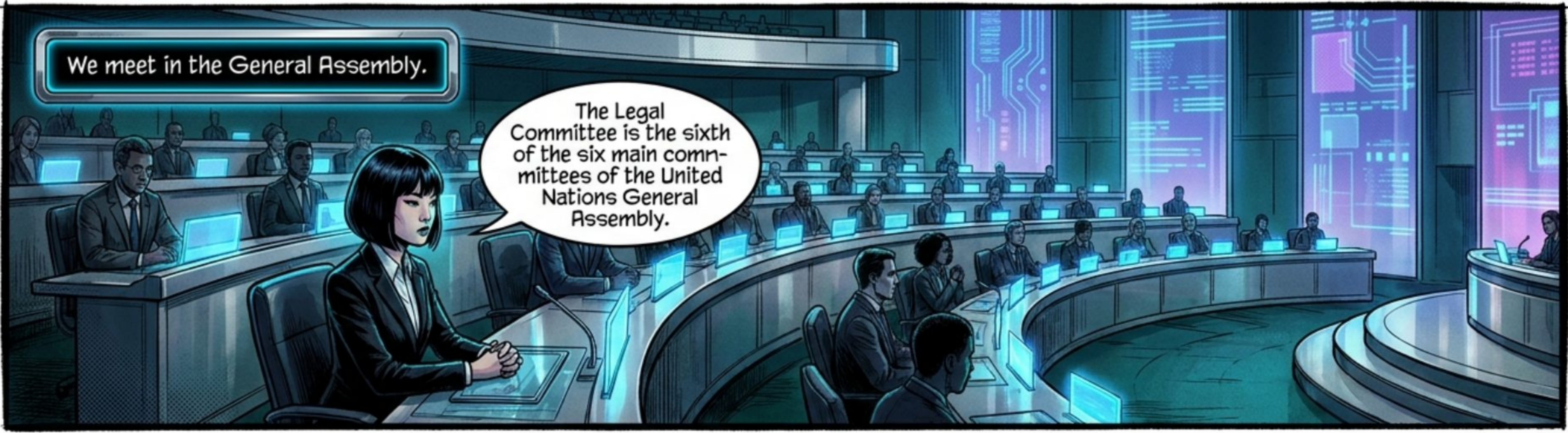


HMDC Presents . . .

The Legal Committee





We meet in the General Assembly.

The Legal Committee is the sixth of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly.



We use a short name.

Because we are the sixth main committee, people often call us the Sixth Committee.



Every member state takes part.

Every country which belongs to the United Nations has a seat on this committee.

All nations may speak.

This means all 193 member states may take part and speak.

We examine legal issues.

The main function of the Sixth Committee is the examination of legal issues in the programme of the General Assembly.

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Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

We focus on law.

We read the programme and we study the legal questions inside it.

We help build law.

The purpose of the Legal Committee is to help countries build and agree on international law.

Nations accept these rules.

International law is the set of rules which nations accept.

The rules guide actions.

These rules decide how nations should treat each other.

The rules protect people.



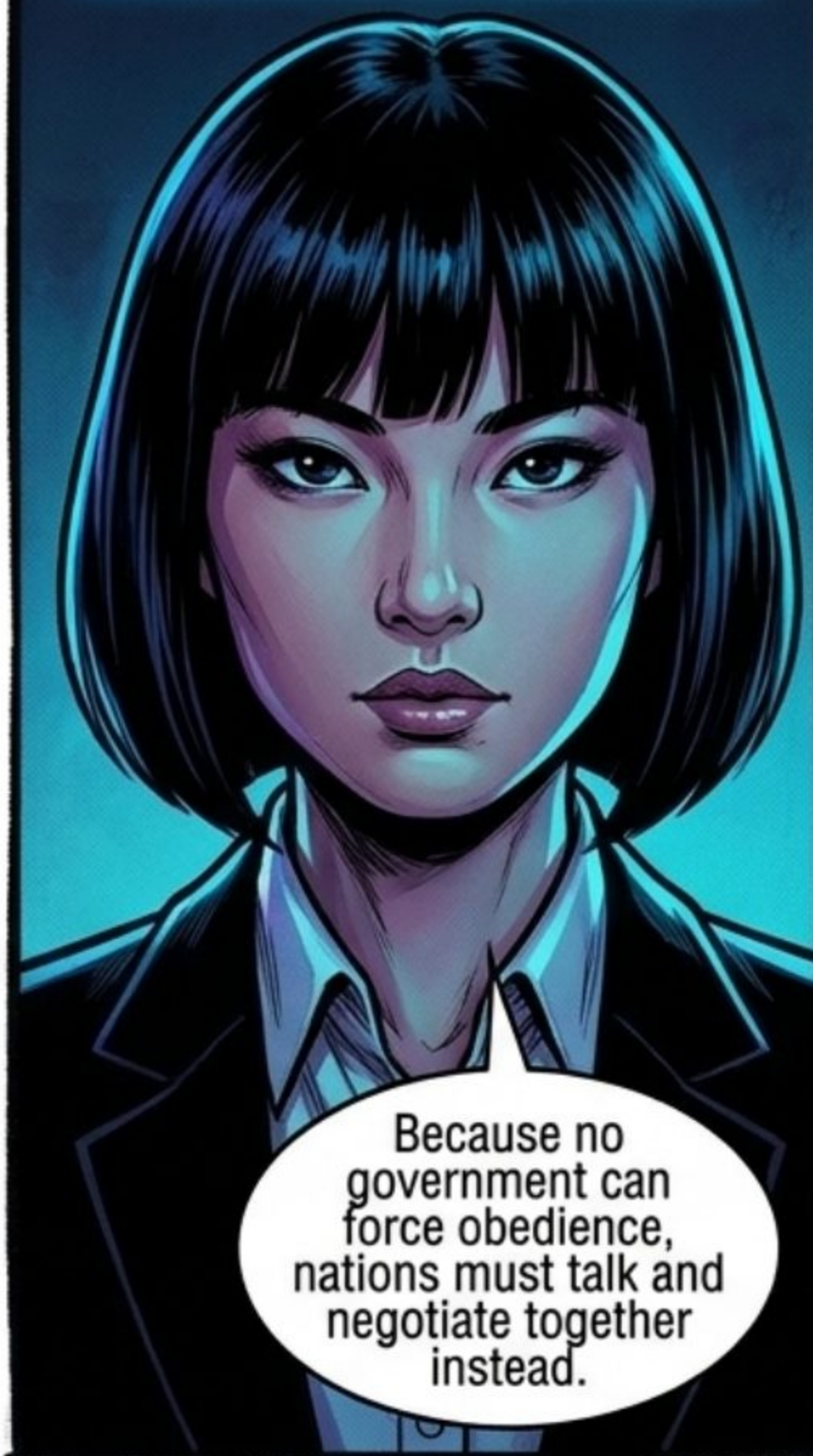
These rules
also decide how
nations behave
toward people.

There is no central power.



There is no single
world government
which can force every
nation to obey.

We cannot force obedience.



Because no
government can
force obedience,
nations must talk and
negotiate together
instead.

We must agree.

We must agree together on these rules.

We do careful legal work.

The Legal Committee is the main forum at the United Nations where this careful legal work happens.

We meet in this chamber.

This room is where we build that agreement.

"We connect to the United Nations."

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

We support the duty of the General Assembly, which is written in the UN Charter.

We encourage legal development.

Codification makes rules clear.

We encourage the development and the codification of international law.

Codification means we create new rules and we write existing rules down clearly.

We work with experts.

We work together with the International Law Commission, which is a group of legal experts.

Established in 1947

**Established
in 1947**

The experts study difficult subjects.

The commission studies difficult legal subjects and writes detailed reports.

We examine the reports.

The Sixth Committee examines these detailed reports.

A group of five people, three men and two women, are walking down a futuristic corridor. The corridor has a metallic floor and walls with glowing blue and purple lights. The people are dressed in formal attire, including suits and a futuristic bodysuit. They are walking towards the viewer.

We advise the General Assembly.

After we examine the reports, we advise the General Assembly.

We link study to choices.

Because we advise the General Assembly, we link the study done by experts to choices.

Governments make the choices.

The experts provide the study, which helps our governments make the choices.

We handle many serious subjects.

We handle many serious subjects within international law.



We examine measures against terrorism.

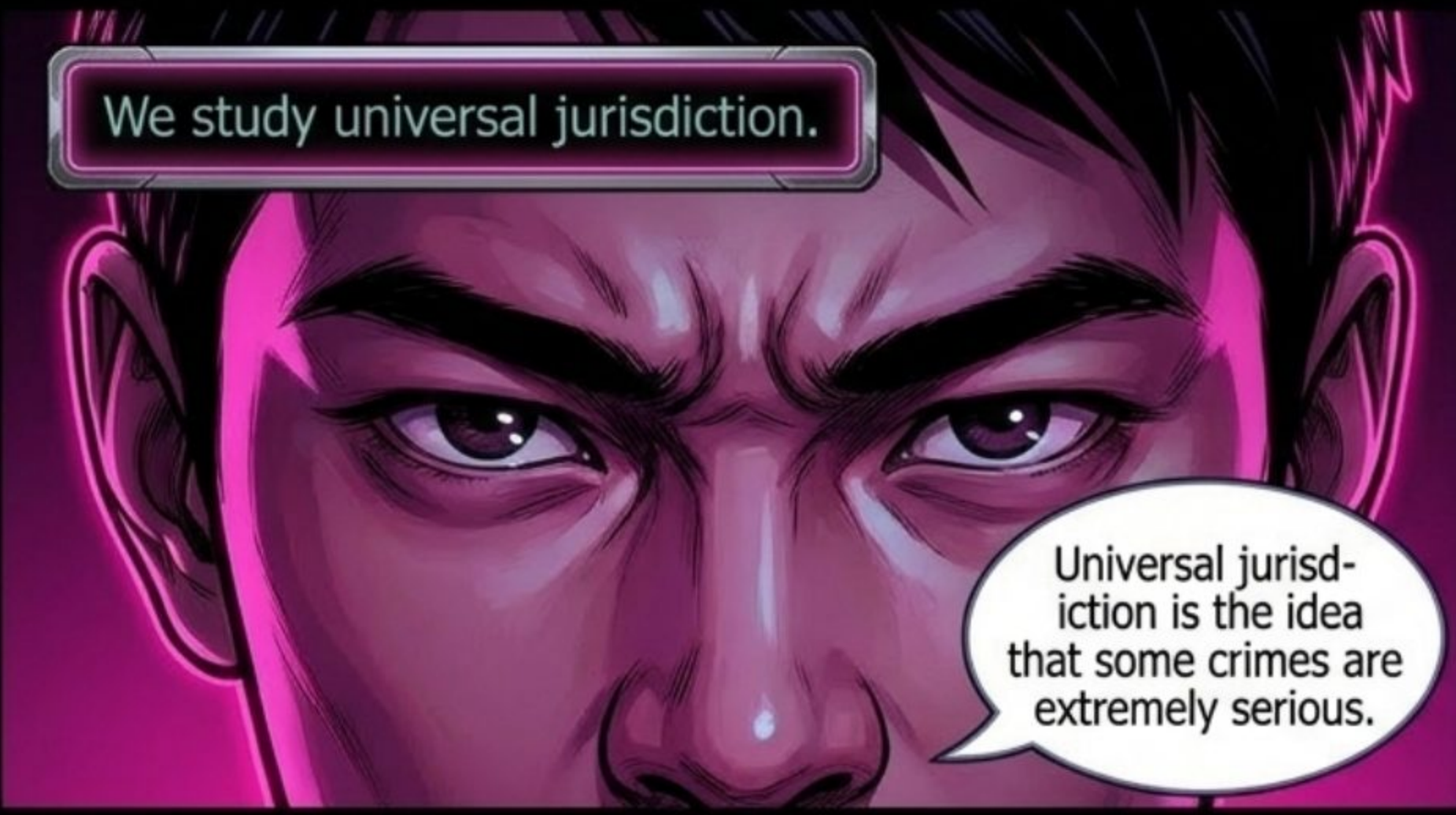
We examine measures against terrorism.



We protect diplomats.

We also examine rules for the protection of diplomats.





We study universal jurisdiction.

Universal jurisdiction is the idea that some crimes are extremely serious.



Any country may prosecute.

Because these crimes are so serious, any country may prosecute the people who commit them.



We study the rule of law.

We also handle the rule of law at the national and international levels.

"We do not pass binding laws."

The committee does not usually pass binding laws by itself.

"We prepare texts."

Instead we prepare treaties and draft legal texts.

"We recommend resolutions."

We recommend resolutions, which the General Assembly can then adopt.

"We represent our countries."

In this committee,
delegates represent their
countries.



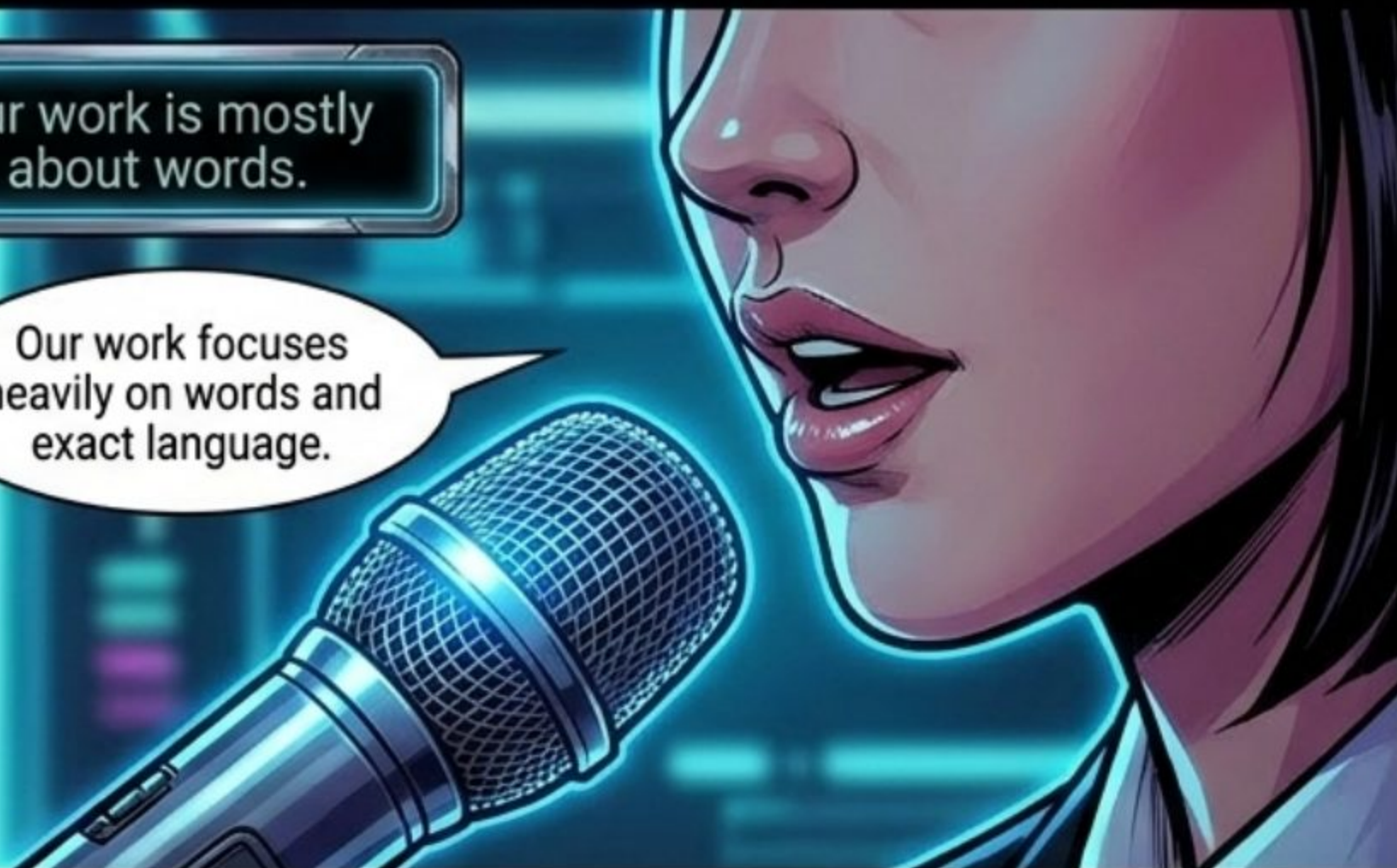
We speak for our
government.

We speak for the
legal position of our
government.



Our work is mostly
about words.

Our work focuses
heavily on words and
exact language.



Exact wording changes meaning.

We focus on words because the exact wording of a treaty can change what it means.

COMPROMISE

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Words change how texts are used.

The exact wording of a resolution also changes how it will be used in the future.

COMPROMISE

We must be precise.

COMPROMISE

Because words hold this power, we must write every sentence with extreme care.

We give speeches.

Delegates give speeches and listen closely to other nations.

We search for shared language.

We search for shared language which many countries can accept.

We negotiate in smaller groups.

We negotiate in smaller groups and propose changes to the text.

We build agreement slowly.

We try to build agreement one step at a time, because our nations have different interests.

Patience helps us succeed.

Because our legal systems differ, patience and clear reasoning help us succeed.

We help the world share rules.

Through this slow and careful process, we help create rules which nations around the world can share.

HMDC Presents . . .

This program is designed to assist our students in understanding, research, and preparation for the upcoming forensics events.

If you have any questions, please ask your coach or contact
Coach Bill at billeddy@gmail.com