ASP MUN CONFERENCE



GENERAL ASSEMBLY I GUIDE

Topic: Yemen Civil War

Chair: Jana Diriyeh
Vice-Chair: Leen Al-irr

Background on the conflict:

The Yemen Civil War, which began in 2014, is truly one of the most complex and devastating conflicts in modern history, involving many external and internal factors. The war first broke out when Houthi revolutionists - a Shiite rebel group founded in 1992, allegedly backed up by Iran, and has a history of uprisings against Yemen's Sunni government – seized Yemen's capital and largest city Sanaa', pushing for lower fuel prices and a new government.

After multiple failed negotiations between the two parties, the Houthis seized the presidential palace in January 2015 causing the resigning of president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government. Tensions further escalated a month later as Hadi and his cabinet fled to Saudi Arabia after being held hostage by the Houthis, leaving them in control of the state affairs.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia (along with other countries such as USA, UK, France and UAE) led a military intervention in Yemen hoping to achieve their stated goals of restoring the Hadi regime to Yemen, demilitarizing the Houthis, securing Saudi Arabia's southern borders from Houthis attacks, and preventing Iranian interference on the Arabian Peninsula.

The main problem:

According to the United Nations, Yemen is currently experiencing the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with over 23 million people (nearly 75% of its population) needing urgent help. Casualties in Yemen lay at more than 370,000 civilians through direct and indirect causes, indirect causes being widespread famine, collapsing healthcare system, and outbreaks of preventable lethal diseases such as Cholera. Millions are displaced and food insecurity has reached catastrophic levels due to the naval blockades implemented by Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea to prevent Iran from allegedly supplying the Houthis with weapons.

Another key factor to this crisis is the fragmentation of Yemen with no one full group able to take full control. The Yemeni government heavily relies on Saudi Arabia's financial and military support, while the Houthis control a huge portion of Northern Yemen. Other secessionist groups like the Southern Transitional Council (STC) are seizing control in Southern Yemen.
The Yemen war eventually became a perfect example of a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, with Iran's claimed military aid to the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition strikes, Yemen became a larger zone of conflict that posed a threat to neighboring countries. Such uprising also allowed other extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS to gain footholds in ungoverned parts of Yemen.

Current events:

As of 2024, peace talks within the United Nations regarding Yemen's crisis are slowly progressing especially considering the ongoing conflict in the Red Sea between the Houthis and Israel. Although a ceasefire has been signed in 2022, clashes between the parties are still continuing till this day. Southern Yemen remains unstable as the Southern Transitional Council (STC) complicates efforts toward a unified political state. Humanitarian organizations are struggling to work and provide aid amid food insecurity and disease outbreaks due to the harsh conditions there.

Chair's letter:

Dear Delegates and Observers,

My name is Jana Diriyeh and I would like to inform you that I am honored to chair this year's Human Rights Council alongside my Vice Chair Leen Al-Irr.

I have been in MUN for four years now. It has a truly precious place for me; experiences, relationships, and memories I will ever cherish. It has taught me much beyond politics, and speech. It taught me respect, discipline, advocacy, kindness and confidence. I hope you find in your experience even more than I did.

As experienced ASPMUN members, we would like to inform you that we are here to offer you help! We know how confusing MUN can be at first, and we promise to do our best to alleviate some of the stress and confusion. I want you to be certain that everyone on the MUN board, including me, is currently doing their best to ensure that this year's conference will be successful and meets your expectations. We also want to remind you to participate as much as you can.

I already know that this ASP MUN conference is going to be a fruitful one, full of heated debates and amazing resolutions. We will also try our best to make this a fun and entertaining committee. Finally if you have any questions feel free to contact me, and my vice-chair via email: janadiriyeh@gmail.com , alirrleen@gmail.com .

Good luck!!

Points/Motions	Purpose
Point of Inquiry	Clarify rule or committee procedure
Point of Clarification	Clarify non-substantive point (grammar, etc.)
Point of Information	Substantive question for speaker
Point of Order	Violation of Rules
Point of Personal Privilege	Delegate's participation is impaired
Appeal to the Chair	Challenge a decision of the Chair
Motion to Set the Agenda	Set the order of topics for debate
Motion to Open the Speakers List	Start list at beginning of committee or re-start after prior closure for new topic
Motion to Set the Speakers' Time	Set or change Speakers' Time Limit
Motion to Close the Speaker's List	No additional speakers can be added to the list
Motion for a Moderated Caucus	Best for fast-paced discussions; must specify length of caucus, length of speaking time and purpose/topic of caucus
Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus	Informal debate and discussions; writing time
Motion for Right of Reply	Defense against personal attack (immediate)
Motion to Introduce Working Paper/Resolution/Amendment	After dais staff distributes paper to committee; must specify number of document submitted

Helpful Sources:

https://caat.org.uk/homepage/stop-arming-saudi-arabia/the-war-on-yemens-civilians/
https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/peace-human-rights-and-humanitarian-response/yemen-a-brief-background/
https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen
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https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/yemen-crisis
https://www.brookings.edu/events/yemens-civil-war-a-historical-look/
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/12/who-are-yemens-houthis-a-basic-guide
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/who-are-yemens-houthis

About STC:

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https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-thorny-relationship-between-yemens-government-and-the-southern-transitional-council/
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