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State Council of South Korea

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Welcome Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear delegates,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you all to sunny Santa Barbara for the tenth annual Gaucho Model United Nations conference! My name is Jody Chen and I am a second year currently serving as the Under Secretary General of External Affairs for UCSBMUN. Outside of Model UN, I am one of two co-chairs of the Associated Students Womxn's Commission, an active member of my business fraternity, and a freelance video editor/web designer. Most of the time you'll be able to find me either at Trader Joe's or in a practice room in the Music building. Feel free to talk to me about all things Marvel, memes, and music— all genres included.

My favorite part about crisis committees is the platform it provides for delegates (and crisis directors) to be creative and outrageous—to a certain extent, of course. The split between North and South Korea, a product of Cold War ideological tensions, still features a variety of actors all pursuing different agendas. As the long and turbulent history of the Korean peninsula continues to have a starkly present effect on modern international relations, our staff presents to you the opportunity to reshape the course of history. I hope you'll grasp this opportunity with zeal and make this committee your own.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hi, feel free to shoot me an email or contact any of the other fabulous people behind this committee. We are all looking forward to welcoming you to our beautiful campus soon!

Best,

Jody Chen

Crisis Director, State Council of South Korea

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Welcome Letter from the Chair

Distinguished delegates,

Welcome to GauchoMUN 2019! My name is Eric Wang and I will be your chair for the State Council Crisis committee. I'm a second-year pursuing a degree in Economics. This is my first year with Model UN at UCSB.

I look forward to seeing you wrestle with the complexities of the Korean peninsula.

I hope that the experience of seeing the North Korean conflict through the lens of South Korean policymakers broadens your perspective and offers clarity that news alerts and late night tweets don't provide. The North Korea question is about peace for a country torn apart by external influences, the reunification of families, and relief for the millions in abject poverty.

Please feel free to inundate my inbox with your pressing questions and concerns. Common App awards sections are at stake!

Best,

Eric Wang

Chair, State Council of South Korea

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The South's Northern Policy

Before President Moon Jae-In, previous administrations maintained a hardline stance towards its northern neighbor. President Moon Jae-In has opted for a softer approach that has made 2018 a year of firsts for the relationship between North and South. For instance, in April 2018, Kim Jong-un became the first North

Korean leader to cross the DMZ when he met President Moon and began serious negotiations between the two nations. This led to the signing

of an agreement in Pyongyang in September 2018 by both Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon.¹ North

Korea agreed to dismantle the Donchang-ri missile engine test site and agreed to dismantle

other sites with US confessions. Mr. Kim indicated that he would visit Seoul and confirmed that North and South Korea would bid jointly for the 2032 Olympics.



South Korea's long term goals are focused on reuniting the two Koreas and reintegrating North Koreans into mainstream society.

The State Council

In South Korea, the executive branch of government is made up of eighteen ministries. The State Council is comprised of the president, prime minister and the eighteen ministry heads.

All members of the council are all appointed by the President. The President acts as the



chairperson and the Prime Minister the Vice-chair. The State Council is a deliberative body; its role is to provide guidance to the President on matters of policy. Article 89 of the South Korean constitution lays out the responsibilities of the council. The State Council's authority should be thought of as greater than simply an advisory committee, as the results of its deliberation are implemented as policy, either by the President or government agencies.

¹<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/09/18/korean-summit-moon-jae-kim-jong-un-agree/1354113002/>

President Moon Jae-In's approval rating stands at 48% as of November 2018, a new low for the President, who enjoyed the support of 80% of South Koreans earlier in May of 2018. The current economic slowdown is partially responsible for this drop. Additionally, popular support for the leader has waned as progress on North Korea has slowed. Mr. Moon's 80% approval rating was driven by Moon Jae-In's historic meeting with Kim Jong Un. Specifically, South Koreans seem concerned that Moon Jae-In is moving too quickly in his attempts at achieving peace with North Korea.² However, on the whole, South Koreans are currently not suspicious of the progress made so far; at this juncture, the results of all negotiations have been positively received.

Text of Article 89

The following matters shall be referred to the State Council for deliberation:

- 1) Basic plans for state affairs, and general policies of the Executive;*
- 2) Declaration of war, conclusion of peace, and other important matters pertaining to foreign Policy;*
- 3) Draft amendments to the Constitution, proposals for national referendums, proposed treaties, legislative bills, and proposed presidential decrees;*
- 4) Budgets, settlement of accounts, basic plans for disposal of state properties, contracts incurring financial obligation on the State, and other important financial matters;*
- 5) Emergency orders and emergency financial and economic actions or orders by the President, and declaration and termination of martial law;*
- 6) Important military affairs;*
- 7) Requests for convening an extraordinary session of the National Assembly;*
- 8) Awarding of honors;*
- 9) Granting of amnesty, commutation, and restoration of rights;*
- 10) Demarcation of jurisdiction between Executive Ministries;*
- 11) Basic plans concerning delegation or allocation of powers within the Executive;*
- 12) Evaluation and analysis of the administration of State affairs;*
- 13) Formulation and coordination of important policies of each Executive Ministry;*
- 14) Action for the dissolution of a political party;*
- 15) Examination of petitions pertaining to executive policies submitted or referred to the Executive;*
- 16) Appointment of the Prosecutor General, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Staff of each armed service, the presidents of national universities, ambassadors, and such other public officials and managers of important State-run enterprises as designated by law; and*
- 17) Other matters presented by the President, the Prime Minister, or a member of the State Council.*

² <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/south-korean-president-moons-approval-below-50-per-cent-in-poll-first>

A Trumpian Shakeup

The United States has long been an essential party to talks between the two Koreas. South Korea relies on the United States for protection; a strong American military presence serves as a vital deterrent against North Korean military aggression. It remains in America's best political interests to stay involved in the region, especially as China steadily increases its influence within the Asia-Pacific. South Korea is a key ally at a time when many Asian nations are pivoting toward better relations with the PRC.

President Donald Trump has pushed negotiations between North and South Korea into a new phase. A late night Twitter tirade by President Trump led to the arrangement of a US-North Korea summit, which was held on June 12, 2018, during which President Trump and Kim Jong-un met in Singapore. The meeting was unprecedented, never before had the leaders of their respective nations met in person. Despite the historic nature of the meeting, there is little evidence to suggest that North Korea has pursued any of the stated goals that the summit produced, namely denuclearization. Some North Korea watchers have suggested that the move has only emboldened North Korean leadership. A month after the summit, Kim Jong-un refused to meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after Pompeo journeyed to Pyongyang to demand that North Korea fulfill its commitment to decrease nuclear development. Secretary Pompeo eventually met with Mr. Kim in October 2018. North Korea has offered inspectors the opportunity to visit a destroyed nuclear test site, Punggye-ri, while proposing the dismantling of nuclear weapons factories in exchange for concessions from the United States.³

At the present, although there is evidence to suggest that the development of nuclear weapons has decreased or at least halted in the short-term, North Korea has yet to decrease the size of its nuclear arsenal or dismantle nuclear infrastructure. Moreover, the US has consistently scaled back demands in order to keep North Korea at the negotiating table. (Specifics here) Negotiations with the United States will resume in 2019 with a planned second meeting between President Trump and Kim that is likely to take place in either January or February.⁴

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/08/world/asia/mike-pompeo-kim-jong-un-north-korea.html>

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/02/politics/trump-kim-jong-un-meeting-summit/index.html>

A New Landscape

Kim Jong-un is a clear beneficiary of the new US-North Korea dynamic. After standing on the same stage as the President of the United States, his legitimacy has increased. Kim has leveraged that newfound legitimacy and launched a charm offensive. A bevy of nations: China, Russia and South Korea, have responded positively to increasing engagement with North Korea.

Notably, China has increased trade across its border with North Korea. This, coupled with the recently escalated trade war between the United States and China, puts Kim in a stronger strategic position; China is unlikely to cooperate with the United States to sanction North Korea.⁵ In the past, China applied pressure on North Korea by restricting trade with the Hermit Kingdom (trade with China constitutes 80% of total trade.) In a setback for the United States, China called for a relaxing of UN sanctions on North Korea at a September UN Security council meeting.⁶

Further complicating the US-North Korea negotiations is the lack of coordination between South Korea and United States. Despite President Trump's professions of love for supreme leader Kim, he aims to continue to put pressure on North Korea in order to gain concessions. President Moon Jae-In's efforts have, to an extent, upended that effort. The South Korean leader's actions have drawn bipartisan displeasure in the United States. In October, when faced with news that South Korea was considering lifting sanctions on North Korea, President Trump bluntly rebuked "They won't do it without our approval. They do nothing without our approval."⁷

The Situation at Hand

The South Korean president has convened the council to advise him on the ongoing negotiations with North Korea. Moon Jae-In will not be a character represented by a delegate. The 2019 inter-Korean summit will take place in Seoul on March 1.

⁵https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/kim-jong-un-has-played-trump-like-a-stradivarius/2018/07/09/1c5592d4-8391-11e8-8f6c-46cb43e3f306_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6ac99a453513

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/27/un-security-council-north-korea-sanctions-china-russia-pompeo>

⁷<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea-southkorea-sanctions/refile-trump-says-s-korea-will-not-lift-n-korea-a-sanctions-without-u-s-approval-idUSL4N1WQ5YB>

Timeline of Events

| Date | Development |
|-----------------|--|
| 1910, August | The short-lived Korean Empire became a protectorate of Japan in 1905 and was officially annexed in 1910. |
| 1945, August | At the end of the second World War, Japan surrendered the Korean Peninsula, which was subsequently divided by the US and Soviet Russia along the 38th parallel. This division placed 16 million Koreans in the American zone and 9 million in the Soviet zone. |
| 1948, August | The Republic of Korea was established with American-backed Rhee Syngman as the elected president. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established less than a month later. |
| 1950, June | Soviet-backed Supreme Leader of North Korea, Kim Il-sung, sparks the beginning of the three-year Korean War by invading the Ongjin Peninsula. |
| 1953, July | The Korean War ends in a stalemate and the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is established. |
| 1961, May | A military coup, led by Park Chung-hee, marks the start of his 26-year dictatorship in South Korea. |
| 1979, October | Park is assassinated by his own intelligence chief during dinner at the agency headquarters. |
| 1985, January | Former South Korean president Chun Doo-hwan proposes the first inter-Korean summit; four months later, officials secretly meet in Indonesia. |
| 1985, December | North Korea refuses to sign safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog, prompting concerns of nuclear development. |
| 1991, September | North and South Korea join the United Nations. |
| 1992, January | Both Koreas sign the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. 10 days later, North Korea signs the safeguard agreement with the IAEA. |
| 1993, January | North Korea breaks the Joint Declaration and refuses to allow the IAEA to inspect facilities suspected of housing nuclear waste. In March, the North Korean government announces withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. |

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| 1994, June | Former US president Jimmy Carter visits North Korea to help diffuse tensions. Both North and South Korean governments agree to the first inter-Korean summit in July. |
| 1995, July | North Korean president Kim Il-sung dies-- derailing plans for the first inter-Korean summit. His son, Kim Jong-il, becomes the next president. |
| 1998, February | Kim Dae-jung is sworn in as the president of South Korea, promising to pursue “sunshine policy” of unconditional economic and humanitarian aid to North Korea. |
| 2000, June | Landmark inter-Korean summit takes place for the first time in Pyongyang. Both North and South Korean presidents sign a joint declaration to work towards reunification. Later in the year, the two governments facilitate family reunions and march in the Olympics together under one flag. |
| 2003, January | North Korea formally withdraws from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Six nation talks begin in Beijing between China, the US, the Koreans, Japan, and Russia. |
| 2006, October | North Korea conducts its first nuclear test the day after the 10 year anniversary of Kim Jong-il’s presidency. |
| 2007 | The effects of the six-nation talks in Beijing begin to go into effect-- primarily the aid-for-disarmament deal. A second inter-Korean summit occurs in October. |
| 2008, February | Lee Myung-bak is sworn into the South Korean presidency, promising to take a more hardline approach in regards to North Korea. In the following weeks, inter-Korean relations take a turn for the worse with North Korea threatening to turn the South into “ashes.” |
| 2009 | Tensions ease as North Korea sends a delegation to the funeral of former South Korean president Kim Dae-jung. North Korea agrees to resume family reunion program. |
| 2012, February | North Korea releases a set of demands (many of which the South had already rejected) as terms for improving relations between the two countries. |
| 2012, December | South Korea elects its first female president, Park Geun-hye. |
| 2013 | Inter-Korean tensions sour over a series of events including: a cyber-attack on South Korea that is subsequently blamed on the North and an exchange of fire over a disputed maritime border. |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2014, October | South Korean activists launch balloons containing leaflets condemning Kim Jong-un across the border, prompting an exchange of fire. |
| 2015, March | North Korea fires short range surface-to-air missiles into the sea in an apparent show of force against regular military drills by South Korea and the US. |
| 2016, October | South Korean president Park Geun-hye is accused of allowing a personal friend, with no government position, meddle in affairs of the state. She is subsequently impeached. |
| 2017, May | Moon Jae-in is elected president in a landslide vote and vows to solve the North Korean crisis by diplomatic means. |
| 2018, April | Kim Jong-un becomes first North Korean leader to enter South Korea, meeting President Moon Jae-in in talks to end hostile actions and work towards reducing nuclear arms on the peninsula. Here, the Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was signed |
| 2018, September | Inter-Korean relations continue to improve under Moon's diplomatic direction and both governments sign a Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, Exchanges and Cooperation" (aka "the Basic Agreement") to help ensure less military tension between both countries and greater arms control. |

Questions to Consider

To what extent do the goals of South Korea align with US interests on the North Korean question?

Given that Kim Jong-un has certainly perpetuated human rights abuses against the people of North Korea, how might South Korea balance the need for justice for victims of the North Korean regime with its goal of peace and reconciliation?

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Character Portfolios

Lee Nak-yeon

Prime Minister

Born in the South Jeolla Province, Lee is a graduate of Seoul National University with a degree in law. After college, Lee worked as a journalist with the Dong-a Ilbo newspaper before pursuing a path in the world of politics. Having cultivated a relationship with previous president Kim Dae-jung during his tenure as a journalist, Lee was elected as a member of the National Assembly in 2000. Four terms later, Lee left the National Assembly and was elected governor of the South Jeolla Province up until his nomination to become prime minister. Due to his fluency in Japanese, Lee is a leading figure in Korean-Japanese relations.

Hong Nam-ki

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance

Considered a veteran politician in Korea, Hong Nam-ki was personally appointed to his current post by President Moon Jae-In to replace former minister Kim Dong-yeon. A graduate of the University of Salford in the United Kingdom with a master's degree in economics, Hong has served as the former finance ministry spokesman. His appointment during a struggling time in Moon's Cabinet was in response to criticism regarding tackling youth unemployment, high levels of household debt, and the potential fallout of the US-China trade war on Korea's export-dependent economy.

Yoo Eun-hae

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education

The first woman to serve as Deputy Prime Minister in Korea, Yoo Eun-hae was personally appointed to her current post as the education minister by President Moon Jae-In. This decision was not without strong criticism regarding both the government's "anti-parliamentary" action and Yoo's allegations of ethical lapses. A former member of the National Assembly representing Goyang of the Gyeonggi Province, Yoo is now tasked with the challenge of revamping the education system and college entrance exam.

You Young-min

Minister of Science and ICT

A graduate of Pusan National University with a degree in mathematics, You Young-min now serves as the Minister of Science and Information and Communication Technologies after a long career in computing technology business. After ten years working at LG Electronics as Chief Information Officer and Vice President of the Finance/ITO Division, You transitioned into government service, serving on the Presidential Advisory Council on Science & Technology (PACST), working with the POSCO Research Institute, and chairing the Minjoo Party of Korea.

Kang Kyung-wha

Minister of Foreign Affairs

The first woman nominated for and appointed to the position, Kang Kyung-wha is a graduate of Yonsei University and University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Throughout her career, she has served under three Secretary-Generals of the United Nations as well as been an active organizer for women's issues. Before joining the Korean Foreign Service, Kang worked as a producer of English Service Division of Radio Korea and lectured at multiple Korean and American universities. Without having passed the foreign service exam, she entered the Korean Foreign Service in 1998 and has held high profile assignments such as interpreter for the president and permanent minister to the United Nations. She was appointed to her current post by President Moon with high public support-- fulfilling the president's promise to fill at least a third of his cabinet with women.

Cho Myung-gyun

Minister of Unification

Having served in the Ministry of Unification for 28 years, Cho Myung-gyun nominated by President Moon and approved by the National Assembly for the position of Minister of Unification in the summer of 2017. Just a few of his past positions with the Ministry of Unification include participating in two inter-Korean summits under Presidents Roh Moo-hyun and Kim Dae-jung and serving as the Secretary of Unification, Diplomacy, and Security. Cho's appointment affirms President Moon's focus on engagement and improving inter-Korean relations. Choi Kyung-hwan, a member of the main opposition Liberty Korea Party, said, "it is difficult to find any major ethical lapses from Cho."

Park Sang-gi

Minister of Justice

A graduate of Yonsei University and University of Gottingen, Park Sang-gi served for 30 years in various legal, criminology, and policy advising positions before entering his current position as the Minister of Justice. Some of his most notable positions include serving as a professor and the Dean of Yonsei Law School and sitting on the Presidential Committee on Judicial Reform. His platform and goals for the Ministry of Justice include the eradication of political corruption, protecting basic human rights, and addressing gender based violence-- particularly "hidden camera crimes."

Jeong Kyeong-doo

Minister of National Defense

A former fighter pilot and general officer of the Republic of Korea Air Force, Jeong Kyeong-doo assumed office as the Minister of National Defense in September of 2018. A graduate of the Korea Air Force Academy and Hannam University, Jeong rose through the ranks of the Korean Air Force over 30 years of service. In 2015, he was promoted to the position of Air Force Chief of Staff-- the professional head of the ROK Air Force. He is South Korea's first Defense Minister in 24 years to come from an Air Force background and is working towards reducing the number of guards and amounts of equipment along the demilitarized zone.

Kim Boo-kyum

Minister of the Interior and Safety

Aside from currently holding the post of Minister of the Interior and Safety, Kim Boo-kyum also represents the Suseong District in the National Assembly as part of the Minjoo Party. In the 2016 Parliamentary election, Kim defeated his opponent in a 62.5 landslide and became the first member of a liberal party to represent the district since 1985. A political science graduate of Seoul National University, he was expelled for taking part in protests against the Yushin Constitution though he was later reinstated. Having served in Korean government consistently since 2000, Kim hopes to create more jobs in the public sector and support national development balanced between the capital and provincial areas.

Sung Yun-mo

Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy

Before assuming office as the Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy, Sung Yun-mo served as the incumbent chief of the Korea Intellectual Property Office with a specialty in designing and

implementing industrial policies. An alumna of Seoul National University, Sung joined government service in the industry ministry in 1988 and has served in a variety of positions-- even as its spokesperson. After earning a doctoral degree from the University of Missouri in 1998, Sung has served as an economic policy director at the Office for Government Policy Coordination. Calls are now arising for the focus of the industry sector to shift to the semiconductor business in order to compete with rising Chinese companies backed by Beijing.

Park Neung-hoo

Minister of Health and Welfare

After earning his doctoral degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley in 1998, Park Neung-hoo returned to Seoul and resumed his work at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. During the Asian financial crisis, Park's study of welfare policy informed his influential contributions to the development of Korea's Basic Livelihood Security Program. Having supported President Moon since his first bid for the presidency, Park now works toward making Moon's presidential platform a reality. Amongst a variety of pressing issues, Park cites universal healthcare, support for families and children, and assistance for the aging as his priorities for the current administration.

Cho Myung-rae

Minister of Environment

Previously the chief of the state-run Korea Environment Institute, Cho Myung-rae comes from an academic background having studied urban development and planning at Seoul National University and the University of Sussex. Cho also chairs an association of chiefs of environmental research organizations and was a lecturer at Dankook University. As the seventh person to be appointed by the President to a ministerial position without National Assembly approval, his confirmation hearings were controversial-- bringing up issues of alleged tax evasions and plagiarism of this thesis.

Lee Jae-gap

Minister of Employment and Labor

A technocrat and graduate of Korea University in Seoul, Lee Jae-gap was chosen for the position of Minister of Employment and Labor in part due to his 30 years of experience handling labor and employment issues. After passing the high-level public service exam, Lee entered

government service in 1987 and has worked extensively throughout the labor ministry-- most recently holding the position of vice minister. Lee also served as head of the Korean Workers Compensation and Welfare Service from 2013-2016. President Moon's job creation policy awaits heavy anticipation by the Korean public and Lee is considered to be the most capable person to move such policy forward due to his expertise in employment policy.

Kim Hyun-mi

Minister of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport

The first woman to hold this office, Kim Hyun-mi is a three-time lawmaker and a close associate of President Moon and former President Roh. A Yonsei University graduate, she has previously served as Moon's chief of staff and Roh's second presidential secretary for press and political affairs. Having spent much of her legislative career dedicated to economic issues, Kim was the first female legislator to head the 20th National Assembly's special committee on government budget and accounts. Her priorities as minister include resolving housing issues and leading urban revival projects.