YLP with March NYC Conference (March 17-20, 2027)

Get creative with a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Each conference is dedicated to a specific SDG, which becomes the theme of the SDG Design and Cultural Performance Night. Learn more about this conference's specific SDG below to inspire your design and cultural performance.

SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. However, ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and the achievement of Goal 16. Alarmingly, the year 2022 witnessed a more than 50 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths – the first since the adoption of Agenda 2030 – largely due to the war in Ukraine. In 2024, loss of lives amid armed conflicts surged 40 per cent from 2023, marking the third consecutive annual rise. About four times more children and women were killed in 2023–2024 than in the previous biennium; of these, 8 in 10 child deaths and 7 in 10 female deaths occurred in Gaza. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, while sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk. Governments, civil society and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.

Read more about SDG 16 on The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026

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Goal 16 infographic. Source: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/

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TARGETS AND INDICATORS

Targets and indicators allow delegates to monitor a country's progress towards achieving a specific SDG, with the target as the goal and the indicator designated as the measurement by which the targets can be judged a success or failure.

Watch this short video from the UN

TARGET 16.1	INDICATOR 16.1.1
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.
TARGET 16.3	**INDICATOR 16.3.1**
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.	Proportion of victims of (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.
TARGET 16.8	**INDICATOR 16.8.1**
Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations.

Explore all the SDG 16 targets and indicators

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SDG DESIGN - HOW TO APPLY

Interested delegates can create an original design for the conference that illustrates Maria Montessori's vision of having young people collaborate to find solutions to SDG 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS. Designs must be submitted in US letter or A4 size paper, using paints or colored pencils (computer-assisted designs will not be considered).

Submission Due Date: Step 3 Deadline - January 27TH, 2027

One design per conference is chosen. The winning design concept will be developed by a professional designer to create the final image for the conference design contest (in a digital vector file). The selection of the design contest winner is based upon a combination of factors, including: the concept expressed, the creativity, and the ability to develop the design concepts. The winning selection must be consistent and supportive of creating solutions to the world's most pressing problems, and the Sustainable Development Goals.The design contest is not a judgment on the technical design abilities of the submission.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. The design must be hand-drawn on blank paper (US letter 8.5" x 11" or A4 paper 8.3" x 11.7").

2. The drawing must be scanned, saved as a PDF or JPEG file, and uploaded to the Design Application Form on the school dashboard by the Step 3 deadline date. Please note that each conference has its own deadline, and that only one design per delegate may be submitted.

3. Ensure that the submission includes the delegate's name and age, and the name of the submitting school.

4. The upload should consist of two (2) pages: the design itself, and a short description of at least 5 lines that explains how the design symbolises the SDG and concept.

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OTHER OPTIONAL ONSITE ACTIVITIES

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE NIGHT

On one evening during the conference, students will have the opportunity to take part in a Cultural Performance event. They can perform or enjoy musical numbers, dances or skits celebrating their own culture, a culture they have explored, or the conference's SDG theme.

Coordinators interested in submitting a delegate performance should provide:

- The name and a brief description of the performance
- The number of delegates taking part
- Any music required for the performance, uploaded with the submission

Please ensure that all music files meet the specified file requirements before uploading.

Submission Due Date: Step 3 Deadline - January 27th, 2027

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COUNTRY DISPLAY BOARDS

ACTIVITY

Delegates work together to create a Country Display Board showcasing the country they will represent at the MMUN Conference. The activity provides an opportunity for delegates to explore their assigned country and creatively share what they have learned with others. Each delegation is expected to participate by preparing the display together in class and exhibiting their completed work at the conference.

GOALS

The main objective of this activity is to help students learn about and explore the country they are representing. Through preparing their Country Display, delegates develop their research, brainstorming, collaboration and teamwork skills.

The display should give other MMUN participants an engaging introduction to the country and help them learn something meaningful about its people, culture, geography and way of life.

Displays should include key national information and background, drawing on the fundamental needs of human beings as a guide. The Montessori Fundamental Needs chart can be used to help delegates identify ideas and areas to explore.

MATERIALS

For an on-site Country Display, delegates will need a free-standing tri-fold or bi-fold display board.

- The display must not exceed 36 inches (91 cm) in width and 48 inches (122 cm) in height.
- The board must be free-standing and able to remain upright without leaning against a wall or other support.
- Standard tri-fold display boards are recommended.

Delegates may use photographs, maps, drawings, text and other lightweight materials to create their display.

EXHIBITION

Country Displays will be exhibited in person or virtually during the conference, giving all participants the opportunity to explore the different countries represented and learn from one another.

Delegations participating in person should bring their completed Country Display Board with them to New York, ready to set up and share as part of the exhibition.

We look forward to seeing your creativity and celebrating the many countries and cultures represented at MMUN!

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please contact us at info@montessori-mun.org

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