



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

Proposal on the Establishment of a Model ITTLLDC Conference as a Programme of the Youth Advisory Board of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries

I. Introduction

1. The present proposal sets out the concept, objectives, programme design, governance arrangements, division of responsibilities, implementation timeline and resource framework for a Model ITTLLDC Conference (hereinafter “the Conference”), an annual educational simulation of the deliberative organs and meetings of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and of the wider multilateral architecture of the landlocked developing countries, to be established and operated as a programme of the Youth Advisory Board of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (hereinafter “the Think Tank”).
2. The proposal is submitted by the DMUN Foundation (hereinafter “the Foundation”), a youth-led, non-profit international non-governmental organization registered in the Republic of Korea and the United States, which delivers free education and capacity-building programmes on multilateralism and sustainable development and operates the world’s largest independent virtual Model United Nations conference.
3. The Conference would constitute the first dedicated simulation programme in the world devoted exclusively to the multilateral agenda of the landlocked developing countries, and the first simulation of the decision-making organs of an intergovernmental institution of the landlocked developing countries to be operated under the authority of that institution itself. It would bear the name and identity of the Think Tank, operate under the institutional authority of the Youth Advisory Board, and be delivered, administered and financed by the Foundation in its capacity as implementing partner.

II. Background and Rationale

4. The thirty-two landlocked developing countries face structural constraints arising from their lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness from world markets and dependence on transit, which impose persistent costs on their trade, growth and sustainable development. The Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

2024–2034 establishes the agreed framework of priorities through which the international community has committed to address these constraints.

5. Young people in landlocked developing countries are among the principal stakeholders of that framework, yet they remain underrepresented in the processes that shape it.

Opportunities for young people to acquire direct, practical familiarity with the negotiating practice, vocabulary and substantive priorities of the landlocked developing countries are scarce, and existing Model United Nations programmes rarely, if ever, address the specific agenda of this group of countries.

6. The establishment of the Youth Advisory Board has created, for the first time, a standing institutional channel through which young people contribute to the work of the Think Tank. A Model ITLLDC Conference operated as a programme of the Youth Advisory Board would extend that channel outward: it would convert the Board from a consultative organ into a convening platform with a global educational programme of its own, capable of reaching thousands of young people in landlocked developing countries, transit countries and beyond.

7. For the Think Tank, the Conference would serve as a low-cost, high-visibility instrument of outreach, awareness-raising and constituency-building around the Awaza Programme of Action. For participants, it would provide rigorous, free training in multilateral negotiation grounded in the real agenda of the landlocked developing countries. For the Foundation, it would advance its core mission of eliminating systemic barriers to youth participation in intergovernmental processes.

III. Precedents in Other Intergovernmental Organizations

8. The proposed programme follows a well-established and growing practice among intergovernmental organizations of convening, endorsing or directly operating official educational simulations of their own decision-making organs as instruments of youth engagement and institutional outreach.

9. The Global Model WHO, organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations in collaboration with the World Health Organization pursuant to an agreement concluded between the two organizations in 2022, provides an accurate, student-led simulation of the World Health Assembly. Its inaugural virtual session was convened in 2023, and its first in-person session was hosted at the headquarters of the World Health



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

Organization in Geneva in 2024, gathering over three hundred and fifty delegates from more than fifty countries and marking the first occasion on which a United Nations agency co-hosted a major simulation of its principal decision-making body. The programme combines committee simulations with expert briefings delivered by staff of the Organization, an approach the present proposal adopts.

10. The Model OAS General Assembly has been operated since 1982 as a programme of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, administered through its Department of International Affairs. It convenes annual simulations of the OAS General Assembly and of the Permanent Council for university and secondary-school students throughout the hemisphere, and demonstrates the durability and institutional value of a simulation programme owned and convened by the organization whose organs it simulates.

11. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, through Allied Command Transformation, convened the first official Model NATO Summit in 2024, a simulation of the North Atlantic Council at the level of Heads of State and Government, the outcome of which — a youth summit declaration — was presented to the leadership of the Alliance. Numerous further examples, including simulation programmes endorsed or supported by the European Union, confirm the general pattern.

12. The proposed Model ITTLLDC Conference would situate the Think Tank and its Youth Advisory Board within this established practice, while occupying a space that no other institution has yet claimed: no intergovernmental body of the landlocked developing countries currently operates an official simulation programme, and no simulation anywhere is dedicated to the agenda of this group of countries. The Conference would accordingly confer a genuine first-mover distinction upon the Think Tank at modest institutional cost.

IV. Concept and Objectives

13. The Conference is conceived as an annual, virtual simulation, with a possible hybrid component in Ulaanbaatar or in another host city as circumstances permit, in which delegations of young people aged thirteen to twenty-five represent the member States of the Think Tank, other landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries, development partners and relevant international and regional organizations, including those holding observer status with the Think Tank.



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

14. The objectives of the Conference shall be: (a) to educate young people on the structural challenges and development priorities of the landlocked developing countries, on the Awaza Programme of Action and on the mandate, organs and working methods of the Think Tank; (b) to develop practical competencies in research, drafting, public speaking, negotiation and consensus-building; (c) to broaden global awareness of the mandate and work of the Think Tank; (d) to identify and cultivate young talent from landlocked developing countries for future engagement with the Youth Advisory Board; and (e) to generate substantive youth perspectives on the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action for transmission to the Think Tank.

15. Participation in the Conference shall be free of charge in all cases. The virtual format shall be retained as the principal modality in order to guarantee accessibility for participants in landlocked developing countries, where the costs of international travel are precisely the structural barrier that the Conference seeks to illustrate and to overcome.

V. Programme Design: A Multi-Committee Model of the Organs and Meetings of the LLDC Architecture

16. The Conference shall convene annually over three to four consecutive days. The inaugural session is proposed for the first quarter of 2027, on dates to be determined in consultation with the Think Tank and the Youth Advisory Board.

17. The Conference shall adopt a multi-committee architecture in which each committee simulates, with fidelity, an actual organ or meeting of the Think Tank or of the wider multilateral architecture of the landlocked developing countries. The apex committee of the Conference shall be a simulation of the Board of Governors of the Think Tank, in which delegates represent the States parties to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, together with observer seats reflecting the observers admitted to the Board, including the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

18. The simulated Board of Governors shall replicate the functions of its real counterpart: it shall consider a simulated annual work plan and report of the Think Tank, deliberate on the strategic direction of the institution, and adopt the consolidated outcome document of the



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

Conference. A member of the Conference secretariat shall discharge, in simulation, the functions of the Executive Director as secretary of the Board.

19. Alongside the simulated Board of Governors, the Conference shall convene committees simulating other relevant meetings of the landlocked developing countries, which may include, inter alia: (a) a simulation of the Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Landlocked Developing Countries, addressing the political coordination of the Group; (b) a simulation of a ministerial or expert meeting on trade, trade facilitation and World Trade Organization accession; (c) a simulation of an expert working group on transit, transport and infrastructure connectivity; (d) a simulation of an expert working group on structural economic transformation, science, technology and innovation; and (e) a simulation of an expert working group on climate change adaptation, resilience and disaster risk reduction. The committee structure shall be reviewed annually by the Joint Steering Committee and aligned with the priority areas of the Awaza Programme of Action and the current work programme of the Think Tank.

20. The work of the Conference shall flow upward through its architecture: each thematic and ministerial committee shall negotiate and adopt a resolution, declaration or set of recommendations within its mandate, which shall be transmitted to the simulated Board of Governors for consideration, consolidation and adoption as the outcome document of the Conference. This design mirrors the manner in which expert and ministerial processes inform the governing organs of intergovernmental institutions, and trains participants in the vertical dynamics of multilateral decision-making as well as its horizontal negotiation.

21. Each committee shall be assigned a focused agenda item drawn from the current work programme of the landlocked developing countries, accompanied by a study guide prepared by the Conference secretariat and reviewed, where the Think Tank so wishes, by its research staff. Country assignments shall ensure that every delegation engages with the perspective of a landlocked developing country, a transit country or a development partner.

22. The rules of procedure of the Conference shall be closely modelled on the rules of procedure of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adapted to the structure and consensus-oriented practice of the organs simulated, so that participants are trained in authentic multilateral practice rather than in competitive conventions peculiar to the Model United Nations circuit.



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

23. The substantive programme shall be complemented by: (a) an opening ceremony featuring senior representation of the Think Tank and of the Youth Advisory Board; (b) expert briefings delivered by researchers of the Think Tank, officials of relevant international organizations and representatives of member States, following the practice of the Global Model WHO; (c) skills workshops on negotiation, drafting and the multilateral system; and (d) a closing ceremony at which the outcome document is adopted and presented.

24. The outcome document adopted by the simulated Board of Governors shall be formally transmitted by the Youth Advisory Board to the Think Tank and may, at the discretion of the Think Tank, be circulated to its Board of Governors, to its member States and to relevant intergovernmental processes as an expression of youth perspectives.

VI. Governance and Institutional Arrangements

25. The Conference shall be established as a programme of the Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board shall exercise institutional ownership of the Conference, including approval of its annual theme, endorsement of its agenda and committee structure, and adoption of any policy guidance governing its conduct.

26. The Think Tank shall hold and control the name “Model ITLLDC Conference” and all associated branding. Use of the name and emblem of the Think Tank shall be subject to its prior written authorization and shall conform to such visual identity guidelines as it may issue.

27. The Foundation shall serve as implementing partner and shall constitute, staff and direct the Conference secretariat. The secretariat shall be responsible for all operational aspects of the Conference, including registration, committee administration, the preparation of study guides and rules of procedure, the training of chairpersons, the operation of the virtual platform, and the safeguarding of participants.

28. A Joint Steering Committee shall be established, composed of designated representatives of the Think Tank, the Youth Advisory Board and the Foundation. The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice per cycle to approve the calendar, theme and committee structure of each session, review preparations, and consider the evaluation report of the preceding session.



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

29. The detailed terms of cooperation, including the matters addressed in the present proposal, shall be set out in a memorandum of understanding between the Think Tank and the Foundation, which the Foundation stands ready to draft for the consideration of the Think Tank.

VII. Roles and Responsibilities

30. The Foundation shall: (a) bear all operational costs of the Conference; (b) provide and operate the virtual conference platform; (c) recruit, train and supervise the secretariat, chairpersons and volunteers; (d) prepare all academic materials, including study guides and rules of procedure; (e) conduct global outreach and registration through its networks, with particular emphasis on participants from landlocked developing countries; (f) implement age-appropriate safeguarding measures, including parental consent procedures for participants who are minors; and (g) prepare the post-session evaluation report.

31. The Think Tank is invited to: (a) authorize the use of its name and emblem; (b) provide substantive guidance on the agenda, committee structure and review of academic materials, including materials concerning the functioning of the Board of Governors; (c) make available, as appropriate, researchers and officials for expert briefings and ceremonial functions; (d) receive and consider the outcome documents of the Conference; and (e) promote the Conference through its communication channels and its relationships with member States.

32. The Youth Advisory Board is invited to: (a) adopt the Conference as a programme of the Board; (b) designate focal points to the Joint Steering Committee; (c) approve the annual theme and endorse the agenda and committee structure; (d) participate in the opening and closing ceremonies; and (e) transmit the outcome documents to the Think Tank.

VIII. Implementation Timeline

33. Phase one (third quarter of 2026): consultations between the Think Tank, the Youth Advisory Board and the Foundation; conclusion of the memorandum of understanding; constitution of the Joint Steering Committee.

34. Phase two (fourth quarter of 2026): adoption of the inaugural theme and committee structure; preparation and review of the rules of procedure and study guides; recruitment and



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

training of the secretariat and chairpersons; public announcement of the Conference and opening of registration.

35. Phase three (fourth quarter of 2026 to first quarter of 2027): global outreach and registration; orientation and preparatory webinars for registered participants, including briefings on the landlocked developing countries, the Awaza Programme of Action and the organs of the Think Tank.

36. Phase four (first quarter of 2027): convening of the inaugural session of the Conference; adoption and transmission of the outcome document.

37. Phase five (second quarter of 2027): evaluation of the inaugural session; report of the Joint Steering Committee; decision on the calendar of the second session.

IX. Budget and Resources

38. The Conference shall be delivered at no cost to the Think Tank, to the Youth Advisory Board or to participants. All operational expenditures, including platform licensing, secretariat operations, materials production and outreach, shall be borne by the Foundation within its existing programme budget for conference operations.

39. In-kind contributions invited from the Think Tank are limited to staff time for substantive review and expert briefings, and to the use of its communication channels for promotion. Should the Think Tank or its partners subsequently wish to support a hybrid component, scholarships or other enhancements, such support would be welcomed but is not a precondition for any element of the present proposal.

X. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

40. The Foundation shall collect and report, for each session: registration and participation statistics disaggregated by country, age and gender; the proportion of participants from landlocked developing countries; participant satisfaction and learning outcomes measured through pre- and post-conference surveys; and a qualitative assessment of the outcome documents.

41. An evaluation report shall be submitted to the Joint Steering Committee and to the Youth Advisory Board within sixty days of the close of each session. The report shall include



DMUN Foundation

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat of the Foundation

4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea

+82-10-5696-8302

enquiries@dmun.org

www.dmun.org

recommendations for the subsequent session and shall serve as the basis for the continuous improvement of the programme.

XI. Next Steps

42. The Foundation respectfully invites the Think Tank: (a) to take note of the present proposal; (b) to refer it to the Youth Advisory Board for consideration and adoption as a programme of the Board; (c) to designate focal points for the negotiation of the memorandum of understanding; and (d) to convene a first consultation among the parties at the earliest mutually convenient date.