

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

On behalf of myself, staff, faculty, and students associated with Mississippi Model Security Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you students and mentors to Mississippi State University and the programs' 30th annual conference. My name is Douglas Ansel and I am honored to be serving you this year as your Secretary General.

Students, this conference is about you, so I would like to take a few moments to address you specifically. MMSC is full of many exciting opportunities, but there are several things I hope you focus your attention on while you are here.

First, I sincerely hope that you gain a more complete understanding of the world and the role of the United Nations and its Security Council plays in the global community. The Security Council plays a crucial role in maintaining international security in a variety of ways. UN military observers have and continue to play a stabilizing role on the borders between both Israel and Syria and Pakistan and India. The Security Council has also authorized multinational forces to recreate a sense of international security in Korea in the 1950s and in Iraq in the early 1990s. However, the Security Council's role is not limited to inter-state relations now. As intra-state wars have come to represent the majority of conflict in the world, the serious implications that failed and failing states hold for international security have become very clear. Reacting to this stimulus, the Security Council has reacted with large-scale and far-reaching peacekeeping operations aimed at creating a foundation for peace rather than simply halting a conflict. Beginning in 1989, the Security Council has established peacekeeping missions to help end civil wars in El Salvador, Mozambique, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Sierra Leone, to name but a few examples. The Security Council has also had to deal with issues of human security stemming from these conflicts, such as the use of children soldiers in armed conflict. You will be exposed to these issues and more during your times in session, learning how countries work through the Security Council to address these issues. You will see first-hand how the Security Council functions as a forum for debate, compromise, and collective action. A deeper grasp of these global forces and mechanisms for dealing with them is of growing importance in a world where our security is increasingly linked to that of other countries.

Secondly, and more importantly, I hope that you will gain a greater appreciation for the art of compromise. You will see and experience first-hand how countries must work together to build consensus on an issue, and I hope you will play an active part in helping form a compromise between two seemingly intractable positions on an issue. Deadlock is not uncommon in the Security Council, but neither are substantial efforts to find a solution acceptable to all parties. The skills in debate, compromise, and consensus-building that you will hone over your three days here will prove incredibly beneficial in every aspect of your life.

Lastly, I encourage you to reach out and forge bonds with other like-minded students at the conference. Lasting friendships begin here every year; indeed, several of my closest friends were fellow participants in this program with me.

With this I again welcome you to the 30th annual Mississippi Model Security Council and offer my services to you both before and during the conference. If there is anything I can do, please

do not hesitate to ask either myself or other conference led staff, faculty, or students. I look forward to seeing you

Sincerely,

Douglas Ansel

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