

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

My name is Brianna Gonzalez, and I am thrilled to be your chair for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the 50th annual Houston Area Model United Nations conference! I hope you're all excited for an exciting two days of diplomacy and discussion .

A little about me: I am a freshman at Tulane University, majoring in Architecture with minors in Business & Environmental Studies. I have been involved in Model UN since my freshman year in high school & have participated in HAMUN over the past four years. My interests beyond college are reading, traveling, & going on nature walks. This is my first year as a chair, but I am certain that this will be a great experience with all the delegates.

In this committee, we will be focusing on 2 topics this year: 1) Enhancing Resilience and Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and 2) Addressing Agricultural Pollution from Pesticides and Fertilizers. The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts have highlighted the fragility of environmental and economic systems, particularly in vulnerable regions like SIDS. Meanwhile, agricultural pollution continues to rise as a pressing issue with significant consequences for ecosystems and human health. These topics are versatile when tackling the issue, and need to be approached with an open mind and a willingness to understand the various viewpoints that contribute to a more comprehensive solution.

My advice to all delegates is to embrace this opportunity to explore innovative solutions, conduct thorough research, and collaborate effectively. Engage deeply with the issues, challenge yourselves to think creatively, and most importantly, enjoy the process of learning and developing impactful solutions. I look forward to seeing all the delegates' perspectives!

Sincerely,

**Brianna Gonzalez**

Chair | United Nations Environmental Programme  
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