

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all as delegates at CANMUN 2024. I hope you're as excited as we are about being a part of this conference. To the MUN veterans out there, we promise you a very enriching opportunity to be a part of the debate held across various committees and exercise your ability as a journalist in reporting and hold those in power responsible for their statements and actions, and to the newcomers, we promise you a memorable first experience! A MUN inculcates in you, oratory skills, cajoling negotiations, and in-depth research and if we start making a list of the qualities, With this said, a committee simulation is meaningful and successful only when the delegates are well prepared.

You spread information, influence public opinion, and hold those in power and authority responsible as journalists and reporters. The voice of the people is represented by your presence here today, as you look for the truth, pose probing queries, and report on the significant choices and discussions occurring throughout the conference. You delegates in particular should be able to keep track of advancements and obstacles encountered in the quest to find solutions to the most urgent problems facing the globe, as you are the only body capable of monitoring all actions. This gives delegates the ability to endorse or criticize any agenda that is being debated in terms of the activities that are being taken. We advise you to become familiar with your committee's agendas before reading up on them in your news source. Please remember that a delegate needs members to be prepared to cover all stories, which may include things outside of committee meetings. We anticipate that delegates are anticipating a fast-paced, engaging conference as they work to navigate through presentations and ideas from many topics and ultimately develop their original views on world politics. We will be glad to assist you if you have any questions at all. The CANMUN team and the International Press Corps Executive Board are looking forward to having you at the conference!

Regards,

Tanaya Das - Head Chairperson

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS :

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from all corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees. As the delegates/diplomats, representing countries from all over the world gathered under a roof to engage in deliberation, the International Press records all the crucial moments in words as well as photographs. The International Press has always been an indispensable part of any Model UN and serves the most pertinent function of documentation of the deliberation.

The primary motive of the Press team therefore shall be to provide an unbiased platform for astute journalists and amateur photographers, to channel their sublime thoughts into concrete content generation. One of the most important tasks journalists in the International Press perform is formal reporting. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the best thought-out and concise way possible, and for this purpose, they are supposed to take notes and submit articles that contain the major discussions in their respective councils. A good news article ought to be articulate, and brief and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion. While at the conference, you are required to keenly observe the goings-on, and take note of worthy instances, prepare reports, conduct research, formulate opinions, conduct interviews and polls, and preside a press conference for the Delegates. Our vision is to ensure that this is a learning experience, and we hope to embark upon this journey creating a magnificent fusion of words and experiences. There will be obstacles in your path, but to learn, you've to be willing to push yourself. In the words of William H Gass, 'The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.'

Three things come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation:

1. **Research**: Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country-specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.
2. **Unity**: The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters, who need to be working in synchronization with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of teamwork, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.

3. Code of Conduct: Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board, and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

TYPES OF SUBMISSION

Opinionated Editorial:

An Opinionated editorial (Op-Ed) is an article that appears opposite the editorial page of practically all newspapers. This is a place where the writer gets an opportunity to pen down his/her perspective on the agenda. Research is of utmost importance and opinions must be backed by relevant facts. These are some of the most impactful articles and creativity here is boundless.

(Word Limit - 500 to 600 words)

Beat:

A beat-based article is a specialized article where the Reporter presents in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise. It involves amassment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. Requiring clear observations and grasping power, beats should be devoid of the reporter's opinion.

(Word Limit - 250 to 350 words)

Creative Piece / Feature:

'But out of limitations, comes creativity.' This is the only submission where the reporters are allowed to explore any format of their own. It just has to adhere to the agenda of the respective committee. A major contributor to your freestyle working autonomy will be the submission of a creative piece, which can be a poem, a set of haikus, or a short story, as long as the content is original and absolutely your brainchild. This gives you the poetic ability to play with words and ideas, albeit in keeping with the agenda, as your piece should revolve around a central theme that is drawn off the agenda, in whole or part.

(Word Limit - 150 to 800 words)

Interview:

An interview provides an opportunity for a personal interaction with a delegate/EB member. It should be utilized to bring out those aspects which might not otherwise be highlighted in the course of the conference. The questions must be precise and must be verified by the Executive

Board of the International Press. Reporters are to ensure that the essence of the views put forth remain intact.

(Word Limit – 350 to 500 words)

Consolidated Report:

A piece written in reported speech exclusively, this submission focuses on how the entire committee's proceedings went and gives a concise account of the same. Ideally, to be written in paragraphs, this piece provides the reader with an overview of the happenings of the committee during the duration of the conference.

(Word Limit – 300 to 350 words)

Opinion Poll:

This particular type of article allows you to express your opinion however you want. Again, the content needs to be restricted to the agenda. The use of graphs, pie charts, or any other statistical analysis is highly encouraged.

(Word Limit – 250 to 350 words)

Press Conference:

The Press Conference is another opportunity for the reporters to ask the representatives about any of their statements or policies in the committee. Reporters must establish a dialogue with the representatives and are required to adhere to diplomatic courtesy. Decorum and composure regardless of the situation must be maintained. Moreover, facts must be derived from.

RULES AND REGULATIONS :

Reporters are required to adhere to British English.

Formatting Guidelines:

- Font - Times New Roman Size - Title - 14 points, Bold By-line - 13 points, Italics Body - 12 points, Alignment – Justified By-lines are mandatory for all types of submissions.
- The submission files should be in the format: Name_Type of Submission_Assigned Committee_Day For example: Preethi_Beat_UNHRC_Day1 Abbreviations are to be used only once they have been introduced. For example: A Life sentence in the United Kingdom (UK) does not necessarily mean a prisoner will spend the rest of their days in prison.

- Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly. Cite your sources and references without fail. Refrain from referring to a delegate by his/her/their name. Address them by the profile/country they are representing. For example: The Delegate of India highlighted the mass influx of refugees into the country post the Rohingya Crisis.
- Deadlines are of utmost importance and are to be followed as such.
- Numbers beyond hundred must appear in words here as anything beyond a hundred can be expressed in numbers.
- Stick to the timeline of your committee
- If your committee is based on an event in history, adhere to the period of that event. Avoid using contractions in sentences.

MARKING SCHEME:

The members of the press corps (reporters) will be marked on the following set of general criteria. However, the individual heads may follow additional parameters, which you may request at the end of the conference.

1. Grammar and vocabulary
2. Structuring and formatting (syntax)
3. Press conference
4. Content (substance and creativity)
5. Orderliness (punctuality and sticking to word limits)
6. Research and diplomacy
7. Demeanour (being present in committee at all times, dressing as per code, behavior, etc.)
8. Readability and relevance of content submitted
9. Brownie points
10. Pictures and visuals a delegate chooses for their pieces.

'Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph, and the signs of horror are still in the air.' - Henry Anatole Grunwald