



MODEL UNITED NATIONS  
**RESOURCE GUIDE**





Our world is a complex one. It is one that is flourishing, but also one that is in despair. It is one that is not always straight-forward or easy to understand; on the one hand, the world is safer, healthier, richer and more advanced than it has ever been, but on the other hand, it is marked by injustice, insensitivity, and a lack of inclusive growth.

**So, what's to be done?**

**Are we to be satisfied with the progress of our society, or be moved by its exclusivity?**

**Are we doing the best we can, or can we ask for more?**

**Are we to accept the world, or try to change it?**

Unfortunately, we don't have the answer, and no one else does either.

Only **you** can determine what the world means to you, and what you will make of it.

We're only here to help you along the way.





Dear Student,

We have great faith in you! We know that by the year 2020, Generation-Z (individuals born between 1996 and 2010) will comprise 2.56 Billion people globally, with 390 million in India! At that time, and going forward, it will be this generation – your generation – at the reins. We understand that this comes with a lot of pressure, because the world expects so much from you. Unfortunately, the time leading up to yours has sowed the seeds for multiple global challenges that will only become more difficult with time: climate change, poverty, gender inequality, violence and conflict, intolerance, water scarcity, food wastage, the list goes on. And so, it is clear that this new generation must be one of solvers: Generation-Z must become a Generation of Solvers! And we know that you can do it.

We're here to help catalyse the discovery of your intrinsic potential, by equipping you with the necessary skills, knowledge and resources, and by enabling you to explore the world on your own terms. Over the years, we have developed Model United Nations into this catalyst. We have seen first-hand the power it has in enabling change, and in converging communities; we have witnessed alumni go on to become some of the most distinguished individuals in their fields, with a necessary commitment to making the world a better place; repeatedly, we have witnessed Model United Nations prove itself to be a vital learning tool and development platform; we believe that Model United Nations can make Generation-Z into Generation-S! As you embark on this journey, we have only one request: stay true to yourself. Remember why you are taking this journey in the first place, and what you hope to achieve from it, and let that be your only guiding light. Of course, we'll be with you throughout your journey, whether through this companion book, or our online platform on the Worldview Academy, or even your next conference, but until then, we wish you the very best of luck!

**Team Worldview**



1 NO POVERTY

2 NO HUNGER

5 GENDER EQUALITY

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL GIRLS

TELL EVERYONE. #GLOBALGOALS

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development GLOBALGOALS.ORG

#Act21



3 GOOD HEALTH

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

mpact

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Save Water

SAVE WATER

13 CLIMATE ACTION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

# IMPACT STORIES

Our #Act2Impact campaign was started to channelize the active global community like a Model United Nations Conference to utilize the knowledge and skills that they gain through participation in MUN to implement impactful projects around the UN SDGs within their communities. The campaign celebrates those students who are willing to go from 'ACTing' as Global Leaders into 'IMPACTing' as Goalkeepers of the SDGs.

Since its launch in 2018, #Act2Impact has received 30+ impact projects and countless pledges.

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## The Green Vision Project

Abhinav Agarwal, Modern School, Barakhamba Road (New Delhi)

"The Green Vision" project by Abhinav Agarwal, on a wintery evening saw a lot of smoke with a strong smell of burning rubber near his house. He realized it was coming from a group of roadside dwellers huddled around the fire in for which they used old tires, dried leaves, and garbage from their daily use. Abhinav intends to sensitize the roadside settlers and construction workers in Delhi towards the harmful effects of burning toxic materials for cooking or as a bonfire for warmth during winters and give them safer options such as fire logs made from waste sawdust and wax. He manufactured these fire logs at home and then distributed them to the roadside dwellers. To increase the impact of the effort on the environment, he put waste material to the best use by sourcing sawdust from furniture factories and sourcing wax from churches near my house where he collected left-over wax from burned candles, and from printing and candle manufacturing units. So far he has distributed 5000 logs to 700 households. While warmth in winters triggered this project, I expanded it this year to provide clean fuel for making food in the places which still use the "chulah".

IT'S YOUR T





## Sewing her way to Sustainable Development

Riya Kulkarni, Podar International School, Sangli

In Sangli, Maharashtra, Riya Kulkarni, a 14-year-old Gen-Z student was pained by the hardships of local shopkeepers and farmers who were affected by the sudden ban on plastic bags in her state in 2018. Riya decided to support them with a skill that was introduced to her by her mother when she was in grade 3. Riya decided to use her sewing abilities to make cloth bags for local shopkeepers and farmers to pack the groceries & vegetables they were selling. She made cloth bags out of old sarees and started distributing them free of cost in the weekly markets. In the second stage of her “Sewing a-way to sustainable development” project, she focused on empowering women in underprivileged areas by teaching them how to stitch these cloth bags. Her objective was to create an alternative livelihood for women in a small village called Gadchiroli.

Riya was one of the finalists of the #Act2Impact initiative run by Worldview in 2018.



## The Wonder Woman Project

Lusha Jaitley, Sanskriti School (New Delhi)

Lusha Jaitley’s project, “The Wonder Woman Project” aims to promote safe menstrual hygiene practices among women, especially homeless women in India. Lusha decided to take up the issue due to the lack of institutional support that exists for promoting safer reproductive health in India, especially to women who have the least access to them, i.e., homeless women. She expanded the project to include more members, leading to our work covering three Indian states, 15 shelters, and the village of Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh, which was recognized by UNESCO and the President of India. The project as of today has successfully assisted over 200 women with severe reproductive issues and their crowdfunding campaign enabled them to donate reusable sanitary napkins which last four years to over 500 women, and on an average, maintained a 75% to 90% information retention rate among the women we work with.

# TURN NOW!

# WHAT NEXT??

## BECOME A SOLVER

We hope our programs will expose you to new possibilities and ideas that not only increase your worldview but also enable you to think ahead in finding solutions to issues that affect you and your environment. You, Generation-Z, are now the Generation-S, a Generation of Solvers!

Take up an impact project within your home, school or community, document it in video, pictures or in an essay and send it to us. Your Gen-S story could inspire others all over into taking action and serve as a message that change starts with you!



**Take up  
Impact Project**




**Capture it**




**Share it with us!**

We will feature your Gen-S story on the Worldview blog and social media channels. Your project would be shared with our global partners. **Qualifying projects will also receive a certificate from “World’s Largest Lesson & Worldview”.**


Find here few sample actions to get you started. However, you need not restrict yourself to only these. We encourage you to get creative and innovative with your solutions! If you need more information, write to us at [info@worldview.global](mailto:info@worldview.global)




**Identify an unsung hero** in your community and give them a voice. If you know of an individual/organisation that is doing impactful work on improving the society but not getting the recognition that they deserve, reach out to them and use the skills you gained from your MUN experience to give them a voice. Run a social media campaign for them. Write a powerful blog post about them. Or make a video of the good work they are doing and the positive impact they are having.



**Identify a school** nearby that caters to students from low-income families. Organise a Model UN style committee in their local language for their students about an issue that they can relate to. Or teach them the Sustainable Development Goals.



**Identify a SDG** that you are passionate about and write a powerful essay about why it is important for collective action on that SDG. Use your MUN skills to keep it well researched, brief yet educational and inspiring. Include solutions that individuals can take easily. Post it on your social media profiles.



**Check** if the lights in your house are all energy efficient LED bulbs. If not, time to learn about the positive environmental impact that using LED bulbs can have and educate & convince your parents to change the bulbs at home! Repeat the action with 10 others households nearby.

Students are encouraged to collaborate with their friends and family members to execute these actions. Everything is more fun when you have a friend around!

Please ensure that you share your action plans with your parent, teacher or any adult guardian so they can advise you on necessary safety precautions.

Stay informed!



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# The United Nations

- ▶ What is the United Nations?
- ▶ What are its roles, powers and functions?
- ▶ How is the UN structured?
- ▶ Who is a diplomat?
- ▶ What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization that works to promote international cooperation and serves as a forum for countries to engage one another. The organization was formed on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1945, soon after the end of World War II, with the expressed purpose of preventing future conflict. At its founding, the UN had 51 members state, which have grown to 193 as of 2018.

The United Nations draws its powers, functions and mandate from the UN Charter, which is signed and accepted by all its members. The charter clearly defines the functions of the UN as (a) international peace and security, (b) upholding human rights, and (c) fostering international cooperation and development.

The work of the United Nations is carried out through its agencies, and through the work of its member countries. Notably, the United Nations is not a world government, and cannot do more than advise countries on matters, apart from serving as the flag-bearer of collective action. By enabling active dialogue between its members, the United Nations helps governments solve global and local problems through consensus.

The United Nations is not one single body but is comprised of various smaller organs and specialized agencies, each of which have a specific role and function, and differ in their membership and mandates. There are six organs and countless specialized agencies, of which at least five are located at the Headquarters of the United Nations in Manhattan, New York, USA.

# The Founding Story

The 20th Century was marked by some of the bloodiest wars mankind has ever seen, including the two world wars and countless regional conflicts. The sheer scale of the world wars rocked the foundations of society with almost every single individual having been involved in the war in some way.

Owing to the bloodshed and devastation of World War I, the allied forces founded the League of Nations in 1920, which was to serve as an international peace building organization, and to prevent any future wars of such magnitude. Unfortunately, however, The League of Nations was ultimately unable to prevent the aggression of the Axis powers, which culminated in the Second World War, which lasted from 1939 to 1945.

The name “United Nations”, coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. At the end of the war, 51 countries from around the world, led by the Allied forces, came together to form the United Nations, on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1945. The powers, functions and resources of the League of Nations were transferred to the United Nations, and the first meeting of the UN was held in 1946, in London, wherein the UN decided to locate its headquarters in New York.

The work on the UN Headquarters was completed in 1952, and it has served as the main office of the UN ever since. Notably, the UN also has offices around the world and some of its organs and agencies are headquartered outside of the USA, including in Geneva and in Netherlands.







## The UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations is the foundational treaty of the United Nations. It is the law book of the UN which has a total of 19 chapters 111 Articles. In the year 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, the United States in August–October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States. The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

The UN Charter supersedes all other treaty obligations, meaning that no country, which is a member of the UN, is allowed to act in any manner that contradicts the principles of the charter, in any way. It is compulsory for all members of the UN to sign and ratify the UN charter, and as such, there are 193 signatories to the charter as of 2018.

### Did you know?

24<sup>th</sup> October is celebrated as United Nations Day each year to commemorate the signing of the UN charter, and the birth of the UN!

# Principal Organs of the United Nations

The United Nations is not one singular body but is comprised of various organs and specialized agencies. Each of these has a specific role and function and focuses on a particular set of challenges.

The United Nations has six principal organs, and countless specialized agencies. The six organs are:

- ▶ **The General Assembly**
- ▶ **The Security Council**
- ▶ **The Economic and Social Council**
- ▶ **The International Court of Justice**
- ▶ **The Secretariat**
- ▶ **The Trusteeship Council**

Of these six organs, the Trusteeship Council has not been functional since 1994, and has no remaining active mandate. Of the remaining five organs, four of them are housed in the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, while the International Court of Justice is located in The Hague, Netherlands.

## **A. The United Nations General Assembly**

The General Assembly (GA) is the main body of the United Nations and every member of the UN is a member of the UNGA. Each member possesses one vote within the committee. It is the pre-eminent, deliberative and policy-making body that is a representative of the UN. The GA has a President who is the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and it works through a plenary of six main committees, a general and a credential committee. The 6 main committees are:

### **Did you know?**

The Trusteeship Council was formed to oversee the administration of trust territories, which were foreign territories administered by the victors of World War II, almost like colonies. The last such trust territory, the nation of Palau, gained independence and became a member of the UN in 1994. Since then, the Trusteeship Council has not had any function, and remains a dormant organ of the UN.

### **First Committee -**

*Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)*

### **Second Committee -**

*Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN)*

### **Third Committee -**

*Social, Humanitarian and cultural Committee (SOCHUM)*

### **Fourth Committee -**

*Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)*

### **Fifth Committee -**

*Administrative and Budgetary Committee (ABC)*

### **Sixth Committee -**

*Legal Committee*

### ***Election/Electoral roles of UNGA-***

*As per the Art 18(2) of the UN Charter, the UNGA shall vote upon electing the non-permanent members to the UNSC, members of ECOSOC. The UNGA also plays a prominent role in electing Judges for the ICJ and the Secretary-General.*

### **B. The United Nations Security Council**

The UN Security Council, or The UNSC, is a committee that deals with matters that threaten international peace and security. It consists of 15 members, of which 5 are permanent and 10 are non-permanent members that rotate on a two-year basis. The 5 permanent members are i) the United States of America, ii) the United Kingdom, iii) France, iv) the Russian Federation, and v) the Peoples Republic of China. Each of these 5 permanent members holds the veto power over substantive but not procedural resolutions. While other organs of the United Nations can merely make recommendations to various countries on certain issues, the Security Council's decisions and resolutions are binding on all members under Article 25 of the UN Charter.

#### ***What is Veto?***

*Single negative vote a power bestowed only to the P-5 countries and none of the other temporary members.*

### **C. The United Nations Economic and Social Council**

The ECOSOC helps the UNGA in promoting international economic, social and environmental cooperation and development. It has 54 members that are elected for three-year terms, while a president is elected for a one-year term from among the presiding members. Unlike the Security Council, the ECOSOC is a deliberative committee, created to help other parts of the UN system to shape and examine their programs. This body also deals with implementation of internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals of 2015 and the recently launched Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2030. The sub-committees of ECOSOC are as follows: ICAO, WHO, FAO, UNESCO

### **D. The Secretariat**

With about 9000 staff members from over 150 countries, the Secretariat is one of the most important organs of the United Nations. All operations of the Secretariat are conducted by the Secretary-General. It provides studies, information, and facilities needed by United Nations bodies for their meetings. It also carries out tasks as directed by the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council, and other UN bodies.

### **E. The International Court of Justice**

As the only organ of the United Nations that does not have its headquarters at the Secretariat, The International Court of Justice or the ICJ is the primary judicial organ of the UN. It has jurisdiction over states only, not organisations and individuals. It works towards settlement of all legal matters concerning the United Nations. The ICJ is the Successor of the Permanent Court of International justice. The ICJ was established in the year 1945. It is called the Peace Palace situated in Hague, Netherlands. It has a 15 member bench who are prominent jurists who will adjudicate the matter. The 15 members will be selected through an electoral process by the members of the UNGA and UNSC. The head of the 15 members will be addressed as the President. It has jurisdiction over states only, not organizations and individuals.

### **F. The Trusteeship Council**

When the United Nations was set up in 1945, eleven territories known as trust territories existed that were placed under international supervision till their independence. With the independence of Palau in 1995, the Trusteeship Council suspended activity as Palau was the last trust territory that was under the supervision of the council.

# Diplomats and Diplomacy

The United Nations is a democratic organization and all decisions are made according to popular vote and consensus. Each member country of the United Nations has a single, and equal vote on all matters. Member countries of the UN are represented through international diplomats from the member countries, who hold the power to cast the country's vote on all matters, as well as to make official speeches, commitments and statements.

Most countries have multiple such diplomats who represent the country in different organs and agencies of the United Nations, with each of them being a specialist in their respective fields.

Diplomats in the UN must be extremely careful and cautious of their actions and must ensure that they deal with other diplomats respectfully. Often, they must be very diplomatic in their approach, which is simply the art of managing people in a sensible manner, so as to enable the best possible outcome for themselves in any situation. Notably, diplomats must adhere to the policies and stance of their country and are not able to define their own position. Rather they are only representatives and must follow all directions issued to them by the national government of their country.





### Did you know?

Most countries have several diplomats serving at the UN. These diplomats are organized into something called the Permanent Mission to the UN of that country, and almost every country in the world has such a permanent mission, which is essentially an office for all its diplomats, and is usually located very close to the UN itself.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The term sustainable development was coined in the year 1972 at the Stockholm Conference, via Stockholm declaration. The very term Sustainable Development got additional weightage and the horizon expanded at the Rio 20+ Conference which was held at the capital of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The predecessor concept of the present SDG has its roots from the Millennium development goals that were implemented in 2002. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), also known as the 2030 Agenda, or “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals that aim to end poverty, fight climate change and build an equitable world for all people, by the year 2030.

The SDGs cover a broad range of issues including poverty, hunger, sanitation, gender equality, climate change, environment conservation, peace, energy, social justice, and more. In so doing, the SDG framework is the most comprehensive and optimistic development agenda of all time, encompassing all 193 members of the United Nations.

Under the SDG framework, all countries make voluntary commitments towards achieving the goals, and meet regularly to assess and update the progress.




**Did you know?**  
The SDGs are based on the 5 P's:  
**People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace & Partnership**, each of which has corresponding goals and targets within the 17 SDGs.

A group of students in a Model United Nations conference. In the foreground, a young man in a dark suit and red tie holds a sign that says "CAMBODIA" and "CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE" with a logo. To his right, another student holds a sign that says "ARGENTINA" and "CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE" with the same logo. The background is filled with other students, some looking towards the camera and others looking away.

# Model United Nations

- ▶ What is Model United Nations?
- ▶ What is the structure of a Model UN Conference?
- ▶ What are the various components of Model UN?
- ▶ What is the role of a delegate?
- ▶ What is the role of the executive board?
- ▶ How is the conference scheduled?



A group of students, mostly young women, are seated in a room, looking towards the left. They are dressed in professional attire, such as blazers and blouses. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and what appears to be a conference setting. The lighting is warm and focused on the students in the foreground.

## Did you know?

Model UN has a very long history and some conferences, like the Harvard Model UN Conference, are almost as old as the UN itself!

Model United Nations or Model UN is an academic simulation of the UN, wherein student participants emulate the role of international diplomats in trying to solve some of the world's most pertinent issues, while representing different countries and employing the protocols and processes of the UN itself.

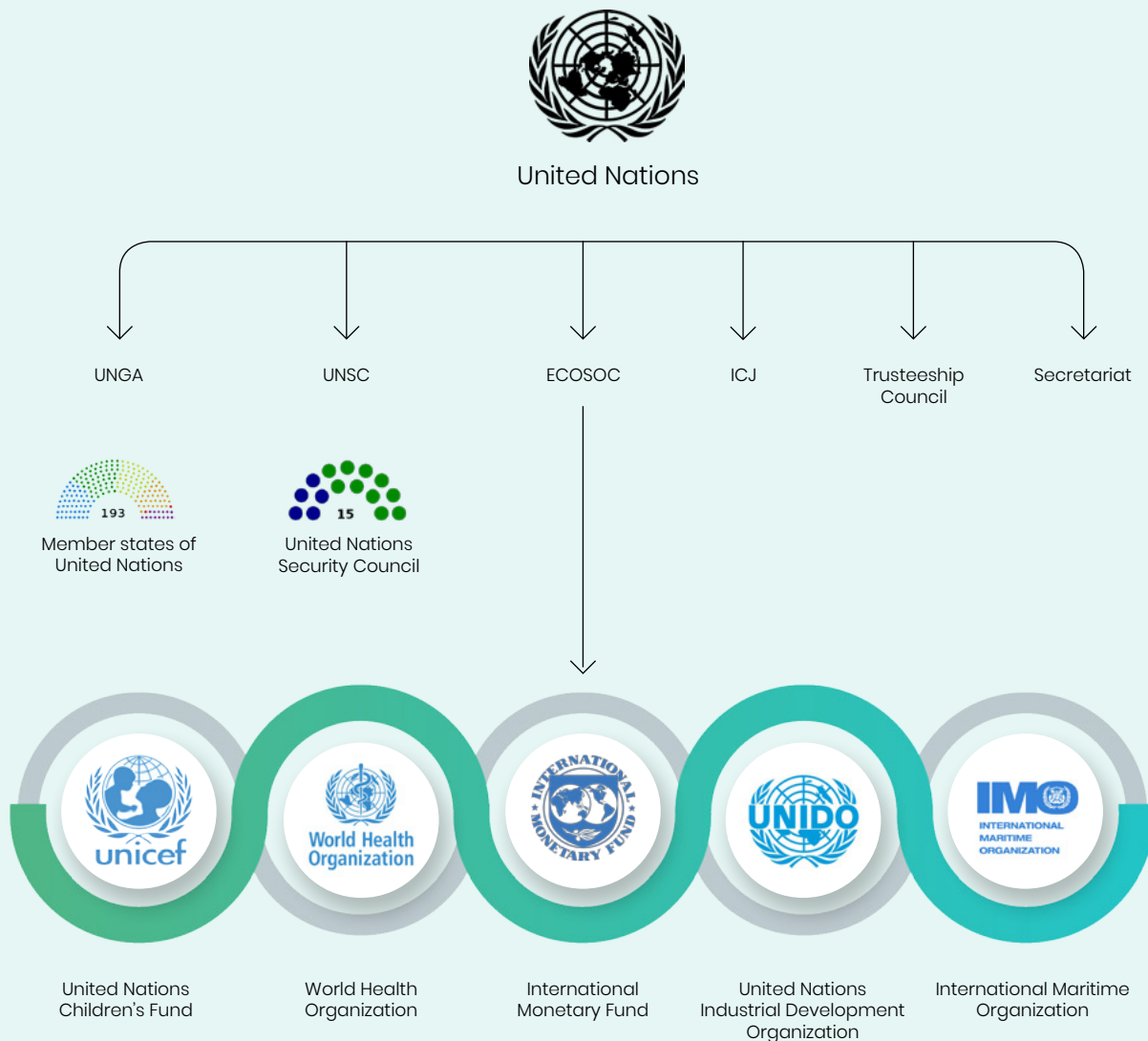
Over the course of a few days, students work towards producing mutually agreeable solutions in the form of resolution documents,

based on debate and consensus. Usually, such simulations take the form of student conferences and include various workshops, guest lectures, networking activities and social events.

There are various types or formats of Model UN conferences, each of which has its own rules and processes, including the Harvard Model UN, UNA-USA, THIMUN, and UN4MUN formats.

# Structure of Model UN

A Model UN Conference is structured into various committees, each of which is a simulation of a particular UN organ or specialized agency. The various student participants are divided across these committees well in advance, and each participant represents a specific country in a specific committee, throughout the conference.



# Components of a Conference

There are various different components of a Model UN conference, each of which has a specific role and function during the conference.

## Model UN

1	<b>Delegates</b>	Delegates form the bulk of the participants and are usually from high school or college. They participate in the committee sessions and attend the workshops and social events.
2	<b>Executive Board</b>	The Executive Board (EB) is responsible for moderating the debate in committees. The EB is usually comprised of a Committee director/Chairperson, AD/vice-chair and moderators (in a few conferences the AD's will be more than one or two in number) who are able to assist delegates, guide the debate, and also give out awards.
3	<b>Conference Staff</b>	The Conference Staff comprises professionals or volunteers from the host institution of the conference. They are in charge for the whole conference management including the logistics, registrations and venues.
4	<b>Faculty Advisors</b>	Faculty Advisors (FA) accompany students to the conference and are responsible not only for their safety, but also for their learning. They are also able to participate in various workshops throughout the conference. The FAs also conceptualize the concept of MUN and various other simulations so that it is recommended that they implement the same model in their respective educational institutions to promote holistic development through simulations and debating.

# The Role of a Delegate

As a participant in a Model UN conference, you will take on the role of a delegate. When you register for the conference, you will be given a portfolio which is the country that you will represent, along with the committee that you will be in, and the agenda or topic for your committee.

During the conference, you will take on the **role of a diplomat** and make speeches, engage with other delegates, write resolutions and vote on various matters. On the whole, your committee will attempt to draft a resolution to address the agenda, through consensus and mutual agreement.

In order to be able to meaningfully participate in the committee discussions, you will need to have a thorough and deep understanding not only of your agenda and committee, but also of the country you represent and its policies, and as such your preparation will usually begin at least a few weeks prior to the conference.

To aid your preparation, the conference will provide you with a few learning resources including a background guide, which is a comprehensive research document about the agenda, as well as a delegate handbook, which is similar to the book you are reading.

# The Role of the Executive Board

The Executive Board is usually comprised of a committee director and an assistant director, who are responsible for managing committee proceedings, directing debate, assisting and guiding delegates, as well as for giving out awards, if any.

In the parliamentary procedure, **the executive board behaves as the Speaker of the House** and is in charge of the order of speakers. All speeches are directed at the Speaker, who is also responsible for recognizing speakers i.e. giving them the floor of the house.

In the context of Model UN, the Executive Board positions are usually served by older and more experienced students or professionals, who have extensive knowledge of Model UN, as well as of the agenda.

# Schedule of a Conference

Model UN conferences are usually two to four days in duration, and begin with a registration period and opening ceremony, which is usually attended by all participants as well as conference guests and speakers.

Throughout each day of the conference, **delegates participate in committee simulations, moving closer and closer to producing a final resolution document**. Each day of the conference usually also includes a workshop, guest lectures, networking activities and social events, apart from the conference meals.

On the last day of the conference, the committee will usually attempt to draft and vote on the final resolution. The conference ends with a closing ceremony, which may also include an award ceremony, depending on the format of the conference.

## How to Identify a Good Model UN Conference?

- ✓ **Verify** the credibility and reputation of the host institute or organization and ensure that the conference has a proven legacy
- ✓ **Avoid** conferences with large cash prizes or awards, and/or extravagant social events, which dilute the conference experience and/or create aggressive competition
- ✓ **Gauge** the quality of executive board not only in terms of their experience, but also their personality, age, interests, knowledge, and mentorship
- ✓ **Ensure** that there is diversity in the delegates in terms of age, school, region, country, etc.
- ✓ **Check** the awards criteria, if any, to ensure that it is transparent, fair and unbiased

# Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure are a set of rules, regulations and processes that govern the flow of debate and help regulate committee proceedings in Model UN. There are various types of Rules of Procedure, with most conferences employing one of the following four types:

- ▶ **Harvard Model UN (HMUN) Procedure**
- ▶ **UNA-USA Procedure**
- ▶ **THIMUN Procedure**
- ▶ **UN4MUN Procedure Types of Procedure at Different Conferences**

The following table shows which conferences employ which type of rules of procedure:

Conference	Location	Rules of Procedure
Harvard Model UN, Boston	USA	HMUN
Harvard Model UN India, Hyderabad	India	HMUN
Harvard Model UN Dubai, Dubai	UAE	HMUN
Harvard Model UN China, Beijing	China	HMUN
WEMUN Expo China, Beijing	China	Various*
Yale Model UN, New Haven	USA	YMUN**
Ivy League Model UN India, Gurugram	India	ILMUNC**
MUN for India	India	UNA-USA
Oxford Model UN, Oxford	UK	UNA-USA
Oxford Model UN Singapore, Singapore	Singapore	UNA-USA
WFUNA International Model UN, New York	USA	UN4MUN/ WIMUN
WFUNA International Model UN, Geneva	Switzerland	UN4MUN/ WIMUN
WFUNA International Model UN India, Agra	India	UN4MUN/ WIMUN

\*Note: Each committee at WEMUN Expo uses its own rules of procedure and can include HMUN, UNA-USA and UN4MUN procedures

\*\* Note: YMUN and ILMUNC rules of procedure are very similar to HMUN rules of procedure, with a very few minor differences

# Basic Rules of Procedure

The basic rules of procedure govern the most fundamental elements of the conference and are common across all the different types of rules of procedure. This includes the language, dress code, schedule, etc.



## Language

The official language for almost all Model UN conferences is English. This implies that all speeches, paperwork and delegate engagements are carried out only in English, and that no other language is recognized within the committee. It is strongly advised the delegates that adopt to professional modes of communication and prohibit themselves from using unparliamentary, slangs and informal terminologies. The excessive usage of these mentioned terms can result in the deduction of an individuals marks or disqualification from the conference.

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## Dress Code

The dress code for Model UN is almost always that of Western Business Attire. This usually includes a dress shirt, trousers and jacket, with closed shoes, for men, and a formal dress, or a skirt and/or trousers and a shirt, or appropriate business wear for women.

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## Communication

Delegates may only use formal, parliamentary language during committee proceedings and must address everyone respectfully and diplomatically. This usually means that delegates address themselves and others in third person speech.

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## Portfolio

Each delegate is allocated a portfolio, which is the country that he or she will be representing, along with information about their committee and its agenda. All delegates must assume the identity of their portfolio throughout the conference.



## Electronics and Internet

Most conferences do not allow delegates to use the internet during committee sessions, although they may be allowed to carry a laptop or other device to organize and store their research.

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## Recognition

Delegates may speak only when recognized by the executive board to do so, through explicit consent. Delegates may not address committee or other delegates without having been recognized by the executive board.

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## Delegate Kits

Each delegate is issued a delegate kit during the conference, which includes a country placard, delegate ID card, delegate handbook, conference schedule, meal coupons and some stationary items. Delegates may not be able to participate without a placard, and/or an ID card.

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## Faculty Advisors

Almost all high-school level conferences require delegates to be accompanied by a faculty advisor, guardian or parent.

# Flow of Debate

The flow of debate refers to the order of committee proceedings and provides a bird's-eye view of the entire conference. Using the flow of debate, we are able to understand the rules of procedure, types of debate, and various other regulations that are needed for you to meaningfully participate in committee.

In a Model UN conference, student participants are organized into various committees, each of which has a specific agenda or topic area. Over the course of a few days, the delegates in that committee will go back and forth debating various solutions and outputs for the problem area, before attempting to draft a resolution document, which is a formal document that lists the actionable steps to be undertaken the countries of the UN to solve the given problem or agenda. Finally, the resolution is voted upon, and in case there are a majority of positive votes, the resolution passes and is adopted by the committee, bringing the conference to a close.

The flow of debate breaks down the above process into its basic components, in the order of proceedings, as follows:

## 1. Roll Call:

Each committee session begins with a roll-call, which is like taking attendance, to establish the number of delegates that are present and participating.

## 2. Setting the Agenda:

In case the committee has multiple topic areas or agenda, the delegates must decide which agenda is to be debated first. This is called setting the working agenda.

## 3. Debate:

Once the agenda is set, the committee moves into the debate process, which includes formal and informal debate. The committee moves back and forth between formal and informal debate until there is enough consensus (agreement) in the committee for the drafting of a resolution document.

## 4. Resolution:

Once the resolution process is underway, the debate on the agenda is closed. Delegates spend the remainder of their time in trying to build more support for the resolution and writing out the entire document.

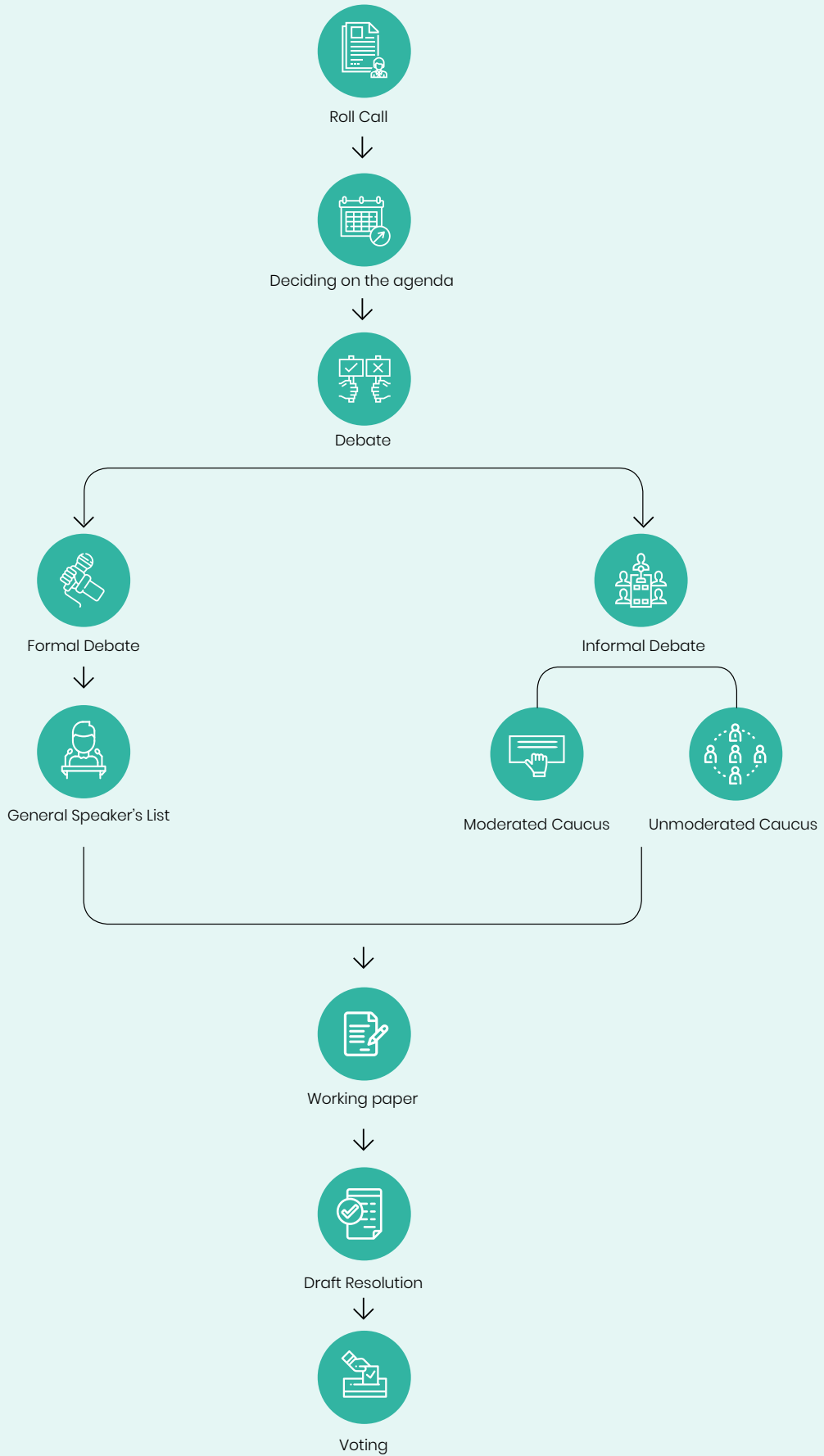
## 5. Amendments and Voting:

Finally, the resolution is made open to amendments or edits, after which it is voted upon by the entire committee. In case there are enough positive votes, the resolution passes and the conference ends. In case the resolution fails, the committee may attempt to draft another resolution, or it may choose to end the session without having passed a resolution.

### Did you know?

Roll-call is taken to establish 'quorum' which is the minimum number of delegates needed for the committee session to take place. Quorum is usually set at 35% of the total committee strength.





# HMUN, ILMUNC, YMUN & UNA-USA

## Rules of Procedure

The information in this section applies exclusively to the HMUN, ILMUNC, YMUN and UNA- USA formats. It does not apply to UN4MUN and any other procedures that are not explicitly mentioned above. Kindly ensure that you verify the type of procedure that your conference will employ before proceeding.

### FORMAL AND INFORMAL DEBATE

The debate process is divided into two types: formal and informal debate.

Formal debate includes something known as the speakers list, while informal debate includes something known as caucuses. Each type of debate has its own specific purpose and role in the flow of debate, and the committee moves between the two types as needed.

Generally, formal debate takes the form of long, formal speeches and allow one to address the committee as a whole, taking a broad perspective of the agenda. On the other hand, informal debate takes the form of short, focused engagements with other delegates and allow one to address particular delegates and/or to address only specific parts of the agenda, as well as to draft resolution documents and other paperwork.

Parameter	Formal Debate	Informal Debate
<b>Description</b>	Long, formal speeches with broad	Short, focused engagement with specific agenda
<b>Mode</b>	Speakers List	Moderated and Unmoderated Caucus
<b>Interruptions</b>	Cannot be interrupted	May be interrupted
<b>Questions Role</b>	Provisions for answering questions  Providing direction to the debate	No provision for answering questions  Debate leading to solutions and resolution

## SPEAKERS LIST

The Speakers List is a physical list of the order of speakers and constitutes the formal debate in Model UN. At the beginning of the session, the executive board will commence with the speakers list, asking delegates to add their names to the list. After this is done, the delegates will make speakers list speeches in that order.

A speakers list speech is usually 90 seconds or longer and does not have a specific topic. Instead, delegates may choose to employ their speakers list speech towards different outcomes, depending on the progress of the committee. For instance, a speaker who is speaking in the first half of the conference may choose to use their speech to direct the attention of the committee to the most pressing problems areas within the committee's agenda, or to advocate for specific solutions. However, a speaker speaking in the latter half of the conference may choose to use his or her speech to comment on the draft resolution being discussed at that point.

Delegates may speak an unlimited number of times through the speaker's list but cannot be added to the list more than once. This means that a speaker may be re-added to the speakers list after they have completed their previous turn on the list. Speaking on the speakers list is completely optional and no delegate will be forced to make such a speech.

## YIELDS

Notably, the speakers list speech allows a delegate to engage in something called a yield. A yield is essentially a tool to use any remaining time from the speakers list speech to answer questions or to invite another delegate to speak for the remaining time.

If a delegate has at least a few seconds of time remaining in their speakers list speech, they may choose to yield that time. There are various types of yields, described below:

### **Yield to the Executive Board:**

In a yield to the executive board, the delegates chooses to pass up any remaining time, and simply returns to their seat at the end of the speech.

### **Yield to Questions or Points of Information:**

In a yield to questions (which are called points of information), a delegate may respond to questions from other delegates at the end of their speech

### **Yield to another Delegate:**

In a yield to another delegate, the speaker gives up their remaining time to another delegate of his or her choosing. However, the delegate receiving the yield may not further yield time.

### **Yield to Comments:**

In a yield for comments, the speaker wishes to utilize the remaining time to receive comments(positive or negative) from the fellow delegates of the committee. A delegate may express his or her opinion by commenting on the delivered speech keeping in mind the existing time frame.

## MODERATED AND UNMODERATED CAUCUS

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses form the bulk of the debate and constitute the informal debate in Model UN. 'Caucus' essentially means 'discussion' in this context, and essentially allows for delegates to have a quick back-and-forth exchange of ideas through an open, group-discussion format of debate.

### Moderated Caucus

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In a Moderated Caucus, delegates make short, focused speeches in a back-and-forth manner, on a predetermined sub-agenda of the main committee agenda, for a specified duration of time, which is considerably shorter than the speakers list. Unlike during the speakers list, delegates will be called on one at a time during moderated caucuses, which allows delegates to respond to or elaborate on comments made by the previous speakers.

Consider a committee with the agenda of 'Women Empowerment'. There are several different aspects of this agenda that need to be discussed in order to produce a comprehensive resolution. These aspects include: Women Rights, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Women in the Workplace, Reservations for Women, Women Empowerment in Rural Areas, etc.

The moderated caucus allows delegates to discuss each of these sub-topics individually and comprehensively to develop consensus around possible solutions and actionable steps. Notably, a moderated caucus speech is usually only 30 seconds duration and does not have a provision for yields.

Remember that a moderated caucus must have a pre-determined topic, total duration, and individual speakers time to be considered a valid caucus.

### Unmoderated Caucus

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An unmoderated caucus, is an unmoderated discussion, which essentially means that there is no formal structure for such a caucus. In an unmoderated caucus, delegates are free to move around the committee for a pre-specified period of time, during which they may choose to engage other delegates one-on-one, or in a group, to build consensus and draft any paperwork, including resolutions.

Sometimes, unmoderated caucuses are also used to provide the committee an opportunity to consolidate its ideas and choose how to proceed for the rest of the session in case the executive board feels that the debate has stagnated. Notably, an unmoderated caucus does not feature any speeches or speakers and is one of the only times during which delegates may speak without formal recognition from the executive board. Remember that an unmoderated caucus only has a pre-specified total time period and does not have a topic or an individual speaking time.

## POINTS AND MOTIONS

Points and Motions are a system to manage committee proceedings in Model UN and allow for delegates to direct the flow of debate, communicate with the executive board, and express any discomfort or problems they may be facing. Motions, so called because they move the committee from one part of the flow of debate to another, are an expression of the committee's will to engage in a particular type of debate or session. For instance, the moderated and unmoderated caucus may be initiated through a motion, as is the case for breaks, recesses, resolutions, voting, roll call, and more.

Notably, all motions must be voted upon by the entire committee, and only if there is a majority of delegates in favour of the motion is it passed and executed. Else, the motion is deemed to have failed and new motions are considered. All motions are voted on in the order of the most to the least disruptive when more than one motion has been proposed at any given time. Points, on the other hand, allow delegates to ask questions, express personal discomfort, and communicate with the executive board. Points are not voted upon and are usually given precedence over motions.

### Types of Motions and How to Raise Them

There are countless motions in Model UN, each of which is used for a very specific purpose. The most important motions are those that are used to initiate a moderated or unmoderated caucus, as well as the motion to introduce a resolution, apart from the procedural motions that are used for recesses, breaks, roll call, setting the agenda, etc. In order to raise a motion, a delegate must first be recognized by the executive board. The board will ask if there are any motions in the committee, at which point the delegate should raise their placard to indicate their interest in raising a motion. In case they are recognized by the executive board, the delegate should state their motion and all related details. If the motion is valid, then the executive board will call for a vote, and if there are a majority of delegates in favour of the motion, it is said to have passed and is then executed by the committee director.

the following table provides more information about specific motions in the order of disruptiveness (most to least disruptive):” and change the table to list out motions in the following order:

Type of Motion	Description	Required Details	Example
<b>Adjournment</b>	Adjourn session for meal breaks or at the end of day	Duration of adjournment and the purpose	The Delegate of Canada moves to adjourn session for a period of one hour for the purpose of lunch
<b>Introduce Draft Resolution</b>	Begin debate on a particular resolution	Resolution Number	The Delegate of Pakistan moves to introduce resolution 1.0
<b>Unmoderated Caucus</b>	Begin an Unmoderated Caucus	Total Time	The Delegate of Kenya moves to begin an unmoderated caucus for a total time of 15 minutes.

<b>Moderated Caucus</b>	Begin a Moderated Caucus	Topic, Total Time, and Individual Speaking Time	The Delegate of India moves to begin a moderated caucus for a period of 15 minutes, with 30 seconds per speaker, on the topic of 'Women in the Workplace'.
<b>Roll Call</b>	Conducting Roll Call The Delegate of Nigeria moves to begin roll call for this session	None	The Delegate of Nigeria moves to begin roll call for this session
<b>Open Session</b>	Opening Debate after a break or adjournment	None	The Delegate of Sweden moves to open the session

## Types of Points and How to Raise Them

Points are raised in a similar manner to motions, although in the case of a point, the executive board is obliged to recognize you. As such, in order to indicate that you are raising a point, you may choose to call out your point while raising your placard or wait specifically for the executive board to ask for points from the committee.

There are four types of points recognized by most Model UN conferences:

Point	Description	Example
<b>Personal Privilege</b>	Personal discomfort and/or audibility issues	Point of Personal Privilege: The speaker is not audible
<b>Parliamentary Inquiry</b>	Seeking a clarification on the Parliamentary procedure	Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: How does a delegate raise a motion?
<b>Point of Order</b>	Pointing out errors in the order of proceedings	Point of Order: The Executive Board has forgotten to conduct roll call for this session
<b>Point of Information</b>	Substantive questions to other delegates in the speakers list	Point of Information: Can the delegate provide an example of the solutions mentioned in the speech?

If your point is valid, the executive board will respond with the appropriate action, such as requesting the speaker to speak clearly (in case of a point of personal privilege) or by providing you the necessary information (in case of a point of parliamentary inquiry), or by allowing the speaker/delegate to respond to your question (in case of a point of information).

## RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution is the main outcome document of the United Nations (and of Model United Nations). It is essentially a document that lists various solutions and undertakings towards solving or addressing a particular issue or problem, and usually includes information about measures that member countries can/ must take in that regard.

The Resolution guides the work of the UN, its agencies, and member countries, and as such, has extreme importance. It must be carefully considered and drafted, ensuring that it is comprehensive, and effective. Any resolution must be agreeable enough for it to be passed in the committee, which requires a simple majority of 50% + 1 of the voting population

In certain cases, like in the Security Council, the resolution must also have approval from all permanent members apart from having 50%+1 approval in the committee, to pass. The resolution must also have approval from all permanent members apart from having 2/3 rd approval in the committee, to pass.

The Resolution has a particular format and is divided into two sections: the preamble and the operative. Each section comprises of various paragraphs of 'clauses'.

The preamble is the first part of a resolution, which provides context and helps in interpreting the rest of the document. The operative is the second part of the resolution, which comprises of actionable ideas, directives, and undertakings towards solving the problem/issue at hand.

All clauses in the resolution must begin with a pre-approved 'clause word', which is italicized. Clauses in the preamble are not numbered, and end with a comma, while operative clauses are numbered, and end with a semi-colon. The last clause of the resolution ends with a period.



### Did you know?

All Security Council Resolution ends with the same clause: "Decides to remain actively seized of the matter", which is an expression of the continuous nature of the UN's work.

## VOTING

The United Nations is a democratic organization, and all decisions, including procedural decisions and substantive decisions, are undertaken through a popular vote, in which each member gets an equal and singular vote.

Procedural voting refers to voting on procedural matters like points and motions, while substantive voting refers to voting on substantive matters like the resolution, and amendments.

Usually, procedural votes are tallied through a show of placards, while a substantive vote is tallied by a roll call vote.

### PROCEDURAL VOTING

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In the case of procedural voting, the vote is counted by a **show of placards**. Delegates may choose to vote only in two ways: **Yes**, or **No**. They may not pass or abstain from the vote.

This type of voting is most used to vote on motions, especially for moderated and unmoderated caucuses. All delegates are required to vote on procedural motions.

### SUBSTANTIVE VOTING

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In the case of substantive voting, the vote is counted through a **roll call vote**, wherein each delegate casts their vote one at a time, in alphabetical order. Delegates may choose to vote in four ways: **Yes**, **No**, **Pass** or **Abstain**.

The Yes and No votes are self-explanatory.

If a delegate votes to Pass, it means that they will be skipped from the alphabetical order but will be required to vote at the end. Usually, a delegate will vote to Pass in case they are waiting to see how some other delegate votes before deciding their own vote.

If a delegate votes to Abstain, it means that they will be skipped from the vote altogether, and they will not be counted in the total number of voters. Usually, a delegate will vote to abstain in case they hold a neutral position in the debate, or in case they are unable to show their support or opposition due to political motives. Please note that delegates who marked themselves as “present and voting” during roll call may not abstain in substantive votes.

Notably, if a delegate passes on the first round, then they must vote either yes or no in the next round and cannot abstain.



# UN4MUN

## Rules of Procedure

The information in this section applies to the UN4MUN format and the same has been abridged by organisers of WIMUN with certain changes to reflect the current working methods followed at the UN. It does not apply to HMUN, ILMUNC, YMUN or UNA-USA, and any other procedures that are not explicitly mentioned above. Kindly ensure that you verify the type of procedure that your conference will employ before proceeding. The procedure described here is generally applicable to General Assembly committee and specialised commissions of the ECOSOC and you are advised to contact the organizers for procedures regarding security council and other specialised commissions.



### Overview

The UN4MUN procedure has been **developed by the United Nations** itself, in an attempt to make Model UN more authentic to the real UN experience, as well as to bring more students into the fold of the UN and of Model UN.

### The UN4MUN procedure is unique in three important ways:

First, it introduces a leadership structure and responsibilities that more accurately mirror the relationship between the General Assembly and UN Secretariat. As a result, student leaders play a more substantive role in the conference than they do in typical MUN simulations.

Second, it uses Rules of Procedure that are much closer to those used at the UN. While there is some variety in the rules of procedure used by MUN programmes around the world, they are largely based on parliamentary rules of procedure, which differ from those used at the UN. The General Assembly Rules of Procedure do not have many of the points and motions used during typical MUN simulations, such as Points of Information, Points of Personal Privilege or Points of Inquiry. Since the UN is not a parliament and is a meeting of sovereign countries, there exist no parliamentary procedures, and thus, UN4MUN also does not have any parliamentary procedures when compared to other MUN simulations. Even the terminology that has evolved over time is different than what is used at the UN. For example, the distinction between “friendly” and “unfriendly” amendments do not exist, and the terms “moderated” and “unmoderated caucuses” are not used either.

Third, most decisions adopted by the UN are made by consensus. The leadership structure and rules of procedure should therefore support a working environment that encourages delegates to build consensus.

## MAIN ELEMENTS IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decision making process at the UN can be divided into five elements: General Debate, Negotiation, Taking Action, Implementation and Reporting. The first three elements are included in all MUN simulations. Close to 80% of all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly are adopted by consensus, that is, without taking a vote.

### GA OPENING PLENARY

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The President of the General Assembly (PGA) will lead the Opening Plenary in adopting the recommendations contained within the First Report of the General Committee which deals with the conduct of meetings, length of statements, explanations of positions or votes, and conference agenda. When that is completed, Member States and political groups are given an opportunity to make statements on the various topics that will be debated in Committees.

### COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

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Speeches during the General Debate in the GA Plenary can be made by Member States or by Political Groups. The statements in the Opening Plenary should focus on more broadly on the theme of the conference (The Agenda 2030 for Change) and why it is important.

Member States and Political Groups wishing to speak must notify LIST the Secretariat before the Opening Plenary of their intention to make a statement.

There are two rules that apply during the General Debate. First, the only point that a delegate can raise is a Point of Order if he or she believes that one of the rules is not being properly followed. Second, a delegate can request a Right of Reply, if he or she feels that another Member State has said something negative or unjust about their country. Any delegate wishing to reply to something that was said, must wait until the end of Speakers List to exercise this right. A delegation cannot exercise this right more than twice during a Plenary meeting.

After the GA Plenary is over, delegates move to their assigned Committees. The first order of business is to adopt the Organization of Work that addresses the conduct of business in the Committee, the number, length and purpose of each meeting that will take place over the course of the conference. Once that is completed, the delegates will have an interactive session with someone knowledgeable on the topic they will be discussing. This is followed immediately by the General Debate in the Committee.

Speeches during the General Debate in the Committee can be made by Member States or by Political Groups. The statements made in Committee should focus specifically on the agenda item that has been assigned to it. Each Committee has a different agenda item.

Member States and Political Groups wishing to speak must notify LIST the Secretary of the Committee before its first meeting of their intention to make a statement.

The rules of procedure during a formal meeting of the Committee to adopt its Organization of Work, conduct an interactive session and to hold a General Debate are the same as those described above for the GA Opening Plenary.

## **Formal Meeting (Debate)**

Before the debate begins, there is an interactive session in each Committee that gives delegates the chance to ask questions about the agenda item they will be discussing. After the interactive session, delegates deliver a speech on the agenda item that has been allocated to their Committee. The General Debate in the Plenary or the Committees is never interrupted with motions to caucus.

## **Informal Consultations (Negotiations)**

Rules of Procedure are suspended during all phases of informal consultations.

- **Informal Informals:** After the General Debate, delegates work in political groups within their Committee to draft a resolution and eventually merge the various drafts until there is one version for the Committee to consider.
- **Formal Informals:** The Chair or Main Sponsor of the draft resolution moderate a line by line review of the text giving the countries that chose not to sponsor the resolution a chance to propose amendments to the text. While reading through the resolution, the Secretary of the Committee makes notations of all the amendments in the resolution. There are no Rules of Procedures during these meetings and the amendments are not voted on.
- **Informal Informals:** After reading through the entire resolution, the sponsors and non-sponsors meet informally to discuss the amendments that were proposed. During this stage of the decision making process, the sponsors can accept, reject or agree to accept an alternate wording of the amendment. Any changes the sponsors agree to make are reported back to the Committee Secretary. After each round of informal informals, the Committee convenes another Formal Informal to review the resolution to see if there are any new amendments that the non-sponsors wish to propose. The process continues until all of the amendments have been considered or until the Committee runs out time. This is where most of the work gets done. There are no Rules of Procedure during this stage. As described above in the section, Main Elements in the Decision Making Process, after the General Debate in the Committee is over, delegates will move into informal consultations to draft a resolution in their Political Groups. Each Political Group within a Committee will draft a resolution on the agenda item that has been assigned to it and then the Heads of the Political Groups will merge the different drafts into a single document that will then be tabled (submitted) to the Secretary of the Committee (along with a list of sponsors) for consideration by the entire Committee.

## **Formal Meeting (Taking Action)**

When the sponsors and non-sponsors have agreed on all of the amendments that have been proposed and no new amendments are put forth, then the Committee knows it has reached consensus and is ready to adopt the resolution without a vote. If the Committee has run out of time to reach agreement, then it can choose to take action on a draft resolution by taking a vote.

When Member States reach consensus on the text of a draft resolution, they inform the Chair that they are ready to adopt the resolution without a vote and formal meeting is called to take action on the resolution. During the formal meeting to take action rules of procedure are again in use, however, when a resolution is adopted without a vote there are usually no motions that are made.

## **Explanation of Position**

Before action is taken on the resolution, the Chair gives non-sponsors a chance to “explain their position” and to add their country to the list of sponsors. After the resolution is adopted without a vote, no more changes can be made to the list of sponsors. Before adjourning the meeting, non-sponsors are given one last chance to explain their position and then the meeting is adjourned.

When consensus is not reached on the text of the draft resolution and then any non-sponsor can request that the resolution be put to a vote where a simple majority is required to adopt the resolution. During a formal meeting where a vote will be taken on a draft resolution, non-sponsors can introduce amendments that may have been rejected by the sponsors during informal consultations and put the amendment to a vote. The following motions are common when consensus has not been reached and a resolution will be adopted by a vote:

## **Motion To Divide Draft Proposal Into Separate Votes**

If one Member State puts forth a motion to divide the draft proposal into separate parts and another Member State objects, then 2 delegates may speak for and 2 may speak against the motion before a vote is taken on the motion. If the motion fails, the draft proposal is not divided. If the motion passes then it is divided in the manner requested by the delegate who put forth the motion. A delegate may request a separate vote on one or more paragraphs. After all amendments and divisions of the draft resolution into separate votes is completed, then the Committee must vote on the entire resolution before it is adopted.

## **Explanation of Vote**

Before a vote is taken on the entire resolution, the Chair gives non-sponsors a chance to “explain their vote” and to add their country to the list of sponsors. If a draft resolution has been significantly modified in the final meeting to take action, a sponsor can withdraw their country from the list of sponsors. Once the vote has been taken, no more changes can be made to the list of sponsors. Before adjourning the meeting, non-sponsors are then given one more change to explain their vote.

## **GA CLOSING PLENARY**

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A report on the work of each Committee is presented to the full plenary before it formally adopts the resolutions that were (TAKING considered in each Committee. Resolutions adopted in Committees ACTION) do not become official resolutions of the General Assembly until they have been adopted by the GA Plenary. It is the general practice for the Plenary to adopt a resolution by consensus if it was adopted by consensus in the Committee or by a vote if it was adopted by a vote in the Committee.

Once the Committees have completed their work, the resolutions are then sent to the GA Plenary for final adoption. If a resolution is adopted by consensus in the Committee then it is the practice in the UN to adopt it by consensus in the Closing Plenary and if it is adopted by a vote in Committee then it is adopted by a vote in the Closing Plenary. Member States do not deliver speeches in the Closing Plenary. The meeting begins with a report delivered by the Rapporteur of each Committee who summarize the discussions and actions taken. Then action is taken on each resolution in the same manner it was adopted in Committee.

## Explanation of Position or Vote

Before action is taken in the Closing Plenary, the PGA gives non-sponsors a chance to explain their position of vote if they did do so in Committee.

## Rules of Procedure

There are no motions to be made during the Closing Plenary. The only point that a delegate can raise is a Point of Order if he or she believes that one of the rules is not being properly followed. For example, if a non-sponsor who explained their position or vote in the Committee tries to explain their position or vote a second time in the Closing Plenary a delegate could raise a Point of Order to alert the PGA that the delegate has already exercised their right to explain their position or vote. This right is accorded only once during the conference. Either during the formal meeting to take action in the Committee or in the Closing Plenary but not both.

## MAIN POLITICAL GROUPS

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Political Groups play an important role both in the drafting of resolutions and in the negotiation process. Each Committee has a different set of political groups that are active in it. Delegates are encouraged to find out which political group(s) the country they representing belong to and to find out which political groups are most active in their Committee. The first step after the Opening Plenary will be for political groups to meet informally to begin drafting a resolution.

A description of the most common groups can be found online in the PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly published by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations .

[http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN\\_PGA\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf).

Here are the main political groups that are active at the UN today:

- Group of 77 and China (G-77)
- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
- Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)
- European Union (EU)
- African Union (AU)
- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
- ASEAN
- CANZ
- CARICOM
- League of Arab States
- Nordic Countries
- Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- Rio Group
- JUSCANZ

## **SPEECH TEMPLATE**

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Use the recommended structure below to help you write an organized speech for the General Debate in the GA Plenary and in your assigned Committee.

### **OPENING (for GA Plenary)**

What can you say about the importance of the conference theme that will grab the attention of delegates during the GA Plenary?

### **OPENING (for assigned Committee)**

What can you say about the importance of the agenda item to be discussed in your Committee that will grab the attention of delegates?

### **SUMMARY OF POLICY (for GA Plenary)**

What are three major points you could make about the theme that best capture your country's policy on this issue?

### **SUMMARY OF POLICY (for assigned Committee)**

What are three major points you could make about the the agenda assigned to your Committee that best capture your country's policy on this issue?

### **ACTION (for GA Plenary)**

What are a couple of actions that your country has taken or plans to take to support the Agenda 2030?

What actions does your country feel are important for other Member States to take on this issue and why?

### **ACTION (for assigned Committee)**

What actions has your country has already taken on the agenda item assigned to your Committee?

What are a couple of actions that your country feels should be taken with regard to the agenda assigned to your Committee and why?

## **RESOLUTION WRITING GUIDELINES**

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All resolutions must have two general sections. The first section should contain preambular paragraphs which give an overview of the actions taken by the UN on the agenda item that will be discussed and summarize the concerns of Member States on the issue. The second section should contain operative paragraphs that outline the actions that Member States recommend should be taken on the issue. Here are some more details about what goes in each section.

## PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

- Refer to the most important resolutions already adopted by the UN on this agenda item. Familiarity with past actions is important to prevent delegates from repeating actions already taken in the operative section.
- GA example: Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004.
- Security Council example: Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially its resolutions 2211 (2015), 2198 (2015), 2147 (2014), 2136 (2014), and 2098 (2013).
- Refer to past actions taken by other UN bodies, important UN conferences on the issue and any actions that may have been taken by Member States.
- Refer to any Secretary-General reports that have been distributed on the agenda item.
- Draw attention to any general points on the issue that Member States should be aware of.
- GA example: Recognizing the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to foster inter-cultural dialogue, peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of harmony, tolerance and understanding.
- Lastly, express any concerns that Member States may have that highlight the work that still needs to be done on this issue.
- Preambular paragraphs always begin with a verb in the present participle, also known as the -ing form of a verb (e.g. Recalling). The verb is italicized (no longer underlined) and the preambular paragraph always ends with a comma.
- If two paragraphs in row begin with the same verb (e.g., Noting), then it is considered good practice to write Noting further the second time it is used.

## OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS

- Refer to actions Member States recommend should be taken on the agenda item it has been assigned.
- GA example: Invites Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education.
- Security Council example: Calls for continued national efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.
- Add sub-operative paragraphs if necessary to describe actions in more detail. Refer to any Secretary-General reports that have been distributed on the agenda item.

- Operative paragraphs are numbered, always begin with a verb in the present tense (e.g., Requests) and end with a semi-colon, except for the last operative paragraph which ends in a period.
- When recommending actions in the operative section, it is important to consider whether it would cost the UN money to implement these actions. If so, Member States must then address whether this action must be implemented using existing resources or whether its implementation is contingent upon voluntary contribution being made by Member States.

Common preambular and operative phrases used in real UN resolutions can be found by consulting the document compiled by The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR):

<http://outreach.un.org/mun/files/2013/11/Terms-used-in-resolutions.pdf>

The best way to learn about how to write resolutions properly is to study actual UN resolutions. Every resolution adopted by the GA or Security Council can be found online.

## PROPOSING AMENDMENTS DURING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS (FORMAL INFORMALS)

After a draft resolution is tabled (submitted) to the Secretary for the Committee to consider, the entire Committee will review the resolution line by line in what is called a Formal Informal which is moderated by the Chair of the Committee or the main sponsor of the resolution. During a Formal Informal, the countries that chose not to sponsor the draft resolution (referred to as the non-sponsors) have an opportunity to propose amendments. These amendments are noted in the text. The sponsors can agree to accept, reject or engage in negotiations to reach agreement on an alternate version of the amendment. Since there are no rules of procedure during informal consultations, the amendments are not voted upon but become the primary focus of negotiations between the sponsors and non-sponsors of a draft resolution. The types of amendments that can be proposed include:

- ▶ Adding a word, phrase, sentence in a paragraph
- ▶ Adding a new paragraph
- ▶ Deleting one or more words in a paragraph
- ▶ Replacing a word, phrase, sentence or entire paragraph with a new word, phrase, sentence or entire paragraph.

When amendments are proposed by a non-sponsor, other non-sponsors can indicate whether they want to retain the original language as is.

Here is an example of how an amendment would look in the text after it was proposed: Emphasizing the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all [Italy, Canada ADD: women and men] [Canada DELETE: people] benefit from economic growth.



# Research and Preparation

After learning about the United Nations, and understanding the rules of procedure of Model UN, it is time for you to begin the research process. The research process can be broken down into a series of simple steps:

## IMPORTANCE OF NEWSPAPER

Newspaper is an integral part which contributes to one's intellectual growth. Newspaper is a compilation of the current affairs across the globe. It is important for a munner to have an intellectual approach towards various perspectives in life. A Model UN conference has more to do with an individual's personality development rather than just a competition. Hence, a munner should carry the responsibility of being knowledgeable, logical and well versed with the aspects that tend to dominate the current happenings of the world. Newspaper, regular watching of prominent news channels, reading magazines and journals that deals with the current affairs and reading of books etc., play an effective and impactful role in developing individual's thinking process and his or her approach towards life. Hence, daily reading of the newspaper and keeping yourself updated with the current affairs plays a significant role in shaping a good munner.

## COMMITTEE RESEARCH

The first step is to familiarize yourself with the committee that you will be participating in and to understand its role, powers and functions.

## COUNTRY RESEARCH

Next, you should learn about your country, and get a basic understanding of its history, geography, culture, economy and policies.

## AGENDA RESEARCH

After that, you will have to develop a thorough understanding of your agenda or topic. You should begin by reading the background guide. The guide will usually also have additional resources at the end, which are a useful tool in learning more about the agenda.

## PREPARING A RESEARCH FRAME

Once you have a basic understanding of your committee, country, and agenda, you should prepare a research frame. A research frame essentially breaks down the agenda into its fundamental sub-topics. The research frame includes the key problem areas, the impact and incidence of the problem, its causes, potential solutions, and an actionable way forward. You can use this research frame to identify potential topics for your speakers list speeches and for moderated caucuses.

## IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

You should also build a comprehensive list of solutions and actionable steps that you would want to include in the resolution.

### WRITE A POSITION PAPER

Most conferences require delegates to submit a position paper, which is a short essay about the delegate's country and its policies. More information about position papers can be found in a separate video.

### MAKE A RESEARCH BINDER

Finally, you should prepare a research binder, which is a physical or virtual folder of all your research material organized in a simple manner. You can carry this research binder with you to help you during the conference.

# Position Paper Guidelines

A position paper is a short essay written by each delegate before participating in a Model UN conference. The position paper describes the delegates' overall stance on the agenda and what they hope to achieve from the committee.

The position paper is submitted to the executive board, and then shared with other delegates in the committee, to provide all delegates with a basic understanding of everyone's position on the topic at hand. The position paper is also a great way to begin preparing for the conference and can be easily adapted into an opening speech.

There is no pre-determined format for a position paper, but it is usually between 1 and 2 pages in length and includes preliminary information about the agenda and the country being represented by the delegate.

### WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

A position paper is essentially an essay, that details an individual's, organization's or country's stand with regards to a specific topic or agenda. In the context of Model UN, a position paper is an essay that highlights the delegate's country's policies and position with regards to the agenda.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A POSITION PAPER?

A position paper serves as a foundational tool that establishes the initial position of each country in a committee towards the given agenda or issue. This helps delegates ascertain bloc positions and also identify allies or opponents.

Furthermore, a position paper serves as an excellent foundation from which to begin substantive research. It also serves as an overall brief of the country's stance, and can be used as a fall back document whenever required. Lastly, a well written position paper can often be used as the opening speech on a general speaker's list.

## WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A POSITION PAPER?

A well written position paper will include all of the following:

- A brief introduction to the country, and its history with respect to the topic/agenda and the committee
- How the agenda or issue affects the country
- The country's policies with regards to the issue, and the justification for these policies
- Quotes, statistics or other data to support the position adopted by the country
- Actions undertaken by the country towards the issue
- Conventions, treaties, resolutions, etc. that the country has signed
- UN actions that the country has supported or opposed
- What the country believes should be done to address the issue
- What the country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution
- How the position of other countries or blocs affects the country's position

## WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF A POSITION PAPER?

- A position paper is written from the perspective of the State or country and not of the delegate. As such, avoid using 'I' or 'The Delegate'; instead, use your country's name.

*Example: India believes that poverty is a global issue.*

- A position paper is written in the present tense.
- The length of a good position paper is between one and two pages. This roughly corresponds to about 1000 words.
- Use Times New Roman, Size 12, line spacing 1.5 and adequate margins.
- Try and include your country's official seal or emblem as a watermark or a signature to create the official feeling.
- Organize the entire paper into clear paragraphs and try and use bullet points when possible.
- Keep the language simple, and do not use overly complex sentence structures.
- Cite any factual data, quotes, statistics, etc.
- Try and include at least one quote from your country's leaders about the issue.

## HOW TO WRITE A POSITION PAPER?

- Begin by researching the country, the committee and the topic area.
- Contextualize your research by trying to identify the country's stance towards the topic area.
- Identify important treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. related to the topic area or issue. Determine whether or not the country is a signatory or member to these treaties, conventions, etc.
- Read interviews and speeches given by the country's leaders in the recent past and try and identify the common thread in all the data – this common thread will be the position that the country adopts.
- Try and understand why the country has adopted such a position. This can be gauged by looking at the history of the country and the topic area, and its evolution.
- Identify possible solutions or next steps that the country would like to see adopted in the committee resolution. Develop arguments for why these solutions are adequate and necessary.
- Identify the counter-position – the opposite position or the opponent's position – and develop arguments for why your position is better or why the counter-position is weak.
- Organize all the data, and draft your position paper. Expect to write at least 3 drafts before finalizing the paper.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE A POSITION PAPER?

- Organize your paper into paragraphs. Dedicate a new paragraph to each new idea.
- The following is an example of a good flow of a position paper. Please feel free to deviate from this flow as required. There is no hard and fast rule that governs the structure of a position paper. A good position paper is one that includes all elements, and is easy to read.

**Introduction:** Begin by introducing the country and the topic area

**History:** Trace the history of the country and the topic area

**Position:** Identify how the issue affects your country, and describe the position adopted by the country towards the issue.

**Substantiate:** Elaborate on the position, and include the country's policies, legislations, actions, etc. towards the issue

**Support:** Support your claims with quotes, data and statistics

**Action Framework:** Treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. adopted by your country towards the issue + country's position on the key treaties, conventions, etc. + rationale for such a position

**Way Forward:** Solutions that the county wishes to adopt + What the country hopes to achieve from the committee

**Counter Positions:** Identify counter positions and explain how they affect the country's stance

**Conclusion Statement:** Conclude with a statement about what the country hopes for, in the larger picture.

# Sample Position Paper

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**Committee:** Disarmament and International  
**Security Topic:** Nuclear Test Ban

**Country:** The Republic of Sierra Leone  
**School:** High School Academy

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- A. The nuclear test ban issue has been the first item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament since 1978 with good reason. In 1963, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the USSR entered into the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), which prohibited testing in the atmosphere and underwater. In 1974, the United States and the USSR entered into the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) which placed an upper limit of 150 kilotons on nuclear tests.

The next logical step, a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), has been long overdue. Nuclear weapon testing allows the arms race to continue and even escalate. The implementation of a test ban would slow down the development of new nuclear weapons and thereby slow down the arms race. Furthermore, a CTBT would not, as some states have claimed, threaten the stability of the policy of nuclear deterrence, on which both superpowers rely. In fact, a CTBT would maintain stability by preventing innovations and developments which could potentially give one nuclear state a unilateral advantage. Moreover, the increasing use of super-computers has essentially eliminated the need for actual testing.

- B. The Republic of Sierra Leone believes disarmament to be crucial for the maintenance of worldwide security and considers a nuclear test ban to be an important step in the process of reaching that goal. Sierra Leone is not a nuclear power nor does it aid other countries in producing nuclear weapons.

In the past, the policy of Sierra Leone has been to work diligently towards a CTBT. We wish to accomplish this goal through negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament. In accordance with this policy, the Resolution 485 banning nuclear testing in Africa and Resolution 781 banning nuclear testing in Southeast Asia received wholehearted support from Sierra Leone. Furthermore, our government received glowing reports from the international press for our stance on the issue. The African Journal wrote that "To maintain the fundamental principles of Africa, the UN needs more nations like Sierra Leone" (Volume 48, 1993, pp. 12).

- C. The Republic of Sierra Leone supports the following proposals for a nuclear test ban treaty: The treaty must be a comprehensive and permanent one. Although Japan's proposal to have a progressive lowering of the threshold limit until it reached zero is an interesting idea, not only does this legitimize nuclear weapon testing, it also delays a true resolution of the problem. In addition, it gives the nuclear states a greater opportunity to escape their obligations through inevitable loopholes in the treaty.

Although peaceful nuclear explosions could potentially bring about beneficial results, the nearly insurmountable difficulty in differentiating between nuclear tests for weapons and nuclear tests for peaceful purposes makes such a distinction infeasible. The proposal that a state must provide the Secretary-General with all relevant data about the planned explosion is laudable, yet proper assurance of the peaceful nature of a test would require a degree of monitoring to which most nuclear states would not agree.

States can rely not only on all national means of verification which are consistent with international law, but also an international verification system. Current seismic monitoring systems, such as the Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR), are sufficiently advanced to determine whether states are complying with a CTBT. In addition, the 1984 experiment involving the World Meteorological Organization/Global Telecommunications System (WMO/GTS) illustrates the viability of an international seismic network. As per the Ad Hoc Group's report, Sierra Leone is in favor of an international network of seismic monitoring stations which would send their data to International Data Centers (IDCs) for analysis. These IDCs would automatically give out type I data (basic information) with type II data (data subjected to more advanced analysis) available upon request. Of course, even after the conclusion of a CTBT, there should be further research into the development of even more sensitive and accurate seismic monitoring equipment and analysis techniques. If the test ban treaty involved the gradual reduction of the threshold limit, then that limit should reflect current seismic monitoring technology. In addition, on-site inspections should be allowed.

Regarding compliance, a test ban treaty is of such paramount importance that violators should be punished. Yet the fact remains that embargoes would most likely have little if any effect on most nuclear states. Perhaps compliance measures will eventually rely on first convincing the superpowers, and any other nuclear states, to enter into a CTBT and then getting the superpowers themselves to ensure that their allies abide by the treaty.

## POSITION PAPER TIPS:

- ✓ Keep the language simple
- ✓ Make sure the paper is well organized
- ✓ Ensure that the paper is less than 2 pages
- ✓ Avoid using personal pronouns
- ✓ Make it look official by using your country emblem or seal
- ✓ Include recent quotes or statistics, but don't overuse them
- ✓ Maintain the flow of the paper – each paragraph should lead into the next
- ✓ Write and rewrite the paper a few times before finalizing it
- ✓ Refer to the sample position paper provided
- ✓ Remember to include the country, agenda and committee name before beginning the position paper

# Sample Working Paper

The purpose of the working paper is to clearly communicate the interests of one or more countries. Please note that there is no set format for working papers; the below is just one example of a possible working paper. To facilitate the photocopying and delivery, working papers should include the name and topic of the committee. After receiving the approval of the Director, working papers may be copied and distributed to the committee.

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**Committee:** UN Commission on Trade and Development

**Topic:** Generalized System of Preferences

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Signatories: Algeria, United States, Colombia, United Kingdom, South Africa, Portugal, Republic of Korea, and Spain.

The authors of this working paper believe that a GSP should be set up so that Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) receive preferential treatment from Developed Countries (DCs). To that end we propose:

1. Each DC reduce its tariffs to the lowest level possible. This level will be determined by the below created subcommittee.
  2. Bilateral trade agreements should be pursued for further reductions in tariffs.
  3. Trade preferences should be granted in the following areas:
    - a) Agriculture
    - b) Manufactures
    - c) Semi-manufactures
    - d) Raw materials
- 
1. Decisions on giving nations preference in product coverage should be made in consultation with the affected LDC. Annual re-evaluation of coverage shall take place with the LDC with dispute going to the below-created subcommittee.
  2. A subcommittee of UNCTAD should be created with equal membership of developed and developing countries. This subcommittee would have the following powers:
    - a) To mediate disputes between preference givers and receivers
    - b) Make recommendations which all countries should follow
    - c) Serve as a forum for airing grievances relating to the GSP
    - d) Report regularly to the Secretary-General
  3. Membership should be as follows:
    - a) Five permanent nations from the DCs
    - b) Five permanent nations from the LDCs
    - c) Ten members elected annually by UNCTAD

The voting rights will have to be worked out, but the UN format for subcommittees seems best. Of course, we are amenable to change.

# Sample Draft Resolution

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**Committee:** UN Commission on Science and Technology

**Topic:** International Newsflow Imbalance

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Signatories: Algeria, United States, Colombia, United Kingdom, South Africa, Portugal, Republic of Korea, and Spain

## **The Economic and Social Council,**

Noting its Resolution A/36/89 of 16 December 1981, "The Declaration on Fundamental Principles Concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding,"

Noting further Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,"

Recognizing that the problem of news flow imbalance is that two-way information among countries of a region is either non-existent or insufficient and information exchanged between regions of the world is inadequate,

Realizing the need for all sovereign nations to maintain their integrity and still play an active role in the international system,

1. Recommends that a three-level information interchange system be established on the National, Regional, and International levels to ameliorate the current problems of news flow imbalance, operating as follows:
  - a) *Each region's member nations will report their national information and receive the information of other nations in their region from the regional level of this interchange system;*
  - b) *Nations will decide the character of the news flow media best suited to the need of their sovereign territory, be this printed, audio, or audio-visual;*
  - c) *Regional News Gathering Agencies will serve to gather information from the nations in their region, and these boards will have no editorial discretion and will serve to forward all information to the International Board;*
  - d) *Each regional agency will be composed of representatives from every member nation of the region;*
  - e) *The primary function of the International Board will be to translate information accumulated from the regional news gathering agencies;*
  - f) *The secondary purpose will be to transmit all information gathered back to the member nations via the regional news gathering agencies;*
  - g) *In order to expedite the transfer of information from the international to regional level the International Board will utilize a UN frequency on an EEC (European Economic Community) satellite;*
2. Urges the establishment of the University of International Communications, with main branch in Geneva, Switzerland, and additional branches located in each of the aforementioned regions, to pursue the following aims:
  - a) *The University and branches will be established with the express purpose of bringing together world views and facilitating the transfer of technology;*
  - b) *All member nations of the United Nations will be equally represented at the University;*
  - c) *Incentives will be offered to students of journalism and communications at the University to return to their countries to teach upon completion of instruction;*
  - d) *The instructors of the regional education centers will be comprised of a multi-partisan coalition of educators from throughout the world;*
3. Calls for the continued use of funds from the International Program for the Development of Communications, Special Account, UNESCO, the UNDP, and other sources of funding including national governments and private donors;
4. Further recommends that the distribution of funds be decided by the IPDC.



# Resolution Formatting Guidelines

## HEADING

The title should be centred, in capital letters, above the body of the draft resolution. The next two lines should list the name of the committee and the title of the topic, left-aligned. Note that no authors should be listed, as there are no sponsors of draft resolutions at HMUN. Do note, however, that draft resolutions require the approval of the Director and the signature of twenty-five members in General Assembly committees, eight members in the Economic and Social Council committees and Regional Bodies, and five members in the Security Council and Historical Security Council. Signatories should be listed at the top of the first page of the draft resolution.

## BODY

The body of a resolution is written in the format of a long sentence, with the following rules:

- The committees of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council should begin their resolutions with “The General Assembly” and “The Economic and Social Council,” respectively. All other committees should use their own names in the introductory line. The rest of the resolution is comprised of two sets of clauses.
- The first set consists of preambulatory clauses, which describe the problem being addressed, recall past actions taken, explain the purpose of the resolution, and offer support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an italicized (or underlined, if handwritten) word or phrase and ends with a comma.
- The second set consists of operative clauses, which are numbered and state the action(s) to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used to begin preambulatory clauses. These verbs are underlined. All operative clauses, except the last, which ends with a period, are followed by semi-colons.

## PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

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

## Operative Clauses

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Accepts	Deplores	Further reminds	Resolves
Affirms	Designates	Further requests	Solemnly affirms
Approves	Draws attention	Further resolves	Strongly condemns
Authorizes	Emphasizes	Has resolved	Supports
Calls for	Encourages	Notes	Takes note of
Calls upon	Endorses	Proclaims	Trusts
Condemns (SC only)	Expresses its appreciation	Reaffirms	Urges
Confirms	Expresses its hope	Recommends	Welcomes
Congratulates	Further invites	Regrets	
Considers	Further proclaims	Reminds	
Declares accordingly	Further recommends	Requests	
Demands (SC only)			

# Glossary of terms

**Abstain:** During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a country does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

**Adjourn:** All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next year's conference).

**Agenda:** The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

**Amendment:** A change to a draft resolution on the floor. 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 in a Model UN committee usually written by conference organizers and distributed to delegates before the conference. The starting point for any research before a Model UN conference.

**Binding:** Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice; resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council are not.

**Bloc:** A group of countries in a similar geographical region or with a similar opinion on a particular topic. Blocs typically vote together.

**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 that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure.

**Dais:** The group of people, usually high school or college students, in charge of a Model UN committee. It generally consists of a Chair, a Director, and a Rapporteur. The dais is also the raised platform on which the chair traditionally sits.

**Decorum:** The order and respect for others that all delegates at a Model UN conference must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of a 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.

**Delegation:** The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference. They are usually all from the same school.

**Director:** A member of the dais that oversees the creation of working papers and draft resolutions, acts as an expert on the topic, makes sure delegates accurately reflect the policy of their countries, and ensures that decorum is maintained during caucuses.

**Division of the Question:** During voting bloc, delegates may motion to vote on certain clauses of a resolution separately, so that only the clauses that are passed become part of the final resolution. This is known as division of the question.

**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.

**Faculty Advisor:** The faculty member in charge of a Model UN team, class or club.

**Flow of debate:** The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. This usually indicates the movement between formal and informal debate and the process of drafting, debating and voting on resolutions.

**Gavel:** The tool, shaped like a small wooden hammer, which the Chair uses to keep order within a Model UN committee. Many conferences give the gavel used in a committee to the delegate recognized by the dais as the best in that committee; therefore, the term is frequently used to refer to the award given to the best delegate, even in cases where no actual gavel is given.

**Formal debate:** The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

**Head Delegate:** The student leader of a Model UN club or team.

**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 193 member states.

**Moderated Caucus:** A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be possible in formal debate.

**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 procedure.

**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-stock 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.

**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)

**Procedural:** Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.

**Quorum:** The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution. In the Security Council, no quorum exists for the body to debate, but nine members must be present to pass a resolution.

**Rapporteur:** A member of the dais whose duties include keeping the speakers' list and taking the roll call, as well as assisting in and keeping track of administrative duties in the committee room.

**Resolution:** A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue.

**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 and respective delegate may respond "present" or "present and voting".

**Rules of Procedure:** The rules by which a Model UN committee is run.

**Secretariat:** The staff of a Model UN conference.

**Secretary-General:** The leader of a Model UN conference. The current Secretary-General of the UN is António Guterres.

**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. Usually,

Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

**Simple majority:** 50% plus one vote of the number of delegates in a committee. The amount needed to pass most votes.

**Speakers' List:** A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the dais.

**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.

**Unmoderated Caucus:** A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort countries into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

**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 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.

**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 procedure:** 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.

# Recommended Research Resources

## GENERAL NEWS

**BBC:** [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) (there are good region-specific sub-categories of BBC coverage)

**The Economist:** [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

**CNN:** [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

**Reuters:** <http://www.reuters.com/>

**New York Times:** [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

**The Guardian:** [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

**Telegraph:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/>

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## GENERAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS NEWS

**Foreign Policy:** <http://www.foreignpolicy.com>

**The Washington Post:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

**Council on Foreign Relations:** [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)

**Brookings Institute:** <http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/international-affairs>

**Small World:** <http://mmelcher-news.tumblr.com/>

**European Council on Foreign Relations:** <http://www.ecfr.eu/>

**Foreign Affairs:** <http://www.foreignaffairs.com>  
**Carnegie Endowment for Peace:** <http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/>

**OpenDemocracy:** <http://www.opendemocracy.net/>  
(need VPN)

**UN News:** <http://www.un.org/news/>

**World Affairs Journal:** <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/>

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## NEWSLETTERS

**Council on Foreign Relations:** [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)

**Foreign Policy:** <http://www.foreignpolicy.com>

**Al-Monitor:** <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/home.html>

**International Crisis Group:** <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en.aspx>

**Sinocism (China-specific):** <https://sinocism.com/>

**Foreign Affairs:** <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

**United States Institute of Peace:** <http://www.usip.org/>

**UN News:** <http://www.un.org/apps/news/email/>

**World Affairs Journal:** <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/>

**International Rescue Committee:** <http://www.rescue.org/>  
You should set Google News Alerts for specific countries and/or topics relevant to your committee [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts)

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## ECONOMICS NEWS

**Financial Times:** <http://www.ft.com/home/us>

**Wall Street Journal:** <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

**Bloomberg:** <http://www.businessweek.com/>

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## CHINA/ASIA NEWS

**Caixin Media:** <http://english.caixin.com/>

**China File:** <http://www.chinafile.com/>

**Tea Leaf Nation:** <http://www.tealeafnation.com/>

**The Diplomat:** <http://thediplomat.com/>

**South China Morning Post:** <http://www.scmp.com/front-page/international>

**Channel News Asia:** <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/>

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS

**Al-Monitor:** <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/home.html>  
**Institute of the Study of War:** <http://www.understanding-war.org/>

**Al Jazeera:** [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)

**Al Arabiya:** <http://english.alarabiya.net/>

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## AFRICA NEWS

**IRIN:** <http://www.irinnews.org/>

**All Africa:** <http://allafrica.com/>

## GENERAL RESEARCH SITES

**Council on Foreign Relations:** [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)

**Brookings Institute:** <http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/international-affairs> (there are good region-specific subcategories of Brookings analysis)

**Carnegie Endowment for Peace:** <http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/>

**Atlantic Council:** <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/>

**Wilson Center:** <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>

**Lowy Institute for International Policy:** <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/>

**Chatham House:** <http://www.chathamhouse.org/>

**International IDEA:** <http://www.idea.int/index.cfm>

**European Council on Foreign Relations:** <http://www.ecfr.eu/publications>

**UN News:** <http://www.un.org/news/>

**Google Scholar:** <http://scholar.google.com/>

**JSTOR:** <http://www.jstor.org/>

**UN International Law Library:** <http://legal.un.org/avl/intro/introduction.html?tab=2>

**Colombia International Affairs Online:** <https://www.ciaonet.org/>

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## COUNTRY RESEARCH

**CIA World Factbook:** <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

**International Crisis Group:** <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en.aspx>

**Council on Foreign Relations:** [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)

**The Economist:** [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

**BBC:** [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

**International IDEA:** <http://www.idea.int/index.cfm> **the**

**Country Profile section is especially useful:** <http://www.idea.int/sod/profiles/index.cfm>

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## SECURITY RESEARCH

**International Crisis Group:** <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en.aspx>

**Providing for Peacekeeping:** <http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/>

**Fund for Peace:** <http://global.fundforpeace.org/index.php>

**International Peace Institute:** <http://www.ipinst.org/>

**UNSC:** <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

**Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):** <http://www.sipri.org/>

**Center for New American Security:** <http://www.cnas.org/>

**Stimson Center:** <http://www.stimson.org/>

**Colombia International Affairs Online:** <https://www.ciaonet.org/>

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## ECOSOC RESEARCH

**Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre:** <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

**World Bank:** <http://www.worldbank.org/>

**International Monetary Fund:** <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

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## UN ORGANISATIONS

**UNICEF:** <http://www.unicef.org/>

**WHO:** <http://www.who.int/en/>

**UNHRC:** <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/hrcindex.aspx>

**UNEP:** <http://www.unep.org/>

**UNDP:** <http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home.html>

**UNHCR:** <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

**IMO:** <http://www.imo.org/Pages/home.aspx>

**ILO:** <http://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>  
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

**Doctors Without Borders (MSF):** <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

**Transparency International:** <http://www.transparency.org/country>

**Human Rights Watch:** <http://www.hrw.org/>

**Amnesty International:** <http://www.amnesty.org/>

**Nature Conservancy:** <http://www.nature.org/>

**Sierra Club:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/>

**Environmental Defense Fund:** <http://www.edf.org/>

**OPEC:** [http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/)

**OECD:** <http://www.oecd.org/>

**Colombia International Affairs Online:** <https://www.ciaonet.org/>

**Science Daily:** [http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth\\_climate/environmental\\_science/](http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth_climate/environmental_science/)

**National Geographic News:** <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/archives/environment/>

“There is power in individuals, and now we’re learning there is power in individuals coming together”

**Kathy Calvin**

President and CEO, United Nations Foundation



Worldview is a person-centric experiential learning platform for students with an overriding focus on Transformative Leadership. We focus on what we believe is the most critical aspect of Leadership: Adaptive Capacity, the ability to adapt quickly to positively leverage the opportunities in fast changing environments. We strive to develop personal potential attributes in an individual which include Thinking & Creativity, Knowledge, Communication Skills, Ethics & Integrity, Team Work, and Planning & Organisation in order to improve this critical capacity in participants.

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## PARTNERS

(Partial list of past & present partners)



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