

STUDY GUIDE



INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

AGENDA-

Agenda Item 1: Addressing press freedom and the protection of journalists with respect to the rise of AI, with special emphasis on conflict zones

Agenda Item 2: Covering the conference

Chairperson: Sudakshina Ghosh

INDEX

1	Chairperson's address.....	3-4
2	About IPC.....	5-7
3	Agenda 1	8
4	Introduction to the Agenda.....	9-10
5	International Legal Frameworks.....	11-13
6	Journalism in conflict zones.....	14-17
7	Threats posed by AI.....	18-22
8	Case Studies.....	23-25
9	Main Ideology.....	26-27
10	Agenda 2	28
11	Types of Submissions.....	49-37
12	Guidelines for Journalists.....	38-43
13	Tentative Flow of Debate.....	44-45

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Greetings to the members of the International Press,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this year's edition of the International Press. I believe that your passion for journalism, storytelling, design, or media as a whole has brought you here, and we are truly excited to witness the perspective each one of you brings to this conference.

The International Press serves as a bridge between the proceedings of committees and the larger narrative of the conference. Through your words, visuals, and analyses, delegates and readers alike are able to understand, interpret, and reflect upon the debates taking place around them. Journalism, especially in a diplomatic setting, carries with it immense responsibility. As members of the IPC, you are expected to uphold the values of accuracy, diplomacy, integrity, and professionalism in every piece you produce. At the same time, this forum is also a space for creativity and growth. We hope that throughout the conference, you not only challenge yourselves as journalists, but also learn, improve, and truly enjoy the experience of working under pressure in such a dynamic environment. Whether it is reporting committee proceedings, capturing moments through photography, designing newsletters, or writing engaging articles, every contribution made by you will play an important role in shaping the conference experience.

As members of the International Press, delegates are expected to remain disciplined and mindful of the code of conduct at all times. We also strongly encourage all journalists to be punctual with submissions and respectful of deadlines, as timely reporting is one of the most essential aspects of journalism. Furthermore, please know that this conference is also a learning experience. In case of any doubts, concerns, or difficulties, you should always feel free to approach the Chairperson. No query is too small, and I will always be happy to guide and assist you in any way possible.

Most importantly, remember that while individual recognition certainly exists, IPC ultimately functions as a team. Collaboration, mutual respect, and support for one another are what truly allow a press corps to succeed. We are confident that each one of you has the potential to do exceptionally well, and we eagerly look forward to working with all of you over the course of this conference.

We hope this experience proves to be not only intellectually enriching but also memorable and enjoyable for everyone involved.

“Journalism is literature in a hurry.” - Matthew Arnold.

Regards,

Sudakshina Ghosh

Chairperson, International Press Corps

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PRESS

The International Press (IP) is one of the most dynamic and unique simulations within a Model United Nations conference. While it is not an official organ of the United Nations itself, it plays a role that is equally significant in shaping the conference experience. Much like real-world journalism influences global discourse and preserves historical records, the International Press in a Model UN acts as the voice, observer, and documentarian of committee proceedings. As delegates across committees engage in debate, negotiation, diplomacy, and policy-making, the members of the International Press are responsible for capturing these developments through articles, photography, interviews, press conferences, and analytical reporting. From documenting major speeches and diplomatic clashes to highlighting groundbreaking solutions and shifts in policy, the IPC ensures that the narrative of the conference is preserved with clarity and depth. In many ways, press documentation is what allows discussions, resolutions, and historic moments to be remembered long after the conference concludes.

For delegates who are participating in a Model United Nations conference for the first time, it is important to understand that your role in the IPC is that of a journalist. Unlike delegates representing countries, journalists are expected to remain objective, observant, and professional in their reporting. The primary responsibility of a journalist is not to participate in debate, but to report, analyse, question, and document the proceedings in an accurate and unbiased manner.

Once registered as a member of the International Press Corps, each reporter will be assigned a specific committee to cover during the conference. THS MUN 2026 consists of six additional committees apart from IPC, and journalists will be attached to one of these committees for the duration of the conference. Your responsibility will be to closely observe the discussions taking place within your allotted committee and produce submissions based on those proceedings. Further clarification regarding committee allocations, reporting formats, expectations, and submission guidelines will be explained in greater detail later in this document. The IPC is designed not only to test creativity and observation, but also to encourage learning, adaptability, and teamwork. Reporters are expected to research their committee agendas thoroughly, remain attentive throughout sessions, and identify developments worthy of coverage.

Through interviews, opinion polls, feature pieces, beat articles, and press conferences, journalists are given the opportunity to explore both the factual and human dimensions of diplomacy.

There are three essential pillars that define the functioning of any International Press team:

I. Research

Strong research forms the backbone of effective journalism. Members of the International Press are expected to possess a broad understanding of their assigned agenda and remain informed about ongoing global developments connected to the topic. Since journalism is not country-specific in the way delegate preparation often is, reporters must develop a wider and more analytical understanding of the issue at hand. Well-researched reporting improves the quality, credibility, and factual consistency of articles. Journalists are therefore encouraged to study the background guides of their assigned committees and stay updated on relevant international developments.

2. Coordination and Teamwork

Although journalism often appears individualistic, the International Press functions as a collective body. Reporters, photographers, designers, and editors must work together in coordination to ensure efficient and balanced coverage of the conference. Healthy competition is natural; however, collaboration and professionalism should always take precedence. The collective objective of the IPC is to produce insightful, engaging, and well-curated conference coverage while ensuring that all committees are adequately represented.

3. Professionalism (Code of Conduct)

Members of the International Press are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy and professionalism at all times. Respect must be extended towards delegates, Executive Board members, Secretariat members, and fellow journalists alike. Even while critically analysing committee proceedings, reporting should remain respectful, ethical, and factually grounded. Personal attacks, mockery, sensationalism, or frivolous reporting on superficial matters are strongly discouraged. Journalists must always remember that credibility, integrity, and

responsible reporting form the foundation of good journalism.

Ultimately, the International Press Corps is more than simply writing articles; it is about understanding narratives, recognising the importance of accurate documentation, and learning how journalism shapes the perception of global events. We hope that your experience in the IPC proves to be intellectually enriching, creatively fulfilling, and memorable throughout your journey at THS MUN 2026..

Agenda Item 1:

Addressing press freedom and the protection of journalists with respect to the rise of AI, with special emphasis on conflict zones

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Few institutions claim to defend democracy as loudly as the press, and few are attacked as consistently when democracy becomes inconvenient. The agenda of protecting journalists and safeguarding press freedom is therefore not merely about media rights; it concerns transparency, accountability, and the public's right to know. States may survive criticism, though some behave as though a strongly worded headline is a greater threat than armed conflict. This committee must examine where the line lies between national security, political control, and outright suppression of truth.

Press freedom refers to the ability of journalists and media organisations to report information, investigate issues, and critique those in power without fear of censorship, retaliation, or coercion. It does not imply freedom from responsibility or ethics; rather, it protects the essential democratic principle that governments or powerful interests should not monopolise information. A free press allows societies to question authority, an activity governments often praise in theory and dislike intensely in practice.

Journalists operate on the frontlines of conflict, corruption investigations, humanitarian crises, and political unrest. Without adequate protection, reporting becomes dangerous, selective, or entirely silenced. Threats against journalists do not merely target individuals; they create a climate of fear that discourages investigation and weakens public awareness. When reporters are intimidated into silence, the first casualty is not merely journalism, but accountability itself.

Independent media serves as a critical check on power in democratic systems by exposing corruption, scrutinising policy failures, and amplifying public concerns. In conflict zones, its role becomes even more significant, as accurate reporting may be the only barrier against propaganda, misinformation, and historical distortion. Civilians, humanitarian organisations, and even international actors rely upon credible journalism to understand realities on the ground. Without independent reporting, conflicts are often narrated solely by those with the loudest weapons and the largest public relations departments.

Ethical journalism prioritises accuracy, impartiality, accountability, and respect for human dignity. Responsible reporting requires verification of information, avoidance of sensationalism, protection of vulnerable sources, and awareness of

the societal consequences of published material. In an increasingly competitive media environment, the pressure to publish quickly often competes with the obligation to publish truthfully. Ethical standards, therefore, remain essential in maintaining public trust and preventing journalism from becoming indistinguishable from speculation. Censorship involves the suppression, restriction, or control of information deemed undesirable by authorities or influential actors. It may occur through legal restrictions, removal of content, internet shutdowns, licensing barriers, or indirect political pressure. While states frequently justify censorship in the name of stability, morality, or national security, such measures often expand conveniently whenever criticism becomes uncomfortable. State control over media occurs when governments directly or indirectly influence editorial content, ownership structures, or public narratives. This may involve state-owned broadcasters, restrictive legislation, financial pressure, or selective access to information. Excessive state influence compromises journalistic neutrality and transforms media into an instrument of political messaging rather than public service. Intimidation against journalists includes threats, harassment, arbitrary detention, legal persecution, and physical violence intended to silence reporting. Such tactics create fear not only among individual journalists but across entire media communities. Even when intimidation does not result in direct censorship, it encourages self-censorship, often the more effective strategy, as it saves authorities the effort of appearing overtly authoritarian.

Modern surveillance technologies have significantly increased the vulnerability of journalists and their sources. Governments and private actors may monitor communications, track digital activity, or deploy spyware to identify confidential sources and suppress investigations. Surveillance undermines press freedom by weakening source protection and discouraging investigative reporting. In many cases, journalists now require cybersecurity knowledge nearly as much as writing ability. Disinformation campaigns involve the deliberate spread of false or manipulated information to mislead the public, influence political outcomes, or damage credibility. Social media platforms and AI-generated content have accelerated the scale and speed at which false narratives can circulate. Such campaigns erode trust in legitimate journalism by creating confusion over what is factual and what is fabricated. Ironically, one of the greatest threats to truth today is not silence, but an overwhelming excess of manufactured noise.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PROTECTION

★ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19)

Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the fundamental principle that every individual has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information through any media, regardless of borders. In essence, Article 19 forms the moral and legal backbone of modern press freedom by recognising access to information as a universal human right rather than a privilege granted by governments. While the declaration itself is not legally binding, it strongly influenced later international treaties and constitutional protections around the world. States often publicly support Article 19, although that support sometimes weakens when journalists begin asking difficult questions.

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights#:~:text=Article%2019,media%20and%20regardless%20of%20frontiers>.

★ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a legally binding international treaty adopted by the United Nations, which expands upon the freedoms outlined in the UDHR. Article 19 of the ICCPR guarantees freedom of expression, including the right to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds. Unlike the UDHR, states that ratify the ICCPR are legally obligated to uphold these rights within their jurisdictions. However, the covenant also allows certain restrictions in specific situations, such as matters involving national security, public order, or public health. The challenge, however, is ensuring that “national security” is not interpreted so broadly that it includes criticism, satire, or investigative journalism that may be politically inconvenient.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

★ Geneva Conventions and Protection of War Correspondents

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols provide important protections for journalists operating in armed conflict zones. War correspondents attached to armed forces are recognised as civilians and are protected under international humanitarian law, as long as they do not directly take part in fighting. Journalists captured during conflict may also receive prisoner-of-war status under certain conditions. These protections recognise the important role journalists play in documenting conflicts, exposing war crimes, and keeping the international community informed. Despite these legal safeguards, conflict reporting remains extraordinarily dangerous, proving once again that international law is often more persuasive on paper than on the battlefield.

[https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/2673\(XXV\)](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/2673(XXV)).

<https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/protection-journalists>

★ UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists

The United Nations adopted the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity to create a coordinated global framework for protecting journalists and combating impunity for crimes committed against them. The plan emphasises prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership between governments, civil society, media organisations, and international institutions. It encourages states to strengthen legal protections, investigate attacks against journalists effectively, and promote safe working environments for media professionals. A major concern addressed by the plan is impunity; the reality that many crimes against journalists are never properly investigated or punished, thereby encouraging further attacks.

<https://www.un.org/en/safety-journalists>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/safety-of-journalists/un-plan-action-safety-journalists-and-issue-impunity>.

★UNESCO's Role in Journalist Safety

UNESCO plays a central role in promoting press freedom and journalist safety globally. As the lead UN agency on freedom of expression issues, UNESCO monitors attacks against journalists, advocates for stronger legal protections, supports training programmes, and raises international awareness regarding threats to media workers. It also coordinates implementation efforts for the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists. Through initiatives such as the observance of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, UNESCO seeks to pressure states into addressing violence against media personnel. In diplomatic terms, this is the international community's way of repeatedly reminding governments that imprisoning or silencing journalists is generally considered unacceptable, regardless of how creatively it is justified.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/safety-journalists/un-plan-action>

JOURNALISM IN CONFLICT ZONES

Journalism in conflict zones remains one of the most dangerous yet essential forms of reporting. War correspondents provide real-time documentation of armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, displacement, and potential violations of international law. Their reporting shapes global understanding of wars that would otherwise be filtered solely through military briefings or state narratives. However, conflict journalism often takes place in environments where truth itself becomes contested territory, and where reporters may be viewed less as observers and more as obstacles by armed actors.

★Challenges Faced by War Correspondents

War correspondents face extreme physical, psychological, and professional challenges while operating in volatile environments. Limited access to reliable information, language barriers, damaged infrastructure, restricted mobility, and rapidly shifting frontlines make accurate reporting extraordinarily difficult. Journalists are also frequently pressured by governments, armed groups, or military authorities seeking favourable coverage. In many cases, reporters must balance speed with verification while working under life-threatening conditions, a process significantly more complicated than the average newsroom demanding updates every fifteen minutes. (Reporters are encouraged to go through this: [The Psychological Hazards of War Journalism - Nieman Reports](#), as well as [A Systematic Review of the Literature on the Mental Health of Journalists Reporting on War, Conflict and Terrorism: Gaps and Recommendations for Future Studies](#) to get a clearer idea.)

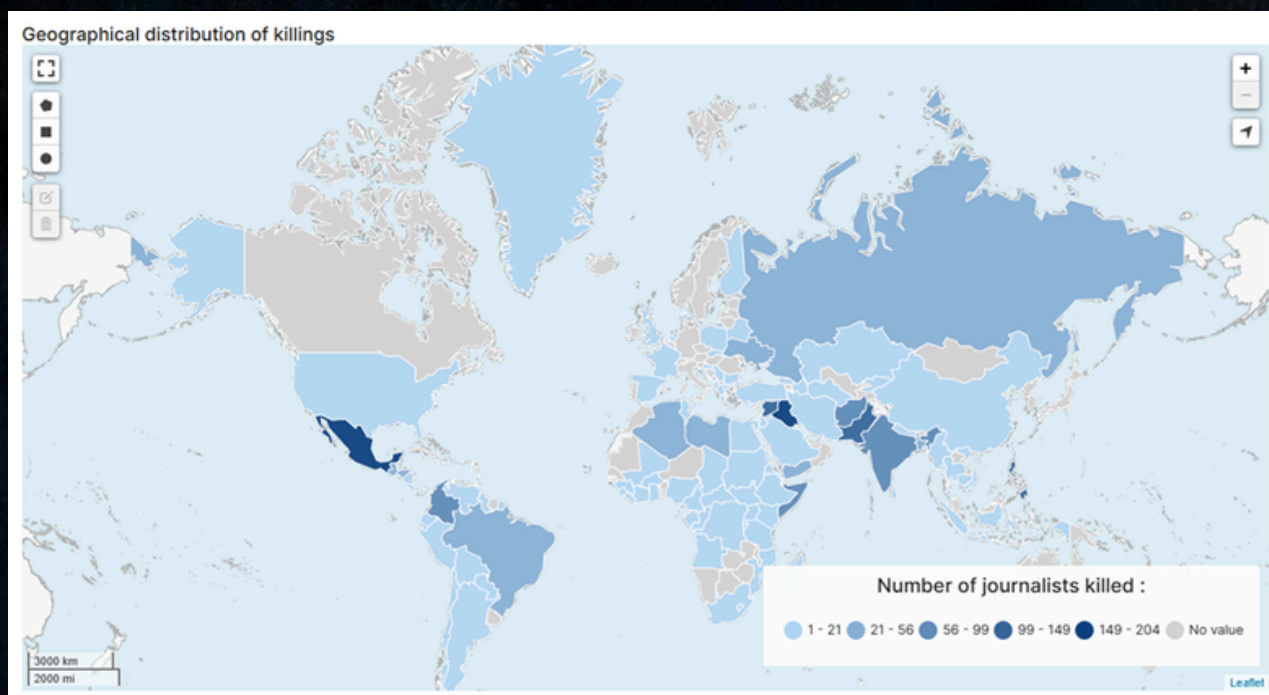
★Targeted Violence

Journalists in conflict zones are often deliberately targeted for their reporting. Armed groups, extremist organisations, militias, and even state actors may perceive independent reporting as threatening to political narratives or military objectives. Attacks may include assassinations, physical assault, intimidation, or deliberate strikes on media facilities. Such violence aims not only to silence

individual journalists but also to discourage broader coverage of sensitive events, effectively turning fear into a weapon against information itself.

★Kidnapping

Kidnapping remains a major threat to journalists operating in unstable regions. Reporters may be abducted by terrorist organisations, criminal networks, militias, or political factions for ransom, propaganda purposes, prisoner exchanges, or intimidation. Foreign correspondents are often viewed as high-value targets due to international attention and potential political leverage. Kidnappings create long-term psychological trauma and contribute to the growing reluctance of media organisations to deploy reporters into high-risk areas.



★Arbitrary Detention

Arbitrary detention involves the unlawful arrest or imprisonment of journalists without due legal process, often under vague accusations such as spreading false information, threatening national security, or supporting opposition movements. In conflict situations, governments may use emergency laws or military powers to justify detentions and suppress unfavourable coverage. Such practices undermine both press freedom and the rule of law, while conveniently ensuring that difficult questions disappear behind prison walls.

★Internet Shutdowns

Governments and armed authorities increasingly use internet shutdowns and communication blackouts during conflicts to control information flow. By restricting internet access, authorities can limit reporting, disrupt coordination among journalists, and prevent evidence of violence or abuses from reaching international audiences. While officially justified as measures to preserve stability or security, shutdowns frequently serve to reduce transparency and hinder independent verification of events on the ground.

★Crossfire Casualties

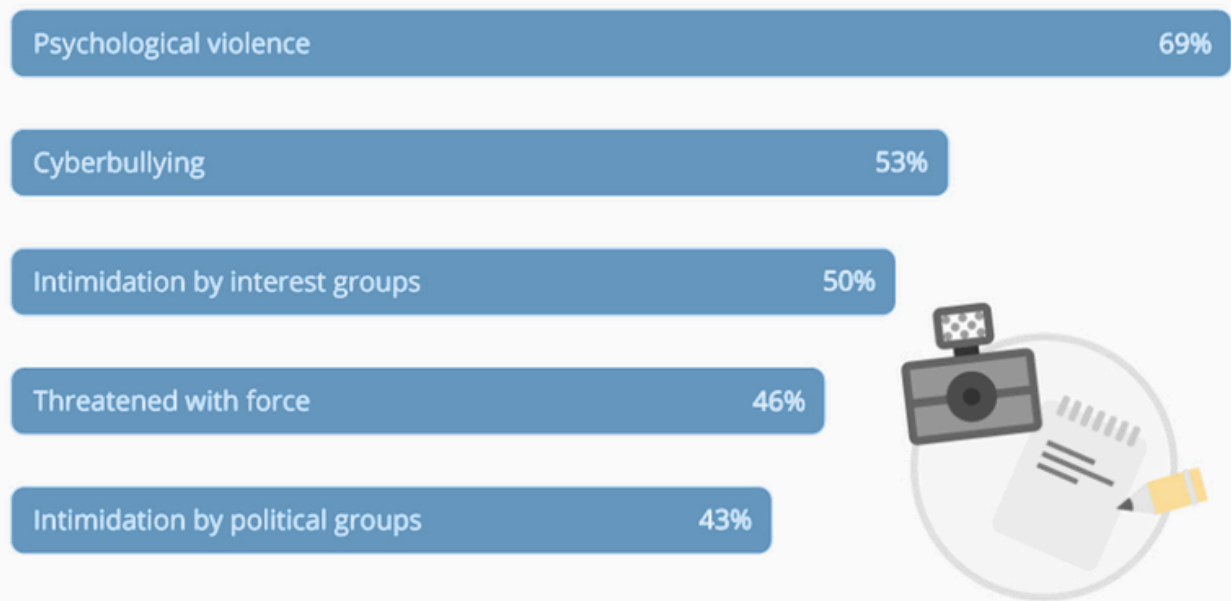
Journalists reporting from active combat zones face constant risk of injury or death from bombings, artillery fire, airstrikes, and armed clashes. Even when clearly identified as press personnel, reporters may become unintended casualties in chaotic and densely populated conflict environments. Advances in warfare technology have not necessarily made reporting safer; if anything, modern urban warfare has blurred distinctions between civilian and military spaces, leaving journalists increasingly vulnerable.

★Embedded Journalism vs Independent Reporting

Embedded journalism refers to reporters travelling and operating alongside military forces with official permission and logistical support. While this provides journalists with direct battlefield access and relative protection, it may also limit editorial independence and create reliance upon military narratives. Independent reporting, by contrast, allows journalists greater autonomy and broader perspectives but exposes them to significantly higher risks without institutional protection. The debate between embedded and independent journalism ultimately reflects the broader tension between access and objectivity; a dilemma with no perfectly comfortable solution.

Journalism Under Threat

% of journalists who experienced following forms of interference in the past 3 years



Source: COE

THREATS POSED BY AI TO PRESS FREEDOM

★Deepfakes and Misinformation

Artificial Intelligence has enabled the creation of highly realistic deepfakes (fabricated audio, video, or images) designed to imitate real individuals and events. Such content can spread misinformation rapidly, manipulate public opinion, and undermine confidence in legitimate reporting. During elections, conflicts, or crises, deepfakes may be weaponised to incite panic, discredit journalists, or fabricate political statements. The danger lies not only in people believing false information, but eventually doubting authentic evidence as well.

★AI-Generated Propaganda

AI technologies can now generate persuasive articles, videos, images, and social media campaigns at a massive scale and minimal cost. Governments, political groups, and malicious actors may use these tools to flood digital spaces with coordinated propaganda, distort public discourse, and amplify polarisation. Unlike traditional propaganda operations, AI-generated content can be produced continuously and tailored to specific audiences with alarming precision. Humanity has essentially automated misinformation with the same efficiency it once reserved for customer service emails. (Further research: [NATO's approach to counter information threats](#) | [NATO Topic](#))

★Surveillance Technologies Targeting Journalists

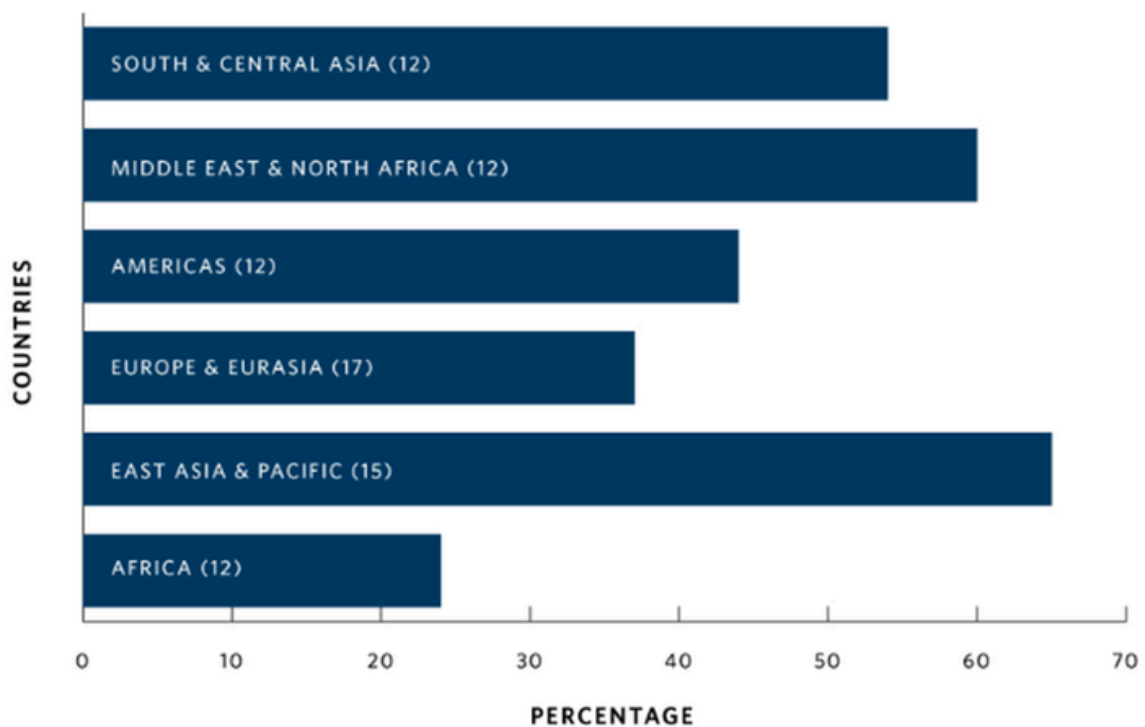
Advanced surveillance systems powered by AI pose significant threats to investigative journalism and source confidentiality. Governments and private entities may use AI-driven monitoring tools to track journalists' communications, online activity, and movement patterns. Such surveillance discourages whistleblowers from coming forward and weakens the ability of journalists to conduct sensitive investigations safely. In effect, technology intended for security purposes can easily become a mechanism for suppressing scrutiny.

★ Automated Censorship

AI systems are increasingly used by governments and digital platforms to detect, remove, or suppress online content automatically. While such systems may help moderate harmful material, they can also be used to silence legitimate journalism under broad or politically motivated standards. Automated censorship tools often lack contextual understanding, resulting in the over-removal of content related to conflict reporting, political dissent, or human rights documentation. Algorithms, unfortunately, are not especially renowned for appreciating nuance.

FIGURE 1

Percentage of Countries by Region Adopting AI Surveillance



NOTE: The numbers in parentheses indicate how many countries per region have adopted AI surveillance.

★Manipulated Narratives During Conflicts

AI-driven disinformation campaigns can manipulate narratives during armed conflicts by spreading fabricated evidence, false casualty reports, or misleading footage. Such tactics confuse audiences, intensify polarisation, and complicate independent verification efforts. Competing parties in conflicts increasingly weaponise digital media to control perception alongside military operations. Modern warfare is therefore fought not only with weapons and territory, but also with algorithms, hashtags, and strategically edited videos. (Further research: [StratCom](#) | [NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence Riga, Latvia](#))

★Erosion of Public Trust in Media

One of the most significant consequences of AI-driven misinformation is the gradual erosion of public trust in journalism itself. As fabricated content becomes increasingly sophisticated, audiences may struggle to distinguish between authentic reporting and manipulated information. This creates an environment where factual journalism is dismissed as biased or false, weakening democratic discourse and accountability. Ironically, when everything can be questioned, even verified truth begins to lose authority (a situation highly beneficial to those who prefer operating without scrutiny).

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND POLICY DIRECTIONS

Media houses have a far greater role to play in protecting journalists than simply issuing statements after an attack has already taken place. In conflict zones, especially, organisations must prioritise safety infrastructure as seriously as they prioritise coverage itself. This includes hostile-environment training, emergency evacuation protocols, digital security systems, and access to psychological support for reporters working under extreme stress. Many outlets are also beginning to rely more heavily on encrypted communication and collaborative journalism networks, where investigations are shared across multiple organisations across countries. The logic is fairly simple: if a story exists in ten newsrooms instead of one, silencing a single journalist becomes far less effective. Another important step is strengthening editorial standards in the age of AI and disinformation. Media houses increasingly need specialised fact-checking teams, AI-detection tools, and clearer verification procedures before publishing sensitive material, particularly during conflicts where manipulated videos and fabricated narratives spread rapidly online. Several organisations now follow what is known as conflict-sensitive reporting, which focuses on careful language, contextual reporting, and avoiding sensationalism that may worsen tensions or spread panic. In an era where information travels instantly, and corrections travel considerably slower, accuracy has become just as important as speed, if not more. Ultimately, protecting press freedom cannot rely solely on symbolic condemnations after every incident. If governments, armed groups, or corporations face no real consequences for suppressing journalism, then statements about “supporting a free press” begin to sound less like principles and more like very polished PR material.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. How can international law distinguish between legitimate AI content moderation and politically motivated automated censorship without giving governments loopholes to suppress dissenting journalism?
2. Should media houses be legally required to disclose when AI tools are used in news production, editing, translation, or visual generation during conflict reporting?
3. In situations where deepfake technology is used to fabricate evidence during armed conflicts, who should hold primary responsibility for verification; governments, media organisations, or digital platforms?
4. How can freelance war correspondents and local journalists, who often lack institutional protection, gain access to the same digital security and hostile-environment training available to major international media outlets?
5. To what extent should technology companies be held accountable when their recommendation algorithms amplify disinformation, extremist propaganda, or manipulated conflict narratives?
6. How can conflict-sensitive journalism avoid spreading panic or polarisation without becoming overly cautious to the point of self-censorship?
7. In current times, where fabricated content is increasingly believable, how can media organisations rebuild public trust without encouraging audiences to depend solely on state-approved “verified” information sources?

CASE STUDIES

a) Russia-Ukraine Conflict:

The Russia-Ukraine War has become one of the clearest modern examples of both the dangers faced by journalists and the evolving measures media organisations have adopted to protect them. International organisations such as Reuters, Associated Press, and Reporters Without Borders greatly expanded hostile-environment training, battlefield safety measures, and digital security support for journalists working near conflict zones. Reporters were increasingly provided with ballistic protection, encrypted communication tools, satellite devices, and specialised security advisers. This reflects how modern war reporting now often resembles operating in a high-risk military environment rather than a traditional newsroom assignment. ([Three years into Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, nearly 150 journalists attacked | RSF](#))

A particular development was the rise of cross-border collaborative journalism and emergency press freedom networks. Following repeated attacks on journalists and media infrastructure, organisations such as RSF established Press Freedom Centres in Ukrainian cities like Lviv to provide safety equipment, legal assistance, evacuation coordination, and psychological support. Media houses also began sharing sensitive investigations across multiple international outlets to ensure continuity of reporting if journalists were injured, detained, or killed. This reflects the growing use of what is often termed the “distributed reporting model”, the idea that journalism becomes harder to suppress when information exists simultaneously across several organisations and jurisdictions. (<https://rsf.org/en/list-journalists-and-media-outlets-victim-russia-s-war-ukraine-keeps-growing>)

The conflict also highlighted increasing concerns regarding the deliberate targeting of journalists and media-linked infrastructure. Investigations by RSF and other organisations documented repeated strikes on hotels and civilian locations known to host journalists near frontline areas, raising serious concerns regarding violations of international humanitarian law. The 2024 missile strike on the Sapphire Hotel in Kramatorsk, where a Reuters team was stationed, intensified debates surrounding the classification of journalists as protected

civilians under the Geneva Conventions. (Important research link: [Disinform, amplify and intimidate: attacking press freedom online | RSF](#))

b) Israel-Palestine Conflict:

The Israel-Hamas War has demonstrated how modern conflicts are fought simultaneously on battlefields and across digital information ecosystems. Media organisations covering Gaza and Israel faced not only physical dangers but also immense pressure arising from propaganda campaigns, disinformation, online harassment, and accusations of political bias from multiple sides. In such an environment, several major outlets strengthened verification journalism practices, including geolocation analysis, satellite-image verification, metadata examination, and open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques to independently confirm footage and casualty claims before publication. The increasing use of these methods reflects the growing importance of forensic verification in an era where manipulated content spreads faster than formal reporting. Media houses also adopted stronger safety and continuity measures for local journalists operating within Gaza, particularly because international access remained heavily restricted. Organisations such as Al Jazeera, BBC, and various independent investigative platforms increasingly relied upon local reporters, decentralised reporting teams, cloud-based evidence storage, and remote editorial coordination. This reduced dependence on vulnerable physical newsrooms and ensured that documentation of events could continue despite communications blackouts and attacks on infrastructure. The conflict also intensified discussions

a) surrounding the “weaponisation of narratives”; the strategic use of social media, emotional imagery, and algorithmic amplification to influence global public opinion during wartime.

(<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/17506352261424833>)

Another major issue emerging from the conflict was the growing concern regarding journalist targeting and protection under international law. Press freedom organisations repeatedly raised alarms over journalist casualties, attacks on media buildings, and restrictions on movement and communications. In response, international media coalitions and advocacy groups increased pressure for independent investigations, stronger humanitarian protections for reporters, and clearer accountability mechanisms under international law.

The situation demonstrated that protecting journalism in modern conflicts no longer concerns only physical safety; it now equally involves safeguarding digital evidence, communication systems, and public trust amidst overwhelming volumes of competing narratives. .

(<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/23/israel-is-deliberately-targeting-journalists-in-gaza-experts>)

c) Myanmar:

Following the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, independent journalism faced severe repression through arrests, internet shutdowns, surveillance, and the forced closure of media outlets. In response, many journalists and media organisations adapted through what is now widely termed “exile journalism”; the continuation of reporting operations from outside national borders while relying on encrypted communication and remote networks inside the country. Independent outlets increasingly shifted operations to neighbouring countries while continuing to publish through digital platforms, VPN-supported access, and anonymous contributor systems.

Media organisations also placed far greater emphasis on digital resilience and cybersecurity. Journalists were trained in encrypted messaging, metadata protection, anonymous sourcing, and anti-surveillance practices to reduce risks posed by military monitoring systems. International press freedom organisations and donor networks supported independent Burmese media through emergency funding, cloud-hosting infrastructure, relocation assistance, and digital safety programmes. The Myanmar case, therefore, became an important example of how press freedom in the digital age increasingly depends not only on legal protections but also on technological adaptability. In environments where traditional newsrooms can be raided overnight, the survival of journalism often depends upon whether information networks themselves can remain mobile, decentralised, and difficult to silence.

MEDIA IDEOLOGY AND PERCIEVED BIAS IN CONFLICT REPORTING

Media organisations are often viewed through ideological or political lenses. International media outlets and journalists are frequently described using terms such as centre-left, liberal, progressive, pro-human rights, pro-civil liberties, and supportive of press freedom. While these labels are broad generalisations and may not apply uniformly to every journalist or institution, understanding them is important for analysing how media narratives are shaped and perceived during conflicts.

A **centre-left** orientation generally refers to support for moderate social reform, welfare policies, democratic institutions, and regulated markets while still operating within a capitalist framework. In journalism, centre-left outlets are often associated with a stronger emphasis on humanitarian concerns, institutional accountability, and social justice issues.

The term **liberal**, in a political and media context, typically refers to support for individual freedoms, constitutional rights, freedom of expression, democratic governance, and protection of civil liberties. Liberal media institutions are often associated with advocacy for transparency, protection of journalists, and defence of minority rights.

Similarly, **progressive** viewpoints advocate social reform and changes aimed at reducing inequality and expanding protections for marginalised communities. Progressive journalism may place greater focus on discrimination, humanitarian crises, war crimes, and systemic abuses of power.

Media organisations described as **pro-human rights** generally prioritise reporting on internationally recognised rights and freedoms, including civilian protections during armed conflict, freedom of expression, access to information, and accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

The term **pro-civil liberties** refers to support for fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, privacy rights, and freedom of assembly. In conflict reporting, this often translates into opposition to censorship, internet shutdowns, mass surveillance, arbitrary detention of journalists, and restrictions on independent reporting.

Being **supportive of press freedom** refers to advocacy for journalists and media organisations to operate independently, free from censorship, intimidation, violence, or political interference. This includes support for legal protections for journalists, safe access to conflict zones, and resistance against the suppression of investigative reporting.

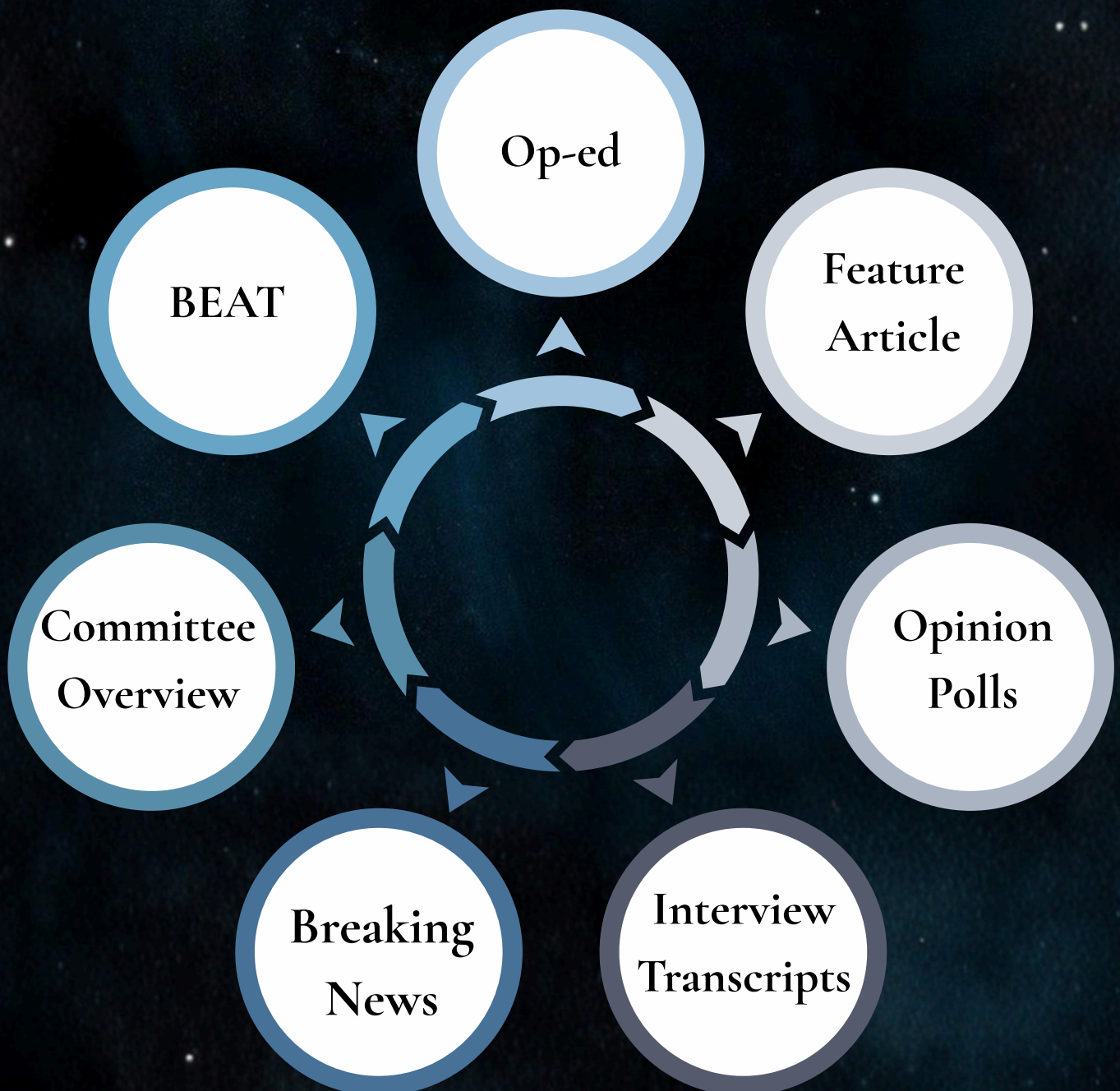
Finally, media outlets described as **critical of authoritarian governments** are those that scrutinise governments accused of concentrating power, suppressing dissent, restricting media freedoms, or limiting political opposition. During conflicts, such criticism may lead governments or armed groups to accuse journalists of bias, foreign influence, propaganda, or involvement in information warfare.

These ideological perceptions become especially contentious during armed conflicts and geopolitical crises. Governments, political actors, and armed groups may use accusations of ideological bias to justify censorship, restrictions on foreign media, detention of journalists, or the labeling of independent reporting as “disinformation”. In the age of AI-generated propaganda, deepfakes, algorithmic amplification, and digital misinformation campaigns, the distinction between legitimate journalism, political bias, and deliberate disinformation has become increasingly difficult to navigate. Reporters should therefore examine how media ideology, editorial orientation, state narratives, and emerging AI technologies collectively shape public trust in journalism and influence access to credible information in conflict zones.

Agenda Item 2:
Covering the conference

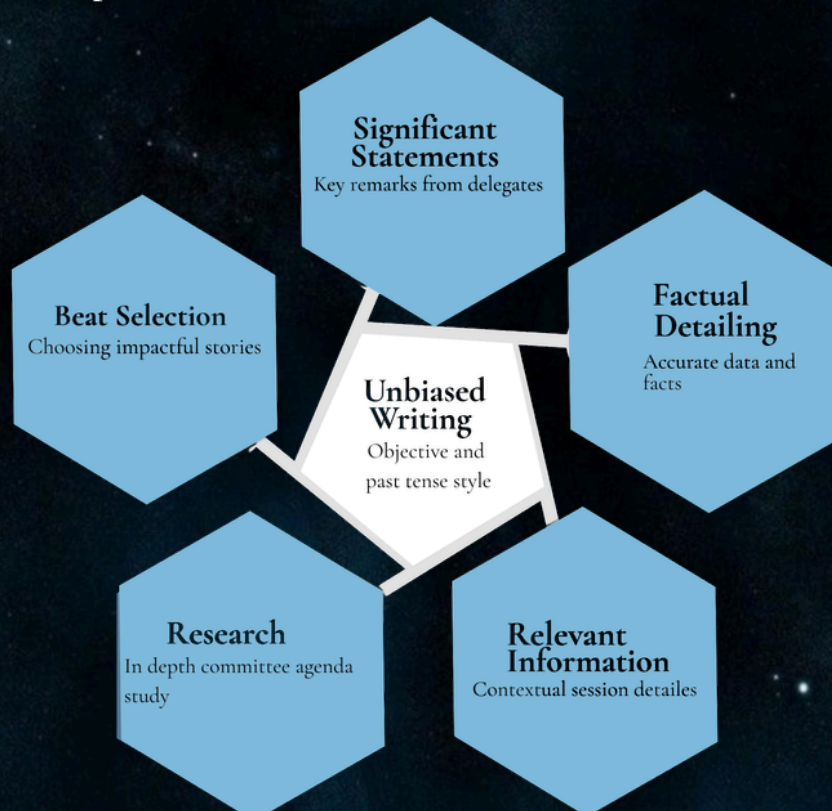
TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS

The heart of journalism lies in observing and articulating thoughts and information. Articles written by reporters can be categorised into different types to highlight the intent, format and objective of each type of article. While the following types of submissions are the most common types of articles, there may be a few changes or a new type that can be introduced during the conference.



Beat-Based Articles (300-350 words)

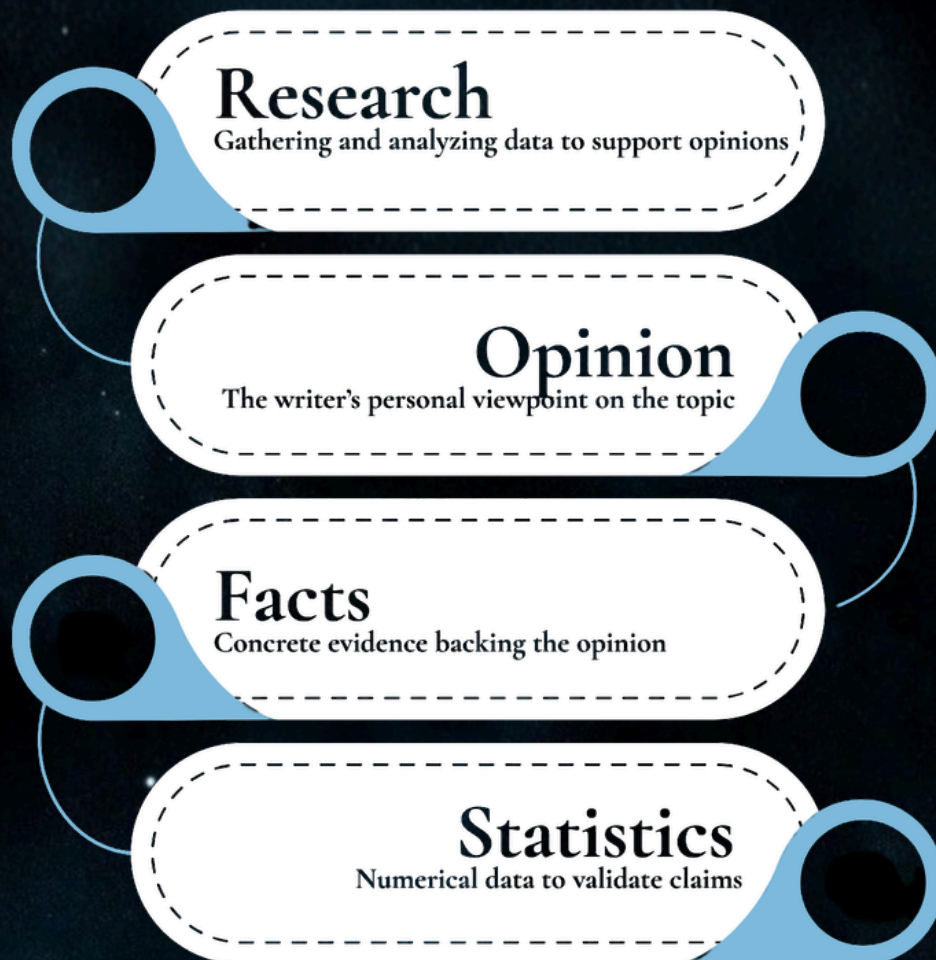
A beat-based article typically revolves around the significant statements made by a delegate in a committee, supported by factual detailing. A beat-based article is about one particular, specific story (or 'beat'). The art of choosing a 'beat' is one that you will learn with experience. In essence, it can be about anything; a solution proposed and its counter-arguments or even a statement or an accusation made by the delegate and responses of other delegates. While you can provide facts based upon your research to provide a premise for the beat, opinions cannot be present in this article.



Opinionated Editorial (600-800 words)

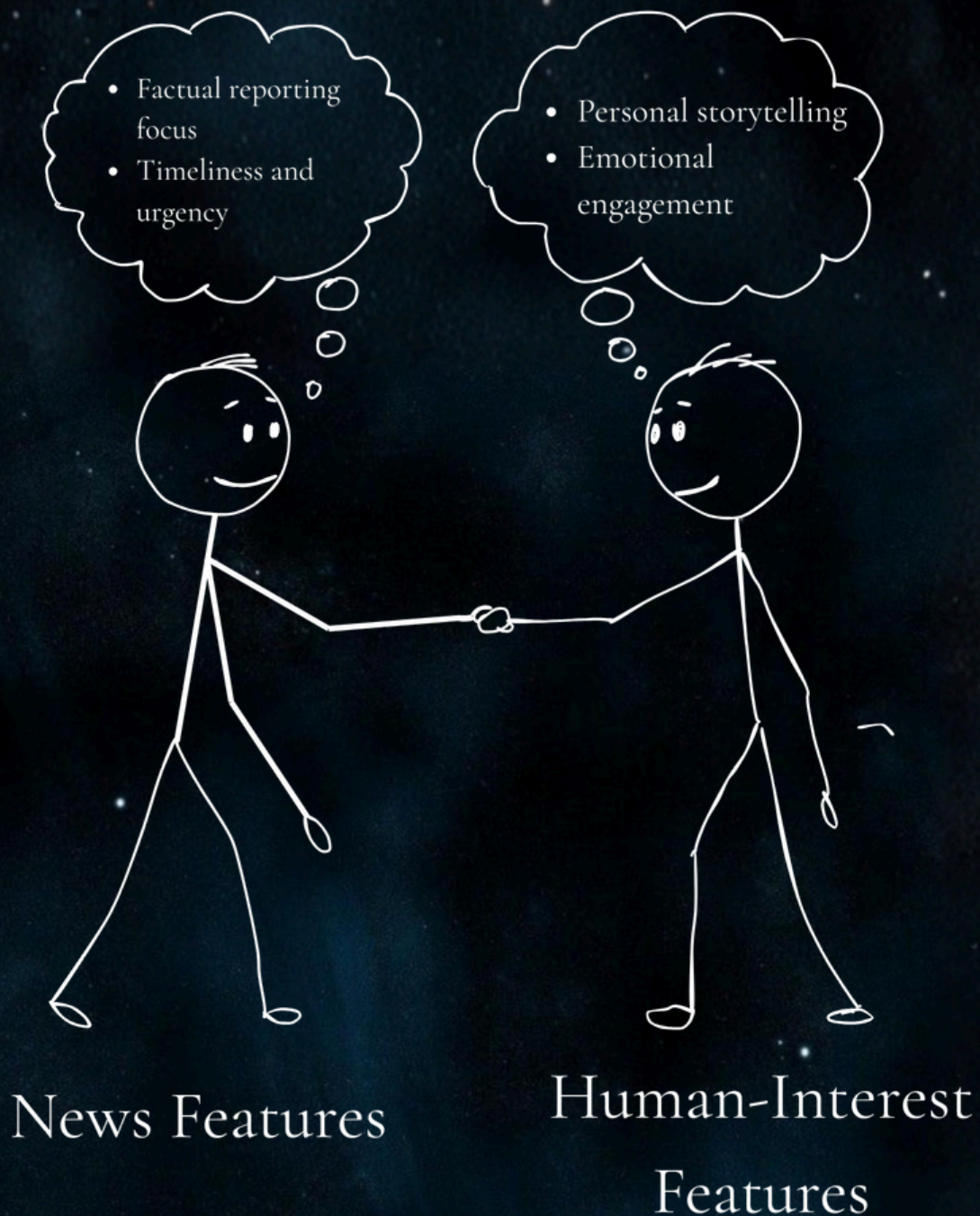
An Opinionated editorial (Op-Ed) is an article that appears opposite the editorial page of practically all newspapers. This is one such article where the writer gets an opportunity to pen down his/her perspective on the agenda. The article must be written in third person or a narrative style. You have to write about your opinion and also tell the reader why you think so with the help of concrete facts and statistics. It is, in essence, a highly educated opinion. Always remember that an opinion that is not supported by arguments or facts is only a thought or sometimes propoganda. Strong Op-Eds often examine geopolitical

policy failures, ethical concerns, or ideological contradictions while maintaining coherence, structure, and diplomatic language.



Feature Article (150-700 words)

This is the only submission where the reporters can explore any format of creative writing. It just has to adhere to the agenda of the respective committee. A creative piece can be a satirical piece, poem, diary entry, letter, short story, or any format you desire, as long as the content is original and absolutely your own individual brainchild. Writers are encouraged to incorporate real-world context, background, and, where appropriate, documented accounts or representative experiences to build a compelling narrative. A strong feature article places the reader within the issue itself, highlighting its urgency, complexity, and broader implications. It should subtly reflect why the topic matters globally, without referencing the committee or its proceedings.



Opinion Poll (300-400 words)

For this submission, reporters are expected to formulate a well-researched and relevant question that may be directed towards the entire committee or a selected group of delegates. The question should be designed to encourage delegates to express their stance on a particular issue, policy proposal, ideological divide, or development related to the agenda. Delegates may then choose the option that most accurately reflects their position. Once responses have been collected, reporters are required to analyse the results and draw logical conclusions based on observable patterns and data.

Journalists are encouraged to incorporate graphs, pie charts, bar diagrams, percentages, or other forms of statistical representation to present the findings more effectively and make the analysis more engaging and comprehensive. While the submission allows room for interpretation and inference, all conclusions must remain grounded in the actual responses gathered from delegates. The overall article should remain clear, analytical, agenda-focused, and supported by meaningful observations rather than assumptions.



Interview Transcript (400-700 words)

The Interview Transcript submission provides reporters with the opportunity to directly interact with delegates from their assigned reporting committee and gain deeper insight into the discussions taking place within the conference. Unlike regular reporting, interviews are intended to explore perspectives, clarify statements made during committee sessions, and examine viewpoints that may not have been fully expressed during formal debate.

For this submission, reporters are expected to select a delegate from their respective committee and conduct a formal interview based on a topic relevant to the committee agenda, policy discussions, speeches, or notable statements made during proceedings. The purpose of the interview is to encourage meaningful dialogue while allowing journalists to better understand the delegate's stance, reasoning, and proposed solutions. Interviews will be conducted in a separate designated room under the supervision of the Executive Board. Journalists are expected to maintain professionalism, diplomatic courtesy, and respectful conduct throughout the interaction. Questions should be clear, concise, and connected through a logical flow of questioning rather than appearing random or disconnected. Follow-up questions are encouraged wherever necessary to gain clarification or further detail. Reporters may record the audio of the interaction solely for transcription purposes and to ensure factual accuracy. However, while responses may be summarised for clarity, the original intent and essence of the delegate's statements must remain preserved. Personal analysis, interpretation, or commentary from the journalist should not be inserted into the transcript.

The final submission must be written in a conversational interview format. For example:

International Press (IP): Question asked by the reporter

Delegate: Response provided by the delegate

IP: Follow-up question

Delegate: Response

Reporters are expected to include a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 question-and-answer exchanges within a single interview transcript.

While multiple interviews may be conducted, participants are generally expected to submit only one final transcript. In exceptional cases where two interviews are submitted together, both interviews must revolve around the same line of questioning or issue, with each interview containing approximately 3 to 4 response pairs. (Note: If a journalist chooses to interview two delegates, it will be treated as 2 separate interviews and averaged to reflect accordingly in the marking scheme.)

Interview setup

Schedule Interviews

Maintain focus

Uphold courtesy

Insightful information

Breaking News Report (50-70 words)

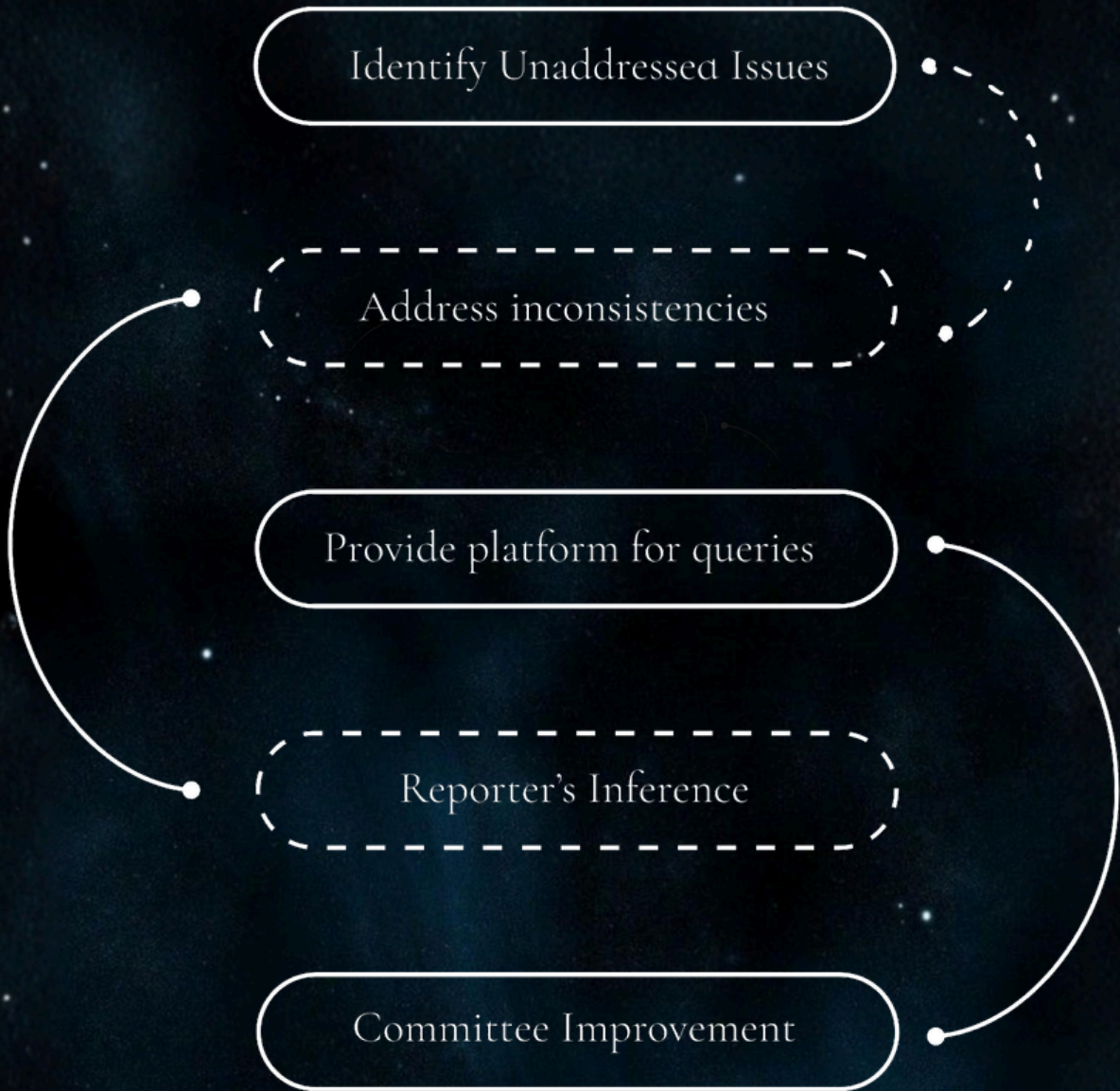
A Breaking News Report is a short and impactful piece designed to capture major developments, dramatic exchanges, surprising statements, or sudden shifts within committee proceedings as they happen. The focus of the report should be on immediacy, significance, and reader engagement rather than extensive detail. These reports must remain concise, factual, and attention-grabbing while clearly explaining what occurred and why it matters. Creativity in wording is encouraged; however, accuracy and clarity should never be compromised. Breaking News submissions are typically centred around a single noteworthy moment intended to instantly capture the reader's attention. (Further details will be explained during orientation).

Press Conference

The Press Conference is a live and interactive journalistic exercise that provides reporters with the opportunity to directly question delegates regarding their policies, speeches, statements, contradictions, or actions within committee proceedings. Unlike other submissions, the Press Conference is not a written submission and will instead be assessed by the Executive Board during the session itself. Prior to the Press Conference, reporters will be required to submit the list of questions they intend to ask. These questions must be submitted by the deadline communicated by the Executive Board, typically on the night before the session takes place. Once submitted, questions cannot be altered or replaced under any circumstances.

Questions may be framed based on committee proceedings, public statements made by delegates, observable policy inconsistencies, opinion poll findings, or broader agenda-related developments. Reporters may also draw inspiration from their research and observations throughout the conference. However, if a journalist has previously conducted a private interview with a delegate for the Interview Transcript submission, questions during the Press Conference cannot be based on statements made exclusively within that interview. While the same delegate may still be questioned during the Press Conference, the interview itself must remain independent and confidential in nature. If a statement or claim made by a reporter is challenged, the burden of proof shall rest upon the

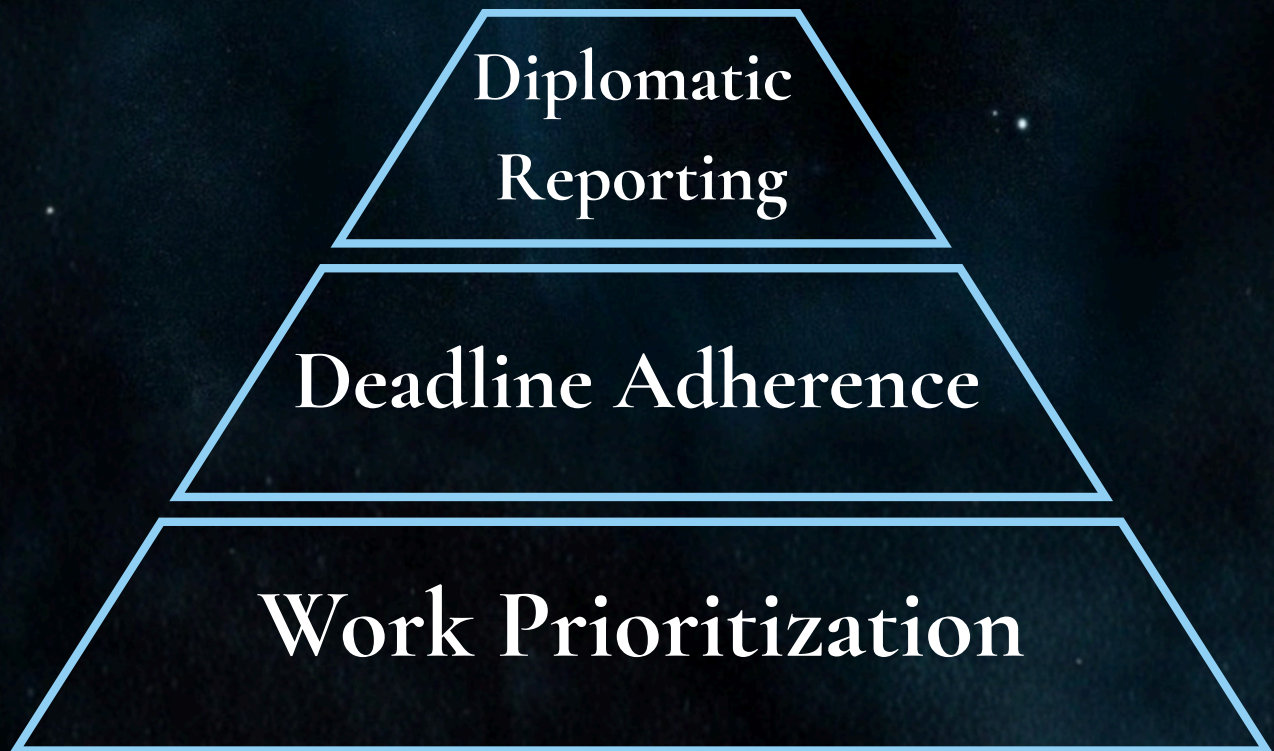
journalist; therefore, all questions must be supported by credible research and verified information.



GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALISTS

Journalists play a crucial role in documenting committee proceedings with accuracy, professionalism, and credibility. Every article submitted must maintain high standards of grammar, formatting, factual reporting, diplomacy, and originality. The following consolidated guidelines summarise the essential rules and expectations for members of the International Press.

Professional Conduct Hierarchy.



Grammar, Language & Writing Style

- ★ All reporters are required to use British English (UK English).
- ★ Articles must be grammatically accurate and free from spelling or punctuation errors.
- ★ Maintain a consistent tense throughout the article, preferably past tense.
- ★ Sentences should be properly punctuated using: Full stops, Commas, Apostrophes, Semicolons, Hyphens/dashes wherever necessary.
- ★ Avoid casual or informal language.
- ★ Contractions should not be used in formal journalistic writing. Use:
 - do not instead of don't
 - cannot instead of can't
 - will not instead of won't

Formatting Guidelines

All submissions must follow the prescribed formatting rules:

- ★ Font: Times New Roman
- ★ Alignment: Justified
- ★ Title: 14 pt, Bold
- ★ Byline: 13 pt, Italics
- ★ Body: 12 pt
- ★ Bylines are mandatory for all submissions.

A byline should:

- ★ Be 1-2 sentences long
- ★ Summarise the article briefly
- ★ Include:
 - Reporter's name
 - Portfolio/news agency
 - Committee
 - Brief article summary

Example:

Sudakshina Ghosh, Press Correspondent from Reuters, reporting from the World Health Organization (WHO), interviews the delegate of the People's Republic of China regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

- ★ Use only standard abbreviations and acronyms.
- ★ Acronyms should be introduced only after writing the full form once.
- ★ Do not place periods between letters. (Correct: UNHRC, Incorrect: U.N.H.R.C.)
- ★ Write the full name first, followed by the abbreviation in brackets. Example: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Names, Titles & Diplomatic Courtesy

- ★ Use official UN-recognised country and organisation names.
- ★ Avoid shortening official titles casually. (Example: Secretary-General and Chairperson SHOULD NOT become Sec Gen and Chair)
- ★ When referring to delegates
 - Do not refer to them by personal names.
 - Refer to them using their country/profile designation.

C.Example: The Delegate of the Republic of India highlighted the mass influx of refugees following the Rohingya Crisis.

- ★ Maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times.
- ★ Any criticism or negative statements should be expressed subtly and professionally.
- ★ Avoid offensive or inflammatory wording.

Numbers & Numerical Formatting

- ★ Numbers below 10 should generally be written in words. Example: five delegates
- ★ Numbers beyond 100 should preferably appear in numerals.
- ★ Use commas appropriately in large figures. Example: 10,000
- ★ Roman numerals should only be used when part of the original title/reference.

Quotations & Punctuation

- ★ Use quotation marks properly and only where necessary.
- ★ Ellipses(...) must be used carefully before or after quotations.
- ★ If a quotation ends with an ellipsis, follow it with a full stop to indicate completion.

Text Formatting & Style

- ★ Follow proper capitalisation rules.
- ★ Italics should be used for:
 1. Publications
 2. Sources
 3. Print materials
- ★ Bold text should be used carefully and only when necessary.

References, Citations & Credibility

- ★ All factual claims must be supported using reliable and verifiable sources.
- ★ Proper citations are mandatory.
- ★ Citation style to be followed: OSCOLA 4th Edition.
- ★ Sources should ideally be cited as footnotes.

Plagiarism Checks

Before submission, conduct plagiarism checks using approved websites and attach the generated reports/PDFs alongside article submissions.

Approved platforms include:

- Duplichecker
- SmallSEOTools Plagiarism Checker
- ZeroGPT
- GPTZero

(Mention the platform used; the Executive Board will be double-checking.)

Plagiarism Policy

- ★ Only original work should be submitted.
- ★ Plagiarised work is unacceptable and may face strict disciplinary action.

- ★ AI-generated or copied material without proper attribution is prohibited.

Deadlines & Time Management

- ★ Deadlines are extremely important.
- ★ Timely submission reflects professionalism and discipline.
- ★ Accuracy is essential, but punctuality must not be ignored.

Committee Reporting Conduct

- ★ Stick strictly to the committee timeline.
- ★ Historical committees must remain historically accurate.

Avoid procedural MUN jargon such as:

- “Moderated caucus”
- “Unmoderated caucus”

Instead use:

- Formal debate
- Informal debate
- Deliberations
- Discussions

Do not mention:

- Lunch breaks
- Board motions
- Internal Executive Board proceedings

Images & Media Usage

- ★ Relevant pictures must accompany assigned articles wherever required.
- ★ Proper source/credit must be given to the photographer or source using Word textbox features.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must follow the format:

Portfolio_Type of Submission_Committee_Day

Example: Reuters_Beat_UNCSW_Day1

Marking Scheme for Journalists

Journalists may be evaluated on:

- Grammar and vocabulary
- Structure and formatting
- Content quality and creativity
- Research and diplomacy
- Readability and relevance
- Press conference performance
- Punctuality and word limits
- Professional demeanour

Demeanour includes:

- ★ Presence in committee
- ★ Dress code adherence
- ★ Behaviour and professionalism

Journalism must remain factual, credible, professional, and responsible at all times. Reporters should always prioritise accuracy, maintain neutrality, and uphold diplomatic decorum while covering committee proceedings. Whenever in doubt, journalists are encouraged to approach the Executive Board of the International Press for clarification or guidance.

Note: Samples for all articles will be provided once the Communication Groups are created.

TENTATIVE FLOW OF DEBATE

DAY 1

Opening ceremony

Committee Session 1

Open floor/Moderated Caucus (depending on the committee's decision)

Reporters disperse to their assigned Reporting Committees (assignments will be informed beforehand)

Lunch break alongside reporting respective committees

Continued reporting throughout the remaining committee sessions of the day

Submissions due: Beat Article and Feature Article

DAY 2

Committee Session 2

Open floor/Moderated Caucus (depending on the committee's decision)

Reporters disperse to their assigned Reporting Committees (assignments will be informed beforehand)

Lunch break alongside reporting respective committees

Interview segment

Interviews may be conducted at any suitable time during the day
Further details regarding designated venues and proceedings will be communicated

Continued reporting throughout the remaining committee sessions of the day

Submissions due: Op-ed Article, Opinioted Poll and Interview Transcripts

DAY 3

OR

**Press
Conference
Session**

Reporters may work on their final pending article(s), overview article(s), or breaking news coverage for the final day

The Committee may proceed with an open floor/Unmoderated Caucus, as decided at the time

**Lunch
break**

**Closing
ceremony**

Submissions due: Committee Overview