



LSE YouthMUN 2022

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Dear Delegates,

It is our honour to welcome you to the Security Council, the United Nations' principal crisis-management body and the only one in the world to be empowered with the ability to impose binding sanctions on our 193 UN member states. As one of the most influential organisations in the world, members of the Security Council must recognise the delicate nature of the topics which we will be discussing with a certain degree of compassion, while understanding that the implications of our decisions are not only in terms of world politics or bloc relations, but the livelihoods of individual human beings as well. Therefore, we as your head chairs, together with your vice chairs: Rhea Shrivastava from the LSE and Kristupas Katilius from the University of Law Bloomsbury are very much looking forward to an exciting and fruitful discussion with you all!

This year, we will revisit one of the most contentious topics in East Asia with key implications that continue to affect (especially) civilians in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic - the North Korean sanctions regime. This topic may not be prominently featured in the news cycle - but its cause is the nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is purely a microcosm of the international tensions that have ensued from the Korean Civil War back in the 1950s. We are very excited to be providing you all with an opportunity to not only think of the Security Council as a purely conflict-resolution body, but one which also explores the socioeconomic and political dynamics behind complex international issues. We also understand, in particular Topic 2 might involve issues that are rapidly involving in the international sphere, making it even important to be sensitive in the solutions you propose. That said, while this study guide aims to help you understand the background of the topics we will be discussing, we hope that you can go beyond the nuances of the topic and go beyond the synopsis - coming up with innovative approaches as we tackle such important problems.

As your chairs, we trust that all of you will put a huge amount of effort into coming to a detailed understanding of the political dynamics in East Asia and around the world, while coming up with nuanced solutions agreeable to both your country's stance and that of the collective. Striking a delicate balance between the two will be hard - especially in the Security Council, so being diplomatic will also be a key challenge (one of the main qualities we will be looking for!). We also hope that you will understand that the implications of these sanctions - or decisions affect not only governments, but civilians - their livelihoods, their line of work and the commodities they may be able to access. This conflict, as it seems, is never merely a shadow of the past but also one that continues to affect us today, ensuring that the solutions proposed are thoughtful and respectful. That said, we hope that you will be gaining a lot from this conference as we are sure that we will, and feel free to reach out to us with any questions (there is never a stupid one!) - not just about the conference but about your personal goals or even university admissions! We look forward to seeing you soon online! :-D

Kind regards,
Kelvin Ng and Laila Gauhar
Head Chairs, UNSC YouthMUN 2022

