

WIZMUN 2024
Odisha's 1st Green MUN
SECRETARY GENERAL'S OPENING REMARKS
26TH OCTOBER 2024

NAMASKAR.

SUPRABHAT.

A very good morning.

I, Prakriti Pranjali, Secretary General, welcome you all to WIZMUN 2024 – The Wisdom Model United Nations 2024, Odisha's first Green MUN.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the presence of all dignitaries – guests, faculty members and mentors; the executive board who will play a pivotal role in the success of the conference, and all the participants from different schools, colleges, universities of Odisha, and, representatives from our institution as well, without whom this conference would never have become a reality.

Here we are, in November, coping with summer temperatures and unseasonal rains, in what our elders say, should have been a temperate autumn. Our parents tell us that even three decades ago, warm clothing would have been brought out by this time. Yet, here we are – November temperatures are in the 30s, while elsewhere, cities like Chennai and Bangalore are flooded from long spells of torrential rain. Air quality is so bad in cities like New Delhi, that people are having respiratory challenges. Does it not convey a message to us, with alarm bells ringing hard?

We are at a point of no return. Almost. Planet Earth's vital signs have been blinking non-stop in emergency mode, with crisis after crisis facing humanity. This world has seen a global pandemic, and has also seen various nations go through many difficult and protracted situations. In such a time, deliberation, swift action, and negotiations are of pivotal essence. Hence, it is very fitting to have significant academic simulations such as this Model United Nations conference to bring forth ideas, opinions, and novel suggestions of young changemakers on global issues of critical concern.

In the words of UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres – “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. Leaders must lead. No more hesitancy. No more excuses. No more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that. It is still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the very worst of climate change. But only with dramatic, immediate climate action.”

This imperative is the context of WIZMUN 2024 – Odisha's first Green concept Model United Nations, being organized by The DN Wisdom Tree Global School. Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning. Humanity is on the hotseat. If we, as individuals, and communities, do not start acting now to restore and heal Planet Earth, it is us, the children and youth of today and the generations after, who will bear the consequences. For scientists, it is unequivocal – humans are to blame. Therefore, WIZMUN 2024 is a call to action, a platform to raise awareness, acquire knowledge and adopt practices that will reduce our carbon footprint,

understand the impact of the climate crisis on human life and living, improve green cover, and contain pollution.

This second edition of WIZMUN has 4 Committees – UN Women discussing the impact of Climate Change on Women’s Health, UN Environment Programme addressing Protection of Communities from Extreme Weather and Biodiversity loss as well as Post Disaster Rebuilding, Continuous Crisis Committee focusing on Leveraging AI in Healthcare Systems for Effective Disaster Response and Management, and the International Press Corps Committee of Journalists and Photojournalists.

Amidst us today, we have delegates representing 37 countries. Delegates in the 4 committees will be led by 4 Executive Boards, who will facilitate the deliberations over the next two days.

To help people connect with the urgency of Climate Action, to demystify the concepts and enable local level action, to increase awareness and understanding amongst children and youth, The DN Wisdom Tree Global School has launched the campaign on Light a Lamp for Planet Earth This Deepawali just prior to this edition of WIZMUN 2024. In this context, we shall all take the Climate Pledge to reduce our carbon footprint through 12 simple every day steps that each one of us can practice and make it our lifestyle change.

May I now request the Chief Advisor of WIZMUN 2024, Ms. Baisakhi Priyadarshini, to present the UN flag to our Chief Speaker of the Opening Session, Ms. Abha Mishra, State Head of the United Nations Development Programme.

Moving on, I now request the delegates of Bhutan, France, Germany, UK, USA and India, to present their country flags to our esteemed Chief Speaker.

Thank you, Delegates! Thank you, esteemed Guests. With this, I declare The Wisdom Model United Nations 2024, Odisha’s first Green MUN, open.