

Delegates of the International Criminal Court,

The International Criminal Court (ICC) stands perhaps as the most significant institution of international justice: it works to ensure accountability for the gravest crimes which threaten the peace, security, and dignity of a community. Established by the Rome Statute in 2002, the ICC investigates and prosecutes individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. Unlike other committees, the ICC focuses on specific individuals and their responsibility under international law, rather than representatives of a larger nation in its entirety.

The ICC in essence seeks to mandate the deliverance of justice, especially during circumstances where national courts are incapable of doing so. Proceedings operate under principles of fairness, impartiality, and international cooperation, all in an effort to most thoroughly exercise and achieve justice. Delegates of the ICC assume the role of judges in the courtroom; advocates in the committee work either as the prosecution (against the accused) or defense (defending the accused). Resolutions don't exist in the ICC. The committee rather engages in structured legal debate, evidence analysis, and the crafting of legal judgments.

This year's AMMUN theme, "Deliberate to Liberate", fundamentally highlights a pivotal aspect of the ICC. The very act of deliberation: meticulous legal argumentation, debate, and examination, is imperative in serving a retributive justice which liberates the victims of grave injustices. Delegates must keep this theme in mind as they engage in trials and debates, recognizing that the pursuit of justice is an act of liberation more than punishment: liberating societies from cycles of impunity and liberating victims from silence.

As AMMUN is a THIMUN-affiliated conference, professionalism and preparation are vital. Delegates are expected to approach the Court with a well-researched understanding of their assigned roles and cases. Regardless of their roles in the committee, they must present clear, logical, and substantiated arguments void of biases. Whether serving as judges, defense, or prosecution, debates should be conducted respectfully – yet rigorously.

The chairing panel is committed to guiding delegates in navigating the associated complexities of the committee, while simultaneously fostering an environment where the fruition of rigorous effort materializes – where advocates can feel as though their hard work was worth it. Through dedicated participation, you as delegates may hone your advocacy and legal reasoning skills. By the end of the committee, it is the panel's aim to ensure delegates emerge with the ability to deliberate wisely, and thus liberate justly.

Amjad Marji

President of the International Criminal Court