

WSO MUN

2018



Delegate's Handbook



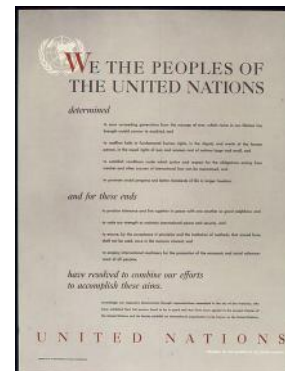
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The United Nations and the birth of MUN

The suicide of a dictator who committed one of the most atrocious genocides in history, the death of over sixty million people and the explosion of the first and only atomic bombs in history to be dropped on a nation; Thus were the ramifications of World War II. The world was scarred and with the league of nations, proving to be somewhat ineffective, the superpowers needed a more concrete forum as a medium for cooperation and maintenance of peace between nations. On 26 June 1945 the United States drew up the charter for the United Nations. The first meeting of the United Nations (1946) was attended by 51 nations. Today, the United Nations is comprised of 192 nations. The United Nations is an organisation committed to international co-operation, security and maintaining peace between nations. It played a significant role acting as a peace moderator between the two superpowers during the Cold War.



Originally started by Harvard University, by the mid 1950s all the Ivy League Universities started to hold their own MUN. Nowadays, MUN is more popularly held at high schools rather than universities. Model United Nations, also referred to as MUN or Model UN, is a simulation of the United Nations. The student delegates play roles as diplomats representing a nation or Non-Government Organisation in any one of the assemblies/councils. Delegates discuss many global issues, ranging from peace, security, and international cooperation to justice, human rights and cultural integrity. While individuals represent different countries, they must come up with effective and realistic solutions, good enough to be implemented in the real world.

WSOMUN Topics:

UNHRC	UNICEF	UNSC (AC)	UNCSW
Evaluating potential human rights infringements by technological development	Protecting Children's Right to Healthcare and Education During Warfare and Crisis	Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea	Addressing the Impact of Female Genital Mutilation and Honor Killings
Deploing the Rohingya persecution in Myanmar to aid urgent action to prevent the possibility of genocide	The Role of Children in Drug Trafficking	Addressing North Korea's right to Nuclear Power	Promoting the involvement of women in the Government and its economic development
UNHCR	GA1 DISEC	GA3 SOCHUM	
Addressing the Needs of Children and the Disabled in the Resettlement Process	Responding to the threat of bioterrorism and improvised explosive devices	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	
Preventing Infectious Diseases in Syrian Refugee Communities	Establishing Security Strategies for Countering Cyber Warfare in the Digital Age	Education for Refugee Populations	



Schedule

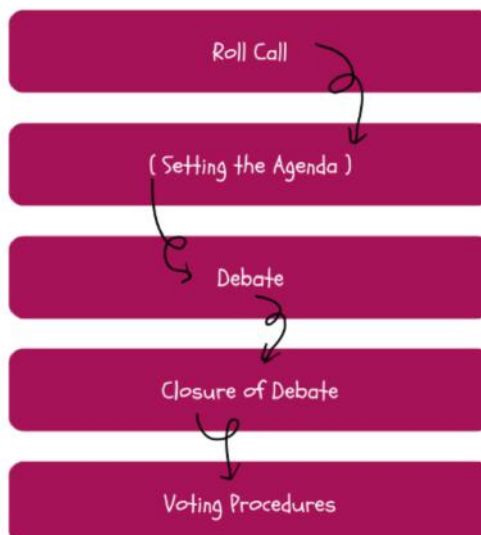
DAY 1 - Thursday 22nd March 2018		
Timings	Activity	Venue
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Registration	Reception
4:00pm - 4:45pm	Opening Ceremony	Auditorium
4:45pm - 6:30pm	Committee Session 1	4G Classrooms + BLP
6:30pm - 7:00pm	Break	Canteen
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Committee Session 2	4G Classrooms + BLP

DAY 2 - Friday 23rd March 2018		
Timings	Activity	Venue
9:30am - 12:00pm	Committee Session 3	4G Classrooms + BLP
12:00pm - 12:50pm	Break	Canteen
12:50pm - 3:30pm	Committee Session 4	4G Classrooms + BLP
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Lunch	Canteen
4:00pm - 6:00pm	Committee Session 5	4G Classrooms + BLP
6:00pm - 8:30pm	Social	Sport Hall

DAY 3 - Saturday 24th March 2018		
Timings	Activity	Venue
9:30am - 12:00pm	Committee Session 6	4G Classrooms + BLP
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Break	Canteen
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Committee Session 7	4G Classrooms + BLP
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Lunch	Canteen
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Committee Session 8	4G Classrooms + BLP
5:00pm - 5:30pm	Committees closing	4G Classrooms + BLP
5:30pm - 5:45pm	Assemble at the auditorium	Auditorium
5:45pm - 6:30pm	Awards and Closing Ceremony	Auditorium

Flow of debate: UNA-USA format

*Be prepared for an opening speech after the agenda is set.





Research Reports

When you get assigned a country, you should start researching your stance on the country. In addition, it's important to know general information about your country, such as the political framework, leadership, indication on the status of the economy, indication of the average population, relations with other countries, etc. Also, it's beneficial to research the stance of other countries on the particular topics. ***Your chairs would have written a research report for you on each topic.*** These should be uploaded on the school's MUN website. A research report introduces the topic and suggests possible solutions to the topic to get you thinking about solutions your country wants to put forward.

Useful links


Links	Details
http://webtv.un.org	You can watch live conferences as well as old ones for every committee on this. Sometimes the topic discussed may be similar to the one given to you so you can hear other country's opinions as well that of your assigned country.
http://www.un.org/en/index.html	This is the official UN website. This has information about: member states, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the UNs goals and achievements, latest news related to the UN, etc.
https://delegatepal.com	Find statistics and details on country profile



Member Nations



<http://www.unog.ch/unaq/website/bvobshap.us/?http://publications.un.org/0118061200CASE19325701200464C5B70pendocument>

This poster was made in 2005. Since then, Montenegro  (2002) and South Sudan  (2011) have also been granted membership. The UN now comprises of 193 nations.



Lobbying

This happens before debating any topic. You should use this time effectively by communicating with other delegates to know their countries' views on the topic; this is beneficial for when debate starts. More importantly, delegates write their resolutions/clauses during lobbying time. You must attempt to complete these before lobbying ends as chairs tend to accept resolutions/clauses in the order they're submitted. Because there's a time set for debate on every topic, if you're one of the last to hand in your resolution/clauses, they may not be debated at all.

Security Council debates clause by clause. All the other committees debate resolutions as a whole.

Yields

Generally, after a delegate has finished speaking, the chair will open the floor to any and all delegates in the house. The delegate on the floor must 'yield the floor to the chair', in order for this to proceed. Else, the delegate can yield to another delegate, which means the other delegate automatically has the floor after the delegate yields. However, yields **cannot take place twice in a row**. If a delegate has yielded the floor to another delegate, the delegate who comes up to speak cannot yield the floor to another delegate- they must yield it back to the chair. Although, once the chair re-opens the floor for delegates wishing to speak, the delegate who has the floor can once again yield to another delegate. Yields are useful in General Assemblies if signatories of the resolution wish to speak on it; if you want a delegate who worked with you on the resolution to speak, it's a good idea to yield the floor to them as the chair may not give them the floor.

In summary, there are three types of yields:

- 1) **Yield to the chair**
- 2) **Yield to another delegate**
- 3) **Yield to questions/points of information**- this is opening yourself to questions from other delegate. You can specify whether the questions have to pertain to your speech, mention a certain number of questions you're willing to take or open yourself up to any and all questions.



Parliamentary Language

You must always refer to yourself in third person and refer to other delegates as 'delegate' or delegation of their assigned nation/organisation.

Motions:

Motion to move the previous question

End the debate session and start voting procedures

Motion to extend debate time

This proposes debate time to be extended for a particular resolution/clause.

Motion to extend points of information

After a delegate has spoken, they are asked whether they're open to any points of information. For example, if a delegate said 'any and all'. The chair would pick a set order of delegates. Once the delegate has answered all the questions, this motion can be made if a delegate still wishes to ask further questions.

Motion to divide the house

During voting procedures, delegates have the option to vote for, against or abstain. A motion to divide the house proposes that delegates can only vote for or against, not abstain.

Motion for moderated caucus

The chair calls upon delegates one by one to address the committee. Delegates can make brief comments on the sub-issue the motion references and these speeches must comply to the time constraints proposed by the motion.

Motion for unmoderated caucus

This gives delegates the opportunity to move from their chairs and communicate with other delegates; this allows for joint collaboration or sharing of opinions on the specific sub-issue referenced by the motion.

Points:

Point of information

Points of information may be asked to the delegate if they're open to do so after their speech. This may be about the delegate's speech, their country's views on the topic at debate or a question relating to their amendment/clause/resolution.

Point of personal privilege

You say this when you want to go the toilet for example, change the temperature of the room, have a delegate speak in a more audible manner, e.t.c.

Point of parliamentary enquiry



When you have a question about the procedures in the conference. For example, you may ask how much time is left for debate on a particular clause/amendment/resolution

Point of order

When something in the debate is out of parliamentary order. For example, the chair may have forgotten that there's still time for/against the resolution- they may have moved into voting procedures.

Security Council

The Security Council is the most powerful UN organ. Only the most experienced delegates are granted a place here. While some of the general procedures are similar, there are some differences in how the Security Council operates.

The council is composed of 15 members; five permanent (the P5) and 10 non-permanent elected for the duration of two terms by the General Assembly

The P5

*The P5 nations are the five superpowers of the world.

In Security Council, P5 nations can **veto** clauses and resolutions. The P5 nations are:

The USA

The UK

France

China

Russia

P5 moderated caucus

Any member of the P5 can motion for a P5 moderated caucus. This includes all members of the P5 present to attend to a meeting moderated by one of the chairs. Note that this is only for the P5 and no other nations are allowed to attend to be told of anything discussed at the meeting. Because the P5 have veto powers, P5 moderated caucuses are held to facilitate face-to-face talks with P5 members to discuss and negotiate solutions to a problem. Usually, when a P5 member vetoes a clause/resolution, another P5 member motions for a P5 moderated caucus. This is to ensure, the member who vetoed is able to agree on the resolution, by negotiating with the other members. After a P5 moderated caucus, any changes made to a clause/resolution are displayed for all member states. Then voting procedures begin again and generally the clause/resolution tends to pass as the member who vetoed is supposed to be satisfied with the changes. Note that this isn't



always the case and the clause/resolution may still fail due to a lacking majority or the P5 member continuing to proceed with their veto.

Non-council member states:

More than 60 or so members of the UN have never been members of the Security Council.

Below is a list of UN members who have never been elected as members of the SC:

Afghanistan	Grenada	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Albania	Haiti	Saint Lucia
Andorra	Iceland	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Antigua and Barbuda	Israel	Samoa
Armenia	Kiribati	San Marino
Bahamas	Kyrgyzstan	Sao Tome and Principe
Barbados	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Serbia
Belize	Latvia	Seychelles
Bhutan	Lesotho	Solomon Islands
Brunei Darussalam	Liechtenstein	South Sudan
Cambodia	Malawi	Suriname
Central African Republic	Maldives	Swaziland
Comoros	Marshall Islands	Switzerland
Cyprus	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Tajikistan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Monaco	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Dominica	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Dominican Republic	Montenegro	Tonga
El Salvador	Mozambique	Turkmenistan
Eritrea	Myanmar	Tuvalu
Estonia	Nauru	Uzbekistan
Fiji	Palau	Vanuatu
Georgia	Papua New Guinea	
	Republic of Moldova	

Position Papers

A position paper is a condensed version of your research based on the particular topic. The purpose of a position paper is to help you better understand your country's stance on the given topic and they're also useful during lobbying or when giving a speech. For example, in case someone asks you a question about your country such as 'how many medical personnel has your nation deployed to Afghanistan?' This isn't a common sense or general knowledge question, as it requires prior research, if you have your position paper, you can answer them immediately. Remember a position paper is no more than an A4 side, nor is it a list of facts. Your position paper has to flow, with things such as an equal distribution of facts, background information and solutions your nation proposes.

There's also an award for best position paper!

The format your position paper should take is:

- Times New Roman
- Font size:12



- No diagrams or images (The UN logo, the WSOMUN logo and flags are not required but are allowed)
- Word limit: 750

Your position paper should include:

- Brief Introduction: background information on the topic, including your country's history with the topic.
- Anything the United Nations has done in the past to resolve the issue
- Anything your country has done to resolve this issue
- Your country's views/policies towards the topic
- Solutions your country proposes

No Plagiarism Policy

WSO respects integrity and so every position paper will go through a plagiarism checker. If any paper is more than 7% plagiarised, it will not be considered for best position paper and all position papers submitted by the delegate will be disqualified. This also restricts the delegate from winning 'Best Delegate'

Some chairs may require that you to reference your sources, this however is based on the chair's discretion. While WSO, doesn't require you reference your sources, it does stay firm about its no plagiarism policy.

Sample position paper

Writing a position paper may seem overwhelming as you have to fit multiple pages of research into a single paper. Reading sample position papers helps improve your understanding of what a position paper looks and contains. On the next page is a sample position paper to help you get an idea of what is expected.



POSITION PAPER



Topic: Relocation and Resettlement - The management of the refugees' entry and exit from the E.U
Committee: Security Council
Country: Russia

Since the start of the refugee crisis, we have argued that Europe should welcome persecuted people and carefully manage their entry into European society. Our views have not changed. Countries have a moral and legal duty to provide sanctuary to those who flee grave danger. That approach is disruptive in the short term, but in the medium term, so long as they are allowed to work, refugees assimilate and more than pay for themselves. By contrast, the chaos of recent months shows what happens when politicians fail to take a pan-European approach to what is clearly a pan-European problem. The plan we outline would require a big chunk of cash and a lot of testy negotiations. But it is in every country's interest to help—because all of them would be worse off if the EU lapses into a xenophobic free-for-all.

The urge European Commission, together with Member States, to efficiently step up the cooperation with Turkey, which is a NATO member and EU candidate country and which is in a position to play a key role in preventing and reducing irregular migration; to implement the migration action plan recently agreed with Turkey; to quickly strengthen the financial support for Turkey for the accommodation, alimentation and integration of refugees, and especially for the education of the children of migrants; a readmission agreement with Turkey has to be implemented The European Commission and the European Parliament to speed up the development, implementation and adoption of instruments such as the Smart Borders Package with an EU-wide, modern IT-based entry/exit-system; All Member States to make full use of and update the existing databases; the security of EU citizens and the fight against terrorism is one among our highest priorities.

As of mid-September 2015, more than 500,000 have crossed the Mediterranean Sea. The estimated number of unknown cases is much higher due to the lack of registration on a large scale, due to fake passports and irregular border crossings. The first destination for many migrants, mainly those coming from Turkish territory (almost 390,000), is Greece, from where they continue towards the north of Europe. Europe cannot solve the refugee and migration crisis alone, but only together with all our partners worldwide.

In 2014-2015, the Russian government allocated almost 18 billion rubles for accommodation programs for Ukrainian citizens. Ukrainians who came to our country didn't really experience serious problems integrating into Russian society, free from language barriers, we share history, culture and traditions. Nevertheless we used all available instruments to help refugees adapt quickly, residence quotas in the regions that could handle it, the opportunity to file all necessary paperwork within 3 days, the right to participate in the State Program for assisting compatriots in their resettlement and getting jobs without obtaining special work permits and most importantly employment and health care.



The Royal government of Russia strongly believes that in order to cope with security challenges at home and overseas, the EU must have a common military instead of 28 national armies, a clear timeline and roadmap for short- and long-term solutions, and most importantly humanitarian concern.

Rightfully stating that ‘numbers speak for themselves’, over 600,000 people decided to stay in Russia and filed their long-term residence papers, having promised those with permanent residency the right to pension and social benefits. We don’t have aid payments that would allow refugees to do nothing and stay independent from their host culture. We try to incorporate them into regular Russian life – work, school, and language.

We need a common European approach to manage the flow of refugees and economic migrants arriving in the EU. We have an obligation to help those in need of protection, but we also have to swiftly return those who do not qualify for international protection. The flow of refugees and economic migrants arriving in the EU has reached an unprecedented scale, challenging our capacity to cope at the European, national and local levels.

Reaffirming that the only way we can effectively address the task of regulating transnational and cross-border migration flows is through cooperation and collaboration by all countries concerned. We need to develop a common understanding and common practices for responding to the modern-day challenges and threats with regard to migration.

Our Mission in the Russian Federation is to advocate for the protection of every citizens right abiding by humanitarian concerns to help meet their own capabilities and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. With all these facts and figures in mind, we promise to demonstrate commitment and immense support on our efforts towards the promotion of equality in all aspects of development and will continue to contribute towards the implementation of new decisions not just within our national boundaries but across the globe. We in Russia strongly believe that working together, we can do a lot more for our citizens through all aspects of development and undoubtedly aspire to witness a positive change.



How to write resolutions and clauses

A resolution is the most significant document of MUN. All three days of debate are dedicated to the purpose of producing a constructive resolution. You must use lobbying time to come up with clauses and gather signatories for your resolution.

This must be written during lobbying time, WSOMUN strongly discourages pre-written resolutions, as the purpose of attending a MUN is to bolster your collaboration and communication skills.

Becoming main submitter for resolutions increase your chance of winning best delegate

The main submitter of the resolution has to make the opening speech on that resolution.

Sponsors

Members who are actively involved in the authoring the draft resolution, including contributing ideas. All sponsors technically support the resolution. The only occasion where they wouldn't vote for it is if an amendment they strongly disagree with is and passed during debate. All draft resolutions must have a minimum number of sponsors, which is announced by the chair; this number is in proportion to the total number of delegates in the house so varies by committee.

Signatories

These are delegates who wish to see the resolution debated. They may not necessarily agree or disagree with it and had not been part of the drafting process.

Amendments

These are changes made to an operative clause of a draft resolution; these may include adding, striking or changing a particular clause/clauses.

Friendly amendment

- This is approved by all sponsors before presenting the draft resolution to the chair and can be automatically added to the draft resolution
- While debating a draft resolution, a delegate may justify correcting a grammar point or spelling error with the justification of 'a friendly amendment'. These aren't voted on and can simply be sent as a note to the chair, unless of course the amendment changes the meaning of the resolution, in which case the chair would recommend that you propose it to the house.

Unfriendly amendment



This is not approved by all sponsors or other members of the house and must be voted upon before they can be enforced on the text.

A **voting bloc** describes delegates voting on either an amendment or the resolution as a whole.

A **'merge'** may take place when two or more resolutions are combined into one. This can happen on the occasion where all the combined resolutions pertain to the same topic and can realistically be implemented together (they must not have contrasting clauses).

Format of a Resolution Paper:

The heading of a resolution needs to include three things:

1. The forum/committee the resolution is being debated in,
2. The topic or question the resolution addresses
3. The main submitters of the resolution.

Preambulatory Clauses:

- The first half of every resolution consists of preambulatory clauses.
- These clauses define the issue, recognise its importance, state its importance, mention any previous resolutions.
- They help acknowledge and describe the problem. Preambulatory clauses are not numbered. and must be start with present of perfect particles. They must always end in a comma.

Operative Clauses:

- Operative Clauses are the second and most important part of a resolution.
- The operative clauses are the clauses that are formed during debate.
- They show what actions the resolution is calling for.
- Operative clauses can contain sub-points as well as sub-sub points, in order to elaborate and bring emphasis on a topic.



Sample Perambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting further
Alarmed by	Fulfilling	Noting with approval
Approving	Fully aware	Observing
Aware of	Fully believing	Reaffirming
Bearing in mind	Further deploring	Realising
Believing	Further recalling	Recalling
Confident	Guided by	Recognising
Contemplating	Having adopted	Referring
Convinced	Having considered	Seeking
Declaring	Having considered further	Taking into account
Deeply concerned	Having devoted attention	Taking into consideration
Deeply conscious	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply convinced	Having heard	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Welcoming
Deeply regretting	Having studied	
Desiring	Keeping mind	
Emphasizing	Noting with regret	
Expecting	Noting with deep concern	
Expressing its appreciation	Noting with satisfaction	

Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Endorses	Further requests
Affirms	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Approves	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Authorises	Further invites	Notes
Calls	Deplores	Proclaims
Calls upon	Designates	Reaffirms
Condemns	Draws the attention	Recommends
Confirms	Emphasises	Regrets
Congratulates	Encourages	Reminds
Considers	Endorses	Requests
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Designates	Further invites	Supports
Draws the attention	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Emphasises	Further reminds	Transmits
Encourages	Further recommends	Trusts



Resolution Paper

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Technology on the Front Lines | The Defence against the Use of Technology for National Security (Policies against Cyber-warfare)

Main Submitter: Russian Federation

Sponsors: United Kingdom, Republic of Turkey, Malaysia

Noting with deep concern, the spread of cyberwarfare across the globe,

Reaffirming its resolutions A/RES/68/44, A/RES/66/41, A/RES/64/40, A/RES/62/26, A/RES/60/69, A/RES/59/66, A/RES/58/42 and A/RES/57/66,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security and that effective national control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology is an important tool in achieving these objectives,

Further deploring the United Nations to help to increase mutual help amongst its members, and encourage them to share their successful security programs and help less developed and deserving countries in establishing theirs thus maintaining a stronger union between member nations,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

1. *Designates* special cyber security team under the jurisdiction of the UN that will:
 - a. Analyze the strength of cyber security for all countries every 6 months;
 - b. Suggest possible improvements a country could include in order to increase the strength of cyber-security;
2. *Further reminds* national efforts should be supported by international information-sharing and collaboration, so as to effectively confront the increasingly transnational nature of such [cyber] threats;
3. *Calls* for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide in order to achieve universal access to information and communications technologies and to protect critical information infrastructures by facilitating the transfer of information technology and capacity building to developing countries;



4. **Further Recommends** Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, intra-alia, these elements and the need for a global culture of cybersecurity:
 - a. To facilitate the transfer of information technology and capacity-building to developing countries, to help them to take measures in cybersecurity due to the high influx of cyberattacks on government and firms;
 - b. The member nations to act against various hacktivist groups such as but not limited to Lizard Squad, Anonymous, Chaos Computer Club and Global Hell;
5. **Designates** the technologically advanced countries such as USA, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and Sweden to either allow less technologically advanced nations an input into their security programs as form of joint venture or to completely stop the development of newer technologies used for warfare;
6. **Recommends** member nations to discontinue and stop current or future weapons programs based on treaties such as but not limited to the Geneva Convention, Outer Space treaty, Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention;
7. **Urges** all governments to act proportionally in cyber space and in accordance with national and international law, including respect for intellectual;
8. **Requests** the Security Council to apply the strictest measures to prevent any cyber-warfare activities that could result in unauthorised groups gaining control over the nuclear weapons and to permit, in accordance with Article 13 of the Rome Statute, to prosecute the perpetrators of cyber-attacks on the networks responsible for safety of nuclear warheads through the International Criminal Court;
9. **Draws** the attention of member nations to strengthen the academic base by developing a coherent cross-sector research agenda on cyber-space, building on the work done by the government office for technology;
10. **Recommends** a minimum of 2% of national income to be given to the world bank which will be redirected towards the implementation of policies against:
 - a. Cyber warfare and cyberterrorism;
 - b. Terrorists and smugglers taking advantage of the lack of technology in LEDCs;
11. **Remains** actively seized in this matter.



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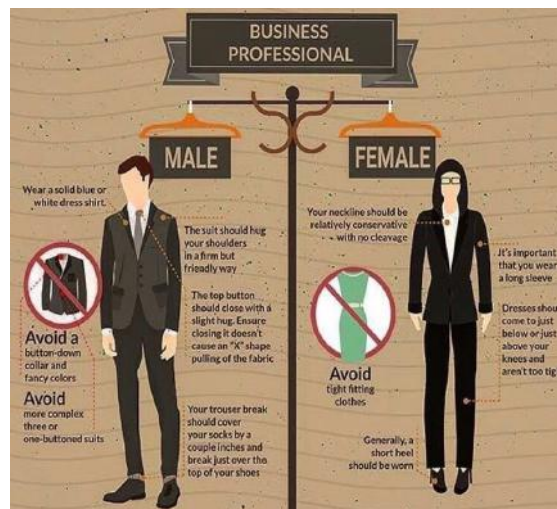


Dress code

Men should wear blazers with smart trousers, a shirt and a tie. While the blazer may be taken off while the delegate is seated, they must wear it while giving a speech, asking points of information or addressing the house/chair in any form.

Women should also be dressed smartly. They can choose to wear a blazer or smart dress/blouse.

Please keep in mind this is an educational forum as well as keeping in mind the cultural integrity of the UAE. Shoulders must be covered and skirts/dresses should be below knee length. This rule still applies if tights are worn.



Glossary of MUN phrases

These are commonly used phrases in MUN. Most of these have been mentioned in the document but here are some definitions to remind you.

Abstain -

During a vote on a substantive matter such as a resolution or clauses, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a state does not support the resolution being voted on, neither does it oppose it enough to vote no.

Adjourn -

All UN or MUN sessions end with a vote or motion to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., lunch break) or a long time (until the next conference).

Agenda -

The order in which the issues for a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee after the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

Amendment -

A change to a draft resolution on the floor, either on a clause or a resolution. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

Background guide -

A guide to a topic being discussed at an MUN committee usually written by conference organizers and distributed to delegates before the conference.



Caucus - A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus

Chair -

A member of the dais or committee that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure.

Decorum -

The order and respect for all delegates at a Model UN conference, that each and every delegate must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of/to speaker, of the dais, or of their roles as ambassadors.

Delegate -

A student acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee for a certain MUN.

Delegation -

An entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference.

Draft resolution -

A document that seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become into a resolution.

Member State -

A country that has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and whose application to join has been accepted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Currently, there are 191 member states.

Motion -

A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into voting bloc.

Observer -

A state, national organization, regional organization, or non-governmental organization that is not a member of the UN but participates in its debates. Observers can vote on procedural matters but not substantive matters. An example is the Holy See.

On the floor -

At a Model UN conference, when a working paper or draft resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in debate. After it is approved by the Director and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

Operative clause -

The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.)

Page -

A delegate in a Model UN committee that has volunteered to pass notes from one delegate to another, or from a delegate to the dais, for a short period of time.

Placard -

A piece of card with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

Point -

A request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate. Examples include a point of order, a point of inquiry, and a point of personal privilege. See our Charts of Rules and Motions.

Position Paper -

A summary of a country's position on a topic, written by a delegate before a Model UN conference.

Preambulatory Clause -

The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc).

Resolution -

A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue. The UN equivalent of a law.

Right of Reply -

A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. Generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

Roll Call -

The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Rapporteur reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may



respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

Rules of Procedure -

The rules by which a Model UN committee is run.

Second -

To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

Secretary-General -

The leader of a Model UN conference, at the highest level.

Signatory -

A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed.

Simple majority -

50% plus one of the number of delegates in a committee. The amount needed to pass most votes.

Sponsor -

One of the writers of a draft resolution. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

Substantive -

Having to do with the topic being discussed. A substantive vote is a vote on a draft resolution or amendment already on the floor during voting bloc. Only member states (not observer states or non-governmental organizations) may vote on substantive issues.

Working Paper -

A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. Frequently the precursor to a draft resolution.

Veto -

The ability, held by the P5 nations, which are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no (Under a valid reason, of course).

Vote -

A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. There are two types: procedural and substantive.

Voting bloc -

The period at the end of a committee session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. Nobody may enter or leave the room during voting bloc.