

# Committee Guide



## *The Yom Kippur War (1973)*

*Historical Security Council*





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# 1. Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

my name is Nika Andouz and I am delighted to introduce myself as one of the Chairs of this year's Historical Security Council. I am 19 years old and currently training as a Medical Assistant to start studying Medicine next year. In my free time I enjoy swimming, playing instruments and of course MUNs.

The OLMUN 2019 will be my 6th consecutive OLMUN conference and last year I had the honor to serve as the President of the General Assembly. I am more than happy to be once more chairing at this conference.

Since we live in a world full of changes, I am sure that participating at OLMUN will not only give you the opportunity to improve your debating skills but also to get in touch with people from all over the world. Thus, you can get to know different cultures and opinions, plus learn a thing or two for your future lives.

By choosing the Historical Security Council you have the chance to participate in one of the most interesting Committees of this year's conference, but also in the most challenging one, for you and for us as chairs.

Chairing this committee together with Bart is a great honor and responsibility for me and I am looking forward to meet all of you soon.

I am convinced that we can turn the Historical Security Council 2019 into something special and memorable!

We are looking forward to spend an inspiring week with you in June!

See you soon,  
Nika Andouz

Dear delegates,

My name is Bart van Donselaar and this year I will have the absolute honor to be chairing the HSC at OLMUN 2019. I am an 18 years old student of International Relations and International Organization at the Rijks University of Groningen. In my free time I enjoy travelling, learning foreign languages and playing (board-)games with friends.

This session of OLMUN will be my 20th MUN conference overall and my 5th consecutive OLMUN session. From experience, I can tell you that participating in MUN will not just improve some very valuable skills: songs will be sung, and friends will be made. Still, MUN is an amazing opportunity to expand on your public speaking; debating and English skills.

Our committee, placed in the past, is sure to be an intriguing experience, very different from other committees at OLMUN. I expect a competitive, yet exciting experience for all of us. I am delighted to share this experience with Nika. I had the privilege of getting to know her at this same conference a couple of years ago.

I cannot wait to meet all of you in June!

Until then,  
Bart van Donselaar



## 2. Word from the Chairs

The Historical Security Council is not an ordinary committee. By being set in a different time of a still existing conflict it gives you the opportunity to change history as well as the present. At the same time, we are dealing with a very sensitive topic, which currently is still important. Therefore, we are expecting the debate to be heavy, intense and maybe even outrageous at some points.

As your presidents we are ready to assist and guide you through your preparations and this challenging week. Nevertheless, we ask you to commit to this challenge and also to show us, that you could actually be a diplomat in a time of war and desperation.

In order to have a successful week, we all have to work together, both in the weeks before the conference and the conference itself. The Historical Security Council has a very special structure and does need more preparation than the other committees - but it also offers you more of everything we love about MUNs such as action, drama, emotions and of course fun.

Since a proper preparation is essential for a frictionless course of action, we need you to research carefully. In this committee guide we have collected some information we ask all of you to read, to allow a smooth pre-conference phase and a thoroughly satisfying OLMUN week.

To ensure that all delegates are well-prepared and to enable a fluent lobbying and debating as well as a great variety of opinions and ideas, we expect every delegate to bring an essay. This essay should give information about the country's economic and political situation, international relations and resources (e.g. military, industrial and others) in 1973 and the years before. Please also include if your country has domestic religious conflicts or a main religious belief.

**This essay should consist of 200-250 words.**

In addition to that, you will need to **write a policy statement**, outlining your country's perspective and opinion on our topic. Keep in mind that our committee starts just one day after Syria's and Egypt's attack, therefore one day after Yom-Kippur (October 7th 1973). The statement should not exceed 150 words, as it shall give the other delegates a brief overview of your country's position.

We will call for every delegate to read out their policy statement before the lobbying session. Please **send us both your essay and your policy statement** via email ([hsc@olmun.org](mailto:hsc@olmun.org)) until **June 3rd**. We will then hand them out to all delegates. If you need any help writing, please read the OLMUN 2019 handbook or contact us, we will happily support you.

Please also note that there are special Rule of Procedure applying the Historical Security Council at OLMUN 2019. We advise you to read them carefully before the conference. Knowing and understanding those Rules of Procedure is vital to ensure your ability to participate actively during the conference.

## 3. Research

### 3.1 Begin your Research in Time

As our committee can only function if every delegate is acquainted with the initial situation, you need to dive into the topic and understand all of its facets properly. Take your time and start early enough with your research. While doing so, you will need to:

### 3.2 Use a Variety of Sources

Do not use only one single source. Diversification is important to find out useful and debatable points. Also, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on our topic. If your country has specific relations to other countries, which are also involved in this conflict, dive into their opinions too. Of course, not as deep as in your own country's opinion, but it is important to stay on top of everything. By doing all of this you will understand the complications of the Yom-Kippur war even better. This will be very useful when discussing in your lobbying groups as well as in the debates itself. Please keep in mind to research on your country's situation in the 1970s and the years before.

### 3.3 In Order to Prepare for the Conference you will Need to Find out About

- your country's situation before 1973
- the relationship your country has to Israel, Egypt and Syria
- the political (and religious) direction your country was facing in 1973
- your country's position in the previous Arab-Israeli conflicts (basically everything since the establishment of Israel in 1948, especially the Six-Days-War)

You should never forget, that you are not required to find a solution based on your personal opinions but one that your country would have supported back in 1973. Once you have memorized this, you are ready to:

### 3.4 Develop a Comprehensible, Realistic Position of your Country

This position should also be elaborated in the 200-250 words essay. Of course, you shall not only focus on the steps your country actually took in reality. Rather you are urged to think for yourself and try to influence the debate and the course of events in your country's spirit. Your essay needs to be realistic: you are representing an existing country with an existing position, only in a past time.

Hopefully we were able to give you an overview on how you should prepare yourself for OLMUN 2019.

We are confident that you will manage this task successfully and prepare yourself properly for the Historical Security Council at OLMUN 2019, as we are looking forward to meet enthusiastic delegates, who are willing to make this an unforgettable experience for all of us.



Once again, if you have any questions do not hesitate to email us ([hsc@olmun.org](mailto:hsc@olmun.org)).

#### 4. About the Historical Security Council 2019

Preparing for this council can be challenging. It is rather an unusual committee since it takes place in the past. Therefore, you cannot just look up your country's current situation, opinions or international relations. What you need to do is to put yourself over 40 years back! Everything that has been said and done after 1973 has not been said or done yet. It may never even happen because you, the delegates, are going to rewrite history.

Once you have adjusted to this unusual setting, you are as free as all the other delegates. The only difference is that you are operating in a different time. Therefore, you have a slightly different background you need to focus on, compared to the rest of your delegation. Whenever you speak or act you will do a version of your country that lays over 40 years in the past.

However, that does not mean that you have to forget everything that happened after the conflict. Especially in this year's Historical Security Council it is important to stay on track. Although the Yom-Kippur war was a crisis for itself, it was part of a very long conflict that started in 1948 with the establishment of Israel. This Arab-Israeli conflict still exists today. A country does not develop from scratch and one single conflict in the Security Council is not going to change that development completely. It is a process and it can be helpful to look at both the situation before and after 1973, to understand what development your country was going through.

This being said about our committee's setting - how does it work exactly?

The OLMUN 2019 Historical Security Council is a crisis committee. That means, that we will take the outbreak of the Yom-Kippur war as our initial crisis to start acting. We have come together in this council to discuss the very first measures that are to be taken. Everything up from that point lies in your hands. We will be starting on Wednesday, June 19th. Your first task will be to debate on the actions to be taken and merge one single resolution on behalf of the Security Council.

Naturally the presidents will moderate the course of events and take care that you follow the Rules of Procedure and act in a reasonable and responsible way, as we are discussing a delicate situation.

We will then face the reactions to your decisions on Thursday. Everything you have decided on our first day of debate will change the course of the conflict. You will be forced to react at rather short notice compared to the usual MUN-procedure. We will operate with short periods of moderated and unmoderated caucuses and long periods of debating since this committee is also a debating committee.

We are expecting well-prepared and motivated delegates, willing to fully adapt to our exceptional committee setting and make OLMUN 2019 HSC an overall success.

## 5. Historical Background

### Overview

- Date: 6th - 25th of October 1973

- Place: Sinai and Golan Heights

- Parties involved:

Israel (supported by United States -> arms deliveries)

Egypt and Syria (supported by Iraq, Libya, Jordan, USSR -> arms deliveries)

The Yom-Kippur War was an important part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. During the Six-Day-War in 1967 Israel conquered the territory from the Sinai to the Suez Canal and also the Golan Heights. The Israeli government spent millions of US-dollars to build military fortifications after the war, one of the most significant being the Bar-Lev-Line at the Suez Canal. Israel's confidence in that time is crucial for the routes of the following war. After winning the previous conflict and the War of Attrition (between Israel and Egypt) the Israeli ego was pushed so far, that the government felt close to invincible.

Egypt and Syria on the other hand were planning the reconquest of their lost territories. Only a couple months after the end of the Six-Day War the Arab league, including Egypt and Syria, met in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, and passed the *Khartoum Resolution*, which would affect the foreign policies of those countries regarding Israel. It is famous for what is known as the „Three No's“: „no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it...“ This made clear, that the reconquest of the lost territories would not be peaceful but only military.

The Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser died in 1970 and Anwar as-Sadat took office. His goal was not only to fight Israel and win the Sinai back but also to change the status quo by defeating Israel in a rather smaller conflict to achieve negotiations. The Syrian president Hafiz al-Assad had similar aims.

However, he was only interested in a military success and the accompanying dominance in the Middle East. Assad was sure that if he and Sadat would work together, they could easily defeat Israel and ensure their military power.

As far as Egypt's domestic policy was concerned, Sadat was under a lot of pressure. The economic situation of Egypt was horrendous and after losing many wars the people felt hopeless. The population expected the reconquest of the Sinai and the majority was against Sadat's plans for an economic reform. Therefore, he hoped to become more popular after winning the Sinai back, to be able to reform Egypt's economy.

The other Arab States were more reserved regarding another war with Israel. The Jordan King Hussein was afraid to lose even more territory, after losing East Jerusalem and the West Bank in the Six-Day War.

Before the Yom-Kippur War there were many evidences for a planned attack. Until September 1973 there were many military maneuvers. The Egyptian army sent many troops to the Suez Canal and back. However, they were able to place parts of these troops close to the border without the Israeli army noticing it. On September 25th 1973 the Jordan King Hussein actually warned the Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, that there would be a Egyptian-Syrian attack on Israel. This warning was ignored by her, since the Israeli Government did not see an actual threat.

On October 6th 1973 the Egyptian army attacked the Bar-Lew Line while Syrian troops advanced on the Golan Heights.

While it can be interesting to know more about the developments as they happened, we ask you not to have yourself guided by reality, but rather the question „what could have been, if?“.

Be creative, be innovative and be constructive, while always keeping in mind your country's policy.

We hope this committee guide provides you with all important information. We are excited to meet you and wish you a successful preparation.

See you in June,  
Nika and Bart





## 6. Helpful Links

<https://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/palestine/ch3.pdf>

<https://israelipalestinian.procon.org/sourcefiles/1967-Khartoum-Resolutions.pdf>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/10/arab-israeli-war-of-1973-what-happened-171005105247349.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/15/books/chapters/the-yom-kippur-war.html>

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war>

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/119/the-middle-east-conflict-a-brief-background>