



## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO OPTIMIZE OUR APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS



**June 1 – June 4 at the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock**

# BALMUN XV

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**Conference Art:** Leonora Krause, student at the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock

## Welcome Letter

Dear participants,

After hosting a successful in person conference last year, we feel greatly honored to welcome you back to the fifteenth annual Baltic Model United Nations conference.

BALMUN conferences strive to allow students to speak on political issues which are prominent in today's world. A fundamental problem, which unfortunately still prevails to this day, is the implementation and recognition of human rights in all countries across the world. For this reason, BALMUN 2023 will focus on **"overcoming obstacles to optimize our approach to human rights standards."**

According to the UN, human rights are "rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status." These rights include but are not limited to the right to life and liberty, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to work and education. Everyone is entitled to human rights without discrimination.

Although a simple concept, human rights are disregarded in many places across the globe, negatively affecting millions of people. This year's conference will deal with a wide range of topics relating to human rights in an attempt to better ensure that basic standards are met.

Ranging from religious discrimination to slavery to the lack of children's rights, human rights are infringed in more ways than one can imagine. This is something we simply cannot tolerate.

As delegates, it is your job to find solutions that can help optimize the way we approach the implementation of human rights internationally. The prominence of human rights laws varies from country to country, yet we must come to a consensus on how to enforce (and in some cases implement) these laws on a global scale.

It is true that many important milestones regarding human rights have been reached over the past few decades. However, human rights and their implementation is still a pressing issue which must be solved in order to make a peaceful world a realistic possibility. Governments continue to implement polarizing laws which restrict the rights citizens should be entitled to. Until this ceases entirely, there will always be more to be done.

You have the opportunity to inspire the next generation to take a stand and participate in their political surroundings, to make their voices heard and make changes happen. There is so much we can achieve by simply working together.

We look forward to meeting you in June!

Sincerely,

Jamie Potschantek  
Secretary General

## Conference Schedule

### Thursday, May 19, 2022

17:00 - 20:00 | Informal welcome at the ISG and housing assignment

19:00 - 20:00 | STOFF Meeting

### Friday, May 20, 2022

09:00 - 11:45 | Opening Ceremony

Ophelia Reuter, President of the General Assembly

Steffen Bockhahn, Balmun Patron and Senator for Education

Dr. Markus Riemer, Principal of the ISG

09:30 – 11:00 | Keynote Speeches

Mahvash Siddiqui, Deputy Consul General

Dr. Jan Philipp Wölbern, Desk Officer for Eastern Europe at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

11:05 - 11:45 | Selected Opening Speeches

Chair introductions

Closing remarks

11:45 – 12:00 | Break

12:00 - 12:30 | Committees in Session

12:30 - 14:30 | Staggered Lunch Break

13:30 – 17:00 | Committees in Session

19:00 - 22:00 | Teachers and STOFF reception in the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock courtyard

### Saturday, May 21, 2022

08:30 - 11:30 | Committees in Session

11:30 - 13:30 | Staggered Lunch Break

12:30 - 15:30 | Committees in Session

20:00 - 23:00 | BALMUN-Dance at the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock

### Sunday, May 22, 2022

09:00 - 10:45 | Committees in Session

10:45 - 11:00 | Break

11:00 - 12:00 | Closing Ceremony

## Useful Links

BALMUN Website:  
<https://www.balmun.de/>  
Instagram: @balmun.isg

Delegate's Handbook  
[Delegates Handbook.pdf \(balmun.de\)](#)

## Committee Topics

### **Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA 1):**

- Preventing and combating the financing of terrorist organizations
- Addressing the illegal trade and supply of weapons to countries involved in armed conflict

### **Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA 3):**

- Protecting and promoting the rights of children in war zones
- Enforcing women's self-determination in connection with reproductive rights on a global scale

### **Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA 4):**

- Eliminating the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics
- Scrutinizing global decolonization efforts

### **Security Council (SC):**

- The situation in Ukraine
- The Iranian nuclear deal

### **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):**

- Working to achieve international food security and diminishing malnutrition
- Realizing the right to suitable shelter

### **Environment Assembly (EA):**

- Promoting sustainable agriculture
- Reducing and counteracting the environmental damage caused by nuclear waste

## General Rules and Information

### General Rules

The organizers of BALMUN reserve the right to dismiss any participant from the conference due to unruly behavior. Please refer to the Virtual Conference Guide for more details or contact your chair, secretariat, or MUN Director if you have any questions.

### Guidebooks

Please see the guides that have been published on the [BALMUN Website](#). These include a delegate instructional guide and a specific guide for writing resolutions.

### Dress Code

Delegates and faculty advisors should dress in a formal manner suitable for an academic conference whenever participating in the conference - even if it is online. Gentlemen should wear a suit or jacket and trousers, shirt and tie; the ladies likewise a suit and a blouse. Please dress accordingly.

## Conference Staff

### Secretariat

**Secretary-General**

Jamie Potschantek

**President of the General Assembly**

Ophelia Reuter

### Student Officers

**GA1:**

Chair:

Mycah Hardister

Chair:

Victoria Idés

**GA3:**

Chair:

Josephine Riemer

Chair:

Juno Kolmorgen

Chair:

Laura Zálešáková

**GA4:**

Chair:

Isabella Pehe

Chair:

Johanna Kyrieleis

Chair:

Stella Peterková

**SC:**

Chair:

James Simanowitz

Chair:

Meike Tolzmann

Chair:

Paul Keppler-Gouras

**ECOSOC:**

Chair:

Ester Singerová

Chair:

Ilian Bordet

Chair:

Maya Hauff

**EA:**

Chair:

Moana Kammerer

Chair:

Zara Gallagher

Chair:

Zarah-Louise Danziger

**Conference Management:**

Heads:

Martha Kukuk

Cyell Dittbrenner

**Press Team:**

Editor in Chief:

Julia Palent

### BALMUN Directors

Regine Koch

Matthias Breitskopf

## Speaker's Biography

### Mahvash Siddiqui

### Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speech



Mahvash Siddiqui joined the U.S. Department of State in 2004. She currently serves as the Deputy Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Hamburg. Previously, Mahvash served at the New York Foreign Press Center, where she was responsible for credentialing over 500 foreign journalists that covered the United Nations. She also coordinated foreign media engagement for two Presidential Summits—the Summit of the Americas, and the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

Mahvash represented the U.S. in various United Nations' organizations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Mobile Satellites Organization (IMSO). Mahvash was the strategic communications lead for the U.S. *Arms Trade Treaty* delegation and led US delegations to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva where she urged for fair investment in African countries.

Mahvash has served as the Acting Director at the Global Engagement Center and at the Office of Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy, where she was tapped by the White House to lead the first-ever 'whole of government' campaign to "promote American values" and counter Chinese (PRC) malign influence.

Mahvash served overseas tours in India, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, and the United Kingdom, where she negotiated space, science and technology, arms trade, and bilateral trade treaties. Mahvash earned the London Diplomat of the Year award in 2017 for her work in combating Wildlife Trafficking and Oceans Conservation. Mahvash's work was recognized by the UK Parliament and the Royal Society.

Mahvash attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff college to earn a Master's in Military and National Security Studies in 2019. Prior to joining the State Department, Mahvash worked in scientific research as a molecular biologist/genetic engineer at UCLA, where she also studied neuroscience. On the side, she produced breast/prostate cancer diagnostic kits at Quest Diagnostics. After earning her MBA, Mahvash worked as an investment banker at Dean Witter and as a financial analyst at Archos. Mahvash is a Bruin from Orange County, California and speaks Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, French, some Nepali, and other Sanskrit-based languages. Mahvash enjoys horseback riding, tennis, football (soccer) and mixed martial arts.

**Dr. Jan Philipp Wölbern**



Ukraine Office.

Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speech

Security Council – Guest Speaker, Friday 2:00pm

Jan Philipp Wölbern studied history, political science and English for the teaching profession in Marburg, Freiburg and Sheffield. Supported by a doctoral scholarship from the KAS, he received his doctorate in 2013 with a dissertation on the topic "Der Häftlingsfreikauf aus der DDR, 1962/63-1989. Zwischen Menschenhandel und humanitären Aktionen" at the University of Potsdam. After the 2nd state examination, he worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) from 2014 to 2016. From mid-2016 to 2020, he worked as a research assistant in the Department of Contemporary History at KAS headquarters Berlin. Since 2020, he has been the desk officer for Eastern Europe in the EIZ department. In August 2023, he will take over as Deputy Head of the

**Chris Melzer**



Economic and Social Council – Guest Speaker, Friday 3:00pm

Chris Melzer was born in Schwerin in Mecklenburg in 1972. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, he began to work as a journalist. From 1994 to 1998 he was the spokesman for Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania's Minister of Finance. Following this, he studied politics in Kiel and received his MA-Degree in 2002 while being an editor for the German Press Agency (DPA). Melzer stayed at the DPA for 20 years in Kiel, Schwerin, Berlin, Hong Kong, and Washington, also spending seven years in New York as the manager for North America. Melzer has been the German press spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 2017. As a member of the Emergency Response Team, he was assigned to several emergency missions: two in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and most recently on the border between Ukraine and Poland. Melzer is married and has two children.

**Angelica Estevez**

Disarmament and International Security Committee – Guest Speaker,  
Friday 4:00pm



Angelica “Angie” Estevez is a former Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock alumna and an incoming Consular Fellow with the United States Foreign Service. Originally from Rhode Island, she came to our school through the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship program in 2013/14. Thereafter, she studied International Relations (B.A.) at the Karlshochschule International University and completed internships in Spain, Germany, and Sweden as part of her studies. After graduating, she taught literacy skills to primary school students along the Haitian border with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Her aspirations later took her to Washington, DC where she provided investigative research on projects for a Distinguished Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and worked in collaboration with various think tanks, media outlets, and non-profits. Most recently, she has interned with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo alongside her Peace and Conflict (M.Phil) studies with the University of Oslo in Norway. Angie is currently based between Washington, DC and Oslo, Norway.

**Christian Klatt**

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee - Guest Speaker,  
Friday 3:00pm



Christian Klatt is a political scientist who studied in Rostock, Bonn, and Ottawa. His fields of experience and interest lie in political theory, security architecture, fragile states, and the reinforcement of democracy. He works as a country director for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Foundation) in Bamako/ Mali. Before that, he worked in Dakar/ Senegal for the FES and he worked on political education in Germany.

**Diego Alburez-Gutierrez**

Special Political and Decolonization Committee – Guest Speaker,  
Friday 4:00pm



**Education:** The London School of Economics and Political Science – *PhD*, Demography and Population Studies (2014-2018)

*MSc*, Social Research Methods (Distinction) (2013-2014)

Universidad del Valle, Guatemala – *BA* Anthropology (2008-2012)

Diego Alburez-Gutierrez is currently the Head of the Kinship Inequalities Independent Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. He has years of experience doing demographic research and has also taught a variety of demography courses at many different schools and universities.

## Delegations

Country	Represented by
Afghanistan	Leipzig International School
Albania	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Australia	The International
Belarus	Berlage Lyceum
Brazil	Innerstädtisches Gymnasium
Canada	Berlage Lyceum, Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Central African Republic	The International
China	John F. Kennedy School
Colombia	Werkstattschule
Côte d'Ivoire	Novy PORG Gymnázium
Czech Republic	Innerstädtisches Gymnasium
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Institut Montana Zugerberg
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rosa-Luxemburg-Gymnasium
Ecuador	John F. Kennedy School
El Salvador	The International
Finland	Rosa-Luxemburg-Gymnasium
France	John F. Kennedy School
Gabon	Leibniz-Gymnasium
Germany	Novy PORG Gymnázium
Ghana	Berlage Lyceum
Greece	Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Guatemala	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Guyana	Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Haiti	Borwinschule Rostock
India	Berlin Cosmopolitan School
Iran	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Iraq	Universitas
Israel	Leipzig International School
Italy	Marion-Dönhoff-Gymnasium Mölln
Japan	Marion-Dönhoff-Gymnasium Mölln
Kazakhstan	Ecolea International School
Liberia	Berlage Lyceum
Libya	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Lithuania	The International
Madagascar	Johann-Gottfried-Herder-Gymnasium
Mali	Innerstädtisches Gymnasium
Malta	Institut Montana Zugerberg
Mexico	Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Morocco	Leibniz-Gymnasium
Mozambique	Innerstädtisches Gymnasium
Myanmar	Leibniz-Gymnasium
Netherlands	Don-Bosco-Schule
New Zealand	Novy PORG Gymnázium
Nigeria	Berlage Lyceum
Norway	Marion-Dönhoff-Gymnasium Mölln
Pakistan	Berlin Cosmopolitan School
Palestine	Institut Montana Zugerberg
Peru	Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Republic of Korea	Werkstattschule

Russian Federation	CJD Rostock
Saudi Arabia	Berlage Lyceum, Internationales Stiftungsgymnasium Magdeburg
Sierra Leone	Rosa-Luxemburg-Gymnasium
Somalia	Novy PORG Gymnázium
South Sudan	Innerstädtisches Gymnasium
Switzerland	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Syrian Arab Republic	Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium
Thailand	Rosa-Luxemburg-Gymnasium
Turkey	Werkstattschule
Ukraine	Werkstattschule
United Arab Emirates	Rosa-Luxemburg-Gymnasium
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Novy PORG Gymnázium
United States of America	Novy PORG Gymnázium
Yemen	Berlage Lyceum

## Resolution Submission Process

**Step 1:** Delegates arrive at the conference with prepared policy statements and draft resolutions. In the course of lobbying, delegates strive to find consensus by merging their individual clauses into a resolution. Each lobbying group then selects a Main Submitter and Co-Submitters for each resolution.

**Step 2:** The Main Submitter must take the draft resolution to the Chair who in turn approves the draft resolution only if:

- It has the required number of Co-Submitters
- Its subject matter and proposed actions are within the power of the respective committee and relevant to the topic
- It has been formatted correctly
- It is not overly redundant of the substance in other resolutions
- It is not plagiarized

If any of these conditions are not met, the Chair returns the draft resolution to the Main Submitter explaining his or her reasons. The Chair may also return the resolution for reasons not listed above.

**Step 3:** If the conditions outlined under step 2 are met, and the Chair approves the document, the resolution is sent to the Approval Panel. This panel will review the resolution's format and readability. The Main Submitter may be asked to report to the Approval Panel to facilitate the correction of his or her resolution. After this step, the resolution will be copied and printed.

**Step 4:** The Chair sets the order for the debate of resolutions. At the appropriate time, copies of the resolution will be distributed. The Main Submitter is given the floor to read the operative clauses and introduce the resolution. Final refinement of the resolution in regular debate occurs through amendments, which can be submitted by any delegate and must be passed by the majority of the delegations present.

**Step 5:** After the time set for debate on the resolution has elapsed, or if the committee deems it necessary, the resolution is voted upon. After this, debate can be continued on the next resolution. The committee can debate and pass multiple resolutions on the same or similar topics.

## Proper Resolution Format

### Types of Clauses

There is a particular structure that every delegate must respect while writing a resolution. First of all, a resolution consists of one single sentence that is divided into two sections: the **Perambulatory Clauses** and the **Operative Clauses**.

*Perambulatory Clauses* indicate the reasons behind the resolution and can refer to past UN resolutions or give background information such as statistics. They always begin with present participles (see the list of Perambulatory Phrases).

Operative Clauses describe the course of action the country or organization proposes. They always start with a verb (see list of Operative Phrases).

Your clauses should be logically arranged, clearly and precisely formulated, and not repeat themselves. A clause should not be a collection of unrelated thoughts or statements on a broad topic. Each clause should deal with only one aspect of the issue. Pay attention to correct English grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation.

### Useful phrases to start a preambulatory clause

Acknowledging	Deploing	Having studied
Affirming	Desiring	Keeping in mind
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with appreciation
Approving	Expecting	Noting with concern
Aware of	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Bearing in mind	Expressing its satisfaction	Pointing out
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully alarmed	Realizing
Congratulating	Fully aware	Recalling
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recognizing
Convinced	Further recalling	Referring
Declaring	Guided by	Taking into consideration
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Welcoming
Deeply convinced	Having examined	
Deeply regretting	Having received	

### Useful phrases to start an operative clause

Accepts	Designates	Regrets
Affirms	Encourages	Requests
Approves	Endorses	Resolves
Asks	Expresses its appreciation	Seeks
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Calls for	Further invites	Strongly affirms
Calls upon	Further requests	Suggests
Condemns	Hopes	Supports
Confirms	Invites	Transmits

Congratulates  
Declares accordingly  
Deplores

Proclaims  
Proposes  
Recommends

Trusts  
Urges

## Sample Resolution

FORUM: Environment Assembly

QUESTION OF: Outlining a Policy to Promote Individual Initiative to Preserve the Environment

MAIN SUBMITTER: New Zealand [Only 1 Main Submitter]

CO-SUBMITTERS: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden [At least 5 Co-Submitters]

THE ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY, [Commission must be stated in all capital letters followed by a comma]

*Aware of* the fact that rising temperatures melt the polar caps, which steadily rise the mean sea level and keeping in mind that rising temperatures result from human-caused, [Italicize preambulatory word/phrase. Use comma and spacing of a line to separate preambulatory clauses]

*Noting* with regret there are several coastal areas, highly endangered by long-dated flooding,

*Deeply convinced* [Try not to start two preambulatory clauses with same word/phrase] that not only polity is responsible for a healthy and balanced environment, but also policy and individual initiative is necessary,

- 1) Requests [Underline each operative word/phrase. No two operative clauses should begin with the same word/phrase] governments of all nations to accept and explain the fact of change in climate in consideration of pollution in an official declaration, which must be accessible for all citizens; [Use semicolons to separate operative clauses]
- 2) Calls upon education and information for every individual of every nation by means such as but not limited to: [Introduce sub-clauses using colons]
  - a) public establishments to hold courses of instruction and advanced training for interested citizens in environmentally-friendly methods in: [Introduce sub-sub-clauses using colons]
    - i) Villages
    - ii) Communities
    - iii) Townships
    - iv) Regions
  - b) surveys for environmental constructions
  - c) education of agricultural workers in ecologic methods; [There are no subsequent sub-sub-sub-clauses]
- 3) Asks for international accepted reports, published by the United Nations, that research into global warming and proximate consequences, that must be open to the public;
- 4) Expresses its hope that the encouragement of public dialog about the preservation of the environment guides societies to complete success. [End resolution with a period]

## Short Form Rules of Procedures

Motion/ Point	Second Required?	Interrupt Speaker?	Vote to Pass	Special Notes
<b>Yields</b>	no	no	none	Can be done after a delegate speaks. Can only yield to questions, another delegate, or to the Chair.
<b>Right of Reply</b>	no	no	none	Must be submitted in writing to the Chair. Requested when a delegate feels that someone has made a derogatory comment or insult.
<b>Point of Personal Privilege</b>	no	yes	none	Raised when a delegate experiences personal discomfort (e.g. can't hear).
<b>Point of Order</b>	no	no	none	Raised by a delegate to address a procedural matter. Doesn't allow a delegate to speak on the topic of debate.
<b>Point of Information</b>	no	no	none	Directed to other delegates for the purpose of asking questions related to speeches and draft resolutions.
<b>Point of Information to the chair</b>	no	no	none	Directed to the chairs for the purpose of asking questions related to procedure.
<b>Point of Inquiry</b>	no	no	none	Raised when a delegate has questions regarding the proceedings, directed to the Chair.
<b>Suspend Debate (Caucus)</b>	yes	no	simple majority	A specific length of time must be specified. A delegate can motion for an unmoderated or a moderated caucus.
<b>Motion to divide the House</b>	yes	no	none	In the likely event of a vote being particularly close, or even a tie, this motion forces all of those who have not voted (or "abstained") to vote either for or against. This could lead to a success or a failure for the resolution.
<b>Motion to move straight into Voting Procedure</b>	yes	no	none	Raised by a delegate when interest in speaking either for or against an amendment has dried up and makes the

				debate move directly to a vote on the amendment.
<b>Motion to move to Previous Question</b>	yes	no	none	Raised by a delegate when interest in speaking either for or against an amendment has dried up and makes the debate move on to the next procedural step.
<b>Motion to extend Points of Information</b>	yes	no	none	This motion is used to increase the number of Points of Information that can be asked to another delegate.

## Notes

## Notes

## Partners



European  
Commission



“It’s widely recognized that there is no peace without development and no development without peace; it is also true that there is no peace and sustainable development without respect for human rights. We have to transcend our differences to transform our future.”

– António Guterres, 09.12.2022 (Human rights day)

