



XIITH EDITION



IP

International Press
Background Guide

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Welcome to the International Press of MACEMUN'26.

To beginners and seasoned reporters, this is your podium to engage, influence and illustrate. Among the other committees that reign in the conference, International Press stands out with its unique modus operandi and the liberty to craft narratives unhindered with overwhelming restrictions. To act as an intermediate between the conference and world, to read in between lines and silence, renders you an inevitable part of the event.

Being an active observer is the prime function of a journalist. A reporter blend facts, events and statistics seamlessly to materialize gripping literary works, that immortalize the conference. Knowing your sources and muse like the back of your hand is another quality you must possess. If the committee is assigned, if the agenda is grasped, the next step is to draft the workpiece, tailored to the nature of the article category. Diplomatic approach towards the delegates and other reporters is highly recommended to foster a collaborative and interactive atmosphere all along. All these features contribute to the impact that you, as a journalist induce in the conference.

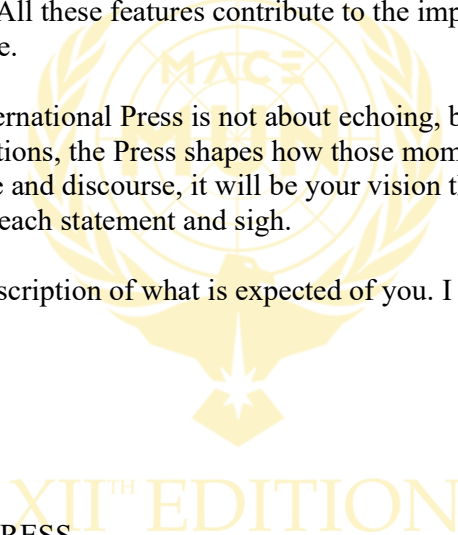
Stepping into the shoes of the International Press is not about echoing, but retelling. While Delegates debate and draft resolutions, the Press shapes how those moments will be remembered. Amidst the dialogue and discourse, it will be your vision through which the public understands the gravity of each statement and sigh.

Enclosed, you will find a brief description of what is expected of you. I look forward to working with you excitedly.

Warm Regards,

Devika Vipin

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS



Format for Written Submissions

- Submissions must be made in the following format:

First Name_Portfolio_Article Type_Day.

Eg. “Devika_The Washington Post_Beat_Day One”

- Submissions must be done in .docx or .pdf format. No other file format will be entertained.

- Specifications as to body of articles:

Font - Georgia

Titles – size 16, must be bold, underlined and center aligned.

By-lines - size 11, must be italicised and made right or center aligned.

Body – size 12, must be justified and quotes in italics.

Note: Word limits and formatting are expected to be adhered to (overshooting the word limit by 40-50 words is acceptable) except for “Feature” articles.

Skills set of a Reporter

A reporter is expected to be a professional both in and out of committee and have a skillset that allows them to navigate the deep waters of diplomacy. A few skills that a successful Reporter must possess are;

1. Observational Acumen

A reporter is more than a passive listener. Keen observation allows one to notice subtle undertones that others overlook, such as the tone of a speech, the pauses in a heated debate, or even the strategic undercurrents in diplomacy. These details provide an enriched narrative and make your reporting seem more authentic.

2. Research & Fact-Checking

A report holds no value unless it is grounded in truth. Reporters must research the agenda, background, and stakeholders thoroughly. Every statistic, quote, or claim must be verified before submission to ensure credibility and safeguard the Press from misrepresentation.

3. Writing & Storytelling

Information alone does not engage readers. The skill lies in weaving facts, figures, and statements into interesting narratives that capture attention along with to-the-point accuracy. A reporter should adapt writing styles to suit different article categories — be it beat-based reports, features, or op-eds.

4. Interpersonal & Interview Skills

Diplomacy extends far beyond committee walls. Reporters must interact with delegates, EB members, and fellow reporters, and maintain professional decorum. The ability to frame sharp yet polite questions, conduct meaningful interviews, and build rapport is essential for gathering quality content.

5. Time Management

In an MUN, time is limited and deadlines are tight. Reporters must balance observation, interviews, drafting, and editing within the tight submission windows. Discipline in managing time ensures that work is not only punctual but polished.

6. Adaptability & Creativity

Journalism in the MUN requires flexibility; one should have sharp reflexes to shift between straightforward reporting, analytical writing, and creative articles. A reporter should be innovative in presentation while maintaining factual integrity, ensuring content that is both informative and engaging.

International Press Etiquettes

Reporters stand at the crossroads of diplomacy and public perception. Your responsibility is not just to record events, but to distill the spirit of the MUN; clear, faithful, and free of bias. The challenge lies in shaping narratives that remain true to the moment while being sharp enough to resonate with readers beyond the committee walls;

- Ethical Responsibility

Reporters must uphold the highest standards of integrity, ensuring that every word written or spoken is free from bias (sans when you are assigned media agencies which are known to provide biased content), misrepresentation, or sensationalism. Accuracy and fairness should remain at the heart of their reporting.

- Creativity and Engagement

Beyond accuracy, a reporter must present information in a manner that is engaging and thought-provoking. The ability to weave creativity into factual reporting ensures that the narrative not only informs but also captivates the reader.

What is Portfolio Bias?

It is crucial to understand the significance of your portfolio as a reporter. Each member of the International Press will be assigned a portfolio, often modelled after a real-world news agency such as BBC, Reuters, or MSNBC. In essence, you will represent your agency within the UN ecosystem, and your work must reflect its established editorial stance.

This means that both your articles and the questions you pose during press conferences should align with the political outlook and reporting style of your assigned agency. Tools such as Media Bias/Fact Check can help you grasp the ideological leanings and factual reliability associated with your portfolio.

For example, an agency like Reuters may write in a very neutral manner with high factual accuracy while Agencies like Xinhua, which is a government owned news agency, may report in a more biased manner and use hearsay and other unreliable sources of info to push a narrative in their favour.

Types of Written Submissions

Note: For a more comprehensive idea of the agendas of each committee in the Conference please refer to the individual Background guides of each committee

The Following are the kinds of articles that may be expected from Reporters

during MACEMUN'26;

1. Beat-Based Article (400–500 words)

Think of this as the pulse check of your committee. A beat article captures a defining moment, which could be a statement, debate, or exchange, that embodies the direction of proceedings. Use delegates' quotes, facts, and observable actions to frame a coherent story, but avoid turning it into a mere transcript. The aim is to build a narrative thread that reflects how the committee is evolving while spotlighting its most compelling highlights.

2. Opinionated Editorial (500–800 words)

Here, you step into the shoes of a commentator rather than a recorder. An editorial allows you to provide in-depth analysis of an agenda or specific issue, supported by solid research and verifiable data. Your agency's editorial bias must shine through, shaping how arguments are framed and conclusions drawn. Proper citations are essential, and visuals (photos, illustrations, or relevant graphics) are strongly encouraged to elevate your work. This is where your research skills and critical thinking truly come alive.

3. Feature Article (up to 800 words)

The feature is your creative playground. It gives you the freedom to experiment with tone, style, and format, provided the content connects to your assigned agenda. Whether it takes the form of satire, interviews, profiles, or even a narrative short piece, the possibilities are endless. The only boundaries: no derogatory language and no straying entirely off-topic. Remember, this category isn't limited to traditional articles at all; reporters are expected to experiment with multimedia elements and unconventional formats too.

4. Interviews (below 600 words)

Interviewing someone not only allows you to understand how a delegate approaches topics but also allows you to observe the way they think, allowing you to uncover aspects that might not surface during the MUN proceedings. You may interview Executive Board members or Delegates, provided the interview remains relevant and focused. Questions only related to pertinent topics within the agenda or about the Country may be entertained, Casual Banter will not be scored or regarded in any manner. A minimum of 5 questions should be included in your interview.

5. Satirical Column (350–400 words)

A satirical column is your chance to turn the serious world of committee proceedings into something witty, ironic, and thought-provoking. These articles should directly reflect incidents that have taken place during the sessions; unusual delegate behaviour, dramatic debates, unexpected alliances, or even the small quirks that add colour to the room.

The layout must resemble that of a classic newspaper satire column, complete with headlines, subheads, and a polished design (expected to use agency logo in the header in case of media house assignment). To enhance the humour and impact, reporters are expected to attach relevant images, sketches, or memes that connect to the piece. The goal is not mockery but light-hearted critique, just to make your readers chuckle while offering them a fresh lens on committee dynamics.

6. Character Sketch (under 500 words)

Reporters may select a character from the committee and craft a detailed sketch highlighting their traits and connection to the agenda. The subject can be a person, a concept, or any real or fictional entity. The sketch should provide readers with insight into the character's motivations and intentions, illustrating how their actions influence the committee, whether constructively, destructively, or otherwise

7. Press Conference

The Press Conference takes place on the final day of the MUN. Reporters are expected to conduct thorough research and prepare at least five questions aligned with the agenda. Questions may target individual delegates, blocs, or the committee as a whole, and can relate to any relevant occurrences during the sessions including but not limited to debates, crises, draft resolutions, presidential statements, GSL speeches, working papers, or other committee developments.

Resources & Committee Preparation

As a reporter, you will be assigned to a specific committee, where your role is to craft articles, frame questions, and capture the flow of debate. Keep in mind that delegates arrive well-prepared with researched arguments and policy positions. To stay ahead, it's crucial to follow discussions closely while simultaneously preparing your submissions. The following resources are essential for effective reporting:

1. The UN Charter

The UN Charter is the foundation of all committee proceedings. A thorough understanding of its provisions, especially those relevant to your committee, is vital. This knowledge allows you to gauge how closely delegates' positions align with the Charter and to highlight any significant deviations in your reporting.

2. Official Government Websites

Many countries maintain open-access portals with reliable statistical data. Using such sites ensures your articles and press questions are grounded in fact. For instance, the official U.S. government portal provides a gateway to verified information from multiple agencies. These resources can be instrumental in substantiating questions, supporting claims, or

contextualizing delegate statements.

3. UN Databases

United Nations databases are among the most authoritative sources of information. A key tool is UN Data, maintained by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), which offers detailed socio-economic statistics on countries worldwide. Other UN-linked databases also provide specialized data that can strengthen your reporting.

4. Trusted Third-Party Sources

Alternative sources may be used as long as they are reputable and cite their own references. Examples include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and established news outlets like Reuters. The core principle is to rely on sources recognized internationally for factual accuracy rather than opinion.

Additional Tips:

The list above is not exhaustive, thus always prioritize credible, verifiable, and internationally recognized sources.

Thoroughly review your committee's background guide; it serves as an excellent starting point for research and understanding key issues.

For these two days, the conference will be seen, heard, and understood through your lens. You are the conduit between global dialogue and public understanding. Welcome again to the International Press Corps. Take this as an opportunity to sharpen your insight into diplomacy, policy, and the power of the press. This guide lays the groundwork, but if any questions arise, don't hesitate to reach out for clarification.

XIITH EDITION