PASMUN TRIBUNE

FORGING COMMON GROUND

2026 ISSUE ONE



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FORGING COMMON GROUND

Written by: Feifei He Edited by: Isabella Zhu Layout by: Kathy Chen

In a time marked by widening ideological divides and geopolitical rivalry, the need for common ground has never been more urgent. The international system is being pulled apart by more than just traditional borders. We are witnessing a world fragmented by 'friend-shored' supply chains, weaponization of critical minerals, and deepening mistrust that turns every diplomatic encounter into a zero-sum game. From the mineral-rich veins of the global south to the high-tech corridors of the north, "common ground" is becoming a rare resource that must be actively manufactured. This year's theme, Forging Common Ground, challenges delegates to treat these structural and economic fractures not as dead ends, but as the raw material for a more resilient global architecture.

Forging common ground isn't about meeting in the middle or settling for a polite compromise; it's a grueling exercise in historical deconstruction. The crises we face in 2026 didn't appear overnight. They are the scars of old grievances and shifting power dynamics that have finally reached a breaking point. If we only address the symptoms of these conflicts, we're just delaying the next explosion. To actually build something sustainable, delegates have to be willing to dig into the uncomfortable "why" behind a nation's defiance, looking past the talking points to find the systemic inequalities that drive them

At its heart, the art of connection is failing because our tools for communication have been weaponized against us. While the UN was built on the hope of collective security, today's national interests are being amplified by technologies that prioritize clicks over consensus. We can't ignore the elephant in the room: AI is fundamentally shifting the global power balance. Delegates here are tasked with a dual mission: to look past the noise of social media polarization and to draft the blueprints for a digital future where human safety and economic equity aren't sacrificed to an algorithm. Rising to this challenge means proving that human diplomacy can still outpace machine-led division.

Security Council: The Situation in Venezuela

Written By: Jonah **Edited By:** Isabella **Layout By:** Luna

The debate surrounding **Nicolás Maduro** and the pressure campaign under **Donald Trump** reveals something deeper than a single foreign policy dispute. What we are witnessing is a clash of moral frameworks, since each side is convinced it sees the truth, yet often failing to hear the others.

On the political right, the case is straightforward: authoritarian leaders tied to corruption and criminal networks must face firm consequences. Condoning corruption in addition erodes citizens' trust in their institution, so decisive action not only signals strength but also protects regional stability. Hesitation, they argue, only invites further instability, highlighting the fundamental importance of order and credibility.

Many voices on the left read the same events through a different historical lens. They warn that powerful nations have often justified intervention with the language of security while pursuing strategic interests. Their concern is less about defending Maduro personally and more about protecting sovereignty and preventing a dangerous precedent of unilateral power.

These two camps often talk past each other. One hears necessary enforcement; the other hears familiar echoes of overreach. The result is not dialogue but parallel monologues.

Yet the most important perspective frequently gets flattened in this ideological crossfire: the lived experience of Venezuelans themselves. Public opinion among Venezuelans is complex and divided. Some citizens, exhausted by economic collapse and political repression, express relief at any weakening of Maduro's hold on power. Others worry that foreign pressure could worsen instability or undermine national self-determination. Both reactions are real. Both emerge from lived stakes rather than abstract theory.



Iranian-American activist **Elica Le Bon** argues that much of the disconnect stems from privilege. In stable democracies, observers often have the luxury of debating procedural legitimacy—what was authorized, what norms were followed, and what precedents are at risk. For populations facing shortages, political fear, or economic freefall, the calculation is often more immediate: what improves daily survival, dignity, and safety?

Recognizing this gap does not mean democratic safeguards are unimportant, nor does it mean every hardline policy is justified. It means perspective matters. At the extremes, the far right can reduce complex societies to security threats that must be neutralized. The far left can unintentionally slip into a form of savior politics that treats sovereignty as sacred even when citizens themselves are divided or desperate for change. Different instincts, similar blind spots.

If there is a path forward, it begins with humility. Security concerns can be legitimate. Fears of imperial overreach can also be legitimate. Venezuelans themselves are not a monolith, and their voices should not be filtered through someone else's ideological script.

Common ground will not emerge from louder arguments or sharper labels. It emerges when people are willing to widen their lens and to hold competing truths without immediately rushing to flatten them. In a world increasingly sorted into rigid camps, the most radical act may be the simplest one, which is to listen carefully before deciding who is right.

Countering Social Media Harms to Mental Health Democracy & Balancing Public Order and Freedom of Assembly During Mass Protest

Written by: Kaishin atanaka Edited by: Isabella Zhu Layout by: An Cheng



Every morning, exhausted from endless scrolling the night before, we instinctively pick up our phones to continue "doomscrolling." This routine is familiar to Gen Z, Millennials, and even Gen X. Unnoticed, social media consumes our lives, harming both mental health and democracy.

Social media "compresses time-space," letting us instantly connect with anyone worldwide. This connectivity can provide support, but overdependence erodes well-being. Platforms are designed to trigger dopamine—the brain's reward chemical—through likes, comments, and notifications, creating a feedback loop that reinforces compulsive checking. Constant updates about others' curated lives lead us to compare ourselves to idealized posts, decreasing self-worth and creating a cycle of validation-seeking and insecurity.

Beyond personal harm, social media shapes civic life. Algorithms prioritize content that provokes strong emotions, enabling rapid spread of misinformation—false information shared unknowingly—and disinformation—deliberate deception. When citizens consume misleading narratives, democratic processes suffer. Shared facts, essential for informed debate and decision-making, are undermined. Trust in institutions declines, elections are distorted, and public opinion can be manipulated by actors exploiting these vulnerabilities.

Social media also fuels polarization. Algorithms create echo chambers, exposing users mainly to views that reinforce their beliefs. Opposing perspectives appear threatening, nuanced discussion is replaced by viral slogans, and citizens retreat into isolated digital tribes. This fragmentation weakens compromise, mutual understanding, and collective problem-solving—core elements of a healthy democracy.

Social media itself is not inherently harmful; the danger lies in overuse and insufficient safeguards. Solutions require balance: individuals can limit mindless scrolling and use platforms intentionally, while society can enforce algorithm transparency, strengthen fact-checking, and promote digital literacy.

Technology should serve us—not control us. By using it mindfully and regulating it responsibly, we can preserve its benefits while countering its harms to mental health and democracy.

The issue of balancing public order and freedom of assembly has become increasingly urgent as mass protests grow more frequent and large-scale worldwide. The right to peaceful assembly is protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm individuals' right to gather to express their views. At the same time, governments carry the responsibility of maintaining safety and stability.

Recent youth-led demonstrations, including Nepal's Gen Z protests calling for political accountability and reform, highlight how young people are increasingly using public assemblies to demand change. When protests escalate into violence or threaten public security, authorities may intervene in accordance with principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality. However, tensions arise when states impose broad restrictions, deploy excessive force, or invoke emergency powers in situations where demonstrations remain largely peaceful.

The complexity of this issue lies in the differing perspectives of states, institutions, and civil society. Some governments argue that strong policing, curfews, or internet shutdowns are essential to prevent chaos and protect citizens. Others, including human rights advocates and UN bodies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, warn that such measures can suppress dissent and violate democratic freedoms.

Democratic states emphasize constitutional protections, while critics highlight inconsistencies in enforcement and the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups. Social media further complicates the matter by accelerating mobilization and increasing scrutiny of law enforcement actions, particularly among digitally connected youth movements.

Ultimately, an effective solution must strike a careful balance. Clear legal standards defining peaceful assembly, strict limits on state intervention, independent judicial oversight, and proper police training can help protect both safety and rights. By ensuring that restrictions are lawful, necessary, and proportionate, states can preserve public order without undermining the fundamental freedoms that sustain democratic societies.



SUSTAINABLE AI INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Written by: Feifei He Edited by: Jonah Chen Layout by: Kathy Chen

Artificial intelligence is often portrayed as a breakthrough tool for solving climate change, optimizing energy grids, and accelerating scientific discovery. Yet behind its digital interface lies a vast physical infrastructure that consumes electricity, water, and raw materials at an unprecedented scale. As AI systems become more powerful, the world faces a pressing question: how can we develop AI sustainably?

One of the clearest concerns is energy consumption. A single AI query can use significantly more electricity than a traditional web search, and global data center energy use is projected to exceed 1,000 terawatt-hours by 2026, comparable to the total annual electricity consumption of Japan. Training large-scale models requires enormous computational power, often running continuously for weeks. While AI can help improve energy efficiency in other sectors, its own footprint risks undermining those climate gains, creating what experts describe as a “sustainability paradox.”

Water usage compounds this issue. Data centers rely on water-intensive cooling systems to prevent overheating. Even short AI interactions can indirectly consume measurable amounts of water, and global AI-related water demand could reach billions of cubic meters within a few years. In water-stressed regions, this demand may compete with agriculture and local communities. Electronic waste adds another layer of complexity. Specialized AI chips, such as high-performance GPUs, become obsolete within three to five years. With only around 22 percent of global e-waste properly recycled, toxic materials frequently contaminate land and water systems, particularly in developing countries where much of the world’s discarded electronics are processed.

Beyond environmental costs, AI development risks widening the “AI divide.” Advanced AI infrastructure is concentrated in a handful of wealthy nations and multinational corporations. Meanwhile, many developing countries provide the raw materials, such as lithium and cobalt, and host energy-intensive facilities without sharing equally in the economic benefits. Underrepresentation in training data can also lead to algorithmic bias, marginalizing voices from the Global South and reinforcing digital inequality. Different stakeholders propose varying paths forward. The United States often favors a market-driven model emphasizing innovation. The European Union promotes regulatory oversight and transparency requirements. China employs centralized planning to relocate data centers to renewable-rich regions. UN bodies call for circular economy frameworks, standardized environmental assessments, and more energy-efficient model design.

Sustainable AI infrastructure will require global coordination. International standards for green data centers, regional shared computing hubs, and lifecycle accountability for hardware manufacturers can help balance innovation with responsibility. As AI transforms society, ensuring that its growth does not compromise environmental integrity or global equity is essential.

General Assembly 3 :

Addressing Global Fentanyl Trafficking & Its Public Health Impact

At first, the fentanyl crisis can sound simple: stop the drug, secure the borders, punish traffickers. However, a deeper examination reveals a complicated reality that requires delegates to handle it with caution, tolerance, and compromise.

Yes, the crisis is real. Illicit fentanyl has caused waves of deadly overdoses in the United States and Canada. Some policymakers advocate aggressive measures, such as tariffs, border crackdowns, and tougher enforcement. This approach has merit: transnational criminal networks and precursor chemicals must be disrupted, with hubs like China and Mexico. Supply matters. Supply cannot be ignored.

Yet treating fentanyl purely as a trade or border problem is dangerously simplistic. Unilateral pressure can strain diplomacy, the cooperation required to track chemicals and dismantle trafficking networks. Enforcement alone cannot solve addiction crises driven by domestic demand. Even perfect borders cannot erase dependency.

Conversely, a public health–first approach that emphasizesharm reduction, treatment, and multilateral cooperation is incomplete if it ignores the supply side. Harm reduction is vital. Healthcare expansion is essential. But unchecked trafficking means supply will always outpace prevention.

The crisis lies at the intersection of supply and demand, enforcement and health, production and treatment. Less-developed healthcare systems often lack access to naloxone, labs, and treatment infrastructure. More-developed nations push for tighter controls and faster scheduling. Priorities differ, yet they are intertwined.

Delegates cannot choose sides. They must build common ground by listening to producer states wary of disrupting trade, transit states facing cartel violence, and consumer countries overwhelmed by overdoses. Progress demands balanced precursor monitoring, expanded treatment, and sustained diplomatic trust. The fentanyl crisis will not yield to blunt instruments. It requires coordination, cooperation, and care. It is neither a border problem nor a public health problem in isolation; it is both. Only by embracing this complexity can the international community respond effectively.

Written By: Jonah and Isabella
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MUN

Written by: Kaishin Hatanaka
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Anecdotes: Firsts!

Haru Shih (9th) USA KAS

"In my past experiences, I've never really in such a controversial position, but I was the delegate of Mao Zedong in one CRISIS committee, and to avoid getting too much criticism, I went really off-stance and as a result ended up giving PRC back to ROC, which was not a pleasant experience. This has taught me to always stay on my stance, even if it goes against my personal beliefs and causes controversy."

Clyde Wang (10th) UK AST

"My past MUN conferences have been a rollercoaster of emotions; at first, I was like any other beginner delegate: Scared, afraid to talk, and had no backbone. But after a while in my 2nd conference, I realized that everyone has their own opinion on each resolution. You can't just let someone decide your amendment should go based on their own ideals. So I started to fight back against them. Argued more, defended my stance, and asked questions. Now, I am 90% confident in defending my stance, questioning others, and imposing my thinking into other people."

Sophie Chang (11th) Denmark PAS

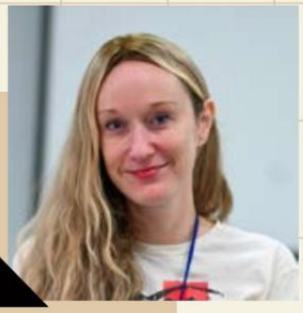
The elapse of each conference traces a memorable remark, resembling the morals that each literary masterpiece echoes. Either as a delegate or a chair at past conferences, the phrasing of words weaves shattered diction into constructive text. Professionalism isn't always about formal and complex word choice, but the mechanism by which you deliver your intent. How individuals persuade, present, and motivate paints the art of literature. In international affairs, sovereign nations tend to achieve their target through smuggling their ideals into unrecognizable and general clauses. Instead of stating their underlying purpose, clever and playful language often guarantees you a greater possibility of success.

James Chu (10th) France IBSH

Throughout my past MUN experiences as both a delegate and a chair, I initially believed that success came solely from strong preparation and possessing leadership and argumentative skills. While those qualities are important, I gradually realized that true growth in MUN comes from actively observing others and learning from their strengths. By watching how experienced delegates structured their speeches, handled POIs and crafted strategic rebuttals, I began to understand the real way of improving. I would not have been able to refine my public speaking or deliver high-quality rebuttals without closely analyzing how others balanced assertiveness with collaboration.

INSIGHTS FROM MUN DIRECTORS

Written by: Isabella Zhu Edited by: Kaishin Hatanaka Layout by: Kathy Chen





During PASMUN 2025, three honorable directors shared their insights on leadership and gave advice as MUN directors: Mrs. Grenham from International Billigual School of Hsinchu, Mr. Martin from American School in Taichung, and Ms. Marvel from Kaohsiung American School.

When asked how their experience with Model United Nations has shaped their leadership style, Mrs. Grenham explains that effective leadership means getting used to assigning more responsibility to students. Since MUN is a large club, it won't function effectively when one individual's voice dominates; rather, coordinated collaboration provides long-term success. According to Mr. Martin, incorporating more student positions and providing scaffolding for independence are crucial; by distributing responsibility, it encourages broader participation and ownership. This structure prevents leadership from being concentrated in the hands of a small group and cultivates students capable of stepping into large roles in the future. Ms. Marvel adds that students should "make mistakes, learn, and then pivot," so that growth, rather than perfection, becomes a central goal.

Having fruitful debates is vital at MUN conferences, so what do directors do to ensure they remain productive? Based on Mrs. Grenham's experience, having the "right people in leadership positions," as in well-trained individuals, permits committees to foster healthy discussions. Similarly, Mr. Martin elucidates that group work is essential, as learning from peers can sometimes be more beneficial than actual clubs. Ms. Parker emphasizes the importance of the leadership team, noting that the team creates a warm atmosphere where delegates feel comfortable speaking up.

For first-time delegates, Mrs. Grenham urges them to practice and to approach the podium and speak, while working on the quality of the speeches in later periods. Mr. Martin motivates them to research both sides of the topic to get a more objective view to argue about while getting to know their fellow delegates and reaching a consensus. According to Ms. Marvel, first-time delegates should be brave and know that everyone is excited to be here, and no one is critical; making mistakes will allow others to correct you.

These interviews provide a deeper understanding of the directors' perspectives. With their dedication and leadership, a new generation of global leaders can be built while ensuring that MUN remains a valuable learning experience.


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Day 1

























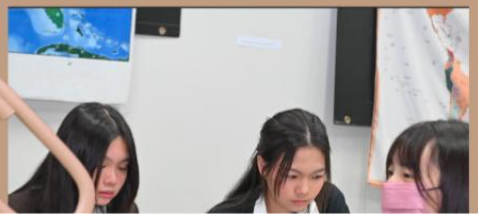




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