**Committee Description**

The 21st century Panglong Conference, which began on August 31, 2016, has as its end-goal to amend Myanmar’s 2008 Constitution to adopt a truly federal Constitution. In that sense, the Myanmar Constitutional Assembly committee is set in the future and will challenge delegates to consider the wide array of constitutional issues at play when proposing a new Constitution.

Our delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the state of Myanmar’s institutional design (particularly the role of the military in the executive and legislative branches), its division of powers between the national government and federated entities, and its approach to minority rights and individual freedoms in a culturally and ethnically diverse country. In doing so, our delegates will also be encouraged to consider the approach taken by other federal states.

As members of the national or state governments and leaders of insurgent groups or regional organizations, our delegates will have to confront the pressing constitutional challenges Myanmar faces, while not jeopardizing the democratic gains made in recent years. In 1962, General Ne Win’s coup d’état was justified by the supposed disunity and division caused by federalism in pre-1962 Burma. It is this balance that will characterize the debates during SSUNS 2017.