

Oldenburg Model United Nations Conference 2011
- Changes and Challenges in a Globalised World -



Guide to

The General Assembly's Fourth Committee

*New Challenges to Good Governance – Establishing Public Administration
Guidelines in Developing States*

Personal introductions

Dear delegates,

It is my honor to serve as one of the chairs of this year's GA 4th Committee. I am 20 years old and, this year, I will be graduating from high school in Berlin. Within the last three years, I've had the pleasure to serve as a delegate and Chair at several MUN conferences; and it truly became my secret obsession! Besides the political knowledge that one makes and cultural experiences that one gains, MUN provides a great opportunity to meet friendly students from all over the world- students who will become life-long friends and who might, in the future, let me crash their houses as I travel to their country.



As a result of this secret obsession, I've managed to make a lot of friends in several countries, and I look forward to make many more at OLMUN 2011. I hope for a fruitful debate in a warm atmosphere that will make our committee as productive as possible. Indeed, I promise to help as much as I can to make our committee succeed.

— Hope to see you in June.

— **Marian Willuhn**

Honorable Delegates,

My name is Sören Zuppke and I am proud to be one of your chairs of this year's OLMUN conference. I am 20 years old, and I graduated from the Liebfrauenschule in 2010. Being from Oldenburg, I have already served in various positions of OLMUN. In 2008, I started as the Delegate of the Holy See. Afterwards, I became the Chair of the Ga3rd-Committee in 2009, whereas in 2010 I served as the Deputy Secretary General of the 10th Anniversary Session. Besides being fully involved in all recent OLMUN sessions, I successfully completed my alternative civilian service at the Goethe-Institute in Bremen. I am looking forward to study public administration and governance as I complete an internship at the German Bundestag.



As for my free time, I enjoy hanging out with friends, watching DVDs, going out, and meeting new people. Honestly, I believe we will enjoy a conference of good quality with a lot of fun and laughter. I look forward to meeting you in Oldenburg and making this committee the best of all times. So start your work and see you then!

Best regards,

Sören Zuppke

Honorable Delegates,

Once again, I am delighted to serve as a Chair in this wonderful conference. I am confident that the GA 4th Committee will reflect the beauty of MUN, and I promise to fulfill the high standards OLMUN has achieved over the years. Indeed, I have been involved with MUN since 7th grade when I played the delegate of Nepal at a small conference in Mendoza, Argentina. I had no idea what I was doing, but I fell in love! Since then, I have attended several conferences in Germany, Saudi Arabia, and USA. This year, I will be graduating from James Bowie High School in Austin, Texas, where I started an MUN club and taught seventeen delegates all about MUN. Next year, I will start studying International Relations and Latin American Studies at Stanford University. Without a doubt, I will continue with my dreams to become a diplomat of Venezuela where I am originally from.



Even though I've traveled to numerous cities and attended several conferences, I can honestly say that OLMUN, Oldenburg, and its people are ranked as one of my favorites. The people who organize and participate in OLMUN are passionate and driven which makes this conference truly amazing. I can't wait to fly across the Atlantic, one more time, to meet more of the talented youth who will be making this world a better place.

Cheers,

Andrea Clark

Our Committee

The GA 4th Committee is part of the General Assembly where, unlike the Security Council, all member nations have equal representation. Each of the six main committees within the General Assembly specializes on certain issues and changes over time. The fourth Committee dealt with Trusteeship and Decolonization matters, but now that most territories have acquired independence from the colonizing countries, other issues have been under the umbrella of this committee. In fact, the functions and issues of the Special Committee were merged with the Fourth Committee at the end of the 1990s.

Currently, the Fourth Committee is officially known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL). It addresses issues encompassing decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, outer space public information, mine action, atomic radiation, and the University for Peace.

Our Topic

The Problems

The year of 2011 has brought many changes. In the first half of this current year, diplomatic ties and international policy have been shaken with the modern revolutions of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, and all throughout the Muslim world. Also, the addition of South Sudan this upcoming July will open a seat to a new member of the UN, a new ally, and a new protagonist of the international community. Throughout the last years, there have been economic depressions and tyrannical leaders who have inspired the necessity for change in public administration in order to maintain and, in some cases, establish and provide good governance. There have also been new forms of government-the west trying to influence the east, which has opened up disputes as to what the better government entails.

The answer must be found by each country while always maintaining a standard under human rights, fair elections, and other certain pursuits established by UN members. Indeed, many drastic changes have inspired us to think into the future and foreshadow the future of democracy and good governance. How can the UN sustain good governance in the midst of all this turmoil? How can NGOs and other governmental bodies help with the transition to good governance without infringing upon national sovereignty?

This domino effect of one change triggering the next builds up a wall of conflict and poses a huge obstacle in the path to good governance. Developing nations are usually the victims of turmoil while the developed nations try to influence according to their interest. The idea that President Mubarak's government was backed by the US was controversial indeed, and the daunting task of achieving democracy in Afghanistan seems hazy and obscure. Therefore, the topic of the Fourth Committee is **New Challenges to Good Governance - establishing public administration guidelines in developing states**. Do take into account that the UN, based on its Charta and Millennium Development Goals, expects every nation to uphold good governance especially through

Democracy. However, when there's no structure in government like in South Sudan or a power vacancy like in Egypt, how can that nation maintain good governance? Indeed, the key idea of this topic is to answer those questions through the art of public administration because it leads to multilateral advising and action without defying national sovereignty. Of course, there will be nations that pursue public administration differently- different economic systems, government structures, and social liberties. In addition, the international community must find a way to help nations in need because of the lack or erosion of their public administrations. In other words, how can the UN ensure that the rule of law, which is most important to good governance, be upheld by nations?

This topic is not intended to define good governance- it has already been defined and addressed in several Resolutions like Resolution 50/225 of 1996. Moreover, the topic is not intended to set up a body to oversee public administration- that body already exists under the name of UN Public Administration Programme. The whole idea is to defy the existing paradigms by which good governance exists and tackle, through a stronger focus on public administration, the lack of good governance during times of turmoil. In the end, most changes in government or tyrannical leadership- challenges to good governance- should be dealt with a multilateral approach that should focus on public administration. Public administration should be seen as the way to avoid infringement upon national sovereignty while each nation upholds, establishes, and secures good governance. Also, consider the possibility that an inefficient, corrupt public administration might be the cause of the turmoil. Therefore, the other light of the problem might be the corruption, lack of accountability, and loss of ethics in public administration that tarnishes good governance.

Approaches to the Problem

In the midst of all the change and turmoil, the big dilemma always arises with the difference between the western belief of needed democratization and the wish of the developing countries to stick to their old traditions.

The role that public administration plays in every government comes into question when deciding the future of nations while securing good governance. In other words, there's a direct correlation between good governance and public administration. But there are also big differences, from one country to the other, as to what makes a government good and how to make it work. What delegates need to remember is that the UN aims for democracy- fair elections, human rights, economic prosperity- despite those member states that hide either behind a great economy, such as communist China, or ignore the international community and their pleads like North Korea and Iran.

Another point to consider for this topic is the idea of transitional governments. It is clear that Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Libya, Jordan, and the surrounding nations in that geographic zone are changing their government structure. Egypt will be soon holding elections and the big question is the future of democracy in that country, especially for those western nations that value democracy as the pillar for good governance. But think of the Revolution of 1979 in Iran that promised change, but this same revolution established a theocratic government under Ayatollah Khomeini along with a radical President who currently defies good governance and its pillars. Thus, what can the UN do to ensure that that shift of power doesn't harm good governance of the nation in

turmoil and that nation's surroundings? Note that Iran poses a constant threat to Israel and influences the Middle East. One nation and its public administration can have a massive impact in the region and the entire world: Iran harboring terrorism and the destruction of Israel. During the topic's research, delegates must be aware of the current events and the progression of areas that are under turmoil because the changes in government might bring power vacancy where good governance might be forgotten and where public administration might be much needed.

Instead of focusing solely on the assigned countries, delegates must look at the big picture of good governance in regions and then focus on the particular needs of public administration in each country. Always consider the rule of law so be acquainted with all the definitions of public administration, good governance, and any terminology needed to sustain strong arguments on the matter. During the debates, delegates must clash western beliefs with other standards- theocracies such as Iran, monarchies such as Saudi Arabia, and other nations like Nigeria Somalia, China, Venezuela, and Russia where good governance comes into question. Debates should inspire the committee as a whole to fix the cracks of public administration in countries that need guidance, and plan to oversee those nations that ignore all existing guidelines without infringing upon national sovereignty. In the end, any resolutions should aim to the betterment of public administration in order to face the new challenges of good governance.

During Research

While each delegate prepares for the conference and begins his or her research, please consider some suggestions:

1. **Current events-** Delegates must keep up with the turmoil in the Middle East, the earthquake in Japan, the war in Afghanistan, and even the new details on the Royal wedding. As Sir Francis Bacon once said, "knowledge is power." It's important for delegates to be updated on key issues that might impact our topic or that might impact the region in which the countries are located. The topic of the GA 4th Committee deals with good governance and public administration in times of turmoil, so current events will most likely reflect examples of turmoil and the need for a resolution that can prevent or appease the situation-always through public administration reform to ensure good governance.
2. **National Government-** It's imperative for the delegates to understand the role of government in their respective country and how it interacts with the international community. Good example: Pakistan and India don't get along! So it is expected from every delegate to fulfil each country's foreign policy and to role-play that government's defining characteristics. Also, delegates must identify the organization structure of their governments. A country with a vast rural sector will encompass a different public administration web than a country with an overwhelming urban sector.
3. **Past UN Actions-** In order to jumpstart the topic, delegates must know where to start. As mentioned earlier, there have been previous resolutions dealing with good governance and there are UN bodies in charge of public administration. Delegates must have an idea of what their countries have done or how they have been involved on the matter. Good example:

Israel is a complex government with bureaucracies, and it is a melting pot of economic ideas, international policy, and national defence. The delegate of Israel must be aware of this complex system as well as the current issues that influence policy and relations with other countries. Also, delegates must be aware of what has gone wrong in public administration that has led to either the deterioration of good governance in their respective countries or the inability to ensure good governance. Problems such as corruption in district, regional, or federal levels of government pose serious threats to good governance, so a more transparent and honest public administration system might be the solution.

4. **Terminology-** The topic is very complex. On one side, there's public administration with its history, goals, and pillars. On the other, there's good governance with its problems, violations, and successes. Delegates must have a clear idea of these main terms and their relationship, and delegates must not ignore terms that are linked with these main two terms. In order for debate to run smoothly, delegates must know what an accountable, ethical, and transparent state entails. Also, delegates are encouraged to bring up new ideas that might be related to the topic in order to expand the scope of the issue or relate it to individual scenarios.

During Conference

The chairs expect for delegates to maintain a respectful atmosphere, an engaging debate, and a relentless interest during session. Thus, follow these certain guidelines in order to succeed:

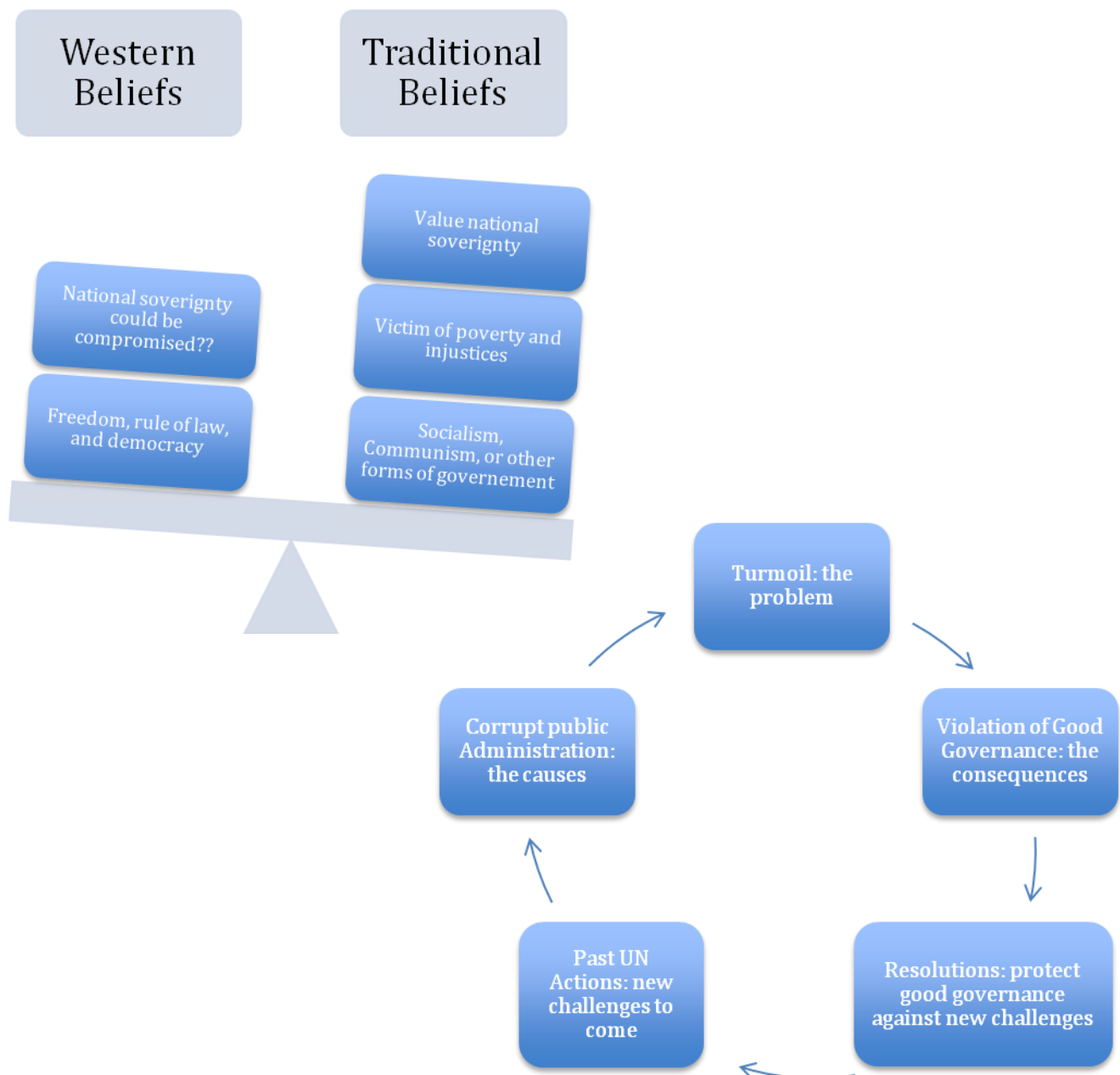
1. **Play Role-** good governance should be upheld by every nation but it isn't. Some delegates will be representing-not the good of the international community- but the self-interested pursuit of their nation. Delegations will have enemies as well as allies so delegates are expected to play their part according to parliamentary procedure and the respective country's paradigms.
2. **Lobbying-** each country's foreign policy will determine relationships and groups during the un-moderated caucus. This is a good thing! However, delegates should take a stand as to how much power the international community has to ensure good governance. When is the line drawn so as to not infringe upon national sovereignty? Also, delegates should consider the scope of government in their respective country and apply it during lobbying in order to seek countries that share the same ideas. Ultimately, each group formed will aim to deal with the new challenges to good governance but through certain limited or unlimited changes in public administration.
3. **Resolution-** There are numerous challenges to good governance, and it's impossible to address every single one in a resolution. This is NOT the aim of the committee. Each resolution, however, should outline new ways or expand or modify old ways in public administration to ensure good governance. If turmoil should arise, the resolutions should advice countries how to use their government's potential to tackle causes and consequences of the trouble. If good governance is threatened, the resolutions should provide an approach to eradicate this threat by focusing on the complicated yet wonderful world of public

administration. Good example: In the US, if the president dies, its public administration has a system that has ensured a clear line of succession with its credible reputation of fair elections. Take into consideration that countries are under constant turmoil and that good governance is threatened persistently.

4. **Debate-** If delegates are not clashing western beliefs with more traditional ones, this committee will be missing its core theme. The idea of public administration is that it is established according to each nation's belief, geography, culture- it's unique and linked to national sovereignty. However, every country values good governance because it encompasses intrinsic values such as justice, equality, and freedom-every citizen aims to be under good governance. Therefore, there is a clear burden on the delegates to demonstrate a compromise: allowing each nation to determine a public administration that will ensure good governance. During the debate, delegates should bring up the current events that are defying good governance and remind the committee of past events that can teach the committee a few lessons on the topic; what to do or not to do. Debate is at the heart of diplomacy, and delegates are expected to foster constructive debates under a respectful and serious environment where all ideas are welcomed and questioned.

Summary

Delegates must find ways where public administration can help sustain good governance in times of trouble. By default, good governance is threatened in developing nations, and the developed ones are always at the forefront defending good governance. In fact, delegates must target where in the public administration system does corruption or problems occur and how to fill those black spots in order to promote good governance. The most complicated yet fascinating aspect of the topic is the new challenges. There will be many things to focus on and many things to disagree over, but it is in every nation's interest to establish certain guidelines where one could prevent corruption, violation of human rights, or economic incompetence by bringing a near to flawless system of public administration to hold and protect good governance.



Contact

Delegates, if any questions or problems concerning the committee's topic or the countries' policy should arise, please feel free to contact us at ga4th@olmun.org. It will be our pleasure to help with the research and answer any questions.

In addition, we expect you to prepare a policy statement in advance in order to solidify your stand on the topic and to share it with the committee at the beginning of session. Please, submit your position papers by June 2nd at ga4th@olmun.org. In this statement, you should address the topic and shortly outline your countries position.

For the first time at OLMUN, delegates will have the possibility to interact with other delegates in their committees in a forum at www.olmun.org. The forum will be opened some weeks prior to the conference. More information on how to write a policy statement or a resolution and the Rule of Procedure can be found at the website as well.

We are looking forward to an interesting and constructive debate and a truly unforgettable conference. Make sure to keep up with current events, and we expect for your research to inspire you to participate!

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Yours sincerely,

Sören Zuppke
Chair

Andrea Clark
Chair

Marian Willuhn
Assistant Chair

Useful Links

- “NEW CHALLENGES TO STATE STRUCTURES”
<http://mirror.undp.org/magnet/Docs/!UN98-21.PDF/!RECONCE.PTU/!sec4.pdf>
- All about Public Administration
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_administration
- Good definition of public administration: <http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pubadmincover.htm>
- Talks about Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability needed in good governance and provided by public administration:
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/StandardsCharters/EthicsTransparencyandAccountability/tabid/1307/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- Website with numerous links to country profiles and different topics:
www.unpan.org/egovkb
- South Sudan- challenges and a new beginning for good governance
<http://www.eurasiareview.com/analysis/sudan-after-the-referendum-13012011/>
<http://www.eurasiareview.com/analysis/south-sudan---a-new-country-new-beginning-in-africa-15022011/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/africahaveyoursay/2011/02/how-does-sudan-build-a-new-nat.shtml>
- Some power struggles within the UN- to consider especially during heated debates!
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article836372.ece/New-UN-council-to-reflect-21st-century>
- Current events-Egypt (a good example of turmoil and good governance)
http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2011/02/egypt_after_mubarak
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/news/world/article910144.ece/The-Revolution-in-Cairo>
- Haiti and its struggle to maintain good governance despite turmoil (the earthquake)
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37458&Cr=haiti>
- The link between public administration and good governance
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/History/SectionOverview/tabid/1248/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- Information on GA 4th committee and some past issues
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Committee_on_Decolonization
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_list_of_non-self-governing_territories
- Past UN actions and plans on the issue
<http://aje.sagepub.com/content/24/2/227.abstract>
- An example of Nepal, a developing nation, and its need for a stronger guidelines in public administration
http://www.international-alert.org/pdf/Donor_Aid_Strategies_in_Post_Peace_settlement_environments.pdf

YouTube Videos

- Good Governance in the Fight Against HIV Aids in Tanzania: this is an example of a challenge that has brought change within the government.
- Good Governance: brief explanation on what the term entails.
- Haiti's history of hardship: this is what happens when there's an incompetent public administration and where good governance is completely absent.