



# Harvard Model Congress

## Boston 2024

### House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee

Dear House Foreign Affairs Delegates,

Our names are Sophia, Christine, Caroline, Margaret, and Morgan, and we are your chairs for Harvard Model Congress Boston!

Hello everyone! My name is Margaret and I am a first-year from Southern California planning to study Government & Economics with a secondary Computer Science. I loved learning about government in high school (interned for my Representative who is actually in the Foreign Affairs committee!), so I am incredibly excited to be working with all of you as a first time staffer for HMC! Apart from HMC, I am a part of Harvard Student Agencies as well as various pre-law student organizations. In my free time, you can find me playing tennis, listening to music, playing sudoku, singing, and dancing. I can't wait to meet and work with all of you!

My name is Caroline, and I'm a first-year from Oregon planning to study Government, Economics, and maybe Korean or East Asian Studies. I loved organizing legislative conferences in high school through Youth and Government (and was Oregon's Youth Governor!), so I can't wait to continue that work through HMC. On campus, I'm also involved in the Institute of Politics, Consulting for Business and the Environment, the Project for Asian and International Relations, and the Undergraduate Foreign Policy Initiative. I'm so excited to meet all of you amazing people soon!

Hi! My name is Morgan, and I am a junior in Eliot House, studying Social Studies and East Asian Studies with a secondary in Global Health and Health Policy. This is my first year with HMC so I am very excited to be a staffer and meet all of you! Outside of HMC, I am in the Asian American Dance Troupe (open-style/breaking/heels/contemporary), Harvard Undergraduate Foreign Policy Initiative, Phillips Brooks House Association (community service), and I do research on the side to better assess barriers to accessing healthcare. I'm so excited to get to know all of you!

Hi! My name is Sophia and I am a senior at Harvard studying Public Health in the Social Sciences and Philosophy. A little about me: I'm originally from New York City, did competitive debate throughout high school and much of college, and, in my free time, I enjoy cooking and running. I'm so excited to get to work with you all this conference!

Hey everyone! My name is Christine, and I'm a senior at Harvard studying Economics with minors in Government and Arabic, and I'm very interested in questions surrounding economic development, insurgencies, and corruption! I'm originally from Nashville, TN, and while I didn't do HMC in high school, I was also a big Youth in Government (like Caroline!). Outside of HMC, you can find me failing at all the NYTimes games, working at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, and hanging out with friends.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee delves into a wide array of topics related to international affairs and foreign relations, including development policy, human rights, and international



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terrorism. This committee's work directly influences national and global security, welfare, and development. As delegates, you'll have the opportunity to engage deeply with these issues and policies, helping draft innovative solutions and policy ideas.

Our first briefing will focus on U.S.-India relations. Two of the world's largest democracies, this bilateral relationship has become increasingly important in several global issues, ranging from trade and investment, defense and security, energy, climate change, healthcare, and education. To unpack these contemporary issues, we explore the history behind these dynamics, including key periods like the Cold War. Building on this, we will breakdown the key drivers of current negotiations and conflicts and propose policy recommendations that can further strengthen and deepen this critical partnership.

Our second briefing will focus on devising U.S. efforts to effectively address farmer-herder conflict in West Africa. Farmer-herder conflict most commonly describes violence between sedentary farming groups and relatively more nomadic herding groups that often share similar swaths of land. While conflict between the two groups is not necessarily new, the scale and intensity of the conflicts have increased significantly in recent years, relating to factors such as desertification from climate change and the increased presence of small arms. Instability from conflict also has the potential to exacerbate underdevelopment in the region and negatively influence key U.S. interests. Thus, it will be critical for this committee, as leading legislators on foreign affairs, to create policies that emphasize short-term peace and security, while also addressing the longer-term factors driving conflict.

We hope that you come away from HMC Boston feeling that you were intellectually challenged and fulfilled! If you have any questions or just want to introduce yourself, please feel free to reach out to us!

See you in February!

Sophia, Christine, Caroline, Margaret, and Morgan