



XI<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

## **A Foreword from the EB**

Greetings International Press Journalists!

Welcome to the International Press Corps where we strive unendingly for the truth and work tirelessly for Transparency. The International Press Corps acts as the intermediary between the public, and its submissions will formulate the limelight that the conference will be seen in. Every motion raised, every Resolution passed and every crisis that is averted is shared to the world through the eyes of the Press. Your skills as a writer, researcher, and interrogator will be the key that unlocks the context hidden between the lines of diplomacy.

The Role of the International Press Corps at a Model United Nations Conference is to be the link in the chain that connects the deliberations that take place during these two days from each committee to the global audience. If the Conference were a body, the Press would be the mouth that conveys what the hands are doing. Journalists at a MUN pride themselves on weaving stories and articles of intricate thought and dialogue that reflect what is both spoken and not spoken in committees.

Unlike the conventional Delegate, The International Press possesses a role that moulds controversial perspectives and shapes crucial thoughts for the global community to read, hear, and disseminate. I say this with full confidence, The International Press Corps ensures a balance between Public Discourse and International Administrative Action.

To all the First timers, don't be worried! There's a small **FAQ section** at the end of this Background guide that deals with the majority of questions you may have! If you still feel confused, feel free to reach out for clarifications!

Once again, if you have decided to embark on this Journey with us, Welcome, and please find all the info and basic rules as to what would be expected of you as a member of the International Press down below;

Warm Regards,

The Executive Board, MACEMUN'25

## **Parameters for Written Submissions during MACEMUN'25:**

1. Submissions must be made in the following format: First Name\_ Committee Assigned \_Article Type\_ Day.

Eg. "*Jorge\_ICJ\_Beat\_Day One*"

2. Submissions must be done in .docx or .pdf format. No other file format will be entertained.
3. Specifications as to body of articles:
  - **Font** - Georgia
  - **Titles** – size 16, must be bold, underlined and center aligned.
  - **By-lines** - size 11, must be italicised and made right or center aligned.
  - **Body** – size 12, must be justified and quotes in italics.
  - **Note:** Word limits and formatting are expected to be adhered to (overshooting the word limit by 40-50 words is acceptable) except for “Feature” articles, which will be explained below.

## **Types of Written Submissions during MACEMUN'25**

Note: For a more comprehensive idea of the agendas of each committee in the Conference please refer to the **individual Background guides** of each committee

The Following are the kinds of articles that may be expected from Reporters during MACEMUN'25;

### **1. Beat-based Article (400 - 500 words)**

A beat-based article basically means an article that is centred on a theme, statement or any other relevant dialogue made during the course of the committee that may act as the highlight or centre of attention. Stick to relevant facts stated by delegates, their quotes and actions. Make sure that the article does not become just a set of statements and ensure that a narrative theme is followed. In essence, your article should highlight a moment from committee that shows the manner in which the committee is proceeding.

### **2. Opinionated Editorial (500 - 800 words)**

This is an Article where you, the Reporter, may take on the role of a subject-matter expert and deliver your objective opinion on a certain matter or the Agenda as a whole. An Op-Ed requires extensive research with scientifically backed facts thus making this an article where you can make sure that your research prowess shines through. Citations for factual claims have to be given at the bottom of the Article!

Remember that your News Agencies bias must show in your article while writing said opinion. It is also advised to include a minimum of one picture/artwork related to the theme of your Op-Ed.

### **3. Features (below 800 words)**

Go wild, this is the one Article where you are given complete freedom to flex your creativity. The only requisites are that the content must match the agenda of the committee you have been assigned to, and no foul or derogatory language may be used. The genre of the submission is left to the Reporter to decide. Remember, you aren't confined to written works!

#### **4. General Report (300 – 500 words)**

A General Report acts as a recall of the day's events. A reporter may mention all the major events that occurred in the committee along with other instances like controversial statements. But it should be written in such a manner that allows the reader to visualise the committee in their mind and see the events happening as the Reporter recalls it, detail is of key importance although a General Report is one of the most basic forms of Article Writing.

#### **5. Interviews (below 600 words)**

Interviewing someone not only allows you to understand how a delegate approaches topics but also allows you to observe the way they think, allowing you to uncover aspects that might not surface during the MUN proceedings. You may interview Executive Board members or Delegates, provided the interview remains relevant and focused. Questions only related to pertinent topics within the Agenda or about the Country may be entertained, Casual Banter will not be scored or regarded in any manner. A minimum of 5 questions should be included in your interview.

#### **6. Character Sketch (below 500 words)**

Reporters may pick out a character present in committee and write a detailed sketch of that character's traits and their link to the agenda. This character can be a person, idea or any other entity that is real/fictional. The sketch should make readers aware of the nature and intent behind the characters action and should convey how said actions are important/destructive/constructive to the committee.

#### **7. Press Conference.**

A Press Conference is held towards the end of the final day of MUN. Reporters must do extensive research and prepare a minimum of 5 questions that they want to ask, these questions to adhere to the Agenda and may be asked to individual delegates, blocs or the committee in general. The Questions may be based on anything that occurred in committee which is related to the Agenda. These are but not limited to past events, Crisis's, Draft Resolutions, Presidential Statements, GSL speeches, working papers etc.

## **International Press Etiquette and Expectations**

As the acting intermediary between the general public and the world of diplomacy, Reporters are first and foremost expected to be objective in nature while making reports. They must be able to capture the essence of the MUN in its most unadulterated form and package it in such a manner that the message remains undiluted while being digestible for the Public. To summarize;

## **1. Informative Narratives**

MUN Reporters must be able to craft compelling narratives with the information that has been presented to them and bring together the facts, statements and the latest statistics together to create cohesive reports.

## **2. Comprehensive and Unambiguous**

Every Written submission and statement made by a Reporter must be comprehensive by both Delegate and common man and must be unambiguous in nature with only one motive in mind, to find out the Truth.

## **Skills set of a Reporter**

A reporter is expected to be a professional both in and out of committee and have a skillset that allows them to navigate the deep waters of diplomacy. A few skills that a successful Reporter must possess are;

### **1. Extensive Research**

Reporters must have a nose for info and must be able to research statements and facts made by delegates in committee thoroughly and must cross-reference all that they hear and see with freely available reports, documents and any other relevant info. Sources of information may range from official government websites to trusted News Sources and Organisations.

### **2. Interpersonal Skills**

Reporters must build a good rapport with both, their fellow reporters and the delegates of the committee they have been assigned to. We are expected to be cooperative and polite. A Reporter's ability to gather info from the source is only as good as their interpersonal skills.

### **3. Critical Thinking**

Perhaps the most crucial skill, a reporter must be able to differentiate between necessary and unnecessary info. Journalism requires a sharp ear and an even sharper mind to be able to pick up on the unspoken innuendos and facts in the committee. The ability to think analytically is one that will greatly benefit and Reporter over the course of their MUN journey.

### **4. Conformity to Procedure**

Reporters must be able to adhere to both the guidelines issued by the International Press and the committee they are assigned to ensure that there is no friction between the two and the flow of info from committee to the press remains unobstructed.

### **5. Effective Time Management**

Over the days spanning the conference, reporters will be expected to work within tight time brackets, attend debriefings and submit articles within deadlines while maintaining a consistent quality in their work

### **6. Diplomacy**

Although the Press is free from the traditional restrictions of diplomacy, a reporter must at their core, practice diplomacy in all that they do. Regardless of the manner of

speech, action or thought observed in a committee, we must maintain a neutral stance and refrain from using derogatory or foul language while talking or writing about the same at all times.

## **Resources and Committee-wise preparation.**

Each reporter will be assigned to one of the committees that are operating at MACEMUN'25 and will have to make reports and prepare questions for delegates present in their committee. It's important to understand that delegates present in committees would have had ample time to prepare their arguments and points, as such, it's important to stay on top of the dialogue that is happening in committee while preparing articles on the side. Here are some of the most important resources a reporter may avail.

### **1. The UN Charter**

When it comes to the UN committees, Reporters are advised to be well-versed with the [UN Charter](#) as it is the one document every member-state must assent to partake in committee. Reporters must have a thorough understanding of all the **relevant provisions** of the Charter related to the committee they have been assigned to if they are to understand how much Delegates foreign-policy on the selected agenda is deviating from the core tenets provided by the Charter.

### **2. Government Websites**

Most countries that practice transparency often post statistical data on official government websites. Data from such websites provide a strong backing and accurate facts which aids a reporter's narrative. An example of this is the US government's [official website](#) which acts as the gateway to all other government agencies in the US. A reporter may use the data available on these sites to back up their questions during press conferences, credit/discredit statements made by delegates etc.

### **3. UN Databases**

UN databases act as one of the most credible sources of info. An important website every reporter must have at their fingertips is [UN Data](#), a website managed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) which provides accurate statistical info on many socio-economic aspects of a country. Many other databases linked to specific UN databases exist as well.

### **4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Party websites**

A reporter may use other alternative sources as well as long as they have a good reputation and provide sources for their information. Groups like [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) and News Channels like [Reuters](#) are some of the most reputed and trusted sources of info.

This list of resources are not exhaustive in any manner, The general rule of thumb that should be followed while citing sources is that they must internationally recognized (Primarily by the committee you are present in) and should provide factual data over opinions. Also, a reporter must thoroughly read the **background guide** of the committee they have been assigned to as it works as a great stepping-off point for one's research.

The world will now see through your eyes, hear through your ears, and understand through your insights. For these three days, you will be the voice of the public. Once Again, I extend a warm welcome to the International Press Corps—an experience that will profoundly shape your perspective on dialogue between the nations and the individual! Although this background guide is not exhaustive, it covers all the relevant sections, but please reach out to me if you require any sort of clarifications for the same!

## **FAQ's**

Hello! If you're reading this message, it's probably the first time that you're partaking in the International Press Corps. Don't worry! Unlike other committees, the International Press works in a very different manner. You may have certain questions regarding the International Press (journalism), so we are here to answer that question!

### **1. How is the International Press different from other committees?**

A. Unlike other committees, the international Press does not directly take part in the debate in a committee. We will be present in the room, observing all what happens inside the committee, When a Delegate within the committee says something opposing their own foreign policy or a statement that is highly controversial, The international press makes a note of it so that we may ask that to them as a question during the Press conference.

### **2. What does a Reporter do?**

A. The basic job of a reporter is to observe committee proceedings, write articles (Submitting them before the deadline) and preparing questions to delegates which is to be asked during the press conference.

### **3. What is a Press conference?**

A. Members of the press do not talk throughout the duration of the conference and only silently observe proceedings. Simultaneously, we also prepare questions for the delegate to answer during the Press Conference, which will be held toward the end of the last day (Or any other convenient day). During this short window of time, the reporters who have sat inside a committee observing its proceedings for the past few days will have to compile all the research they have conducted and ask questions to the delegates based on their actions inside the committee and their foreign policy.

### **4. How do we write an article?**

A. You'll be assigned a certain number of written works in a day by Your Editor, and will be required to turn in those written works within a deadline that the editor specifies. All the particulars and format related to articles may be found in the background guide. In general, an article will contain a Title, a by-line and the body. The Title should be something catchy while the by-line gives some exposition on what's inside the article along with your name and News Agency.

## **The Knavery of 'Kashyapa'**

*It has been a little over five years since Kashmir was stripped of its special status under Article 370. It has since had to face the iron-fisted despotism of the Government, which shall be examined in this opinion piece by the Press Trust of India.*

Recently, when Amit Shah made a statement in public, saying that the present Union Government intended to name 'Kashmir' as 'Kashyapa', which is its more historically (or, religiously) accurate name, it made me think of something – where does Kashmir lie in the Union Budget? Kashmir's cold winters have seen both the Ruling party's despotic promulgation of financial edicts and the Opposition party's lacklustre implementation of policies. When the bill to abolish Article 370 was first presented in the Parliament, it came with another one of Mr. Shah's remarks – that everything wrong with Kashmir is embedded within that article in itself. What he has failed to address today, however, is that nothing has changed in Kashmir even today. The

Certain articles will require you to 'cite' your resources that you used to write your articles, you may do so by putting a footnote down by using a superscript as such<sup>1</sup>. The tiny number atop the text means that you got this info from another website and want to quote it in your article. All pictures/artwork must be credited properly.

You may use abbreviations but should introduce the same before using them consistently in an Article.

Eg; "The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had released a handbook listing critically endangered species. The IUCN is the foremost body in the conservation of life on this planet"

### **5. What sort of Language should be used?**

Articles cannot be written using very casual language unless the type of article being assigned calls for it. The language should be formal, grammar should be proper and Punctuation should be tip-top. All matters discussed in the article has to be worded in a very diplomatic manner, even if a delegate has used strong language, it is the duty of the reporter to make sure it is digestible for the common reader.

### **6. If I have a doubt on what a Delegate said, how do I get it clarified?**

A. You may get a clarification on what the delegate said by sending a chit (a small paper with your enquiry written on it) to the concerned delegate containing your doubts via one of the OC members present in the committee.

### **7. How are we supposed to refer to the delegates?**

A. It is an absolute must that you refer to the delegates as "delegate of 'x'" in all written submissions and during your Press conferences. Personal pronouns like he, she, you, etc. will not be entertained.

Eg: "The Delegate of India had stated that they would stop all aid to Bangladesh effective immediately"

### **8. Can we use ChatGPT or DeepSeek?**

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<sup>1</sup> (Trusted news/statistics website/article/report)



A. Generative AI is absolutely forbidden and should not be used under any circumstances to form questions or write articles. It may only be used to research but CANNOT be cited as a valid source of info.

**9. “I’ve been assigned to KLA, what language do I write my articles in?”**

A. Both English and Malayalam are both fine, just make sure the entire article is framed in a singular language and does not combine both.