



IX International Law Competition “Youth for Peace”,
Minsk, Belarus, 2014

Rules

International University “MITSO”
Minsk, Belarus



International Law Competition
«Youth for Peace»
Minsk, Belarus, September 30th –October 4th, 2014



**Rules of the International Law Competition
«Youth for Peace»**

The International Law Competition "Youth for Peace" is an annual contest for students from different countries. The participants are expected to demonstrate excellent knowledge of international humanitarian law, international public law, human rights law and ability to adjust to the changing environment.

The Competition provides students with a wonderful opportunity to enrich and extend their knowledge in the sphere of international humanitarian law through participation in the simulated armed conflict.

The goal of the Competition is to promote active participation of young people in political and cultural life and to support various positive youth initiatives. The International Law Competition "Youth for Peace" is the only event of its kind in Eastern Europe.

The Competition consists of a number of rounds. Each of the rounds is evaluated by the judges and is important for the final assessment of the teams' standings.



I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The International Law Competition "Youth for Peace" was founded by International University "MITSO" and is organized by the International Relations Office of International University "MITSO".
2. The Competition consists of the following rounds: Preliminary Round, Theoretical and Practical Rounds, and the Final.
3. In order to participate in the Competition teams should pass the Preliminary Round.
4. Applications for participation should be sent to the Organizational Committee (further - OC) to international@mitso.by before the deadline set in Section IV "TIME SCHEDULE".
5. The application should consist of the following documents:
 - Team and students registration card;
 - Essay;
 - Written consent of the authorized university representative (e.g. Rector, Vice-Rector, Dean of Faculty, Head of the Department) for the team's participation in the Competition (optional form).

The complete set of documents should be received by the OC no later than *June 1st, 2014*.

6. The registration fee (500 EURO per team) must be paid before the Competition. See the deadline for payment in Section IV "TIME SCHEDULE". The registration fee is non-refundable.

The registration fee covers expenses on:

- participation in the Competition;
- accommodation (provided from 12 a.m. September 30th, 2014 till 12 a.m. October 4th, 2014). Accommodation outside these dates should be arranged and paid by the teams themselves. The organizers of the Competition can assist with the booking of the hotel accommodation);
- three meals per day;
- sightseeing program



7. Partners Universities of International University "MITSO" can be exempted from the registration fee (in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement).
8. Visa support will be provided to all foreign teams.
9. Working language of the Competition is English.
10. Repeated participation is not allowed.
11. A team should consist of two-three (2-3) students(except doctoral students) who represent one university or other institution of higher education. Participation of mixed teams (participants coming from several universities) is also allowed.
12. Team coaches can not participate in the Competition.
13. The participants should be under the age of thirty one (31).
14. After the submission of the application, the team's composition can be changed before July 17th, 2014.
15. Information on the topic, format and structure of the theoretical and practical rounds of the Competition is not provided by the OC until the official opening of the Competition.
16. Teams are evaluated on the following criteria:
 - knowledge of international humanitarian law;
 - knowledge of international public law;
 - ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice;
 - ability to provide well-reasoned arguments to support their point;
 - ability to react quickly and adjust to different situations;
 - teamwork.
17. The panel of judges of the Competition consists of a number of highly-competent experts and impartial judges selected by the OC.
18. Decisions of the judges and OC are final and are not subject to appeal.
19. During the Competition the teams are allowed to use literature and other sources of information, as well as technical means (except communication facilities – e.g. mobile phones), including those brought by the teams from their home countries.
20. Teams' performance is evaluated by the judges. Results after every Round are not announced.



21. The top two teams with maximum points for the Theoretical and Practical Rounds are invited to compete in the Final.
22. Based on the teams' performance the judges select:
 - Winner of the Competition,
 - Best Speaker.
23. The OC has an exceptional right to make changes in the rules of the Competition without prior notice.

II PRELIMINARY ROUND

24. The Preliminary Round implies writing an essay on the given topic (maximum 350 words excluding footnotes). Essay Topic for the Preliminary Round is:
 - *Autonomous weapon: challenge to humanity?*
25. Applications for participation in the Competition and completed tasks for the Preliminary Round (essays) should be sent to the OC via e-mail at international@mitso.by no later than June 1st, 2014.
26. Examination of the applications and evaluation of the essays will determine the selection of teams for the participation in the Competition, held on September 30th – October 4th in Minsk.
27. The winners of the competitions listed below do not have to participate in the preliminary round and are exempt from paying registration fee:
 - Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition**
 - Jean-Pictet Competition**
 - Telders International Law Moot Court Competition**
 - Martens International Humanitarian Law Competition**



III DESCRIPTION OF ROUNDS

28. Welcoming presentation

The aim of the welcoming presentation is to present the team, the university and the country. It should be of maximum 10 minutes and should be prepared in advance. If the time limit for the presentation is exceeded, the team's points are deducted. The main evaluation criteria for the welcoming presentation are: an original approach (creativity) and involvement of the team members (teamwork). The teams can earn additional points by depicting their national character in the welcoming presentations. The teams that fail to show their welcoming presentation do not receive any points.

29. Theoretical and Practical Rounds

Theoretical and Practical Rounds are the main stages of the Competition. During these two rounds the teams should give their interpretation of the given situation from the perspective of international humanitarian law.

30. Poster contest

At this stage of the Competition the team members present posters on the following topics:

- *Strengthening compliance with IHL*
- *Obligation to distinction*

Posters should be prepared by the teams prior to the Competition. Each team should present two posters (each poster can earn up to 3 points). Poster size should be of maximum 841x594 mm. Each poster should be supplemented by a short summary (typed, size A4, Times New Roman 14 pt, single spaced). The team should present its posters to the OC upon its arrival. Teams that fail to present their posters do not receive any points.



IV TIME SCHEDULE

June 1st, 2014– deadline for the submission of applications.

June 13th, 2014– deadline for the announcement of the Preliminary Round results (selection of the teams that will participate in the Competition in Minsk, Belarus).

July 4th, 2014– deadline for the conformation of participation by the selected teams, payment of the registration fee, and provision of the information on the teams' arrival/departure to the OC. The teams that fail to confirm their participation before this date or fail to pay the registration fee, will be not allowed to participate in the Competition in Minsk, Belarus.

September 30th, 2014 - October 4th, 2014– International Law Competition "Youth for Peace" in Minsk, Belarus.