



PACE MUN 2025
CONFLICTS TO CONSENSUS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA: DEVELOPING A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK TO COUNTER
DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS UNDERMINING INTERSTATE



RELATIONS LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

With immense pleasure and enthusiasm, we heartily welcome you all to the premier edition of PACE MUN. This is the start of something— a chance for you to set not only the conference of today, but also the norm and tone in PACE MUN for years to come. As you enter this committee, remember: you are not just participants, but pioneers. You are on the front line of a fast-changing world, where your judgment, diplomacy and advocacy make all the difference.

Delegates from different backgrounds would bring in new perspectives; the consortia approach of PACE MUN will enable them to bring this change! We ask that you listen in earnest, speak with respect and seek consensus and cooperation even amid disagreement. These are the things that make negotiations successful and turn conversations into lasting change.

As you simulate the activities and participate in committee meetings, the ultimate MUNs aim of paving ways for safe, respectful and creative dialogue, compromise and resolutions on global issues should remain alive. Appreciate the teamwork, whether it is during formal debate, unmoderated caucus or just in private conversations. Every address we add and every decision we make is a potential source of motivation and progress toward our shared safety and truth.

In this sense, we expect PACE MUN to be a product of intelligence and cooperation. We hope that it will help you develop as a person, understand yourself better and connect with other people.

All the best for the sessions!

*Vidur Ahuja- Head Chair- GA
Abdul Haadi Khan- Co-chair- GA*

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The General Assembly (GA) stands as the primary deliberative and policymaking organ of the United Nations, comprising all 193 Member States on an equal footing. It serves as the world's most inclusive platform for dialogue, where nations large and small can voice their perspectives, negotiate shared solutions, and shape the principles that guide international cooperation. The GA's strength lies in its ability to foster collective action through consensus, addressing issues that transcend borders—ranging from peace and security to sustainable development, human rights, and technological governance.

In this session, the General Assembly will deliberate on one of the most pressing and complex challenges of the modern era: the proliferation of disinformation campaigns undermining interstate relations. These campaigns—often driven by state or non-state actors—have become potent tools for manipulating public opinion, influencing elections, and straining diplomatic trust. As technology advances, the line between truth and fabrication continues to blur, creating a volatile environment where misinformation can escalate into diplomatic crises or even conflict.

The committee's objective is to explore the creation of a comprehensive global framework to address this challenge. Delegates are encouraged to examine legal, diplomatic, and technological approaches that can counter disinformation while upholding freedom of expression and respecting national sovereignty. Collaboration with technology companies, media organizations, and international bodies will also be key in ensuring accountability and transparency. Ultimately, this session of the General Assembly aims to reaffirm the core UN values of truth, cooperation, and mutual respect, building a safer and more informed international community.

A DELVE INTO THE AGENDA:

This agenda meets one of the toughest challenges of the digital age: campaigns of disinformation that turn global relations into a world game of "telephone" whose results are much larger than a confused whisper. Disinformation typically coordinated or government-sponsored, blurs across borders, sways public opinion, and turns routine diplomacy into chaos. In our era, a single viral tweet or deepfake video can bring diplomatic headaches faster than an emergency UN session.

Technologically, social media, algorithms, bots, and AI-generated content have increased disinformation, made it more precise, and more credible-sounding than ever. Legally and morally, governments must balance the fight against misinformation with protection of freedom of speech without appearing to suggest that "fake news" is something they despise. Diplomatically, disinformation generates distrust, making multinational cooperation like negotiating with someone who cites a viral meme as evidence.

Historically, disinformation has not been unfamiliar. In the Cold War, the USSR and US were involved in elaborate propaganda campaigns, although lucky enough not to have TikTok. In more recent times, social media manipulation in the 2016 US election and viral fake reports of military or economic crises have shown just how quickly disinformation will propagate and have real-world consequences.

Today, disinformation efforts are more advanced and more difficult to detect, with deepfakes, viral posts, and orchestrated online activities causing chaos across the globe. The task of delegates is to grasp the historical context, technological devices, legal and moral consequences, as well as diplomatic repercussions of misinformation — all the while having a sense of humor, since as amusing as a viral meme is, it really shouldn't shape foreign policy.

PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

The international community has tried several measures, albeit regional and disjointed. “Internet for Trust” (2021–present) is an initiative within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to develop global guidelines for the regulation of digital platforms that preserve freedom of expression. It has also addressed the issue of misinformation through the “#Verified” initiative (2020) and adopted resolutions on the responsible use of information technologies by states.

Regionally, the European Union implemented the “Code of Practice on Disinformation” in 2018. The Digital Services Act (2022) further enhanced this approach by making numerous code of conduct provisions legally binding. NATO’s Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence and the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism have also collaborated to identify and counter state-sponsored disinformation and foreign interference. On a national level, the USA, France, and Germany among others have taken their respective measures. The U.S. set up the Global Engagement Center (2016) with the aim of fighting foreign propaganda; France enacted its Law Against the Manipulation of Information (2018) as a means of purging untrue news from the electoral process; and Germany put into effect the NetzDG Law (2017) which mandates quick deletion of illegal material. Other places like ASEAN and the African Union have been active in raising awareness about digital literacy, but they still don’t have any compelling laws in place.

Through the Trusted News Initiative and the EU Code of Practice, technology businesses have also collaborated. While international cooperation is critical to fighting disinformation, current regulations seem to be more concentrated on the potential domestic harm of misinformation or governmental interference in other countries’ elections.

THINGS TO RESEARCH ABOUT

Disinformation has become one of the most serious challenges in modern international affairs, shaping political stability, diplomacy, and public trust. Unlike misinformation, which arises from error, or misinformation, which misuses truth, disinformation is deliberate and strategic. State-sponsored disinformation has been used to manipulate narratives, interfere in elections, and destabilize societies — as seen in the 2016 US, French, and Kenyan elections, the COVID-19 “infodemic,” and disruptions to UN peacekeeping operations. Nations such as Russia and China have been identified as major actors, using technologies like bots, troll farms, and deepfakes to achieve political or strategic advantages. The effects of disinformation are far-reaching. It erodes diplomatic trust, fuels domestic instability, and undermines peacebuilding efforts. Fragile states and marginalized communities are particularly vulnerable, as limited media literacy and weak governance make them easy targets for manipulation. This loss of trust poses a serious threat to global cooperation and multilateral diplomacy.

In response, the United Nations and other international organizations have taken steps to promote information integrity, as reflected in UNGA Resolution 76/227 and related Human Rights Council initiatives. Regional frameworks, such as the EU’s Digital Services Act, and national laws in the US, Africa, and Asia, attempt to balance regulation with civil liberties. Meanwhile, major technology platforms are enhancing transparency and introducing systems to detect and curb false information. Artificial Intelligence has become a critical tool in combating disinformation through detection and “pre-bunking,” though concerns remain about privacy, censorship, and bias.

A sustainable approach requires a “whole-of-society” strategy involving governments, media, civil society, and the tech sector. Global cooperation, data sharing, and educational initiatives — especially media literacy programs — are essential to strengthen resilience. Supporting developing nations with technical and financial resources ensures inclusivity and fairness in the fight against disinformation.

At the same time, safeguards are needed to prevent misuse of counter-disinformation policies for censorship or political repression. Transparent oversight and independent monitoring bodies can help uphold human rights while maintaining accountability. Restoring diplomatic trust will depend on confidence-building measures, institutional reforms, and potentially a global code of conduct for responsible information use.

Looking ahead, emerging technologies such as AI and deepfakes will continue to complicate the disinformation landscape. The challenge for the international community lies in balancing innovation with ethics, security with freedom, and sovereignty with shared responsibility. Building global resilience will depend on collaboration, education, and a collective commitment to truth and transparency.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS

- 1. How can state-sponsored disinformation be clearly defined and identified?*
- 2. What accountability measures can deter or penalize disinformation campaigns?*
- 3. How can cooperation be strengthened without infringing on free speech or sovereignty?*
- 4. What role should tech companies and media platforms play in countering disinformation?*
- 5. How can nations improve digital literacy to build resilience against false narratives?*

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GOOD LUCK DELEGATE!

See you at the Conference!

