

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

My name is Aashna Gurajala and I am a sophomore Biochemistry major at UT Austin!

My journey in Model UN began in my sophomore year of high school when I joined the club because my favorite teacher was the sponsor (and let's be honest, also because we could skip school for conferences). I had always been interested in geopolitics and public speaking separately, but it wasn't until joining MUN that I discovered how awesome it could be to combine both.

Having chaired CSW last year, I am so excited to be chairing UNESCO this year. As an organization dedicated to building peace through education, science, culture, and communication, I found that UNESCO offers a unique lens through which to address issues I care deeply about as someone in a STEM field. I hope our discussions will give you the chance to dive into some of the most pressing challenges faced worldwide, from addressing education systems to ethically representing scientific technology, and I can't wait to see the creative solutions you bring forward!

If I can give you any advice before conference, it would be to really develop an interest in the topics at hand. Be creative. Explore solutions that test the nature of global infrastructure and immerse yourself in the process of research and problem-solving. On a more practical note: bring band-aids in case your feet hurt, and please don't feel like you need to kill a forest trying to print every article you find. A few key statistics, the background guide, your position paper, and any absolutely essential research are all you need to debate effectively. And above all, don't forget to have fun! HAMUN is an incredible opportunity to step outside your comfort zone, meet new people, and make memories that last forever!

Best of luck!

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