

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations
February 25, 2023

The Council of Olympus
Delegate Guide



Climate Change: Seeking Agreement Between
Humans and Gods

Athena Ponte

Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that skills that you will learn through your participation in MUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person to King'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able to engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,

Athena Ponte
Secretary General
King'sMUN 2023

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The Gods

Origins of the Greek Gods - The Titans and Olympians

In the beginning of the Greek mythological story, the only deity that existed in the universe was Chaos. Gaia, the earth, emerged out of the void and gave birth to Uranus without any male fertilization. Gaia and Uranus then conceived the first titans, six males and six females, with the last one born being Cronus. Cronus killed his father Uranus and threw his castrated genitals into the sea, and Aphrodite was born.

With his father killed, Cronus along with his wife and sister Rhea, ruled the gods, with the rest of his siblings, the titans, as their court. Out of fear of his children rising up against him as he did to his father, Cronus ate every child Rhea had to prevent betrayal from his children. However, Rhea tricked him and hid one of their children, Zeus. When Zeus was grown, he drugged Cronus, causing him to vomit all of the other children that he had swallowed. They were known as the Olympians and they hurled the Titans down into the Abyss after Zeus defeated Cronus in the battle for ruler of the gods.

Zeus experienced the same fear as his father before him and swallowed his wife Metis while she was pregnant with Athena, the goddess of wisdom and war. She emerged from Zeus's head ready for battle after he experienced a series of headaches and begged Hephaestus to slice his head open. Despite having many powerful children, Zeus was able to hold his power and remain the ruler of Mount Olympus, the home of the Olympian gods.

There are many stories focusing on each God but one of the most important is involving the titan Prometheus. He was the only titan who did not fight against Zeus so he was spared from the Abyss. He created man by sculpting a statue out of mud and having Athena breathe into it. This brought it life and created mortals on the earth. Prometheus betrayed Zeus by stealing fire from Mount Olympus and giving it to the mortals. As punishment, Zeus created Pandora, the first mortal woman and gave her a box. This box contained all of the evils in the world and instructed her to never open it. Eventually she gave way to her curiosity, and all evils were released into the world, plaguing humankind for eternity (Khan Academy).

Important Gods*

Zeus - king of the gods, god of thunder, lightning and rain

Poseidon - god of the sea, horses, and earthquakes

Hera - goddess of marriage and women, Zeus's wife and queen of Olympus

Demeter - goddess of agriculture and harvest

Aphrodite - goddess of sex, love, and beauty

Athena - goddess of wisdom, war, and reason

Artemis - goddess of the hunt and wild animals

Apollo - a god of many things, but most commonly known as the god of sun, light, and healing

Ares - god of bloodlust

Hephaestus - god of fire

Hermes - messenger god

Dionysus - god of wine and pleasure

Hestia - goddess of hearth, home, and hospitality

Hades - god of death and ruler of the underworld

Persephone - goddess of spring

(Pallardy)

*first twelve are the 12 Olympians, all gods listed are examples of delegates in this committee

Other Important Mythological Characters*

Medusa - only mortal gorgon, cursed by Athena and given snakes for hair (Glennon)

Pandora - first mortal woman, released all evils into the world (Cartwright)

Prometheus - titan, creator of mankind (Khan Academy)

Atlas - titan, condemned to holding up the earth upon his shoulders (Encyclopedia Britannica)

*all characters listed are examples of delegates in this committee

Gods and Human Relations

The Greek gods control nature and the lives of the human beings that worship them. The Ancient Greeks built altars to them as well as statues and monuments in their honour. The people believed that doing so would allow the gods to work in their favour. They also practiced many rituals such as praying and presenting gifts in order to ensure their good fortune. The Olympics were created as a festival to praise Zeus (KNILT). The gods are also a means of explaining many phenomena and human life in general. Their powers are used to explain things such as time passing, seasons, and weather. However, they did not believe that Gods were all powerful and recognized that they had their own issues as well. They had designated special powers but this did not prevent the gods from war against one another, pain, and arguments. They had as many flaws as humankind did, which is why the Ancient Greeks believed that they could appeal to them for assistance, as they would relate and be understanding (Cartwright).

Humans look to Gods to assist them through life and work to solve their problems. Many Ancient Greeks would use oracles, who act as mediums to speak to the gods, in order to find out what their futures had in store for them or to ask the gods for assistance with their problems. Priestesses would speak to the gods and the priest would translate to the human, telling them what the gods said. These communications were often delivered in riddles, which could be misleading and cause the humans to act in ways that can negatively impact their future (KNILT).

The stories of the Gods are passed down throughout humanity through the use of myths, which were typically spread orally. They were widely believed by most but as all religious stories, some people were skeptical of the gods' powers and believed that myths were merely means of entertainment. Despite skepticism, myths are an integral part of Greek culture and gods and goddesses are often depicted in art and pottery, cities are named after them, and their temples can be visited to the present day (Cartwright).

History of the Council of Olympus

The council of Olympus is composed of the twelve Olympian gods (listed above). It was created to deal with affairs and issues that affect humans at large. The gods believed that the best way to handle problems facing humanity as a whole, or a large group of mortals, was to pool their powers. They believed that this would be more effective and that mortals should only seek out individual gods in the event of a personal struggle. The Council of Olympus oversees a variety of issues that plague the human world, such as environmental disasters, social injustices,

pandemics, and epidemics, however their primary focus as of now is on combating climate change to rescue the world that emerged from the birth of the Titans.

Climate Change

Overview

According to the United Nations, climate change is the “long-term shift in temperatures and weather patterns”. Despite the fact that some aspects of climate change may be natural, the main driver of this issue has been human actions. Some of the largest contributors to climate change are the emission of greenhouse gasses and burning fossil fuels. Climate change is not simply the temperature rising as everything in nature is connected. This change leads to many other changes in the ecosystems all over the world that will be detrimental to the earth if it progresses. These impacts include food and water scarcity, drought, intense fires, rising sea levels, floods, disastrous storms, melting ice caps, and a significant decline in biodiversity.

Carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are at an all time high and the Earth is 1.1°C warmer than it was in 1800. This number is expected to increase to 2.8°C by the end of the century. Many scientists believe that if the world does not go above a 1.5°C increase from 1800, it will avoid the most severe impacts of climate change. There are many everyday activities that humans take part in that contribute to the emission of greenhouse gasses, such as driving cars and heating and cooling homes. Deforestation and landfills are other main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The industries with the highest number of emissions are agriculture, energy, and transport. Many countries emit much higher amounts of greenhouse gasses than others. The top ten countries with the highest emissions emit 68% of all greenhouse gasses whereas the countries with the lowest emissions emit 3% of all greenhouse gasses, yet the impacts of climate change will affect everyone.

Many people are in danger as climate change worsens and it will impact various communities and countries in very different ways. The current major concern is with coastal and small island nations as sea levels are rising at rapid rates. With saltwater intrusion threatening these nations, many groups and entire communities will have to relocate from their towns. This will significantly increase the number of climate refugees internally displaced as well as migrating to other countries. Nations near water are not the only ones who will be impacted by

climate change. It poses many other threats to humanity as a whole, such as health issues, lack of food, housing becoming unavailable, and lack of safety (United Nations).

God and Nature Connections

There are many gods in Greek mythology whose specialties are their connections with various elements in nature. Some of the most important are Poseidon, Artemis, and Demeter.

Poseidon is the god of the sea and brother of Zeus and Hades. He bears a trident that was fashioned for him by the three Cyclopes (Encyclopedia Britannica). As the god of the sea, Poseidon has complete control over the ocean and its behaviour each day. He is often described as a violent and angry god, hence the waves in the ocean. He has the power to sink ships with massive storms or calm the entire sea in order to let them pass (Ducksters). Appealing to Poseidon may be beneficial in combating the impacts of climate change as he may be able to slow the rising sea levels.

Artemis is the goddess of the hunt and wild animals. Her symbol is a bow and arrow that she carries with her at all times (Encyclopedia Britannica). Although she hunts animals, she also works on protecting them. She ensures that there is a sustainable amount of animals within each species. She is often depicted with animal companions such as dogs or stags. She can also turn into any animal and has powers such as healing animals and curing diseases that they may have (Ducksters). Artemis may be beneficial as she may be able to assist in preventing biodiversity loss due to climate change.

Demeter is the goddess of agriculture and harvest. She controls the growth of all the crops, making her incredibly important (The Fitzwilliam Museum). She has the ability to make bountiful harvests or cause barren fields. She also controls the seasons to some extent and even has control of the weather, including temperature (Ducksters). Appealing to Demeter about climate change may be helpful as she can help crops grow during droughts, and potentially reduce the globally rising temperature.

The Issue

Humans and gods have always been connected through worship, prayer, and temples. Now, humans have created one of the biggest catastrophes known to man, and the gods are not happy that they are abusing the world handed to them. With their various powers, they cannot end climate change, but can reduce some of its deadly results, such as rising sea levels, droughts,

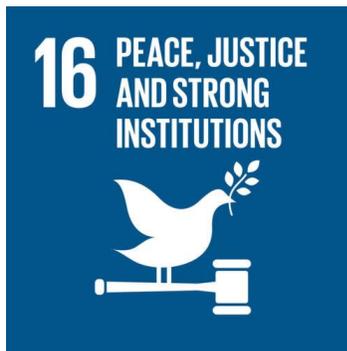
and biodiversity loss. The only question is, what can the gods do and are they willing to do it? Even harder, can they come to an agreement with mortals to save them from their own doing?

SDG Connections



Target 13.1 - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Target 13.2 - Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



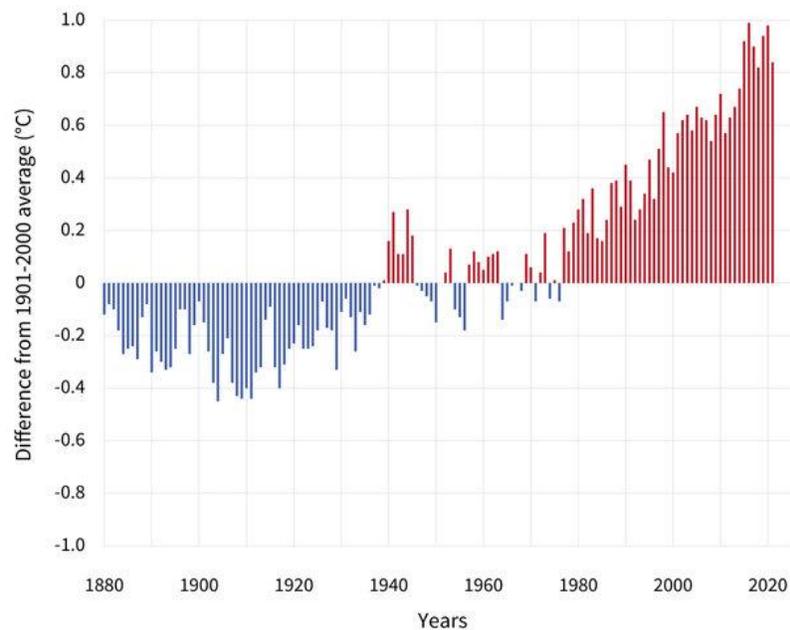
Target 16.5 - Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Target 16.6 - Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

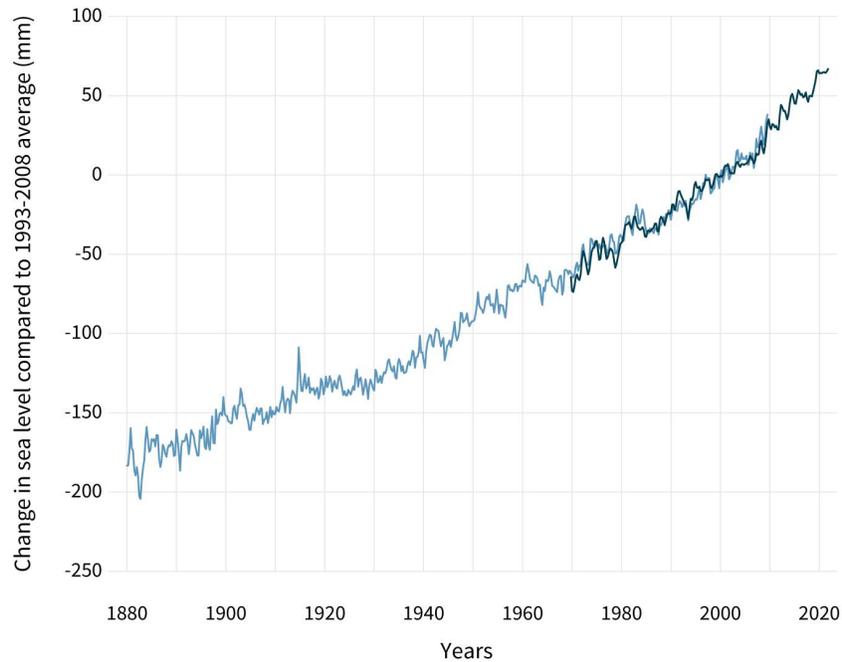
Target 16.B - Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Supporting Data

GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE



GLOBAL SEA LEVEL



Further Questions

- Is it possible to stop the impacts of climate change without the help of the Gods? Can humans solve this problem on their own?
- How effective will the gods' powers be in halting climate change impacts?
- How will humans proceed if the gods do not agree to help?
- What will be the challenges to the two groups coming to an agreement?
- How will humans make amends with the gods after they have destroyed the planet the gods gave to them?
- Will some gods be more gracious and helpful than others?

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