

GSMUN Training | 2011

A guide to preparing for the Governor's School Model United Nations Conference, to be held March 25-26, 2011, at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. For more assistance, delegates can visit the conference website at <http://www.gsmun14.weebly.com>

Delegate Guide

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An Introduction to the United Nations

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the UN Charter had been ratified by a majority of the original 51 Member States. The day is now celebrated each year around the world as United Nations Day.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

There are currently 191 Members of the United Nations. They meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest thing to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote, however, none of the decisions taken by the Assembly are binding. Nevertheless, the Assembly's decisions become resolutions that carry the weight of world governmental opinion.

The United Nations Headquarters is in New York City but the land and buildings are international territory. The United Nations has its own flag, its own post office and its own postage stamps. Six official languages are used at the United Nations - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The UN European Headquarters is in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. It has offices in Vienna, Austria and Economic Commissions in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Amman in Jordan, Bangkok in Thailand and Santiago in Chile. The senior officer of the United Nations Secretariat is the Secretary-General.

The Aims of the United Nations:

- To keep peace throughout the world.
- To develop friendly relations between nations.
- To work together to help people live better lives, to eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world, to stop environmental destruction and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms.
- To be a centre for helping nations achieve these aims.

The Principles of the United Nations:

- All Member States have sovereign equality.
- All Member States must obey the Charter.
- Countries must try to settle their differences by peaceful means.
- Countries must avoid using force or threatening to use force.
- The UN may not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country.
- Countries should try to assist the United Nations.

The Predecessor: The League of Nations

The League of Nations was founded immediately after the First World War. It originally consisted of 42 countries, 26 of which were non-European. At its largest, 57 countries were members of the League. The League was created because a number of people in France, South Africa, the UK and the US believed that a world organization of nations could keep the peace and prevent a repetition of the horrors of the 1914-18 war in Europe. An effective world body now seemed possible because communications were so much better and there was increasing experience of working together in international organizations. Coordination and cooperation for economic and social progress were becoming important.

The League had two basic aims. Firstly, it sought to preserve the peace through collective action. Disputes would be referred to the League's Council for arbitration and conciliation. If necessary, economic and then military sanctions could be used. In other words, members undertook to defend other members from aggression. Secondly, the League aimed to promote international cooperation in economic and social affairs.

The end of the League

As the Second World War unfolded, it became clear that the League had failed in its chief aim of keeping the peace. The League had no military power of its own. It depended on its members' contributions; and its members were not willing to use sanctions, economic or military. Moral authority was insufficient.

Several Big Powers failed to support the League: the United States crucially never joined; Germany was a member for only seven years from 1926 and the USSR for only five years from 1934; Japan and Italy both withdrew in the 30s. The League then depended mainly on Britain and France, who were understandably hesitant to act forcefully. It was indeed difficult for governments long accustomed to operating independently to work through this new organization.

The UN Charter

Even as the Second World War raged, the leaders of Britain, China, the US and the USSR, under intense pressure from the press and public, discussed the details of a post-war organization. In 1944 representatives of China, the UK, the US and the USSR meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, prepared a blueprint for an international organization. Towards the end of the war representatives of 50 countries gathered in San Francisco between April and June 1945 to hammer out the final text that would lay the foundations of international cooperation. This was the Charter of the United Nations, signed on 26 June by 50 countries. Poland, the 51st country, was not able to send a representative to the San Francisco conference but is considered an original member.

Although the League was abandoned, most of its ideals and some of its structure were kept by the United Nations and outlined in its Charter. The ideals of peace and social and economic progress remained the basic goals of the new world organization. However, these were developed to fit the new and more complex post-war world.

The League's Council was transformed into the Security Council consisting of the five victors of the war as permanent members and ten other countries serving two year terms. The five permanent members - China, France, the UK, the USSR, and the US were also given veto power, which means that decisions taken by the Security Council can be blocked by any of the five permanent members. This is significant firstly because the Security Council is the principle UN organ.

The UN Structure

The basic structure of the United Nations is outlined in an organizational chart (see page 6). What the structure does not show is that decision-making within the UN system is not as easy as in many other organizations. The UN is not an independent, homogeneous organization; it is made up of states, so actions by the UN depend on the will of Member States, to accept, fund or carry them out. Especially in matters of peace-keeping and international politics, it requires a complex, often slow, process of consensus-building that must take into account national sovereignty as well as global needs.

The UN Today

The United Nations is responsible for ensuring peace, and, secondly, because it is the only body whose decisions are binding on all Member States. Since the creation of the UN the balance of Big Powers has changed and over one hundred new Member States, mainly non-Western, have joined. With these changes have come increasing demands to reform the Security Council.

The brief provision for Social Activities in the League's Covenant was turned into a comprehensive prescription for international economic and social cooperation, with the aim of achieving conditions of stability and well-being recognised as essential for peaceful relations among nations. Under the aegis of a new organ, the Economic and Social Council, the work of existing and anticipated Specialized Agencies in the fields of labour, education, health, agriculture, development and many others would be coordinated within the UN system. Racism and repression demanded that another, new, people's element should enter emphatically into the Charter, that of rights. Many sorts of rights, from the right to self-determination, which encouraged the independence of colonized peoples, to general human rights, which aimed to protect individuals, are enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and two Covenants which have become major, standard-setting additions to international law..

The Specialized Agencies, while part of the UN system, are separate, autonomous intergovernmental organizations which work with the UN and with each other. The agencies carry out work relating to specific fields such as trade, communications, air and maritime transport, agriculture and development. Although they have more autonomy, their work within a country or between countries is always carried out in partnership with those countries. They also depend on funds from Member States to achieve their goals. Recently, international conferences organised by the UN have gained significance. UN conferences have been held since the 1960s, but with the Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, they turned into real fora for deciding on national and international policy regarding issues that affect everyone such as the environment, human rights and economic development. Since the Earth Summit, UN conferences have turned into forums in which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can voice their concerns alongside those of governments. Such conferences focus world attention on these issues and place them squarely on the global agenda. Yet, once the international agreements produced by these conferences are signed, it is still up to each individual country to carry them out. With the moral weight of international conferences and the pressures of media and NGOs, Member States are more likely to endorse the agreements and put them into effect.

What is Model UN?

From the GSMUN “Big Book”

Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations that allows students to learn about global issues by representing the interests and policies of countries from around the world. It is a challenging, enjoyable forum for learning about international affairs and enhancing skills in negotiation and public speaking.

Model United Nations is specifically designed to increase awareness of what needs to be accomplished in the world of international affairs and to guide its participants towards finding viable solutions for issues complicated by the processes of international diplomacy. Students assume the roles of delegates from states represented in the actual United Nations. After researching their country’s policies and positions on various issues, delegates debate and write resolutions in an effort to create a consensual solution to the problem at hand. As they participate in this realistic forum of debate, delegates realize the problems involved with implementing theoretical positions in a practical context and understand the process by which constructive solutions are accepted and rejected in the world community. Knowledge of foreign affairs and public speaking experience are helpful, but not crucial; both will be acquired through participation in a Model United Nations simulation.

Therefore, in accordance with the philosophy of Model United Nations, delegates will participate in a lively forum conducted within the framework of the United Nations and its associated bodies, discussing and attempting to resolve critical issues facing our global community. We have created an environment that allows students to utilize skills of critical thinking, negotiation, and cooperation in order to practice the art of diplomatic relations in a modern world.

Model UN Strategies for Success

From Governor's School Students

- ❖ Sit at the front and make yourself known to the committee.
- ❖ Introduce yourself and learn everyone's names.
- ❖ Provide leadership and start action.
- ❖ Don't be afraid of compromise. This is the heart of diplomacy. You may want to use such corny phrases as "can't we all get along?" This is fine, but do not use canned analogies. You will be surprised how many schools do this.
- ❖ Always be respectful of others and courteous. Speaking over people is not effective, even if many people try to do it.
- ❖ When discussing resolutions, try to use as specific language as possible.
- ❖ Keep the big picture in mind. Strong, basic ideas in resolutions are most important.
- ❖ Never overlook the delegates who sit in the back. Getting them involved will give you unexpected allies.
- ❖ Bargain from a position of strength in private negotiations (caucuses).
- ❖ Don't be afraid of the speaker's list. If you don't have enough to speak on, or you get too nervous, you can always yield your time.
- ❖ Be yourself! Don't feel like you have to play a part to "compete" with others. Being yourself will make you less nervous.
- ❖ Public speaking is a skill that takes practice! Try reading parts of your position paper to a friend.
- ❖ Consider your audience. They won't have a copy of your paper, so speak clearly and loudly. Rooms can be large and sound doesn't carry well, so this is very important.
- ❖ You don't need to memorize speeches. Note cards work just as well, and you can always remember what you were going to say.
- ❖ Make eye contact. If you feel uncomfortable looking directly at people, look at the tops of their heads.
- ❖ LEARNING IS FUN! The point of Model UN is to learn about diplomacy and different countries. When someone tries to teach you something, listen and learn.
- ❖ Don't get too serious- remember that you are also there to have fun and meet new people.

What to Expect: Committee Structure

Committee Structure may vary some depending on the conference and size of the committee. In all committees, however, delegates are expected to act in the fashion of an actual United Nations representative participating in debate on issues of international concern. Sessions will alternate between formal debate, during which delegates speak to the entire committee according to the speakers list (an order determined by the dais), and caucusing, which allows delegates to write and informally discuss resolutions. After several rounds of formal debate, caucusing, and resolution writing, delegates will vote on resolutions per their countries' positions.

The Role of a Delegate

Delegates use formal rules and procedures to discuss problems currently being addressed by the diplomats and politicians whom they are representing in committee. Just as the United Nations takes action to resolve these conflicts and concerns by issuing written instructions or recommendations, delegates participating in MUN committees write resolutions or recommendations that require or request action from other countries and organizations to remedy the situation in question. In drafting these resolutions, delegates should work with others representing governments with similar positions or interests, or governments with which their country has a tradition of alliance or amicable relations (i.e. a delegate from the United States, perhaps ought to work with the United Kingdom as opposed to North Korea). In any event, delegates should not compromise their countries' policies or national security in aligning themselves with other delegates. But this will be explained in depth in a later presentation.

Delegate Behavior

All delegates should be:

-Courteous. Every MUN participant has the responsibilities of being respectful, polite, and exhibiting pleasant behavior toward the dais and other delegates. Conversations should be taken outside of the committee, so that the speaker has the undivided attention of the entire audience. Delegates should approach the podium with constructive comments and suggestions for action that will move the debate forward, not with criticism for another delegate. It is *never* appropriate to openly criticize another for his or her mistakes, incorrect policy, research or information (i.e. be diplomatic).

-Leaders. There are two kinds of leaders in committee sessions: those that frequently raise their placards to participate in debate and engage in parliamentary procedure, and those who act as behind-the-scenes collaborators to craft meaningful resolutions. The most effective delegates are those who are able to combine both of these characteristics of leadership.

-Listeners. Half of a delegate's time in committee is spent speaking to other delegates practicing diplomacy, and the other half, and arguably the more important of the two, is time spent listening. Only by listening is a delegate able to follow the flow of the debate and make meaningful additions to it. Prewritten speeches, while they can be reassuring, appear forced or out of place if they do not tie connect with the ideas or comments of previous speakers.

-Succinct. Most of a delegate's opportunities to address the committee as a whole are in short, thirty-second comments and replies from the speakers' list or during moderated caucuses. This may seem like an exceedingly brief time allotment, but it is sufficient if the delegate conveys only one or two concise points, chosen to encourage continued debate.

How to Research and Write a Position Paper:

When you have received your country and committee assignments, the following guide will help you with your research and the creation of your position paper. The position paper is very important and serves several purposes:

- ❖ To familiarize you with the foreign policy of your nation, or the views of your particular person (for specialized committees)
- ❖ To familiarize you with the topics you will be discussing in committee
- ❖ To help you find appropriate resources for further information
- ❖ To make you eligible for committee awards

To prepare yourself for the conference and the paper it will be helpful to follow the process outlined below.

1. Start by carefully reading the background guide for your committee. Highlight, question, and make note of its key points. Pay attention to the instructions from your committee chairperson. They often include the chair's philosophy and expectations for your paper.
2. Look at the source list for the background guide. What kind of materials did the author use? Read these for further depth and insight.
3. Contact your chair if you have any questions at all about the committee or the topics.
4. Once you are familiar with the topics it is time to find your nation's views on the issues. Start by researching the general policies of your country:
 - a. With whom does your nation usually work? Who are your allies?
 - b. What countries do you not get along with?
 - c. What are your major foreign policy concerns?
 - d. What are your most important domestic issues?
 - e. How does your country view the role of the UN?
5. Follow this with research on the specific topics for your committee:
 - a. Do the issues relate to your nation in any specific way?
 - b. Has your country printed any material on your topic, or does it belong to a group that has?
 - c. What solutions to the problems have been attempted by your country?
 - d. What kinds of solutions is your nation likely to support?

RESEARCH: To answer these questions will require substantial research. Fortunately, the Internet has made this process very manageable. The following websites will be especially useful:

1. <http://www.un.org> – Will tell you everything you need to know about the structure of your committee, past actions that have been taken and items on the upcoming UN agenda. You can discover which nations voted in favor of and against UN resolutions. Spend a significant amount of time here!
2. <http://www.un.int/index-en/webs.html> - This will take you directly to the home pages of the UN missions for your nation. Most are in English or have English versions. If you are lucky and good at your research you may find actual speeches and press releases by your country on your topics.

3. <http://ciaonet.org/> - Colombia International Affairs Online. An excellent site that has compiled resolutions, working papers, policy briefs and other relevant information. It does require a subscription, but you can sign up for a free trial- highly recommended!
4. <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> - The CIA World Factbook will give you basic demographic and map information about all UN nations. A good basic resource to help you learn about your nation.
5. <http://www.nationmaster.com/> - All the statistics you could possibly want! Create your own graphs comparing developed and developing nations in terms of rates of female literacy, or rank African countries based on the number of refugees in each. A lot of fun, and it has interesting, unusual statistics that others might not find.
6. <http://www.state.gov/p/io/mdlun/> - The US Department of State received so many questions about Model UN that they created their own Model UN website. Great if you are interested in US policies, and it also links to other student resources.
7. <http://www.library.yale.edu/un/index.html> - Yale University has a UN studies program. The website states “The United Nations Scholars' Workstation, developed by the Yale University Library and the Social Science Statistical Laboratory, is a collection of texts, finding aids, data sets, maps, and pointers to print and electronic information. Subject coverage includes disarmament, economic and social development, environment, human rights, international relations, international trade, peacekeeping, and population and demography.”
8. <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/> - Links to online newspapers from nations around the world.
9. <http://www.inkdrop.net/dave/news.html> - ENGLISH ONLY online newspapers.

Tips for students in specialized agencies (small and crisis committees):

- ❖ Read your background guide carefully- you may or may not be required to write a paper. Email your committee chair if you are unsure.
- ❖ It is important for you to understand the overall role of your country or your specific person within your committee. If you are representing a specific nation, you can conduct research much as you would for any other committee. Try to discover the dynamics of your committee- who are your allies and adversaries?
- ❖ If you are representing a specific person, you must learn their role and responsibilities in addition to your nation’s overall policies. For example, the Prime Minister might come from a different political party than the Minister of Defense, and they might therefore disagree on policy issues. Try to also discern your person’s responsibilities- do you lead or tend to follow another member of the committee?
- ❖ Be ready to think on your feet and to be flexible. These committees are often more informal in terms of procedure, but they will require you to think and act as a group to deal with specific events and to grapple with the consequences of your own actions.
- ❖ HAVE FUN!

Getting to Know Your Country: Basic Research

Government

Official Country Name: _____

Governmental System: _____

Head of State: _____

Official Language(s): _____

Major Political Parties: _____

Allies/Blocs: _____

People

Population and growth rate: _____

Major Religions or cultures: _____

Standard of Living: _____

Development

Developmental Status: _____

Environmental (problems, innovations, etc.): _____

Has the nation met the Millennium Development Goal
Targets? _____

Economy

Economic System: _____

GDP and Growth Rate: _____

Major Cities: _____

Infrastructure Status (good, poor, etc.): _____

Trade Blocs/Associations: _____

Balance of Payments/Trade: _____

Major Imports: _____

Major Exports: _____

Primary Trade Partners: _____

International Monetary Fund, World Bank position (debtor nation? donor nation?): _____

Natural Resources: _____

Energy Sources: _____

Military

Military Organization: _____

Percent of GDP Spent on Defense: _____

Major Weapons, Nuclear Capability,
etc.: _____

United Nations Involvement

Date of admission to the United Nations: _____

Has the UN ever had to intervene in any conflict involving this nation?

Has the UN ever cited this country for human rights violations?

Conflicts and Issues

Ethnic/Cultural Issues?

Refugee Problems?

Major conflicts, past and present:

Sample Position Paper

Committee: Ad-Hoc Committee on Peacekeeping

Country: Portugal

Delegates: John Smith and Jane Doe

School: Maggie Walker Governor's School

Country Introduction:

The Portuguese Republic (Portugal) is in southwestern Europe, and it has been a part of the United Nations since 1955. A founding member of the North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO), Portugal has strong ties to the United States of America. As part of the North Atlantic Treaty that resulted in the establishment of NATO, Portugal “agreed that an armed attack against one or more of [the parties of NATO] in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.” Furthermore, Portugal was the first neutral country to recognize the US after the Revolutionary War. Additionally, the Portugal has been a key ally in US-led efforts in Iraq.

Portugal is also an integral part of the European Union and has been moving toward greater political and economic integration ever since it became a member in 1986. It has also been a significant beneficiary of the EU and is one of the strongest proponents of European integration. Portugal held the presidency of the EU Council in late 2007, and during that time, it oversaw the signing of the new EU reform treaty, staged EU summits with many large countries, and held a second EU-Africa summit.

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance between Portugal and the UK is the oldest alliance in the world still in force today. Signed in 1373, it has played a major part in foreign policy in Portugal's past. Portugal remained neutral in WWII, but this treaty was invoked by the Allies to establish bases on the Azores. Portugal has strong ties with the biggest superpowers in the world – the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Portugal's alliances with these two countries guide the majority of the nation's foreign policy.

Topic #1: The Peacekeeping Mission in Kashmir:

For the majority of the 20th century and all of the 21st century, India and Pakistan, in addition to China, have been fighting over Kashmir. The United Nations has tried to help the situation by sending in peacekeeping forces since the late 1940s. The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has played an important role in maintaining this peace, but the current Indian government does not legitimize UNMOGIP activity, since it believes that the mandate of UNMOGIP has lapsed.

Portugal believes that, like its allies, the United States and the United Kingdom, both sides of the conflict should exercise restraint, respect the Line of Control (LoC), denounce violence, and foster dialogue in order to reclaim a time when their relationship was friendlier.

Portugal suggests many reforms to help achieve the aforementioned goals. First, Portugal strongly believes, as does the EU, that the UNMOGIP should be recognized by India because the group is best suited for monitoring the infiltration across the LoC. India exaggerates its numbers and does not trust Pakistan's numbers. Similarly, Pakistan does not trust India's numbers: The UNMOGIP is a neutral and unbiased entity that can observe LoC violations. Portugal urges the Indian government to reconsider its position on UNMOGIP involvement so that the group can be free to carry out its mandate.

Furthermore, Portugal is in favor of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), which are actions taken to reduce the fear of attack by both parties in a situation without physical conflict. Portugal feels that CBMs can be used to facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan, and the tangible outcomes of these meetings would lead to a speedy agreement and sustain the peace

process.

Finally, Portugal is in favor of reaching an end to violence and terrorism as soon as possible. Currently, the majority of violence stems from three sources: Indian security forces, the efforts of the Kashmir freedom fighters, and cross-border terrorism. If these can be checked, Portugal believes that peace can be attained. Portugal suggests curbing violence and terrorism through stronger enforcement of the rules issued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for the state situation. Portugal also recommends that detainees be better monitored for human rights reasons; currently, over 700,000 security forces regularly and intensely repress the Kashmiris. Kashmir has even been called “the world’s most beautiful prison.” Portugal feels that monitoring the detainees would discourage human rights violations.

Portugal is very willing to help expedite this process. Just last month, in January 2008, Portugal was one of the top contributors of military and police to UN operations, giving 348 men and women, which is just 18 fewer than the UK and more than the US.

Topic #2: The Creation of a Permanent United Nations Peacekeeping Force:

Many members of the United Nations have been calling for more efficient ways to sustain peace and security in the international community, especially after the Rwandan genocide. Portugal was one of the first countries to send troops in an attempt to quell the violence of the East Timorese crisis in 2006. In addition, Portugal supported the peacekeeping UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), sending 140 troops. Portugal also participated in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

An active and long-time member of the European Union, Portugal believes that regional and sub-regional organizations play an important role in ensuring peace and security because they can better understand the situation in the region at the time of crisis. For over 20 years, Portugal has been advocating the cooperation of the EU and the UN in order to attain world peace. The EU has consistently supported UN Peacekeeping Operations, responsible for over 40 percent of the UN peacekeeping budget. Furthermore, Portugal played a major role in funding the peacekeeping force of the African Union (AU) in Darfur. The EU contributed more than €385 million to support the operations of the AU for the purpose of enhancing the institutional capacity of the AU. Clearly, the EU and Portugal are ready to donate financially when it comes to keeping the peace in the world, something Portugal strongly suggests other countries do as well. With that said, Portugal will be willing to cooperate with any program that seeks to keep and maintain world peace, including a permanent UN peacekeeping force.

One of the main issues in creating and maintaining peacekeeping missions is the human cost. Portugal believes that the training of peacekeepers is very important to the success of a mission and can reduce casualties significantly, which makes it more appealing for other nations to become actively involved. If a permanent UN peacekeeping force is created, Portugal believes that a training facility should be created, regardless of whether the troops of member-states have been trained before. Portugal views credibility of the UN as a very important factor when considering peacekeeping troops. Portugal also believes that the UN should create recreational activities for the peacekeepers to minimize misconduct.

In summary, Portugal supports the idea of cooperating with regional organizations in peacekeeping operations. However, Portugal will aid the UN if it resolves to create a permanent peacekeeping force and will support any program that would keep the peace and security of the international community.

A Guide to Writing Resolutions

What is a Resolution?

- Written suggestions addressing a specific problem or issue
- Final results of discussion, writing and negotiation
- Normally require a simple majority to pass

*Note: Only Security Council resolutions can compel nations to take action. All other UN bodies use resolutions to make recommendations or suggestions for future action.

Structure of a Resolution

- Draft resolutions are all resolutions that have not yet been voted on
- A resolution is one long sentence with sections separated by commas and semicolons.
- There are three main parts to a draft resolution:
 - the heading – states the committee, topic, resolution number, sponsors and signatories
 - the preamble - describes the current situation
 - the operative section – describes actions that the committee will take

Preambulatory Clauses

- Reasons why the committee is addressing the topic
- Highlights past international action on the issue
- Preambulatory clauses can include:
 - References to the *UN Charter*
 - Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion
 - Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency
 - Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue
 - General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact

Operative Clauses

- Actions or recommendations made in a resolution
- Begin with a verb and end with a semicolon
- Should be organized in a logical progression, with each containing a single idea or proposal
- If a clause requires further explanation, bulleted lists set off by letters or roman numerals can also be used
- After the last operative clause, the resolution ends in a period

Sponsors and Signatories

- Sponsors - principal authors of the document and agree with its substance, usually several countries working together, control a draft resolution and approve immediate changes
- Signatories - countries that may or may not agree with the substance of the draft resolution but still wish to see it debated

*Note: 1/5 of the committee must be either sponsors or signatories to a draft resolution in order for it to be accepted.

Amendments

- An amendment is a written statement that adds, deletes or revises an operative clause in a draft resolution.
- The amendment process is used to strengthen consensus on a resolution, allows delegates to change sections.
- There are two types of amendments:
 - A friendly amendment is a change to the draft resolution with which all sponsors agree and which is automatically incorporated into the resolution.
 - An unfriendly amendment is a change that some or all of the draft resolution's sponsors do not support. To be introduced, an unfriendly amendment must have 1/5 the body as signatories, and to pass, the amendment must receive a 2/3 majority vote.

Training Session Notes:

UN Overview: The purposes of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.

UN History: Teddy Roosevelt was the first to use the term “United Nations,” but the organization, meant to be a replacement for the failed League of Nations, did not appear until 1942, when the Declaration of the United Nations was presented. Three years later, the United Nations Charter was signed by the first countries in San Francisco.

Parliamentary Procedure (Parli-Pro): Determines the flow of committee.

Attendance: The chair will take attendance of all countries or persons present. When a delegate’s name is called, he or she may say “present” or “present and voting.” When a delegate identifies his or herself as “present and voting,” he or she may not abstain from voting on substantive issues. All delegates vote on procedural matters, such as whether or not to open a caucus.

Speaker’s List: This is the default mode of debate. As soon as a topic is chosen, someone will motion to open the Speaker’s List with a set speaking time. At that point, a delegate may raise his or her placard to be placed on the Speaker’s List, which will be kept through all of committee.

Moderated Caucuses: These are the most common and quickest form of debate. A delegate motions for a moderated caucus, which requires a simple majority vote to pass. This motion includes a speaking time and a total time. During the moderated caucus, the chair selects each speaker.

Unmoderated Caucuses: During this form of caucus, the rules of debate are suspended, and delegates may move freely throughout the committee room to discuss with other delegates. This is an ideal time to work on working papers.

Voting Procedure: While a committee is in voting procedure, no delegates may enter or exit, and there is no more substantive debate. When a committee expects a strange vote total, a delegate may motion for a roll call vote in order to more easily see every delegate’s vote. In such cases a delegate may respond with:

“Yes.” The delegate is in favor of passing the draft resolution.

“No.” The delegate wishes to see the draft resolution fail.

“Yes/No with rights.” When a delegate casts a vote different from expected, he or she may briefly explain the decision at the end of roll call vote.

“Pass.” A delegate may wait to cast his or her vote until all other nations have cast theirs. After saying “pass,” a delegate may not abstain from voting.

“Abstain.” When a delegate’s country has no real stance on an issue or there is no benefit to voting “yes” or “no,” a delegate may refrain from voting. Delegates who responded “present and voting” during attendance may not abstain.

Points:

Point of Inquiry (Parliamentary Inquiry): Used to ask procedural questions of the chair.

Point of Personal Privilege: Used to draw attention to extremely uncomfortable working conditions (i.e. freezing cold, inability to hear a speaker)

Point of Information: Used to ask a substantive question

Motions:

Set the Agenda: “Motion to set the agenda with _____ as the first item, followed by...”

Must be seconded; 2 speakers for and 2 speakers against; Must be passed by a majority

Start a Caucus: “Motion for a ___ minute (un)moderated caucus with a ___ speaking time for the purpose of ___.”

Must be passed by a majority and deemed acceptable by the chair

Move into Voting Procedure: “Motion to close debate and move into voting procedure.”

Must be passed by a 2/3 majority.

Resolutions:

A resolution is the (very long) sentence your committee aims to produce as a solution to the particular issue or situation.

Resolutions are only called resolutions once they are passed by the majority of a committee.

When they are being drafted by delegates, before submission to the chair, they are known as working papers. After submission and before they are voted upon, the proper term is draft resolution.

See pg. 15 for more information.

For more information:

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