

MAYA ALEXIS MELE

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EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, GPA 4.0 | Northeastern University Expected 2026
Double Minor in Ethics and Philosophy | Dean's List | French Language Concentration

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & EU POLITICS | Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) | Germany, Berlin 2022

SCHOLASTIC HONORS | Exceptional Academic Achievement 2022-2025 | National Political Science Honor Society Awardee 2024
Northeastern Political Review, Notable Columnist 2023 | National Council on US-Arab Relations Distinguished Advocate 2023

EXPERIENCE

U.S. GOVERNMENT

WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATION RESEARCHER | U.S Department of State | Washington, D.C. 04.2024 – 06.2025

- Executed comprehensive research and analysis on migration trends and patterns within the Western Hemisphere, leveraging diverse data sources to inform policy recommendations and strategic initiatives for U.S. state officials.

UN OFFICES

UN CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKER | United Nations Headquarters | New York 12.2023 – Present

- Delivered formal statements at the United Nations headquarters as a designated civil society representative, advocating on behalf of international coalitions on issues pertaining to gender, disarmament, migration, human rights, and international law.
- Shaped high-level diplomatic discourse through the provision of key remarks within official UN committees and commissions, facilitating multi-stakeholder consensus, and advancing policy grounded in international cooperation and the rule of law.

UN NGO COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION INTERN | United Nations Headquarters | New York 01.2024 – Present

- Designated as focal advocate for the UN Committee on Migration, primarily aiding the subcommittee on children in migration.
- Served as an appointed speaker and coordinated UN mission visits, facilitating high-level dialogues with permanent representatives to advance advocacy for child migrant rights under the United Nations Pact for the Future.

UN POLICY ANALYST | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs | New York 01.2024 – 06.2024

- Entrusted by member states and international youth advocates as a contributing writer and researcher for UN DESA's international youth sectoral paper publication, centralizing on international social development policy initiatives across Europe.

UNAOE RESEARCH FELLOW | United Nations Office at Geneva | Genève, Switzerland 07.2024 – 08.2024

- Conducted research under UN entities in Geneva, analyzing disarmament strategies through the lens of conflict dynamics during Namibia's independence and South African apartheid, utilizing resources from the Geneva Graduate Institute.
- Participated in the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Committee, collaborating with representatives from Namibia, Norway, and South Africa to support research initiatives on normative human rights frameworks.

UN AFFILIATES

RESEARCHER, UN DELEGATE, INTERN | Bahá'í International Community UN | New York 01.2024 – 06.2025

- Orchestrated comprehensive research endeavors and advanced external advocacy to support UN representatives, with a focus on gender equality, social development, and the persecution of the Bahá'í Community.
- Engaged in multilateral negotiations as a UN delegate, contributing to policy refinement across more than 10 commissions.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS INTERN | Diplomats Without Borders | Amsterdam, The Netherlands 04.2024 – 10.2024

- Assisted the global NGO Diplomats Without Borders, providing research, policy analysis, and support for global publications to current and former UN representatives from over 40 member states.

HUMANITARIAN ADVOCACY AND POLICY CONSULTANT | World Vision International | New York 09.2024 – 11.2024

- Assumed the role of Advocacy and Humanitarian Policy Consultant to the Senior UN Representative for Humanitarian Affairs, specializing in Security Council developments and humanitarian fora at the UN Headquarters.
- Drafted briefings and policy papers with a focus on humanitarian access, children, armed conflict, and global hunger.

UN FIRST COMMITTEE AIDE | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom | New York 10.2024 – 12.2024

- Represented the Nobel Laureate NGO at the UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, contributing to official reports and delivering a formal statement to all 193 member states on the intersection of gender and disarmament.

RESEARCH

UN APPEAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PEACE | Yale University, Early Childhood Peace Consortium | 2025

- Contributed to the drafting of a global appeal to UN entities, urging action against escalating violence toward children in conflict zones through international cooperation and legal frameworks.
- Advised leadership of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) on strategic engagement with UN Member States, emphasizing best practices in diplomatic communication and intergovernmental protocol.

ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN DISARMAMENT | Geneva Graduate Institute | Genève, Switzerland UN Office | 2024

- Applied advanced research methodologies to assess the success of disarmament efforts in fostering peace within the African continent, analyzing case studies on South African apartheid and Namibian independence.
- Leveraged resources from the Geneva Graduate Institute and the United Nations Library to develop a comprehensive and analytical thesis to craft evidence-based policy recommendations for future disarmament initiatives.

UN NAIROBI CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE OUTCOME DOCUMENT | Nairobi, Kenya UN Office | 2024

- Spearheaded the development of the outcome package for the United Nations 2024 Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, published on the UN website and widely circulated among civic forums to highlight collective achievements.
- Drafted detailed summaries of plenary sessions, keynotes, and member state remarks, highlighting major initiatives akin to the Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations, and the Global Digital Compact.

INITIATIVES UNDER THE LOS ANGELES DECLARATION | U.S Department of State, Washington PRM | 2024

- Authored high-level briefing materials for American diplomats and foreign officials, analyzing U.S. obligations and achievements under the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection; highlighted legal and policy dimensions of initiatives such as the Safe Mobility Initiative, which supported the resettlement of 35,000–50,000 displaced individuals.

CONFERENCES

MEETING OF STATES, TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS | United Nations Headquarters | 2025

- Participated in the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons under the title of a disarmament programme fellow with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
- Contributed to the development of publications, briefings, and reports to inform and engage civil society stakeholders.

THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 63RD SESSION | United Nations Headquarters | 2025

- Represented the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) as a designated speaker at the UN Commission for Social Development's 63rd session, delivering remarks during the 7th High-Level Plenary on Social Protection Systems.
- Provided insights on the role of social cohesion and protection in society, emphasizing how early childhood education and care foster such values.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE | United Nations Headquarters | 2024

- Recognized as the youngest representative speaker at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee for the two-time Nobel Laureate NGO, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).
- Delivered a comprehensive keynote address analyzing the intersections between gender and the non-proliferation framework.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE | United Nations Headquarters | 2024

- Contributed as a panel speaker at the International Youth Conference on "Road to the United Nations Summit of the Future: Sharing Experiences from Youth Leaders in High-Level Spaces," discussing the critical role of youth in furthering UN objectives.

PUBLICATIONS

Mele, M.A. (2020). We Must Help Children Affected by the Venezuelan Crisis. *Save the Children International SCAN*

Mele, M.A. (2021). 10 Years Later: The Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan. *Save the Children International SCAN*

Mele, M.A. (2023). America's Warbound Addiction to Economic Development. *Northeastern University Political Review*

Mele, M.A. (2024). Beyond The Bounds of a Nations Trust Fall. *United Nations Offices: The Bahá'í International Community*

Mele, M.A. (2024). Reviewing Progress on Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration. *UN DESA*

Mele, M.A. (2024). The Power of a Narrative. *United Nations Offices: The Bahá'í International Community*

Mele, M.A. (2024). Accelerating the United Nations 2030 Agenda: Youth Report. *UN DESA*

Mele, M.A. (2024). World Food Day and the People of Sudan. *World Vision International*

Mele, M.A. (2024). The United Nations General Assembly from a Humanitarian Lens. *World Vision International*

Mele, M.A. (2025). Beyond Marble and Metal. *United Nations Offices: The Bahá'í International Community*