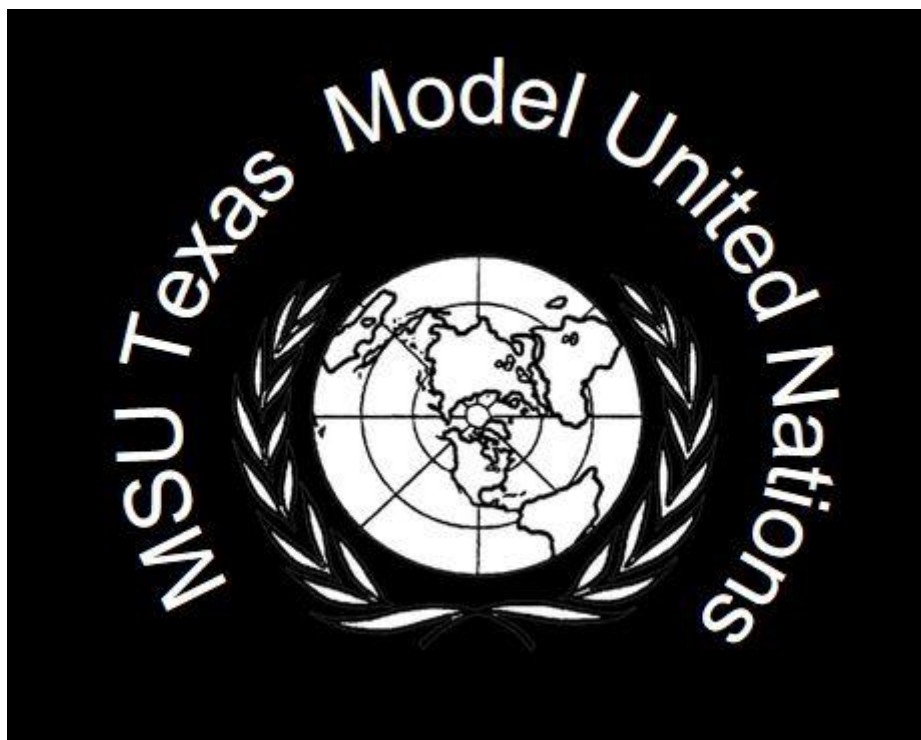


Delegate Preparation Handbook



MSU Texas Model United Nations Invitational
Conference

October 27th, 2023

Note: All of the materials in the guide as well as additional research resources are available online at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/honors/mun/munhs-home.php>

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Topic Research Guide

Topic 1: Prioritizing Development for Natural Disaster Resilience

Natural disasters have threatened the globe for the entirety of human history. From earthquakes to wildfires, geographic regions have experienced catastrophic disasters that change the daily lives of millions in a brief moment of time. With advances in technology that help us prepare for these natural disasters saving countless lives, there still remains the continual threat of forces beyond human control. It is important to recognize that all natural disasters are natural hazards that produce destructive power that expose people to harm. The most developed countries are able to utilize this technology to the best of their efforts; however, many countries still lack the proper development necessary to combat such events given scientific advances. Not only can natural disasters affect just that of a single country or region, but they also commonly have indirect effects on the global economy and more. Natural disasters continually top the priorities of the international agenda, and have since the passage of the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction. While concern is unfortunately more prudent after disaster strikes, the need to develop disaster preparedness across the globe remains.

In order to combat such events from occurring, the United Nations utilizes multiple avenues that focus solely on tackling the issue of minimizing the threat of natural disasters. In 1999, the United Nations established the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This office is the central manager involved in assessing disaster risk. First published by the UNDRR in 2009, the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). GAR is the flagship report of the United Nations on worldwide efforts to reduce disaster risk, and is the product of the contributions of nations, public and private disaster risk-related science and research, amongst others¹. All of this activity is backed by the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework, which works in tandem with The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and 2030 the Sustainable Development Goals.

In May 2023, the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to reducing the risk of disasters and building resilience with a renewed sense of urgency. The 2015 Sendai Framework introduced risk reduction objectives from 2015-2030, and three years from the end of the objectives little has been done.² With that the General Assembly calls upon member states to improve data collection, mechanisms of international risk data, identify public spending gaps, allocate for domestic resources, and engage with private investment to uniformly ensure response, recovery, and rehabilitation. To monitor the progress of member states, the UNDRR created the Sendai Framework Monitor, which reveals that 131 countries have not begun their

¹ <https://www.undrr.org/gar>

² <https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12502.doc.htm>

progress reporting of global targets.³ The UNDRR has also already established Prevention Web to facilitate international information sharing and transparency for natural disasters.⁴

To properly and effectively reach the 2030 goal of the Sendai Framework, the United Nations has created the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) 2030 initiative. This global partnership aims to strengthen local resilience through partnering with C40 Cities in their efforts to push climate action, the Resilient Cities Network with their work to drive urban resilience, ICLEI with their efforts to drive local sustainable policies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in their history of developmental action, UN Habitat in promoting sustainable human settlements, and more.⁵ Partnerships like these are essential in fulfilling the conditions of the Sendai Framework, but need to work faster to meet the 2030 deadline.

While progress is being made internationally, it is not uniform. Developing Member States are experiencing not only a lack of resources to effectively deal with natural disasters, but also a lack of information on how to improve their situations. The midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework found that “Global access to disaster data and applicable risk knowledge, including multi-hazard early warning systems, remains inadequate. Increased economic costs of disasters are not matched with financing for disaster risk reduction, and challenges remain in quantifying risk-informed preventive financing embedded in public and private investments.”⁶ Many developed Member States already have the technology needed to reduce the risk of natural disasters; however, these resources are not being shared with the rest of the world. The goal of establishing uniform warning systems and other technologies to prevent natural events from becoming natural disasters is reachable, but only part of the world is able to make that reach.

Questions to Consider:

- What can be done to incentivize and promote effective monitoring of Sendai Framework implementation across the international community?
- How can the United Nations facilitate the sharing of information and technologies among the developed and underdeveloped world?

Related Links

- [The Sendai Framework](#)
- [The Sendai Framework Monitor](#)

³ <https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/>

⁴ <https://www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk>

⁵ <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/who-we-are#strategic-objectives>

⁶ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/report-main-findings-and-recommendations-midterm-review-implementation-sendai-framework>

- [Making Cities Resilient \(MCR\) 2030](#)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme <https://unhabitat.org/> (UN-HABITAT)
- [Prevention Web](#)
- [C40 Cities](#)
- [Resilient Cities Network](#)
- [ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability](#)
- The UN [Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GAR)
- [Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) (2023)
- [Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#)
- [The Report of the Main findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)
- Adopting Wide-Ranging Political Declaration, [General Assembly Reaffirms Commitment to Reduce Disaster Risk, Build Resilience with Renewed Sense of Urgency](#)
- United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction [UNDRR](#)

Topic 2: Combating International Distribution of Synthetic Drugs

The production of synthetic drugs is growing increasingly more sophisticated, with distribution networks becoming innovative and nimbler and the drugs themselves more harmful. Due to the ever-increasing reach of social media, the darknet, and clearnet websites, criminal organizations have grown and expanded their reach exponentially. Online trafficking has already significantly impacted the overall distribution of drugs. With the growth of blockchain and cryptocurrency, illegal drug distributors now have more extensive access to global capital and a further reach than ever before. Markets are continually diversifying, with prescription medications and new synthetic opioids increasingly being misused. Misuse is described as taking more than your prescribed dose, using it to enter a drug-induced state, or purchasing it illegally from non-licensed distributors.

According to the United Nation's World Drug Report (WDR), the estimated number of people who have used a drug in the past 12 months continues to grow, surpassing 296 million individuals worldwide in 2021. Almost 1 in 13 people aged 15-64 worldwide have consumed drugs in the past 12 months, and more than 1 in 100 have issues with substance abuse. Drug overdose is increasingly becoming a leading cause of death worldwide. Substance abuse is a life-long health crisis that affects both mental and physical health of drug users. Given the prevalence of this issue in the global community the United Nations first addressed the issue with the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) with the intention of limiting narcotic production and trade to those solely for medical and scientific purposes. The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances established an international control system for psychotropic substances and the subsequent United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) sought to address drug trafficking by strengthening controls for money laundering and precursor chemicals. These conventions established the international narcotics control regime and set the stage of the UN Decade against Drug Abuse in the 1990s which included the adoption of the Political Declaration and Global Program of Action that outlined a global measures to address the drug problem. Subsequently, the General Assembly held a special session in 2016 to address the world drug problem.

The production and distribution of synthetic drugs, especially synthetic opioids, presents a specialized challenge to this international narcotics control regime and the international community has begun to address this challenge. In 2016, under the World Health Organization (WHO) Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care framework, the “Stop Overdose Safely (S-O-S)” Initiative was launched. The WHO assists countries in monitoring trends in drug usage and substance abuse issues to better understand the scale of drug dependence and opioid overdose. Technological advancements have created new purchasing options such as blockchain and cryptocurrency, enabling illegal drug distributors’ extensive access to worldwide capital, distribution reaching countries they once could not. Increased digital interconnectivity has brought about innovations in how supply chains operate, but the ongoing growth of online shopping is not limited to the purchase of licit goods. The increase in the use of the Internet among the general population has also led to an increase in the use of the internet as an illicit drug market. Developments in digital communications platforms have also added a new dimension to drug distribution, increasing the reach of international traffickers. Given the increased access to international supply networks, the average user can now purchase illicit narcotics directly from the supplier, reducing costs, and streamlining the supply chain. Qualitative information provided by people who use social media suggests that the use of such media for drug-purchasing purposes has been increasing, especially at the retail level. This is occurring in a context in which the use of social media, typically accessed via the clear web (although not exclusively), is increasing more rapidly than the use of the Internet in general. In a study conducted in the United States (2018) and Spain (2019), in which about one-tenth of all Internet-using drug consumers aged 15–25 bought drugs online, large proportions of online purchases were made via social media, and the remainder on darknet markets. Recent studies suggest that drug sales via social media have grown markedly and may already be more significant than drug sales via darknet markets on the dark web, notably at the retail level. Darknet drug purchases have begun moving to wholesale demands, while small-time retail sales have shifted to social media markets. Without a concerted and coordinated effort in the international community, the rapid growth and spread of illicit synthetic drugs will increasingly impact the security, health, and economics of member states throughout the globe.

Questions to consider:

1. How can the United Nations incentivize combatting the production and control of synthetic drugs in member states?
2. What challenges arise in regulating markets that span numerous international borders? How can member states address these challenges?
3. In what ways can less developed states contribute to the control of synthetic drug distribution?

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Security Council Topic 1: Sovereignty in the South China Sea

The South China Sea, located at the crossroads of East Asia, is a critical maritime expanse characterized by an array of overlapping sovereignty claims and competing interests. The concept of sovereignty in this region is at the heart of geopolitical tensions, legal disputes, and diplomatic negotiations. It has become a focal point for security concerns due to the overlapping territorial claims of multiple states, military buildups, and increasing strategic competition among major powers, raising questions about regional stability and the maintenance of a rules-based international order.

Historically, the South China Sea has been a vital maritime thoroughfare, connecting East Asia with the rest of the world. Various states in the region, such as China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan, have asserted sovereignty over different features within the South China Sea. China's historical claims are rooted in ancient maps, records, and historical activities. The nation asserts authority over the largest portion of the South China Sea, demarcated by its "Nine-Dash Line." This line encompasses a vast area, including the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands, which other claimants contest. Vietnam claims sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly Islands, asserting historical evidence and administrative control. The Philippines claims sovereignty over several regional features, including Scarborough Shoal, a focal point of tension with China.

Several claimants, including China, have engaged in military buildup and constructing military facilities on disputed islands and reefs, raising concerns about potential military conflicts. The presence of military assets, including aircraft, missiles, and naval vessels, has heightened regional security tensions. The South China Sea is a crucial global shipping route, and concerns about freedom of navigation have been a significant security issue. Several states, including the United States, have conducted freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs) to challenge what they view as excessive maritime claims by China. Disputes over fishing rights and resource exploitation have exacerbated security challenges, leading to clashes between fishing vessels and incidents involving naval law enforcement agencies.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) serves as the primary international legal framework governing maritime claims and activities in the South China Sea.

UNCLOS defines maritime zones, including territorial waters, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and the continental shelf. While UNCLOS clarifies maritime boundaries, it does not resolve sovereignty disputes over land features. The 2016 arbitral tribunal ruling in the case brought by the Philippines against China clarified several legal aspects, rejecting China's Nine-Dash Line as inconsistent with UNCLOS and reaffirming the rights of coastal states in the region. However, China has refused to recognize this ruling, further complicating the situation. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a central role in managing South China Sea tensions through dialogue and conflict resolution. The 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and ongoing efforts to establish a Code of Conduct (COC) are essential ASEAN-led initiatives. However, progress has been slow, and consensus among ASEAN members is challenging due to varying degrees of dependence on China and competing interests.

The U.S. has taken an active role in the South China Sea to challenge excessive maritime claims and support its regional allies and partners. The U.S. has also emphasized the importance of a rules-based international order and maintaining a balance of power in the area. The EU, Japan, and Australia have expressed concerns about developments in the South China Sea and have emphasized the need for peaceful resolution of disputes, freedom of navigation, and adherence to international law.

Sovereignty in the South China Sea is a complex and contentious issue with historical roots, competing claims, and significant geopolitical implications. Addressing these disputes requires a multilateral approach that respects international law, promotes dialogue, and prioritizes regional stability. The South China Sea's strategic importance to global trade and security underscores the urgency of finding peaceful and cooperative solutions to these sovereignty challenges.

Questions to consider:

- How can the international community best address the sovereignty disputes between Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and China over the Spratly Islands?

- How can member states prevent Vietnam, China, and Taiwan's competing sovereignty claims over the Paracels Islands from escalating into a serious crisis that threatens international security?
- How can member states best address the dispute over the nine-dotted line area claimed by China that overlaps with the Exclusive Economic Zone of Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam?
- How can the Security Council best address the disputes over maritime sovereignty of each country?

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Rules and Procedures

This conference provides delegates with an opportunity to practice parliamentary procedure. Delegates will spend part of their time in formal session, making speeches on the topics and on the substance of their resolutions. They will also spend time in informal session, seeking like-minded delegates with whom to write resolutions. Our goal is to help delegates craft solutions to major global problems in the form of Resolutions. This means that delegates will be working cooperatively with other delegations. Hopefully, delegates will be able to develop a consensus within the committee because history has shown that consensus solutions are the most effective in obtaining cooperation between countries. If students get off topic or make motions that are disruptive to the proceedings, the Chair will rule them dilatory. We would like to stress that MUN is intended as a learning experience and Chairs and staff will do what they can to ensure a constructive and positive learning environment.

Session Overview:

1. Roll Call
2. Motion to move a topic to the floor (second required; debatable; simple majority)
3. Option to establish a Speakers' list OR to motion for suspension of the meeting for a caucus
Raise hand/ name placard to be acknowledged
Move to open a Speakers' List (second required; debatable; simple majority)
Motion to limit speaker's time to ___ minutes (second required; debatable)
OR
Motion to caucus for [up to 15 minutes] (must be seconded; simple majority)
4. Delegates take turns making formal speeches according to the Speakers list
5. Students caucus in informal session to write resolutions (15 minute maximum request at a time)
6. Approved draft resolutions circulated to all committee members (must have support / signatures of 25% of the delegations).
7. Delegates take turns making formal speeches on the content of the resolutions.
8. Students Caucus to combine resolutions / Chair approves select resolutions for a vote.
9. Motion to Close Debate and move into voting procedure (Second required; debatable; 2/3's)

majority)

10. Vote taken on each resolution approved by the Chair (maximum of 4).

11. Motion to move to the next topic area. (Repeat steps 3-10)

Roll Call

The session begins with a roll call of all of the countries in the Plenary Session. Delegates should respond that they are Present when they are called.

Call for Points or Motions

Following Roll Call, the Chair will call for any Points or Motions from the floor. This is an invitation for delegates to raise their placards in order to make a motion. Motions that would be appropriate at this time might include: moving a topic to the floor for discussion, or establishing a speaker's list with a speaker's time. When a motion requires a Second, the Chair will ask if there is a Second and delegates can raise their placards in order to Second the motion. Multiple motions can be on the floor at once. Once all of the motions have been moved, the Chair will call for debate and a vote on each motion in the order that it was made. (ex: a motion for a 1 minute speaking time and a motion for a 2 minute speaking time can both be made and then voted on by the body.) If a motion is Debatable, the Chair will call for one speaker to speak in favor of the motion, and one speaker to speak opposed to the motion. These speakers will be called upon in turn to briefly state why the body should or should not support the motion on the floor.

Following debate, a vote will be taken on the motion.

When voting on Procedural motions (such as establishing a speakers list, limiting speaker's time, suspending the meeting, or closing debate), delegates can only vote yes or no. When delegates vote on Substantive matters (such as accepting or rejecting resolutions before the body when in voting procedure), they may vote yes, no, or abstain.

If there are no motions on the floor, the Chair will ask for any Speakers. At this point, any delegate who is recognized by the Chair can make a speech to the committee. If a Speaker's List has been established, names will be placed on it and called upon in order to speak.

We hope that each delegate will take an active role in the committee deliberations while in formal session. We want to make sure that everyone desiring to do so has a chance to address the committee. If delegates choose not to establish a speaker's list (or to close it), we will give preference to those who have not yet had an opportunity to speak over those desiring to speak for a second time. Our goal is to assure that every delegate has an equal opportunity to address the committee. During the first part of the session, delegates will likely speak on the importance of addressing the topic and their proposed solutions to the problem.

Yielding to Questions

It can be helpful in facilitating dialogue among countries for delegates to choose to 'yield to questions' after they have finished making a formal speech. At this time, the Chair will ask if there are any questions for the delegate who has made the speech, and will then recognize raised placards one at a time. At any point the delegate answering questions may choose to stop and be seated by 'yielding their time to the Chair' (they do not have to answer questions if they don't want to). Delegates cannot continue a dialogue back and forth, questions must be raised by being recognized by the Chair. The Chair has discretion to end questioning at any time if the committee has not set a time limit for speaking.

Motion for Suspension of the Meeting

Once a topic area is open for discussion, it is appropriate to motion to suspend the meeting for a caucus. During a caucus session, delegates should seek out other countries with similar viewpoints on a specific issue. Delegates should work to draft resolutions that will address the problem at hand and have sufficient support from other delegations to pass. This may require working out compromises with those who have different views. This can be very challenging and requires good listening skills to understand the concerns of other delegates.

Drafting Resolutions

Delegates should craft resolutions in committee. Please do not bring pre-written resolutions to the conference. Delegates are encouraged to incorporate as many of their ideas as possible into a single resolution rather than pursuing multiple resolutions that might contain conflicting provisions or may not gain majority support.

Draft resolutions need to have the signatures of 25% (or more) of the delegations in the session. Delegates becoming 'signatories' to the resolution indicate that they would like the resolution to come before the committee for debate (whether they support it or oppose it). Once a resolution has significant support, the Chair will review it and then circulate copies to all delegates. Any amendments that delegates would like to incorporate into a resolution should be made during caucus session before a vote is taken (i.e., 'friendly amendments').

Formal Session

Delegates take turns making formal speeches according to the Speakers list, or by raising their placards to be recognized by the Chair. As resolutions are drafted, speeches will speak more to the substance of the resolutions and seek to convince delegates to support the different resolutions.

Closing Debate

If a delegate believes there has been enough debate on a topic and is ready to bring the resolutions that are on the floor to a vote, s/he can move to Close Debate. This motion requires 2/3's support from the body. If the motion passes, then the committee moves directly into voting procedure. If it fails, delegates continue their work on their resolutions.

Voting

Voting is done by Roll Call, with countries being called alphabetically by the English spelling of country names. Delegates can vote in favor of a motion, against the motion or abstain. A country voting to abstain is indicating that it neither favors nor opposes the motion. Abstentions are not included in determining whether the proposal passes or not (i.e., if a resolution gets 10 in favor, 8 opposed and 20 abstentions, it still passes). A country may choose to Pass once. When the roll call is done, any delegations that have passed will be called upon to cast their vote.

The only motion to be made in voting procedure is a Point of Information.

Courtesy

At all times delegates should remember that they are simulating a diplomatic process and diplomats are always courteous to each other even when they disagree. Delegates should address

each other as "The honorable delegate from" When criticizing another country, delegates should avoid directly mentioning that country's name. Committee chairs have been instructed to enforce proper courtesy and a speaker's right to continue speaking may be revoked at any point by the chair if the chair considers the speaker's words to be a breach of courtesy. Also, as in any public forum, courtesy also requires that a speaker be heard. It is a breach of courtesy to talk or otherwise distract the audience while a speaker is speaking and the chairs will move quickly to resolve any such problems. If a delegate persists in disrupting his/her committee, the chairs may remove that delegate from the committee

Rules Short Form

Point or Motion	Second?	Debatable	Majority?	Description
Point of Information	No	No	No	This point is made if a delegate has a question regarding rules or other concerns, or needs clarification from the Chair.
Suspension of the meeting	Yes	Yes	Simple majority	This motion is made when delegates want to break from formal session in order to begin writing resolutions, or to seek support from other delegates for their draft resolutions.
Close Debate	Yes	Yes	2/3's majority	This motion is made when delegates have completed their work on their resolutions and are ready to put them to a formal vote. Only four resolutions will be approved by the Chair for a formal vote.
Move topic to the floor	Yes	Yes	Simple majority	This motion is made in order to begin discussion on one of the two topic areas. Delegates get to decide which topic they want to address first.
Establish a Speaker's list	Yes	Yes	Simple majority	This motion is made if delegates want to establish a list of speakers. Delegates will be invited put their names on the list so they can address the body when it is their turn. If there is no list, delegates will be called on as they raise their placards.
Close Speaker's list	Yes	Yes	Simple majority	This motion is made if delegates would prefer to be called on as they raise their placards instead of following the order on an established Speaker's List.
Limit Speaker's time	Yes	Yes	Simple majority	This motion allows delegates to limit how long each speaker is allowed to speak. (Usual limits are between 1 – 3 minutes). This motion can be made multiple times if a different time limit is desired.

* All motions are debatable and require a second before they can be voted on by the body. When a motion is Debatable, it means that the Chair will take one speaker in favor of the motion and one speaker against the motion. Each speaker will briefly state why the motion should be supported by the body or rejected by the body.

* A simple majority is considered 50% + 1. If a vote is tied, the motion fails.

Guide to Writing Resolutions

The final results of research, caucusing and negotiation are resolutions—written suggestions for addressing a specific problem or issue. Resolutions, which are drafted by delegates and voted on by the committee, normally require a simple majority to pass (except in the Security Council). Only Security Council resolutions can compel nations to take action. All other UN bodies use resolutions to make recommendations or suggestions for future action.

Students are encouraged to practice writing resolutions as part of their conference preparations, but *should not bring pre-written resolutions to the conference*. Part of the learning experience is working to a draft document as part of a group with varied interests on the topic.

Draft Resolutions

Draft resolutions are all resolutions that have not yet been voted on. Delegates write draft resolutions with other countries. There are three main parts to a draft resolution: the heading, the preamble and the operative section. The heading shows the committee and topic. It also lists the draft resolution's signatories (see below). Each draft resolution is one long sentence with sections separated by commas and semicolons. The subject of the sentence is the body making the statement (e.g., Plenary Committee). The preamble and operative sections then describe the current situation and actions that the committee will take.

A draft resolution must gain the support of half of the member states in the committee before it can be approved by the Chair. The Chair will read the draft resolution to ensure that it is relevant and in proper format. Once approved the Chair will circulate copies to all members of the committee for further consideration and potential amendments.

Tips for Resolution Writing

- * Preambulatory clauses are historic justifications for action. Use them to cite past resolutions, precedents and statements about the purpose of action.
- * Operative clauses are policies that the resolution is designed to create. Use them to explain what the committee will do to address the issue.

- * Try to cite facts whenever possible.
- * Create a detailed resolution. For example, if your resolution calls for a new program, think about how it will be funded and what body will manage it.
- * Be realistic. Do not create objectives for your resolution that cannot be met. Make sure your body can take the action suggested. For example, the General Assembly can't sanction another country – only the Security Council can do so.
- * Solicit the views of many states. Your committee will be more likely to approve the resolutions if many delegates contribute ideas.
- * Be sure to follow the format for resolutions provided by the conference organizers.

Preambulatory Clauses

The preamble of a resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a preambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Preambulatory clauses can include:

- * References to the UN Charter;
- * Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- * Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- * Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- * General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

Sample Preambulatory Phrases

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

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses identify the actions or recommendations made in a resolution. Each operative clause begins with a verb (called an operative phrase) and ends with a semicolon. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression, with each containing a single idea or proposal, and are always numbered. If a clause requires further explanation, bulleted lists set off by letters or roman numerals can also be used. After the last operative clause, the resolution ends in a period.

Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Expresses it appreciation	Further requests
Affirms	Expresses its hope	Further resolves
Approves	Further invites	Notes
Authorizes	Deplores	Proclaims
Calls	Designates	Reaffirms
Calls upon	Draws the attention	Recommends
Condemns	Emphasizes	Regreats

Confirms	Encourages	Reminds
Congratulates	Endorses	Requests
Considers	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Declares accordingly	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Deplores	Further invites	Supports
Designates	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Draws the attention	Further reminds	Transmits
Emphasizes	Further recommends	Trusts
Encourages		
Endorses		

Signatories

Signatories are countries that may or may not agree with the substance of the draft resolution but still wish to see it debated before the body so that they can propose amendments.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

*Please note: the sample resolution presented below is shown for formatting purposes only. It is intentionally simplistic, and is not meant to represent the content of an actual draft resolution.

COMMITTEE: Plenary

TOPIC: Use of force in international relations

SIGNATORIES:[all of the countries that would like to see this resolution debated before the committee]

RECOGNIZING that the use of force in international relations cannot be condoned,
[commas after each preambulatory phrase]

AFFIRMING the principals of the UN Charter in regards to the non-usage of force in international relations,

SEEKING solutions to international problems without the use of force,

DEEPLY CONCERNED that some nations still consider the use of force acceptable,

1. REQUESTS all nations to refrain from the use of force in international relations;
[semi-colons after each operative phrase]
2. SUPPORTS the use of the various United Nations bodies for the settlement of international disputes;
3. CONGRATULATES all nations which choose to resolve their disputes in a peaceful fashion.

Public Speaking Tips

Writing and delivering speeches is an important aspect of the MUN simulation. Speeches help delegates convey the positions of their Member States, help build consensus and start formulating resolutions. Usually, the committee sets the speaking time, as the delegates make a motion to set the duration and if the motion has been seconded, the body then votes upon the suggestion.

Although speechmaking is very important to the MUN simulation, many delegates biggest fear is public speaking. It is essential that delegates come to the conference well prepared: meaning that they have completed prior research, know their country's position, and even have objectives for a resolution.

Delegates should observe 'decorum' (i.e., be polite) when speaking. The opening of a speech should begin with: "Thank you- Honorable-Chair, Fellow delegates..."

An opening speech should include:

- Brief introduction of your country's history of the topic
- Past actions taken by the U.N., Member States, NGOs, etc.. to combat the problem
- The current situation of the topic
- Your country's overall position on the topic/reason for position
- Possible ideas or goals for a resolution
- Whether there is room for negotiation on your position

As there are no set guidelines for how delegates should execute their speeches, delegates should decide how they feel most comfortable delivering their speeches. Some delegates utilize their position papers as their opening speeches, others just write out some key points, and many just speak without any aides. Since public speaking is a skill it is important to practice, practice, practice.

Remember the audience should always be considered when making a speech. Be aware of the audience and their diversity. The beginning of the speech must captivate the audience and motivate them to want to hear more. It must pertain to audiences' interests.

Mr. Anthony Hogan, Model U.N. International, suggests the system of six "C's" to improve your ability:

1. Confidence:

Confidence is portrayed by being as knowledgeable as possible on your subject and conveying this knowledge through the power of your voice and eyes. As a Model U.N. delegate, you are the authority and representative of your respective country. Research well and speak as if you know you are undoubtedly right. As the speaker, you must have confidence in yourself; otherwise the audience will have little confidence in you.

2. Clear:

A speaker can do many things before-hand to assist them in speaking clearly. Write an outline of the topics that are going to be said, and follow it when speaking. Always speak slowly. This will allow the audience to hear everything that is said. Know your terminology well beforehand to avoid fumbling with words. Try to enunciate words properly.

3. Concise:

A good public speaker presents his/her points in a clean and clear-cut fashion. Unnecessary words and information should not be used to fill in the speech. The speech should be brief and to the point--say what you have to say. Do not ramble on about the topic in order to appear knowledgeable.

4. Constructive:

An effective public speech needs to be constructed properly. Start with a solid foundation that brings together all of your ideas, present your points, and then connect them by reviewing what was said. There should be an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. It is a known fact that three is a magic number. Say it once, say it and review it, then say it again. This method will help the audience to remember what was said.

5. "Con Passion":

It is always important to speak from the heart--with passion--hence the Spanish term "con passion". Always maintain eye contact with the audience. In doing so the audience will feel

connected to you and your speech. This is what you want. You want to grab and to hold the audience's attention.

5. Critique:

It is better to critique than to criticize. Critiquing is constructive and allows for people to grow and improve. Criticizing brings peoples' motivation and confidence down. A critique should be accepted positively, since it is a tool that is used to strengthen one's public speaking.

Some additional tips for effective public speaking:

1. **ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY SPEECH FILLERS** from your communication. Fillers are words and phrases such as "umm," "well," "it is sort-a like," "it's kind-a like." These take away from the message you want to convey. Some of the words and phrases to eliminate include: "you know," "I think," "I'm sorry," "just," "but," "should," "like," "um," and, "a," etc.

2. **USE THE POWERFUL PAUSE.** Do not be afraid to have a moment of silence between sentences. A pause, after a thought and prefacing a response to a question holds the attention of the listener.

3. **BREATHE** from the diaphragm. Breathe deeply and often.

4. **PACE YOURSELF.** Do not talk too fast or too slow.

5. **PHYSICALLY POSITION YOURSELF POWERFULLY.** Be aware of your posture when you speak. Slouching, tilting your head and crossing your arms or legs diminishes the message. Stand up straight, shoulders down, feet firmly planted and knees unlocked.

6. **PROJECT YOUR PRESENCE.** Your voice is the herald that carries your message. Speak from your diaphragm not your throat. Keep the sound in the low- to- medium range. This projects authority. Speak loudly enough to be easily heard. Focus on speaking with enthusiasm, and energy and create color with your voice.

7. **GESTURES.** Do not be a statue. Consider occasionally exaggerating a gesture. Speaking from a platform is different than holding a one on one conversation. Use your whole body when you speak.

8. **CONNECT WITH YOUR AUDIENCE.** Use a lot of eye contact. Speak directly to individual members of the audience. Do not take your eyes off your audience or focus on a point over their heads.

9. **COMMUNICATE CONFIDENCE.** Make a conscious effort to project yourself confidently. This is as important as the message.

[Source: MKCMUN]

Consensus Building Tips

Consensus building involves finding the middle ground when difficult issues are being debated, and then bringing in more members to support that compromise position so that a resolution has a maximum level of support from member states.

During the Cold War, the UN was very divided and it was difficult for resolutions to pass with more than 60-70% support of the members. Following the end of the Cold War, the UN has increasingly tried to work toward consensus, where many resolutions are adopted unanimously by all voting members. Even without the divisions of the Cold War, this is still difficult to achieve. Delegates must engage in extensive dialogue with each other regarding the specific interests of their countries and their preferences regarding the language in the draft resolutions under discussion.

It takes a particularly skilled diplomat to identify a solution that is agreeable to a core set of delegates and then bring others into that group. It often involves a degree of compromise. Delegates should not only seek to clearly articulate their own preferences, they should also listen carefully to other delegates to see where their interests overlap, and where there might be room for compromise.

Code of Conduct and Dress Code

Delegates are expected to conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner befitting international diplomats. This means that every courtesy, both in speaking and behavior, is to be extended to all representatives, faculty, guests, committee chairs and conference staff. MSU Texas Model UN reserves the right to expel any delegate not acting in a courteous and professional fashion.

Students should turn off all cell phones, iPods, etc. throughout the conference sessions.

Women: Standard female delegate attire for the conference is business jacket, skirt or slacks, button blouse, and dress shoes. Shirts that expose excessive bare skin on the chest, stomach or are otherwise revealing are inappropriate. Clothes that reveal undergarments are inappropriate.

Men: Standard male delegate attire for the conference is slacks, button down shirt with tie and dress shoes (jackets or suits are optional). Shirts that expose excessive bare skin on the chest, stomach or are otherwise revealing are inappropriate. Clothes that reveal undergarments are inappropriate. Dress sweaters are generally considered too casual, as well as shorts, ball caps, jeans, sneakers and sunglasses.