

Post-Season's greetings to delegates of the Commission on Population and Development,

Hello all! I hope you appreciate my football joke because I'm not really into sports. Anyway, I am Christopher Call and I will be chairing the CPD at this year's conference. I have attended the conference the last 3 years. This is my 3rd time as staff. And before you credit me with an uncharacteristic degree of ambition, I should inform you that my initial ascension to staff was based on some scheduling errors at my school that left us with too many delegates. That little anecdote should reveal how interested this staff is in bringing more people into the process, and I want to echo that enthusiasm for new faces.

About myself: I am 28. I am an undergraduate in political science and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am a doorman, I have two roommates and a cat, and I love politics. That's probably all you need to know about me and if I failed to mention anything, feel free to ask me at the conference.

As for committee, I have yet to staff a smaller committee as all my previous experience was in the GA 2nd committee. Although we have more topics to consider, we have fewer delegates and therefore more time to hear all the voices on these issues. Fortunately, the 2nd committee considered "international migration and development" last year. I encourage you to look at the drafted resolutions on the topic to further hone your own research and familiarize yourself with drafting a resolution. Again, all the topics I've considered were economic issues, so I look forward to integrating a social element into the debate.

Finally, what I expect of you: I want this to be fun and I want everyone to try to reach out and meet some new people. Of all the things I take with me after a conference, the friendships are by far the greatest. With that said, as you all know, there is an element of competition to this conference. The value of that focus is open to debate, but we do have the obligation of evaluating your contributions to the conference (in several areas). This includes role playing, position papers, speaking, etc. However, do not focus on one factor of our evaluation at the expense of others because your performance is evaluated in its totality. Research is by far the most important part of being prepared for conference. As a delegate who failed to do adequate research I can tell you I was lost beyond belief. Additionally, a thorough knowledge of the delegate handbook is imperative to facilitate the flow of discussion in the committee.

A last preference: While you will be judged based your role playing ability, I must remind everyone that one marked difference between us and the real UN is that they have far more time to debate these issues. Therefore, although we will evaluate your role playing, if playing your role repeatedly disrupts the flow of debate, I will ask you to cease or tone it down.

I want all of you to have a great experience, so if there's ever anything I can do to ensure that (within reason), including help with speaking or anything not committee related, I want you to ask me. Given the limited size of this committee, myself and the other staff should have no problem accommodating you.

I look forward to meeting all of you and having a great conference.

Sincerely,

Christopher A Call

Chair, Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

ccall2@uic.edu