Attachment 1: Rules and Regulations

Belt and Road Initiative Simulation:

An Inclusive International Negotiation Focused on the BRI

Reading | July 2026

University of Reading

Foundation for Law & International Affairs

5th Belt and Road Initiative Simulation Competition
Rules and Regulations

Competition Date	28 July 2026
Venue	University of Reading
Official Contact	contact@flia.org

Chapter 1. General Provisions

1.1 Nature and Purpose

The 5th Belt and Road Initiative Simulation Competition is an English-language educational negotiation exercise jointly organized by the Foundation for Law and International Affairs (FLIA) and the University of Reading School of Law. The competition is designed to deepen students' understanding of inclusive international negotiation through a realistic, multi-stakeholder Belt and Road Initiative simulation.

The 2026 simulation is based on the "Freshippo Village" project in Uganda and addresses issues including investment and ownership structure, supply-chain control, pricing mechanisms, local employment and economic impact, institutional collaboration, standards and certification compliance, and environmental sustainability.

1.2 Official Language

English is the official language of the competition. Opening statements, negotiations, written resolutions, and official communications during the competition shall be conducted in English.

1.3 Authority of the Rules

These Rules and Regulations govern the 2026 competition unless the Secretariat issues a written clarification or amendment.

The Secretariat reserves the right to make necessary procedural adjustments, including updates to the official program schedule, venue arrangements, and round-specific instructions.

1.4 Official Communication

The official competition email is contact@flia.org.

Unless otherwise specified, all official notices, schedule updates, role allocations, confidential instructions, and procedural announcements shall be sent to the registration email provided by each applicant or Team Communicator.

Chapter 2. Eligibility and Registration

2.1 Eligible Applicants

The competition welcomes applications from university students worldwide. Participants must be current undergraduate or postgraduate students at the time of application.

2.2 Types of Application

Both team applications and individual applications are accepted. Team applications must include three to five participants. Individual applicants who are unable to form a team independently may apply individually. The organizers may group accepted individual applicants into teams.

2.3 Team Communicator

Each team must designate one Team Communicator. The Team Communicator is the sole official point of contact between the team and the Secretariat and is responsible for receiving notices, submitting requests, and coordinating the team's procedural communications.

2.4 Faculty Advisors

A faculty advisor may be identified in the application form, but the competition is student-led and the participating students remain solely responsible for their performance during the simulation.

2.5 Registration and Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by email to contact@flia.org no later than 11 May 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

Applicants requiring an invitation letter for visa purposes should indicate this in their application materials.

2.6 Accuracy of Information

By submitting an application, the applicant or Team Communicator confirms that all information provided is true and accurate and that the team members have read and agreed to the competition rules.

2.7 Participation Fee

No registration fee will be charged. Teams and individuals are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and meal expenses.

Upon successful application, applicants will receive a confirmation email from the Secretariat on May 14, 2026, along with a link to pay the participation deposit. Applicants are required to pay a deposit of $200 for team applications or $80 for individual applications by May 20, 2026 at 4:00 PM (London Time). This deposit will be fully refunded upon attendance on the competition day. Refunds will be processed within 7 business days after the event via the original payment method. Applicants who withdraw before May 20, 2026 (deposit deadline) may request a refund. However, applicants who withdraw after receiving their roles and confidential instructions, or who fail to attend the competition, will forfeit the deposit. Given the nature of quadrilateral negotiations, it is essential for the Secretariat to ensure that all four parties are present at the negotiation table. Therefore, applicants' commitment is critical. By submitting the deposit, applicants agree to these terms.

Chapter 3. Team Allocation, Roles, and Competition Materials

3.1 Role Allocation

Negotiation roles shall be determined by lottery draw on 22 May 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time). After the draw, the Secretariat will distribute confidential instructions and any other role-specific materials to the relevant teams.

3.2 Stakeholder Structure

Each negotiation table consists of four teams representing four stakeholders in the case.

The 2026 case concerns the establishment of the Freshippo Village project in Uganda through a multi-stakeholder negotiation involving public, private, and international actors. Teams shall act strictly in accordance with the interests, goals, and constraints of their assigned stakeholder.

3.3 Protected Materials

Confidential instructions are protected materials for the assigned team only and must not be shared with other teams, advisors, or third parties.

Teams may use public and scholarly sources in their preparation, but all arguments, strategies, and documents submitted during the competition must be their own work.

Chapter 4. Preparation Stage and Opening Statement

4.1 Research and Preparation

Teams are expected to prepare independently by studying the procedural guide, the case materials, the applicable legal and policy framework, and other reliable research materials relevant to their assigned stakeholder.

Teams should prepare for legal, financial, environmental, labor, development, and geopolitical dimensions of the case, as appropriate to their role.

4.2 Written Opening Statement

Each team shall submit a written Opening Statement to the Secretariat by 3 July 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

The Opening Statement must clearly present the team's stakeholder position, identify its key concerns and priorities, and set out proposed solutions on the major issues raised by the case.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Secretariat, the recommended format for the written Opening Statement is 800-1,000 words, 12-point font, and clear paragraph spacing.

4.3 Exchange of Opening Statements

On 10 July 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time), the Secretariat will facilitate the exchange of Opening Statements among teams assigned to the same negotiation table.

4.4 Oral Opening Statement on Competition Day

During the opening statement delivery session on 28 July 2026, each team will deliver an oral Opening Statement.

The total time allocated for the opening statement session is 20 minutes. In principle, each team should expect approximately 5 minutes for delivery, subject to the official program issued by the Secretariat.

4.5 Assessment of Opening Statement

Opening statements may be assessed on the basis of the criteria reflected in the official rubric, including: (i) hook or opening impact; (ii) clarity of purpose and stakeholder position; (iii) quality of the call to action; (iv) organization and flow; (v) delivery and presentation; and (vi) time management.

Chapter 5. Competition Day Structure and Negotiation Procedure

5.1 Competition Day

The competition will be held at the University of Reading on 28 July 2026.

The Secretariat will publicize the official competition program, including timetables, rooms, and practical arrangements, before the competition day.

5.2 General Structure

The simulation consists of five main phases: opening statement delivery, first round bilateral negotiations, second round ad hoc negotiations, final round quadrilateral negotiation, and resolution signing.

During the simulation, participants must remain in role throughout all formal and informal sessions.

5.3 First Round: Pre-scheduled Bilateral Negotiations

The first round consists of pre-scheduled bilateral meetings arranged by the Secretariat.

The total period allocated for the first round is 50 minutes, ordinarily including three bilateral sessions of 15 minutes each with short transition intervals between sessions.

Teams must attend the bilateral meetings assigned to them and should use these sessions to clarify positions, test proposals, and identify opportunities for agreement.

5.4 Second Round: Ad Hoc Negotiations

The second round is an informal ad hoc negotiation session lasting 30 minutes.

Ad hoc negotiations may be bilateral or multilateral, depending on the needs of the teams and the approval of the Secretariat.

At the beginning of the relevant session, each team may submit up to three requests for ad hoc negotiations through its Team Communicator.

A team may participate in up to two ad hoc negotiations during the informal session unless the Secretariat authorizes otherwise. During ad hoc negotiations, team members may divide tasks and speak with different stakeholders, provided that all procedural requests are made through the Team Communicator.

5.5 Team Recap and Preparation Breaks

Team recap periods form part of the official schedule and are intended for reassessing positions, recording developments, preparing talking points, and drafting possible resolution language. These internal team periods may also be used to coordinate future requests and plan negotiation strategy.

5.6 Final Round: Quadrilateral Negotiation

The final round is a four-party negotiation session lasting 30 minutes. The purpose of the final round is to address remaining issues, make final proposals, announce supporting allies where appropriate, and seek consensus on one or more final outcomes.

5.7 Resolution Signing Session

The resolution signing session lasts 20 minutes. During this session, teams will finalize, sign, or sponsor the resolution or resolutions that they have agreed to support.

Chapter 6. Rules of Conduct and Procedure

6.1 Formal Sessions

Formal sessions include the oral opening statement delivery and the final quadrilateral negotiation, as well as any other session designated by the Secretariat. During formal sessions, parties must respect the floor, speak when recognized, and comply with timing and procedural directions issued by the Secretary or Secretariat staff.

6.2 Informal Sessions

Informal sessions include bilateral negotiations, ad hoc negotiations, team meetings, and other discussion periods designated by the Secretariat. Informal sessions allow greater flexibility, but participants must still comply with the competition rules, act professionally, and remain within their assigned role.

6.3 Points of Order

A point of order may be raised if a participant believes that the rules of procedure are not being followed. The Secretary may interrupt the session to hear the point and rule on it. The ruling of the Secretary or Secretariat is final for purposes of the session.

6.4 Conduct, Professionalism, and Good Faith

Participants are expected to negotiate in good faith, show respect to all other participants, and maintain
proper academic and professional decorum. Abusive conduct, harassment, deliberate disruption, or bad-faith procedural obstruction may result in a warning, score deduction, or other disciplinary action determined by the Secretariat.

6.5 Contact with Advisors and Outside Parties

During competition sessions and designated team periods, participants may not seek strategic guidance from faculty advisors, observers, or other outside persons. Team meetings and negotiation sessions are confidential. Conversations in public or common areas are not confidential.

6.6 Communications with the Secretariat

All requests for ad hoc negotiations, press releases (if any), communiques, and other procedural communications must be submitted by the Team Communicator.

Teams may not self-publish official press releases within the simulation. Any press release process, if used, shall be managed by the Secretariat.

6.7 Use of Devices and Venue Rules

Participants must comply with venue rules and any instructions issued by the Secretariat concerning the use of phones, laptops, or other devices during the competition.

Chapter 7. Negotiation Documents

7.1 Memoranda and Internal Notes

Teams may keep internal memoranda or notes to record negotiation details, proposals, and strategy. Unless the Secretariat specifically requires submission, such documents are for internal team use.

7.2 Final Resolution: General Principles

The final resolution must be feasible and within the practical capacity of the relevant parties. A finalized resolution serves as the formal expression of agreed positions, commitments, or recommendations reached during the negotiation. If no final agreement is reached and signed by the relevant parties, the issue will be considered unresolved.

7.3 Consensus and Voting

Draft resolutions are presumed to be adopted by consensus. If a team intends to request a vote rather than proceed by consensus, the Secretariat must be notified in advance.

7.4 Types of Resolution Parties

Because different issues may be resolved in different ways, separate resolutions may be signed on separate topics where appropriate.

The final resolution may identify three roles: Responding Party, Main Sponsor, and Co-Sponsor. The Responding Party (or Implementing Party) is the party expected to fulfill a specific commitment or respond to a negotiated request. The Main Sponsor is the principal advocate of the resolution. A Co-Sponsor supports the objectives of the resolution by political, technical, financial, institutional, or other forms of backing.

7.5 Resolution Format

Each final resolution should follow the common structure reflected in the case guide and template: heading, preambular clauses, and operative clauses.

The heading identifies the addressee, the sponsors, and the issue addressed. Preambular clauses provide background and justification for the proposed action. Operative clauses should contain concrete, actionable commitments, recommendations, or implementation steps. Sub-clauses may be used where greater specificity is required. Unless otherwise instructed, the final resolution should be single-spaced in 12-point font, and the first word of each clause should be italicized.

Chapter 8. Evaluation and Awards

8.1 General Evaluation Approach

The simulation is evaluated on the basis of proposal writing and negotiation, the quality of the strategy adopted, and the extent to which teams advance or achieve their stakeholder objectives.

8.2 Team Awards

Team awards include Gold, Silver, and Bronze distinctions. The overall team result is determined by combining the evaluation of on-site performance and the final resolution, with the opening statement assessed under a separate rubric.

8.3 Individual Awards

Individual awards include the Diplomacy Award, the Public Speaking Award, and the Law Advocacy Award. Individual awards are based on performance throughout the simulation, including the quality of advocacy, communication, legal reasoning, negotiation effectiveness, and resilience under pressure.

8.4 Final Resolution Assessment

Final resolutions may be assessed on the basis of clarity and structure, feasibility and legal soundness, effectiveness of operative clauses, consensus and negotiation quality, substantial outcome, and the team's contribution to high-quality agreements.

8.5 Judges

Judges are responsible for observing the simulation and scoring participants in accordance with the official rubric.

Judges are not required to engage in substantive exchanges with the teams during the competition unless the format expressly provides otherwise.

Chapter 9. Schedule, Q&A, and Amendments

9.1 Key Dates

Registration deadline: 11 May 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

Role allocation and distribution of confidential instructions: 22 May 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

Q&A Session: 19 June 2026, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (London Time), with questions to be submitted by 18 June 2026 at 10:00 a.m. to contact@flia.org.

Opening Statement submission deadline: 3 July 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

Opening Statements exchange: 10 July 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (London Time).

Competition Day: 28 July 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (London Time).

9.2 Official Program and Later Arrangements

The Secretariat will later publish the official competition program for the day, including the detailed timetable, venue allocations, and operational arrangements. Any changes to the schedule or arrangements for subsequent rounds or sessions will be communicated by email to participating teams.

9.3 Interpretation and Amendment

These rules may be interpreted and amended only by the Secretariat or the organizing bodies where necessary for the fair and orderly conduct of the competition.

In the event of inconsistency between these Rules and a later official written instruction issued by the Secretariat, the later written instruction shall prevail.