

planning committees each responsible for conference logistics, the conference programme, communications, fundraising and sponsorships, and finance and budget. Committees are led by youth.

## Who are GMUN partners?

- GMUN provides a unique platform for the private sector, philanthropic foundations and civil society to directly engage in the work of the United Nations, including programmes linked to the Millennium Development Goals and other UN priority issues.
- Partners include the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the United Nations International Fund for Partnerships and the United Nations Foundation.

## How is GMUN funded?

- GMUN organisers seek and welcome financial contributions for the organization of the annual conference, and sponsorship for the participation of students from developing and least developed countries.
- By contributing funds towards student participation, sponsors will help to ensure that GMUN is a diverse and inclusive global endeavour that is accessible and attractive to youth from all regional and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Contributors and sponsors will be featured in GMUN media and communications campaigns.

For more information about GMUN, please visit [www.un.org/gmun](http://www.un.org/gmun)

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## Global Model United Nations Conference

Preparing student leaders to have a voice on international issues

[www.un.org/gmun](http://www.un.org/gmun)

## What is GMUN?

- The Global Model United Nations (GMUN) conference is an annual event organized by the United Nations. It is a youth forum which brings together the best youth delegates from Model UN conferences around the world.
- As an important initiative of the United Nations, GMUN connects youth to the UN, educates them about the UN, listens and amplifies their views and engages them in global issues.



- GMUN is organized by the Education Outreach programme in the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).
- The conference rotates annually among all regions of the world, which enriches the experience of GMUN delegates.
- It brings them closer to UN field offices and the work of the Headquarters in New York.
- Delegates interact with international and national staff and understand and appreciate the diversity of UN projects and programmes in one region each year.



- On occasion, a Member State, sister UN organization or civil society partner may offer to host the conference.
- The inaugural conference, titled “The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty,” was held at the historic Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5-7 August 2009.

## Why is the United Nations organizing GMUN?

The Global Model United Nations conference aims to:

- Serve as a model of best practices for other Model UN conferences
- Raise awareness of the role the United Nations plays in world affairs
- Bring together youth from all regions of the world
- Involve youth in all aspects of the conference planning process
- Inspire the next generation of leaders to become involved in global issues and to participate in UN campaigns
- Encourage the creation of Model UN conferences in countries where they do not currently exist
- Develop a GMUN alumni network

In pursuit of these aims, the Global Model United Nations conference introduces innovations not typically seen in other Model UN conferences, such as:

- Rules of Procedure that more closely represent how the United Nations functions
- Access to senior UN officials and diplomats prior to, and during, conference deliberations
- Online tools that will allow participants to collaborate using new communication technologies



*Student Leaders of GMUN 2009*

## How do students benefit?

- During the conference, students role-play as foreign diplomats and participate in simulated sessions of the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council and other multilateral bodies in the UN system.
- While preparing for the conference, students deepen their research, writing, public speaking and problem solving skills that they will use throughout their lives.
- Participation also encourages consensus building, conflict resolution and multinational cooperation which play an important role in building leadership skills.
- Participants will develop lasting international, cross-cultural relationships with their fellow delegates. The GMUN conference strengthens the United Nations’ outreach to millions of students worldwide.

## Who can participate?

- Approximately 1,000 university-level students (between 18 and 24 years of age at the time of the conference) are invited from UN Member States where Model UN conferences are currently active.
- A rigorous selection process for the student leaders of the conference ensures geographical diversity and gender balance.
- For the selection of delegates, GMUN guidelines call for a transparent and inclusive process that provides for gender balance and an equal chance of participation from students from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds.

## How does the UN prepare youth for GMUN?

**Workshops:** Prior to the conference, the UN organizes intensive training at its Headquarters in New York to prepare the student leaders (such as GMUN Secretariat and General Assembly officials) to manage and lead the conference. The student leaders interact directly with senior UN officials and get an inside view of the workings of the Organization, in what the first group of GMUN student leaders call “a life changing experience”.



*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressing GMUN*

**Videochats:** Through a special series of live video chats, GMUN student delegates from different parts of the world are connected directly to senior UN officials and diplomats for interactive dialogues to discuss the conference theme as well as the work and structure of the UN. The chats are posted on the GMUN website and are accessible by students around the world.

## What are the languages of GMUN?

- The GMUN conference website is multilingual in the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.
- Each GMUN conference will be conducted in at least two of the official languages with interpretation services provided as needed.

## How is GMUN planned?

An Executive Committee oversees and is responsible for approving the recommendations of five