

# MMUN Jr 2021

## General Assembly

### Committee Overview

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions are not to be written until the date of the conference itself. Additionally, it is highly suggested that every delegate write at least one position paper on a topic, as doing so will be necessary to be considered for an award.

All delegates are expected to come to the conference with a working knowledge of all or most of the topics as well as the policies of the countries that they represent. As part of the General Assembly, it is essential to discuss, debate, and make recommendations on subjects pertaining to international peace and security, including development, disarmament, human rights, international law, and the peaceful arbitration of disputes between nations. Above all, remember that Model UN is not a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun.

### Committee Description

Disposal of Radioactive Waste

Crisis in Ethiopia Tigray region

### Chairs

Vinay Pendri | [v2pendri@gmail.com](mailto:v2pendri@gmail.com)

My name is Vinay Pendri, this is my third year in MUN, and this is my first time chairing. I am a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School where I enjoy running in my school's Track and Field Team as well as participating in the Masterminds Club and organizing my school's annual TEDx events. Feel free to shoot me an email for any questions or concerns, and I look forward to meeting you all in a fantastic conference!

Ahmed Shah | [ahmed317436@gmail.com](mailto:ahmed317436@gmail.com)

My name is Ahmed Shah, this is my third time chairing and my fourth year doing Model UN. I am currently a senior at Pittsford-Mendon High School. Outside of MUN, I play tennis and enjoy other racquet sports. I also participate in our school's newspaper club as the senior layout editor and french cultural club as the treasurer. I am so excited to be chairing at Hilton 2021. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions! My email is [ahmed317436@gmail.com](mailto:ahmed317436@gmail.com)

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### Disposal of Radioactive Waste



The growing interest in the implementation of nuclear energy sources has prompted much action from the government and scientists of countries worldwide. However, a byproduct of this growth is the need for comprehensive solutions regarding the proper disposal of the nuclear waste produced in nuclear power plants. This waste can continue to be dangerous for thousands of years because of its long half-life.

Most of the many tons of nuclear waste produced yearly are disposed of by being placed into steel cylinders which are then encased in concrete and buried under-

ground. However, these volatile materials can leak out, causing great damage to local ecosystems by leaking into the water and ground.

Some leakages have even found their way into human water sources, causing a plague of ailments in those affected. Furthermore, when these leakages occur, they can cost millions to clean up, not to mention the numerous years needed to ensure an area is safe for humans after a radioactive spill. A famous example of this is the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, a horrific event that still reminds the globe what can happen when a nuclear power plant malfunctions, causing mass destruction and the loss of countless lives.

Some countries, such as France, have had great success in implementing nuclear power and managing nuclear waste to prevent any danger to the environment. However, in less developed countries in the primary stages of adopting nuclear power, regulations are not always up-to-date or adequate to address the growing need for a developed framework.

This is because of the high costs, commitment, and time needed to create a nuclear power grid with the necessary safety networks and reliable methods of waste disposal. The unavoidable demand for power requires that solutions to this issue apply to all countries and directly address the problem through long-term solutions.

*What new methods can be implemented to improve current methods of disposal through technologies and organized systems? How can the UN enforce proper regulations on all nuclear power plants without infringing on national sovereignty?*

#### Sources:

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/dangers-and-effects-of-nuclear-waste-disposal.php>

<https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-wastes/radioactive-waste-management.aspx>

<https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-wastes/international-nuclear-waste-disposal-concepts.aspx>

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### Crisis in Ethiopia Tigray Region



Fighting has continued onto its tenth month in the northern Tigray region of Ethiopia. This conflict has forced more than 2 million Ethiopians to leave their homes and have left countless more dependent on humanitarian aid and food supplies. What has caused even more conflict is the Ethiopian government has repeatedly cut off all access to the region including electricity and communication. This paired with constant killing, pillaging, and rape has created one of the most brutal humanitarian crises in the 21st century.

The origin of this conflict comes from a change in political structure in Ethiopia. Prior to the conflict there were four major political parties based on ethnicities. However, to prevent further division, the current Abiy Ahmed changed the political system to one party,

the Ethiopians People Democratic Front. This angered members of a previous political party, the Tigray's People Liberation Front. Frustrated by what they perceived as unequal treatment of the Tigray people, the TPLF, which retained control of the Tigray region that borders Eritrea, objected to Ahmed's changes. Tensions reached a boiling point in September 2020 when Ahmed canceled scheduled national elections because of concerns over COVID-19. Despite the official cancellation, the Tigray region held its elections, which were subsequently declared illegal by the remainder of Ethiopia's government. Following the disputed election, the Ethiopian Parliament voted to cut funds to the Tigray region, which led the TPLF to declare war.

Fighting has continued to go on despite claims that the war is ending and there are a plethora of problems that people of the Tigray region face. First is humanitarian aid, with people displaced from their homes and famine in the region people are facing sickness and starvation. The Ethiopian government has continued to block aid from the UN to the people of Tigray and what gets in is often very little and is ambushed by soldiers. To make matters even worse, countless workers for organizations have been murdered. This is extremely tragic as 70% of the 5 million people in the Tigray region are dependent on food aid and not much is coming in. Furthermore, many hospitals have been shut down or destroyed due to war and lack of electricity. This has left countless people stranded without proper medical care and is extremely problematic. Therefore, actions need to be taken to prevent the tragic results of war and lacking electrical access. Furthermore, gender-violence is heavily increasing in the region. Soldiers have been targeting women and young girls and the cases of sexual assault and violence have significantly increased.

Another major problem is the Ethiopian government. The Ethiopian government has made no claim to stop war in the region. Ethiopian leaders from several regions in the country have now also called upon their own citizens including children to join the war as soldiers against the people of the Tigray region. This has caused even more chaos than previously was occurring. Lastly the Eritrean government has also joined the war on the side of the Ethiopian government. It has been largely reported that the majority of the major atrocities being reported by the media have been committed by Eritrean soldiers.

*How can the UN push medical and food aid into the Tigray region with the tight control that the Ethiopian government has put on the area? What can be done to aid people who have faced sexual assault and sexual violence? What can be done to prevent the atrocities being committed by all soldiers? How can a peaceful solution be made for a conflict so gruesome?*

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/30/latest-crisis-ethiopias-tigray-region#>

<https://disasterphilanthropy.org/disaster/ethiopia-tigray-crisis/> <https://idcoalition.org/about/what-is-detention/#1496020154103-9d5d16af-8490>

[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/05/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-explained.html?mc=aud\\_dev&ad-keywords=auddevgate&gclid=CjwKCAjwyIKJBhBPEiwAu7zll7\\_bfF4zBVmzOp\\_Mdkr-Rpod4ysIMz\\_xk9oml429oEbjej\\_ISDrALBoCx14QAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/05/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-explained.html?mc=aud_dev&ad-keywords=auddevgate&gclid=CjwKCAjwyIKJBhBPEiwAu7zll7_bfF4zBVmzOp_Mdkr-Rpod4ysIMz_xk9oml429oEbjej_ISDrALBoCx14QAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

### Sources: