ASIS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

Al Saad Indian School, Al Ain

INTERNATIONAL PRESS STUDY GUIDE

Committee	International Press (IP)
Agenda	Conference Journalism & Photojournalism: Members document committee proceedings as journalists and photojournalists, reporting debates, writing articles and capturing key moments across the conference.
Prepared by	ASIS MUN Policy Department

I. Introduction to the Committee

What is journalism?

Journalism is the process of gathering, assessing, creating and presenting news and information (American Press Institute). It links citizens with those in power and supports the public's right to information. Journalism and the media are often called the "Fourth Estate" because, besides informing the public, they act as watchdogs that hold those in power to account. At the United Nations, journalists cover meetings and decisions, promoting openness and informing the world.

The International Press at ASIS MUN 2026

The **International Press (IP)** is the conference's in-house media team. Its members do not represent countries. Instead, they work as **ASIS MUN Press**, reporting on the debates, negotiations and decisions of every committee, and recording the conference in photographs. IP is a chance to develop your writing, reporting and photography skills, and to receive feedback from the IP Executive Board (EB).

The best reports, columns, interviews and photographs will be selected by the IP EB and compiled into the **ASIS MUN 2026 newsletter**.

II. Roles and Allocation

IP has two roles. Roles are allocated by the Secretariat based on each member's preference.

Role	What they do
Journalist	Assigned to one committee for the whole conference. Observes and reports on that committee's proceedings, writes an opinion column, conducts interviews and takes part in press conferences.
Photojournalist	Photographs the conference. Each photojournalist is assigned to particular committees on the day; the IP EB will share the list at the start of each day.
IP Executive Board	Guides and assesses all IP members, schedules press conferences, and edits and compiles the ASIS MUN 2026 newsletter.

III. General Guidelines

1. Be familiar with the **ASIS MUN 2026 Rules of Procedure**, which apply to IP members in every committee.
2. Be familiar with the agenda of your assigned committee and the basic positions of its key countries.
3. Avoid any bias in reports, interviews and press conference coverage. Keep personal opinions out of everything except the opinion column.
4. Avoid anything that might hurt the sentiments or beliefs of any person. Unparliamentary, offensive or abusive language is strictly prohibited.
5. Plagiarism of any kind is not allowed. Quotations may be used with due credit.

6. Do not distract delegates or disrupt committee proceedings. Trivial reporting, for example on a delegate's clothes or accent, is not acceptable.
7. Personal devices (phones, laptops and cameras) may be used for IP work only. Keep them on silent. The ban on social media during sessions applies to IP members as well.
8. Bring all the equipment you need, including chargers and storage. The organisers are not responsible for lost or damaged equipment.
9. When entering a committee, pass a chit to that committee's EB to notify them of your presence. IP members do not raise motions or take part in debate or voting, and must leave during voting procedure if the Chair asks. They may raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry when the floor is open.

IV. Journalists

Journalists are expected to observe the discussions in their assigned committee and report on them accurately. Before the conference, study your committee's study guide and the background of its agenda.

A. Types of pieces

Opening ceremony report

A short report (about **150 words**) on the opening ceremony: who spoke, the main messages and the tone set for the conference.

Opinion column

An **opinion column** is a short piece (about **200 words**) in which the journalist gives their **own reasoned view** on one or more of the agendas being debated at the conference. For example, a column might argue whether a proposed solution is realistic, or which issue the committee is overlooking. Unlike reports, a column may take a side, but it must:

- be backed by facts and evidence;
- remain respectful and diplomatic;
- criticise ideas and policies, never individual delegates.

Daily reports

A substantial report (about **500 words**) on each day's key debates, motions, blocs, documents and outcomes in the assigned committee. Reports must be factual and neutral, and should use quotes from delegates where useful.

Final report

A report on the whole conference (**no more than 750 words**) covering the opening ceremony, Day 1 and Day 2 of debate, and the final outcome in your committee.

Interview and press conference pieces

Write-ups of your interviews and of press conferences, presented in **question-and-answer format** with a short introduction. Each journalist must complete **at least two interviews**, one on each day.

B. Writing basics

- **Headline:** short, accurate and engaging.

- **Lede:** the opening sentence. It must hook the reader and convey the most important information.
- **The 5 Ws:** who, what, where, when and why.
- **Inverted pyramid:** the most important information first, then details in order of importance.
- **Simple, clear language:** the aim is to inform.
- **Accuracy:** check facts with the delegate or the EB before submitting. Never guess the spelling of a name.

C. Interviews

- Interviews are conducted during unmoderated caucuses or breaks, with the delegate's agreement and the committee EB's permission, requested by chit.
- An interview may have a maximum of **10 questions** and last no more than **10 minutes**.
- Questions must relate to the debates, discussions and positions in committee.
- Recording is allowed only with the delegate's permission.
- Build rapport, keep the conversation natural, steer it back if it drifts, and at the end ask whether they would like to add anything.

D. Press conferences

- Press conferences will be held. Their **timing and the number of delegates questioned are at the discretion of the EB**.
- Each journalist is allowed at least **one question**, and one follow-up if recognised by the IP EB.
- Questions must be substantive and based only on the debates, discussions and points made in committee. The EB may ask journalists to submit questions in advance.
- Journalists must maintain decorum throughout and report the press conference in question-and-answer format.

V. Journalists' Submission Timeline

Day	Submission	Length
Day 1	1. Opening ceremony report	About 150 words
Day 1	2. Opinion column on one or more agendas	About 200 words
Day 1	3. Day 1 report on the key debates in your committee	About 500 words
Day 1	4. Interview piece (Q&A format)	Interview 1
Day 2	5. Day 2 report on the key debates in your committee	About 500 words
Day 2	6. Final report covering the opening ceremony, Day 1 and Day 2	Maximum 750 words
Day 2	7. Interview and/or press conference piece (Q&A format)	Interview 2

- **Day 1 deadline:** by the end of the Day 1 committee sessions.
- **Day 2 deadline:** before the last committee session of Day 2.

Late submissions will not be accepted except in extreme circumstances and will be marked down.

VI. Photojournalists

Photojournalists record the conference: the moments of debate, motions and votes, lobbying, chits being passed and the atmosphere of each committee.

A. Duties

- Cover the committees assigned to you by the IP EB on the day.
- At the end of **each committee session**, submit **at least 25 photographs** from the committee you covered in that session, including:
  - at least **10 taken during a moderated caucus or a vote** when placards are raised;
  - every delegate and the Executive Board, from different perspectives.
- Take **one group photo of each committee** you cover, once during the conference, at the end of a committee session and with the Chair's prior permission.

B. Rules

- **Editing is allowed**, including cropping, straightening, exposure and colour correction, and filters. Editing must not change what the photo shows: do not add, remove or alter people or objects. **AI tools must not be used to edit or generate photos** (for example, AI retouching, generative fill or AI enhancement). Watermarks and borders are not allowed.
- **No flash** inside committees.
- Do not disturb the Chairs or delegates during proceedings, and never push the camera into a delegate's face.
- Do not adjust room lighting or blinds without permission.
- Repeated or near-identical photos will be penalised.
- Submit photos in **.jpeg** format (convert RAW files first) to the Google Drive folder provided by the IP EB.

C. Photography tips

- **Rule of thirds:** imagine the frame divided into nine equal squares, and place your subject on one of the intersections.
- **Avoid camera shake:** hold the camera with both hands, close to your body, and use a fast enough shutter speed.
- **The exposure triangle:** learn how aperture, shutter speed and ISO work together.
- **Indoors without flash:** raise the ISO (around 800–1600), use the widest aperture available, and use image stabilisation where possible.
- **Capture moments:** look for expressions, gestures and interactions that tell the story of the debate.

VII. Format of Submissions

All written submissions must use **Times New Roman** and follow this format:

Element	Font size	Weight	Alignment	Case
Headings	16	Bold	Centre	UPPER CASE
Sub-headings	14	Bold	Left	Sentence case
Text	12	Not bold	Justified	Sentence case
Footnotes	10	Not bold	Left	Sentence case
Reference links (hyperlinked)	10	Bold	Left	Sentence case

File naming

- **Journalists:** Name_Committee_Type_Day, for example "Firstname Lastname_UNSC_Day 1 Report_Day1".
- **Photojournalists:** Name_Committee_Session number, as a folder in the Google Drive provided (for example, "Firstname Lastname_UNSC_Session 2").

Submit all written pieces in both **.docx and PDF** formats, through the channel announced by the IP EB.

VIII. Style Guide

- **Acronyms:** write the full name first, then the acronym without full stops, for example "United Nations Security Council (UNSC)".
- **Country names:** use the official short names used by the United Nations, for example "China" and "Libya".
- **Numbers:** spell out one to ten; use figures for 11 and above, with commas in numbers of five or more digits, for example 1,345,000.
- **Money and percentages:** $20,300; $512 million; 12%.
- **Quotations:** integrate quotes into your sentences. Use an ellipsis (…) for omitted words and square brackets for clarifications.
- **Titles:** Mr., Ms., Dr. and Amb. take a full stop; UN titles such as Secretary-General are never abbreviated.
- **Developing countries:** use "developing countries", not "Third World".
- **British English:** follow British spelling and hyphenation, for example "organisation", "non-governmental".
- **Diplomatic courtesy:** report uncivil remarks accurately but neutrally; the EB may edit inappropriate content.

IX. Assessment

Journalists

1. Quality and accuracy of content
2. Research and understanding of the agenda
3. Structure, coherence and grammar

4. Quality of interview and press conference questions
5. Punctuality and adherence to the format
6. Professional conduct

Photojournalists

1. Creativity and composition
2. Coverage of the committee, including all delegates and key moments
3. Content and storytelling
4. Punctuality and adherence to the rules
5. Professional conduct

X. Further Reading

1. American Press Institute, What is journalism? https://americanpressinstitute.org
2. Society of Professional Journalists, Code of Ethics. https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp
3. The News Manual, Glossary of journalism terms. https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Resources/glossary.html
4. The inverted pyramid structure. https://www.webwisewording.com/inverted-pyramid/
5. Best Delegate, A guide to Model UN press corps committees. https://bestdelegate.com/a-guide-to-model-un-press-corps-committees/

Note on the preparation of this guide

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation of this study guide. The content has been reviewed by the ASIS MUN Policy Department, but delegates should verify key facts and figures against the original sources before using them in debate or in their position papers.

If you find any errors, please email **asis.mun@student.bhavansalain.com**.