



**MEDMUN**  
Mediterranean Model United Nations

**THE NGO**  
Crisis Committees Background Guide

Mediterranean Model United Nations

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# Welcome Letter

Honorable Delegates and Esteemed Chairs,

Welcome to MEDMUN 2020! I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the end of March here at Sciences Po Paris, Menton Campus for the eighth annual edition of MEDMUN. This year at MEDMUN, delegates have the opportunity to engage in six dynamic crisis committees as part of three unique crisis simulations: Future Crisis: 3rd Intifada, Saudi Arabia vs. Iran, and the 2nd Punic War. Alongside our crisis committees, our Crisis team will be running the MEDMUN Press Committee and our renewed NGO committee. The decisions made in committee will be based on difficult choices that will simulate real-world outcomes.

Your choices, debate tactics, and military strategy will make waves in our simulation of world diplomacy. We expect engaging in MEDMUN 2020 will help build your tact, diplomacy, and spur-of-the-moment thinking. We expect you to work to use these skills to engage yourself in your position to the fullest extent possible.

The theme of MEDMUN 2020 is Multilateral Security in Conflict and Post-Conflict Zones. In our future crisis simulation, 3rd Intifada delegates will navigate the intricate web of water security and questions of self-determination. In the Saudi Arabia vs.

Iran simulation, delegates will try to solve the complex power struggle between two hegemonies in the Middle East, and the inevitable involvement of other international powers in the region. In the French-language crisis simulation, the 2nd Punic War, delegates will attempt to conquer and stop a conqueror from taking Rome. Our

NGO committee will be providing aid to all of the other committees to ensure that their institutions can be upheld, while debating their role in an increasingly nationalistic and populist world. And of course, the Press Committee will make sure that all of these developments are made as transparent as possible with their reporting, while debating their role with the ever growing attacks on the institution of the free press.

Our crisis staff began our work last year at the end of the MEDMUN 2019 conference, and we have been working since then. We strive to make the crises as realistic as possible, and seek to push delegates to engage in the simulation with the aid of diplomacy, armed conflict, political aid and manipulation, and of course, integrity.

The Crisis Staff and I cannot wait to welcome to our beautiful home in Menton, Perle de la France. We hope that you will have fun, and we encourage you to take advantage of meeting your fellow delegates from around the world, and the incredible community of the Menton Campus, during the conference and at our parties, while also exploring everything our sunny beach town has to offer.

Feel free to reach out to any of the Crisis Staff; we look forward to hosting you soon!

Sincerely,

Katya Sharma  
Crisis Director



## NGO Committee Staff

Katya Sharma is a second-year student in the Dual BA Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po. Born in India but raised in five different countries, she has always embraced an international approach to every aspect of her life. She was inspired by international diplomacy and foreign affairs from a young age, taking a particular liking to international economics. Having spent four years of her life in the Gulf, her interest in the intricate and complicated geopolitics of the region grew dramatically. SciencesPo Menton has allowed her to add to her repertoire of Gulf politics with intensive courses on Arab societies throughout history and throughout the world. She is excited to welcome you to MEDMUN 2020 as Crisis Director, and she is especially enthused to see where the delegates take the NGO Committee!

Angie Weitz is a second-year student at SciencesPo Menton. Born in Germany but having moved between France and Germany all her life, the concepts of nationality and identity has always been an interesting question for her. The different humanitarian crises in this world were always in the back of her mind and finally drove her to choose the major of political humanities in order to understand and assess them. Coming to Menton was an opportunity for her to widen her horizon while satisfying her passion for languages. Additionally, she is part of the Dual BA Program between University of British Columbia and SciencesPo, which is why she will spend the next two years in Vancouver. Angie is excited to welcome everybody (and especially the NGO Committee) on campus for this year's edition of MEDMUN!

## About the Topic

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) are of a fundamental importance in today's globalized society. NGOs provide aid, promote ideologies, encourage dialogue, and can advance the interests of those without a voice. While most NGOs have an altruistic goal, the manner in which they pursue these ends does vary.

As delegates in this year's NGO committee, you will have an opportunity to discuss among many varying NGOs the proper role for NGOs in society, conflict, and institution building. Moreover, you will be able to act based on these views. You will have the unique opportunity to demonstrate your attempt to help others and make the world a better place, while taking the shoes of different NGOs.

Our discussion in committee will be conducted in English; however, when acting outside the forum and actively engaging with the issues in other committees, you can engage in any of the five languages present at MEDMUN - English, French, Arabic, Italian, or Turkish. Keep in mind, the most important part of this committee is that you are able to engage with the issues and attempt to make meaningful change in the mindset and following the ideology of the NGO you are representing.



# Committee Sessions

## Debate Sessions

Before interacting with other Committees, the NGO Committee will hold debate sessions within themselves. Topics for debate are: Should NGOs have to compete against each other for funding? Is this fair? Discuss the concept of “white savior complex” in relation to NGOs. How can one prevent such an attitude? To what extent are NGOs allowed to be political? How far should the principle of non-intervention and total neutrality go? Imagine your NGOs is in severe financial distress. Would you accept funding from a government that could impose upon you its vision and conditions in order to be able to continue the humanitarian work you are doing? When is it too risky for an NGO to intervene in a certain region? In what situations should NGOs refrain from participating in humanitarian crises?

## Projects Planning & Fundraising.

Each NGO has to choose one or several projects that are aligned with what they stand for. It should be a very specific and focused project, circling around the MENA region. A session will be dedicated to finding project ideas, writing a project proposal and attempting to get that approved. A project proposal has to include: general description of the project, argumentation for the legitimacy of the project, estimation of funds necessary to carry out the project (detailed description for what exactly the money will be used,) and how the individual NGO’s resources will be used to complete the project. Once the projects are approved, the NGOs will be allowed to move towards the fundraising stage. During committee sessions, the different NGOs will try to reach out to delegates, presenting their NGO and projects and asking for funding. The NGO delegates will be allowed to enter committee sessions up to the discretion of the Chair. For Crisis Committees they are allowed to approach the NGO Committee coordinator to ask for private meetings with any crisis delegates, as they are representing individuals. During these interactions the NGOs will have to pitch their projects, ask for a structured amount of financing and explain why it is necessary, and explain how their actions will help the representative’s political stake in their government.

## Project Implementation

Once the third session has started, the NGOs will be required to begin putting their projects into place by informing the chair of their subsequent steps. During this time the Chair will inform them of obstacles and successes that their project is facing, and how much money is being spent on these instances. The NGO most capable of handling the developments will be awarded the Best NGO Award.



## Technicalities

The committee will alternate between the three aforementioned types of sessions. The NGOs are competing to see who will be more successful in implementing humanitarian projects.

Committee sessions:

- During committee session, the delegates are expected to use normal crisis procedures, though the extent of procedure enforced is at the discretion of the chairs. No position papers required.
- During committee session, delegates will seek to discuss how to improve implementation and progress with their goals and outperform the other outlet. Delegates are encouraged to develop innovative techniques and strategies.
- The working language of this committee is English. Delegates are not allowed to use any other language inside the committee.
- Crisis events will also directly impact press members, e.g. kidnappings, injuries, libel, etc. Delegates are therefore expected to accept the scenarios stated by the chairs and/or semi-crisis staff and adequately respond to these crises.
- Delegates may enter committees at the chairs' discretion. They are expected to be respectful and not to disrupt debate, unless explicitly ask permission to take to the other delegates either through a private meeting request or during an unmoderated caucus.

## Matrix

### Amnesty International

AI is a movement that started in 1961 with a british lawyer called Peter Benenson. They are advocating for human rights all over the world and are funded by the general population. AI describes itself as being “independent of any political ideology, economic interest or religion”. Their main actions consist in investigating and exposing human rights abuses, lobby governments/companies to ensure the respect of international rights. They are a research-based and they cannot intervene directly into the affairs of the situation. However, they do conduct pressure campaigns to bend governments and individuals to their ideals.

### Extinction Rebellion

This movement describes itself as an “ international movement that uses non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to halt mass extinction and minimise the risk of social collapse”. This more or less formalized movement fights mainly for climate change on many different levels. It is subdivided in local groups in different european cities and is gaining more and more visibility nowadays. There is now a local branch growing in the MENA region, growing in Israel and Saudi Arabia due to the precipitated crisis of lack of water, using civil disobedience to highlight the dangers of climate change.



### Médecins sans frontières (Doctors Without Borders)

Founded in 1971 in Paris, MSF is an international, independent medical humanitarian organisation. Their objective is to provide medical care and help to people who are victims of conflict/epidemics/disasters etc. It is a non-profit, self-governed and member-based organization that claims to be “guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality”. Their intervention in conflicts is always completely neutral, solely present to serve the injured. This NGO continues to have a strong presence in both the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Syrian Civil War.

### Benevolence International Foundation

Founded in 1987 by Adel bin Abdul-Jalil Batterjee, BIF is a humanitarian organization based in Saudi Arabia that is dedicated to helping those affected by wars and providing short term relief, for example food distribution as well as long term projects, for example education and training for work. BIF has significant influence even outside of Saudi Arabia since it has offices in for ex.: Afghanistan, Canada, China, Georgia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Russia, the UK, the US, etc. It describes itself as a “non-profit charitable trust”.

### Works Cited

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