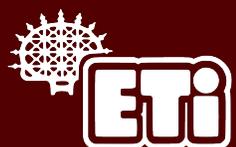


# ***RCIMUN 2021***

## ***Conference Handbook***



Dear Participants,

I am honored to welcome you to the very first virtual session of Robert College International Model United Nations, which will host its participants from all around the world for its fourteenth annual session.

Our last session was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the Secretariat has been working on facilitating a virtual conference to offer the acclaimed RCIMUN experience to all of our participants. RCIMUN 2021 will take place between 10-13 April 2021, and our Executive Team will strive to preserve our high-quality organization and rich content. RCIMUN 2021 will have the theme of "The New Normal: Recognizing patterns in international relations against preventable damage", and the participants will foster fruitful discussions about the recurring actions in the global history of international relations. Our theme letter explores the idea in greater depth; therefore, the participants are encouraged to peruse the letter before proceeding with preparations for RCIMUN.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I am looking forward to working with all of you to establish an international platform to discuss current global issues and reflect on the patterns in international relations. As one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in Turkey and Europe, RCIMUN will again provide an unmatched experience to all of its participants.

Cordially,  
Zeynep Yılmaz  
Secretary-General of RCIMUN 2021

## **THE NEW NORMAL: RECOGNIZING PATTERNS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AGAINST PREVENTABLE DAMAGE**

Today, humanity faces the consequences of its reluctance to recognize the patterns that constitute the great mosaic of the history of humankind. As Andrew Gide once said, "Everything has been said before, but since nobody listens, we have to keep going back and beginning all over again." The global community is under the threat of a pandemic, and it's trying to find ways to adapt itself to the structural change after the pandemic, which is called the "new normal." But are we really adapting to a "new normal" when we have already gone through similar paradigm shifts, especially during the past century? This question begs to investigate watershed events that catalyzed the redefinition of fundamental blocks that created the said mosaic. If we amassed the "almanacs" of international oversight and infrastructure, we could avert the impending perils by recognizing the patterns of failure. History repeats itself among economic recessions, political extremism, militarism, wars, and reorganization of political power distribution. The cycle starts with economic recessions and continues with a political extremist's rise to power and their quest for lands and glory. It all results in wars and -once again- unequal distribution of power and wealth. As a result, economic recessions are caused, sometimes exacerbated by wars' repercussions. After all, people also align themselves with an ideal extreme to acclimate to their alienation from power distribution. The international community fails to take action because these patterns are rarely recognized in their appropriate context. However, even an unprecedented cataclysm like a pandemic becomes predominantly overblown because our society is built on apparent laxity, often enforced by hierarchies that profit from obfuscating previous failures. Only by time will we see that nations will come to accept these patterns of obstruction as the norm--recurrent yet ever-changing.

The imbalance of distributions of power among nations became such a pattern with the establishment of colonialism, exemplified by the transatlantic slave trade. This age of colonialism began in the 19th century with what could have been one of humankind's most outstanding achievements: The Age of Discovery. European major powers such as Portugal, Britain, and Spain were motivated by the atmosphere of competition to advance their economies. As a result of this, many unearthed resources and civilizations were exploited, including Africa. Through the course of three centuries, Africa was engulfed with dismay. Their materials and sources of income were usurped, their spouses were brought into captivity, and their land was artificially apportioned to other nations in a way that "did not conform to typical demographic,

ethnographic, and topographic boundaries" (Herbst). By asserting their economic dominance, Europeans also exhibited their desire to extend borders, putting Africa in a state of utter powerlessness collaterally, leading to the Partition of Africa in the late 19th century, which is remembered with many figures such as King Leopold II. Yet, the increasing pressure from the competition of territory control for more than five centuries could only be relieved with "The War to End All Wars" World War I. This war's scope was directly proportional to its consequences, as the gap between the nations in terms of their power continued to widen during the redefinition of borders drastically. Although both colonialism and the commencing of world wars came with immense consequences such as stripping individual nations away from their independence governments weren't held to international accountability standards. Their unregulated expansion allowed them to normalize these consequences, changing what is perceived as the "normal." Neocolonialism thus indefinitely altered the meaning of the "normal": the discrete use of unrestrained power by a nation to control other countries, particularly their former dependencies.

Part of this "new normal" is nations' unquenchable desire to reach expansive borders. Countries present ethical, social, and historical reasons for their ambition to get those exact borders, making it nearly impossible to solve territorial issues diplomatically due to other nations' involvement. Additionally, when this desire is fueled by nations' "allies" that are geographically distant, major conflicts arise. The complexity of these disputes has allowed governments to continue using their artillery and battalion, which are funneled from other countries and makes the issue more complicated. For that reason, when it comes to worldwide territorial disputes, the list is long and ever-changing. Although most of these conflicts are short-lived, some have persisted for decades, e.g., the Israel-Palestine war. The dispute stems from claiming Jerusalem and claiming the right to govern the people and the natural resources, securing the religious places mentioned in their holy books, and, most importantly, asserting their position in the political hierarchy. The United Nations supports a two-state solution. Both parties initially agreed; however, this solution could not be implemented due to the tension caused by other countries' involvement. Nations present in the Middle East are also involved with this issue besides the United States of America, who stands with Israel. However, the people living in the Gaza Strip are facing economic and social consequences. Countries that are there to prove their power forget about the possibility of disastrous aftermaths in the region. Therefore, nations need to comprehend that the desire to reach their exact borders are not resolved with a territorial consensus but resolved with poverty and political tension in the region.

This political temptation of uncooperativeness is visible in the financial system as well, and this trend has repeatedly led to collective social and economic destruction. Even when the global community has suffered from common difficulties -global financial crises, as an example- individual states have shown a temptation to withdraw themselves from political coordination and concentrate solely on their benefit. The lack of cooperation leads to an illusory understanding of individuality, as self-absorption proved to be an ineffective approach to the recovery process from global crises. This disdain was the case during the Great Depression, a recession period in which unemployment rates rose drastically, industrial productions dropped by half, and banking panic hit the global economy in the aftermath of World War I. Instead of crafting global responses against the crisis, nations adopted a non-cooperative behavior, which can be "epitomized by France's accumulation and sterilization of gold reserves" (Crafts Fearon). In a time when "a monetary-policy response to the deflationary shocks needed to be coordinated across countries," such actions hindered Member States' ability to swiftly respond to the damage being done by the crisis (Amadeo). Furthermore, the trading blocks based on national alliances caused the world trade to drop by 66 (Amadeo). At the same time, nations' anticipation of the approaching World War II served as a political reason why states would not agree to cooperate. Although the Great Depression ended at last and the Second World War began, the long-term effects on the stock market and the world economy persisted. The systemic lack of confidence within the financial system worsened. As demonstrated by the Great Depression and all other crises during which nations chose to polarize instead of coordinate, the wrongful foundation on which the global market is built, the idea that profit matters more than preventing global damage, and nations' inability to address this inherent problem hinder them from fighting economic crises altogether. Indeed, there have been times when countries learned from past mistakes and crafted responsive solutions that would enable cooperation; however, the actual problem was that these efforts were only put after the destructive crises have already occurred. For instance, as a response to the 200 financial crisis, G20 was founded to "emphasize international cooperation on fiscal and monetary policy," long after the crisis had already depressed wages globally and caused a deep and lasting political instability (Abbas). Although the committee's effectiveness is disputable, the policies that it enforced had substantial advantages, such as reducing the tension around controversial policies. Because the economy keeps dipping on a 5 to 10-year basis, however, it is needless to say that the world has witnessed enough, if not too many, global destructions that point to systemic problems in international finance. This pattern demonstrates the urgent need to adopt a more constructive, systematic, and collective approach to the impending collapses from which nations will suffer altogether if they fail to prevent.

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# **Executive Board Members**

Zeynep Yılmaz - **Secretary-General**

Doğa Ayar - **President of the General Assembly**

Zeynep Poyanlı - **Deputy Secretary-General**

Dilara Bıkmaz - **Deputy Secretary-General**

Emir Sert - **Deputy Secretary-General of Finance**

Buse Koldaş - **Financial Assistant**

Teoman Kerki - **Public Relations Manager**

Ekin Kahraman - **Public Relations Assistant**

Berke Maltepe - **IT Manager**

Pamir Yayman - **Campus Manager**

Emre Kaleoğlu - **Secretary**

Deniz Meydan - **Head of Admin Staff**

Ege Çeltiklioğlu - **Transportation Manager**

Mete Karslıoğlu - **Crisis Manager**

Maya Kundakçı - **Coordinator of ICJ**

Buse Yılmaz-Paksoy - **ICJ Assistant**

Şems Polat - **Board Assistant**

Begüm Yener - **Board Assistant**

Sena Aksoy - **Board Assistant**

Nusret Efe Üçer - **Board Assistant**

## Student Officers

### Political Committee:

Bartu Köksal - Head Chair  
Derin Çakmak - Deputy Chair  
Defne Sakaoğlu - Deputy Chair

### Disarmament Committee:

Sıla Sözeri - Head Chair  
Defne Cılız - Deputy Chair  
Lekhana Gogineni - Deputy Chair

### Human Rights Committee:

Caner Camcı - Head Chair  
Bensu Coşgun - Deputy Chair  
Shanmugam Ganesan - Deputy Chair

### Legal Committee:

Yasemin Şukal - Head Chair  
Batuhan Sarıdede - Deputy Chair  
Sezen Özkalp - Deputy Chair

### Security Council:

Giray Yılmaz - Head Chair  
Iroda Abdulazizova - Deputy Chair  
Tuğrul Turan - Deputy Chair

### Historical Security Council:

Yağız Erdoğan - Head Chair  
Ata Güvendi - Deputy Chair  
Doğu Alemdar - Deputy Chair

### Special Conference

Ece Doğramacı - Head Chair  
Aras Karlıdağ - Deputy Chair  
Mina Bengi Aral - Deputy Chair

### Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

Ali Sukan - Head Chair  
Elif İpek Eryılmaz - Deputy Chair  
Irmak Kaynar - Deputy Chair

### Advisory Panel

Iris Benardete - Head Chair  
Mehmet Efe Kılıç - Deputy Chair  
Arjan Chakravarty - Deputy Chair

### International Court of Justice:

Maya Kundakçı - President  
Deha Kılıçkaya - Vice President  
Buse Yılmaz-Paksoy - Registrar

# Agenda Items

## **Disarmament Committee (DC):**

Preventing bioterrorism and the utilization of chemical weapons  
Evaluating stabilization efforts and the disarmament of militias in Somalia  
Combating cyberterrorism in the Information Age

## **Political Committee (PC):**

Mediating the Kashmir conflict  
Discussing measures to prevent electoral fraud  
Addressing the importance of supporting island states in building resilience to climate change

## **Legal Committee (LC):**

Ending femicide and violence against women through international normative frameworks  
Increasing the political cooperation amongst the Member States to enhance the powers of the International Criminal Court's decisions  
Setting international standards for claiming refugee status to prevent the arbitrary detention of immigrants

## **Human Rights Committee (HRC):**

Establishing a commission of inquiry on systemic racism and law enforcement against police brutality  
Taking measures against acts of forced religious conversion  
Considering the Immunization Agenda 2030 to promote global healthcare

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

Confronting the legacy of colonialism and the issue of reparations to victims of the historic slave trade  
The impact of the Qatar blockade on the region of the Middle East  
Reforming the international regulation of offshore gas and oil exploration

## **Special Conference (SPC):**

Preserving the importance of indigenous self-determination in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic  
Addressing the question of the use of improvised explosive devices  
Reassessing access to and ethics of using genetic engineering advances such as CRISPR and CAR-T to cure diseases

## **AP on the Question of North Africa (APQNA):**

Question of Western Sahara Conflict  
Question of Northern Mali Conflict  
Question of Libyan Civil War

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

Question of Donbass  
Question of Golan Heights  
Question of Hezbollah Insurgency

## **Historical Security Council (HSC):**

Korean War  
Suez Crisis  
Hungarian Revolution

## **International Court of Justice (ICJ):**

Avena and Other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. the United States of America)

## Schedule

All times are in Istanbul Time (GMT +3)

### 10 April Saturday

Opening Ceremony	09:30-10:45
Coffee Break	10:45-11:00
Advisors Meeting	11:00-11:30
All Committees in Session	11:00-12:15
Lunch	12:15-13:00
Approval Panel Open	12:30-17:30
All committees in session	13:00-14.15
Coffee Break	14.15-14.30
All committees in session	14.30-16.45
Student Officer Debriefing	16:45-17:00

### 11 April Sunday

Student officer briefing	09:30-09:50
Advisors meeting	10:00-10:20
All Committees in Session	10:00-11:15
Coffee Break	11:15-11:30
All Committees in Session	11:30-12:45
Lunch	12.45-13.30
All Committees in Session	13.30-14.45
Coffee Break	14.45-15.00
All Committees in Session	15.00-16.30
Student officer debriefing	16.30-16.50

### 12 April Monday

Student officer briefing	09:30-09:50
Advisors meeting	10:00-10:20
All committees in session	10.00-11.15
Coffee Break	11.15-11.30
All Committees in Session	11:30-12:45
Lunch	12:45-13:30
All Committees in Session	13:30-14:45
Coffee Break	14:45-15:00
All Committees in Session	15.00-16.15
Student officer debriefing	16:15-16:35

### 13 April Tuesday

Student officer briefing	09:30-09:50
Advisors meeting	10:00-10:20
All committees in session	10.00-11.15
Coffee Break	11.15-11.30
Special Committees in Session	11:30-12:45
GA Plenary in Session	11:30-12:45
Lunch	12.45-13.30
GA Plenary in Session	13:30-14:45
Special committees in session	13:30-14:45
Closing Ceremony	15:00-16:00

## Online Code of Conduct

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the direct or indirect use of another one's work without citation, whilst claiming originality. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at RCIMUN:

If plagiarism is detected by Student Officers during lobbying, they will ask for a complete rephrase of the plagiarized parts of the resolution. Otherwise, the resolution will not be debated in the forum.

If plagiarism is detected during the debate by Student Officers or if a delegate proves that any part of the resolution is plagiarized, the Chair will announce to the committee that the resolution is plagiarized. Thus, depending on the gravity of the plagiarized parts, the resolution will either be tabled or amended.

### **Attendance**

Student Officers will be taking attendance at various times throughout the day to ensure that the delegates are present during the debate. It is important that all delegates are prompt and adhere to all instructions given by their chairs concerning the schedule.

A report on tardy and absent students will be given to MUN advisors. Advisors will be contacted by the Executive Board if their delegate is late or absent in the committee session on a particular day

### **Camera**

Participants' cameras should be open at all times during the session if possible

### **Microphone**

Participants' microphones should be muted while they do not have the floor

**Privacy**

Participants may not record or take pictures of any part of the sessions without permission

**Appropriate Clothing**

Participants should wear appropriate formal clothing during the conference

**Note Passing**

Participants should keep note passing relevant and appropriate, as admins will be monitoring them



## Procedure

### Debate Format

Open debate: Delegations are able to speak either for or against an item.

Closed debate: Delegations can only speak for or against an item. A preset number of for and against speeches must be delivered, and the floor is open to one at a time only.

Open debate is the only debate format for THIMUN affiliated conferences. However, closed debate is required for discussions on amendments. The chair will decide on the duration of the for and against times on the amendment.

### Rising to Points

Delegates must first be recognized by the Chair to be able to express their point. (Example: There has been a point of information to the Chair. Could the delegate please rise and state his point?)

### Point of Personal Privilege:

A point of personal privilege refers to a delegate's discomfort which prevents him or her from focusing on the debate.

It can only interrupt a speaker if it is due to audibility and cannot refer to the content of the speech.

### Point of Order:

A point of order refers to procedural matters. The Chair is responsible for keeping the order of the debate. Should he or she make an error in maintaining order according to the rules and procedures or in the setting of debate time, delegates can rise to a point of order. (Eg: Is it in order for the delegate to yield the floor to another delegation, since he has already been yielded the floor?)

### Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:

A point of parliamentary enquiry is a question directed to the Chair, asking for a brief clarification about rules of procedures.

### Point of Information to the Speaker:

A point of information to the speaker is a question to a speaker who has opened himself or herself to points of information. It should be recognized by the Chair.

It must be presented in a question form. Delegates should not make a short statement, although a short introductory statement can precede the question: "Is the honorable delegate aware that...? Would the speaker not agree that...?"

After being recognized by the Chair, delegates can only ask one question to the speaker as they rise to a point of information. No follow-ups are in order.

There can be no direct dialogue between delegates. If the speaker wishes the questioner to repeat or rephrase his or her point of information, s/he should first address the Chair: "Can the Chair please ask the delegate to refer to a clause? Could the delegate please rephrase his point of information?"

### Point of Information to the Chair

A point of information to the Chair is a question to the Chair, which does not refer to points of parliamentary enquiry, points of order or points of personal privilege.

It mostly refers to facts and the agenda. (Eg: Could the chair please clarify, when we are going to adjourn for lunch?)

*None of the points require a second to be recognized by the Chair.*

## **Motions**

Motion to extend debate time:

A motion to extend the debate time can be entertained at the Chair's discretion. The Chair accepts or overrules this motion with regard to the debate time on the amendment or resolution.

Motion to move the previous question:

A motion to move the previous question asks for the discontinuation of the debate on a resolution/amendment and proceeding with the voting procedures.

Can also be proposed or overruled by a Chair and needs a "second" by the house. If an objection is voiced, the motion is then voted upon.

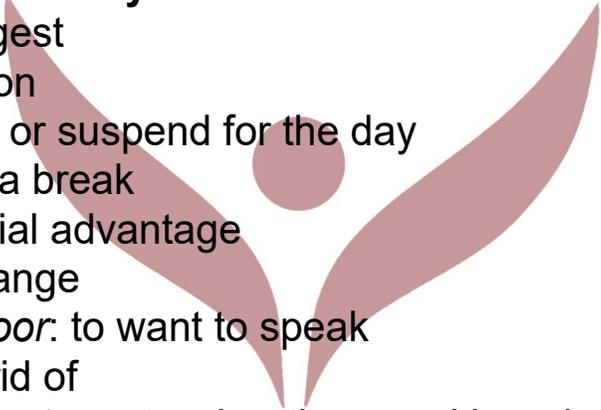
Motion to adjourn the debate:

A motion to adjourn the debate asks for the temporary disposal of a resolution, and the postponement of its discussion after all other resolutions submitted to the Secretariat have been debated. The debate on the resolution can then be restarted upon a “motion to reconsider a resolution.”

The submitter of this motion should make a short speech on why s/he proposed that this item should be tabled. The Chair will then entertain one speaker in favor and one speaker against this motion.

*Motions cannot interrupt a speaker.*

### **Some Useful Vocabulary:**

- 
- A large, faint, stylized red bird logo is positioned in the background of the text, partially overlapping the list items.
- *To move*: to suggest
  - *Motion*: suggestion
  - *Adjourn*: to close or suspend for the day
  - *Recess*: to have a break
  - *Privilege*: A special advantage
  - *To amend*: to change
  - *To request the floor*: to want to speak
  - *To strike*: to get rid of
  - *To yield the floor to...:* to give the speaking chance to somebody else
  - *Point of Information*: Question to the speaker
  - *Point of Order*: something happening out of rule/order
  - *To second*: to agree
  - *Out of order*: not allowed / not in accordance with parliamentary procedures
  - *Overrule*: reject
  - *Abstain*: Vote neither for nor against, implying that you are critical of a resolution or an amendment

### **Amendments:**

Amendments must be submitted on the official Amendment Sheet that will be distributed by Admin Staff. They will only be entertained if the submitter moves the amendment while obtaining the floor. E.g.

“The delegation of Zambia has submitted an amendment if that is in order.” Delegations can make short speeches before moving the amendment.

Closed debate will be the debate mode for amendments.

If an amendment fails, the submitter of the amendment retains the floor to finish the speech s/he began before moving the amendment. Delegations can vote for or against an amendment. Abstentions are also in order.

An amendment of the second degree (an amendment to the amendment) requires the same procedures as for regular amendments, and requires a closed debate.

If the amendment of the second degree passes/fails, the Chair resumes with the debate on the amendment of the first degree.

### **Resolution Writing:**

A resolution is a written suggestion to solve a problem or issue.

A resolution is a statement of your ideas for the solution to a problem or how an issue should be tackled by the United Nations. But remember, you are a representative of your country and you must put forward the appropriate views.

1. Each resolution is a single sentence with the perambulatory clauses being separated by commas and the operative clauses by semi-colon
2. The preambulatory clauses present the argument and justification for action. They should not recommend, but only give a background.
3. The operative clauses state the policy. Each operative clause deals with one idea only. The operative clauses should follow a logical sequence.

A resolution must also be typed in the correct format. Don't forget to stick to parliamentary language.

(Be careful with Security Council phrases)