

The logo for GatorMUN XVI features a stylized blue gator head above the text "GatorMUN XVI" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

Esteemed Delegates,

This installment of GatorMUN features more committees that specialize in alternative topics out of history, present, and future than ever before. My position on this Secretariat resulted from this decision in order to more carefully manage the needs of our directors on these committees. Here, I will provide you with my vision of these committees alongside some information and GatorMUN guidelines for reference. Their topics and committees provide new perspectives on subjects commonly or rarely debated each year at Model UN conferences. The context of each is embedded within the larger themes that bind together real history and contemporary international politics. Debate in almost every one of these committees must inevitably involve critical thought and detailed research about real or plausible situations where diplomacy may strike a compromise between the power(s) at the table and those who wish to be there. Success in these committees begins with a careful review of the background guide that the director has provided, and the guiding questions that begin your independent research. Strong argumentation, creativity in solution-making, parliamentary shrewdness, and diplomatic tact are the tools of each body in this auxiliary committee category.

Only a selection of these committees explicitly require position papers. Directors indicate, usually in bold, whether they have a requirement for delegates to submit position papers. These short papers are incredibly useful tools for organizing research into cogent arguments that will improve the quality of overall discussion. They are meant for the use of the delegate first and foremost, but also indicate an appropriate level of preparedness for the conference. These papers may be submitted electronically at the committee page on our website, directly below the background guide. The remainder that have no position paper requirement do not mean to discourage the organization of research in this manner, but no award will be given for position papers nor will lacking a position paper affect scoring delegates.

As always, questions may be directed to gatormun@gmail.com. I hope GatorMUN XVI provides a good experience for all of you participating in these committees, and I am highly anticipating your comments and feedback during the conference weekend.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Honiker
Undersecretary General of Specialized Committees
GatorMUN XVI

Information About GatorMUN Specialized Committees

Parliamentary Procedure

The committees under the category of “specialized” assemblies may not necessarily function under the formal rules of parliamentary procedure that GatorMUN uses from year to year. Committees with explicit topics that may be set as an agenda are:

- Der Zwölfte Deutsche Bundestag,
- Seventh Summit of the Americas,
- and GA Plenary, 2040.

Others will use parliamentary procedure more loosely: setting the agenda with successive crises or topics at the discretion of the director. This allows delegates to understand and react to the outcome of their previously adopted solutions to the issues at hand. The plenary session of the UN General Assembly may also feature changes to parliamentary procedure late in the conference weekend as determined by the resolutions adopted, in-line with the topics of debate discussed in the background guide.

Press Corps naturally does not include the same quantity of formal debate found in other committees, and a significant portion of the work done in this committee during the conference will occur in what is akin to an unmoderated caucus.

Der Zwölfte Deutsche Bundestag uses rules for agenda-setting specific to the parliamentary groups represented in committee, and these are outlined thoroughly in the beginning pages of the background guide for reference. The Verkhovna Rada, 2014 is a committee that will move through events that have occurred in recent history: most notably the election that will reshape the parliamentary groups in that committee. Its director will specify the procedure for that election in-committee.

Position Papers

These committees require position papers:

- Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia,
- Der Zwölfte Deutsche Bundestag,
- The Future of Independent Québec, 2023.

GatorMUN format for position papers stipulates that they be typed single-spaced in 12 pt. font, Times New Roman with 1” margins. These papers must be a minimum of one full page, but no more than two pages. Content should include the position’s past experiences

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or key interests in the topic, past or proposed actions for the issues at hand, and new solutions that the delegate will bring to the table. The name of the delegate, their position title, and the delegation which they are part of should all be included at the top of the position paper. These position papers should be submitted to the link at the website section for the appropriate committee.

All position papers must be received by the start of GatorMUN XVI when Session 1 begins or the delegate will not be eligible for the position paper award, and their overall score will reflect that omission.

As a reminder, the committees which do **not** require position papers will not have this award, nor will position papers be factored into a delegate's score.

Resolutions

Unless specified otherwise by the director, all resolutions in specialized assemblies will accord more or less with the standard assembly formatting that GatorMUN employs elsewhere. Likewise, the procedures for passing resolutions are identical wherever it is not explicitly changed by the director. However, these committees are designed to expand the capabilities of a resolution beyond the scope of what may be found in most UN-related bodies. For that reason, their resolutions will exercise greater powers and more decisive solutions. The extent to which those powers go depend greatly on the plausible powers of the body and the discretion of the director. Furthermore, the practice of *permanently* closing a topic after passing resolution on it will not be the case in these committees: excepting the Seventh Summit of the Americas. In these the topic of debate will be introduced and concluded at the discretion of the director, or instead the delegates themselves may rotate between multiple topics and pass many resolutions should they so choose.