



# Vancouver Youth Model United Nations

The Nineteenth Iteration | October 25-27, 2024

Dear Delegates,

My name is Raeann Cheong, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to VYMUN 2024 as the Director of the International Press Corps (IPC). I am currently a senior attending West Point Grey Academy and have been participating in Model United Nations since the eighth grade. As this will be my last conference, I am thrilled to be with a committee that can provide new narratives of Model UN and challenge delegates' understanding of the world.

During the conference weekend, I encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone. In accordance with 2024's theme for World Press Freedom Day—Journalism under Digital Siege—I am introducing new mediums for IPC. For the majority of the conference, information will be presented in a variety of ways. Specifications about this new development may be found in the backgrounder, but delegates may choose to submit their pieces through traditional article format, as newsletters, or as broadcast media that may be posted on the IPC website. Ultimately, it is my hope that these new mediums will encourage creativity and change the way that students understand the power of media.

Should you have any questions or concerns prior to the conference, please feel free to reach out to me at [ipc@vymun.org](mailto:ipc@vymun.org). I wish you all the best of luck in your preparations and am looking forward to meeting you all later this month.

Sincerely,

Raeann Cheong Director of IPC  
VYMUN 2024

## Overview

First run by VYMUN in 2007, the International Press Corps (IPC) is a committee unlike any other at the conference. The IPC is composed of news agencies from CNN and the Associated Press, to Fox News and Xinhua News Agency, to The Onion.

They travel around the conference building and visit committees throughout the conference to report on each committees' news and happenings, as well as to document the conference overall. These reports come in the form of several forms of delegate-produced media, such as written articles, recorded news briefings, written or recorded interviews, and much more. All IPC reporting content produced by journalists is published on the IPC website at [ipc.vymun.org](http://ipc.vymun.org) and [vymun.org/ipc](http://vymun.org/ipc) for documentation and conference-wide viewing. Overall, the IPC provides an opportunity for delegates to fully immerse themselves in the world of Model UN while experiencing a unique committee acting as champions of the press. As journalists, retrieving and communicating information is key. IPC allows journalists to be as creative as possible: interviewing delegates, conducting question and answer periods (Q&A), discussing emerging crises with dais teams, or even creating videos to update the rest of VYMUN on the most pressing news stories. The possibilities of IPC are limitless, and with creativity and hard work, delegates will have a truly amazing experience.

At VYMUN 2024, the IPC will feature novel “mediums” through which delegates will be able to communicate and publish. In addition to the traditional IPC experience of article-writing, journalists will have the option to publish their work through broadcast media. Delegates will have the chance to record news anchor briefings, interviews, and podcasts—the sky is the limit for delegates' creativity. These new elements, in addition to the traditional IPC article-writing experience, are guaranteed to create a vibrant and exciting experience.

## Conference Preparation & Position Paper

Preparation for the IPC differs from the standard position paper required by most committees. In order for journalists to grasp a strong understanding of their agency's form of journalism, IPC journalists must complete a written assignment by Friday, October 25th, 2024. The assignment should detail the biases, style, and overall nature of the news organization they represent and its journalism. Although this assignment is not required, it is mandatory for those wishing to be considered for an award and it is strongly recommended that all delegates complete it. In addition, please remember to

cite all your sources in AP format. Overall, you are free to express yourself creatively with this assignment and there is no strict format. Please prepare a 300–500 word summary describing the specific intricacies of your assigned news agency. Your work should include:

1. General Information: Where the agency is located, the agency's ownership (whether it be state-owned or privately run), a brief history, etc;
2. Guiding Principles: What are the main goals of the agency? (Refer to the news agency's website if you are unsure);
3. Specific Biases: Please give at least three examples of how bias, impartiality, or political ideologies (or lack thereof) are exhibited through the agency's published articles—feel free to quote or link relevant articles.
4. Additional Information: Finally, please include any extra information that may benefit your understanding in preparation for the conference.

## Work Products

### **Production Expectations**

There is no limit to the number of written articles a delegate can publish; however, delegates are expected to produce at least one article or broadcast media per committee session. This requirement may be amended during the conference as needed by the Director. Additionally, delegates must produce one written article to be permitted to produce one broadcast media. For example, a delegate may write articles for Committee Sessions I, III, V, and VII, and produce broadcast media for a maximum of Committee Sessions II, IV, VI, and VIII.

### **Traditional Written Article**

This will serve as the primary medium to which IPC journalists will contribute during the conference; traditional written articles are what the Press Corps is known for. As such, all delegates must publish in this written-article format.

The following samples fulfill the requirements for a traditional written article that would be uploaded to the IPC website during the conference. Please pay attention to the formatting (left-aligned, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font) and the general style. Writing should not be overly complex; concision and quality are of utmost importance. With regards to article content, a traditional article might introduce the committee briefly, if not already done, then cover the topic being discussed, offer clashing perspectives, and detail a resolution (or lack thereof) that delegates have debated. Some articles might even integrate an interview conversation into the text, as seen below in Sample 2. However, there are no

hard and fast rules—the paper is a proverbial oyster; and articles should not be limited by anything other than creativity.

## **Sophisticated and Holistic Resolutions Are Being Crafted Among Delegates of the United Nations Development Program (Reuters)**

Reuters, 12:35 PM PST

The United Nations Development Program opened its third committee session with detailed and bloc-centric debate regarding the effects of technology on modern job markets. With multiple different blocs proposing and advertising their ideas, the session was nothing short of a busy and effective discussion of artificial intelligence, education, automation, and more.

With three primary blocs, all with differing views of how to solve the impacts of machine automation in the job industry, delegates in UNDP have a variety of options to choose from when deciding which plan will best align with their country's values. To begin, Suriname explained its plan, called the Power Plan, which ensures that automation isn't developing "too fast, too much, or too soon," by promoting sustainable energy sources and ethical—and environmentally friendly—business practices. In a later speech, Peru emphasized that this plan focuses on developing and developed countries, whereas other blocs, like that of Russia, focus on developed countries only. Moreover, the delegate of Peru introduced the idea of having pop-up centers for technology training, guaranteeing that these facilities would not promote dependence or reliance on education, as the recipients of the training can pass on their learning to other members of the community.

Though consistently the recipient of bitter arguments throughout the committee session, Russia's bloc, named PETAI, brought up valid points to defend their bloc's plan and views. Upon being interviewed, the delegate of Russia cited that the PETAI plan, which has the support of many other large countries, including the United States, "will establish international frameworks on AI," as well as teaching "various courses ranging from computer programming to robotics to ensure technological literacy." The delegate of Russia also mentioned that 47% of United States employment is in danger of being stolen by automation, helping to strengthen its case to mitigate the effects of technology on modern job markets.

The final major bloc that expressed its ideas in the committee's session identified itself as the INAC plan, standing for the International Automation Council. Pioneered by countries such as Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, the INAC plan favours developing countries and centers around

supporting workers in a world transitioning towards automation. Among some of the specific programs of the INAC plan are the Technological Impact Assessment plan, which warns workers of how they will be affected by machine automation, and the Job Training Partnership Act, which invests in youth training programs.

The third committee session of the United States Development Program marked a period of impressive and comprehensive debate. With blocs beginning to finalize and refine their plans, it's likely the committee will be moving into resolution reviews and presentations in the coming sessions.

### **INTERVIEW: Should Prisoners be Pardoned for a Chance to Rebuild Their Life? — AFP**

AFP—As UNHRC whirls into a debate about the reformation of prison systems to aid in the maltreatment of prisoners, the delegate of the United Arab Emirates looks to a unique solution.

Creating the “HEAL” program (Healthy Competition, Empathy, Adaptability, and Leadership), the Emirati delegate focuses on rehabilitating prisoners and concentrating on their core values. This program is focused on three stages: Learning, Coaching, and Championship. The Emirati delegate hopes that this program will change the light on prisoners, to see them not as simply “prisoners” but as humans. As people who can learn skills to be able to reintegrate back into society. The program is detailed as a low-cost, high-impact program with only a small budget to hire local trainers within nations. “Every inmate is still human and deserves the guarantee of their rights,” the delegate reminds.

On that same note, in an interview with the AFP , the UAE delegate expanded on his proposal and what the HEAL program might offer to rehabilitation efforts:

**AFP:** What is the UAE doing for prisoners to be pardoned?

**UAE:** The pardoning of prisoners every year is a holistic approach for people to understand that prisoners are still human; they are people and need to be reintegrated into society. The pardoning of prisoners can also aid in the overcrowding of prisons and offer an alternative sentence.

**AFP:** How can you ensure these prisoners will not turn back to crime this time?

**UAE:** In the UAE, we have a selection process in place, a way to scale their values socially and as part of a workforce. When pardoned, the main thing we as a nation must do is provide economic support. Such support can be monthly assistance, programs and other resources to reintegrate into society.

Economic help and space within the community and the opportunity to work and network are the keys to rehabilitation. The UAE has seen promising results in this system, and people are genuinely improving. The UAE holds a promising prospect in its program, and AFP wishes it luck with its progress in the UNHRC.

### **Broadcast Media — News Anchor Briefings, Interviews, Podcasts**

Finally, the broadcast media medium is for those who wish to convey the stories and drama of the conference through a dynamic, digital lens. Similar to the graphic design medium, it is not mandatory and for those who wish to undertake it. Broadcast media encompasses news anchor briefings, video interviews with delegates and/or dais teams, or podcasts.

All videos must be 45 seconds to 1:30 minutes in length; all content is subject to change by the Dais team or the Secretariat to ensure compliance with conference policies. Delegates do not need to use professional video equipment; mobile phone cameras are perfectly sufficient. However, delegates must ensure that video is taken horizontally and that audio is clear—not muffled—and that the background is acceptably quiet.

Video editing software such as Vimeo, iMovie, or Adobe Premiere Pro may be used, although interviews without cuts, simply with the beginning and end trimmed, may perhaps be more efficient to yield similar results. It is recommended that delegates pursuing such a medium not spend excessive amounts of time editing video, or else they will run out of time. In the case that one cannot access editing programs, please contact the Dais team to set up alternate arrangements.

*The following script is a short example of a news anchor briefing.*

**News Anchor:** Good morning! My name is Jane Doe, and I am your news anchor for Morning News at the Onion. We always bring you the freshest updates from our country, only on Rush Hour News. Joining us today is John Doe, a delegate representing Canada in the United Nations Security Council. They have faced several difficulties in conveying their stance to the committee, but have nonetheless succeeded in building up their nuclear weapons. Now, tell me. How do you feel?

**Canada:** I was frightened at first. I'll be honest. No one would take me seriously because I'm Canadian, but I just had to show them that I could put my foot down. So during the last unmoderated caucus, I created a secret alliance with France and the United Kingdom to impose economic sanctions on China. Once that was passed, I invested millions into nuclear arms build-up, and here we are today.



**News Anchor:** That's fantastic to hear for world peace! I'm afraid that's all the time we have for today. I'm Jane Doe, and I will see you tomorrow.