

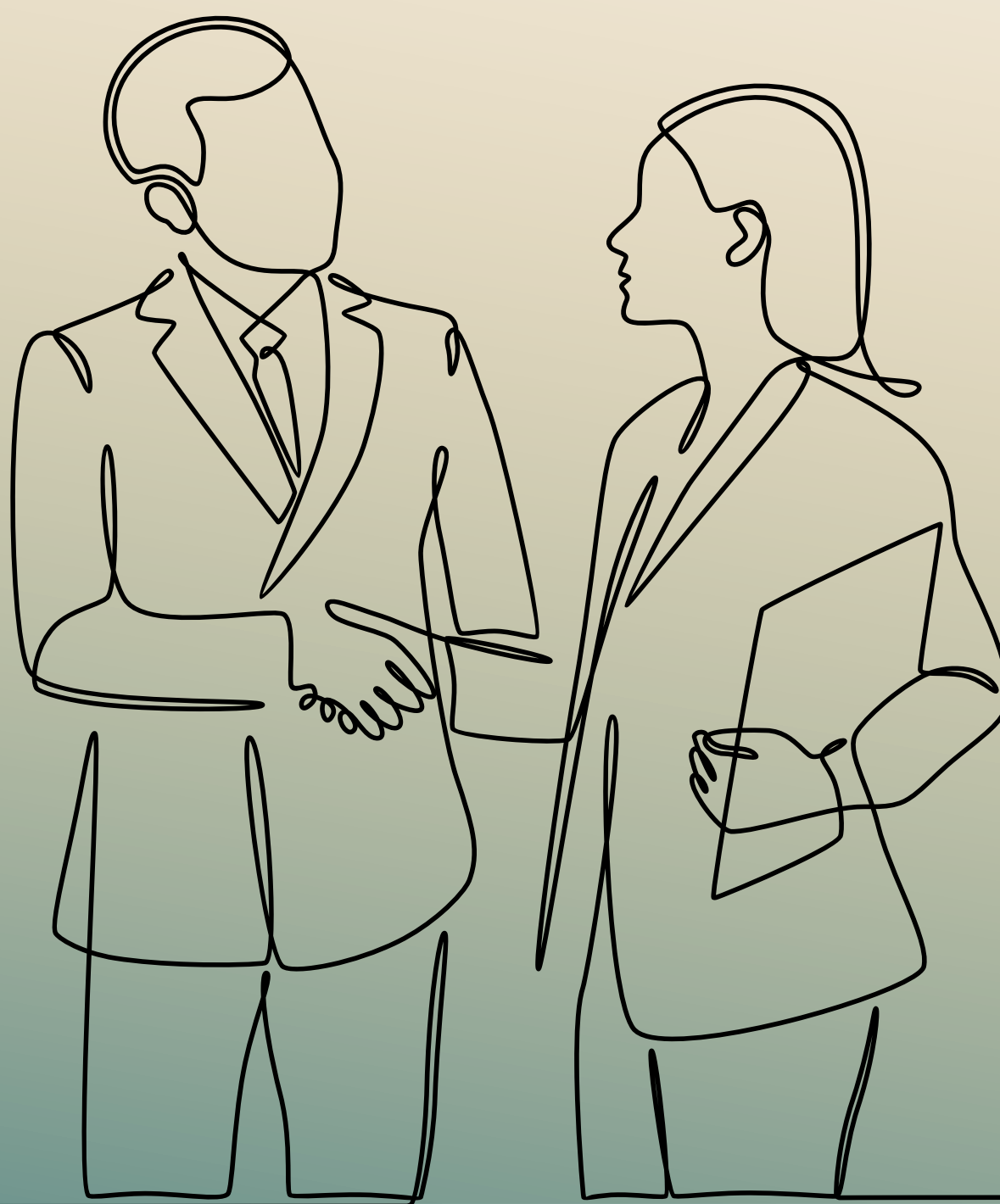
# ODM MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025

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## INTERNATIONAL PRESS



## BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS



**6<sup>th</sup>  
Edition**

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Dear Journalists,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of ODM Model United Nations 2025. As the Editor-in-Chief of the Press, I feel honoured to be part of this prestigious simulation and look forward to witness your journalistic brilliance and dynamic reportage in the upcoming conference.

At the outset, I would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for choosing to be a part of the IP Committee. Your decision to take on the role of the press is crucial to this MUN's success, and I assure you that I shall strive to make this a rewarding and enjoyable experience for each one of us.

This Background Guide has been curated with the utmost attention to detail to serve as a comprehensive resource for all delegates of the IP Committee. It offers key insights and foundational knowledge required to understand the basic framework of the International Press. While it provides essential guidelines and expectations, I encourage all of you to go beyond and add your creative flair to your work. The Rules of Procedure specific to IP will be explained in the orientation session and throughout the committee whenever needed.

Model United Nations is a platform to amplify voices, highlight issues, and promote dialogue. The International Press plays a vital role in shaping narratives and documenting history in real time.

I hope this conference serves as a platform for you to refine your observational, analytical, and reporting skills, and help you all to truly grow as writers, storytellers, and change agents.

For any queries or assistance, feel free to reach out to me at any point. Looking forward to an intellectually stimulating and creatively enriching committee with you all.

**Shashreek Shikhar**  
**Editor-in-Chief,**  
**International Press**  
**shashreekshikhar@gmail.com**



## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE IP: INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

The International Press (IP) Committee at Model United Nation Conferences is a simulated body that plays a crucial role in capturing, documenting, and analyzing the proceedings of all other committees-in the conference..While there is-no single International Press in real-world diplomacy—rather, various independent-media houses and press agencies such as Reuters, BBC, Al Jazeera, and The New York Times cover international affairs—this committee has been created to serve the unique needs of a Model UN simulation. Given that MUNs are time-bound and scaled-down versions of real-world diplomacy, having a centralized and hypothetical press committee helps streamline coverage and ensures a uniform, creative portrayal of the debates and developments across the conference.

The IP committee also fosters a space for aspiring journalists, writers, and photographers to engage deeply with world affairs while honing their media and communication skills. From writing articles and interviews to creating editorial pieces, the IP ensures that the essence of the MUN is preserved through words and visuals. This simulation encourages participants to think critically, stay observant, and express with clarity and integrity—just as real journalists would, albeit within a structured and fictionalized framework.

# TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:

There are multiple kinds of articles that journalists are expected to write and submit during the conference. Please adhere to the word limit—concise writing is a powerful skill, and mastering it strengthens your journalistic excellence and impact.

## **1. BEAT BASED ARTICLES (350-400 words):**

- A beat-based article generally focuses on key statements made by a delegate in a committee, backed by factual details. This demands that a journalist incorporates relevant data gathered during the session along with in-depth research on the committee's agenda. A beat-based article highlights one particular, specific story (or 'beat'). Selecting a 'beat' is a skill honed through experience; essentially, it can cover anything—from a country's stance that shifted the course of proceedings to a bloc presenting remarkable reforms. The focus should be on something impactful, so choose a beat that holds significance. However, the article must not reflect the journalist's opinion—it should remain unbiased and be written in past tense.

## **2. OPINIONATED EDITORIALS (600-800 WORDS):**

- Opinionated Editorials are research-based opinions on anything at all that is relevant to the
- agenda. You have to write about your opinion and also tell the reader why you think so with the
- help of concrete facts and statistics. It is, in essence, a highly educated opinion.

### **3. INTERVIEWS (450-500 WORDS):**

- Interviews form an essential part of a quality newsletter. Journalists are expected to conduct interviews at a time convenient for the delegate or executive board member. Under no circumstances should a journalist interrupt committee proceedings for an interview. Questions posed during interviews must strictly relate to the agenda and committee discussions. Always keep in mind that the purpose of an interview is to gain insight into background politics or to collect information not accessible through-observation-alone. Diplomatic courtesy must be upheld at all times.

### **4. PRESS CONFERENCE REPORT (NO WORD LIMIT):**

- The Press Conference aims to address issues that were not discussed in committee, inconsistencies in speeches made by delegates, etc. The Press Conference essentially aims to give the reporter a platform to voice her/his views and ask his/her queries of the committee so that, post the Press Conference, the committee proceeds in a better direction and a better manner. The report may include additional content, such as the journalist's inference from the delegate's response. However, no assumptions are to be made.



## 5. CHARACTER ANALYSES (400-500 WORDS):

- This piece requires a deep dive into a character’s perspective—why they felt a certain way and how they acted on it. We expect you to explore two contrasting character views and explain their differences. Tied to the committee’s agenda, you’re free to personify anything—even inanimate objects—and express their feelings. There are no limits to your character—choices: from ‘Hitler’ to the ‘personification of India’s Nationalist sentiment,’ anything goes. Be creative and enjoy writing this—but solid research is crucial.

## 6. FEATURE ARTICLES (500-600 WORDS):

- You can ignite your creative wick for this one. Features are not essentially a reiteration of facts but can be poetry, stories, or any form of writing to express the journalist's idea that resonates with the agenda. A feature can be of a less formal tone, but it is recommended that it is supported by factually correct information from legitimate sources. Feature articles again can be classified into News features or Human-Interest features.

## 7. OPINION POLLS (400-450 WORDS):

- This type of article also involves interaction between the press and the delegates. It is primarily research-oriented but provides room for both the delegates' opinions and the journalist's inference. Using graphical content such as pie charts and graphs to accurately depict poll results is highly recommended. You may also include relevant illustrations or photographs to enhance the article's appeal.

### IMPORTANT POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND:

To ensure your work meets the highest standards of journalistic excellence, it is essential to follow a set of core principles. These guidelines are not just about structure and accuracy—they form the foundation of compelling, trustworthy storytelling. By embracing these standards, you will craft content that is not only professional and polished but also resonates with readers and upholds the integrity that journalism demands.

1. GRAMMAR & CONSISTENT TENSE: Maintaining a consistent tense throughout your writing is crucial for clarity and coherence. Switching unnecessarily between past, present, and future tenses can confuse readers and interrupt the natural flow of your narrative. Always ensure that the tense you use aligns with the timeline of the events or information being conveyed. A well-structured piece relies on grammatical accuracy and a clear, steady timeline.

2. CORRECT PUNCTUATION: Punctuation plays a vital role in conveying meaning and ensuring clarity in your writing. Use commas, periods, semicolons, colons, and other punctuation marks appropriately to structure your sentences effectively. Misuse or neglect of punctuation can lead to confusion, misinterpretation, and a decline in the overall quality of your work—which may result in a loss of marks.

3. CORRECT USE OF SPEECH: Except in feature articles, all writing should employ reported speech. This form of speech is essential for maintaining balance and objectivity in news reporting. Reported speech allows you to convey information accurately while avoiding personal opinions or emotional language—an important standard for journalistic integrity and credibility.

4. CITING SOURCES: Whenever you directly quote or reference information from any source—such as a webpage—a proper footnote is mandatory. Ensure that your sources are credible and unbiased, preferably from international organizations, official government portals, or reputable news agencies. This not only enhances the reliability of your article but also enables readers to independently verify the information presented.

5. ABBREVIATIONS: Avoid shortening titles or official positions in formal writing. For example, "Secretary General" should never be written as "Sec Gen." Using full forms maintains clarity and professionalism. If you must use an abbreviation due to frequent repetition, always introduce the full form followed by the abbreviation in parentheses the first time it appears. This ensures your writing remains precise and reader-friendly.



6. DIPLOMATIC TONE: Maintain a respectful and courteous tone throughout your articles. This involves presenting information objectively, avoiding provocative or emotionally charged language, and refraining from taking sides or expressing personal bias. Diplomatic writing reflects professionalism—it is measured, neutral, and mindful of all perspectives.

7. HEADLINES: Every article must feature a descriptive and original title. A strong headline should give readers a clear-idea of the article's content while sparking their interest. Creative and engaging titles Can-significantly enhance-the appeal of your writing and encourage readership.

8. ACCURACY: Always verify the facts presented in your articles to ensure they are correct. Avoid making assumptions or including unverified information. If any detail is uncertain, research and confirm it before incorporating it into your piece. In journalism, accuracy is not optional—it is fundamental to credibility and trust.

9. WORD LIMIT: Adhere strictly to the specified word limit for your articles. Exceeding the limit can make the article unwieldy and may result in important details being omitted. Staying within the word count ensures clarity and/allows you to focus on the most relevant and essential information.

10. ORIGINALITY: This is one of the most important aspects. Before submitting, thoroughly review your article to ensure it is free from plagiarism. Any material sourced from third parties, including AI-generated text, will not be accepted and may lead to disqualification. However, a plagiarism limit of up to 7% is permissible, as quoting the exact words of delegates or referencing credible, published sources falls within acceptable academic and journalistic standards.

All submitted articles are checked using plagiarism and AI detection tools. It is recommended for you to use online SEO tools to check for plagiarism before submission to maintain the integrity of your work.

(**Plagiarism Detector Link:** [\\_https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/](https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/))

### TIPS AND TRICKS:

1. ***Thoroughly Research the Agenda:*** Before the conference, dedicate ample time to understanding the committee's agendas. A strong grasp of the topics will enable you to deliver insightful, well-informed coverage that reflects depth and clarity.
2. ***Take Detailed Notes During Sessions:*** Actively note key points, delegate statements, and impactful exchanges. These notes will form the foundation of your reporting, helping you write comprehensive and engaging articles.
3. ***Be Mindful with Advanced Vocabulary:*** Use foreign terms and literary phrases only when they enhance clarity and are contextually appropriate. Avoid unnecessarily complex language that may confuse readers instead of enriching the content.
4. ***Proofread Multiple Times:*** Always review your article thoroughly before submission. Go over it at least twice to catch and correct grammatical, factual, or structural errors. Polished writing reflects professionalism.
5. ***Maintain Professionalism During Sessions:*** Uphold decorum at all times. Avoid disrupting the flow of the committee's proceedings. A respectful environment supports better reporting and interaction.



6. **Plan According to Deadlines:** The executive board will inform you of article deadlines on the day of the event. Prepare a timeline for writing and submission to manage your workload effectively and ensure punctual delivery.

7. **Ask Smart and Relevant Questions:** Focus on framing thoughtful, issue-based questions during interviews or press-briefings. Well-constructed queries often leads to valuable insights for your reporting.

8. **Incorporate Visuals When Relevant:** Adding relevant photographs to your article can enhance visual appeal and context. Ensure the image aligns with your content and adds value to the narrative.

9. **Use Clear and Accessible Language:** Write in simple, readable English. While advanced vocabulary may seem impressive, prioritize clarity to ensure your content is understandable to a wider audience.

10. **Balance Style and Substance:** While creative writing techniques can make your article engaging, never compromise factual accuracy for style. Let content lead, and let creativity complement it.

# FORMAT OF SUBMISSIONS

## **Font Size:**

Headline: Size: 14 (Centre Aligned)

Byline Size: 10.5 (Left Aligned)

Body Size: 12 (Justified Alignment)

Font Style: Times New Roman

## **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

All submissions should be a word document and should be submitted in .docs format only.

All submissions should be named in the following manner:

**Journalist Name\_Committee Name\_Day\_Type of Submission.docs**

For example:

(a) Shashreek\_UNHRC\_Day1\_OpEd.docs

(b) Shashreek\_Lok Sabha\_Day2\_Beats.docs