

Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)

MetMUNC XLVIII

Topic: Welcome Letter

Chairpeople: Ronald Cheng and Smit Kothari



Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great honor that we welcome you to the 48th annual Plainview Old Bethpage Metropolitan Model United Nations Conference! As your chairs, Ronald Cheng and Smit Kothari, we are absolutely thrilled to be moderating and representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). GRULAC is one of the five United Nations regional groups, consisting of 33 Member States from lands of South and Central America, as well as some islands in the Caribbean. Although GRULAC is not an official UN Committee, it was created to provide a running dialogue between the member states which plays a crucial role in international affairs and the allocation of seats in United Nations bodies. Considering that its member states represent 17% of the United Nations, GRULAC holds considerable influence in international debate.

My name is Ronald Cheng, and I'm a junior now in my third year of Model UN. This will be my second year chairing, and excited to get to know all of you! Outside of Model UN, I run for my school's cross country and track team, compete in science olympiads, and volunteer at a local coding school. My hobbies include painting, reading, cooking, and programming. I'm interested in software development and look to pursue a major in computer science. I'm eager to see how the committee will play out, and I can't wait to begin debate!

My name is Smit Kothari, and I'm also a junior at POBJFK High School. This is my third year in Model UN, and this is my first time chairing! In addition to chairing, I play an active role as a Delegate Trainer as I love to teach and watch new delegate grow into excellent debaters. Outside of METMUNC, I also compete in Science Olympiads, coach Basketball, and am a member of a community-based LEO club. Interestingly enough, I am a science-oriented student and have the goal of pursuing medicine in future. I am ecstatic to co-chair this committee alongside my amazing chair-pair, and am very excited to hear all your ideas!

The three topics we have chosen for our conference are **Narcoterrorism in Latin America**, **Increasing National Security Threats by Venezuela**, and **Infrastructure Rebuilding in Latin American Countries**. These topics represent some of the most devastating and pressing issues within Latin American and the Carribeans, all of which are long due for a resolution. We encourage all delegates to carefully consider the views of their country in debate and do the research necessary to represent them. We also sincerely ask delegates to be respectful to one another throughout the conference. We look forward to a very successful debate! If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at ronaldcheng11@gmail.com (Ronald Cheng) and smitbkothari@gmail.com (Smit Kothari).

Sincerely,

Ronald Cheng

Ronald Cheng

Smit Kothari

Smit Kothari