

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

My name is Bobby Youstra, and I'm very excited to be your NATO committee chair for HAMUN 50. I'm a senior studying computer science at UT Austin, although I'm originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. I first started doing MUN in my freshman year of high school and ever since then I've thoroughly enjoyed researching and debating all sorts of international issues, within crisis and general assembly settings, from the Venezuelan crisis to the sovereignty of outer space. I've also loved chairing committees at HAMUN, and previously have chaired LEGAL for HAMUN 49 and 48.

Over seven years of MUN experience from high school delegate to now chair, the best part of MUN has always been the same. The experience of learning a different country's position and perspective helped me to understand just a little bit more about our diverse world. In an increasingly globalized society, understanding different perspectives and looking through them with a critical lens is an incredibly valuable skill to have, and one that will pay dividends in the future. The issues we face in the world are numerous and real, but I believe that through cultivating our mutual understanding of the world we can take a small step in the right direction. I hope y'all believe this too.

To that end, I hope that y'all in NATO take this to heart. Our topics of sanctions enforcement and new warfare technology provoke new pressing questions. This includes: How do we balance the fundamental rights and freedoms core to NATO's philosophy with new innovations? How do we unite as a bloc on punishments for those who violate the post-WWII rules-based international order? I urge y'all to consider questions like these and many others like them during this committee and to learn different but important perspectives on these pressing problems.

Good luck,

Bobby Youstra

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