



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Superheroes' very strength incites challenge. Challenge incites conflict. And conflict... breeds catastrophe.*

*- Vision*

Dear Delegates,

It gives me immense pleasure to serve as your Chairperson for such an unconventional committee, operating in a universe which still arouses a childish enthusiasm in me. I first watched the Marvel movies and read the comics with a propensity to consume sheer entertainment, and yet, in my journey as a debater, I realised there aren't any bounds to issues which could be opinionated upon. That, they may transcend from real life crises to reel life apocalypses. I found myself defending motions which justified the actions of Loki or criticising Captain America, for all the good and the bad reasons. I've forever enjoyed such debates primarily because it taught me to analyse the content I consume, to find the greys between the black and the whites, and more importantly, to fall deeper in love with this universe with every strike of an argument.

The agenda of this simulation is to revise the Sokovia Accords, a legal document which, though fictional, raises the right questions at this juncture of world diplomacy. We live in a world which has witnessed bipolar and hegemonic authority, a consequence of which has burnt nations and people, arising terror and terrorists. It's a world where many are born with entrenched human rights, and anarchy is at the brink of every civilization. In this paradigm, the Sokovia Accords are in a garb of altruism: They challenge authoritarian autonomy, the extent and exercise of (supernatural) power, the need for violence to establish peace, etc. What makes any discussion over the Sokovia accords engaging is that there are two sides to this story and both sides want to achieve the same goal: A better world. The question is whether we want to imbibe teleological ethics (care only about the end goal, whatever the means be) or ontological ethics (where the end goal is important but so is the 'right' means of achieving it). The two fictional bodies that would be representing these two principles would be VIGIL and UNPA, respectively. The ideological rift between the two institutions would be explained in the forthcoming pages.

I look forward to CENMUN 2018, to learn from each one of you. My vice-chairperson and I will strive to provide you a wholesome experience of the debate, and we hope that by the end of the 2 days you and I both take away a lot of knowledge, memories, and newfound friendships. Remember, you take away a lot more than just awards in Model UN Conferences. The wins would matter less once you start enjoying a debate, and in defeat you shall seek elation.

Hoping to meet you very soon,

Regards,

Debdut Mukherjee

Chairperson, the Marvel Committee.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Two years have passed since the historical Battle of Sokovia, but the global citizens still remain under the threat of human and cosmic super villains. The Sokovia Accords, proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Thaddeus Ross under the frame of the ravages in Sokovia City and subsequently Lagos to bring the Avengers under the jurisdiction of the United Nations remains a divisive subject for the Avengers, the superhero body that has broken down into factions over the validity of the Accords. However, the question of enhanced humans is still a paramount one, and hence the need for a revision of the Accords.

In this Committee, the entire society of superheroes will be represented by two bodies which originated in the aftermath of the Vienna Conference; the United Nations Prototype Alliance (UNPA), which is a flagship committee of the enhanced individuals who agreed to sign the Accords, and Vanguard and Independent Guardians Intergalactic League (VIGIL), a private body that was conceived to oppose any sort of jurisdiction for the superheroes.

The United Nations Commission on the Sokovian Accords seeks to revise the conditions laid down in the Accords, to enable all superheroes to reach a consensus to prepare for other looming extra-terrestrial threats, and the future existence of the Earth and the human race makes the outcome of this Committee cardinal.



## AGENDA

### INTRODUCTION:

Superheroes like Iron Man, Captain America and Thor have been saving the world from earthly and extraterrestrial beings time again, and their powers set their potential apart from the rest of the human race, including the soldiers in the national armies who were until now believed to be the primary wagers of conflicts in the world. However, the question is if the same laws that apply to all citizens of the world, as laid down by Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, indeed apply to these super individuals as well.

Some of these heroes use powers imbued by science, some of them are enhanced by evolutionary mutations, some of them have magical powers from a mystic source that we, as of yet, do not understand. Others are regular people who employ technology far superior to that of any government and some simply possess skills that put them at the same level as the aforementioned super beings.

In 2015, a robot created by Tony Stark (Iron Man) gained agency and raised Sokovia City (the Capital of Sokovia) into the sky with the intention of crash landing it into the Earth. While most of the city's 600,000 inhabitants escaped, 2631 were killed by the Ultron drones and a further 14,375 were wounded. Further, while attempting to prevent Block Rumlow's attempt to steal a biological weapon from the Institute for Infectious Diseases in Lagos, 26 civilians die, including 11 relief aid workers from Wakanda. This attack forced the United Nations to take notice of this enhanced, or meta, human activity and needed to make a decision as to the course of action.

The Sokovian Accords hence aimed to regulate the activities of the enhanced humans who are a part of the now defunct S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers. However, while it was being brought up for discussion in the UN Headquarters in Vienna, an explosion triggered by Sokovian terrorist Helmut Zemo killed King T'Chaka of Wakanda, plunging the protectors of the world into internal conflict.

Since then, the world has seen more of such activity that is a fall out of superhero activity. Adrian Toomes and his team made advanced weapons out of the Chitauri technology they scavenged after the Battle of New York, and is eventually stopped by Peter Parker aka Spiderman. Stephen Strange stops an alleged Dormammu invasion in Hong Kong on the other hand, saving the planet from sure destruction. With large scale attacks taking place every other year, and with no end in sight, the United Nations has set out this special committee, to meet with the explicit purpose of reaching a consensus on superhero legislation.. The resolution that will arise will be ratified by the Security Council and passed into international law.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

December 1991- Howard Stark assassinated.

March 2003- Iraq War begins, orchestrated by Hydra

February 2008- Iron Man fights the Iron Monger above Stark Industries



May 2012- The Battle of New York

May 2013- Aldrich Killian kidnaps the President of the United States

January 2014- Battle at the Triskelion; S.H.I.E.L.D. is compromised and three heli-carriers are destroyed.

May 2015- The Battle of Sokovia

June 2016- Attack on the Vienna Conference

November 2016- Dormammu invasion of Hong Kong

July 2017- Spiderman stops Adrian Toomes (Vulture)

### SOKOVIAN ACCORDS

The Sokovia Accords, meant to regulate the activities of enhanced individuals, especially those working for government agencies and private organizations (S.H.I.E.L.D and the Avengers), was ratified by 117 nations that include Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Sokovia, United Kingdom, United States, Wakanda, and China.

Any enhanced individuals who agree to sign must register with the United Nations and provide biometric data such as fingerprints and DNA samples.

Those with secret identities must reveal their legal names and true identities to the United Nations.

Those with innate powers must submit to a power analysis, which will categorize their threat level and determine potential health risks.

Those with innate powers must also wear tracking bracelets at all times.

Any enhanced individuals who sign are prohibited from taking action in any country other than their own, unless they are first given clearance by either that country's government or by a United Nations subcommittee.

Governments are forbidden from deploying enhanced individuals outside of their own national borders, unless those individuals are given clearance as described above. The same rule also applies to non-government organizations that operate on a global scale (including S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers).

Any enhanced individuals who do not sign will not be allowed to take part in any police, military, or espionage activities, or to otherwise participate in any national or international conflict, even in their own country.

As a corollary, they will not be allowed to participate in any active missions undertaken by private or governmental law enforcement/military/intelligence organizations (such as S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers).

Any enhanced individuals who use their powers to break the law (including those who take part in extra-legal vigilante activities), or are otherwise deemed to be a threat to the safety of the general public, may be detained indefinitely without trial.

If an enhanced individual violates the Accords, or obstructs the actions of those enforcing the Accords, they may likewise be arrested and detained indefinitely without trial.

The use of technology to bestow individuals with innate superhuman capabilities is strictly regulated, as is the use and distribution of highly advanced technology (such as Asgardian and Chitauri weaponry).

The creation of self-aware artificial intelligences is completely prohibited.

The Avengers will no longer be a private organization and will operate under the supervision of the United Nations.

For the purposes of the Accords, an "enhanced individual" is defined as any person, human or otherwise, with superhuman capabilities. This includes individuals whose powers are an innate function of their biology as well as individuals who utilize highly advanced technology to grant themselves superhuman capabilities. However, individuals with advanced prostheses do not seem to be considered "enhanced", even if their prostheses give them capabilities beyond those of ordinary humans.

All members of the Avengers are subject to the same conditions as enhanced individuals, even if they are not enhanced themselves: Black Widow was required to sign so she could continue serving on the Avengers, and Hawkeye was incarcerated on the Raft after violating the Accords.

## BLOC POSITIONS

While no official block position exist regarding the prevailing attitudes towards super-powered-beings, there are certain factors which would determine a country's position towards the issue. Certain countries have more resources to dedicate towards the creation and management of super powered beings. These are generally developed countries, some of which have experimental programs left over from the Cold War. Furthermore, it is known that the Americans and Russians both spent significant resources on Super Soldier programs. Germany, with its Red Skull program has also had such practices but currently says it has engaged in no such activity since the Second World War. Canada, Wakanda and others do possess technology which puts them at an advantage when compared to less powerful countries. Additionally, a country could be in favor of certain types of enhanced humans and not others.

On the other hand, there have been countries who have been a victim to attacks and other collateral damages due to superhuman activity. While Sokovia is the most notable example, Nigeria, the United States and others have suffered such casualties. Additionally, some Middle Eastern and

African countries have had the Avengers operate within their borders independently of any government permission.

#### THE UNITED NATIONS PROTOTYPE ALLIANCE

A flagship committee of the UN, it consists of all supernatural beings who adhere to the Sokovia accords. One of the leading proponents of the same is, Mr. Tony Stark who was one of the earliest members of the Avengers to be inducted into the UNPA. The UNPA aims to bring about a institutional framework to execute the terms of the Sokovia Accords. It upholds all human rights enshrined in the Charter and believes that to achieve the right end goal, the means of achieving the same should also be morally correct. Hence, the UNPA holds the actions of the avengers in Sokovia, New York, etc. to be causing more harm than good.

#### Vanguards and Independent Guardians Intergalactic League (VIGIL)

VIGIL is a private body of super-natural individuals who stood against the Sokovia Accords since the inception. Captain America is one of the leading proponents of the same. VIGIL believes that an institution like the UNPA is driven by material needs of the country, amidst the hypocritical diplomacy. The end goals of world peace aren't achieved if countries allow the wrongdoings as a diplomatic policy. VIGIL also emphasises the inherent blindness humans have towards extraterrestrial attacks. It believes that a democratic framework like the UNPA would delay action against the same, a consequence of which could destroy the universe.

#### MAJOR QUESTIONS

The major issues that the Committee needs to answer are:

Whether all classes of the Enhanced Humans need to sign the Accords

Whether there should be an option to abstain, and a plan for the abstainers

Are these accords against the human rights that the superheroes have

Course for extraterrestrial beings like Thor and Peter Quill(?)

Level of involvement of the UN in the tactics deployed by superheroes

Degree of autonomy of supernatural beings

Plan to counter extraterrestrial threat

## REFERENCES

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