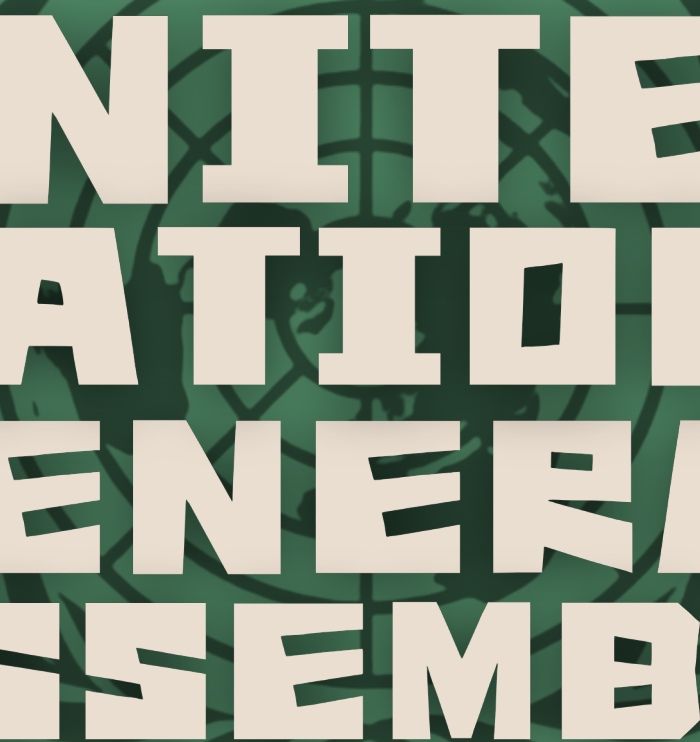


BACKGROUND GUIDE

**REDEFINING THE NARRATIVE:
VOICING THE SILENCED**



**UNITED
NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

IGNITE • UNITE • EMPOWER

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Model United Nations is a platform where young leaders from diverse backgrounds come together to discuss and resolve global issues. It is a simulation that not only enhances your understanding of international relations but also hones your skills in negotiation, public speaking, and critical thinking. Your participation is a testament to your commitment to these principles and your desire to contribute positively to global discourse.

This year's agenda features a range of pressing topics that mirror the real-world challenges faced by the international community. From climate change and sustainable development to peace and security, the issues you will deliberate on are of paramount importance. We encourage you to approach these discussions with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a readiness to propose innovative solutions.

As you prepare for the conference, we urge you to thoroughly research your assigned country's positions, policies, and perspectives. Remember, the goal is not just to argue but to engage in constructive dialogue, seeking common ground and viable compromises. We also want to remind you of the importance of diplomacy and decorum. Respectful and courteous behavior is essential in maintaining the integrity and professionalism of the conference.

In closing, we are excited to witness the energy, creativity, and dedication that each of you will bring to the conference. Your participation not only enriches the MUN experience but also contributes to the broader goal of nurturing informed and engaged global citizens.

NOTE; Position papers are mandatory for all delegates. Submit them by 12:00 hours on Day 1. No papers will be accepted after the deadline.

CHAIRPERSON: CHEERAYU KAPOOR
cheerayukapoor24@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: AVYAM GUPTA
avyamgupta@gmail.com

RAPPORTEUR: SAMARTH SAMPATH
samarth.sampath666@tsms.edu.in

UNITED NATIONS **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established in 1945 under the UN Charter. It serves as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN, with all 193 member states having equal representation.

The UNGA is responsible for a wide range of functions, including:

- Considering and approving the UN budget
- Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
- Appointing the UN Secretary-General
- Discussing and making recommendations on international peace and security issues
- Initiating studies and making recommendations to promote international cooperation
- Considering reports from other UN organs

The Assembly meets annually from September to December, with the possibility of special and emergency sessions. Most questions are decided by a simple majority vote, with each member having one vote. Resolutions are not legally binding but carry political weight.

Some key historical moments for the UNGA include:

- The first session convened on January 10, 1946 in London with 51 founding members
- The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948
- The "Uniting for Peace" resolution in 1950 allowing the Assembly to act when the Security Council fails to do so
- The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 setting development goals

Today, the UNGA continues to serve as the main forum for multilateral discussion and decision-making on the full spectrum of international issues covered by the UN Charter. Its unique composition and broad mandate make it a central pillar of the United Nations system.

The UNGA is the only UN organ where all member states have equal representation, with each country having one vote. This gives the Assembly a unique legitimacy and authority to address global issues. While its resolutions are not legally binding, they carry significant political weight and moral authority.

Over the decades, the UNGA has evolved to become a platform for "North-South dialogue" between industrialized and developing countries on a range of international issues. The growth and changing makeup of UN membership, from 51 in 1945 to 193 today, has also transformed the dynamics and priorities of the Assembly.

Key functions of the UNGA include:

- Discussing and making recommendations on any matter within the scope of the UN Charter.
- Considering and approving the UN budget and scale of assessments.
- Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council and judges of the International Court of Justice.
- Appointing the UN Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council.

The Assembly meets in regular annual sessions from September to December, as well as special and emergency special sessions as needed. Its work is carried out through the General Debate, six main committees, and numerous subsidiary bodies and ad hoc committees.

The UNGA's broad mandate, diverse membership, and unique role within the UN system make it a critical forum for addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time. As the main deliberative and policy making organ of the United Nations, its decisions and recommendations carry significant weight in shaping the international agenda.

INTRODUCTION

Our interconnected world faces a multifaceted challenge - a complex meshing of disruptions to global supply chains. Geopolitical conflicts strangle trade routes, while resource concentration in vulnerable regions leaves "just-in-time" manufacturing teetering on the brink of collapse. Natural disasters like floods cripple ports, disrupting delicately poised demand-supply balances. Economic downturns trigger protectionism and currency fluctuations, further fragmenting markets. Pandemics add another layer of chaos - lockdowns disrupt the availability of labor, and resource constrained nations struggle for medical supplies.

This committee offers a vital platform to delve into technical solutions: diversifying raw material sources, building resilient infrastructure like ports and canals, and fostering international cooperation on financial regulations and early warning systems as a precaution. By tackling these complexities head-on, delegates can forge a more robust and equitable global supply chain, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of vital goods and safeguarding the well-being of all.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMMODITY MARKETS

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted global supply chains, leading to increased commodity prices, market volatility, and supply chain disruptions. Prices of commodities like oil and natural gas have increased all over the globe, and the commodity market volatility had peaked. The disruption of the supply chain has caused dislocations in the commodity market, leading to an increase in transport costs, which has led to a domino effect all over the market.

The pandemic has also affected commodity-exporting economies like Ghana, which is the largest gold producer in Africa and the second largest cocoa bean supplier globally. The decline in commodity prices has affected the cocoa bean producing population detrimentally, and the disruption of the supply chain has also affected the Ghanaian producers. It is likely to have a long-lasting impact on the future revenue of the Ghanaian government.

GEOPOLITICAL FACTORS DRIVING SUPPLY CHAIN RESTRUCTURING

Global supply chains are being restructured to achieve distinct geopolitical goals, given the strategic vulnerability of such networks. The race to dominate critical technologies and their global supply chains are inevitable, as countries aim to retain control over critical technology supply chains that have a significant bearing upon their national security interests. The geopolitical urge to move supply chains out of China after COVID-19 has seen a flurry of activity among countries, mostly the US and its allies, to come together to safeguard supply chains.

Notable initiatives include the Quad (comprising Australia, India, Japan, and the US), the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) by India, Japan, and Australia, and the G7's commitment to strengthen supply chains. These initiatives are aimed at neutralising the influence that China can exert on supply chains, and the goal is clear from their composition - all countries are, if not US defence allies, at least important strategic partners of the US, threatened by the prospects of China exploiting its economic clout for geopolitical power projection.

IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS ON SUPPLY CHAINS

Natural disasters can also disrupt supply chains, leading to road closures, port shutdowns, and disruptions in transportation networks. Disrupted transportation and logistics can have a significant impact on the availability of commodities in affected areas. For example, floods can cripple ports, disrupting delicately poised demand-supply balances.

To mitigate the impact of natural disasters on supply chains, companies must focus on risk assessment, real-time monitoring, collaboration, diversification, agility, and resilience. By implementing these strategies, businesses can navigate through the challenges posed by supply chain disruptions and ensure the continuity of their operations, even in the face of adversity.

TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS

While following a risk assessment and mitigation approach is critical to building a resilient supply chain that can endure unforeseen disruptions, the latest technology can also play a significant role.

Real-time data analytics can provide valuable insights into inventory levels, demand trends, and potential disruptions, enabling businesses to make informed decisions and respond to changing market conditions more effectively.

Advanced forecasting tools can help businesses anticipate demand and adjust inventory levels accordingly, reducing the risk of stockouts or overstocking. Blockchain technology can enhance transparency and traceability in the supply chain, enabling businesses to track products from origin to destination and respond more quickly to disruptions. Automation and artificial intelligence can streamline supply chain processes, reducing the need for manual intervention and improving overall efficiency.

By leveraging these technological solutions, businesses can build more resilient and adaptable supply chains, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of vital goods and safeguarding the well-being of all.

MODERATED **CAUCUS TOPICS**

- The impact of economic sanctions and international trade policies on the availability and distribution of essential commodities in affected regions.
- The impact of ongoing conflicts in certain regions disrupting the global supply chain and prevent the availability of commodities in affected areas.
- Increasing the availability of commodities in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.
- The efforts and effectiveness of international organizations such as WTO and UN and other humanitarian aid in maintaining the flow of commodities to distressed areas.
- The effect of global pandemics on the production, distribution, and availability of commodities in distressed areas.
- The specific challenges related to the availability and flow of energy commodities such as oil and gas in regions experiencing distress.
- Measures to decrease global financial and political instability affecting commodity prices and availability in distressed areas.
- Measures to decrease environmental issues such as deforestation and pollution and their impact the production and availability of commodities.
- The potential impact of cybersecurity threats on the global supply chain and the availability of commodities.
- Potential solutions and technologies that could help ensure the continuous flow of commodities to distressed areas.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH

- **UNDERSTAND YOUR COUNTRY:**

Basic Information: Know your country's geography, population, government structure, economy, and key historical events. Stay updated on recent news and developments related to your country. Use reliable news sources like BBC, Reuters, and Al Jazeera.

- **KNOW THE COMMITTEE AND TOPIC:**

Committee Background: Research the specific committee you are part of, its mandate, past actions, and key resolutions.

Topic Overview: Understand the background, significance, and current status of the topic you will be discussing. Look for UN reports, scholarly articles, and reputable news sources.

- **PROCEDURE:**

The purpose of putting procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding the procedure.

- **FOREIGN POLICY:**

Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. Know your country's geography, population, government structure, economy, and key historical events. Stay updated on recent news and developments related to your country. Use reliable news sources like BBC, Reuters, and Al Jazeera. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.

- **NATURE OF SOURCE OR EVIDENCE:**

This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during the formal debate is acceptable from reliable sources.

CITATIONS

- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40745-022-00403-x>
- <https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-geopolitical-imperative-for-reorganising-global-supply-chains>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/navigating-supply-chain-disruptions-caused-natural-disasters-sharma>
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/publication/commodity-markets>
- <https://hbr.org/2023/09/using-technology-to-improve-supply-chain-resilience>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/global-trends-commodities-threats-watch-2024-aaron-rose-hqywf>
- <https://www.csis.org/analysis/great-rewiring-how-global-supply-chains-are-reacting-todays-geopolitics>
- <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/64267/1/717874087.pdf>
- <https://economictimes.com/markets/stocks/news/global-economic-downturn-impact-of-inflation-on-commodity-market/articleshow/95619037.cms>
- <https://thecodework.com/blog/supply-chain-resilience-through-technology/>
- <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/022/0049/002/article-A011-en.xml>
- <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/campaigns/geopolitics-and-supply-chains>
- <https://trinitylogistics.com/blog/how-natural-disaster-affects-supply-chains>
- <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2023/03/28/volatile-commodity-prices-reduce-growth-and-amplify-swings-in-inflation>
- https://www.ey.com/en_be/supply-chain/how-to-use-smart-technology-to-support-a-resilient-supply-chain
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301420721001781>

- <https://www.resilinc.com/blog/geopolitical-supply-chain-risks-2024/>
<https://www.oecd.org/trade/resilient-supply-chains/identify-potential-risks/> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/developmenttalk/commodity-price-cycles-causes-and-consequences>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/using-tech-build-supply-chain-resilience-changing-world-sinnott>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly
- <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/general-assembly>
- <https://www.un.org/en/ccoi/general-assembly>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-General-Assembly>
- <https://www.un.org/en/high-level-week-2023>

CREDIBLE SOURCES

→ **NEWS SOURCES:**

- **Reuters:** Any Reuters' article which mentions the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in the council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee.

<https://www.reuters.com/>

- **State Operated News Agencies:** These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country. Some examples are:

- PTI (India) <https://www.ptinews.com/>
- RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru>
- Xinhua News Agency (PR China) <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/china/>
- Al Jazeera(Qatar) <http://www.aljazeera.com>

→ **GOVERNMENT REPORTS:**

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies report and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Some examples are:

- **State Department of the United States of America**
<http://www.state.gov/>
- **Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation**
<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India**
<http://www.mea.gov.in/>
- **People's Republic of China**
<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>
- **Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports**
<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

CREDIBLE SOURCES

→ **MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS**

- NATO <http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>
- ASEAN <http://www.aseansec.org/>
- OPEC https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/

→ **UNITED NATIONS REPORTS:**

All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the UNHRC such as:

- UN Bodies like the UNSC/UNHRC/UNW <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/> or UNGA <http://www.un.org/en/ga>
- UN Affiliated Bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency <http://www.iaea.org/>
- World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>
- International Monetary Fund <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>
- International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>

→ **TREATY BASED BODIES:**

- Antarctic Treaty System <http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>
- International Criminal Court <http://www.icccpi.int/Menu/ICC>

→ **OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES:**

- The United Nations Website <http://www.un.org>
- The UN Development Programme <http://www.undp.org/>
- The UN Economic and Social Committee <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/>
- The UN Environment Programme <http://www.unep.org/>
- The UN General Assembly <http://www.un.org/ga/59/>
- The UN International Court of Justice <http://www.icj-cij.org/>
- The UN International Law <http://www.un.org/law/>
- The UN Refugee Agency <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/taxis/vtx/home>
- The UN Security Council <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>
- UNICEF - <http://www.unicef.org/>