



CHAPTER THREE

INTERNATIONAL PRESS DELEGATION

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS DELEGATION?

The International Press Delegation (IPD) is a unique simulation offered by very few Model UN programs that allows students to fill the role of reporters as they work to produce AMUN's Conference newspaper, the *AMUN Chronicle* and keep participants informed about the functions of the United Nations.

While an "International Press Delegation" does not exist at the United Nations in the way it does at AMUN, hundreds of reporters from news agencies around the world cover the work of the United Nations, making information available to people living in most places on Earth. By doing so, the members of the international press corps assist the United Nations in fulfilling one of its fundamental objectives: the dissemination of information about the United Nations and world events to all people.

Recognizing the critical role the press plays at the United Nations, AMUN's IPD simulation has three major goals:

- To expand the education experience for students with an interest or background in strategic communications and journalism by simulating the public affairs environment at the United Nations.
- To keep all AMUN participants informed about newsworthy events from each simulation with social media and a high-quality newspaper (the *AMUN Chronicle*) each day of Conference.
- To provide representatives the opportunity to present their country's positions through press releases and press conferences and to gain familiarity with the challenges of strategic communications.
- AMUN Secretariat Members will serve in the following roles:
 - The IPD Director, who is responsible for overseeing all IPD activities and for the content of the published *AMUN Chronicle*.
 - The Publisher, who is responsible for taking the articles and laying them out into the template for the *AMUN Chronicle*.
 - Editors, who are responsible for helping Reporters plan each issue of the *AMUN Chronicle* and write their articles, lead press conferences, assist representatives with submitting press releases and press conference requests.

WHAT DO IPD REPORTERS DO?

Participants will be issued specific press credentials that will identify them as IPD reporters to the AMUN Secretariat and representatives. Each IPD reporter will be assigned to at least one beat, which is a specific simulation (e.g., Security Council, ICJ, General Assembly Third Committee) that they will have primary responsibility for reporting on throughout the Conference. Reporters are assigned to beats to ensure consistent and thorough reporting to the rest of Conference and encourage a deeper understanding of how each committee functions for representatives and students. All IPD reporters will submit content covering their assigned beats for each issue of the *AMUN Chronicle*.

This content will include a short ticker story for their beat and, depending on the newsworthy events in a committee, reporters may also submit a committee feature (100-125 words) or a general feature (200

words). Reporters will also type their own content, participate in peer review and assist with the production and distribution of the paper as needed. Additionally, reporters will be asked to schedule tweets via the @AmunIPD Twitter handle and be assigned to cover press conferences and other Conference events, such as interviews with guest speakers.

Ticker stories will offer brief coverage of high-level events in a committee. Each simulation should have a ticker story in every edition of the *AMUN Chronicle*. Tickers should be no more than 50 words and must be tightly constructed and edited to convey the main point in a brief space. A ticker story for General Assembly Second Committee might read as the following:

Although GA 2nd continues debate concerning revised guidelines for alleviating sovereign debt crises, several representatives from Latin America seek more impactful regulation to mitigate capital flows to violent extremists.

General features will cover the primary, newsworthy event that occurred on a reporter's beat. When drafting features, reporters should investigate the motivations for and representatives involved in the notable event. By conducting thorough interviews and seeking accurate primary and secondary sources, features can clarify the various functions of the United Nations. Reporters are advised to build in-depth relationships with representatives on his or her beat. Each feature should include two to three quotations from different representatives and state their first and last name. To assist in planning and creating articles, fellow reporters and AMUN Secretariat members will provide feedback on Reporters' content. As part of the planning and editorial process, the IPD staff will advise on whether a committee will be covered by a feature article or general feature .

The content of each edition of the *AMUN Chronicle* is set in a budget meeting that reporters attend in their assigned work space. At each budget meeting, reporters will discuss with the IPD Secretariat which articles they will draft for the next edition of the *AMUN Chronicle* and the type and length of article(s). Reporters' content will be published to all participants at Conference, therefore accurate reporting is critical to ensure unbiased information about countries' positions and committees' work is disseminated.

PUBLISHING THE AMUN CHRONICLE

Reporters are allotted at least two and half hours to draft, edit and submit content for each edition of the *AMUN Chronicle*. Although subject to change, the deadline to submit content for Sunday evening's *AMUN Chronicle* resembles the following:

- 5:30 p.m. Reporters will submit a word-processed, preliminary copy of content (including tickers, features and tweets as needed) for the third issue.
- 5:30–8:00 p.m. Reporters receive edits from peers and editors, investigate his or her beat in anticipation of their articles for the fourth issue, and revise content.
- 8:00 p.m. Reporters submit final copy of content and attend the budget meeting to discuss their assignment with AMUN



Secretariat for the fourth issue, share ideas for feature articles and review notable events on their beats.

- 8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. IPD Secretariat will commence final review of content and Publisher will lay out copy of the AMUN Chronicle for duplication by Delegate Services.
- 9:45 p.m. Once duplication has been completed, IPD personnel and any other available Secretariat members will collate and distribute the Chronicle.

PRE-CONFERENCE PREPARATION

To prepare for conference, reporters will be provided with an IPD *Procedures and Style Guide*. The guide will include sample interview questions, sample tweets, committee hashtags and guidelines for journalistic writing (e.g. “the 5 W’s & H,” the Inverted Pyramid, beat reporting and tips on brevity). In advance of conference, reporters will submit a draft article in accordance with the IPD *Procedures and Style Guide*. The due date and subject of the articles will be released in the IPD welcome letter that reporters will receive between late-October and early-November. At conference, AMUN Secretariat will provide feedback and training before publishing the revised copies in the *AMUN Chronicle*.

HOW CAN I JOIN IPD?

Any interested student can join the IPD. However, IPD reporters cannot also be members of their school’s delegation(s). In other words, participation in the IPD as a reporter is a mutually exclusive, duration-of-the-Conference assignment. Up to two students from any school may become IPD reporters. Students from schools that are not sending a delegation to AMUN are also welcome to apply to participate in the IPD. Students not attending with a school delegation must pay only the AMUN delegate fee.

Due to the resource-intensive and specialized nature of this simulation, AMUN will accept up to 14 IPD reporters; positions will go to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. The application is available on the AMUN website; please contact the AMUN Executive Office (mail@amun.org) for more information. For the best chance of being accepted as a reporter, apply by mid-October.

HOW DO REPRESENTATIVES CONNECT WITH IPD?

All AMUN representatives and delegations are encouraged to explore the news-coverage possibilities offered by the IPD. In particular, representatives should get to know the reporter(s) covering their simulations, make themselves available for interviews and provide background information when it is requested or when it is in their country’s interest to seek press coverage. Also, representatives and delegations are strongly encouraged to call press conferences and to submit press releases, personal ads and letters to the editor.

Press Conferences allow representatives a chance to give an oral statement and to answer questions from reporters and other conference participants. Representatives request press conferences using the IPD Request Form. They are asked to provide three specific pieces of information: (1) the requested time for the press conference, (2) the countries that will participate and (3) the topic(s) that will be discussed. Representatives typically have a maximum of 20 minutes to complete

the press conference, including the question-and-answer session. Time slots are made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Press Releases are official statements from a representative’s country. Typically, these releases detail or explain a country’s stance on one of the topics under debate at AMUN. Press releases are a maximum of 150 words and are included in every edition of the *AMUN Chronicle*, contingent upon available space. Press releases must be typed and submitted in the IPD Office. Press releases are edited by IPD Secretariat members for content and clarity.

Personal Ads are informal messages that can be submitted by any individual attending the AMUN Conference. Personal ads must be no longer than 30 words and are included in the *AMUN Chronicle* contingent upon available space. Personal ads must be submitted in writing (forms are available at the documents table in each simulation) or e-mailed to personals@amun.org after the Opening Plenary Session has ended.

Letters to the Editor may be submitted by any attendee and can be on any topic germane to the Conference. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words. Letters to the editor must be typed and submitted in the IPD Office.

Social Media offers an opportunity to concisely communicate a country’s position in a more interactive manner. All IPD reporters will have the ability to tweet newsworthy updates via the AMUN official Twitter account. Each committee will have a designated hashtag, so all representatives can participate in the online conversation.

The decision to include material submitted to the IPD office in the *AMUN Chronicle* is left to the discretion of the Director of the International Press Delegation and the AMUN Executive Committee. AMUN Secretariat will screen and edit all content submitted to the IPD for clarity and adherence to rules for diplomatic courtesy.