

# Committee Guide

**UNESCO 2023**

## Our World at a Turning Point

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**BREAKING OLD PATTERNS**

***Promoting Equal  
Access to Quality  
Education***



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## 1. Personal Introduction

We are looking forward to chairing the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural organization with you as our Delegates in 2023! This will be our first time as chairs, thus we are very excited for the debate this summer and hope that you will be able to prepare yourselves well for this year's topic! But before we get to the serious part to this year's conference, we would like to introduce ourselves to you:

### 1.1. Fabian Bühring

My name is Fabian Bühring and I will be chairing UNESCO committee at this years OLMUN with Laetitia. At the start of OLMUN 2023 I will be 19 years old and I will (hopefully) have just graduated from German high school. This will be my third time participating in OLMUN after making my debut as a Delegate in 2019. My other MUN experiences are the BERMUN in 2019 and OLMUN 2022. In my free time I like to jog and do sports. My favorite hobby though is to make music with my friends. I can't wait to meet all of you guys, and I am sure it will be an unforgettable MUN with lots of fun, fruitful debates and great young people!

### 1.2. Laetitia-Sophie Meyer

Hello!

My name is Laetitia and I am 19 years old, in my free time I like going to the gym, dancing and cooking for friends and family. I am currently studying for my A Levels, which I will (hopefully) pass in the end of April. Fabian and I go to the same school and we have experienced OLMUN together for three years now, which is why we decided to chair together this year. I started my OLMUN experience in 2019 in the GA 1st, then went on to debate in the UNEP in 2021 and 2022. This will be my first time as a Chair, I am very excited to work with you on this years very interesting topic.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in June!

## 2. About UNESCO

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) established in 1945, with the mandate to contribute to peace and security by promoting international cooperation through education, science, and culture in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. At OLMUN, 51 member states are represented.

*“UNESCO believes that:*

- a) **The equal dignity of all human beings** calls for the wide diffusion and access to culture, education, and the free flow of ideas and knowledge.*
- b) **To achieve lasting peace and security around the world**, we must harness the power of education, science and culture to bring out the best in our shared humanity, foster mutual understanding and respect for human rights.*
- c) **To help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance**, every child and adult must be afforded access to quality education, tools and resources, irrespective of gender or origin.*
- d) **To strengthen bonds among all nations**, the preservation and protection of cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, on all continents, is fundamental.*
- e) **To tackle the gravest social, environmental and ethical challenges facing humanity**, from climate and biodiversity crises to questions raised by digital and scientific progress, we need to support scientific research, innovation and cooperation.”<sup>1</sup>*

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1 Vision of UNESCO: <https://www.unesco.org/en/vision>

## 3. Promoting Equal Access to Quality Education

### 3.1. Importance of the Topic

This year's topic refers to the fourth Sustainable Development Goal: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." With this topic we aim to raise your awareness for the one very central puzzle piece on our way to a peaceful and fair future, which is education. Educated citizens of a country have learned how to survive, they have understood the problems in the world and – hopefully – they were made aware of their own power to make a difference. To overcome a problem, it is necessary to first perceive a matter as a problem. To do so, it is crucial to be educated. This also is the case for finding solutions e.g., by reading books and doing research on a topic.

### 3.2. Definition

Regarding this topic, "education" implies both the acquisition of knowledge by children as well as the continued learning journey in higher educational institutions such as colleges and universities. Concerning the access to education there are multiple aspects to keep in mind, e.g., restricted access due to high costs which an individual is unable to afford. Other aspects could be ethnic and cultural exclusion or the impossibility of reaching an educational institution due to logistic reasons. Also keep in mind the everyday tasks an individual may have to complete, which could keep them from spending their time studying. "Quality Education" implies any educational institution which at least matches local standards if it does not exceed them. In the future, we must remove inclusion barriers, establish equality, and overcome Learning Poverty.

### 3.3. Recent Developments Concerning the COVID-19-Pandemic

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused a global education crisis which had severe effects on learning. 1.6 billion learners have been affected by school closing and remote learning, with consequences to handle for the next decades. A report by the world bank estimates a loss of \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings, which is 14% of today's global GDP. Even though almost every country offered remote learning opportunities, they varied immensely in effectiveness, depending on the wealth of each country. This has caused an increasing imbalance between different countries, known as "Learning Poverty", which is defined as the percentage of 10-year-old children who cannot read and understand a simple story. In low-income countries, the newest data shows that the number of children who are not able to read and understand a simple story is 53 percent. In developing countries, the number has partly risen up to

# 4 How to Prepare for This Year's Conference

80% due to the pandemic.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, around 10 million students are expected to never return to school again, as they were forced to start working to support their family in times of the crisis. However, we should now take the window of opportunity which was opened by this education crisis and take steps forward to resolve this issue in order to create a more peaceful and humane world with the help of quality education.

## 4. How to Prepare for This Year's Conference

Please have a look at the resources that we provide for you, as they will help you to prepare for this year's topic. We would like you all to send in a Policy Statement which briefly represents the views of your delegation within a maximum of 200 words. Bear in mind that presenting your Policy Statement will help you within during the lobbying phase and the process of writing a resolution.

Furthermore, you have to hand in a Draft Resolution, which should be at least one page, focusing on the operative clauses. Of course it does not have to be perfect yet, please send us both your **Draft Resolution and your Policy Statement until May 31st**.

You can find detailed information about the structure and expected language and terms of such documents in the OLMUN Handbook on our website.

If you have any questions about writing the Policy Statement or the Draft Resolution, please do not hesitate to contact us! We will look through all your ideas and give a short feedback, just so you are better prepared for the conference and are safe to present your ideas. Sending in a Policy Statement and Draft Resolution is mandatory, and people who did not send it in might find themselves on a list for punishments during the conference. ;)

## 5. Final Words

OLMUN can be a wonderful experience as we can tell from past conferences. Here are a few things for you to keep in mind for this year's conference:

- Make sure to inform yourself thoroughly on the topic.
- Look into as many different resources as possible to form a comprehensive opinion.

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<sup>2</sup> Education for Global development: The global education crisis. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/global-education-crisis-even-more-severe-previously-estimated>



# 6 Helpful Links

- Always keep in mind to represent your delegation's opinion on the topic, it is not your own values that matter.
- Refrain from using personal pronouns.
- Do not be afraid to participate, this is a safe space for everyone.
- Start your research in time.

We are very much looking forward to meeting all of you in this year's conference. Now we would like to wish you a successful preparation and all the best until we meet in June.

## 6. Helpful Links

### 6.1. About UNESCO

- UNESCO in general:  
<https://www.unesco.org/en>
- Vision of UNESCO:  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/vision>
- Sustainable Development Goals:  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- UNESCO about education:  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/education>

### 6.2. This Year's Topic

- The right to education:  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/right-education#:~:text=Education%20is%20a%20basic%20human,social%2C%20economic%20and%20cultural%20reasons>
- Feel free to read articles linked on this page of the UNESCO:  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/education>
- OLMUN Handbook 2023  
<HandbookOLMUN2023>

### 6.3. COVID-19 Related

- Learning Poverty:  
<https://gaml.uis.unesco.org/learning-poverty/>



## 6 Helpful Links

- Global Education crisis:  
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/global-education-crisis-even-more-severe-previously-estimated>
- A path to recovery:  
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/184161638768635066/pdf/Executive-Summary.pdf>
- Understanding the global education crisis:  
<https://gbc-education.org/understanding-the-global-education-crisis/>
- Possible solutions:  
<https://world-education-blog.org/2014/04/11/10-steps-for-solving-the-global-learning-crisis/>

Please check out the **Rules of Procedure** and the **OLMUN Handbook** as well.





**OLMUN 2023**

**22<sup>nd</sup> International  
Session**