

OPEC Committee Description

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an international organisation of 13 member states who make up 44% of global oil production and 81.5% of global oil reserves. Founded in 1965, OPEC countries worked to nationalise their industry and now have an overwhelming influence on global oil prices. The international council was originally designed to protect middle eastern interests in oil, and now to dominate global oil markets through coordinated prices, production, and the unification of petroleum policies. But since its formation, OPEC has used oil to further the political interests of its member countries, imposing sanctions and using the power of oil to further their states' success.

It's November, 1978. Protesting and unrest in Iran has reached a critical level and the regime is expected to collapse. Due to unrest and strikes, production of oil begins to decline and by January 1979, Iran experienced a revolution and the Shah was forced into permanent exile. Global oil markets are unstable; OPEC and western countries are discussing how to respond and manage the impending oil crisis.

Delegates will have the responsibility to further the goals of OPEC, alongside their individual states. To increase tensions, OPEC member states are divided by the Cold War, some favouring pro-western policies, and others favouring economic alliances with the Soviet Union. This is a unique MUN experience, providing delegates with the opportunity to participate in a smaller agency whose interests and goals are very different from a generalised UN committee.