



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Topic A: Protection of education and health services in conflict zones

One of the most popular solutions for UN committees is the deployment of NGOs and the creation of grassroots level organizations in regions of conflict, turmoil, and disaster. But the protection of these organizations is often ignored, so the infrastructure they build, the aid workers they employ, and the supplies they bring into the conflict regions are often at risk. UNOCHA reported that in 2017, 139 aid workers were killed and 174 were kidnapped or injured and the numbers are on the rise. The most prominent forms of aid are schools and hospitals. Yet these structures are being attacked at a much faster pace than they are being built. According to UNICEF, in Afghanistan alone, 192 schools were attacked in 2018. Between 2012-14 Boko Haram burnt down 300 schools in Nigeria. In the past few years, Afghanistan has seen 1000 school attacks, the Kunduz Hospital was attacked in Afghanistan, the Maarat al Numani Hospital in Syria was bombed, the Al Thawra hospital was attacked in Yemen, and multiple Doctors Without Borders hospitals have been attacked. These deplorable figures deserve serious attention. The best way to establish protocol and infrastructure for the protection of these services is by initiating dialogue among those members of society who are responsible for bringing in services in such regions - NGOs.

Education and health services are the two most vulnerable sectors, and arguably, the two most important sectors within conflict zones. It is in schools that future generations are taught how to prevent the cyclical nature of the violence they witness every day in their own communities, and it is in hospitals that the sick and injured are healed. Every day, hundreds of humanitarian workers enter conflict zones to provide aid and relief through NGOs, and in doing so are continually putting themselves at high risk to assist others. This topic is important because it delves into how these institutions ought to be protected, and even further, what safeguards should be put in place to allow those helping to go unharmed.

During your research, you will find that both governments and international bodies have established precedence for the protection of schools and hospitals. The Safe Schools Declaration signed by 87 countries at the Oslo Conference is a political commitment to support the protection of education from attack in armed conflict along

with the prevention of militarization of schools. Rule 35 of the Customary Law of the International Committee of the Red Cross establishes hospitals and clinics as safe zones. Attacks on schools and hospitals fall under the six grave violations condemned by the UNSC. As delegates, we expect you to go beyond the policies already set up and come up with creative solutions for their actual implementation. These can range from asking the UN to create neutral zones protected by peacekeeping forces to utilizing surveillance technology to gather intel on safe routes for NGOs. This topic will give you the freedom of creativity but also give you a sense of harsh reality.

Topic B: Open Agenda

After a successful debate on the first topic, delegates will go to their assigned committees - based on the topics being discussed in the committees and the issues addressed by the NGO. Here you will participate in debate and contribute to the resolution writing process in other BMUN committees but won't be allowed to vote. Your participation will entail debating in moderated caucuses and contributing to resolution writing. This process calls for you to be familiarized with the topic being discussed in your assigned committee. After you spend some time in your committee, you will come back to write a deliverable. A deliverable mimics the format of an editorial in which you will state what was discussed in the committee, write about the solutions presented and follow it up with your opinion about what is being done and how the NGO you represent can participate in the efforts being made.

This segment of the conference will highlight NGO-UN relations. After all, it is NGOs that are primarily present on the ground, providing service and aid to those who need it. The perspective NGO delegates will provide will allow the resolutions that will be formed in the committees to be more realistic with attainable goals. In order to properly execute relief efforts, collaboration and coordination between NGOs and UN committees are paramount. This connection allows the UN to better understand what aid is actually being received on the ground and what is feasible based on the resources and personnel available to fulfill the solutions proposed. As such, open agenda is important to facilitate communication between these two entities in their efforts to formulate effective and comprehensive resolutions.

To present successful deliverables, you will have to research how your NGO has worked with the UN previously, what it is currently doing and where and does it have any strong ideology or value that it stands by. You will also need a clear understanding of the topic being discussed in your assigned committees and will have to have arguments prepared for the topic. The dais will also be there to guide you through the writing process and understand the various topics.