



SECRETARIES-GENERAL

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Esteemed Judges,

My name is Paula Bonequi, and I am incredibly excited to welcome you to the International Court of Justice! This year, we will discuss two topics that I hope will challenge you to explore very different areas of international law. Egypt v. Greece will ask you to consider how refugee law, human rights law, and the law of the sea interact when states respond to migration at sea. Our second topic, the Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87, will take us into international labor law and challenge you to consider how treaties should be interpreted when their text does not provide an explicit answer. Although very different, both topics raise fascinating questions about how international law should be understood and applied.

Before I give too much away about the rest of the background guide, let me introduce myself properly. I was born in Mexico and have lived in Mexico City my entire life. I am currently studying both Law and Economics at ITAM. This will be my fifth year in the ICJ. I spent my first two years as a delegate, and this will be my third year presiding over the Court. Having experienced the ICJ from both sides, it has easily become one of my favorite parts of MUN, and I am very excited to share that experience with all of you.

Outside of school and MUN, one of my favorite things to do is travel. For me, the best part of traveling is definitely the food, and I love trying new dishes and pretty much anything I have never had before. I also love going to concerts and will genuinely listen to almost any kind of music. Another goal of mine is to learn as many languages as I possibly can throughout my life. For now, I speak Spanish, English, and French, and I am currently learning Italian and Mandarin, although my Mandarin is still very basic!

As you begin preparing for the conference, I hope this background guide gives you a strong starting point for your research and helps you become excited about the questions we will be discussing. More than anything, I am looking forward to seeing the different arguments and interpretations you bring to the Court. Some of my favorite moments in ICJ have come from hearing an argument I had never considered before, and I hope you will challenge one another, ask difficult questions, and make the most of the experience.

If you have any questions while researching or preparing for the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will be more than happy to help!

Kind regards,

Paula Bonequi
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Session I
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Esteemed Delegates,

Hello, and welcome to the International Court of Justice!

My name is James Kuo, and it is my honor to serve as your director for Session II of NHSMUN.

Four years ago, I staffed NHSMUN for the first time as an assistant director in UNIDO. Back then, I was a freshman at USC, not truly knowing what to expect. Now, I return as a senior on the eve of completing my degree in Molecular Biology. It is truly a full-circle moment.

A bit about me: I was born and raised in Wisconsin, and have lived in Austin, Singapore, and Los Angeles. I also attended high school in Taiwan, where I traveled abroad (like many of you attending NHSMUN) to compete in MUN conferences across Asia. I still cherish and tell stories about the memories I made in high school MUN (ask me about the papaya salad in Thailand), a testament to MUN's impact. When I am not studying or running around at MUN conferences, you can find me carrying my teammates in Valorant, getting boba at ChiCha San Chen, building lego sets, raving about walkable cities, and being a Cheesehead.

I am beyond excited about the topics this committee covers. Both pertain to issues that are increasingly important to address, as individuals around the world face dire economic, geopolitical, and environmental circumstances. I look forward to hearing the creative ideas you all come up with. See you in March!

James Kuo
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Session II
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