



# the emissary

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# OPENING CEREMONIES

**DIANA VINK**

With over 300 delegates from Canada, the United States, and overseas, delegates were welcomed despite the weather to the University of Toronto to, for the first time in years, a fully in-person North American Model United Nations conference. While still held over Zoom, delegates sat in their respective committee rooms to watch the conference begin, finally gathered together after enduring fully virtual conferences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opening ceremonies began with an acknowledgement that the University operates on the land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit, followed by thanks for sponsors and supporters of the conference. With a brief discussion on equity, led by Equity Director Jonathan Ku, the stage was set to welcome the keynote speaker, Joseph Wong.

Wong, a professor at UofT, Vice President International of UofT, and founder of the Reach Alliance, focused his talk on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), calling attention to the fact that they provide an opportunity for more than mere improvement, but also protection moving forward. Wong acknowledged the grim reality that we are unlikely to reach the SDGs by the set goal of 2023, calling us to consider how we move forward from what progress we have made. He discussed methods of reaching those who are hardest to reach in the world—communities that are marginalized, endangered, isolated—and discussed case studies which investigated the accessibility of interventions worldwide. Ultimately, Wong emphasized the need for two things: innovation, to reach those who are less accessible, and collaboration, to fulfill the goal of the United Nations as being an organization working for the collective good, transcending national boundaries and interests.



His words certainly rang true as our delegates debated their way through the first day of committee, rang in by Secretary-General Elaine Wang following her remarks on the background of our committees, our conference, and (notably) the Emissary. With a crisp bang of the gavel, NAMUN 2023 was commenced to cheers from both delegates and staff, promising an exciting weekend moving forward.





## Jesse Cheung



Today, the delegates of the International Court of Justice come together to discuss the case of the Territorial and Maritime Dispute between the Republic of Nicaragua and the Republic of Colombia. It is a dispute between the two countries over the sovereign rights and environmental responsibilities of Luna Verde, a section of islands and waters in the East-Western Caribbean Sea which is one of the largest fishing banks in the area. Application to this dispute was first filed in 2001 and settled in 2012 with a judgement concluding a clear delimitation of Nicaragua and Colombia's neighbouring Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). The advocate of Nicaragua claims that Colombia first agreed with the judgement but later rejected it. Colombia refuted this, stating that they had established an Integral Contiguous Zone (ICZ), which granted them sovereignty over the disputed waters. Rights and responsibilities include: the delimitation and definition of EEZ and ICZ; the historical fishing rights of both Colombian and Nicaraguan fisherpeople; responsibility for regulating overfishing and pollution; authorities' boundary for regulation before it becomes harassment towards fishing vessels within their scope of jurisdiction; and more. Delegates discussed their initial thoughts about the case after opening statements given by advocates of both Nicaragua and Colombia. The court then proceeds to the

advocates of Nicaragua, presenting the evidence list of the appellant. Exhibitions of evidence include previous judgements of the case, letters and court statements, presidential decree, amending statements to the decree, and scholarly articles, news reports and podcasts relevant to the case. After the presentation of 28 exhibits, delegates proceeded to an incredibly insightful and meticulous examination of the given evidence based on their credibility, validity and relevance to the case. The examination results in the court admitting 18 exhibits and stripping 10 from the list of evidence. The forefront of the last session is the testimony of a witness provided by Nicaragua. Claudia-Liza Obregon, the legal advisor for the foreign affairs of Nicaragua Claudia-Liza Obregon, provides testimony to reinforce the 2012 judgement that stated the delimitation of EEZ and outlined Colombian interference with fishing activities in Nicaraguan waters. She provided examples of Colombian fishing vessels trespassing the EEZ under the sovereignty of Nicaragua and harassing Nicaraguan fishing vessels within the Nicaraguan EEZ. She was then questioned about the evidence she provided and the statements she made. The day closes with a final debrief where delegates evaluate the pleadings and lists of evidence, and provide prospects about what arguments and conclusions may be made in the coming days of the conference.



There was a consensus among several delegates that cyber warfare was acting in a manner similar to the “wild west.” Awareness of the danger of cyber issues is limited, allowing it to run wild. This issue was highly concerning, given how essential technology has become in the vital structures of government and public life.

The United States wanted to highlight the question of non-state actors breaching cyber security, like Anonymous or WikiLeaks, yet other delegates viewed this as irrelevant. Additionally, many delegates argued that issues like cryptocurrency and private sector cyber-activity were the responsibility of states, not the United Nations Security Council. On the other hand, arguments were made that cyber attacks can breach another state’s sovereignty, placing responsibility on the UNSC to act.

A seemingly popular solution to this was the creation of infrastructure, like a “digital Geneva Convention” to handle cyber breaches and strengthen cyber security. There was also the beginning of a collaboration between states to create a court system that would hold actors accountable, while also punishing states that inefficiently responded to these threats. Furthermore, some delegates strongly focused on how to combat phishing and other scams, by improving technological literacy through educational programs.

Midway through the day delegates found out that Elon Musk, who had been suspiciously inactive on social media, had been spotted in an industrial area where superior technology was being developed in cooperation with the United States government. Later, delegates found out that this technology could have malignant intentions, therefore receiving criticism from several delegates. It also started a debate among delegates about how the private sector can be utilized as a solution. Several delegates disagreed with how involved private companies should be in an international cyber-security framework, noting that they would

# UNSC



## Kunal Dadlani

be more interested in profits than the interest of the state and could easily be manipulated.

Ultimately, the committee all collaborated and introduced a directive that included “Turning the Wild West” which included: defining cyber attacks, defining a non-state actor, creating a responsibility to protect doctrine, and explaining how breaches of the act would be punished. Furthermore, the directive also included “The P.A.T.R.I.O.T Act” which outlined how countries would respond to cyber threats and how these threats could be prevented in various ways. Despite, opposition from the Russian Federation and China, the directive was passed.



# UNPFII

## Anjali Mookerjee

Debate in UNPFII was relatively civil, in large part because all of the delegates had similar goals regarding how to help Indigenous communities and the necessary steps to get there. Preservation of Indigenous language, increasing cultural knowledge, ensuring self autonomy and improving the material conditions were discussed at length through a series of moderated caucuses. The resolution “The Having All Kids Aware” (HAKA) called to implement Indigenous language education in schools alongside national languages in an effort to foster widespread engagement with Indigenous culture, both within communities and amongst the general public. It also aimed to address the trauma endured by members of the Indigenous community as it pertains to suppression of language and culture through rebuilding lost avenues of communication and fostering better cultural understanding.

The “Cultural Language and Indigenous Media” (CLAIM) resolution similarly sought to promote exposure to Indigenous language and culture, specifically through radio, television, news, and art. CLAIM also includes

support for Indigenous media producers and artists both through funding and access to copyright which would grant them full ownership over their work— an addition which addresses the committee’s collective call for increased autonomy.

While the debates surrounding the delegates main concerns were fruitful, a large portion of today was devoted to dealing with the crisis of an Indigenous community in Brazil’s Amazon rainforest who were being harmed by iron mines in the area. The delegates crafted three directives in order to address both the immediate harm caused by the mines, and the root issue of the mine existing in the first place.

The “Stop the Steal” directive sought to create a commission of government and Indigenous leaders who would have to be consulted on any land development affecting Indigenous people, and called for a halt on mining in that area and exclusive land and business rights for Indigenous people harmed by the operation.

Directive “Everyone Everywhere” focused more on the immediate consequences of the mining operation—mercury poisoning, sickness, and anti-protest violence. It too called for a cessation of mining activities until consultation with and approval from the affected Indigenous group and financial compensation to those harmed, with the fallback of UN intervention.

The final directive crafted to address the crisis was “Operation Not Again,” which called on various branches of the UN to combat the fallout. It includes sending water testing teams, a WHO aid team, a CDC investigation team, Doctors Without Borders, and the World Organization for Animal Health to deal with endangered animals who may be affected by the mining.

Finally, it was announced that there would be an inquiry into the Brazilian government who was running the mining operation as a shell company, claiming to mine Iron instead of its real prize—gold. Negotiations would accommodate Indigenous languages, allowing for the possibility of properly informed consent.









# ABC Powers: Argentina

Megan Phan

'Tis November of 1906-- Argentina began the day with ash in the air. Fires have blazed through the ports of Buenos Aires killing 80 shipyard workers due to a lack of workplace safety regulations. Outrage ensues as mass strikes from the shipyard workers and unrest from farmers dominate the focus of the delegate's discussions.

At first, perspectives are split with some suggesting reparations and concessions while others, like Onofre Betbeder, are strongly in opposition, proclaiming: "I don't want shipyard workers to have a huge sense of entitlement with these social securities, rights, and safety policies!" Unable to quell the discontented protestors, the capital was stormed, looting all in sight, prompting the government to call a State of Emergency.

Perhaps this pressure was what the committee needed to act. The delegates began to work together to barely pass a series of comprehensive reforms, conceding to the working class with a \$6.8 million pound investment to improve workplace labour conditions and pay reparations to the families of deceased workers and, most notably, a minimum wage of 15 pounds. To end the day, a Bureau of Labour Relations was formed to negotiate and enforce binding agreements between worker unions and employers.



DAY 1 DEBRIEF

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# ABC Powers: Chile

Diana Vink

“In this dreadnought race, all of Chile is in the same boat.” — delegate Jorge Montt Álvarez

Thus began the Chile committee of the South American Dreadnought Race ICC at NAMUN 2023. With a heavy focus on internal unrest within the nation, delegates began by tackling the unrest of workers at home rather than outward movements or naval expansions. With the committee set in December of 1906, the nation of Chile is in the midst of responding not only to intimidating Brazilian naval growth, but to the aftermath of an earthquake that had caused massive devastation just months earlier. Conversations of session one focused heavily on how Chile could stabilize their own economy and reinforce their peoples’ faith in their leadership, an endeavor which proved to be highly necessary just shortly after.

Greeted with a workers’ strike in Tarapacá, the committee needed to confront the low wages, terrible living conditions, and general dissatisfaction of the workers, specifically of those in the mining sector. Discussions ensued on how to best offer support to the workers and quell civil unrest, highlighting a key tension between the committee’s economic needs and the rights of workers. Ultimately, the workers to presented their demands for better wages, more rights, safer conditions, and regulated work hours to the committee, leading them to pass some adjusted rules satisfying the workers’ desires.

With this conflict diverting the committee’s attention, a Brazilian dreadnought was attacked, and Brazil immediately turned blame to Chile. While Chile publicly announced that they were not responsible, there has been no response from Brazil yet. At the same time, an initial \$1.5 million dollars disappeared from the Chilean treasury, with no apparent trace of a culprit. Chile’s economy plummeted drastically, leading committee members scrambling to make up the losses. For a majority of day one, Chile’s economy was the weakest of the ABC powers, a challenge which the delegates took in stride. By the end of the final committee session, the committee’s taxation changes lead to a boom in foreign investment, solidified by internal improvements to Chile’s banking system. Impressively, Chile ended the committee with a \$334 million surplus, despite \$2.5 million more disappearing from their treasury.

Not all hope is lost, though, as the Chileans begin to track down the thief of the money, and find traces on multiple thieves at work. Suspiciously, one of the suspects turned out to be a literal “dead” end, found at the bottom of a cliff, so there is more work to be done.

While worker protests are temporarily quelled, and the economy is looking far more stable, Chile must in the coming days address not just the thievery amongst them, but also a growing Marxist sentiment across South America that threatens the sovereignty of their government. With copies of the Communist Manifesto circulating, it is unclear how long this stability will last— not just in Chile, but in the continent as a whole.



# ABC Powers: Brazil

Megan Phan

The delegates of Brazil began the day with a most delicious start – passing arguably the most important directive of all – to confirm the National Dessert of Brazil: A chocolate flavoured chocolate fountain that includes banana bread bits, all possible flavours of icecreams and coffee made by Brazil's very own people. A tasty treat indeed.

However, there are more pressing matters at hand. Sailors are disgruntled and disappointed with low wages and safety issues, wanting change. Similarly, The First Brazilian Workers Congress released a list of collective demands: increased welfare, worker's representatives, and liberation of the working class from the elites.

Initially, this was met with outright refusal from the delegates, but suddenly, everyone in the committee seemingly caught a new wave of leftist fever. Passionate speeches proclaiming the downfall of the elites, followed by snaps of agreement, could be heard throughout the room. Much to the disappointment of the ruling elites, land taxes were established, equipment was to be distributed to the proletariat, and most notably, the committee made electoral reforms to allow 18-year-olds to vote, quelling any unrest from its citizens.







# ABC Powers: Foreign Powers

Diana Vink

With the ABC powers at odds with each other and with themselves, the foreign powers, including delegates from the United States, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Germany, focused their debate on how and how much they should involve themselves with the South American conflict. With the variety of nations and positions on the foreign powers, national politicians were put at odds with bankers and industry heads, drawing attention to the unique aspects of each delegate's point of view. The foreign powers, to begin, needed to put down the rumors that they would downsize their navies— instead, spurring production with their excess materials and funds.

Early on in debate, the American members of the committee were met with stark opposition to their defense of the Monroe Doctrine— where the Americans insisted that the Europeans remain uninvolved with South American affairs, leaving the nations to their own internal issues, the Europeans called out America's economic intentions for the South American nations. Repeatedly, the debate exposed the struggle between economic gain and potential and the right to national sovereignty, calling into question the concept of spheres of influence in South America. These tensions were explored, notably, through a variety of creative metaphors and similes; in particular, delegate Winston Hancock evoked the memorable image of "a man hoarding milk and letting it spoil" to describe the United States' protectionism of South America. With the committee distracted, the naval budgets of each foreign powers did indeed shrink.

The delegates struggled to reconcile their ideas of free trade, influencing the growing tensions emerging from Brazil, and fostering a growing agricultural industry in South America. These discussions took the form, unsurprisingly, of conversations about dreadnoughts— who shall the nations provide ships to, and why? What will be the impact of the ships that they give? Heavily, the committee focused on money, with J. P. Morgan providing a dramatic (and appropriate) display of his extensive wealth, fanning his credit cards onto the floor.

With these discussions, the foreign powers became slowly aware of the growing leftist sentiments in South America, brought to their attention by none other than Japan. In Argentina, American banks were being attacked, causing immense distress in J. P. Morgan, who remarked that he did not "have the courage to stand" in his first speech after hearing the news. Seeing their economic interests at risk, the committee debated supporting the official governments in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil against the leftist uprisings and allowing the nations self-determination— questioning what kind of show of force, if any, was appropriate to keep their influences in the region intact.

Overall, the foreign powers have great potential in South America with tensions rising, but is unclear what kind of form that potential will take, and even more unclear if the foreign powers will be taking their stand together, apart, or as outright enemies.

# MIDNIGHT CRISIS

**DIANA VINK**

Together, in one room, imagine the likes of James Bond, Perry the Platypus, and the Minions (just to name a few), gathered to fight the greatest evil known to the likes of man. He goes by many names: President Evil, Dr. Evil, Mr. Evil President. It doesn't matter. Ultimately, he's here to take over the world. With claimed power in the governments of the United States, China, Russia, Canada, Australia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, and Iraq, we know not what Mr. Dr. Evil President does, but we know him to be a threat to the safety of our world.

Enter: spies and detectives. Benoit Blanc. Natasha Romanoff. Scooby Doo. Here to save it all. In a committee containing the most qualified spies to grace our fictional worlds, spies who are literal children, and animals who have suddenly gained human speech, we placed our trust to save us from a treacherous downfall at the hands of Mr. President of Evil.

To tackle this undeniable evil, they began by discussing the potential of an imposter among them; accusations ranged from James Bond to Austin Powers to, ultimately, Scooby Doo, who, upon being accused, remarked, "I must admit, this is a surprise to me... Maybe I'm the culprit?" While the committee battled amongst themselves about the real suspects, President Evil became an overnight TikTok sensation, spreading his "A Day in the Life of a Villain" videos to the tween generation. This move was not unmatched, with Austin Powers and the Minions performing a perfect rendition of the famous TikTok dance to Doja Cat's "Say So," begging, "if you're the imposter, why don'tcha say so?"

This, unfortunately, did not slow down President Evil, who revealed himself to be Joe Biden, Emmanuel Macron, and Hillary Clinton all collaborating on their plans, slowly multiplying their power across governments. With this, it was unveiled in a TikTok that the Minions were working with the Dr. Evil initiative, raising the question of why didn't they say so?

Yet, despite all this revealing information, the committee concerned itself instead with the various love affairs of James Bond, who had multiple failed marriage attempts with Alex Munday, multiple confessions of love, including one notable announcement from the Black Widow, and multiple accusations of being President Evil, even once his identity was revealed. With these distractions, President Evil managed to kidnap Ryan Reynolds in the ultimate show of power— while the delegates tried to cancel him via social media, they turned quickly upon each other rather than on the evil at hand, voting to exile literally every member of the committee and leaving the world in the hands of President Evil.

A conclusion is perhaps best described by Encyclopedia Brown, who, only ten years old yet wise beyond his years, tells us "Maybe Mr. President Evil lives in all of us in some way."

Thank you to Gabrielle MacPherson for her careful, clever, and creative directing of the committee, and thank you to all the staff and delegates who came out







# CONTRIBUTORS

the C&D team at  
NAMUN 2023

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Diana Vink (she/they):** Diana Vink is a second-year student at the University of Toronto studying Literature & Critical Theory, Creative Expression & Society, and Women & Gender Studies. With a long history of involvement in Model United Nations, Di is thrilled to bring the Emissary to life this year, adding a new dimension to our understanding of participation in MUN and celebrating the diversity of the stories the writers bring forward. In her free time, Di is an avid poet, artist, and advocate, drawing deeply on explorations of gender, sexuality, and family.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Candace Chen (she/her):** Candace is currently in her first year studying Life Sciences with plans to double major in Human Biology and Psychology. Her hobbies include playing basketball, reading and photography. She has been doing MUN as a delegate, moderator, and staff for almost 4 years.

**Nesta Muthu (he/him):** Nesta is a 3rd year student studying Political Science and the Classics. He has been apart of MUN since high school. In his spare time he enjoys watching old horror movies.

## CO-DIRECTORS OF C&D

**Kelly Chan (she/her):** Kelly is in her fourth year studying International Relations, Economics & Sociology at UofT. She had a splendid time at the crisis branch at NAMUN 2022 and decided to return to join the C&D branch for NAMUN2023! During her free time, Kelly likes dancing and touring around the city for great café and food spots. She is extremely proud of Diana and all of the C&D family for all the hard work and effort they have put into creating this year's Emissary! She hopes that you will enjoy reading the Emissary 2023 as much as we enjoy creating it.

**Victoria Hong:** Victoria Hong is a Philosophy and International Relations student at the University of Toronto. Having been involved in the academics side of Model UN as MUN club captain for the entirety of her high school years, Victoria has decided to transition into the operations side of the conference when she began her undergraduate studies. She was previously in-volved in NAMUN as a Graphic Designer and Senior Graphic Designer. This year, she is honored to bear the responsibility of leading the Communications and Design branch in its latest iteration. Outside of NAMUN, she serves as the co-President of the Philosophy Course Union. As a proud disciple of Kantian philosophy, she is the victim of constant teasing by her friends and close ones for her purportedly pedantic thought pattern. In her free time, you can find her at your nearest escape rooms, cogitating on decades-old crime cases, and reading astrophysics books she can't understand

## JOURNALISTS

**Jesse Cheung (she/her):** Jesse Cheung is a second-year student majoring in History and Archaeology, with a great interest in social and global issues. This is her first year to join as a part of NAMUN, and she is looking forward to all the profound and exciting events that will take place during the conferences.

**Kunal Dadlani (he/him):** Kunal is in his third He got into MUN in high school and have continued to be involved at UofT. Apart from that, he is a massive sports fan and also really like music.

**Anjali Mookerjea:** Anjali is studying Literature and Critical Theory. They wanted to find a way to branch out from the literature-centered education and remembered having an amazing experience with MUN in high school. Working with the Emissary has been an amazing way to dip their toes back into the world of international politics.

**Megan Phan (she/her):** Megan is a 1st year student at UofT studying Rotman Commerce. She's excited to be staffing NAMUN for the first time as a journalist! When she's not finishing up homework or staffing Model UN conferences, you can find her swimming, sleeping or planning events for friends.