

MSMUN XXXVIII

Delegates, Advisors, and Parents,

My name is Emily Perry; I am once again serving as the Secretary General of Mid South Model United Nations, and it is my privilege to be the first to welcome you to MSMUN38. I am a senior at Rhodes College studying Russian, International Relations, and Economics. I have participated in Model UN in one capacity or another for eight years now, and I am excited to end my Model UN career with you all here at MSMUN. The Secretariat serving you this year also includes Rhodes Student Associate, Meredith Kendrick; Undersecretary General, Sara Taylor; Crisis Director, Jennifer Weissman; and Assistant Crisis Director, Bella Harden. Each of these ladies have worked with MSMUN before in large capacities and are ready to help each and every delegate through their experience at Rhodes.

This year, our conference will operate on the weekend of February 16-18, beginning promptly at six o'clock in the Bryan Campus Life Center Ballroom. Our conference is led by some amazing staff members this year, from all over the country, and world. I have the upmost confidence in our staff and in your students to conduct the best MSMUN yet! Before you arrive on campus, however, we'd like to provide you with all information necessary to register and prepare your students well for MSMUN38. We hope to have taken your comments and feedback into consideration when conducting business both before the conference and after. Further, we hope this packet will clearly lay out our processes, deadlines, and policies.

Registration will open 20 September. Each advisor or head delegate will need to register your delegation; in this form, advisors or head delegates will provide contact information as well as delegation size estimates. Once a school is registered, an individual registration link will be sent to the email provided during school registration to disseminate to attending delegates. We hope this additional step will better control the wave of registration, and allow advisors and head delegates to ensure each delegate understands the financial obligation and other expectations. Please note that during the registration process, students will digitally sign a waiver stating they understand that by registering there is financial obligation being taken on by the delegation on their behalf and they understand, should they not attend MSMUN, they are still financially responsible for their assignment. This may be circumvented if a student is able to provide a paying substitution.

After registering your school, you will be electronically sent an invoice for the deposit of \$150. This deposit is nonrefundable and is due 15 January. The \$150 will be deducted from the total invoice once registration closes 15 December and we have final counts of delegate numbers. The final invoice will include all delegate fees, late fees, should any of your students incur such a fee, as well as meal tickets, which may be pre-purchased upon request. There will be t-shirts available, but pre-order will be the responsibility of the student, as we use a third-party printer - this will be communicated to your students via email and social media, but shirts will not be available at MSMUN, and are **only** available for pre-order.

Checks can be made payable to Rhodes College, and sent to the following address. We also allow payment by check-card via the check-card form, and have fee discounts and waivers available for Title I schools.

*MSMUN
RHODES COLLEGE DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
2000 N. PARKWAY
BUCKMAN, FIRST FLOOR
MEMPHIS, TN 38112*

When students register, they will indicate committee and assignment preferences. Note that these are preferences, and MSMUN cannot guarantee that a student is assigned one of their top three choices, especially later in the year. We also do not require a school to take up all country spots when registering. This method of country assignment ensures that the conference's powerful countries are not dominated by larger schools, in addition to allowing students to be individually invested in his or her assignment. For MSMUN, it ensures we are able to fill committee spaces more easily.

For all students, Position Papers will be due 20 January. Students who fail to submit position papers will be ineligible for speaking awards. Again, this will be communicated to students via email and social media, but we hope advisors and head delegates will be able to assist us in communicating this date. For submission, we request that students email the compiled document to msmun@rhodes.edu with the subject line "MSMUN38 Position Paper." Attached to this packet, we have included position papers that were recognized at MSMUN37 as being outstanding.

If you have any other questions, feel free to reach out to the secretariat at any time. We have once again restructured our website (msmun.net) in hopes of making everything easily found and user-friendly. All information on the website has been updated as of 27 August. We aim for the delegate handbook to be finalized and uploaded in November and for finalized Background Guides to be uploaded by 1 October as well. Bear with us as we tweak a few policies for scoring delegates and helping to ensure that MSMUN is accessible and fair for all. We invite you to peruse the information we have included in this packet and welcome you to another wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Emily Adeline Perry

MSMUN XXVIII Secretary General

perea-19@rhodes.edu

Fee Schedule

Fees may be submitted via check to Rhodes College Dept of International Studies. Please mail the check to:

MSMUN
RHODES COLLEGE DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
2000 N. PARKWAY
BUCKMAN, FIRST FLOOR
MEMPHIS, TN 38112

There is a non-refundable \$150 registration deposit for each school, which will be subtracted from your final registration amount. You will not be credited any remainder if your school brings less than 5 Delegates.

EACH DELEGATE INCURS A FEE OF \$35. THERE IS A \$10 LATE FEE FOR EACH STUDENT REGISTERING AFTER 15 DECEMBER 2018.

Calendar of Events

9 SEPTEMBER – Welcome Packets sent via USPS and email

20 SEPTEMBER – Registration Opens for MSMUN38!

15 DECEMBER – Country Assignments Begin & Deposits Due

15 DECEMBER – Early Registration Closes

After this date, delegate registration fees will include a \$10 late fee

15 JANUARY – Registration Closes & Invoices E-Mailed to Advisors & Head Delegates

16 JANUARY – Update Papers, should they be necessary, will be uploaded to msmun.net

20 JANUARY – Position Paper Submissions due to msmun@rhodes.edu

15-17 FEBRUARY – MSMUN 2019

MSMUN38 COMMITTEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, AND CULTURAL

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SPECIAL INTEREST COMMITTEES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

UN WOMEN

ADHOC

CRISIS

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

STAR WARS: THE JEDI COUNCIL

HISTORICAL CRISIS

MIDSOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

msmun@rhodes.edu

MSMUN
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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
2000 N. PARKWAY
BUCKMAN, FIRST FLOOR
MEMPHIS, TN 38112

School Name:

Advisor Name:

Amount to be Charged:

Card Type	
Name (as printed on card)	
Card Number	
Expiration Date (mm/yy)	

Advisor Signature:

Thank you for your payment! Please mail this form to the address listed, or email a scan PDF to msmun@rhodes.edu.

Sincerely yours,

EMILY A. PERRY
MSMUN38 Secretary General

MIDSOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

INVOICE

School Name:
Advisor Name:

msmun@rhodes.edu

Invoice Number:

MSMUN
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OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
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Description	Quantity	Fee Per Student	Total
Students	0	\$ 35.00	\$ 0.00
Late-Registration Students	0	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.00
Meal Tickets	0	\$ 6.50	\$ 0.00
		Subtotal	\$ 0.00
	DEPOSIT		\$ 150.00
		Total	\$ (150.00)

Thank you for registering to attend MSMUN 2018. We are able to process both Card and Check payments. If you would like to pay by credit card, please request a form from msmun@rhodes.edu. Final Payments are due 23 January 2018. If you have yet to submit a deposit, please refer to the "Subtotal" as your payment due.

Sincerely yours,

EMILY A. PERRY
MSMUN38 Secretary General

United Kingdom

ECOFIN

Topic 1: E-Waste

Target 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12—Responsible Consumption and Production—states that “by 2020, [we will] achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle”, and this includes electronic waste¹. The United Kingdom, like many other states, has a problem with e-waste. However, we are working toward combatting it. For example, in the first three quarters of 2017, 92674.39 ton of non-obligatory e-waste was received at approved treatment facilities and exporters, which demonstrates our commitment to decreasing e-waste that simply remains in citizens homes or—in a way worse—e-waste that is disposed of improperly, creating environmental and economic problems². This statistic relieves that we are making progress in large-scale solutions to e-waste issues within the UK and are eager to tackle such problems at an international level as well.

Internationally, one of the biggest issues related to e-waste is the shipping of old electronics to Less Developed Countries (LDCs) such as those in Africa or Central America to be either reused or disposed of. This was made illegal when the Basel Convention entered into force in the UK in 1994, and since that time we have funded projects such as the Pan-African E-Waste Forum of 2012 during which African states discussed the need for collaboration between various levels of government and governments themselves to prevent the environmental and other issues presented by e-waste collecting in Africa³. The UK does not endorse the dumping of e-waste in African states as it can prove devastating to the environment and its removal is also economically challenging, and in 2015, an Essex man was the first Brit convicted and jailed for breaking laws regarding e-waste dumping, which demonstrates the UK’s commitment to sustainable, responsible treatment of e-waste⁴.

Fortunately, there are effective solutions in place at smaller scales across both the world and the UK that can be mimicked internationally. For example, within the UK there are both a branch of Veolia—an environmental group that researches and aids in issues such as waste management—and even government-funded charities such as Wrap—a more general environmental organization that conducts research and promotes recycling—to assist the government and the citizens with issues such as e-waste. There are also many small services such as phone recycling services available that, provided the proper encouragement and funding, could become larger, more efficient, and more impactful.

1 “Sustainable Development Goals.” United Nations, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300

2 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in the UK. Environmental Agency, 19 Dec. 2017,

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee-in-the-uk 3 “Country

Profiles.” Basel Convention Website, www.basel.int/Countries/CountryProfiles/tabid/4498/Default.aspx 4 Milmo,

Cahal. "Electronic Waste Worth £34bn Piling up in 'Toxic Mine', Warns UN Report." The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 18 Apr. 2015, www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/electronic-waste-worth-34bn-piling-up-in-toxic-mine-warns-un-report-10187364.html

Ultimately, the delegates of ECOFIN must grapple with key economic issues that affect the entire world, and e-waste—while clearly environmental in nature—has key economic components as well that may motivate its end even more. By dumping waste in LDCs or failing to extract valuable metals, minerals, and other resources from or to recycle older—but not truly obsolete—electronics, governments across the globe rob themselves of billions of pounds per year⁴. Instead, we should look to keep these valuable commodities in the economy and out of landfills, which will also create jobs and promote to growth of industries such as legitimate processing centers across the world. In short, the need for responsible consumption of SDG 12, if tackled bearing in mind the economic growth of SDG 8 and innovation of SDG 9, can and should be approached by the Second Committee in a manner that will go beyond solving a designated problem to promoting unimagined growth in other areas as well.

Topic 2: Women in the Workforce

From 1971 to 2017, the percentage of women in the United Kingdom's workforce has steadily risen from around 50% to slightly over 70%⁵. This statistic reveals a positive trend: within our country, women are forming a stronger presence working outside the home, enabling them to provide for themselves and their families and enabling our economy to grow. However, when this statistic is viewed alongside the statistic of men now in the workforce—over 79%, according to the same source—we are confronted with the simple reality that even within a country as modern as ours where a woman has risen to hold the position of Prime Minister, there is still much progress to be made.

The UK has at our fingertips ample statistics on elements of this issue ranging from the 19.2% gender wage gap to the 74.1% of UK mothers who participate in the labor force that tell a similar story, and we believe that because the restrictions of working women affect not only women themselves but entire economics and societies of every state in the world, it is essential to address it immediately⁶. We recognize that states in different stages of demographic transition with different types of economies and environments have individual needs, which contributes to the elusive, complex nature of this issue. However, despite the complicated cultural and practical hurdles that make opportunities for equal employment and pay for women difficult in many regions and states, the UN declaration of SDGs “Gender Equality” (5) and “Decent Work and Economic Growth” (8) make it clear that improving global conditions of women in the workforce will be essential to better our planet¹. Though the United Kingdom, as previously noted, still has room for growth in this area, we do believe that our experiences over the past decades will provide a useful guiding voice to the delegates of the Second Committee as we move together toward solving this issue.

The United Kingdom has, over the past few decades, seen increases in the female workforce in nearly all sectors, including board and management positions for important companies. Because increasing women in management is a specific target of SDG 5, the UK

5 Clegg, Richard. "Statistical Bulletin:UK Labour Market: December 2017." Office for National Statistics, 13 Dec. 2017,
[www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmar](http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/december2017)
[ket/december2017](http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/december2017) 6 "Women in the Workforce: UK." Catalyst, 9 Aug. 2016,
[www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-workforce- uk#footnote25_ktakls1](http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-workforce-uk#footnote25_ktakls1)

believes that using this area as a specific strategy example would be useful. Among the UK's 100 most profitable companies, around 26% of board positions are held by women, and this goal was met due to a combination of voluntary participation by companies to include more women more intentionally, independent oversight bodies, and newly created Codes of Best Practice⁷. This approach works well because it allows individual companies some freedom in how they will implement policies to increase the number of women employed generally and employed in higher level positions, but it also provides clear suggestions and guidelines they can use, ranging from eliminating unconscious bias and ensuring that women are not penalized for things such as taking maternity leave⁷.

While entire global programs and policies may not be able to be constructed from British policies, some important principles guiding those programs may be. For states who already wish to improve the state of women in the workforce, incentives given to states who voluntarily start programs to benefit women in the workplace may prove helpful. Specifically, focusing on allowing women into upper-level positions will prove key as this may lead directly to positive effects trickling down as all women as well and will also demonstrate the positive effects that women can have on the economy as a whole, thereby increasing companies' desire to promote and protect them, which will ideally continue this cycle. While the committee may suggest that states implement such programs at their levels, the UK believes that there are benefits to voluntary encouragement at the international level as well. Some states, especially extremely conservative or religious ones, will not willingly entertain policies intended to improve women's place in the workforce. Women in these states are much less likely to have access to the education that they need to have a career, and they are more likely to be expected to stay at home caring for many children⁸. Thus, if we are to fulfill targets of SDGs 5 and 8 by improving the number and conditions of women in the workforce, more than a simple request that states review their policies may be required. Instead, developing Codes of Best Practice like Britain's and describing specific actions that states should take in an effort to fulfill SDGs and obey the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (of which completion of basic requirements will lead to some of the needed conditions for women to be equal in the workplace) may be more useful. Although ECOFIN does not have the power to force states to adopt certain policies, more specific policies that articulate clear goals for states in different stages of the gender-disparity-relieving process will be one of the most effective actions that we can take to rectify this issue.

The committee as a whole will benefit from remembering "that women are not waiting for handouts, they are looking for opportunities. An opportunity is not a handout," as said Adot Killmeyer-Oleche, the Chief of UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Institute for Capacity Development⁹. Women themselves benefit from these opportunities, yes, but state and global economies benefit from females contributing their talents and labor to the workforce as well, so providing them with opportunities to work as equals to their male counterparts is truly providing the world with an opportunity to prosper.

7 Improving the Gender Balance on British Boards. 2015,
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482059/BIS-15-585-women-on-boards-davies-review-5-year-summary-october-2015.pdf 8 Background Guide 9 “Women Are Looking for Opportunities in Business, UN Forum Told.” United Nations, United Nations, Nov. 2017,
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/11/women-are-looking-for-opportunities-in-business-un-forum-told

Topic 3: Foreign Aid to LDCs

With environmental and violent tragedies replete across the globe and disparities between the wealthiest and poorest nations extremely wide, the United Kingdom recognizes the importance of offering humanitarian aid to LDCs across the globe. However, especially in cases of aid given not in response to some specific crisis (although sometimes in these instances as well) but more generally to aid development or general basic needs, the UK believes that poverty—often the main cause of needs in LDCs or an exacerbator of devastation when tragedies outside of a state’s control occur—is a topic on which the Second Committee will need to focus much of our attention during debate. We thus support UN efforts modeling domestic UK initiatives by giving individuals tools needed to create profitable, community-appropriate businesses near their homes and seeing infrastructures modified to promote stability and opportunities for domestic growth.

Opponents to the business-based approach to ending poverty often claim that a powerful elite governing themselves with ambiguous ethical standards take advantage both of smaller companies and of workers, but properly construed, “business is not just there to benefit business itself, but also to advance the common good.”¹⁰ When business and government collaborate, often the most effective aid for those in need is realized. Within the UK, we have seen businesses lead efforts to help the poor and sick, and at a global perspective, we envision developed countries promoting more efficient technology and agriculture to LDCs that will create a demand for higher education in all cohorts regardless of gender and will enable more stable infrastructures that can handle environmental issues and are less susceptible to violence and war. These will in turn create an even more efficient economy centered on locally-created businesses and policies that will help distribute wealth and resources around LDCs to the regions where local entrepreneurs are from. In short, stimulating the potential that LDCs have to promote business and themselves develop will eventually eliminate the need for that aid to begin with. For, by investing in efforts to accomplish SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), we will also create progress in SDGs 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 5 (Gender Equality), 4 (Quality Education), and 1 (Eradication of Poverty)¹¹. Progress in some of these areas will lead to progress in others, as they are all connected to one another and the ultimate goal of helping LDCs help themselves.

The potential domino effect stemming from local business and infrastructure investment is why the UK has met commitments to spend 0.7 of GNI investing overseas¹¹. Moving forward, however, we look to tackle root causes that lead to states needing aid—poverty, instability, susceptibility to disease—in addition to simply sending aid to them. We “will strive to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, and support the world’s poorest people to ensure that every person has access to basic needs, including priority[z]ing the rights of girls and women” as stated in our updated, 2015 plan to continue aiding global citizens in a way that will also benefit British citizens¹¹. This is our domestic plan, which we have honed and improved based on our

successes in helping to stabilize Somalia and to relieve sufferers of Ebola in Sierra Leone. It is our desire

10 PM Speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet: 14 November 2016. 14 Nov. 2016,

www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-to-the-lord-mayors-banquet-14-november-2016 11 UK Aid:

Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nov. 2015,

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478834/ODA_strategy_final_web_0905.pdf

that the Second Committee follow suit, developing similar policies that will truly invest in the potential of LDCs' citizens and encourage them to develop. Ultimately, this is the best way to ensure that their policies meet local needs and eventually eliminate or at least decrease need for foreign aid as they become more self-reliant and capable, which will truly benefit everyone.



Committee/Topic: Commonwealth of Independent States

Country: The Republic of Kazakhstan

Delegate: [REDACTED]

In these recent years following the the dissolvment of the Soviet Union and the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, many strides have been taken in order to ensure international peace and stability. Cohesive action like the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) aims to reduce offensive nuclear weapons in global power's arsenals, and agencies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) strive to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This increased scrutiny of the handling of nuclear weapons must continue so as to ensure global security and, one day, the complete extinction of these devastating means of destruction.

Kazakhstan itself has inherited macabre souvenirs reminiscent of the nuclear era. Our country is home to notorious test sites like Semipalatinsk that are ridden with residual radioactive fallout as well as a hefty arsenal of weaponry that, according to the Lisbon Protocol, is projected to be returned back to Russia within upcoming years. And while Kazakhstan recognizes and stands in accordance with the need to consolidate and eventually destroy these dangerous weapons, recent objections from our fellow once Soviet state, Ukraine, must be acknowledged. Centuries of Russian control and numerous efforts of "Russification" by forced relocation and even intentional starvation have left Ukraine not only linguistically, politically, and economically divided, but also extremely vulnerable and fearful of invasion. It is important we understand the nuanced historical basis behind Ukraine's hesitancy so that we can adequately address and respond to their concerns.

While Kazakhstan may fundamentally disagree with the Ukrainian thought process to keep their nuclear weaponry, we propose a two-fold method intended to preserve regional and international stability. Instead of returning our nuclear weapons to Russia, we propose the creation of an internationally-owned organization solely responsible for the handling, upkeep, and eventual destruction of these weapons. Kazakhstan would graciously partition a portion of its vast plains to become an international territory where such weapons would be stored, and, of

course, other nations that feel so inclined could donate their land as well. Such an organization would be unbiased and unburdened by the interests and possibly detrimental, regional agendas of countries.

Because this action still leaves Ukraine defenseless against alternative means of Russian aggression, we call upon Article 12 of the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States which states, “Should the threat to sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of one or several member states or to international peace and security arise, the member states shall immediately employ the mechanism of mutual consultations to coordinate their positions and to undertake measures to eliminate this threat, including the peace-making actions and... the Armed Forces... for individual and collective self-protection.” We suggest that military defenses composed of United Nations peacekeepers or a coalition of Commonwealth countries’ armed forces be allocated to stabilize the border between Ukraine and Russia and monitor Russian interference. Like the peacekeepers, these individuals would adhere to similar protocol and act only as a means of defense against potential Russian aggression. By doing this, transparency and an open dialogue of communication will be furthered between nations. The forces would remain until Ukraine fully integrates and is confident in its safety from Russian invasion.

Ultimately, as our president, Nursultan Nazarbayev once said, “My main aspiration, my hope, my dream is to do my best for the people of Kazakhstan to have stable, civilized conditions for the all-round development.” As a country so directly impacted by the nuclear ambitions of the former Soviet Union, we have grappled first hand with the harrowing repercussions. We hold not only the interests of our Kazakh citizens close to heart, but also the interests of the citizens of the international community. Therefore, nuclear weapons must be dealt with responsibly and in a manner that does not disadvantage or harm countries, like Ukraine, that have been subject to oppression from larger nations.

Works Cited

“Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States (with declaration and decisions). Adopted at Minsk on 22 January 1993.” *United Nations Treaties*. Web.

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201819/volume-1819-I-31139-English.pdf>>. 13 January 2018.

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<http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/kazakhstan/>>. 13 January 2018.

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