

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

My name is Jordan Zheng, and Welcome to the Chair of the Sixth Committee (LEGAL)!

I am currently a sophomore at UT Austin studying government and Model UN has been a major part of my academic experience. What first drew me in was the chance to debate international issues, but what kept me involved was the opportunity to constantly learn from the people around me. Doing MUN taught me how to think more critically and communicate more effectively. Especially in my recent role, where I had the opportunity to work on James Talarico's campaign, where the skills I developed in MUN helped immensely in a volatile environment like political campaigns.

LEGAL remains one of my favorite committees because of its role in shaping and interpreting the legal frameworks that guide the international system. The Sixth Committee deals with questions that often sit at the intersection of law, diplomacy, sovereignty, and international cooperation. Its work asks countries not only what should be done about an issue, but also what obligations states already have under international law and how those laws should evolve as new challenges emerge.

As you prepare for the conference, I encourage you to look beyond your country's basic position on each topic. Examine relevant treaties and conventions, previous United Nations resolutions, international court decisions, and your country's broader approach to international law. Understanding the reasoning behind your country's position will make your contributions to the committee much stronger.

Most importantly, enjoy the experience. Take risks, speak even when you are unsure of yourself, challenge your own assumptions, and collaborate with people you might not initially expect to work with!

I'm incredibly excited to meet all of you, hear the perspectives you bring to the committee, and watch the debate develop throughout the conference. Good luck, and I'll see you in February!

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