

Mailing II

COMUN 2025

14th, 15th, and 16th of February



To everyone to whom it may apply,

On behalf of The Coornhert Model United Nations secretariat, it is my honour to present the official Mailing II of the ninth annual edition of the Coornhert Model United Nations conference. The organization extends its deepest gratitude for all registrations we have received over the past few months.

This letter can help delegations with planning their trips, and first-timer delegations with getting used to the idea of the world of MUN. The mailing will provide you with all information the secretariat currently has for the conference in February. Including new details on the workshops on Friday, new committees that have been added to the initial list, the current version of our Programme of Events and many more relevant pieces of information.

In the up-and-coming months, the secretariat will continue to decide on all further details of the event which will make it even more concrete. Two weeks prior to the conference, delegations and delegates will receive the final Mailing. For now, if any questions should arise, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at dsge@comun.nl or to the other members of the secretariat. We are here to support you in any way possible.

The executive staff team of COMUN 2025 sincerely thanks you for your dedication and contribution to the conference, and wishes you a successful preparation. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you in Gouda next February.

Yours sincerely,

Lucas Smeets
Head of External Affairs
COMUN 2025

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General Information

Website

This year, the official website of COMUN has been redesigned. It provides visitors with updates and specific details about our conference. There is also a copy of the First Mailing on the site, as well as information about the committees and issues. For any additional information such as background information, news updates or the countdown, please feel free to check it out at: www.comun.nl.

Preparing for the conference and workshops

There are some ways delegates can prepare for their debate, such as by reading the Research Reports. Research Reports will be written by the appointed Student Officers and published in advance of the conference. As soon as the reports have been finished, they can be found on the "Committees and issues" page on the website.

Although preparation for the conference is the responsibility of the delegations and their MUN Directors, the secretariat wishes all delegates with all distinct levels of experience to have an equally positive conference. This is why on the first day of the conference several workshops will be organized for participants. There will be workshops for lesser or inexperienced delegates to get used to the MUN Rules of Procedure. Additionally, there will be workshops for more experienced delegates, such as mock debates and speech writing. The exact content of the workshops will be determined in the following weeks. The secretariat would like to ask all delegates and delegations to fill out the following forms before the 15th of December, if interested in participating in the workshops on Friday morning.

For delegations participating as a whole: <https://forms.gle/ujkDm51wNGcg1oEG8>. For individual delegates or for delegations that will not be participating as a whole group you can (ask your students to) fill out the following forms: <https://forms.gle/1jP4TqbhVLJgH6uy9>.

Housing

COMUN provides Community Housing for participants, which have requested housing in the registration form. As the secretariat is dependent on volunteering families, we unfortunately can not guarantee accommodation for all delegations. If COMUN is unable to provide Housing for your school, you will be notified as soon as possible. In the fortunate case that housing is provided to your delegation, you will receive an email with a form where you can mention anything the organization needs to be aware of, like dietary restrictions, allergies, disabilities et cetera. Housing will be provided from Thursday until Sunday, delegates can store their belongings in a designated classroom in the main building on Sunday morning. It will be possible to leave those suitcases in the cloakroom of the school.

Payment

The invoices have been sent to all single delegates and delegations by our finance team. It is still possible to cancel your registration with a refund of the half of the fees until the first of December, after that any payments will not be returned anymore. Housing costs an additional €7,50 to the paid fees, once the executive staff team knows more about the programme delegations will receive an email about the payment.

Hotel recommendations

Best western Gouda

If you are staying in an hotel, the organization recommends you the Best Western Hotel in Gouda. It is located at approximately one kilometre from the Coornhert Gymnasium. This means it can be easily reached by walking or by renting a bike at the train station of Gouda. The hotel is right in the centre of the city and only a small walk away from the famous Gouda City Hall and lots of restaurants. Participants of COMUN can get a discount for this hotel for all rooms booked during the conference weekend. On our website (<https://comun.nl/hotel/>) more information can be found about the discount code and hotel. For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Head of Finance at finances@comun.nl.

MUN Directors Historical Tour

For MUN directors there will be the possibility to take part in the traditional COMUN historical tour of Gouda. MUN directors who wish to take part in this tour can register on the Friday of the conference.

This tour will be given by our former Latin teacher and archaeologist Henk-Jan Sprokholt, who has a lot of knowledge about the city of Gouda. The tour will take you along historical sites such as the St. Jan church, the old City Hall, and the house where the famous humanist Desiderius Erasmus spent its youth.

Party

On Saturday night there will be a party for all delegates, student officers, staff members. The party will be from 20:30 till 00:30. At the party Dutch law concerning alcohol and drugs will apply and will be strictly followed by the staff of the location. There will be alcohol sold at the location, to ensure the safety of all attendants, those who are above the age of eighteen might get some form of bracelet as identification. The conference staff will be checking these at the party. The location will be announced later, in the Final Mailing.

Approval Panel

The Approval Panel needs to approve all resolutions, except in Crisis Committee, before committees can debate them. The Approval Panel is led by teachers and former students of the Coornhert Gymnasium. Volunteering MUN directors are also welcome to take part in the approval panel, since this will preserve the flow of all debates. We thank you in advance for your support.

Lunch

On Saturday and Sunday lunch will be provided by the conference and participants will therefore not have to provide their own lunch. On Friday, lunch will only be provided for students participating in the workshops in the morning, as lobbying time in all committees will start after lunch.

Programme of Events

This is the first version of our program during the weekend, please keep in mind that small changes can be made in the following months. Specific locations, apart from the school building of the Coornhert Gymnasium, are not certain yet and will follow in our Final Mailing.

Thursday:

Early arrivals and meeting the host families: 17:00 – 17:30

Friday:

Student Officer Briefing: 08:45 – 09:15
Workshops: 09:30 – 11:35
Student Officer workshops: 09:30 – 11:00
Arrivals and administration: 11:35 – 12:30
Time for lunch for participants of workshops: 12:00 – 12:30
Committees in session: 12:30 – 15:30
MUN-director meeting: 14:00 – 14:30
Opening ceremony: 16:00 – 17:00
Student Officer debriefing: 17:15 – 17:45

Saturday:

Student Officer briefing: 08:30 – 08:55
Committees in session: 09:15 – 17:00
Staggered lunch: 12:00 – 14:00
Student Officer debriefing: 17:15 – 17:30
COMUN party: 20:30 – 00:30

Sunday:

Student Officer briefing: 09:00 – 09:25
All committees in session: 09:30 – 16:00
Staggered lunch: 11:30 – 13:30
General Assembly plenary session: 13:30 – 16:00
Closing ceremony: 16:15 – 17:15
Student Officer debriefing: 17:30 – 18:00

Committees and Issues

This year there will be fourteen committees at COMUN! In reaction to the astounding number of registrations we have added four committees to our initial list: the WHO, the HRC, the NAC and the UNDP.

General Assembly 1

1. The possibility of global nuclear disarmament
2. The possibility of reforming the membership of the United Nations Security Council
3. The emerging threat of space militarization

General Assembly 3

1. Increasing food security in the Global South
2. The position of migrant workers around the world

3. The oppression of religious communities in South-Asia

General Assembly 4

1. Safeguarding national elections from foreign intervention
2. Consolidating democratic values
3. The threat of digital colonization in Africa

Security Council

1. De-escalating the interconnected conflicts in the Middle East
2. Addressing political instability and securing humanitarian assistance in Venezuela
3. The civil war in Myanmar

UNESCO

1. Addressing the global teacher shortage crisis
2. Promoting environmental education in high-risk natural disaster areas
3. Protecting cultural heritage sites in conflict zones

ECOSOC

1. The role of Artificial Intelligence in the economy
2. Tackling the global housing crisis
3. The rise of income inequality

UNICEF

1. The global challenge of illiteracy
2. Protecting children's healthcare in warzones
3. The rising number of children subjected to domestic violence

Commission on the Status of Women

1. Promoting universal access to education for girls
2. The effect of Artificial Intelligence on gender equality
3. Increasing awareness for gender equality among younger generations

UNFCCC

1. Addressing the impact of climate change on the spread of diseases
2. Safeguarding humanitarian aid workers from climate risks
3. Protecting islands endangered by climate change

World Health Organization

1. The global spread of Mpox
2. Tackling the Mental Health Crisis Among Children and Adolescents
3. Addressing the rise of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Human Rights Council

1. Combatting Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in conflict zones
2. Protecting the right to privacy in the digital era
3. Upholding freedom of expression

North Atlantic Council

1. Reinforcing NATO's energy security
2. NATO's position in the Indo-Pacific region
3. Boosting NATO's response to climate-induced security threats

UNDP

1. Combatting global deforestation
2. Improving access to governmental digital services.
3. Reducing unequal distribution of income and wealth.

Crisis committee

This year we will again organize a Crisis Committee at COMUN. In this committee delegates will receive their crises during the debate, and we can therefore not show them yet. This allows students to have an even more challenging debate and will require them to improvise during the weekend. To prepare for the debate, CC delegates will need to be aware of all past and current actions of their country's government, and even of any future plans they can find as well.

Some unforeseen issues regarding the new committees have unfortunately forced the secretariat to postpone the date we are publicizing the country assignments. The executive staff is actively working on these issues, and we assure you that the assignments will be sent to all delegates and delegations by the end of this week. The organisation thanks you for your patience.

The Secretariat

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Lucas Smeets – Head of External Affairs – dsge@comun.nl

Yasmine Benradi – Head of Internal Affairs – dsgi@comun.nl

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Rules of Conduct

Attendance and Roll calls

You are expected to always be present while your committee is in session unless you have permission from your MUN-Director to leave. Please inform your chair in a timely manner. Roll calls will be held by chairs at the beginning of every session, after lunch, and incidentally at random points during the course of the day to see which delegations are present.

Unannounced absences will be reported to the Board of Directors and to the MUN Directors.

Dress code

COMUN is a model of a parliamentary organ. International politics are simulated as precisely as possible. To create the political surroundings and the formal atmosphere among participants that is needed to reach a high level of proficiency at the conference, a formal dress code will be applied during the entire conference. The dress code is mandatory for participants and kindly requested for MUN Directors and guests. Men should wear suits with (bow)tie and women should be dressed equally official. Sneakers, T-shirts or any other informal attire are unacceptable. The COMUN organization has the right to address participants on their attire.

Behaviour

To establish a formal yet socially engaging atmosphere at the conference, we kindly request all participants to engage in respectful and cordial interactions, work diligently on the conference issues, and adhere to the instructions provided by the executive staff. This collective commitment is essential to creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone involved, ensuring that the conference serves as a space where meaningful discussions and connections can flourish.

