance. Finally, some governments intentionally leave laws regarding organization registration ambiguous so that government officials can make egregious demands for information, deny registration without justification, or delay the process (Gershman et.al 36-51).

The second most prominent way in which governments restrain NGOs and their activities is through limitations on funding. Many present day organizations justify the use of funding restrictions with nationalist sentiments, by tying the acceptance of

foreign funding to accepting the influence of a foreign nation. This hurts NGOs in two ways; it directly results in less funding and indirectly associates NGOs to over-reaching foreign powers. These funding laws take on many forms. Some governments require organizations to go through various processes to get approval for receiving foreign funds, others require that foreign funds are kept in a government-controlled bank account which are easily frozen or seized (Gershman et. al 36-51). One of the most prominent examples of this control of funding for NGOs is seen in Russia. President Vladimir Putin of Russia stated in 2005: “We are against overseas funding for the political activities [of NGOs] in Russia. I categorically object. Not a single state that respects itself does that, and we won’t allow it either,” (“Putin Against Foreign Money”).

A less common way in which governments attempt to undermine the function of NGOs is by creating parallel organizations themselves. These organizations, called Government-Organized NGOs (GONGOs), attempt to undermine the legitimacy of existing NGOs and democracy itself by mimicking the function of domestic democracy and civil society. This paradoxical organization’s function is to create the appearance of a regular civil society, while diverting funding away from NGOs and promoting the government’s interests. There are several examples of GONGOs that function within a government’s country, as well as abroad. In Myanmar, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is a strong opponent of Nobel peace prize winner and leader of the

opposition, Aung San Suu Kyi. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation is run by the wives of prominent men in Myanmar's military junta, with the intention of promoting their own interests (Naim 2009). An example of a GONGO that functions abroad is Chongryon, a pro-North Korea group that functions in Japan. This group has been accused of smuggling weapons technology and money to North Korea, all the while creating a massive pro-North Korea propaganda campaign (Pike 2011).

Governments also restrict NGOs through their own discretionary power and harassment. Even if an NGO is able to register, governments will often perform superfluous checks and interventions on day-to-day operations of NGOs; failure to comply with these checks can result in sanctions, fines, and more. Governments further harass civil society members themselves, often unfoundedly detaining, deporting, jailing, and fining leaders for being involved in organizations that are vaguely defined as against the government (Gershman et. al 36-51).

## POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

NGOs around the world operate in a variety of different countries that vary in the amount of freedom they afford these organizations; even in restrictive circumstances, NGOs can employ a variety of techniques to continue their work.

It is important to keep in mind that country policies do not act in vacuums. Countries that are more dependent on foreign aid and those that do not wish to anger more powerful allies are often more amenable to changing their policies. For example, a country like China that has a strong economy and international presence is less vulnerable to pressure than, say, Ethiopia, which is more dependent on aid and money from other countries to protect its citizens (Gershman).

Speaking in practical terms, when faced with limitations, NGOs need to work around them. This may mean financing through third parties, conducting activities across borders, or organizing online rather than in person. Of course, all of these strategies are not feasible for all groups; if all else fails, diplomacy with hybrid regimes and attempting to stay out of scrutiny is paramount.

Political attacks and influencing of public opinion against NGOs is also common. International pressure can help immensely in giving NGOs the support they need to resist political threats. Hybrid regimes or countries that are becoming less and less

democratic still benefit from a veneer of false progressiveness. Political and resource connections between nations also acts as a source of political pressure. For example, the European Union's attempts to promote democratic dialogue in Russia hinges on linking "human rights to other issues, which -- at least in principle -- accords a degree of leverage to the EU" (Saari, 28). By fostering connections to these outside organizations, NGOs can build political capital to weather them through uncooperative or aggressive government action.

## CASE STUDIES

### Hungary Case Study

As of June 2017, Hungary has increased its efforts to battle foreign influences by creating financial standards NGOs have to follow in order for them to be allowed to practice. The strict law (130-40) mandates that groups receiving overseas funding over the amount of 24,000 euros is required to report all donors who give over \$1,820 in funding (Serhan, 2017). Currently, the Hungarian government maintains the law was put into place as a practice of transparency. However, major NGOs working within the country as well as various international news organizations have voiced their beliefs that

the motivation behind the law was radically different from the official statement endorsed by the government.

Amnesty International, for instance, is convinced that the actions taken by the government are a continuation of the anti-NGO sentiments that the prime minister has had in recent years (Than and Dunai 2017). When the dominant narrative in the Hungarian political circles speaks about NGOs in the context of dissenting organizations that draw approval away from the traditional ways of a country, NGOs are seen as an enemy. The law to mandate their full disclosure of financial support is, to the NGO community, “a vicious and calculated assault on civil society,” (Dulhuisen, 2017). TASZ has already stated that it will not register, despite the government's demands, because “the offending law violates freedom of speech, freedom of association and unacceptably different civil organizations,” (“Bojkottálja a Civiltörvényt a TASZ.”). The law itself does stigmatize these organizations as private corporations with self-serving interests and consequently mitigates the work they do. Significantly, the identification of these groups as foreign interest groups instead of international organizations intent on serving more social and humanitarian causes suggests that these organizations are using their causes as a front to bring in more globalized perspectives.

Other popularized publications have suggested that the law targets one person in particular through these efforts: George Soros (“The Next Victims of Orban's

Campaign Will Be the Journalists.”). The business magnate, native to Hungary, has been the recipient of various campaigns against his brand as result of his recent critique of the country’s anti-immigration policies (Byrne, 2017). While Soros has a tainted reputation due to his history in financial investment in Europe, his current support of different NGOs and western-style education has perhaps turned the attention of groups considered anti-Soros and current influential politicians to make a roundabout attack on Soros by first bringing down the organizations he supports.

Many NGOs have spoken out about this recent attack on their ability to function within the country. Additionally, the European Union has expressed distaste at the actions of the Hungarian government (Dulhuisen, 2017). However, not only has the government shown no sign of remorse - they have completely ignored international sentiments. A similar law was instituted in Russia in 2012, where 30 organizations have closed since, and is cited as the inspiration for this particular political move. Knowing this, the international community has grown more concerned that the recently enacted legislation will lead to limited functionality of many different organizations within the country’s borders.

It is widely believed that the Hungarian government’s ultimate goal is to limit non-governmental and international organizations. The government is facing an intolerable situation wherein, when NGOs take action they inspire more people through their influence, win many legal fights against the government, and embrace

civil disobedience (“Hungarian NGOs Embrace Civil Disobedience”). The three NGOs specifically being targeted by the government because of their social actions are TASZ, the Hungarian Helsinki Commission, or Amnesty International, all of which the government hopes to silence through the offending law.

As mentioned beforehand with TASZ and Amnesty International, NGOs are vocal about their opposition to this law and, in some cases, are refusing to recognize it despite the threats of further backlash. NGOs need to be able to establish themselves in their local communities and market themselves as helper organizations if they are to achieve their personal missions in Hungary.

## **China Case Study**

China is a prime example of where NGOs struggle with government regulations. In January 2017, the Communist Party passed the “Law on Management of Domestic Activities of Overseas Non-governmental Organizations” (Gan 2017), which put restrictive regulations on all NGOs registered outside of China. Foreign organizations now must have a government sponsor, register with local public security bureaus, and must now allow the government unprecedented access to their finances and facilities. Additionally, funding from foreign NGOs to Chinese NGOs is now restricted and under the same scrutiny as the NGOs themselves (Hsu 2017).

The rollout of the law has been extremely slow and chaotic. NGOs were only given the full regulations in November 2016, and the list of sponsors was released in late December, leaving many scrambling to adapt. The confusion was heightened due to there being almost no regulation on foreign NGOs beforehand; many had never registered with the government, or were registered as businesses.

The introduction of the new law is part of a larger movement by the Chinese government to more strictly regulate state security and oppose foreign influence in what William Nee, a Chinese researcher with Amnesty International, calls “manufactured xenophobia”. Alongside more laws concerning state security came a crackdown on activists, lawyers, as well as propaganda against “foreign forces”, such as a National Security Day and campaigns against specific organizations.

While some believe that the disorganized implementation of the new NGO law is simply the result of bureaucratic inefficiency and confusion, others see it as the government pushing NGOs away from acting in China (Huang 2017). The vast majority of NGOs have not yet registered with the government; despite there being almost 7,000 active in China, only 90 NGOs were registered by June 2017 (Shieh 2017).

NGOs are being forced to adapt to the new landscape in China. Some NGOs have ceased operations entirely. Others are scaling back or waiting to see how stringently the law will be enforced. Smaller organizations have decided to work around the law or register as businesses.

The regulations on foreign financial assistance has also hurt Chinese organizations that depend on donors to continue running. Many of the organizations struggling with the law are those that are already the subject of government ire, such as those dealing with rule of law, abortion advocacy, LGBT rights, and human rights organizations. These organizations struggle to find sponsors who do not want to risk supervising a politically sensitive group (Hsu 2017).

The truth of the matter is that NGOs acting in foreign countries are subject to the whims and desires of that country, and must weigh the costs of continuing to act and achieve their goal and fighting with a government that can be hostile and uncooperative.

## A NOTE ON COMMITTEE DELIVERABLES AND POSITION PAPERS

The primary committee deliverable for this topic will be a letter to the General Assembly recognizing current issues NGOs because of growing limitations from governments and recommending solutions that will be debated in committee. Examples of this format will be posted on the committee blog and presented in the beginning of committee.

The position paper for this topic will parallel the traditional position paper for other BMUN committees. However, you will be writing from your NGO's perspective rather than a country's. There will be instances where not every NGO has had direct interaction with limitations imposed by countries. In this case, look to research NGOs with similar missions to yours and their interaction with the topic. Also make sure to closely examine the policies of countries in which your NGO operates, and note that depending on the type of NGO you have, your history of involvement with this topic is expected to vary.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is it necessary for NGOs to be tied to the sentiment of “western-democracy promotion”? Can they function and provide aid outside of this sphere? What action could the international community take in order to remove the stigma of western influence that promotes other governments to reject these outside organizations?
2. Why are some governments concerned about past events like the Orange Revolution and react negatively towards NGOs, while others do not?
3. Can you predict any ways governments may take action against NGOs other than the ones that currently take place? Is there anything the UN can do to prevent this from taking place?

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# OPEN AGENDA

## NGO – UNITED NATIONS RELATIONS

The relationship between NGOs and the United Nations is almost as old as the United Nations itself. In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that recommended that the Department of Public Information (DPI) “...actively assist and encourage national information services, educational institutions and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations of all kinds interested in spreading information about the United Nations,” (General Assembly Resolution 1/13). The DPI/NGO relation is described formally as “...based on their commitment to uphold the principles of the UN, support the UN’s activities and spread the word about issues on its agenda, while maintaining their independence and staying true to their own core values,” (History, DPI/NGO Relations). This was just the beginning of formal recognition that many NGOs have very similar goals as the UN, and that cooperation is mutually beneficial.

That same year, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Committee on NGOs. The Committee on NGOs purpose is mainly to make recommendations to the ECOSOC on which NGOs should receive consultative status.

*Consultative status* includes NGOs in formal deliberations with the UN. The creation of the Committee on NGOs is particularly significant for this reason; it formally acknowledged that there is a need for formal NGO-UN relations. The Committee on NGOs is included under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA) NGO branch. Other than the Committee on NGOs, DESA's NGO branch facilitates NGO participation and provides information on possible collaborations with the UN ("Basic Facts about ECOSOC Status").

## **Issues between NGOs and the United Nations**

Though many NGOs are given consultative status each year, this is not enough to foster complete relations with the UN. Consultative status only enables NGOs to work with ECOSOC, not other significant bodies in the UN, such as the General Assembly (GA) or Security Council (SC). As of now, there is no formal relationship between these bodies and NGOs. In the past, NGOs have consulted with the Security Council during *Arria-formula meetings*. These meetings are strictly informal, and thus are held off of Security Council premises. The purpose of these meetings is to hear from NGOs, and other non-official bodies or persons. The meetings occur approximately monthly, with high attendance. However, this does not allow for

accessibility to the UN for most NGOs; not all are included in the Arria-formula meetings (Paul, 2003).

The General Assembly has similarly had informal meetings with NGOs, however it has controversially excluded NGOs in the past. Most notably, during the 2005 World Summit, the GA excluded NGOs on the basis of special concerns. However, NGOs were also excluded from preparation for the 2005 World Summit, and many took action by writing a letter to the UN Secretary General. This resulted in NGOs being included in informal civil society hearings, which lasted 2-days with no measurable impact.

Many governments are hesitant to negotiate for formal NGO-UN relations outside of existing relations with the ECOSOC. This is because there is already existing reform debates surrounding several UN bodies, and including NGOs to possible reforms may make change more difficult. Thus, most are looking towards informal relations between NGOs and the UN, or excluding NGOs altogether (Martens, 2006). This will likely result in less public support for the UN. Kofi Annan, past secretary general of the UN recognized this, stating "Expanding and deepening the relationship with NGOs will further strengthen both the institution and the intergovernmental debate. This is an opportunity for the United Nations to enhance its impact in a world that is remarkably different from the one in which it was founded nearly 60 years

ago,”(General Assembly Resolution 59/55). After this, Anaan created the Cardoso Panel, which created a few recommendations for the future of NGO-UN relations.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR THE OPEN AGENDA**

The purpose of this committee is to accurately model NGO-UN relations. Thus, an important part of the Open Agenda will be to clarify what your NGO can realistically do to help solve problems that different UN committees are faced with, while also maintaining a creative stance in what is feasible.

Each delegate in the committee will be assigned a committee in which they will be expected to give a 5-7 minute presentation followed by a short question and answer session from the delegates of that committee. The purpose of your presentation is to introduce your NGO, explain its relationship to the topic the committee is debating, and detail what it can (or has done) to help solve the problem at hand.

During the remaining time of the open agenda, you will be expected to observe both the committee you are assigned to as well as other committees at BMUN 66, encourage delegates to take advantage of your NGO's services when drafting their resolutions and to uphold your NGOs mission. The main product during the open

agenda portion of committee will be to produce reports, press releases, and action items for your NGO specifically that will make a difference in the events of each committee. There is large flexibility in committee deliverables, and examples of different options will be posted on the committee blog, as well as reviewed during committee. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with any reports or publications your specific NGO has published and their specific writing style. Every deliverable you turn in will be reviewed and published on a committee blog.

## **Guidelines for Position Papers**

For your position paper, you will be expected to give a brief summary of the presentation you will give in your assigned committee. Committees are assigned below based on the relevance of your NGO to the committee topic. Your position paper should have six distinct sections. First, your paper should introduce your NGO, its mission, and identify which committee your presentation will be in, and any relevant relations between the committee and the NGO. Second, it should outline your NGO's past engagement with the topic, or issues similar to the topic. Third, it should critically explain how your NGO can engage with the topic, and whether there is anything that any the committee can do to make fulfilling your mission easier. Fourth, it should

realistically address the limitations of what your NGO can do, and what else may be needed after your aid is provided. Fifth, it should briefly identify 2-3 other committees where you feel that your NGO could make a sizeable impact and briefly explain the choice of committees. Finally, it should answer the critical thinking questions (located at the end of this topic synopsis) completely.

## **Committees and their topics**

Below are the committees that will be held during BMUN 66. You must present in your assigned committee, but time permitting, you may present in multiple. There are several other ways to engage with committees, as detailed earlier. The topic synopsis for the committees will be available at [bmun.org](http://bmun.org).

### **1. First Disarmament & International Security (DISEC)**

- a. Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Weapons
- b. Small Arms and Light Weapons

### **2. Second Economic and Financial (ECOFIN)**

- a. Status of IDPs and Refugees in Syria and Israel/Palestine
- b. International Black Markets and Currency Valuation

### **3. Fourth Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL)**

- a. Political Stability in the Middle East
- b. Protection of Indigenous Minorities

#### **4. World Health Organization (WHO)**

- a. Neglected Tropical Diseases
- b. Rehabilitation of Health Structures in Areas Damaged by Conflict

#### **5. Commission on Science, Technology, and Development (CSTD)**

- a. Regulation of Technology in Health
- b. Regulation and the Information Economy

#### **6. United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

- a. Religious Freedom
- b. Exploitation, Forced Labor, and Trafficking

#### **7. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- a. Overcoming Barriers to Education
- b. Food Security and Agricultural Sustainability

#### **8. United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**

- a. Ocean Acidification
- b. Renewable Energy

#### **9. Organization of American States (OAS)**

- a. Ensuring Free and Transparent Elections

## **10. Security Council (SC)**

- a. The “Northern Triangle” of Central America
- b. Open Agenda

## **11. International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

- a. Bosnia v. Serbia (Bosnian Genocide)

## **12. African Union (AU)**

- a. Improving and Applying Developmental Tech Infrastructure
- b. Combating Police Corruption

## **13. Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ASEAN)**

- a. Addressing Forced Labor Conditions in Southeast Asia
- b. Political Violence Surrounding Separatist Conflicts

## **14. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**

- a. 174<sup>th</sup> OPEC Meeting
- b. 2030: Adapting to an Energy Independent World

## **15. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)**

- a. Sea-level Rise and City Planning
- b. Building the Progressive City

## **16. Berkeley Venture Capital (BVC)**

- a. Promoting Entrepreneurship in the Developing World

## **17. Arab League Crisis (CRISIS)**

- a. Combatting Terrorism and Threats to Regional Stability

## **18. Cybersecurity Crisis (CYBER)**

- a. US CYBERCOM

## **Committee Presentation Assignments**

Below are all the NGOs that will be present in the NGO Forum. The purpose of this list, beyond presenting committee assignments, is to provide you with ideas for possible collaborations that could be done with other NGOs in committees that you are not necessarily assigned to.

### ***Amnesty International***

Website: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

Mission Statement: "AI's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. In pursuit of this vision, AI's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights."

Main services: Research, Advocacy, Lobbying, Campaigns

Committee Assignment: UNHRC

## ***Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontières***

Website: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

Mission Statement: "We are Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). We help people worldwide where the need is greatest, delivering emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from health care."

Main services: medical humanitarian aid to people in crisis

Committee Assignment: CRISIS

## ***CARE International***

Website: <https://www.care-international.org/>

Mission Statement: "CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice."

Main services: emergency response, advocacy, promotion of women's rights through education, maternal health, hygiene and more.

Committee Assignment: SPECPOL

## ***Oxfam International***

Website: <https://www.oxfam.org/>

Mission Statement: "To create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice."

Main services: funds for community driven projects, human rights education, advocacy

Committee Assignment: SC

## ***International Stateless Persons Organisation***

Website: <http://ispo.bravesites.com/>

Mission Statement: "ISPO provides each stateless person with unbiased institutional representation in the absence of a citizenship, which is normally provided to a person if he or she has a country of affiliation. ISPO aims to provide the conventional legal and consular protection, and care, afforded similarly to citizens of different countries provided through their diplomatic missions."

Main services: legal protection for stateless persons

Committee Assignment: ECOFIN

## ***Plan International***

Website: <https://plan-international.org/>

Mission Statement: "We strive for a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls."

Main services: employment skill training, increasing access to education and sexual health services, advocacy, grassroots organizing

Committee Assignment: UNHRC

## ***Lakshyam NGO***

Website: <http://www.lakshyam.co.in/>

Mission Statement: "We envision a country where being poor does not mean starving; where being poor does not imply illiteracy. Where being poor, is being rich. We envision a world where there is no gender bias. Where every child has equal opportunities to grow. And we endeavor to work till our last breath."

Main services: health programs, child welfare, women's welfare

Committee Assignment: UNEP

## ***Project Hope***

Website: <http://www.projecthope.org>

*Mission Statement:* "We enable health workers to have the greatest positive impact on the health of the people they serve."

Main services: disaster response, medical training, deliver medicine

Committee Assignment: CSTD

## ***International Committee of the Red Cross***

Website: <https://www.icrc.org/en>

*Mission Statement:* "The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence."

Main services: emergency response for people in armed conflict, advocacy

Committee Assignment: ECOFIN

## **Ashoka**

Website: <https://www.ashoka.org/en>

Mission Statement: " Because we live in a changemaker world, everyone must be an effective and confident changemaker.

For many generations, society was organized around a few people at the top telling everyone else to repeat their specialized skills faster and faster. Today, all of us have the means to lead and get big things done. This is causing social change to explode in every direction."

Main services: identifies social entrepreneurs and provides them with extensive network of support

Committee Assignment: BVC

## **Natural Resources Defense Council**

Website: <https://www.nrdc.org/>

Mission Statement: "NRDC works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends."

Main services: legal advocacy, campaigns

Committee Assignment: UNEP

### ***Save the Children***

Website: <http://www.savethechildren.org>

Mission Statement: "Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the United States and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share."

Main services: emergency response, educational programs, global health programs, HIV/AIDS prevention

Committee Assignment: SC

### ***Light for the World***

Website: <https://www.light-for-the-world.org/>

Mission Statement: "Together with persons with disabilities, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is working towards a fairer world for everybody. We promote equal rights and chances for all. The only chance of success in tackling the systemic inequality, and poverty levels of disabled people throughout the world, is the

inclusion of persons with disabilities in all facets of society. By way of exclusion, disability causes poverty - and poverty causes disability.”

Main services: medical outreach, independent living, inclusive education

Committee Assignment: UNESCO

### ***Google.org***

Website: <https://www.google.org/>

Mission Statement: “We accelerate the progress of innovative nonprofits by connecting them to the best of Google”

Main services: funding, research, information access, open source technology for underprivileged

Committee Assignment: AU

### ***Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation***

Website: <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/>

Mission Statement: “Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In

the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.”

Main services: global development, policy advocacy, global health programs

Committee Assignment: WHO

## **BRAC**

Website: <http://www.brac.net/>

Mission Statement: “. Our activities focus on long term sustainable poverty reduction. Our unique holistic approach to poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor include a range of core programmes in economic and social development, health, education, human rights and legal services, as well as disaster management.”

Main services: crisis response, health services, property rights, community empowerment

Committee Assignment: ASEAN

## **Acumen Fund**

Website: <http://acumen.org/>

Mission Statement: "Acumen raises charitable donations to invest in companies, leaders, and ideas that are changing the way the world tackles poverty."

Main services: model development, funding, enterprise partnerships

Committee Assignment: UN Habitat

### ***Heifer International***

Website: <https://www.heifer.org/>

Mission Statement: "Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth."

Main services: community empowerment, training for farmers

Committee Assignment: ASEAN

### ***Ceres***

Website: <https://www.ceres.org/>

Mission Statement: "Ceres is transforming the economy to build a sustainable future for people and the planet."

Main Services: corporate leadership, influencing investors of various climate related sectors

Committee Assignment: AU

## ***Food and Water Watch***

Website: <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>

Mission Statement: “Food & Water Watch champions healthy food and clean water for all. We stand up to corporations that put profits before people, and advocate for a democracy that improves people’s lives and protects our environment.”

Main Services: policy advocacy

Committee Assignment: OPEC

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What are the main issues that prevent effective cooperation between NGO’s and the UN? What issues are specific to your NGO?
2. Are there common misconceptions about the power of NGOs? What are they? Are there any specific to your NGO?
3. Has your NGO or NGOs with similar missions to yours had any notable failures in working to provide aid (with or without UN cooperation)? How could these failures have been avoided?
4. What was the significance of your NGOs most recent publications? This includes memos, reports, press releases, etc.

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