

# Committee Guide

**GA 1st**



**Increasing International  
Regulations for Private Military  
Companies in Conflict Areas**



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## 1. Personal Introduction

### 1.1. Matilda Kaya

Esteemed delegates,

We would like to warmly welcome you to this year's OLMUN conference.

My name is Matilda, and I will be chairing GA1st together with Aylin and Wojciech. I am sixteen years old and originally from Derry, Northern Ireland, though I currently live in Hamburg. I have participated in six Model United Nations conferences so far, and this will be my first time serving as a chair.

Each time I have taken part in MUN, I have been deeply inspired by the number of politically engaged young people from all over the world that I have met. I have always left these conferences with a stronger motivation to engage more critically and actively with politics. As a chair, I now hope to help provide you with a similarly enriching and empowering experience. I am very much looking forward to hearing your ideas on this year's topic and to our (hopefully) fruitful debates during committee sessions.

See you all in June!

Matilda Kaya

### 1.2. Aylin Catuk

Dear Delegates,

My name is Aylin and I am currently finishing my final year of school. I have a strong interest in neurology, aviation, politics and love travelling in my spare time. This year marks my third year at OLMUN.

My MUN journey began in 2024 as a Delegate of Jordan in the World Health Assembly, continued as the Delegate of Nicaragua in GA2nd, and this year I am excited to take on my first role as a Chair of the GA1st. I have enjoyed writing resolutions these past years, debating them, and for the last year, even seeing my resolution pass, which motivated me to step into this role and give back the experience and fun I have been allowed to enjoy over the years.

If you should have questions or concerns, at any point during the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am always happy to listen and help where I can.

# How to Use This Guide

I hope you find this guide helpful in your preparation and come well prepared. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all.

Until June!

Aylin Catuk

## 1.3. Wojciech Musiał

Dear delegates,

My name is Wojtek and OLMUN marks my 16th MUN; however, it is my first outside of Poland. I am – as you may have deduced already – Polish, although I was born in England and lived there for the first nine years of my life. I am currently in my last year of high school, with the longest summer holiday ahead of me.

I have chaired over 6 MUNs and organised WawMUN 2025, therefore I hope to transfer my experience onto you – the delegates. Unfortunately I do not speak German, so please remember to use English so I can understand you!

I hope this Committee Guide will serve you well and provide insightful information concerning the committee topic. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

Wojtek

## 2. How to Use This Guide

First of all, we are grateful for all of you, who will be a part of our committee and who will be on this journey with us. This guide is supposed to serve as the starting point of your preparatory work. After you have read this guide, you will hopefully know:

1. Who will be chairing your committee
2. How to prepare for the conference
3. Where, when and why the committee was created
4. What the topic is we are dealing with
5. How to start your research
6. What to hand in prior to the conference



Enjoy working your way through the guide! Let us know if there are questions coming up to you whilst reading through it!

## 3. About the GA1st

The General Assembly First Committee was established in 1945 as one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community, and seeks solutions to challenges within the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter, including the general principles of cooperation in maintaining international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments. The Committee also promotes cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments and works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.

First Committee sessions are structured into three distinct stages:

1. General debate
2. Thematic discussions
3. Action on drafts

It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage pursuant to Rule 58(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

## 4. International Regulations for Private Military Companies in Conflict Areas

### 4.1. What Are Private Military Companies

Private Military Companies (PMCs), also referred to as private security or military contractors, are for-profit organizations that provide military and security-related services to governments, international organizations, corporations, and non-governmental actors. Their activities typically include armed security, military and police training, logistical and technical support, intelligence analysis, risk assessment, and the protection of personnel and critical

infrastructure in high-risk environments. PMC personnel are predominantly former members of national armed forces or law-enforcement agencies, including veterans of elite units, whose professional experience and specialized skills form the basis of the industry.

The modern PMC industry expanded significantly after the end of the Cold War, following the large-scale downsizing of Western militaries during the 1990s. The origins of the modern PMC industry can be traced to the Cold War era, notably with the establishment of Watchguard International in 1965 by former British Special Air Service officer David Stirling, which marked an early transition from mercenary activity toward corporatized military services.

This process created a substantial pool of trained former soldiers while simultaneously increasing demand for flexible security solutions in conflict and post-conflict regions. PMCs operate globally, often in areas where states lack the capacity or political willingness to deploy regular armed forces. Governments and international organizations frequently rely on PMCs because they can be deployed rapidly, operate with fewer bureaucratic constraints, and reduce the political and domestic costs associated with military intervention. Private corporations similarly employ PMCs to protect assets and personnel in unstable or hostile environments.

Although PMCs may operate alongside military forces or in proximity to combat operations, their legal status differs from that of regular armed forces. Under the Geneva Conventions, PMC personnel are generally considered civilians accompanying armed forces and are protected as such unless they take a direct part in hostilities, in which case they may lose that protection. PMCs are often mistakenly equated with mercenaries; however, they are not legally synonymous. The United Nations Mercenary Convention defines mercenarism narrowly, and most PMC employees do not meet its criteria, particularly as they are contracted by recognized states or organizations and operate within domestic legal frameworks.

By the early 2000s, the private military and security industry had grown into a major component of global security governance, with annual revenues estimated at over one hundred billion U.S. dollars. In the United States, private contractors have constituted a significant portion of the defense and intelligence workforce, reflecting the increasing reliance of states on private actors to supplement military capabilities.

Despite their operational advantages, PMCs continue to raise significant ethical and legal concerns, particularly regarding accountability, transparency, and the privatization of force. While voluntary regulatory initiatives and codes of conduct have been introduced to promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, enforcement remains un-

even. As PMCs increasingly supplement state military and security functions, their role continues to challenge traditional understandings of sovereignty, warfare, and civilian control over the use of armed force.

To support your research, we will briefly outline the current situation of private military companies and suggest areas that may be useful for further investigation.

## 4.2. Constellis

Constellis is one of the largest PMC in the world and operates as a parent organisation to several subsidiaries. The company provides a wide range of services, such as armed security and training, primarily to government clients – including the United States Department of State and the United States Department of War. Its operational presence is primarily concentrated in high-risk and conflict-ridden regions.

In alignment with international humanitarian law (including the Geneva Conventions), Constellis personnel are generally classified as civilians accompanying armed forces, therefore they are subject to specific legal protections. Interestingly, the company is required to comply with US federal regulations, like the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and oversight mechanisms established under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, which cover US legal jurisdiction over contractors operating outside USA's borders.

In response to growing international scrutiny, Constellis has adopted internal compliance frameworks aligned with voluntary international standards; mostly, the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC), which promotes accountability, transparency, and adherence to human rights norms. However, enforcement of such standards remains inconsistent across jurisdictions, particularly in conflict zones where governance structures are weak or fragmented. In reality, these compliance frameworks mostly function as a facade Constellis uses to 'paint itself in a better light'.

## 4.3. Wagner Group

A Russian private military entity with close ties to Russia, the infamous Wagner Group has played a significant role in conflict zones, with typical examples being: Ukraine, Syria, and multiple African states such as Mali and the Central African Republic. The group has been widely associated with Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose networks facilitated its financing and operational expansion, in supposed collaboration with the Russian government. What differentiates Wagner Group from Constellis is that the latter operate mostly for contractors, whilst

Wagner Group is essentially a paramilitary extension of the Russian Army in alignment with Russian geopolitical interests, though the country maintains formal deniability.

Due to its ambiguous legal status, Wagner operates in a significantly less regulated framework compared to Western PMCs, because Wagner's activities frequently fall outside established international regulatory mechanisms. Under international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, Wagner personnel may be classified as civilians or unlawful combatants depending on their level of participation in hostilities, creating legal ambiguity regarding accountability and protections. Additionally, Russia is not a signatory to the United Nations Mercenary Convention – this further complicates efforts to categorise and regulate the group under international law.

In response to increasing international scrutiny, Wagner has been the subject of sanctions imposed by entities such as the European Union and the United States Department of the Treasury, citing alleged human rights violations and destabilising activities. Despite these measures, enforcement remains limited in regions where host governments actively cooperate with (or depend on) Wagner for security assistance. This has allowed the group to maintain flexible operationality, while avoiding many of the compliances expected of formally recognised private military companies.

For further information you might want to check out the following resources.

#### **4.4. For more general information:**

##### [The Montreux Document](#)

This should be your main reference point. This document although not legally binding lays out the state obligations and is good to understand the legal framework surrounding PMCs better.

##### [International Committee of the Red Cross – IHL and PMSCs FAQ](#)

This will give you a clear explanation of how international humanitarian law applies to private contractors. This is helpful for understanding the legal ambiguity around whether PMC personnel count as civilians or combatants.

##### [United Nations – Working Group on mercenaries](#)

This page provides reports and updates on the use of PMCs and mercenaries globally, including human rights concerns. It's useful for more critical perspectives and current developments.

## 4.5. Good places to stay up to date

### [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

Publishes updates and analysis on international humanitarian law. Useful for tracking how PMCs are interpreted within current conflict law.

### [Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance](#)

Provides policy reports and research on PMCs and security governance. Good for regulation-focused and policy-oriented perspectives.

### [United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries](#)

Offers reports on PMC activity, legal issues, and human rights concerns. Useful for current developments and critical viewpoints.

### [Journal of Conflict & Security Law](#)

Academic articles on conflict law and security issues. Useful for detailed legal analysis and recent scholarly debates.

### [European Journal of International Law](#)

Covers broader international law topics, including PMCs. Good for theoretical perspectives and high-level legal discussion.

(For the 2 Journals you will have to sign in with your school e-mail (if supported) or use websites such as Anna's Archive to gain access to specific features).

## 4.6. Why Are Private Military Companies Used in Conflict Areas

Private Military Companies (PMCs) are increasingly used in conflict zones because they provide governments and private actors with flexible, specialized, and rapidly deployable military and security capabilities. States employ PMCs to outsource a wide range of tasks, including logistics, training, intelligence gathering, force protection, and, in some cases, direct combat operations.

A central reason for their use is political deniability: by relying on contractors, governments can limit formal involvement in conflicts, reduce public scrutiny, and minimize political backlash associated with casualties or controversial operations. PMCs also offer cost and resource efficiency, allowing states to scale military capacity up or down without the long-term financial and institutional burden of maintaining large standing armed forces.

Additionally, PMCs provide specialized expertise such as close protection, advanced weapons systems operation, and intelligence support that regular armed forces may lack or cannot rapidly deploy. They can be mobilized more quickly than conventional troops, particularly in situations where legal, political, or diplomatic constraints restrict official military deployment.

Beyond state use, PMCs are frequently hired by multinational corporations and international organizations to protect personnel and critical infrastructure such as pipelines, mines, and energy facilities in unstable regions. Their growing presence, especially in parts of Africa and other conflict-prone areas, reflects their role as contractual proxies advancing national and economic interests.

The expansion of PMCs has significant implications for international humanitarian law, accountability, and the nature of warfare itself, contributing to the broader phenomenon often described as the privatization of war. Their rise highlights fundamental changes in how contemporary conflicts are conducted and managed.

## **4.7. Why Are Private Military Companies Needed in Conflict Areas**

Private Military Companies are needed in conflict areas because they offer rapid, flexible, and specialized security capabilities in environments where regular armed forces face political, legal, or operational limits. They allow states to respond quickly to instability, manage security risks without long-term military commitments, and operate with reduced political exposure.

PMCs are particularly valuable where local security forces are weak, where high-risk tasks must be carried out without endangering official troops, and where critical economic and strategic assets require protection. Their use also enables governments to control costs, avoid the fixed burden of maintaining large standing forces, and access technical and intelligence expertise not readily available within regular militaries.

Overall, PMCs are needed because modern conflicts demand speed, adaptability, and deniability, reflecting broader changes in how warfare and security are organized.

## **4.8. Legal Regulations and Framework**

Private Military Companies operate within a fragmented legal framework composed of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and domestic regulation. There is

# How to Prepare for the Conference

no binding international treaty specifically governing PMCs as entities. Under international humanitarian law, PMC personnel are generally considered civilians and lose protection if they directly participate in hostilities; they rarely qualify as mercenaries under existing legal definitions.

States may incur international responsibility for PMC conduct where contractors act under state instruction or control, or where states fail to exercise due diligence in regulation and oversight. Primary regulation occurs at the domestic level, though enforcement is often inconsistent. As a result, PMC governance relies heavily on non-binding instruments, such as the Montreux Document and industry codes of conduct, leaving significant accountability gaps in armed conflict.

## 5. How to Prepare for the Conference

In preparation for this year's conference, each delegation is required to submit both a Draft Resolution and a Policy Statement that clearly reflect their country's position on the assigned topic. The Draft Resolution should consist of 4 preambulatory clauses and 6 operative clauses. The Policy Statement should provide a concise summary of your country's general stance and should not exceed 250 words.

For guidance on content, structure, and formatting, please consult the [OLMUN Handbook](#), available under the Downloads section of the website. Reviewing past resolutions passed by the First Committee may also help you understand how operative clauses are typically phrased and organised.

When submitting your documents, please also include brief responses to the following questions: what is your previous MUN experience, what you are most looking forward to at this year's conference, and whether there are any aspects of the conference that concern or worry you. Your submissions will be reviewed, and we will provide feedback and suggestions to help you refine your work in preparation for the conference.

We also strongly recommend familiarizing yourself with the [Rules of Procedure](#), which are available under the Downloads section of the OLMUN website. If you have any questions or concerns at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For eager delegates it is possible to give an Opening Speech during the Opening Ceremony in the General Assembly. This speech is only allowed to be 45 seconds long and per delegation only one delegate is allowed to give the speech. This is completely optional but for

more information please look in the OLMUN Handbook as well. If you are interested in giving an opening speech, please let the president ([president@olmun.org](mailto:president@olmun.org)) know until 31.05.2026. During the debate you will need to abide by the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. To be prepared you must familiarize yourself by looking at those to ensure a smooth debate. Also, if you are already an experienced MUN delegate, please read through these carefully as they differ from the other committees and also other conferences.

We would also like to remind everyone that OLMUN has a certain dress code. Male participants must wear a suit & tie, and female participants are allowed to wear blouses, skirts, suits, and more. Formal shoes are necessary. If you are not dressed correctly, there will be punishments during our debate [You can watch the Dresscode- video here](#)

## 6. Guest Speaker Informations

### 6.1. Siemtje Möller

Siemtje Möller is a German politician affiliated with the SPD Party and served as a member of the Bundestag since 2017, representing the Friesland – Wilhelmshaven – Wittmund constituency in Lower Saxony.

She rose to prominence through defence and foreign policy – from 2021 to 2025, she held the role of Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence under Olaf Scholz. In this position, she encouraged ministerial leadership and contributed to Germany's defence policy during a period of heightened security challenges within European nations.

Since 2025, Möller has been serving as deputy chair of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag, where she oversees different aspects: foreign affairs, defence, development cooperation, human rights. Within her party, she is associated with the Seeheim Circle, a more centrist or right-leaning faction of the SPD.

- [https://www.bundestag.de/webarchiv/abgeordnete/biografien20/M/moeller\\_siemtje-857744](https://www.bundestag.de/webarchiv/abgeordnete/biografien20/M/moeller_siemtje-857744)
- <https://www.spdfraktion.de/abgeordnete/moeller>
- <https://www.airbus.com/sites/g/files/jlcbta136/files/2022-11/Biography-Siemtje-Moller-docx.pdf>

## 6.2. Boris Pistorius

Boris Pistorius is a German politician, lawyer, and member of the SPD, who has served as Germany's Federal Minister of Defence since 2023. He has held this position under Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his successor – Friedrich Merz, making him a rare example of continuity across different governments. He is widely regarded as one of the most popular politicians in Germany.

As Defence Minister, Boris Pistorius has played a central role in shaping Germany's response to evolving security challenges, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. His tenure has included overseeing increased Ukrainian military relief, strengthening international defence cooperation, and supporting the acquisition of missile defence systems. He has also advocated for strengthening Germany's armed forces and warned of potential future security threats in Europe.

Earlier in his political career, Pistorius was known for his firm stance on internal security issues, including extremism and organised crime. Within the SPD, he has been an influential figure and even ran for party leadership in 2019.

- <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/bundesregierung/bundeskabinett/boris-pistorius-2342862>
- <https://www.bmvg.de/en/organisation/minister-of-defence-boris-pistorius>
- <https://warsawsecurityforum.org/profile/boris-pistorius-2025>

## 7. Helpful Links and Our Sources

In the following you can find our sources, that we used, to put this guide together as much as helpful preparatory links.

[Legal Limbo: The Jurisdictional Maze of Private Military Contractors in Modern Warfare | Ave Maria School of Law](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026).

This article examines the “legal limbo” surrounding private military contractors, focusing on the challenges of assigning jurisdiction and accountability when such actors operate across different legal systems and conflict zones.

# Helpful Links and Our Sources

[Cambridge University Press Chapter 2 - The Recent History of PMCs](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026).

The Cambridge chapter outlines the recent growth of private military companies, especially after the post–Cold War period and the Iraq War, noting their increasing use by states to outsource military and security functions.

[The Evolution of the Private Military Industry after the Cold War](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026). Chaire EPP (2009) Private military companies and state sovereignty.

This document is an academic working paper that examines public–private partnerships (PPPs). It focuses on how different contract structures and governance arrangements affect the efficiency and performance of jointly delivered public services.

[The Business of War – Growing risks from Private Military Companies](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026). Council of the European Union (2023) Private Military companies: Final report.

This is an analytical report examining the growing use of private military companies, focusing on their expanding roles in modern conflicts and the legal and security risks they pose for states and international operations.

[Private military companies | Military History and Science | Research Starters | EBSCO Research](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026).

This provides a general overview of private military companies, explaining their historical development, typical functions such as security and logistics support, and their growing role in modern conflicts, alongside ongoing debates about legality and accountability.

[Private military and security companies \(PMSCs\) | How does law protect in war? - Online casebook](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026).

This defines PMCs as private companies providing military and security services such as armed protection, training, logistics, and support in armed conflicts.

[Private Military Companies](#) (last accessed: April 18, 2026).

The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law page explains the growing use of private military companies in modern conflicts and highlights the legal and ethical issues they raise under international humanitarian law.

## 8. Use of AI

We are comfortable with you using artificial intelligence as an initial tool to familiarize yourself with your topic, especially since it may not be something people commonly encounter or discuss in their everyday lives, however, it is important that you verify the information you receive by checking reliable sources. If you need any assistance with this, we are available and happy to help.

You may also use AI tools you prefer to support you with structuring your work, improving grammar or refining sentences. This is acceptable, however, please keep in mind that we will review your work carefully and make sure it is still your own work. It is essential that you complete the work yourself. If you rely solely on AI, you may not fully understand the topic or be prepared for the debate, therefore, please use AI as a supportive tool rather than as the main means of completing your policy statement or draft resolution.

## 9. Afterword of the Chairs

Beloved delegates,

We firmly hope that the preceding contents of this document have been sufficient assistance in your preparations. We have provided you with background information for the better understanding of the topic, as well as some case studies for you to get a clearer view of the specific stances presented by both your institution and other important actors of the committee. This Study Guide is also meant to serve as a means of assistance in the preparation of your official conference documents. We also encourage you to get acquainted with the 'Helpful links and sources' section, as they are designed to provide you with information useful both in your preparations and the debates during the conference.

Furthermore, we kindly ask you to familiarise yourself with the official Rules of Procedure of the conference, as it will be a basis for all of our committee proceedings. The MUN procedures may seem confusing at first, especially for those at the very start of their career, and therefore this document offers a complex explanation of all the rules you will need for your participation in the debates themselves.

To conclude, we would once again express our utmost gratitude for having you as a part of this committee. We hope the conference will be a memorable experience for all of you and cannot wait to meet you during OLMUN 2026!!

Lots of love,  
Your Chairs,

Wojtek, Aylin, Matilda



**OLMUN 2026**

**25<sup>th</sup> International  
Session**