



# **Study Guide**

## **The United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda: Addressing the aftermath of the terror attacks in the United States of America and its impact on global efforts to counter terrorism in the world, 2001.**

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## Chairperson's Address

Dear Delegates,

I am honoured to welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly, at the 13th edition of JacoMUN. The events surrounding September 11th have left an indelible mark on the collective global consciousness. That tragic day in the United States has unfolded a complex tapestry of history, interweaving themes of terrorism, global security, intelligence operations, religious extremism, geopolitical dynamics, and societal transformation. While many are familiar with the harrowing accounts of 9/11 through media portrayals or documentaries, the depth and magnitude of its impact warrant a closer investigation.

Delegates must comprehend that a select group of individuals fuelled the motivations behind the events of 9/11. Each one of you is intricately connected to this core, embodying the responsibility akin to a 'key player' in ensuring the safety of your own nation. Your personal aspirations are inextricably entwined with the broader objective of protecting your homeland, where your roots, family, future, and very existence are placed in jeopardy. Although this description may make the committee seem frightening, the intention is different –To cultivate a deeper understanding of a pivotal point in modern history, and to understand the constraints within which even the most powerful men and women had to operate.

A delegate in this committee must exhibit astuteness and strategic acumen, coupled with a profound comprehension of the geopolitical landscape of the globe and its context at large. Such proficiency will be essential for thriving in this committee, where intricate knowledge of regional dynamics and international relations will be paramount.

On a final note, a little about myself: I graduated from St. James' School, Kolkata, this year, and am eagerly waiting to start college. I particularly enjoy computer science and mathematics and will be pursuing them in the future. In my free time I am usually reading contentiously nuanced literature, ranting about Manchester City's underwhelming performance in Europe (this is our year), or traversing through my playlist which goes all the way from Paganini to Katy Perry. Additionally, I am a huge history buff; events such as –the Roman civil wars, the Napoleonic Wars, and the Greek Sacred wars among many others have always fascinated me. Also, Star Wars references, cat memes, stickers, etc. are sure to help score some brownie points!

Model UN has been an amazing journey for me. From hardly being able to speak for three entire days at my first MUN in the eighth grade, to getting to chair an exciting and dynamic (please do not let me down) committee. I believe Model UN showcases the value of thoughtfulness and collaboration, the most successful delegates are those who can recognize mutual areas of interest and develop solutions to critical issues that leave the country (or world) better off. While I expect debates and profound disagreements to arise, I also hope you bring this spirit of collaboration to the conference!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in July! In the meanwhile, please, feel free to contact me about any questions regarding this committee, or JacoMUN in general (unga.jacomun2023@gmail.com), until then,

May the force be with you,  
Pratham Madhogaria,  
Chairperson,  
The United Nations General Assembly.

## **The United Nations General Assembly**

In the aftermath of humanity's darkest hour, when the fires of destruction ravaged the global stage, a collective yearning for peace emerged from the smouldering ruins. From the embers of the Second World War, a phoenix of hope soared into existence, bearing the weight of a united ambition: the birth of the United Nations. Its genesis, meticulously crafted by weary minds and compassionate hearts, wove together the shattered threads of nations scarred by conflict. Its foundation, rooted in the principles of dialogue, cooperation, and international law, bore the weight of countless souls yearning for the dawning of a new era.

The United Nations General Assembly is the principal and main policy-making organ of this revered organisation. Comprising of all Member States of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Here, the leaders of the world, their words etched upon history's tapestry, unite in a fragile dance of diplomacy, striving to harmonize discordant notes and shape the destiny of nations.

Ever since its first session, the General Assembly strives to bring about peace, reforms, and solution to the crisis at hand. With each address, hopes are kindled, alliances are forged, and the weight of responsibility lingers heavily upon the shoulders of those entrusted with the power to shape the course of humanity.

## **Topic Area Summary**

### **Addressing the aftermath of the terror attacks in the United States of America and its impact on global efforts to counter terrorism in the world, 2001.**

The resounding call for a world free from terror have reverberated throughout the globe over the past decades, but this global movement against terrorism reached a crucial turning point, in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. With nations grappling with the profound impacts of terrorism and the need for collective action, the time has come for the United Nations General Assembly to take a stand.

In the wake of the harrowing events that have unfolded, the global community finds itself at a critical juncture in the fight against terrorism. The reverberations of that tragic day have ignited a renewed sense of urgency and determination within the United Nations General Assembly to address the systemic challenges posed by terrorism and forge a path forward. With the scars of the recent incidents, the UNGA must seize this opportunity to craft a comprehensive plan that confronts the complex web of radicalization, law enforcement protocols, international cooperation, and the root causes that perpetuate acts of terror. As the world unites in solidarity, it is the solemn duty of this committee to navigate the intricate nuances surrounding counterterrorism strategies and lay the foundations for a safer future, ensuring that the echoes of that fateful day are met with resolute action and lasting peace.

Balancing the interests of member states, influential stakeholders, and the aspirations of billions of people affected by terrorism is a formidable task for this committee. It must navigate the intricate web of political alliances, regional dynamics, and differing national priorities while aiming to create a framework that safeguards global peace and security. The repercussions of the UNGA's decisions extend far beyond its halls, echoing throughout the international community, influencing policies, and shaping the lives of people across the globe. Therefore, prudent and far-sighted actions are imperative to address the urgent challenges posed by terrorism and pave the way for a safer and more harmonious world.

As the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly approaches, it is impossible to ignore the significance it will hold in the annals of history, in the wake of the fateful events that have transpired. This session will stand as a stark reminder of the immense impact that a single day can have on the course of global affairs. The UNGA, founded on the principles of international cooperation and peace, will assume a vital role in addressing the aftermath of such cataclysmic events.

## Defining Terrorism

### Controversy in Defining Terrorism

The difficulty in defining “terrorism” is in agreeing on a basis for determining when the use of violence (directed at whom, by whom, for what ends) is legitimate; therefore, the modern definition of terrorism is inherently controversial. The use of violence for the achievement of political ends is common to state and non-state groups. The majority of definitions in use has been written by agencies directly associated with government, and is systematically biased to exclude governments from the definition. The contemporary label of "terrorist" is highly pejorative-- it denotes a lack of legitimacy and morality. As a practical matter, so-called acts of “terrorism” or terrorism are often a tactic committed by the actors as part of a larger military or geo-political agenda.

### State Terrorism

State terrorism can be loosely explained as *“acts of terrorism conducted by governments or terrorism carried out directly by, or encouraged and funded by, an established government of a state (country) or terrorism practiced by a government against its own people or in support of international terrorism.”*

“State terrorism” is as controversial a concept as that of terrorism itself. Terrorism is often, though not always, defined in terms of four characteristics: (1) the threat or use of violence; (2) a political objective; the desire to change the status quo; (3) the intention to spread fear by committing spectacular public acts; (4) the intentional targeting of civilians. This last element--targeting innocent civilians—is problematic when one tries to distinguish state terrorism from other forms of state violence.

Democratic regimes may foster state terrorism of populations outside their borders or perceived as alien; but they do not terrorize their own populations because a regime that is truly based on the violent suppression of most citizens (not simply some) would cease to be democratic. Dictatorships terrorize their own populations; democracies do not; but they can engage in state sponsored terrorism in other countries. Declaring war and sending the military to fight other militaries is not terrorism, nor is the use of violence to punish criminals who have been convicted of violent crimes, but many would argue that democracies are also capable of terrorism. Israel has for many years been characterized by critics, especially in the Arab world, United Nations Resolutions, and human rights organizations, as perpetrating terrorism against the population of the territories it has occupied since 1967.

### The United Nations

The UN General Assembly Resolution 49/60 (adopted on December 9, 1994), titled "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism," includes a provision that addresses the concept of terrorism without providing a comprehensive definition, and it is as followed: *“Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance*

*unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them”.*

The resolution emphasizes the condemnation of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, and it recognizes the threat it poses to international peace and security. However, it does not offer an explicit and universally accepted definition of terrorism.

In 1996, the UN General Assembly created an ad-hoc committee and a working group on counter-terrorism. India presented a draft of a treaty in 2000, and negotiations since then have been based on the Indian draft. This treaty would, among other items, create a universal definition of terrorism to be included in states’ legal codes, shut down terrorist training camps, ban terrorist groups, and increase the ease of terrorist extradition. However, this treaty has reached a complete deadlock in negotiations, largely because the negotiations ‘could not avoid the question of the definition of terrorism.

Thus, the UN Member States still have no agreed-upon definition of terrorism, and this fact has been a major obstacle to meaningful international countermeasures. Terminology consensus would be necessary for a single comprehensive convention on terrorism, which some countries favour in place of the present piecemeal conventions and protocols. Cynics have often commented that one state's "terrorist" is another state's "freedom fighter", just like “beauty,” “terrorism” lies is in the eye of the beholder.

### **Arab Nations**

The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism was adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice in Cairo, Egypt in 1998. Terrorism was defined in the convention as: “*Any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs in the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda and seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them, or placing their lives, liberty or security in danger, or seeking to cause damage to the environment or to public or private installations or property or to occupying or seizing them, or seeking to jeopardize national resources.*”

### **European Union**

The European Union defines terrorism for legal/official purposes as “*terrorist offences are certain criminal offences set out in a list comprised largely of serious offences against persons and property which: given their nature or context, may seriously damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of: seriously intimidating a population; or unduly compelling a Government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act; or seriously destabilizing or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organization.*”



**Figure 1: Anti-Terrorism Convention Adoption in the International Community**

<i>Treaty Name</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>States Party to the Treaty</i>
<b>Tokyo Convention</b>	Offences onboard aircraft	1963	186
<b>Hague Convention</b>	Seizure of aircraft	1970	185
<b>Montreal Convention</b>	Sabotage of aircraft	1971	188
<b>Diplomatic Agents Convention</b>	Diplomats	1973	180
<b>Hostages Convention</b>	Hostages	1979	176
<b>Nuclear Materials Convention</b>	Nuclear materials	1980	153
<b>Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Act)</b>			
<b>SUA Protocol</b>	Offshore fixed platforms	1988	155
<b>Airport Protocol</b>	Supplement to Montreal Convention	1988	175
<b>Plastic Explosives Convention</b>	Explosives	1991	153
<b>Terrorist Bombing Convention</b>	Explosives	1997	169
<b>Terrorist Financing Convention</b>	Finance	1999	188

The lack of a universal definition has constrained how the international community has responded; whereas the Geneva Convention defines war and states what is legal in wartime, no such convention exists for terrorism because the very act is yet to be defined. Disagreements over national liberation movements and state actors have stalled the process towards a singular, comprehensive treaty on terrorism. Yet, conventions and amendments on counterterrorism have been passed in a piecemeal fashion that focus on tactics, without defining terrorism. Thus, the lack of a definition has constrained and shaped the manner in which the international community has acted towards the subject. Definitions will be central to the development of an international legal framework for counterterrorism cooperation.

### [A brief timeline of global-terrorism and the events leading up to the September 11, 2001 attacks](#)

Studying a timeline of terrorism is crucial to understanding its historical context, patterns, and evolving nature. It provides insights into the causes, motivations, and tactics employed by terrorist groups over time. By examining significant terrorist incidents, their impacts, and the corresponding countermeasures, one can gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding terrorism. A timeline helps to identify trends, vulnerabilities, and key turning points, enabling policymakers, security agencies, and researchers to develop more effective strategies to prevent, mitigate, and respond to terrorist threats.

Hence, a brief timeline addressing major terrorist attacks and subsequent countermeasures taken by the international community over the past 30 years is as followed:

**1972:** The Munich Olympics terrorist attack occurs when members of the Palestinian group Black September kill 11 Israeli athletes. This incident highlights the use of terrorism to achieve political objectives and triggers discussions on counterterrorism strategies.

**1974:** The Dublin and Monaghan bombings were a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Dublin and Monaghan, Ireland. Three bombs exploded in Dublin during rush hour and a fourth exploded in Monaghan almost ninety minutes later. They killed 33 civilians and injured almost 300.

**1974:** Bombs exploded in two pubs in Birmingham. The explosions killed 21 people and injured 182. The attacks were seen as the deadliest act of terrorism to occur in the UK after the Second World War.

**1979:** The Grand Mosque seizure occurred during November and December 1979 when extremist insurgents calling for the overthrow of the House of Saud took over Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The number of insurgents was been given as "four to five hundred" and included several women and children. Soon after the rebel seizure, about a hundred security officers of the Ministry of Interior attempted to retake the mosque, but were turned back with heavy casualties. The survivors were quickly joined by units of the Saudi Arabian Army and Saudi Arabian National Guard. The battle lasted for more than two weeks, and had "officially" left 255 dead and another 560 injured.

**1982/3:** In 1982, Israel invaded its neighbour Lebanon under the pretext that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) was using it as a base for its terrorist attacks.

**1983:** The United States embassy bombing was a suicide bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 63 people, mostly embassy staff members, several soldiers and one Marine. 17 of the dead were Americans. It is thought of as marking the beginning of anti-U.S. attacks by Islamist groups.

**1985:** The Schengen Agreement is signed, facilitating borderless travel among European countries while maintaining security cooperation to combat terrorism and other cross-border crimes.

**1985:** The UN General Assembly adopts Resolution 40/61, condemning all acts of terrorism. The resolution emphasizes the need for international cooperation in combating terrorism and calls on states to cooperate in bringing terrorists to justice.

**1985:** Air India Flight 182 was an Air India flight operating on the Montreal, Canada–London, UK–Delhi, India route. On 23 June 1985, the aircraft was destroyed by a bomb at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 m).

**1988:** Osama bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire, played a crucial role in establishing the extremist group known as al-Qaeda. The term "al-Qaeda" translates to "the base" or "the foundation" in Arabic, reflecting bin Laden's vision of building a global network of like-minded individuals dedicated to waging jihad against perceived enemies of Islam.

**1988:** On 21 December 1988 an aircraft flying from Frankfurt to Detroit was destroyed by a terrorist bomb, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew, in what became known as the Lockerbie bombing.

**1989:** The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is established by the G7 countries to combat money laundering, which plays a significant role in financing terrorist activities.

**1993:** In 1993 a terrorist cell led by Ramzi Yousef detonated a truck bomb in the parking lot beneath the twin towers at the World Trade Centre site in Manhattan, New York City.

**1993:** The 1993 Mumbai bombings were a series of explosions that took place in Mumbai, India on 12 March 1993 at locations including the Mumbai Stock Exchange, hotels, banks and a major shopping mall.

**1997:** The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings is adopted by the UN General Assembly. The convention criminalizes the use of bombs and explosives in terrorist acts and calls on states to cooperate in preventing such attacks.

**1998:** The 1998 United States embassy bombings occurred on 7 August 1998; over 200 people were killed in truck bomb explosions in two East African cities, at the United States Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya.

**1999:** The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1267, establishing sanctions against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan for its support of international terrorism.

**1999:** The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism is adopted by the UN General Assembly. The convention aims to prevent and criminalize the financing of terrorist activities, urging states to take measures to combat the flow of funds to terrorist organizations.

**2000:** The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1333, imposing sanctions on the Taliban regime in Afghanistan due to its support of terrorism. The resolution highlights the connection between state sponsorship of terrorism and international security concerns.

**September 09, 2001:** Ahmad Shah Massoud, commander of the Northern Alliance, an anti-Taliban coalition, is assassinated by al-Qaeda operatives. The killing of Massoud, a master of guerilla warfare known as the Lion of the Panjshir, dealt a serious blow to the anti-Taliban resistance.

**September 10, 2001:** United States, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld admits that the Pentagon managed to somehow lose \$2.3 trillion from its budget. He was quoted saying “According to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions.”

**September 11, 2001:** 19 terrorists, hijacked four commercial airplanes, deliberately crashing two of the planes into the upper floors of the North and South towers of the World Trade Centre complex and a third plane into the Pentagon in Arlington.

**Freeze Date:** The committee has set a freeze date of **3:30 p.m. on September 12th, 2001.**

Any events, decisions, or statements that occurred post this date will not be taken into consideration by the executive board and should not be referenced or cited by delegates.

Delegates should focus on discussing and formulating their own solutions to address the crisis and its potential consequences. The executive board may provide ‘updates’ on events that transpired after the freeze date within the committee itself. The committee has a freeze date to give delegates the benefit of hindsight, and to help deliberate, discuss, and formulate solutions of their own to tackle the crisis at hand and any future implications that may arise.

Note: Delegates should be aware that the timeline provided is not an exhaustive list of all terrorist attacks prior to September 11, 2001, nor does it encompass all countermeasures implemented on a global scale. It serves as a starting point for research, and delegates are encouraged to explore additional sources and information at their own discretion to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

## **Examining the Execution of the September 11 Attacks**

By examining the intricacies of the attacks, we aim to gain valuable insights into the factors that contributed to their tragic consequences. Through a meticulous exploration of the operational aspects, we seek to foster a deeper understanding of the event and stimulate meaningful discussions surrounding counterterrorism strategies and global security in the contemporary world.

**American Airlines Flight 11**, a domestic passenger flight, was the first of the planes to be hijacked. The aircraft, a Boeing 767-223ER registered as N334AA, was en route from Logan International Airport in Boston to Los Angeles International Airport. On that fateful morning, the hijackers took control of the plane, causing the deaths of all 92 individuals on board. Additionally, countless lives were lost in and around the impact zone when the hijackers intentionally crashed the aircraft into the North Tower of the World Trade Centre in New York City.

The hijacking is believed to have commenced at 08:14 when the pilot and first officer ceased communication with air traffic control. Unintentionally intercepted announcements by hijackers alerted air traffic controllers to the distressing situation as it unfolded. During this time, flight attendants Amy Sweeney and Betty Ong bravely contacted American Airlines to relay vital information about the hijackers and the injuries sustained by passengers and crew.

Upon receiving the alarming reports, air traffic control promptly notified the Federal Aviation Administration and contacted the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). Although NORAD scrambled two F-15 fighter aircraft to intercept Flight 11, the tragedy had already occurred more than six minutes before their departure. The plane had made its final turn towards Manhattan, colliding with the North Tower between the 93rd and 99th floors,

traveling approximately 466 miles per hour. The impact was intensified by the substantial amount of flammable fuel the aircraft was carrying.

In the immediate aftermath, news agencies reported the incident as a potential accident, unaware that another plane would strike the South Tower just 15 minutes later. Unfortunately, the collision severely limited the escape options for those above the crash site. Stairwells and elevators from the 92nd floor and above were inaccessible, trapping hundreds of individuals. Tragically, the subsequent collapse of the tower, along with the ensuing fire and smoke, claimed the lives of many who could not evacuate, while some faced the unimaginable choice of jumping from the building in a desperate attempt to save themselves.

**United Airlines Flight 175** was the second plane involved in the attacks of September 11th. It was on its way from Logan International Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, to Los Angeles International Airport in California. The aircraft, a Boeing 767, was hijacked by five attackers.

At 9:03 local time, the hijacked Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Centre. It was traveling at a speed of 540 miles per hour. The crash resulted in the deaths of all 65 people on board, including 9 crew members, as well as approximately 600 people in and above the building's impact zone.

Unlike Flight 11, the transponder of Flight 175 was still active and visible on New York Centre's radar. The radar showed the aircraft deviating from its assigned flight path for about four minutes before air traffic controllers noticed the deviation at 08:51 EDT. However, due to the ongoing efforts to locate Flight 11, which had crashed a few minutes earlier, the changes in Flight 175's transponder code went unnoticed for several minutes.

Air traffic control made multiple unsuccessful attempts to establish contact with the cockpit. Meanwhile, several passengers and crew members managed to make phone calls to their family members, providing crucial information about the hijackers and the injuries suffered by passengers and crew.

Upon crashing into the tower, part of Flight 175's landing gear and fuselage emerged from the north side of the building. The wreckage crashed through the roof and two floors of 45–47 Park Place, located 600 feet (180 meters) north of the former World Trade Centre. The impact caused significant structural damage, destroying three-floor beams on the top floor.

The collapse of the South Tower resulted in the deaths of hundreds of additional people within the tower and from the subsequent explosion, fires, and eventual collapse. It is estimated that approximately 637 people were killed instantly or trapped at and above the floors where the plane impacted the South Tower

**American Airlines Flight 77** was a transcontinental flight operated by American Airlines, traveling from Washington Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia, to Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California. It followed its daily routine along the

established route. The aircraft, an American Airlines Boeing 757-200, departed at 8:20 am on September 11, slightly delayed, carrying a crew of six and only 58 passengers, including the hijackers.

At 09:38 local time, the plane crashed into the Pentagon at a speed of 530 mph. The impact claimed the lives of all 64 individuals on board, including the six crew members. Additionally, the tragic event resulted in the deaths of 125 military and civilian personnel within the Pentagon.

It is suspected that the hijacking commenced approximately half an hour after the flight took off. At 8:54, the westbound plane deviated from its intended flight plan by turning south. Two minutes later, the airplane's transponder was deactivated, leading to the loss of radar contact. The air traffic controller at the Indianapolis Air Traffic Control Centre made repeated attempts to establish communication with the pilot. At 9:09, the Indianapolis Air Traffic Control Centre informed the regional centre of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that contact with Flight 77 had been lost.

Unbeknownst to authorities, the flight proceeded undetected for 36 minutes, heading back towards Washington. At 9:32, air traffic controllers at Dulles Airport identified an unidentified aircraft traveling east at a high speed and promptly alerted their counterparts at Reagan National Airport. The FAA officials at both airports notified the Secret Service, while the controllers at Reagan instructed an airborne National Guard cargo plane to locate and track the unidentified aircraft. At 9:34, Flight 77 was approximately 5 miles (8 km) west-southwest of the Pentagon. It executed a sharp turn and descended rapidly, ultimately crashing into the Pentagon at 9:38.

The impact of the plane striking the Pentagon occurred on the outer wall, between the first and second floors, piercing through three of the building's five concentric rings. The jet fuel ignited into a massive fireball, and approximately 30 minutes later, a section of the building above the point of impact collapsed. Fortunately, most of the individuals who were inside the building had already been evacuated by that time.

**United Airlines Flight 93** was originally scheduled to depart from Newark International Airport (later renamed Newark Liberty International Airport) in Newark, New Jersey, with its destination set for San Francisco International Airport. The aircraft involved was a Boeing 757-222, carrying a total of 37 passengers, including 4 hijackers, and 7 crew members.

While Flight 93 had one fewer hijacker compared to the other hijacked flights, it is believed that there may have been a fifth hijacker involved, and investigations regarding this matter are ongoing. The flight's take-off was delayed due to the usual morning traffic congestion at the airport, resulting in a departure that was already running more than 25 minutes behind schedule.

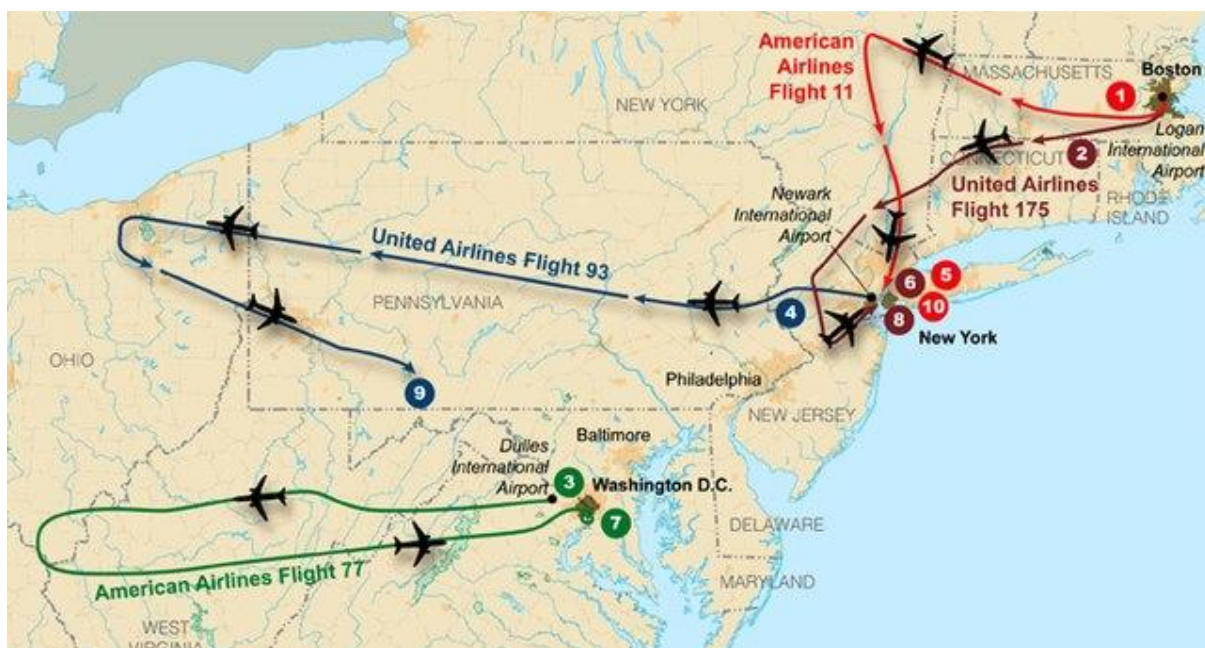
Approximately 46 minutes into the routine flight across Pennsylvania, around 9:28 a.m., the terrorists on Flight 93 took control of the cockpit and altered the plane's course, heading southeast towards Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. It is suspected that the intended crash target for this flight was either the U.S. Capitol or the White House.

The passengers and crew were forcefully herded to the back of the plane and instructed to remain quiet. Despite the harrowing circumstances, passengers and crew members managed to use airphones to make calls and report the hijacking. They soon received the shocking news about the other hijacked planes, realizing that Flight 93 was part of a larger terrorist attack on America.

This realization prompted a courageous response from the passengers and crew, leading to a collective decision to fight back. In a remarkably short time span of just over 30 minutes, this diverse group of individuals aboard Flight 93 formulated a plan and put it into action. To quell the uprising, the hijacker piloting the aircraft resorted to evasive manoeuvres, rolling it left and right and pitching the nose up and down.

During its final moments, the plane flipped upside down as it flew over rural Western Pennsylvania. The terrorists-maintained control of the aircraft and opted to crash it rather than risk the passengers and crew regaining control. At 10:03 a.m., Flight 93 plummeted into a field in Stony Creek Township, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at a speed of 563 miles per hour. The impact caused the approximately 5,500 gallons of jet fuel onboard to explode, generating a massive fireball that soared higher than the surrounding trees. Tragically, all 37 passengers, including the hijackers, as well as the 7 crew members, lost their lives in the crash.

**Figure 2: Flight paths of hijacked planes-September 11 attacks**



## **Response and Aftermath**

As the morning of September 11th unfolded, the number of injuries steadily rose. Tragically, approximately 3000 innocent lives were lost, and over 6000 individuals were injured. The casualties occurred not only during the plane crashes but also, particularly, after the towers collapsed. Even the rescue workers, who were bravely assisting in evacuating people from the towers, found themselves in harm's way as the buildings came crashing down.

Fear gripped the citizens, causing many to flee the town, under the assumption that a large-scale terrorist attack had been orchestrated by an organization. Media outlets started raising concerns and questioning the government about the safety of American civilians, highlighting the failures within the US security system that had left them vulnerable.

The thousands of tons of toxic debris resulting from the collapse of the Twin Towers contained more than 2,500 contaminants, including known carcinogens. Due to the long latency period between exposure and development of asbestos-related diseases, exposed Manhattan residents, especially rescue-and-recovery workers, can suffer future adverse health effects.

Scientific knowledge suggests that this contamination of the air could have numerous negative effects on the local populus.

Politically, nations across the globe extended their support to the United States, standing in solidarity with the victims. The entire world united in condemning this heinous act of terrorism. Officials initiated discussions on the critical need for enhanced measures to combat international terrorism. The attacks potentially bolstered the confidence of terror groups, raising concerns about a potential surge in large-scale crimes worldwide. As a result, the emphasis on international cooperation has been underscored.

In the face of numerous pressing tasks, the United States government wasted no time and swiftly sprang into action. Authorizing multiple investigations, undertaking military operations, launching rescue missions, and engaging in discussions regarding restoration projects became top priorities.

During the harrowing attack on the Twin Towers, President Bush found himself in an Elementary School, seated amidst second-grade students who were engrossed in their lessons. When the President received the shocking news, his response deviated from what one might expect in such a situation. Choosing to remain composed, he likely aimed to shield the young children in the room from unnecessary fear. While some applauded this act of the President, others criticized him, arguing that he failed to grasp the severity of the situation.

In the aftermath of the aircraft crashes, a series of closures ensued, affecting roads, tunnels, and various areas. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) swiftly issued orders to close all airports in the New York City area, followed by a nationwide halt of all flight operations in US airports, aimed at preventing any potential hijacking-related attacks.



Concerns over a possible attack on the White House prompted its immediate evacuation. As a precautionary measure, 4,700 individuals were swiftly evacuated from government buildings all across the city.

The Governor of New York declared the closure of all government offices until further notice. Additionally, the destinations associated with the four aircraft involved were also shut down, initiating thorough investigations at the departure airports. Heightened security measures were implemented, leading to inspections of all aircraft in the airspace, with most of them being directed to land at the nearest available airports.

In response to the escalating situation, the US military was placed on high alert, and a state of emergency was officially declared. The Defence Condition (DEFCON) level, which serves as an indicator of armed forces readiness, was elevated to DEFCON 3, signalling an increased state of preparedness. Intelligence agencies diligently analysed data and shared crucial information to thwart any potential subsequent attacks.

The Pentagon made a significant announcement, revealing plans for the deployment of five warships and two aircraft carriers from the U.S. Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia. The purpose of this deployment was to safeguard the East Coast against further assaults and to reduce the vulnerability of ships in port. Among the vessels were the USS George Washington and the USS John F. Kennedy, both carriers headed towards the New York coast. Accompanying them were frigates and guided missile destroyers equipped with the capability to intercept and shoot down hostile aircraft.

To ensure President Bush's safety, he was swiftly transported to an undisclosed location. Meanwhile, in the financial sector, the American Stock Exchange, Nasdaq, and the New York Stock Exchange were all announced to be closed until September 12th.

A dedicated team, comprising 350 search and rescue dogs, was deployed to aid in the rescue efforts at Ground Zero, working tirelessly to locate and save those trapped amidst the devastation. Simultaneously, numerous individuals were taken into custody for questioning, as various investigative bodies made significant progress. Those who had attended flight schools or courses involving airline simulators were among those targeted for inquiries. Recognizing the urgent need for support, multiple relief funds were promptly established to assist the victims of the attacks. These funds were dedicated to providing financial aid to both survivors and the families of the victims, aiming to alleviate their hardships during this trying time.

At 8:30 P.M. on September 11th, the President delivered a national address, expressing the collective sense of "disbelief" and "terrible sadness" that pervaded both himself and the entire nation in the wake of the attacks. He reassured the American people that while the attacks may have targeted buildings, they would not undermine the foundations of America itself. The President made it clear that no distinction would be made between the terrorists who orchestrated these acts and those who provided them shelter or support. He emphasized the

resolve of the United States and its allies to stand united in order to triumph in the War against Terrorism.

Several changes have already been set in motion to address the situation. The Federal Aviation Administration swiftly issued instructions for all U.S. airports to implement emergency safety measures. These measures included the prohibition of knives, including plastic ones, at airports, the thorough evacuation and sweeping of all terminals using K-9 teams, and the discontinuation of curbside check-in.

Measures are being taken to enhance the well-being of civilians and to bolster security not only within the United States but also across nations worldwide, considering the potential rise in international terrorism. Given the President's assertion that "no distinction" will be made between the perpetrators and those who provide them refuge, the subsequent response of the United States holds significant intrigue.

### **Economic Crisis**

The Twin Towers held immense significance as a vital component of New York's financial system, and the certainty of a severe stock market decline added to the deep distress felt by the citizens. Within the World Trade Centre complex, numerous financial firms and institutions, including major banks and investment firms, operated. The attacks resulted in the physical destruction of infrastructure, loss of data, and disruption of financial services.

The impact of these attacks reached far beyond the borders of the United States. The global economy experienced an immediate downturn, leading to the closure and evacuation of stock exchanges and major banks worldwide. The repercussions of the attacks echoed throughout the world, plunging nations into an economic crisis.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the opening of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) was delayed due to the first plane's collision with the North Tower of the World Trade Centre. Subsequently, trading for the day was cancelled after the second plane struck the South Tower. The National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (NASDAQ) and the Big Board also suspended trading for the day. Consequently, the New York Stock Exchange Building, along with numerous banks and financial institutions on Wall Street and in various cities across the country, were evacuated.

In response to the prevailing fear of additional terrorist attacks, the London Stock Exchange and other stock exchanges worldwide closed and evacuated their premises. This marked the third time in history that the NYSE experienced an extended closure, with the previous instances occurring during World War I and the Great Depression in March 1933.

The United States bond market also came to a standstill, as Cantor Fitzgerald, a prominent government bond trader, was located within the World Trade Centre. To avert a financial

crisis, the Federal Reserve decided to inject \$100 billion in liquidity per day for the subsequent two days.

Although currency trading continued, the United States dollar experienced a significant decline against the Euro, British pound, and Japanese yen. The impact was felt across European stock markets the following day, with Spain witnessing a 4.6% decline, Germany facing an 8.5% drop, and the London Stock Exchange experiencing a 5.7% decrease. Latin American markets also suffered substantial losses, with Brazil recording a 9.2% decline, Argentina facing a 5.2% drop, and Mexico witnessing a 5.6% decrease before trading was halted. These attacks occurred at a time when global markets were already displaying signs of instability, fuelling concerns of an impending global recession.

The repercussions extended to various sectors of the economy. Tourism, hotel occupancy, and air travel all witnessed significant declines nationwide, as fear of further attacks discouraged people from flying. Afghanistan faced additional challenges as the World Food Programme (WFP), a UN organization, suspended the supply of wheat to the country.

Energy prices surged amid apprehensions that the terrorist attacks may have originated in the Middle East and that potential retaliatory actions by the United States could disrupt oil supplies. The U.S. benchmark West Texas Intermediate price spiked to as high as \$31 per barrel for both October and November delivery, compared to \$27.63 for the October price on the previous day.

Commodity trading at the New York Mercantile Exchange, located adjacent to the World Trade Centre, was suspended in the aftermath of the attacks. Gasoline prices experienced sharp increases nationwide, with reports of prices exceeding \$2.09 per gallon in Lansing, Mich., and increases of over 20 cents per gallon in Tulsa, Okla.

Japanese banks had extended significant loans to U.S. borrowers, while U.S. investors emerged as prominent buyers of Japanese stocks. This occurred during a period when Japan's stock market was facing its lowest levels in 17 years, prompting Japanese corporations and banks to sell substantial amounts of shares to generate profits and stabilize their financial positions.

## How the World's Markets Reacted

### Europe

COUNTRY	INDEX	% CHANGE
<b>Belgium</b>	Bel-20 Index	-5.46
<b>Britain</b>	London FTSE 100-share	-5.72
<b>France</b>	Paris CAC 40	-7.39
<b>Germany</b>	Frankfurt Xetra DAX	-8.49
<b>Italy</b>	Milan MIBtel	-7.42
<b>Netherlands</b>	Amsterdam AEX	-6.95
<b>Spain</b>	IBEX 35	-4.56
<b>Sweden</b>	SX All Share	-7.75
<b>Switzerland</b>	Zurich Swiss Market	-7.07

### Latin America

COUNTRY	INDEX	% CHANGE
<b>Argentina</b>	Merval Index	-5.18
<b>Brazil</b>	Sao Paulo Bovespa	-9.18
<b>Canada</b>	Toronto 300 Comp.	-4.03

<b>Chile</b>	Santiago IPSA	-2.80
<b>Mexico</b>	I.P.C. All-Share	-5.55

### Asia\*

COUNTRY	INDEX	% CHANGE
<b>Australia</b>	All Ordinaries	-0.01
<b>China</b>	Dow Jones Shanghai	+0.30
<b>China</b>	Dow Jones Shenzhen	+0.09
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Hang Seng	+0.49
<b>India</b>	Bombay Sensex	-1.04
<b>Japan</b>	Tokyo Nikkei 225	+0.95
<b>Japan</b>	Tokyo Topix Index	+0.20
<b>Singapore</b>	Straits Times	+0.53
<b>South Korea</b>	Composite	-1.84
<b>Taiwan</b>	Weighted Index	-2.62

\*Asia's markets closed before having a chance to react to the news, but by midday, Japan's Nikkei fell nearly 6%.

Figure 3: The World Markets after the attacks

### Humanitarian Crisis

The attacks of September 11, 2001, had immediate and ongoing repercussions, not only in terms of loss of life and destruction but also in the realm of humanitarian impact. In the immediate aftermath, the primary focus was on rescuing survivors and recovering bodies from the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel, risking their own lives, swiftly responded to the scenes, tirelessly searching for survivors amidst the devastation.

The attacks inflicted a staggering number of casualties, resulting in severe injuries, burns, and respiratory ailments. Hospitals in New York City and Washington, D.C., were swiftly overwhelmed with victims in need of urgent medical attention. Medical professionals worked tirelessly to provide emergency care, perform surgeries, and coordinate blood donation drives to meet the pressing needs.

Moreover, the attacks left thousands of families grappling with grief and seeking information about their missing loved ones. Family Assistance Centers, established by emergency response organizations and government agencies, became vital hubs for providing support, counseling, and information to affected families. These centers played a pivotal role in connecting families with resources, facilitating communication, and fostering a sense of community amid the tragedy.

Numerous individuals were displaced from their homes, particularly those residing in close proximity to the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Shelters were promptly set up to accommodate those who had lost their residences or were unable to return due to safety

concerns. These temporary housing facilities provided essential provisions such as food, water, clothing, and shelter, offering a semblance of stability during the turbulent times.

The immediate humanitarian crisis extended to the well-being and support of the courageous first responders who selflessly rushed to the scenes. Many of these individuals suffered physical injuries, emotional trauma, and long-term health complications due to exposure to toxic substances. Efforts were made to provide medical care, counseling, and financial assistance to these heroes who had risked their lives in the line of duty.

To address the scope of the disaster, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson activated the nation's 80 special disaster teams, typically reserved for natural disasters, plane crashes, and bombings. These teams, composed of 7,000 private sector medical personnel, were prepared for deployment to New York and Washington as required. Additional teams, including burn and surgery units, as well as forensic doctors and dentists tasked with identification, were put on standby. Trained counselors, therapists, and mental health professionals were also dispatched to offer psychological support, counseling, and therapy to those affected. Support groups and community gatherings were organized to provide spaces for individuals to share their experiences, express grief, and find solace in the collective healing process.

In the face of this humanitarian crisis, communities united in support and assistance. Volunteering efforts surged as individuals provided aid, distributed supplies, prepared meals for rescue workers, and dedicated their time and resources to help those affected. This collective response showcased the resilience and unity of the American people in the face of tragedy. Despite the immense devastation, the indomitable human spirit prevailed, instilling hope and solace among those impacted by the tragedy. It stood as a testament to the strength of communities and the power of collective action in times of crisis.

## **Impact**

The 9/11 attacks had profound and far-reaching implications for global counterterrorism efforts. They served as a wake-up call, highlighting the need for enhanced international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism.

Some sectors that have been highlighted in light of attacks are but not limited to:

### **1. Money laundering and illicit financing**

Money laundering and illicit financing are significant aspects connected to terrorism, including the 9/11 attacks. Money plays a crucial role in financing terrorist activities, enabling the planning, execution, and sustainability of such operations. Terrorists usually rely on a complex network of financial transactions to fund their activities while maintaining anonymity. These illicit financial flows often involve methods such as layering, where funds are moved through multiple accounts and jurisdictions to obscure their origins, and integration, where the funds are reintroduced into the legitimate financial system.

To combat the financing of terrorism, global efforts have to be made to tackle money laundering and disrupt the illicit financial networks that support terrorist organizations. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international body responsible for setting global standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, can play a pivotal role in this regard. The FATF establishes guidelines and recommendations that countries should implement to prevent the misuse of the financial system for illicit purposes.

The aftermath of the 9/11 attacks demands a heightened focus on enhancing financial intelligence, strengthening anti-money laundering measures, and promoting international cooperation to detect and disrupt terrorist financing networks.

Moreover, international collaboration and information sharing among financial intelligence units and law enforcement agencies can be a key in combating terrorist financing.

By addressing the issue of money laundering and illicit financing, countries should aim to dismantle the financial networks that enable terrorist organizations to operate effectively. Through the implementation of robust regulatory frameworks, enhanced due diligence procedures, and international cooperation, efforts have to be made to identify, trace, and disrupt the flow of funds to prevent future terrorist attacks.

### **2. Impact on global aviation**

The impact on global aviation has been profound. The attacks have revealed critical vulnerabilities in aviation security, prompting a comprehensive reassessment of measures to ensure passenger safety and the prevention of future acts of terrorism.

Governments and aviation authorities worldwide need to implement a stringent measure to enhance passenger screening and security. The concept of aviation security has to undergo a paradigm shift, moving from a focus on preventing hijackings to a more comprehensive approach that encompasses the detection of explosives and other dangerous items.

International organizations, such as the *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)*, will play a crucial role in facilitating this cooperation by setting global standards and recommending practices for aviation security.

### **3. Media coverage and public perception of terrorism**

Media coverage plays a significant role in shaping public perception and understanding of terrorism, including the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. The events of 9/11 received extensive global media attention, leading to profound impacts on public perception and attitudes towards terrorism.

Following the attacks, media outlets provided round-the-clock coverage, broadcasting images, videos, and eyewitness accounts, which evoked shock, fear, and a sense of vulnerability among the public. The relentless coverage amplified the psychological impact, heightening anxiety and exacerbating concerns about personal safety.

Media narratives often frame terrorism as a direct threat to the values, security, and way of life of the affected nations. The dramatic nature of the attacks and their consequences capture the attention of the public, leading to increased awareness and a demand for accurate information regarding the motives, perpetrators, and potential future threats.

However, media coverage can also influence public perception by shaping biases and stereotypes. There is a risk of generalizing terrorism to specific religions, ethnicities, or nationalities, contributing to stigmatization and discrimination against certain groups. Such narratives can have detrimental consequences, including the marginalization of innocent individuals and the exacerbation of social divisions.

In response to the role of media in shaping public perception, there has been ongoing discussion and debate on responsible reporting and ethical considerations. Journalistic standards have been emphasized, encouraging balanced, accurate, and contextualized coverage to prevent the amplification of fear and the perpetuation of stereotypes.

The impact of media coverage extends beyond public perception. It also influences policy decisions and public support for counterterrorism measures. Governments and security agencies have to be mindful of the role of media in shaping public opinion and often engage

in strategic communication efforts to provide accurate information, dispel misinformation, and maintain public confidence in their counterterrorism efforts.



## **Issues to be addressed**

Several issues should be addressed over the course of committee. This list is extensive but not exhaustive, and delegates are encouraged to include other issues in debate as well. Some of the major ones are listed below:

1. The role of the United Nations in responding to the attacks and coordinating the international response to terrorism.
2. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism, including sharing intelligence, coordinating law enforcement efforts, and facilitating extradition of terrorists.
3. Ways to enhance global security in the wake of the attacks, including improving airport security measures, increasing border controls, and enhancing international law enforcement cooperation.
4. The importance of protecting human rights in the fight against terrorism, including the rights of refugees and immigrants, the right to privacy, and the right to due process.
5. The need to address the underlying factors that contribute to terrorism, such as poverty, political instability, and extremism, through development and diplomacy.
6. Measures to prevent the financing of terrorism, including improving financial regulation and cooperation among countries.
7. The role of the media in shaping public perception of terrorism and the importance of responsible reporting.
8. The impact of terrorism on global trade, travel, and investment, and ways to mitigate these effects.
9. The importance of protecting critical infrastructure, such as energy and transportation systems, from terrorist attacks.

## Paperwork

The committee will exclusively accept four types of documents, namely:

1. Working Paper
2. Draft Resolutions
3. Presidential Statements
4. Memorandums of Understanding

While the format for Working Papers, Draft Resolutions and Presidential Statements can be found in the conference handbook and will generally be applicable across most committees, Memorandums of Understanding will be specific to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and will have their unique format.

### **Memorandum of Understanding:**

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is a formal agreement between two or more parties that outlines a mutual understanding or common objectives. The Memorandum of understanding is a document that represents a preliminary agreement or framework between delegations or countries participating in the conference.

The purpose of an MOU is to establish a basis for cooperation, collaboration, or coordination between the involved parties. It outlines areas of shared interest, identifies goals or objectives, and may specify the scope of the agreement. While an MOU is not legally binding like a treaty or a resolution, it serves as a foundation for future negotiations/dealings and can help facilitate discussions and consensus-building among delegates.

MOUs between two or more delegates can be submitted to the Executive Board via email during the conference proceedings. Additionally, the Executive Board may consider accepting MOUs between delegates and parties not present in the committee, subject to specific conditions. Further discussions and clarifications regarding this matter will be provided during the Orientation session.

A sample MOU has been provided on the next page. Delegates are encouraged to use this as a framework and take creative liberty in drafting their own MOUs. They may add additional clauses, expand on areas of collaboration, and include specific provisions that align with their country's interests and objectives. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate meaningful discussions and negotiations between the delegates, and it should reflect the unique perspectives and priorities of each country. The Executive Board encourages delegates to think creatively and constructively to enhance the effectiveness of their collaboration through their MOUs.

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into on this [date] between:

The Government of Country A,

Represented by: [Name and Title of Representative]

The Government of Country B,

Represented by: [Name and Title of Representative]

WHEREAS, The Government of Country A and The Government of Country B desire to establish a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the two countries;

THEREFORE, The Government of Country A and The Government of Country B hereby agree to the following terms:

1. **Objective:** The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to enhance bilateral relations and promote cooperation in various fields of mutual interest, including but not limited to [specific areas of collaboration].

2. **Scope of Collaboration:** The collaboration between the two countries may include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- a. Trade and Investment
- b. Science and Technology
- c. Education and Cultural Exchange
- d. Environmental Protection
- e. Security and Defence Cooperation

3. **Responsibilities:**

- a. The Government of Country A will [specific responsibilities].
- b. The Government of Country B will [specific responsibilities].

**4. Duration:** This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in effect for a period of [duration], unless terminated or extended by mutual agreement in writing.

**5. Confidentiality:**

a. Both parties acknowledge that certain information shared during the collaboration may be of a confidential nature.

b. Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any confidential information received from the other party.

c. Confidential information shall not be disclosed or shared with any third party without the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

d. This confidentiality obligation shall continue even after the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**6. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution:** Any disputes arising from this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved amicably through diplomatic channels and negotiations. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be governed by and construed in accordance with international law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the respective governments have signed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date first above written.

For the Government of Country, A:

For the Government of Country B:

[Name and Title]

[Name and Title]

## **Position Papers**

Delegates are kindly requested to ensure timely submission of their position papers to **unga.jacomun23@gmail.com** no later than 11:59 p.m. on 10th July. These position papers hold significant importance within the committee, serving as a fundamental element that not only communicates your country's policy but also provides the Executive Board with a clear roadmap of the delegate's proposed approach to addressing the urgent crisis at hand.

The Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly should adhere to the following format:

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Country Policy on the Agenda
3. Proposed Solutions (Collaborative and Unilateral approaches)

A sample position paper can be found on the conference handbook on the JacoMUN website.

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