



UNITED VOICES

Model United Nations (MUN)

Ecocide Project



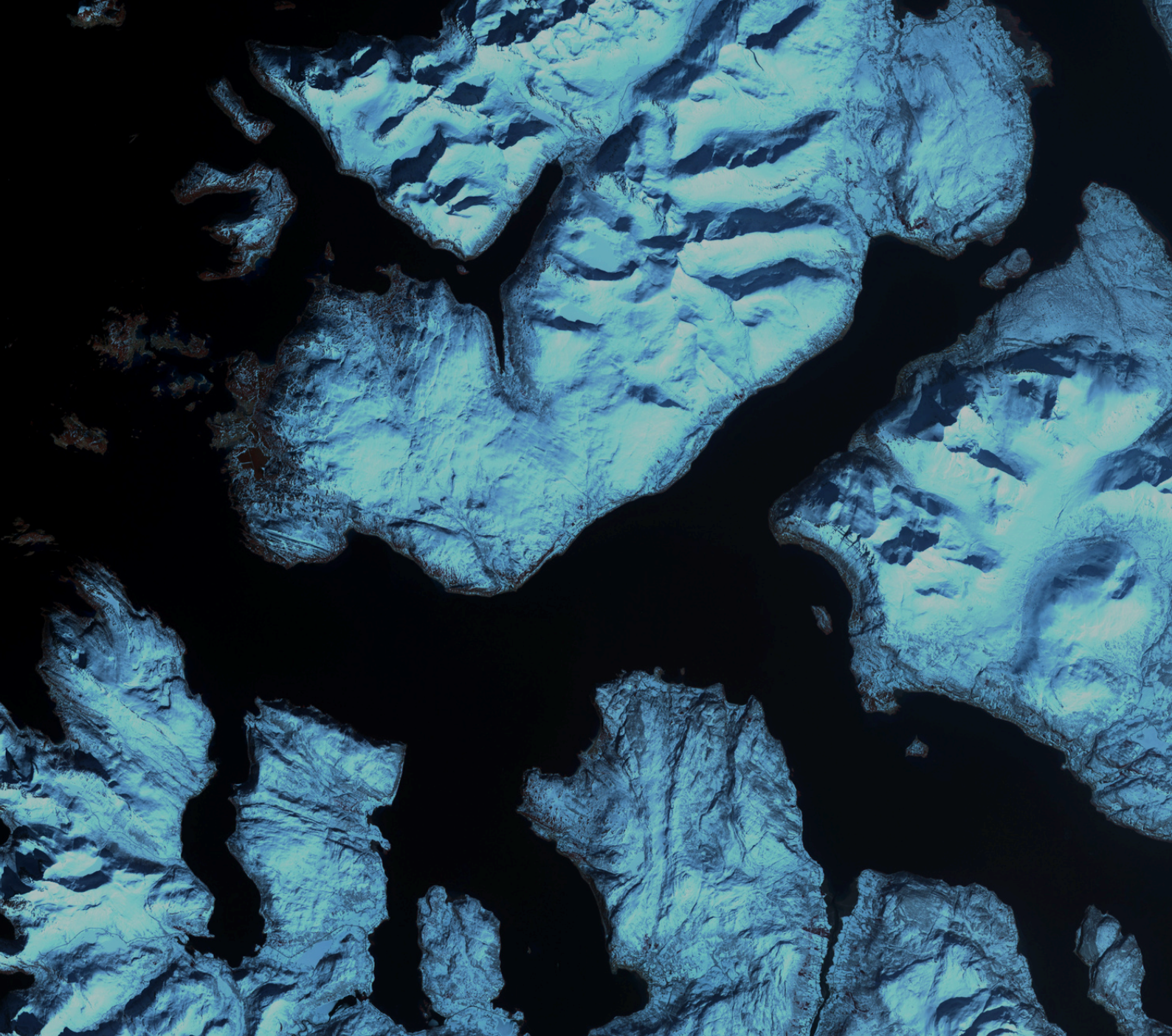
"Empowering a Greater Future, Rising as One"

United Rising (UR) is an organization committed to safeguarding both the planet and its stewards, championing the rights of both humans and nature from a holistic perspective.

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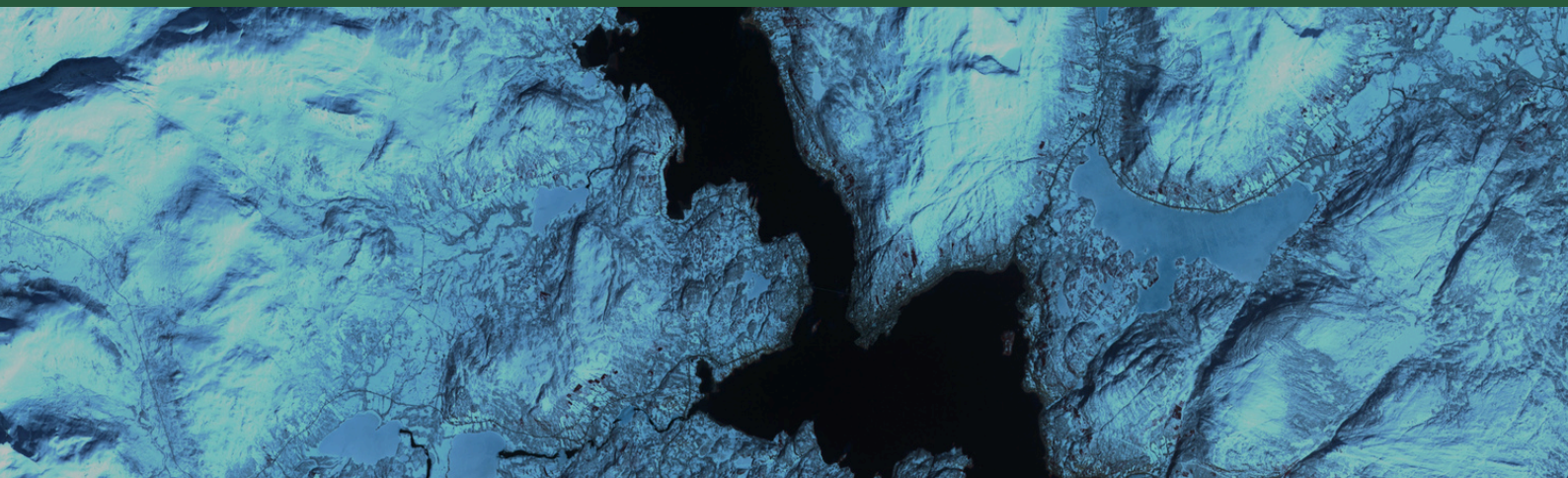




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I. Introduction – Our Mission

Throughout history, humans have thrived in **harmony with nature**, drawing sustenance from its abundance. Yet, despite modern advancements and plentiful resources, we face a paradox of **scarcity** driven by widespread and systematic environmental destruction—resulting in a crisis known as Ecocide.

Today, the balance between humanity and the natural world is deteriorating at an alarming pace. United Rising’s mission is to highlight our **interdependence and take collective responsibility for preserving our planet**. We must recognize the fundamental need to uphold **nature’s inherent rights** and understand how deeply connected our lives are to the ecosystems we inhabit.

While some communities, key **guardians of ecosystems**, still maintain a harmonious relationship with nature, state interests and relentless pursuits of economic growth driven by consumerism have prioritized profit over sustainability. As a result, we treat the Earth as a mere **warehouse**, exploiting its resources endlessly without considering the consequences.

The call for **criminalizing Ecocide is gaining momentum worldwide**. At United Rising, we believe that establishing Ecocide as an international crime will not only hold major polluters accountable but also protect the most vulnerable communities, who contribute the least to environmental damage yet face the greatest challenges in adaptation and survival.

II. A Transformative MUN Simulation

United Rising is driven by the urgency of **addressing global environmental protection, challenging existing norms and inspiring change**. To this end, we introduce "**United Voices MUN**," a groundbreaking Model United Nations simulation that brings together diverse stakeholders at the table with the interest of tackling the issue of Ecocide, crucial for both the planet and humanity.

From State-Security to Human Security Interests

United Rising's MUN marks a shift from traditional state-security approaches to a human-security focus. While state security prioritizes protecting territorial boundaries and preserving sovereignty, it often obstructs meaningful action against Ecocide and perpetuates exploitative practices, deepening injustices and divisions. In contrast, human security prioritizes human rights, development, and collective well-being, creating a society where freedom, peace, and harmony thrive.

Inclusive Decision-Making

Acknowledging the limitations of a system that centres on national interests, our simulation promotes a more inclusive decision-making process. We urge the international law community to bridge the gaps in representation and amplify the voices of groups such as Indigenous communities, whose insights are invaluable. However, it is essential to emphasize that our call for diversity goes beyond superficial representation. It is not enough to treat the symptoms; we must delve deeper to address the root causes. Only then can collective solutions to global challenges emerge.

An Ecocentric Approach

This simulation invites participants to recognize nature's inherent rights, emphasizing that nature is more than a commodity—it deserves legal recognition. Such an approach shifts the focus to viewing nature as an integral entity that must be protected to sustain life and foster long-term global stability.

III. Defining the Problem

Should Ecocide be prosecuted as an international crime, and if so, why and how should it be done?

- **What does this Question Tackle**

This inquiry will delve into the legal principles necessary for defining **Ecocide as an international crime**, considering current international law mechanisms and the challenges of integrating this new crime into established systems like the Rome Statute. It will also explore the critical need for global governance structures to address Ecocide within the context of climate justice, human rights, and international relations.

- **Interdisciplinary Approach**

Addressing this question involves not only understanding the legal frameworks that could make this a reality but also exploring the **broader implications** across various disciplines. An interdisciplinary approach is vital to understanding the full scope of Ecocide as a potential international crime because it connects legal theory with practical implementation and geopolitical realities. Legal analysis alone may outline the "what" and "how," but incorporating political science and global governance helps to anticipate state responses, understand wider socioeconomic implications, and understand power dynamics that influence policy adoption.



IV. Participants' Objectives & Skills Development

United Voices MUN encourages students to become **proactive advocates** for ecosystem preservation and engage in this simulation as representatives of international stakeholders. This simulation offers a **holistic understanding of Ecocide**, addressing legal complexities and ethical considerations in prosecution. It serves as a practical opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge and apply the skills they have gained during their studies.

- **Youth Empowerment**

United Voices MUN inspires youth to influence policies and take action, empowering them to participate in local and global discussions. This nurtures a sense of responsibility and equips young leaders to contribute meaningfully to international environmental efforts.

- **Policy Development and Analysis**

Participants gain hands-on experience in policy formulation and analysis related to Ecocide and environmental regulation. They learn to evaluate current laws and identify gaps, fostering evidence-based policymaking and innovative approaches to global environmental governance.

- **Dialogue and Collaboration**

United Voices MUN promotes cooperation and consensus-building. Through negotiation and debate, participants develop communication skills, empathy, and the ability to find common ground—key elements for collective action against Ecocide.

- **Cultivating Critical Thinking**

Students analyze current policies and governance systems, critically assessing legal and political challenges to prosecuting Ecocide as an international crime. This fosters analytical thinking and inspires innovative solutions and progressive reforms

- **Role-Playing and Diplomacy**

The simulation includes role-playing, allowing participants to represent various stakeholders and refine their diplomatic skills. This immersive experience enhances empathy, deepens understanding of complex environmental diplomacy, and encourages collaborative problem-solving.



V. MUN Structure

Participants in the MUN will be divided into three committees:

- Legal Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Economic Committee

Each committee will explore different aspects of the central question:

Should Ecocide be prosecuted as an international crime, and if so, why and how should it be done?

Over the **10-week program**, participants will immerse themselves in moderated debates, committee discussions, and crisis simulations. These activities will enable them to uphold their respective mandates and collaborate to draft a comprehensive **MUN Final Resolution** on the topics discussed.

Legal Committee

The Legal Committee's mandate is to address **how to strengthen international law frameworks and mechanisms to address the crime of Ecocide**, focusing on clearer accountability for environmental destruction, and robust protections for the inherent right of Nature. This includes discussing whether or not Ecocide should become a fifth core crime of the Rome Statute, enabling the ICC to prosecute severe acts of environmental harm. Central to the committee's work is an ecocentric approach that views nature as a legal entity with inherent rights, shifting from a human-centred to a holistic perspective that values ecosystems beyond their utility to people.

Discussion topics

Legal Personality of Nature

- How could recognizing nature as a legal entity influence the prosecution of Ecocide cases?

Ecocide as a fifth core crime within the Rome Statute vs stand-alone Ecocide treaty (pros and cons)

- Would a separate Ecocide treaty be more adaptable to evolving environmental challenges than an amendment to the Rome Statute?

Anthropocentric vs Ecocentric approach of Ecocide in the context of the Rome Statute

- What are the implications of shifting from an anthropocentric to an ecocentric approach in defining and prosecuting Ecocide under the Rome Statute?

Human Rights Committee

The mandate of the Human Rights Committee centres on **examining the human rights implications of Ecocide, emphasizing its threat to human security**. This involves a focus on how Ecocide undermines *"the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair."* The Committee will debate and develop intersectional frameworks that recognize Ecocide's impact on rights such as food security, health, land access, equality, and self-determination.

Additionally, the mandate aims to empower marginalized communities—particularly Indigenous groups—by enhancing their role in decision-making and promoting a human-centred approach to environmental justice within global governance.

Discussion topics:

Ecocide and Indigenous Land Rights

- In what way does Ecocide infringe upon the legally protected land rights of Indigenous peoples?

The Right to Self-Determination and Environmental Sovereignty

- How does Ecocide infringe on communities' right to self-determination and environmental sovereignty?

Gender Equality and Vulnerable Populations in the Face of Ecocide

- How does Ecocide disproportionately affect women and marginalized communities, and what specific challenges do they face?

Economic Committee

The Economic Committee will focus on the **nexus between Ecocide and profit-driven economic practices**, examining how these destructive models compromise economic security and perpetuate racial capitalism. Participants will explore how exploitative practices not only fuel Ecocide but also erode the economic sovereignty of marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by these practices. The mandate will emphasize holding major actors accountable and integrating decolonial methodologies to challenge systems rooted in inequality. By promoting **alternative economic models focused on de-growth, sustainability, and social well-being**, the committee aims to develop strategies that reduce economic pressures on natural resources and enhance environmental protection.

Discussion Topics:

Racial Capitalism and Ecocide

- In what ways does racial capitalism drive exploitative practices that lead to Ecocide, and how can these be dismantled?

Accountability of Financial Institutions Financing Ecocide

- What measures are necessary to hold financial institutions accountable for their contributions to Ecocide?

De-growth Economies and Ecocide

- Can de-growth economies provide a sustainable framework for addressing Ecocide while ensuring economic security for all?

MUN Sessions

MODERATED DEBATE

In a Moderated Debate, delegates present their representative's official stance on specific topics within a structured, chair-led format that enforces parliamentary rules. This setting emphasizes diplomacy and clarity, encouraging delegates to focus on core issues and convey their policies effectively and respectfully.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

This format promotes direct engagement, enabling delegates to question, debate, and negotiate collaboratively. It focuses on drafting and amending resolutions together, with an informal structure that facilitates consensus-building and real-time adjustments. Delegates work openly on resolution details, fostering cooperation and actionable solutions.

CRISIS SIMULATION

Crisis Simulations add unpredictability by presenting sudden events, like natural disasters or security threats, requiring delegates to respond swiftly under pressure. The goal of a crisis simulation is to test delegates' abilities to make quick, effective decisions in real-time, often with limited information.

Final MUN Product

The United Voices MUN's final products, crafted by the Legal, Human Rights, and Economic Committees, represent the cumulative insights, analyses, and actionable solutions proposed by young delegates. These papers serve a dual purpose: empowering youth to engage deeply with the global challenges of Ecocide and offering them a platform to influence real-world discussions. Over the 10-week program, each committee will dive into its thematic area—examining the legal frameworks, human rights implications, and economic impacts surrounding environmental destruction. By the end, the final products will not only highlight innovative ideas but also amplify youth voices, positioning them as active contributors in the international dialogue on ecological justice. These outputs aim to inspire advocacy, policy reform, and community action by presenting well-researched, youth-driven perspectives on a pressing global issue.



Representatives

Preliminary List of Representatives

- **Countries**

- Brazil
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Vanuatu
- Indonesia
- USA
- Palestine

- **Non-Governmental Organizations**

- Centre for Climate Crime Analysis
- Indigenous Peoples' Rights International (IPRI)
- Nia Tero
- The Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
- Free Papua Movement or Free Papua Organization

- **Governmental Organizations**

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- **Individual Groups**

- Youth Activists
- Climate Refugees
- Yuturi Warmi
- Farmers and Agricultural Workers

- **Corporations**

- Patagonia
- Unilever
- Monsanto
- Nestlé
- Saudi Aramco
- Triodos Bank



VI. Call to Action

Join us and collaborate with us in this incredible project!

Who We're Looking For

- **Universities:** Universities in the Netherlands ready to engage their students in practical, transformative learning.
- **Organizations:** NGOs and advocacy groups aligned with environmental and human rights causes, looking to support global environmental justice.
- **Experts:** Professionals in international law, human rights, environmental science, and related fields who can share insights and mentorship.
- **Individuals:** Passionate people eager to contribute their time, skills, and perspectives to a cause that transcends borders.

How to Get Involved

Visit our [website](#) and follow us on [social media](#) to stay updated on the United Voices MUN project. For direct inquiries or to express your interest in joining, email us at [**unitedvoices@unitedrisingassociation.com**](mailto:unitedvoices@unitedrisingassociation.com) or [**info@unitedrisingassociation.com**](mailto:info@unitedrisingassociation.com).



United Rising



For ongoing updates, support, and active participation in our collective efforts toward building a more sustainable world, we invite you to visit our website and connect with us on social media.

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