



DEENS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2022

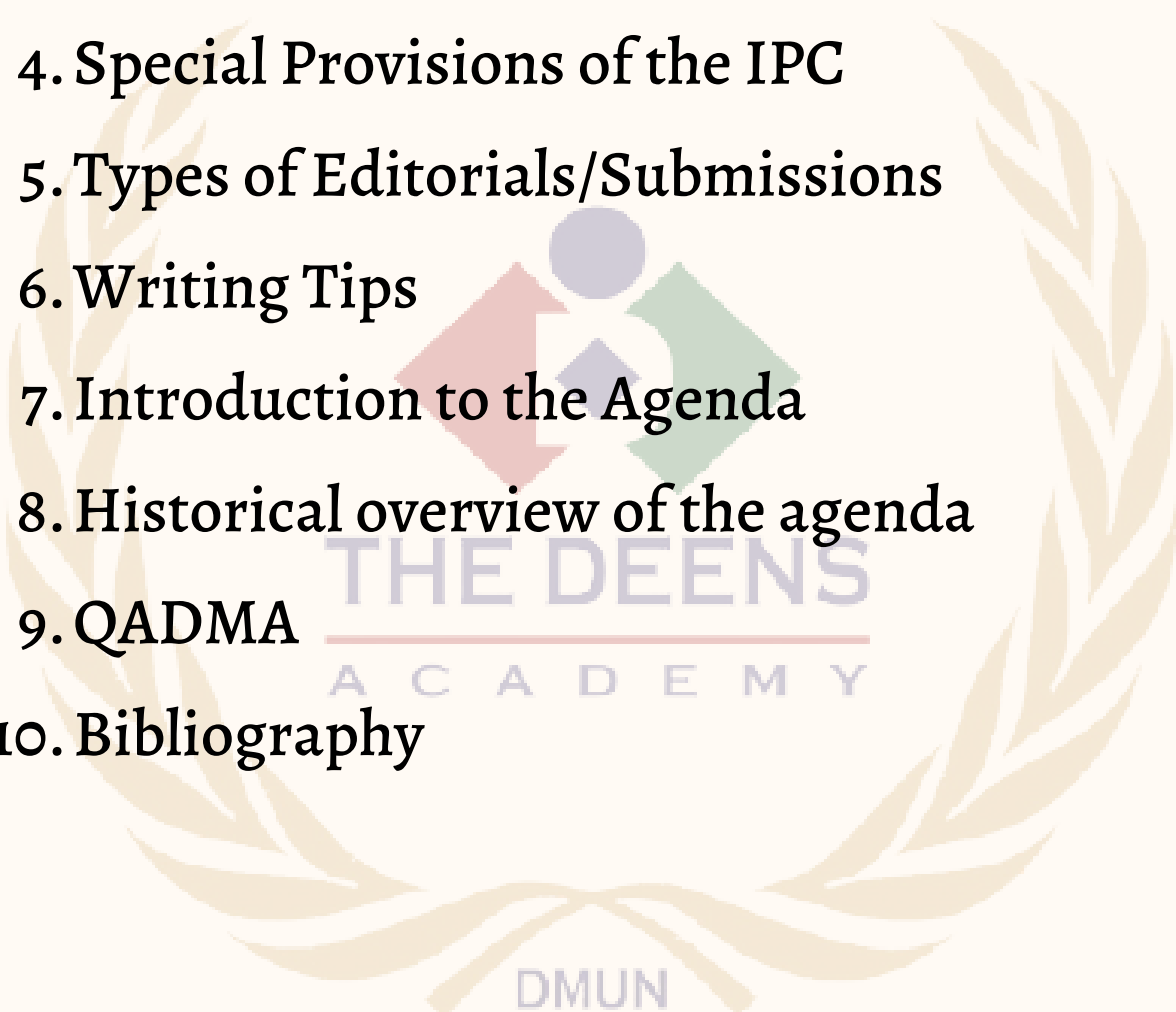
INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

BACKGROUND GUIDE



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The IPC is a very unique committee, requiring a very unique set of skills, separate from those required in other MUN committees. It requires courage to try something completely unconventional and we would like to commend you for picking the International Press Corps.

Being a largely passive committee in debate, we will do everything we can to make your experience as memorable as possible. At no point in the 2 days will you delegates feel disengaged or disconnected. We, as an executive board, will help you through every process of your IPC experience. Kindly use this Background Guide as a mere stepping stone for your research and do not confine yourselves to it.

Acting as mediators if necessary for your sessions and interviews, guides for your reports, as well as as backups for your press conferences, we will work with you through every step to give you the most enjoyable experience in committee. We are extremely eager to be working with you and hope to see you bring your best to the table, as we will be bringing ours. From the tense deadlines to the interviews, press conferences and formal debate, we wish you all the best.

Test your spontaneity. Test your knowledge. Test your writing.
Test yourself.

Welcome to the International Press Corps.

*Note:

1. This committee will be accepting position papers. The last date to submit the same is the day of the conference. The paper should be submitted in digital format only.

2. The Rules of Procedure for formal session is the same as that in conventional committees and is included in the given Delegates' Handbook.

Warm regards,

The Executive Board

Rajath Menon - Director - +91 888 46 00 744

Srishti Sreeram - Assistant Director - +91 944 91 14 496

ipc.dmun@gmail.com

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The IPC is a very unique committee that stands out at every conference for its unique procedure and purpose. Unlike conventional committees, it plays more of a passive role in the conference itself and is pivotal around report writing as journalists representing a certain media agency.

The IPC will convene for a conventional formal session to discuss a preset agenda, but it will also involve moving into other committees and taking notes and reporting the events discussed. Apart from the exhilarating writing involving very stringent deadlines, simulating the work of a real life journalist, the mandate of this committee also allows reporters to take interviews of delegates in other committees and quote them in both factual or compromising propaganda reports. There are various unique ways to write reports, expressing creativity and talent in multiple forms.

The reports may include voice clips and pictures, among various other snippets, leaving plenty of room for artistic expression. More about reports will be addressed separately.

Additionally, press members also have the opportunity to conduct press conferences in committees. Reporters can directly confront delegates of the world community and acquire first hand justification for various missteps by the ruling administration in the country or missteps by the portfolio in question themselves.

This not only gives them the opportunity to conduct a confrontational interview with an audience and provides them with an opportunity to try and get the delegates to admit to their country or portfolio's violations of human rights, international law, moral code of conduct, etc.

This is the most direct form of debate possible in a Model United Nations conference according to UNA-USA procedure as it is not limited by time or formality.

One thing to keep in mind though, is that while there aren't many limitations on the decorum of the press conference, the reporter must keep in mind that they must follow the general rules of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalism and are thus also expected to follow diplomatic courtesy and use parliamentary language.

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TOOLS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

INTERVIEWS:

Interviews are an important tool of the IPC that can help a reporter gain important insight and knowledge on the happenings, progress and proceedings of a committee by questioning either the delegates (individually) of that committee or a member of the Executive Board.

- In your report, make sure to quote delegates word-for-word. If you're questioning them, you can ask them to repeat a phrase in order to write it down.
- Remember to be thoroughly prepared with research and questions to be asked before conducting an interview.
- The reporters are not to do an interview inside the committee room.
- The number of questions asked should be minimal, but significant.
- Interviews should not be limited only to the delegates of the committees but can be extended to the members of the Executive Board and the Secretariat.
- Interviews can be anything from general conference opinion, to expectations, to the committee proceedings. However, reporters should never ask anything that is inappropriate or makes the interviewee uncomfortable.

•The interviewee reserves the right to deny answering any question and should not be compelled to do so under any circumstances.

Interviews are not to be conducted in the following situations:

1. During the voting procedure in committee rooms.
2. In committee during a formal session, or when a Moderated Caucus is being held in committee on a topic relevant to the agenda.
3. Interviews can only be conducted during lobbying sessions or breaks. However, if urgent, a reporter may confer with the person via notes and conduct the interview outside the committee room during the session, as long as it does not inhibit participation.

Members of Press must always seek approval from the Executive Board of their respective committees prior to interviewing either delegates or the members of the EB themselves.

PRESS CONFERENCES

During committee sessions, reporters will have the chance to participate in or conduct Press Conferences. Through this procedure, you will be able to ask questions regarding the topics discussed in the Moderated Caucuses, proposals discussed or the policies that are being adopted by member states.

This is your opportunity to represent your agency, hold delegate accountable to their countries' positions, and ask questions that will help you write an article about the committee later on.

- You are required to have knowledge of various countries' foreign policies so that you may question the delegates should they happen to deviate from them.
- You may ask delegates questions about their proposed solutions, issues they are not addressing and why they chose not to, challenge them on the feasibility of their policies and alignment with their country's position on an issue and so on.
- Each reporter has been assigned a media agency with a particular viewpoint and work dynamic. Thus, some of you will aim to take the stance of an unbiased and independent organisation, whereas others might take up a position that leans further towards the left or right on the political spectrum.
- Similar to how regular delegates are required to adhere to their foreign policy, IPC delegates are required to follow their news agency mandate, style, and structure, and play the role of a journalist belonging to the respective news agency.
- Etiquette must be maintained by the reporters during a Press Conference. Treat your fellow IPC delegates, country delegations and staff members with the respect and diplomatic courtesy expected of an international reporter.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF THE IPC

1.Executive Board Discussions:

The Head of Press may at any point, conduct informal discussion on articles or reports published by reporters in committee. This can be in the presence of an audience or without, in order to test the thoroughness of the journalists on subjects covered in reports.

2.Challenges:

A similar discussion can also be brought up through a special procedure called a 'Challenge'. A challenge can be issued by a reporter in committee during a formal session regarding a statement made by another reporter.

The Head of Press has the right to entertain or disregard Challenge. However, if they recognize the challenge, then the defending reporter has no option of abstaining from the challenge and is required to partake in it. A challenge can be of 2 kinds, 1v1 Challenge or a 2v2 Challenge.

In the case of a 2v2 challenge, the challenger can take the assistance of another reporter in committee with their consent, and the defender can do the same. Each side in a challenge is given 60 seconds and the reporters are judged on the validity of the points being raised.

3. Table Debate:

Table debate can be called upon by the reporters in committee and moderated separately outside of formal session. This usually happens at the end of the day's formal session as the reporters are heading out to their respective committees. Table debates can only be conducted in 2v2 fashion.

Since it occurs outside of a formal session, the reporters are not bound by formal procedure, rules of decorum, parliamentary language or even diplomatic courtesy. However, a table debate will be most productive only if the reporters are able to be civil with their discussions and bring reasonable points to the table.

A table debate has a maximum time limit of 3 minutes and can be shortened once either of the two sides are satisfied with their table debate. The topic of the table debate should be the IPC agenda or a facet of the same.

4. Assisting Interjection:

Raised similarly to Points of Personal Privilege, assisting interjections can be raised at any point in a formal session. Once the assisting interjection is pleaded, the reporter currently speaking, may accept or reject the interjection.

If accepted, the interjector is given 10 seconds to add to the reporter's speech. This time is not subtracted from the original speaking time and is instead granted as an overhead interjection. There can only be 1 assisting interjection per speech, regardless of the speaker time allotted and the 10 second time limit is very strict for the same. This point can only be raised within the IPC and not in other committees.

TYPES OF EDITORIALS

OVERVIEW:

The IPC does not require a final document such as a Draft Resolution or a Communique. None of the documents that are written in the IPC are included in the formal session. Instead, there are various kinds of reports that the delegates are to write.

FORMAL REPORTAGE:

Beat-Based Article (BBA):

In a conference, each committee continually changes discussions to incorporate new subjects to address their overarching agenda. These sub-agendas are referred to as 'beats'. A beat based article is one through which the reader is further educated on the subject that is being discussed, or the identified beat.

BBAs require a lot of additional research from the reporters and should not contain merely the events in committee. Once a beat is identified, the reporter may gather information regarding the same by:

- Following the discussions in committee and researching additionally along those tangents
- Conducting individual research from the IPC room, avoiding listening in on the discussion of the beat by delegates in the respective committee

- Interviewing delegates in committee to get a better understanding of the subject.

A mix of all 3 means of information collection is suggested to optimise productivity in session.

BBAs are factual and should not include personal opinions of the author writing them. The facts or theories presented in the BBAs have to be verifiable. A bibliography is looked very favourably upon. It provides professionalism and legitimacy to the work. The information

should also be sourced from various different media. Linear bibliographies are not looked favourably upon. All sides of the stories are expected to be covered.*

*The reporter's media agency's bias should reflect in the piece. Even if it does not allow much room for personal opinion, the facts provided should also preferably be biased if the media is biased.

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Committee Report:

A committee report is a piece that is less research-oriented and instead leaves more room for creativity and innovative delivery. It entails reporting the occurrences in the committee assigned to/chosen by the reporter.

This does not include elements of rules of procedure, roll call, etc. The report must be interesting to the reader and include proportionately interesting events from the committee such as interesting statements by delegates, RtRs, presidential statements, etc. Reports require the reporter to stay in committee and take notes throughout the session so as to not miss out on any of the important discussions. However, once the reporter feels like enough data has been collected, they may use the IPC room to start working on their reports as and when they like.

A report, much like a BBA, does not leave room for the author to express personal opinions. Its purpose is to bring to public notice the discussions in committees.

Note: Committee reports cannot be written on crisis committees. As the individuals in crisis committees occupy a more secretive cabinet, the IPC is not permitted to report crises. However, references can be made to presidential addresses and press releases made by delegates in the time of crisis as they are already brought to public notice.

Op-Eds (Opinionated Editorials):

Op-Eds are the type of article that encourage the reporters to chip in with their personal thoughts on the subject being discussed. The subject of the Op-Ed can be various things. It can be the beat identified in committee, the agenda of the committee, etc.

Op-Eds are however not solely based on the journalist's opinion. These opinions are to be educated and researched. Data should be provided wherever necessary to convince the reader that the author's opinion makes the most sense. These facts should also be verifiable. While the fact of verifiability in op-eds is less important than that in BBAs, it is still crucial in order to build a perfect portfolio.

As representatives of specific international media agencies, if articles submitted fail to be backed by fact, the credibility of the agency is brought to question. This is not preferable. Thus, when a journalist is reporting, they must do so responsibly.

The same applies to articles that are attempting to spread a certain kind of propaganda. While these are expected from some agencies, they usually have to be very subtle about it. And this tool should also not be overused as it brings the credibility of the agency into question if presented inaccurately.

Features:

Features are pieces that give the author the most creative space of all types of reports permissible. A feature is not constrained to format as it does not even specify the mode of report.

Features can be written in the forms of regular paper procedure such as the comic or humour column, political commentary, caricatures, poems, diary entries, songs, video submissions, etc. While these may be seen as more high effort pieces, their quality will be graded proportionally.

The floor for features is not open throughout the conference and is instead limited to certain time slots as determined by the Executive Board. Considering the strict deadlines, it is thus imperative for the reporters to start working on their features as and when time permits from the get-go.

While features give a lot of freedom to delegates, they are still considered formal reportage and must thus align with principles of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalism and must not be personally offensive to nations or individuals. Satire is permitted in a feature, but it should be exercised with caution. The reporters are expected to stick to their agency's biases as always.

INFORMAL REPORTAGE

Informal Report:

These are very similar to committee reports, but they may include instances of humor and can assume a lighter tone instead and report less pertinent events. They can be based on anything at all that happens within the committee. Humorous instances, mid-comm Motions to Entertain (MtEs), etc.

While these are not graded as highly as formal reportage pieces, they demonstrate dynamic writing and adaptability of the reporter and reflect well. Additionally, while these reports are considered informal, the agency's bias is still expected to reflect.



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WRITING TIPS

All delegates are expected to know the basic format and structure for articles to be submitted to the IPC. The formatting of the articles is not very strict, however, each piece must include a title, the insignia of the agency represented by the reporter and the actual content itself.

In the case of a committee report, the name of the committee must also be specified before beginning the article. Apart from the general format of the pieces, a few additional guidelines and suggestions that should be considered are:

1.Vocabulary: The reporters are expected to use flamboyant vocabulary while also being simple enough to be comprehensible by the general public. There is a fine line between good journalism with the use of good vocabulary and excessive writing and detail.

2.Adapting: It is important for the reporters to adapt their writing styles depending on what kind of piece they are working on. BBAs require very formal language and content that is very informative. Committee Reports require analysis of the events of the committee but must ensure reader retention. Op-Eds require better expression of the journalist's opinions, in line with those of the agency they represent and Features require a bit more informal language and elements of interest rather than just fact. Each type of submission thus requires the journalist to express a different set of skills.

3. Originality: Every submission is checked thoroughly by the EB for plagiarism. If a high degree of the same is detected, then the entire piece will be scrapped and the reporter downmarked. Additionally, the use of a paraphrasing tool merely to evade plagiarism is looked down upon and if detected, will be graded accordingly.

4. References and Continuity: Pop culture references, references to lifestyle, etc. make a piece more relatable to the viewer. Such references should not have a large role in formal reportage, but their subtle use in them is always welcome. Additionally, continuing a piece and writing a second submission following up on it, is also looked upon favourably at times. The connection between the 2 submissions must be made evident and tools such as cliffhangers may be used in Op-Eds or informal reportage.

5. Media Bias: It is important as a representative of a media agency, to make sure that the biases of the agency also reflect in the reports published by the journalists. All pieces that are submitted in committee will thus have to align with the reporter's corporate bias.

6. Special Portfolio Provisions: Based on the media agency represented, reporters will have different assets at their disposal, which widen their horizons for potential publications.

For example, Xinhua News Agency, being centrally controlled, would find 'libel' to be a useful tool in their work in some instances. Similarly, Thomson-Reuters employs only private journalists for their investigations, giving them more room and freedom for political commentary.

7. Structure: It is important to establish some form of structure while writing. Deviating and side-tracking from the topic at hand ruins continuity and reduces retention. Each piece must have a definite progression, usually structured towards proving or disproving something, or merely stating something to encourage discussion.



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INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

“Freedom of press and media in the light of the WikiLeaks crisis”

WikiLeaks is an international non-profit organisation that publishes news leaks (unsanctioned release of confidential information to news media or premature publication of information) and classified media provided by anonymous sources. Julian Assange, an Australian Internet Activist founded WikiLeaks in 2006 and is its Director. Since September 2018, Kristinn Hrafnsson has served as its editor-in-chief.

WikiLeaks specialises in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying and corruption. It has so far published more than 10 million documents and associated analyses. WikiLeaks has described itself as an organisation of journalists, political activists, mathematicians, start-up company technologists, an intermediary between sources and journalists, an advocacy group for sources, and a public intelligence agency.

According to WikiLeaks, the goal of the organisation is "to bring important news and information to the public ... One of our most important activities is to publish original source material alongside our news stories so readers and historians alike can see evidence of the truth." It also seeks to ensure that journalists are not prosecuted for emailing sensitive or classified documents.

On their website, WikiLeaks states the Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights as their basis of operation and receipt of information regardless of frontiers of civil rights. They defined 'principled leaking' as essential to fight individual, corporate and government corruption.

Free Media refers to the right of newspapers, magazines and social networks to report news without being controlled by the government. The presence of free media is essential for the functioning of a country and the well-being of its citizens as free media serves to disseminate ideas and information unhindered to its citizens, contribute as people's common storehouse of knowledge, helps citizens call attention to a violation of their rights and also function as a conduit for flow of communication between the citizens and the government.

Although, unchecked free media can pose a threat to a country and its inhabitants in such cases where private content, classified information, government secrets that could harm a country's national interests and other such materials are arbitrarily released by the media.

In the United States, the media and press seem to have a relatively high degree of freedom, where, by the First Amendment, the government may not prohibit the publication of a newspaper, even if it may contain information that may be considered a threat to national security.

The limits to freedom of press as stated by the First Amendment include, "...slander, obscenity, pornography, sedition, incitement, fighting words, classified information, copyright violation, trade secrets, food labeling, non-disclosure agreements, the right to privacy, the right to be forgotten, public security, and perjury."

In the United Kingdom, equal importance is given to spoken and published expression as freedom of speech and freedom of press are governed by the same laws. But, the journalists are subject to a wide range of legal restrictions such as the libel laws, official secrets and anti-terrorism legislation, the law of contempt and other legal restrictions on court reporting, the law of confidence and development of privacy and data protection actions, intellectual property laws, legislation regulating public order, trespass, harassment, anti-discrimination and obscenity.

Freedom of press seems to be flourishing in countries like Denmark, where censorship and other preventive measures have been prohibited since 1849, whereas in countries like Saudi Arabia, the media and press have extremely limited freedom. Saudi Arabia has had an ever present law on self censorship, including on social networks. They consider the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah to be the country's Constitution.

Journalists in many countries face violence and various forms of intimidation, especially when reporting about authoritarian regimes or organised crime.

In an effort to combat this, the International Press Institute was formed in cooperation with the Al Jazeera Media Network, the International News Safety Institute and the Africa Media Initiative.

The IPI is a leading global effort to promote safety in the media industry by raising awareness among journalists about international standards in this area as well as by encouraging best practices in the newsroom for protecting journalists and media staff on dangerous assignments or working in hostile environments.

IPI and its international partners worked together to draft the International Declaration on the Protection of Journalists in 2016. It is based on thorough research and analysis of existing international mechanisms in the area of journalist safety as well as on best practices among journalists and media organisations to ensure maximum safety.

The declaration summarises international principles related to protection of journalists working in dangerous environments and also protection of human rights violations. It also consists of a document titled, 'Media Organisations' Best Practices' which highlights remedies that journalists and media organisations should voluntarily implement for greater level of safety.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT TO THE AGENDA

WikiLeaks' biggest leaks include the release of hundreds of thousands of US military documents and videos from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, including footage of collateral killings and wartime footage in Iraq. In 2010, they released more than 250,000 State Department diplomatic cables. In the 2016 presidential election, two sets of emails were leaked, one from the Democratic National Committee and one from Hillary Clinton adviser

John Podesta. About 573,000 intercepted pager messages sent during the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States have been released. In 2008, they published the names, addresses and contact details of over 13,000 members of the British National Party. In 2015, the leak of more than 170,000 emails and 20,000 documents from the film studio Sony Pictures was made public.

WikiLeaks has gone through three phases since its inception in 2006. In its first phase, during which it published several substantial collections of Kenya-related documents in 2008, it operated largely on a standard wiki model: the public readership could actively post and edit materials, and it had a say in the types of materials that were accepted and how such materials were vetted. Very little organised redacting was done.

The second phase of WikiLeaks was illustrated by the release of the "Collateral Murder" video in April 2010. The video was a highly curated, produced and packaged political statement. It was meant to illustrate a political point of view, not merely inform. The third phase is the one we currently see in the release of diplomatic cables: WikiLeaks working closely with a select group of news organisations to analyse, redact, and publish the cables in a curated fashion, rather than storing them on the Internet or using them to illustrate a unique political point of view.

In 2012, Julian Assange was indicted by the Eastern District of Virginia grand jury for a series of computer-related crimes. In May 2019, Assange was sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for breaching bail in 2010 (failure to appear in court). In January 2022, British judges granted Assange permission to appeal, but refused to hear him on 14 March.

The Department of Justice is currently re-examining whether Julian Assange and his website can face criminal prosecution under US law. WikiLeaks is protected by the First Amendment when publishing leaked documents because the government does not prosecute media outlets for publishing the results of someone else's leaks. But the question of whether WikiLeaks qualifies as "media" is still contested.

The Espionage Act of 1917 states that anyone who "discloses" information relating to national defence is liable for a breach of the Espionage Act. So even if WikiLeaks qualifies as "media," Mr. Assange may still not be protected by the First Amendment. If convicted, Assange could serve up to 175 years in prison.

All reporters are recommended to be well versed on the agenda so as to provide their news organisation's views and proposals with reference to it during committee sessions.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Another dimension of the International Press Corps is photography. Documenting events in committees through the device of images captured at the perfect times, allows journalists to truly cover events in committee in more depth and clarity.

Representing different agencies, the representatives of the photography agencies will be allowed to submit a predetermined number of photographs at the end of each day or session. The photographer should adopt the style of photography prescribed by their agency and cover event that are most like the ones covered by their agencies as well.

Each of the photographs must be submitted to the executive board with the watermark of the agency represented. These images can also be shared with journalists in the IPC to include in their reports.

The photographer must attempt to capture the most relevant discussions in committee. Presidential addresses, RtRs, the most important speeches, etc.

As photographers, representatives of different agencies may walk into any committee as they please and leave as they please. Whether you would like to wait patiently for significant events in a single committee, or bounce from one committee to another hoping to stumble upon the perfect opportune moment, is upto you.

The photographs will have to be appropriately credited to the photographers by the journalists in their reports. The photographers will be marked higher if their photographs are accepted by journalists in committee and included in their pieces.

Photos may be edited by the photographers. Fake photos or those that are cropped, and misleading are accepted, but will be marked on a lower total. However, if the photographer can get a journalist to cover the fake event in a piece, the photographer will be adequately rewarded.

The pieces submitted by the photographers will be judged according to:

- Clarity
- Coverage relevance
- Originality
- Lighting
- Expression

The photographers may additionally submit Independent Publications with their images at the end of Day 1. These are to follow the format of an Op-Ed. If opting to do so, the photographer must be covering a picture taken by the photographer themselves.

NOTE: Photographers are not required to participate in formal debate in committee

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QADMA (QUESTIONS A DISCUSSION MUST ANSWER)

*The IPC does not have a concept of final paperwork, and the 'agenda' is merely discussed and not resolved as the media does not have any control over international law.

- What laws currently regulate media rights and how should they be changed?
- What is the ideal status of free media and how can it be implemented globally?
- How does national development affect the media?
- How do Right To Information and Right To Privacy go hand in hand?
- How should "national security concerns" with regards to Free Media be addressed?

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