



Delegate Preparation Guide



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
nmun.org

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This document should be used alongside the [*NMUN Rules of Procedure*](#), which provides further information on the rules of procedure utilized at NMUN conferences, as well as the full text of the long form rules of procedure.

Glossary

Abstention	<p>An option for Member States during substantive votes. Member States may abstain only if they are “Present” during formal roll call. To abstain means a State is formally counted, but does not vote in favor of or against a substantive motion. Abstentions do not affect the result of voting, as the final total only considers votes for and against the motion.</p> <p>Example: A draft resolution that received 30 votes in favor, 10 votes against, and 40 abstentions would pass because it the votes in favor outnumber the votes against.</p>
Adjournment of Debate	Ends debate on a topic, and on all draft resolutions for that topic, without voting on any proposed draft resolutions. A motion for reconsideration can reopen debate on this topic.
Adjournment of the Meeting	Ends the meeting until the next conference.
Appeal of the Chair	A motion to challenge the decision of the Chair in response to a Point of Order.
Chair	Person who is in charge of leading the committee’s formal debate in accordance with the NMUN Rules of Procedure.
Dais	A raised platform or table at the front of the room where the Director, Assistant Director, and Chair(s) are seated. Often, the term “the Dais” is also utilized to refer to these individuals collectively.
Decorum	Overall respect for the formal committee process and speakers.
Deputy Secretary-General (DSG)	Member of the NMUN Secretariat. Chief substantive officer of the conference.
Dilatory	A motion is dilatory if it may obstruct or delay the will of the committee (e.g. motions to suspend the meeting proposed immediately after several previous suspension motions failed).
Draft Resolution	A working paper that has been accepted by the Dais and is discussed and voted on by the body.
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	The principal organ of the UN responsible for the economic and social work of the organization.
Explanation of Vote	Allows a sponsor of a draft resolution to explain why they voted against the draft resolution, after it had been amended or changed by a division of the proposal.
Functional Commissions	Functional commissions are established pursuant to Article 68 of the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> and report to the Economic and Social Council. They are also considered a subsidiary organ/body. Examples include the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
Friendly Amendments	Amendments agreed to by ALL the sponsors of a draft resolution. Once approved by the Dais, these amendments are automatically incorporated.

General Assembly	The main deliberative organ of the UN system, comprised of all Member States of the UN.
The Hub	NMUN uses a digital platform called the Hub to manage committees' work, including tracking working papers, maintaining the speakers list, and posting announcements. Members of the NMUN Secretariat will provide information about the use of the Hub during the first committee session.
Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanisms	On thematic issues that cut across the work of many UN programs, funds, and agencies, an inter-agency coordination mechanism will often be established. These mechanisms are an essential source for information on these thematic issues, as they represent the work of the entire UN system. Examples include UN-Water and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
Majority Vote	A threshold at which many motions pass. A motion passes with a simple majority vote if more people vote yes than vote no (in the case of substantive votes, ignoring abstentions). Tie votes fail. For the Security Council, a simple majority is nine of the 15 members.
Member State	A country that is a Member of the United Nations, having been granted membership by the General Assembly based upon the Security Council's recommendation.
Model United Nations (MUN)	Educational conferences that simulate the purpose and practices of the UN.
Motion	A request to do something during formal debate; motions are voted on by the body. Procedural motions: all Member States and Observers of the committee vote. Substantive motions: only Member States vote.
Motion Out of Order	An invalid (non-NMUN) motion or a motion used at an incorrect time during the conference.
National Model United Nations (NMUN)	An experiential education program in which groups of students are organized as delegations and represent Member States, Observer States, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
Non-governmental organization (NGO)	NGOs, also known as civil society organizations or CSOs, are nonprofit groups independent from governments. Normally organized around specific issues, NGOs deliver a variety of public and humanitarian services.
Observer	Non-Member State or organization granted status to participate in deliberations. Observers may not sponsor resolutions or vote on substantive matters, but they may act as a signatory and must vote on procedural matters.
Operative Clause	Information is given about what action the body believes should be taken.
Point of Order	Corrects an error in procedure and refers to an NMUN-specific rule.
Preambular Clause	Sets up the historical context and cites relevant international law or policies for a resolution, which justifies future action.
Present	Attendance status that establishes a delegation as present in the committee, with the opportunity to abstain during substantive votes.

Present and Voting	Attendance status that establishes a delegation as present in the committee without the opportunity to abstain during substantive votes; delegations must vote “yes” or “no.”
Principal Organs	Principal organs are established pursuant to the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> . There are six principal organs of the UN: the General Assembly (Art. 9), the Security Council (Art. 23), the Economic and Social Council (Art. 61), the Trusteeship Council (Art. 86), the International Court of Justice (Art. 92), and the Secretariat (Art. 97). Each organ maintains its own area of responsibility from international peace and security (Security Council) to human rights and economic affairs (ECOSOC). The only organ that is currently inactive is the Trusteeship Council.
Procedural Vote	A vote that takes place on a motion before the body; all delegations present must vote.
Programmes and Funds	Programmes and Funds are established pursuant to Article 22 of the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> in order to meet needs not envisaged in the founding of the UN, such as addressing the needs of Palestinian refugees, development assistance, food aid, or the environment. They are subordinate to the UN, immediately controlled by distinct intergovernmental bodies, and financed through voluntary contributions rather than assessed contributions.
Proposal	In the NMUN Rules of Procedure, “proposal” means any working paper, draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion.
Quorum	A minimum of one-third of the members of the body, based on the total number of Member States attending the first session.
Reconsideration	Reopens debate on a topic that was previously adjourned (ended without a substantive vote), including any draft resolutions segments on the floor for that topic.
Regional Commissions	Regional commissions are established pursuant to Article 68 of the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> and report to the Economic and Social Council. They are also considered a subsidiary organ/body. Examples include the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
Related Organizations	Related organizations are not officially part of the UN, but their support and cooperation are outlined by special arrangement. Related organizations all have their own separate members, governing bodies, executive heads, and secretariats.
Research and Training Institutes	The various research and training institutes were established by the General Assembly to perform independent research and training. The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is an example of this type of entity.
Right of Reply	Response to comments that have disparaged the sovereign integrity of a delegate’s state.
Secretariat	The Directors, Assistant Directors, Assistant Secretaries-General and Under-Secretaries-General are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and they are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
Secretary-General	Member of the NMUN Secretariat. Chief logistics officer of the conference.

Security Council	The Security Council is the primary organ of the UN mandated to maintain international peace and security.
Signatories	Member States or Observers who are interested in bringing a working paper forward for consideration. A combination of sponsors and signatories equal to 20% of the committee membership in attendance during the first committee session is required for all working papers to come forward for consideration.
Specialized Agencies	Specialized agencies are established pursuant to Articles 57 and 63 of the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> . There are currently more than 14 specialized agencies that have an agreement with the UN that work under the auspices of ECOSOC. Each agency has a separate function it carries out on behalf of the UN; they have their own principles, goals, and rules. In addition, they control their own budgets and have their own governance structure.
Sponsors	Member States who created the content of a working paper and will be most responsible for ensuring that it will be voted on as a draft resolution. A combination of sponsors and signatories equal to 20% of the committee membership at the first session is required for all working papers to become draft resolutions. There must be at least one sponsor.
Subsidiary Organs	Subsidiary organs (or bodies) are established pursuant to Articles 22 and 29 of the <i>Charter of the United Nations</i> . A subsidiary body falls under the purview of the principal UN organ it reports to and was created by (the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, or the Security Council). The subsidiary bodies fluctuate in number from year to year, according to the changing requirements of the main organ concerned. Both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, for instance, often create subsidiary bodies to assist them in new fields of concern and dissolve others. Examples include the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
Substantive Vote	Votes taken during voting procedure to accept a draft resolution, an unfriendly amendment, and/or the annex to a draft resolution (division of the proposal); results are disclosed after counting by the Dais.
Suspension of the Meeting	Informal debate for a brief period of time. Often incorrectly referred to as "caucusing." Delegates do not need to state a purpose for suspending the meeting.
United Nations (UN)	An intergovernmental organization established in 1945, designed to promote international cooperation.
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)	The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination is the longest-standing and highest-level coordination forum of the UN system. While not a policymaking body, the CEB supports and reinforces the coordinating role of intergovernmental bodies of the UN system on social, economic, and related matters. Most importantly, the CEB facilitates the UN system's collective response to global challenges, such as climate change and the global financial crisis.

Preparing for the Conference

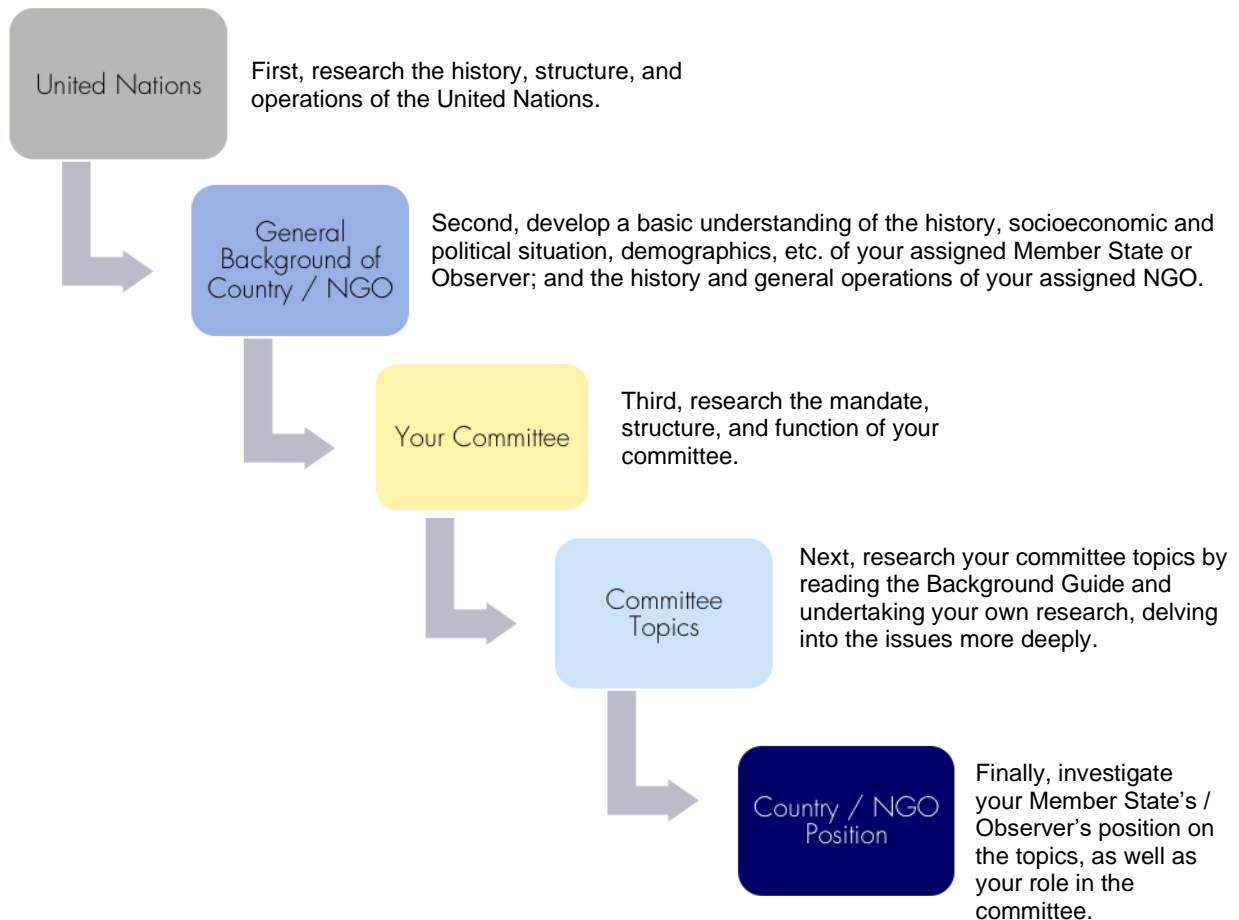
Introduction

National Model United Nations (NMUN) conferences are held annually in New York City and Washington, DC. Since 2008, a number of international conferences have also been held at varying sites. These conferences strive to provide attending delegates knowledge, skills, and experience that will be applicable both during and after their university experience. While NMUN prides itself on having a well-trained volunteer Secretariat, superior resources, and support for delegates before and during each conference, the quality of these conferences is largely contingent on the preparation of the delegates.

The key to being successful at NMUN is thorough and comprehensive preparation. We recommend that all delegates become familiar with the following five areas of study.

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- Accessing UN Documents



Starting Your Research

NMUN provides several primary resources for delegates to use in preparing for the conferences: the Background Guides (including annotated bibliographies), this Guide, the Position Paper Guide, and the NMUN Rules of Procedure. All items will be posted on the [NMUN website \(NY, DC\)](#).

The Background Guide should be viewed only as a starting point to begin research. Individual research is crucial, and we recommend extensive use of academic literature, scholarly journals, newspaper articles, and official documents or other literature provided by bodies associated with the UN. Access to many UN documents and resolutions is available through the UN treaty database, college or law school libraries, or the following websites:

United Nations	The UN website enables delegates to access individual committee sites, links to specific issues on the UN's agenda and related information and data, links to missions of Member States to the UN, etc.
United Nations Digital Library	This source lists all UN documents archived by the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library and includes landmark UN documents, resolutions of UN bodies, meeting and voting records, and press releases.
United Nations Official Documents System (ODS)	A database provided by the UN System, covering all types of official UN documentation after 1993.
United Nations Handbook	The UN Handbook, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, is one of the most comprehensive sources of information on the aim, structure, and membership of the organs of the UN. Delegates are recommended to use the handbook as a regular reference for all entities within the UN system.
The GA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly	This publication is another example of a Member State-initiated project aimed at providing comprehensive information on the UN. Focused on the General Assembly, it provides overviews of working methods, structures, and protocols related to the body. All six chapters provide important information that will aid delegates in preparation for and negotiation at NMUN.
UN Global Issues	This section of the UN website offers a topic-by-topic research gateway, with information available on dozens of "global issues" that transcend both state borders and, usually, individual UN agencies or bodies.
UN Research Guides and Resources	The UN Research website is a great starting point for delegate research. Particularly helpful is the UN Documentation Research Guide, which will enable delegates to find any UN document easily.

In addition to these universal databases, many committee sites feature their own document collections and/or databases. Delegates are highly encouraged to research documents through a combination of the tools above.

Delegates are expected to use the sources identified above to form their own ideas and suggestions, which should be in line with their assigned Member State's policy and framed in their own words.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any work prepared and submitted by delegates either before or during the conference. Plagiarism is the use of original work (including language, structure, and ideas) without an appropriate citation in material submitted as the author's own.



Position papers and draft resolutions are read and evaluated by members of the NMUN Secretariat who have a profound knowledge of the topics and have prepared committee and agenda items for months. This enables the NMUN Secretariat to identify and report incidents of plagiarism.

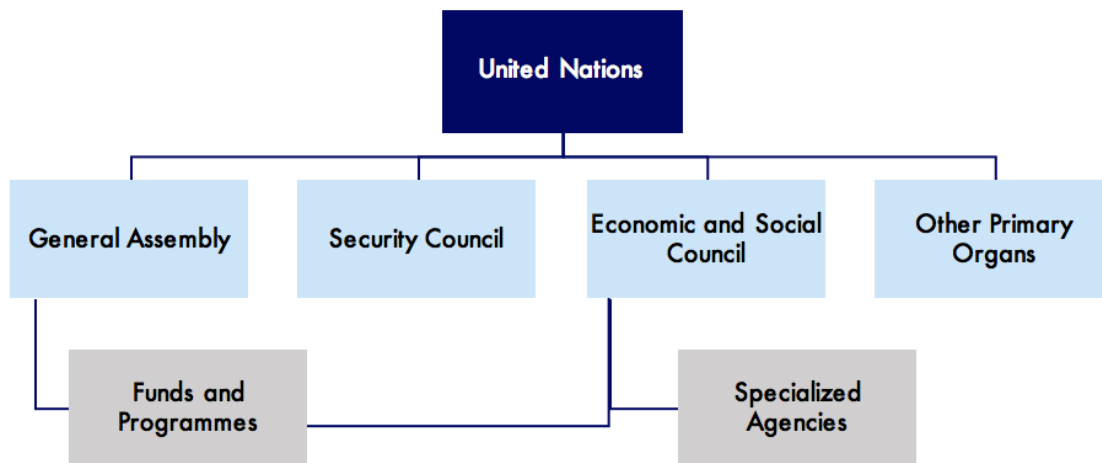
The United Nations

Thorough preparation must begin with an understanding of the UN itself, specifically in regard to the history, structure, and operations of the organization. Having a strong grasp on the various types of bodies within the UN system, the types of documents that can provide information on your topic, and the core international instruments within each topic area are essential to ensure the ideas you put forth in committee are realistic.

There are several questions and items you should try to answer in your research:

- What are the various types of entities within the UN system?
- How do the various organs of the UN system work together, and what are their topic specialties?
- What are the most significant achievements of the UN in terms of norms and important legal frameworks?
- [Core International Human Rights Instruments](#)
- [List of Declarations and Conventions Contained in GA Resolutions](#)

The diagrams below are simple depictions of the structure of the UN. For more detail, please visit the [UN website](#).

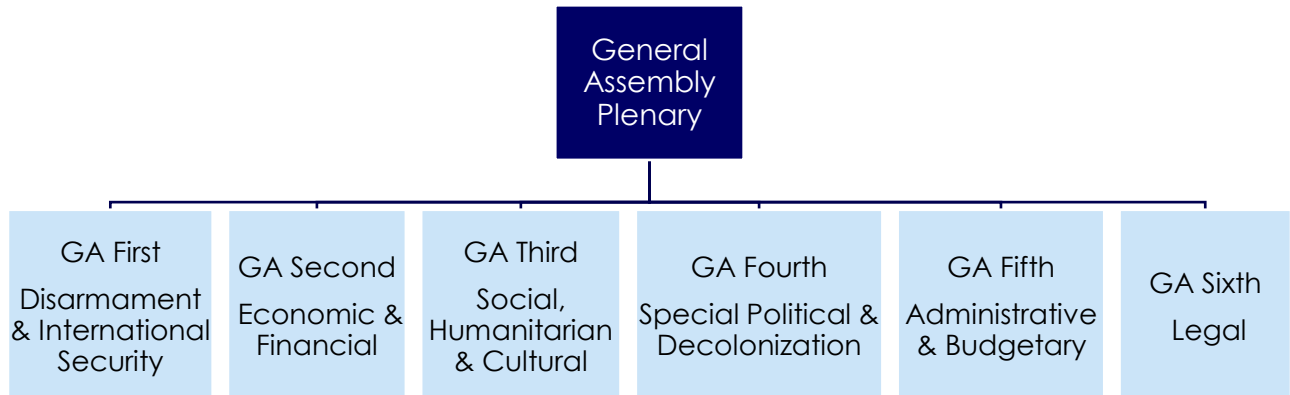


There are six principal organs of the UN, identified as such due to their establishment pursuant to the *Charter of the United Nations*. The six organs are the General Assembly (Art. 9), the Security Council (Art. 23), the Economic and Social Council (Art. 61), the Trusteeship Council (Art. 86), the International Court of Justice (Art. 92), and the Secretariat (Art. 97). Each organ maintains its own area of responsibility, from international peace and security (Security Council) to human rights and economic affairs (ECOSOC). The only organ that is currently inactive is the Trusteeship Council.

The General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Security Council may establish subsidiary organs pursuant to Articles 22 and 29 of the Charter. A subsidiary body reports to the principal UN organ that created it. The subsidiary bodies fluctuate in number from year to year, according to the changing requirements of the main organ concerned. Both the General Assembly and ECOSOC, for instance, often create subsidiary bodies to assist them in new fields of concern and dissolve others.

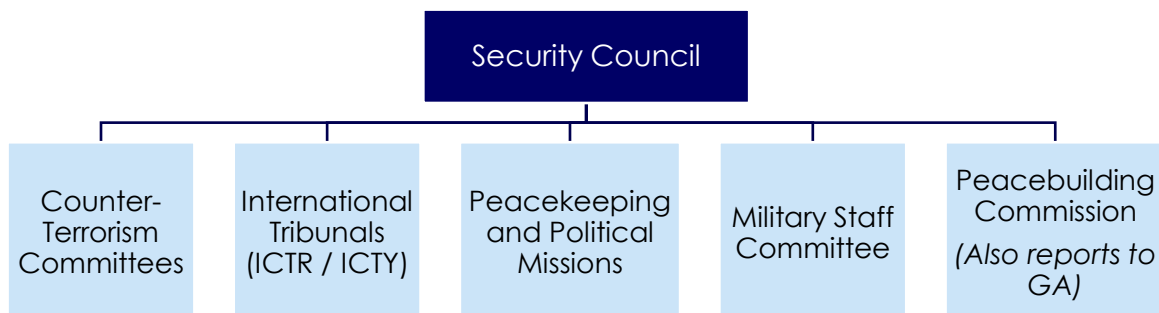
General Assembly

The [General Assembly](#) is the main deliberative organ of the UN system and is comprised of all Member States of the UN, each having one vote. The General Assembly addresses issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security (except when those issues are under consideration by the Security Council), the peaceful settlement of disputes, international law, development, and human rights issues. The General Assembly also elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the membership of ECOSOC, appoints the Justices of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and chooses the Secretary-General of the UN.



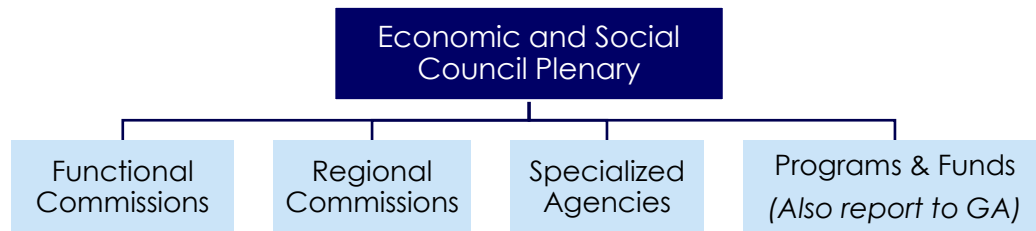
Security Council

The [Security Council](#) is the primary organ of the UN mandated to maintain international peace and security. It is comprised of 15 members. Ten elected members serve two-year terms and five are permanent members with “veto” power: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The adoption of any substantive decision by the Council requires an affirmative vote of any nine Member States, including affirmation or abstention by the permanent members. If a permanent member votes against a resolution before the Council, the resolution is “vetoed” and fails. Unlike General Assembly resolutions, which are recommendations, Security Council resolutions are binding on the Member States of the UN when adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) is the principal organ of the UN responsible for the economic and social work of the organization. ECOSOC has 54 members, each elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term (18 new members are elected annually). ECOSOC also coordinates the efforts of various specialized agencies working concurrently with the UN.



Secretariat

The [UN Secretariat](#) (Ch. XV) carries out the day-to-day work of the UN, and is headed by the [Secretary-General](#) (SG). The Secretariat supports the substantive work of committees by providing expertise, guidance, and research to enable the delegates to better address the topics on the agenda. It is highly recommended that delegates identify which entity within the Secretariat provides the substantive support for their committee and that they familiarize themselves with that entity.

Other Entities

There are two additional principal organs that have not been addressed: the [Trusteeship Council](#) (Ch. XIII), which officially suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of the last UN trust territory, and the [International Court of Justice](#) (ICJ) (Ch. XIV). Further, there is a range of different types of other entities that all delegates should become familiar with:

- **Inter-Agency Mechanisms:** On thematic issues which cut across the work of many UN programs, funds, and agencies, an inter-agency coordination mechanism will often be established. In some cases, the organization of the group is taken on by one of the members, while in others, a secretariat will be established to manage their work. These mechanisms are an essential source for information on these thematic issues, as they represent the work of the entire UN system on this issue.
- **Research and Training Institutes:** The various research and training institutes were established by the General Assembly to perform independent research and training.
- **Related Organizations:** Related organizations are not officially part of the UN, but their support and cooperation is outlined by special arrangement. Related organizations all have their own separate members, governing bodies, executive heads, and secretariats. An example of a related organization is the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Specialized Agencies, and Funds and Programmes

The UN is an intergovernmental organization (IGO); it has the broadest mandate of any IGO and has nearly universal membership. There are many other IGOs in existence, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), some of which predate the UN. Many of these international organizations are specialized agencies, which means that they have entered into agreements with the UN as per Article 63 of the *Charter of the United Nations*. As specialized agencies, they work closely with the UN through the coordinating machinery of ECOSOC. While specialized agencies are part of the UN system, they are autonomous organizations, with independent constitutions or charters, membership, rules of procedure, and budgets. In contrast, funds and programmes are normally created by the General Assembly, they work on specific issues, and are coordinated by ECOSOC. The [Funds and Programmes, Specialized Agencies, and Others](#) cover many aspects of the global agenda and operate in the areas of development, human rights, and humanitarian affairs.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES	FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizations with agreements that enable them to work within the UN system• Do not report to the UN• Legally independent with separate governing structures, membership, rules, and financial resources• Have a normative, policymaking, and operational role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created by the GA• Report to the UN through ECOSOC and/or the GA• Governed by their own intergovernmental body (i.e., an Executive Board)• Have an operational role, with activities carried out at field level

The Mandate, Structure, and Function of Your Committee

Each delegate should have a thorough understanding of their committee. The Background Guide for the committee provides an introduction, but it represents only the starting point for the rest of your research. Delegates need to understand the history; governance, structure, and membership; mandate, functions, and powers; and recent sessions and current priorities of the committee. Use your committee's website, the resources outlined in this guide, your Background Guide's bibliography, and books and scholarly articles to understand the purpose and functions of your committee. Important past decisions or resolutions of your committee often shed important light on its powers, the types of actions it takes, and the methods by which it acts.

Your Role in Committee

In order to accurately and effectively simulate the body and understand your role within it, a clear understanding of the mandate of the body is essential. This will also make the work of the committee easier, as it will be naturally limited in scope according to the mandate. Delegates must ensure that they have a comprehensive understanding of the following:

- Foundational documents (the resolution(s) that established the body, and its foundational governing document, such as a charter or treaty);
- Evolution and changes in mandate over time;
- Other key international documents that underpin the committee's mandate.

Member States

Each committee is made up of a specific number of Member States. These are the full members of the body. All Member States may sponsor working papers and have full voting rights within the committee.¹ Member States act through their representatives within a body's meetings in order to discuss the matters on the agenda and make progress toward solving them on a cooperative international level. The majority of delegates will be serving as representatives of their state's government or political participants, as recognized by the UN. These delegates are expected to understand the foreign policies of their individual governments and to act within those policies during the conference. The most critical part of having a successful delegate experience at the NMUN conference is active participation in committee sessions. This includes utilizing the rules of procedure, speaking in formal debate, and most importantly, contributing during informal debate sessions through activities including networking, drafting working papers, identifying common positions, and building consensus through negotiation.

Observers / Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Observers are states, non-Member States, entities, and organizations that fully participate in negotiations but may not vote on substantive matters, such as the approval of resolutions, or sponsor proposals (but can fully contribute to the development of proposals and act as signatories). Observers, including NGOs, are expected to fully participate in the work of the committee by utilizing the rules of procedure, speaking in formal debate, contributing to working papers, and building consensus.



Observer delegations maintain the following privileges in each committee to which they are assigned:

- The right to make any procedural motion;
- The right to vote on all procedural motions;
- The right to speak before all assigned committees;
- The right to actively contribute to working papers;
- The right to act as a signatory on working papers.

NMUN has occasionally integrated the presence of NGOs into committees as Observers at the conference. It is an ongoing project that improves the educational quality of the simulation and mirrors developments in the UN itself, where NGOs are both visible and respected as a resource for policy and program design and implementation. In order to ensure a positive educational experience for all delegates, the rights and privileges accorded to NGOs at NMUN may not exactly reflect those granted by ECOSOC or by the body in which the NGO is being represented. Any alterations made by the NMUN Secretariat give due consideration to existing realities and the need to provide a learning environment that encourages active participation.

NGOs are recognized in Article 71 of the Charter as consultative bodies in relationship to ECOSOC. These organizations also maintain a close working relationship with ECOSOC, nearly all programs and funds, as well as many of the specialized agencies. They are also present in many fora under the auspices of the General Assembly, such as the Human Rights Council, and have a history of briefing the UN Security Council on pertinent topics. As a result, NGOs are an invaluable resource to the UN system, providing information on political, economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural developments in all parts of the world, and introducing different voices to debate among Member States. Their recommendations may address potential solutions to far-reaching global issues, speak to specific country or regional needs, or call attention to an emerging crisis. The sweeping mandate of ECOSOC is reflected in the exhaustive activities of NGOs.

¹ In case the membership rights of a country have been partly or fully withdrawn since the publication of the NMUN committee membership matrix, please contact NMUN (info@nmun.org). Note that committee memberships for NMUN conferences are fixed as of the opening of conference registration and may not reflect recent changes to membership.



At NMUN, Observer delegations maintain all of the procedural privileges accorded to Member State delegations and are required to exhibit the same level of preparedness. Observer delegations are eligible for awards, based on the same criteria as other delegations, and may select head delegates to attend the Head Delegates Meeting each day. Observer representatives are also required to submit position papers reflecting the perspectives and priorities of their assigned Observer on the agenda topics at hand.



Delegates representing Member States are fully expected to work with delegates representing Observers in the spirit of collaboration upon which the UN was founded. The recommendations of delegates representing Observers maintain the same validity as those of Member States, and it is incumbent upon Member State delegates to ensure that those perspectives are recognized. The exclusion of Observers from committee work simply because they do not have substantive voting rights is both unrealistic and unprofessional. Actions denigrating the participation of Observers will be considered extraordinarily out of character.

Researching Your Member State or Observer

Once you have familiarized yourself with the structure, history, and functions of the UN system, the next step should be researching your assigned Member State or Observer. Begin doing this immediately after receiving your assignment.

Member State

If you have been assigned a Member State, you may wish to begin by researching its political structure, economic conditions, religion(s), history, culture, etc. Since all of these factors shape a state's foreign policy, familiarity with these areas will assist you in forming a consistent foreign policy.



Research the problems within your state regarding ethnic and religious minorities, suppression of dissent, division of wealth, freedom of the press, development, health care, education, poverty, the environment, human rights, etc. Also, do not overlook the more nuanced aspects of your state's domestic and foreign policies.

Observer

Researching an Observer is very similar to researching a Member State. If you have been assigned an Observer State, you can begin by researching its history, structure, economic conditions, religion(s), culture, etc. If you have been assigned an NGO, you may wish to begin by researching its history, mission, structure, funding, values, purposes, and goals. Since all these factors shape the way an Observer State or NGO will interact with Member States, familiarity with these areas will assist you in forming a consistent approach to the issues under discussion and a consistent style of interaction.



Based on your research, you will decide how your assigned Observer will approach each topic and the recommendations you will make for potential solutions. This includes identifying blocs of countries and other Observers that may share the same perspectives and priorities as you, and which may collaborate with you in committee sessions.

Briefings with your Member State / Observer

At the New York conference, you may choose to contact the permanent mission to the UN of your assigned Member State or Observer. At the DC conference, you may contact the embassy of your assigned Member State. Obtaining information directly from these sources will often prove very useful in forming a cohesive policy and diplomatic style. Experience has shown that these offices are often very eager to assist you; however, please bear in mind that many of these offices run on very limited budgets and have a limited number of staff members.



In New York, NMUN provides a time slot on the second day of the conference for delegations to schedule these briefings; we recommend that delegates schedule these as early as possible to ensure availability of individuals to meet with. As a representative of the Member State or Observer to which you have been assigned, you will be expected to work within the historical confines of your Member State's or Observer's foreign policy at the UN. Outside NY, delegations arriving early may wish to try to schedule visits to embassies in advance for conferences in Washington, DC, or other capitals. Consult our Briefings pages ([NY](#), [DC](#)) for contact information and sample briefing request letters.

Researching Committee Topics

The majority of your preparation time for the conference will be spent researching your committee topics and your assignment's position on those topics. Once your delegation is assigned a Member State or Observer, your faculty advisor or head delegate will decide which students (no more than two per committee) will be on each of the assigned committees. Carefully consult the committee matrix so you do not prepare for a committee that you are not assigned to.

Each delegate should understand all the topics on their committee's agenda. The first resource to consult is the Background Guide (including the footnotes and bibliography); however, this guide should not be the sole source of research. Search for speeches made by your country on the topic and important resolutions discussed and adopted in your committee. Check voting records via [UN Digital Library](#) or [Member States on the Record](#) (a valuable resource managed by the UN) to see whether your country supported the latest resolutions on a specific item. In addition, you may contact the headquarters of your committee and request specific information on your topics.

Many topics on the UN agenda are vast and complex, and there are several topics that can be discussed in more than one organ within the UN system. Therefore, it is important to understand how the topics on your committee's agenda are discussed specifically in that committee. Look to the mandate of your committee, which will give you an idea of the tone and type of work done within your committee.

Researching a topic is a multifaceted process, which calls for determining what various bodies within and related to the UN system have done previously to address the matter, what is currently in place, and what is planned for the future. It is also important to examine successes and failures, and to attempt to determine why those approaches have succeeded or failed.



While reading the Background Guide, develop answers to the following basic questions:

- When considering each topic, what essential questions are being raised?
- In your opinion as a diplomat, why are these issues important?
- Why do you believe these issues remain unresolved? For what reasons specifically?
- What important documents are essential to your research?
- What actions have various international bodies taken in the past regarding these issues?
- What actions are these bodies currently taking, or what committees exist to address them?
- What should be done from the perspective of your Member State to resolve the issues?

Your Delegation's Position on the Topics

Part of the benefit of Model UN is learning about and advocating for the interests of a Member State or Observer assigned to you, even if you do not necessarily agree with the position. This is the reality of the work of professional diplomats, who advocate what is in the best interests of their government. It is what makes Model UN different from a simulation of a congress or parliament where the individuals are members, rather than Member States. This position will form the basis of the position paper all delegates must write, which outlines your Member State's or Observer's policies toward the agenda topics. Preparing for committee session at NMUN also includes identifying blocs of states that may share the same perspectives and priorities and which may collaborate with you in committee sessions (this is also an important task for NGOs).



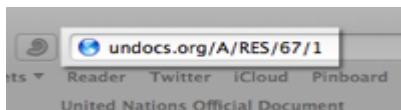
You should try to answer the following questions:

- Are there other Member States or Observers that share your view?
- What Member States or Observers are opposed to your view?
- Which Member States are in the same voting bloc as your assigned state?
- Is your assigned state affiliated with any regional organizations?

Position Papers

Writing a position paper is an important aspect of preparing for an NMUN conference. Information regarding the preparation, formatting, and submission of position papers can be found in the NMUN Position Paper Guide on the [NMUN website \(NY, DC\)](#).

Accessing UN Documents



If you want to access a UN document for research purposes and you have a United Nations Document Symbol, the easiest way to download a document is to add the document code after the following URL: <https://undocs.org/>

For example, if you want to access GA resolution 67/1, type into your browser:
<https://undocs.org/A/RES/67/1>

Purpose and Practice of Being a Delegate

Diplomacy and Decorum

The most important aspect of participating as a delegate at NMUN is assuming the role of a foreign diplomat and/or expert. In this role, delegates act as representatives of the Member State or Observer to which they have been assigned. Delegates are reminded that professional diplomats conduct themselves, and regard one another, with the utmost dignity and respect, regardless of foreign policy affiliation or personal feelings. Even those who observe severely conflicting ideological perspectives will work closely together within the UN on diplomatic matters of mutual concern. Likewise, this is how delegates at NMUN should interact with one another.

CONTENTS

- Diplomacy and Decorum
- Speaking in Formal Session
- Learning the Rules of Procedure
- Strategies for Negotiating and Building Consensus

During preparation and at the conference, delegates may disagree personally with the policy of the Member State or Observer they are representing, but delegates' personal opinions are entirely inapplicable during the course of the simulation. It is of utmost importance for all delegates to arrive well-versed in the dynamics of the position for their assigned Member State or Observer. The simulation's quality depends on accurate preparation and participation.

Delegates should also exhibit the ability to negotiate and compromise, demonstrate leadership, and to influence by gaining the professional respect of fellow delegates. Delegates should use these skills both within their working groups and externally, paying special attention to creating engaging debate by working with delegates of all backgrounds. Delegations maintain specific and adaptive policy methods and goals to allow delegates to function in the negotiation process. Decorum is the de facto rule throughout the week of the simulation. In both large and small committees, the ability to conduct normal business while in formal session is arduous when decorum is not maintained.

All delegates must remain aware that in both the UN and Model United Nations fora, too much focus on an individual proposal or the language contained therein can halt the momentum of the committee. Informal debate sessions provide the best opportunity for the deployment of negotiation strategies.

Speaking in Formal Session

Delegates should practice [public speaking](#) and presentation of policy statements prior to their arrival at the conference. Your delegation should organize several practice simulations to improve speaking ability and to practice the Rules of Procedure. Please consult the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for a simulation script, which has been designed to introduce the rhetoric of committee proceedings. See the [Formal Debate](#) section for details.

Learning the Rules of Procedure

Learning the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) is a vital part of your preparation. NMUN has developed a set of comprehensive rules for committee proceedings, which resemble as closely as possible those used by the UN. Some adaptations to the UN Rules were made to accommodate the time restraints inherent in a simulation. Please be aware that the NMUN Rules of Procedure may differ drastically from the rules used by other conferences, and within an NMUN conference, some rules can vary between the Security Council and all other committees.

Strategies for Negotiating and Building Consensus

Informal debate is an important and logistically difficult component of the UN simulation. Delegates have a few days to address issues that, in many cases, the international community has failed to resolve after years of debate and negotiation. In addition, the informal meetings between working groups generally include Member States with positions that are diametrically opposed. Despite these challenges, there are strategies that will assist delegates as they attempt to reach compromises acceptable to all parties.

Groups

Member States often organize in formal and informal groups with a variety of different purposes and memberships. These groups represent a basic starting point for informal discussions amongst delegates. Member States can belong to multiple groups based on regional relationships, as well as common positions on specific issues. Groups will be formed by either delegations with similar views, or delegations whose governments are interested for different reasons in having similar positions.² Some examples of real-life groups are the following:

UN Regional Groups ³	Other Regional / Political Groups	Issue-Specific Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African States• Asia-Pacific States• Eastern European States• Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)• Western European and Other States (WEOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group of 77 (G77)• Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)• Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)• European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-sponsor group⁴• Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)⁵• Cairns Group⁶• Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

It is beneficial for delegates to take part in groups during the conference for several reasons:

- Groups serve as pools of information to assist all members of the group in understanding positions of other countries in the committee;
- Groups foster an environment within which delegates can discuss issues and share ideas that can lead to the development of working papers;
- For delegates who are representing Member States that do not have stated positions on the topic at hand, it provides an opportunity to better identify common positions based on regional, political, or economic relationships;
- Group members benefit from shared knowledge and expertise on the topic under discussion;
- Finally, it is a realistic way of fully experiencing the way in which multilateral negotiations within the UN system happen – the majority of the work is done in groups!

Building upon Existing International Instruments

Implementing a more advanced negotiation strategy, a delegate will employ international instruments that comprise the existing international framework pertinent to the topic of discussion and, through informal

² For more information, please see: <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/significance-groups>

³ For more information, please see: <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/regional-groups>

⁴ A [co-sponsors' group](#) is specific to a particular working paper; a delegation may belong to numerous groups.

⁵ The [Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries](#) (LMMC) are extremely biodiverse, as they house the majority of the Earth's species.

⁶ The [Cairns Group](#) is a coalition of agricultural exporting countries committed to agricultural trade reform.

debate, gain cumulative support for a resolution. In the course of political- and security-related debate, for example, many delegates will design potential resolutions based upon historical treaties such as the Geneva or Hague Conventions. The ability to achieve consensus through informal debate is facilitated by enlisting these past and broadly acclaimed principles of conduct. Additionally, any potential decision of the international community is considerably reinforced with the application of historical global conventions.

Doing Your Research

Delegates must also be aware of potential opposition, and those Member States from whom it should be expected. For instance, the Western Bloc (the United States of America, Canada, and the European States) will routinely ally themselves, whether in support or opposition, on the overwhelming majority of topics deliberated by UN. However, this bloc also maintains radically different policies regarding a few specific issues. For example, deliberation regarding *The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, particularly in relation to fishing rights, typically finds states within the Western Bloc amid heated conflict. To be effective, delegates must consider who has or has not been supportive of the international convention(s) related to the topic under discussion.

The Process of Debate: Understanding the Conference

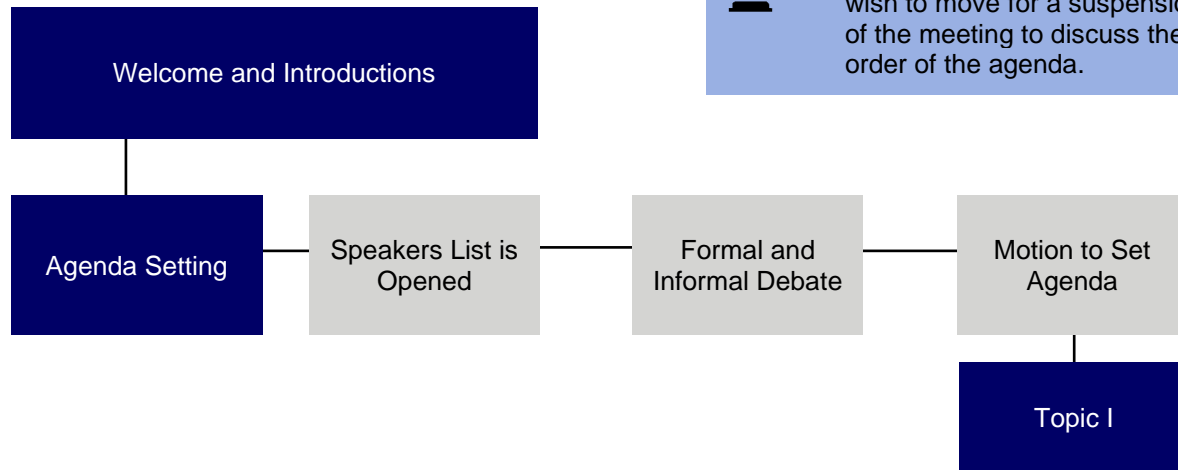
This section provides an overview of the conference, from opening session to voting procedure. Key information for each phase, such as definitions and comparisons of important terms and stages in committee session, are explained here to provide a quick-reference guide.

Opening Session

The first session of the conference is referred to as the opening session. During this session, the Chair will give a brief introduction before formally calling the session to order. The Chair will then open the speakers list in order to facilitate delegates' discussion on setting the order of the agenda. Once speakers have been added to the list, the Chair will recognize any points or motions on the floor. At that time, delegates may wish to suspend the meeting to discuss the agenda order.

The first motion to set the agenda that passes shall set the order in which the agenda items will be discussed by the committee. At that point, the Chair will open a new speakers list on the first agenda topic.

The opening session therefore proceeds as follows:



CONTENTS

- Opening Session
- Formal and Informal Debate
- Formal Debate
 - Speakers List
 - Speaker's Time
- Informal Debate
 - Suspension of the Meeting
 - Diplomatic Negotiation
- Working Papers and Draft Resolutions
- Voting Procedure and Closing Session
- Role of the NMUN Secretariat in Committee
- Specifics of the Security Council



Once the speakers list has been opened, delegates may wish to move for a suspension of the meeting to discuss the order of the agenda.

Formal and Informal Debate

The work of the conference is done in committee, during either formal or informal debate. Within one committee session, the committee will alternate between formal and informal debate multiple times.

FORMAL DEBATE	INFORMAL DEBATE (Suspension of the Meeting)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules of procedure are enforced by the Chair;• Delegates are expected to be in their seats and attentive;• Delegates are expected to be respectful of other delegates and diplomatic;• During formal debate, delegates will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Be added to the speakers list and make speeches;○ Raise points or motions;• Electronic devices (i.e., laptops, tablet computers, and phones) should be used sparingly during formal debate for immediate conference-related business, such as checking the Hub or reading a speech. Research and revision of working papers should not be done during formal debate to show respect to the speaker.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules of procedure are not enforced by the Chair;• Delegates are expected to engage actively by walking around and discussing the topic with other delegates;• Delegates are expected to be diplomatic and respectful of other delegates;• During informal debate, delegates will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Draft working papers;○ Discuss and gather support for working papers and draft resolutions;○ Review work being done in other groups;• Electronic devices (i.e., laptops, tablet computers, and phones) can be used. Delegates may not use projectors or microphones during informal session.

Formal Debate

Formal processes are essential to a successful conference. The main function of formal debate is to vote on draft resolutions negotiated during informal debate; for delegates to share positions and updates regarding work carried out during informal debate; and for the Secretariat to deliver information necessary for a successful conference. The main feature of formal debate is the use of the speakers list, which allows individual members and Observers to express their opinions and solutions before the entire body. During formal debate, all members of the committee inside of the chambers must be quiet and respectful to the delegate who has the floor.



Delegates should become familiar with Rules 25 and 26 in the [*NMUN Rules of Procedure*](#).

Speakers List

- The speakers list serves as the platform through which delegates make formal speeches on the topic at hand. Formal speeches are important because they allow delegates to address the entire committee and share information and ideas. The speakers list is maintained by the Dais and lists all Member States and Observers that have asked to speak, in the order received by the Dais. A new speakers list is automatically opened by the Chair at the beginning of discussion on a new topic. The Chair will ask for the names of those wishing to be placed on the speakers list. Delegates may add themselves to the speakers list by submitting a request through the Hub.



Please see Rules 41 to 50 of the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for further details regarding voting procedure.

At the end of the final committee session, delegates will conclude the session through a motion to adjourn the meeting, which requires a simple majority. The Chair may ask delegates to finish their session prior to the closing time to allow for closing remarks from the NMUN Secretariat.

Role of the NMUN Secretariat in Committee

Members of the NMUN Secretariat serve as the “Dais” in each committee, fulfilling the role of Director and Assistant Director (depending on committee size):

- The Director is the final authority on substantive matters in committee. The Director and the Assistant Director will often require multiple revisions to a working paper, including changes in format and/or content, before it can be submitted to the committee at large. The purpose of reviewing is educational, according to the NMUN mission. To this end, the Secretariat will:
 - Ask delegates to remove duplication of prior work of the committee;
 - Ask delegates to remove items that are factually incorrect;
 - Encourage delegates to work towards resolving the topic under discussion, if the content of the paper does not directly address it;
 - Ask delegates to clarify items such as the budgeting and financing of their proposals, how the proposals will be operationalized and by whom, and the timeframe of the proposals;
 - Prompt delegates to develop their ideas with pertinent questions;
- At their discretion, the Director and the Assistant Director may ask two or more groups to combine or merge similar working papers before approval;
- The Director and Assistant Director are responsible for keeping the Hub updated so conference attendees are aware of the committee's progress.

Introduction

At NMUN, all committees are simulated as resolution writing (even those that typically write reports at the UN). Student delegates prepare to draft resolutions whereas report writing at the UN is often conducted by staff, not negotiated by diplomats. The substantive work of all committees at NMUN conferences consequently takes the form of resolutions (with additional outcome documents possible in the Security Council).

Although delegates are encouraged to develop resolution writing skills both in class scenarios and at other simulations, NMUN conferences will not accept any pre-written resolutions. This determination is at the sole discretion of the Secretariat. Due to the goal of creating an environment where the skills of compromise and conflict resolution can be learned, delegates may be asked to merge working papers with other individuals working on the same issue in a committee. In addition, any delegates found to be submitting plagiarized material within resolutions will be subject to dismissal from further participation within the conference.

Although UN documents are within the public domain, the verbatim exploitation of these documents will not be permitted at the conference.

NMUN is aware that many committees at the UN itself adopt similar resolutions in a periodic fashion, operating with what is called “agreed language.” Agreed language is exact wording that appears regularly in the resolutions of a committee on a certain topic that it discusses often. As some of the topics discussed at NMUN reflect current agenda items from the UN, it is acceptable for a working paper to use a small amount of the committee’s agreed language in the preambular clauses if used sparingly; however, it is important for delegates to avoid plagiarism and the use of any other verbatim materials in their working papers.

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Working Papers
 - Sponsors and Signatories
 - Draft Resolutions
 - Amendments
- Important Considerations
- Resolutions
 - Structure
 - Preambular Clauses
 - Operative Clauses



NMUN conferences will not accept any pre-written resolutions. Further, any delegates found to be submitting plagiarized material (i.e., verbatim materials) within resolutions will be subject to dismissal from further participation at the conference.

Working Paper

The document is still a work-in-progress and has not been accepted or coded by the Dais (except perhaps informally during the review process); however, the Dais often has begun to make comments and suggestions to it. Working papers are not distributed to the Committee formally by the Dais. Delegates cannot lobby for specific working papers in formal speeches or refer to them by the informal code. As delegates work on working papers and receive reviews from the Dais, changes can be incorporated directly into the working paper.

Draft Resolution

This is the second stage of the process, in which the committee may formally debate the merits of the document and begin the amendment process. Draft resolutions have been accepted by the Dais, coded, and distributed to the committee for consideration ahead of a substantive vote. Please note that draft resolutions can only be altered through amendments.

Resolution

This term refers only to draft resolutions adopted by a substantive vote of the committee or adopted by acclamation. Resolutions include all friendly and unfriendly amendments the committee has accepted in a substantive vote and reflect all successful divisions of the proposal.

Working Papers

Once the agenda is adopted, and the committee begins discussing a specific topic in both formal and informal session, groups of delegations will begin to work together on writing resolutions. During the initial writing and revision stages, these documents are referred to as **working papers**. Working papers are drafted within a working group, and are then discussed with a larger number of delegations and revised or merged as needed according to their input. Working papers are submitted to the Dais for review and feedback. Working papers may go through several revisions before being approved as a draft resolution. Changes can be incorporated directly into the working paper by the working group, as it has not yet been approved by the Dais. In order to ensure correct formatting and to discourage pre-written resolutions, delegates are required to use the templates provided on the NMUN website. The NMUN Secretariat will not accept documents using a different template.



NMUN provides a template for delegates to use when drafting working papers. The NMUN Secretariat will not accept documents that are not on the NMUN template.

The objective of the United Nations is to pursue and achieve consensus-based decision-making wherever possible. If your committee has multiple working papers addressing the same aspect of the topic, your Dais may encourage you to merge them with other papers before moving into voting. This process will help create consensus on the topic, avoid duplication of ideas, and create more robust and effective resolutions.

During informal session, when the Dais has a working group's working paper for their review, delegates should continue to work within the committee. While the working paper is the most visible work product that delegates generate, a large part of the experiential learning comes from their negotiations, debates, and consensus building with other working groups. When they are working on their working paper, they are primarily working with other delegates in their respective group and do not have as much time to collaborate with and work with others outside their group. Waiting for edits is a great time for them to go over to other working groups, discuss their ideas and proposed solutions with other groups and ask what those other groups are proposing and see where they can collaborate and join their work. Delegates can, and should, continue to review their own work, see where they would like to improve their paper, add new ideas, and self-edit, they don't need to wait for feedback from the Dais on this. They should also start exploring mergers with other working groups and see which working papers would be best to try to merge. Additionally, they can continue to research their topic and write speeches to present at the next formal session.

Sponsors and Signatories

The required number of signatures for a paper to be submitted is equivalent to 20% of the membership in attendance during the first committee session. This can be any combination of sponsors and signatories, with a minimum of one sponsor. The Dais will provide the required number after the first session's roll call. When a working group feels that the working paper is complete, in the correct format, and ready to be considered by the entire body, they may submit it to the Dais.

SPONSOR	SIGNATORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States who create the content along with other delegates and are responsible for seeing it through until voted on; • Can approve friendly amendments; • Member States acting as sponsors of a working paper should be prepared to be available to defend the draft resolution and answer questions regarding it during session hours; • Sponsorship has no other advantages at NMUN and is not an awards criterion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States, Observer States, or NGOs who are interested in bringing the working paper forward for consideration by the committee; • Often support the content of the paper but were not necessarily instrumental in creating it and may ultimately disagree with its content.

Draft Resolutions

After approval, the working paper is considered a draft resolution, assigned a number, and sent to Information Services for posting online. At this time, the names of all sponsors and signatories are removed from the document by the NMUN Secretariat.

The electronic distribution of a draft resolution is considered to be its formal introduction to the committee – no procedural motion or reading of the draft resolution by a sponsor is necessary. All draft resolutions will be made available electronically with no printed copies distributed.

Once a draft resolution has been introduced, it is formally debated as part of the topic area, and amendments may be proposed. It can also be referred to in speeches made during formal debate.

Amendments

An amendment is a clarification or a change in a draft resolution that incorporates additional interests or concerns after a working paper has been formally submitted to a committee. **Preambular clauses of draft resolutions cannot be amended.** Amendments have to be on the official NMUN template to be accepted by the Dais. There are two types of amendments:

FRIENDLY	UNFRIENDLY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A friendly amendment is proposed by any member of the body in writing and accepted by the original sponsors of the document; it is typically used to clarify the point. Upon agreement of all of the original sponsors, the change is incorporated into the proposal without a vote by the committee. • If a sponsor of a working paper is not in the room to approve of an amendment, even if every other sponsor approves, the amendment becomes unfriendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unfriendly amendment is a modification that does not have the support of all the sponsors. • Unfriendly amendments must be formally submitted to the Dais prior to voting procedure, with the requisite number of signatures (20%) for the committee. • A debate and a vote will be held on all unfriendly amendments to a draft resolution immediately prior to the vote on the entire draft resolution. If multiple unfriendly amendments are submitted, the Dais will call for a vote on each unfriendly amendment in order of most to least severe.



Delegates should become familiar with Rules 33, 47, 48, and 49 in the *NMUN Rules of Procedure*.

Further, all delegates should review the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) in full, available on the NMUN website, as additional guidance in their preparation for the conference.



What can or cannot be amended?

- Amendments can be written to add, change, or remove one or several operative clauses or sub-clauses; they may add and/or strike words, phrases, or whole clauses;
- Amendments cannot be written to remove all operative clauses;
- Amendments cannot be written to add, change, or remove preambular clauses from draft resolutions;
- All spelling, format, and grammatical errors will be corrected by the Secretariat without an amendment.

Important Considerations

In addition to understanding the topic at hand, the position of their Member State, and the process for drafting resolutions, delegates should consider additional factors when developing working papers.

Mandate

The mandate of your committee should be the starting point for determining what action can be taken on the topic at hand. The mandate defines what the committee has been given the authority or purpose to do – it is within these parameters that delegates should develop working papers. For example, the Security Council is the only body that can decide to authorize military force (Chapter VII of the *Charter of the United Nations*); the First Committee, although also discussing matters of peace and security, does not have this ability. Delegates can find details regarding the mandate, as well as functions and powers, of their committee in the Committee Overview in the Background Guide.

Build on the Existing Foundation

UN resolutions and reports are not adopted in a vacuum, but in the context established by prior international instruments and various international treaties or other agreements, as well as previous resolutions on the topic under discussion. These instruments establish the political and legal foundations upon which deliberations can begin. As such, delegates are expected to integrate the relevant documents in position papers and in draft resolutions. The Committee Overview, as well as the “International and Regional Framework” and “Role of the International System” sub-sections within the topic sections in the Background Guide, indicate instruments of particular relevance to each committee.

Who Can Implement?

When writing a resolution, it is important to identify multiple actors who can address the issue, beyond Member States alone. These may include:

- **Committee:** The committee can take action on the topic within the remit of its mandate. Examples, depending on the mandate, include strengthening existing or creating new programs and initiatives, making recommendations to the General Assembly, inviting ECOSOC and its subsidiaries to take action such as establishing ad hoc working groups or inter-agency task teams, requesting Executive Directors to align policy and allocate resources, and collaborate with other UN agencies and invite partners to provide technical and financial support.
- **UN Secretary-General / Secretariat:** Delegates can request that the UN Secretary-General or the Secretariat provide a report to the committee, or provide support to Member States on a particular issue;
- **Regional organizations:** Some actions are better taken at a less centralized level. A resolution can suggest, welcome, recommend, etc., international organizations such as the European Union, the African Union, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to take action;
- **Civil society / NGOs:** NGOs are specialized organizations on certain issues. A resolution may ask an NGO to be involved in certain matters, assist with their knowledge, or may generally encourage civil society engagement.

Moving Beyond the Status Quo

By welcoming delegates from all over the world, NMUN provides a true opportunity for intercultural learning and understanding in an international environment. The chance to debate and create during this conference requires delegates to embrace different perspectives and collaborate on new ideas. Participants are encouraged to challenge themselves and capitalize on this unique experience. Delegates should take the opportunity to develop creative ideas that move beyond the status quo on the topics at hand. Often, actual UN committees have debated similar topics over many years with limited progress;

delegates should strive to realistically simulate the position of their Member State, but should not feel constrained by the UN's previous actions (or lack thereof) on an issue.

Resolutions

Resolutions represent the formal recommendations and/or decisions of the committee on the topic at hand. They are documents in which the body expresses a commitment to undertake certain action, or which calls on Member States to implement certain measures. Resolutions thus represent a form of political commitment. Please note, however, that resolutions are, with the exception of Security Council resolutions, *not* legally binding.

Resolutions give a formal voice to the stance and/or desire for action of a UN entity. Resolutions are split into two main parts: a preamble section and an operative section. In the preamble, the background and foundation of a topic are discussed. In the [operative section](#), information is given on what action the body believes should be taken.

A resolution is the most appropriate means of applying political pressure on Member States, expressing an opinion on an important issue, or recommending action to be taken by Member States, the UN, or some other agency. When debate is exhausted or ended, the body then votes on each proposed resolution and amendment and the issue is then considered closed.

A draft resolution only becomes a resolution if it is adopted by the committee in voting procedure. Delegates should be aware during voting procedure that the committee should not adopt contradicting resolutions, but should rather speak with a coherent voice.



To become familiar with rules related to resolutions, see Rule 33 in the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#).

A sample working paper can be found at the end of this section.

Structure

All UN resolutions follow a common format. Each resolution has a heading, preambular clauses, and operative clauses. The entire resolution consists of one long sentence, with commas and semicolons throughout, and only one period at the very end.

Formatting

Working papers should be single-spaced and the first word in each clause should be italicized. All working paper submissions must be submitted on the official template available online from the NMUN website. The official template includes predefined styles that must be applied to each element of a working paper. The NMUN Secretariat will not accept draft resolutions based on other file templates.

Heading

The heading is the identifying part of the draft resolution. The heading answers several questions. It explains where the resolution is directed (to which committee it is to be referred), what the topic of discussion is, and who has written and sponsored it.

Preambular Clauses

The purpose of the preamble (referred to at the UN as a “preambular paragraph”) is to supply historical background for the issue as well as justify the action to be taken. Preambular clauses serve to describe the foundation of what will be discussed in the operative clauses and the actions that will be invoked in the second section of the resolution. Preambular clauses can support specific arguments discussed in the resolution and help gather support for ideas. A “lack of precision” in preambular clauses can be appropriate when pointing to general ideas related to certain issues.⁷ The preamble is critical because it provides the framework through which the problems of the topic are viewed and helps support the solutions that are proposed in the resolution. Preambular clauses cannot have sub-clauses.



Remember that preambular clauses generally begin with present participles (written in italics) and are always followed by a comma. For example:

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

Some elements that you should consider including are the following:

- **Charter of the United Nations:** The Charter, as the founding document of the United Nations, is often referenced in preambular clauses to establish the basis for the committee’s approach to the topic. The preamble may refer to the Charter generally and/or to specific Articles or Chapters.⁸
- **Relevant international legal precedents or resolutions from UN entities:** References to relevant international human rights or humanitarian conventions, as well as previous resolutions or international documents, are often used to summarize the existing efforts to address the topic at hand.
- **Observations regarding the topic under discussion:** There should be several clauses that provide an overview of the content or driving ideas of the resolution, which provides a foundation to the rest of the resolution. This helps establish the action that will be called for later in the operative clauses. The preamble should also specifically refer to factual situations, statistics, or incidents.

⁷ For more information, please see: <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/drafting-resolutions>

⁸ For more information, please see: <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/drafting-resolutions>

List of Preambular Clauses

<i>Acknowledges</i>	<i>Acknowledges with deep gratitude</i>	<i>Acknowledging</i>
<i>Affirming</i>	<i>Again requests</i>	<i>Alarmed</i>
<i>Alarmed and concerned</i>	<i>Also bearing in mind</i>	<i>Appealing</i>
<i>Appreciating</i>	<i>Appreciating highly</i>	<i>Approving</i>
<i>Aware</i>	<i>Basing itself</i>	<i>Bearing in mind</i>
<i>Believing</i>	<i>Calling attention</i>	<i>Cognizant</i>
<i>Concerned</i>	<i>Confident</i>	<i>Conscious</i>
<i>Considering</i>	<i>Contemplating</i>	<i>Continuing to take the view</i>
<i>Convinced</i>	<i>Declaring</i>	<i>Deeply alarmed</i>
<i>Deeply appreciative</i>	<i>Deeply conscious</i>	<i>Deeply convinced</i>
<i>Deeply disturbed</i>	<i>Deeply regretting</i>	<i>Deploring</i>
<i>Desiring</i>	<i>Desirous</i>	<i>Determined</i>
<i>Dismayed</i>	<i>Distressed</i>	<i>Emphasizing</i>
<i>Encouraged</i>	<i>Expecting</i>	<i>Expressing (its) appreciation</i>
<i>Expressing (its) concern</i>	<i>Expressing (its) deep concern</i>	<i>Expressing (its) grave concern</i>
<i>Expressing (its) regret</i>	<i>Expressing (its) satisfaction</i>	<i>Expressing (its) utmost concern</i>
<i>Finding</i>	<i>Firmly convinced</i>	<i>Fulfilling</i>
<i>Fully alarmed</i>	<i>Fully aware</i>	<i>Further believing</i>
<i>Further deploring</i>	<i>Further recalling</i>	<i>Gravely concerned</i>
<i>Guided</i>	<i>Having</i>	<i>Having adopted</i>
<i>Having considered</i>	<i>Having considered further</i>	<i>Having constituted</i>
<i>Having devoted attention</i>	<i>Having examined</i>	<i>Having heard</i>
<i>Having met</i>	<i>Having received</i>	<i>Having received and examined</i>
<i>Having regarded</i>	<i>Having studied</i>	<i>Inter alia (among other things)</i>
<i>Keeping in mind</i>	<i>Looking forward</i>	<i>Mindful</i>
<i>Noting interest (with)</i>	<i>Noting alarm (with)</i>	<i>Noting also</i>
<i>Noting appreciation (with)</i>	<i>Noting approval (with)</i>	<i>Noting concern (with)</i>
<i>Noting deep concern (with)</i>	<i>Noting further (with)</i>	<i>Noting gratitude (with)</i>
<i>Noting regret (with) satisfaction</i>	<i>Observing</i>	<i>Paying tribute</i>
<i>Profoundly concerned</i>	<i>Reaffirming</i>	<i>Realizing</i>
<i>Recalling further</i>	<i>Recognizing</i>	<i>Reconfirming</i>
<i>Re-emphasizing</i>	<i>Referring</i>	<i>Regretting</i>
<i>Reiterating (its) dismay</i>	<i>Reiterating (its) appreciation</i>	<i>Reiterating (its) conviction</i>
<i>Resolving</i>	<i>Seeking</i>	<i>Seriously concerned</i>
<i>Solemnly declares proclaims</i>	<i>Stresses its desire</i>	<i>Stressing once again</i>
<i>Strongly emphasizes supporting</i>	<i>Supporting fully</i>	<i>Taking into account</i>
<i>Taking into consideration</i>	<i>Taking note</i>	<i>Taking note also</i>
<i>Taking note with satisfaction</i>	<i>Underlining</i>	<i>Underscoring</i>
<i>Urging</i>	<i>Viewing with appreciation</i>	<i>Welcoming also</i>

Operative Clauses

What the committee is going to do on the topic is presented through a logical progression of sequentially numbered operative clauses (referred to in the UN as an “operative paragraph”).

The language of operative clauses should suggest action going forward. The action may be as vague as denunciation of a certain situation or a call for negotiations, or as specific as a call for a ceasefire or a monetary commitment for a particular project. These clauses may recommend, urge, condemn, encourage, request certain actions, or state an opinion regarding an existing situation

It is important to bear in mind that only Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII are binding upon the international community, and the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and their respective subsidiary bodies can only make recommendations. The scope, power, and authority of a committee determine what may be included in the operative clauses. Resolutions are rarely complete solutions to a problem; they are usually only one step in the process of developing a solution. Resolutions drafted over the course of the conference should seek to identify gaps in existing international policy and address these gaps with innovative and concrete solutions.

Sub-clauses

Operative clauses can have sub-clauses to provide further detail for complex ideas. A sub-clause is part of a whole and cannot stand alone as a complete clause; instead, sub-clauses augment an operative clause to explain a whole idea/proposal and form a complete clause. Therefore, each sub-clause must logically continue the parent operative clause and exhibit a parallel structure, as demonstrated below. Additionally, there must be at least two sub-clauses if employed; there cannot be only one sub-clause.

See below for an example of an operative clause with sub-clauses:



Remember that operative clauses begin with an active, present tense verb (in italics) and are followed by a semicolon, with a period placed after the final clause. Operative clauses can have sub-clauses.

1. *Urges* all Governments to fully implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) by:
 - a. Developing national action plans with budgetary allocations that identify concrete strategies for national-level implementation;
 - b. Developing formal consultation mechanisms to support civil society engagement and capacity-building in post-conflict peacebuilding processes, with a particular focus on women’s organizations;
 - c. Strengthening efforts to support the recruitment and participation of female candidates for elected office;
 - d. Mainstreaming gender as a cross-cutting issue across all peace, security, and development efforts;
 - e. Integrating gender-based analysis as an essential component of policymaking processes across all levels;

1. *Endorses* the Plan of Action for Sustainable Environmental Education Development (SEED), beginning with an 18-month pilot program that will:
 - a. Highlight the importance of education, focusing on farmers in rural areas and Somalis in refugee camps;
 - b. Strengthen farmers and women working in the agricultural sector by:
 - i. Creating a series of educational programs which allow for women to be taught by women, thereby aligning with their cultural circumstance;
 - ii. Proposing the use of viable, secure, and farmable land within Somalia for the purpose of practical training;
 - iii. Teaching alternative farming methods such as crop rotation and tunnel farming, and introduce up-to-date agricultural technologies;

Sub-clauses allow for the full development of clauses and are therefore useful for explaining and giving sufficient detail for clauses that deal with items such as the establishment of new programs and initiatives, technical proposals, and financing for proposals. In the example above, the sub-clauses elucidate the details for a new pilot program, giving two purposes for its creation and the methods by which the initiative will be implemented.

Word Choice

Some points to consider when drafting operative clauses:

- The word used most frequently to begin an operative clause is *Requests*. This word is considered neutral in its meaning.
- A General Assembly resolution may use an operative clause to request action on the part of the Security Council; *Recommends* or *Invites* are appropriate operative phrases in this circumstance.
- For situations where the authors of a resolution want to evoke emotion with their operative phrases used, different words are considered stronger than others. When choosing the wording for an operative phrase, it is important to consider that you will be trying to gather support for the resolution. You should also think about what the committee's mandate is and what it can do; choose operative phrases that match this.
- Please note the operative clause *Decides to remain seized of the matter* is applicable only in the Security Council and some select IGOs.⁹

⁹ For more information, please see: <https://www.un.org/en/model-United-nations/drafting-resolutions>

List of Operative Clauses

<i>Adopts</i>	<i>Affirms</i>	<i>Agrees</i>
<i>Appeals</i>	<i>Approves</i>	<i>Asks</i>
<i>Authorizes</i>	<i>Calls upon</i>	<i>Commends</i>
<i>Concurs</i>	<i>Condemns</i>	<i>Confirms</i>
<i>Congratulates</i>	<i>Considers</i>	<i>Decides</i>
<i>Decides accordingly</i>	<i>Declares accordingly once more</i>	<i>Demands</i>
<i>Denounces</i>	<i>Deplores</i>	<i>Designates</i>
<i>Directs attention</i>	<i>Draws attention</i>	<i>Emphasizes</i>
<i>Encourages</i>	<i>Endorses the call</i>	<i>Establishes</i>
<i>Expresses (its) appreciation</i>	<i>Expresses (its) belief</i>	<i>Expresses (its) concern</i>
<i>Expresses (its) conviction</i>	<i>Expresses (its) grave concern</i>	<i>Expresses (its) hope</i>
<i>Expresses (its) readiness</i>	<i>Expresses (its) regret</i>	<i>Expresses (its) satisfaction</i>
<i>Expresses (its) serious concern</i>	<i>Expresses (its) support</i>	<i>Expresses (its) sympathy</i>
<i>Expresses (its) thanks</i>	<i>Fully supports</i>	<i>Further invites</i>
<i>Further proclaims</i>	<i>Further recommends</i>	<i>Further reminds</i>
<i>Further requests</i>	<i>Have resolved</i>	<i>Insists</i>
<i>Instructs</i>	<i>Intends</i>	<i>Invites</i>
<i>Is fully conscious</i>	<i>Notes (with) appreciation</i>	<i>Notes (with) approval</i>
<i>Notes (with) concern</i>	<i>Notes (with) deep regret</i>	<i>Notes (with) gratification</i>
<i>Notes (with) gratitude and satisfaction</i>	<i>Notes (with) interest</i>	<i>Notes (with) profound concern</i>
<i>Notes (with) satisfaction</i>	<i>Opposes</i>	<i>Pays special tribute</i>
<i>Praises</i>	<i>Proclaims</i>	<i>Reaffirms its belief</i>
<i>Recalls</i>	<i>Recognizes</i>	<i>Recommends</i>
<i>Regrets</i>	<i>Reiterates its call upon</i>	<i>Reiterates its calls</i>
<i>Reiterates its demand</i>	<i>Reiterates its request</i>	<i>Remains deeply concerned</i>
<i>Reminds</i>	<i>Repeats</i>	<i>Requests</i>
<i>Requires</i>	<i>Reserves</i>	<i>Resolves</i>
<i>Solemnly affirms</i>	<i>Stresses its readiness</i>	<i>Strongly condemns</i>
<i>Suggests</i>	<i>Supports</i>	<i>Takes note with appreciation</i>
<i>Transmits</i>	<i>Trusts</i>	<i>Underlines with concern</i>
<i>Urges</i>	<i>Welcomes</i>	



Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Climate Change and Health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the multilateral implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 13 (climate action) within the international framework as well as in national policies and strategies to ensure that all Member States are striving towards sustainability,

Deeply concerned with the rising health crisis due to the increasing negative impacts of climate change, more specifically the health effects of land misuse and poor agriculture practices due to inaccessibility of training and information for farmers,

Highlighting the importance of accountability and transparency as well as the reinforcement of local partnerships to ensure that Member States can self-sustain long-term actions, policies, and goals while addressing issues related to climate change and health,

Recognizing that renewable energy is a necessity in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing air quality degradation, in accordance with agreements and research completed by the international community,

Bearing in mind SDG 7 (clean and affordable energy) and SDG 13 (climate action) by taking urgent action to combat climate change, especially air pollution, by transitioning to renewable, sustainable, and affordable energy practices, such as the implementation of solar generators,

Convinced by recent studies that the transition to solar energy is the most effective and efficient way for the national and individual levels to acquire renewable energy while also creating clean air and reducing water pollution, drastically decreasing health issues including, but not limited to, heat-aggravated illnesses and respiratory illnesses,

1. *Strongly encourages* Member States to recognize and include references to relevant SDGs and targets in national policies, strategies, and plans, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;
2. *Recommends* Member States to implement solar generator technologies in government establishments with the following goals:
 - a. Member States will utilize solar technology throughout a wide range of government buildings and establishments of their choice;
 - b. Once government facilities transition to solar generators, citizens will see the positive effects of going solar;
 - c. Citizens will be able to use the solar generator implementation in government facilities as a guide and start the transition in homes and private businesses;
 - d. Success of the implementation of solar technologies can be met through the expansion of sustainable infrastructure, furthering the goals of SDG 7;
3. *Encourages* Member States to partner with NGOs and organizations at the local level to establish sustainable energy consumption practices to foster long-term commitment and self-reliance at all levels of the international framework;

4. *Calls for* Member States to work together alongside UNDP and the World Bank to provide resources and equipment for local farmers to apply sustainable practices, especially in resource-scarce regions;
5. *Recommends* the promotion of transparency and accountability in Member States regarding their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to achieve SDG 13 through continued annual reports to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1, focusing on:
 - a. Recording levels of GHG emissions annually for each participating Member State;
 - b. Tracking and reporting changes in GHG emission levels across time to analyze the effectiveness of climate actions in each Member State;
 - c. Reporting of new methodologies of GHG absorption so that these advancements can be available to all Member States;
6. *Supports* Member States at the regional and local levels in sharing effective solutions, responses, and education initiatives regarding the established relationship between climate change and health through:
 - a. Publishing annual regional reports on the specific associated risks of climate change on human health as well as achievements in these fields;
 - b. Establishing regional biannual conferences to discuss with regional and local leaders, NGOs, scientists, and officials to discuss the intersectionality of climate change and health to:
 - i. Promote transparency and accountability on these issues;
 - ii. Provide any relevant training that would alleviate the impacts of climate change on health;
 - iii. Share solutions with the neighboring Member States to encourage multilateral cooperation.

Specifics of the Security Council

Special Rules

It is highly recommended that delegates of the Security Council familiarize themselves with the NMUN Rules of Procedure prior to the conference. There are a number of rules that apply only to the Security Council and which are necessary to understand the flow of committee, procedural and substantive voting procedures, and other unique situations that may be presented to the Security Council.



Rules in the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) applying only to the Security Council are indicated in the text with the denotation: (Security Council only).

Quorum and Veto

Nine Member States represent the “simple majority” of the Council, and as such, nine votes in favor are needed for any Security Council decision, whether procedural or substantive.



Delegates should become familiar with Rules 20 and 43 in the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#).

Substantive decisions also require concurring votes of the permanent members, i.e., no negative votes, also known as “vetoes” by the Permanent Five (P-5) Member States of the Security Council (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America).

Flow of Committee

The first item of the provisional agenda for each meeting of the Security Council shall be the adoption of the agenda. Adoption of the agenda is a *procedural vote* and, as such, it requires nine votes in favor to pass, in accordance with Article 27 (2) of the *Charter of the United Nations*. The veto does not apply for procedural votes.

The Security Council may adopt agenda items outside the topics listed in the Background Guide. The Security Council therefore can move between topics over the course of the conference. Delegates assigned to the Security Council should stay abreast of current issues over the course of their preparations leading up to the conference.

Urgent Circumstances

At NMUN, the agenda of the Security Council may be amended under “urgent circumstances.” The determination of an item as “urgent” is subject to the discretion of the Members of the Security Council. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a *substantive vote* (and thus nine votes in favor with concurring votes of the permanent members) to be placed on the agenda. If placed on the agenda, the agenda item shall be placed at the top of the agenda, and the Security Council shall immediately begin discussion on the new topic. Upon concluding voting procedure on an agenda item deemed “urgent,” the Security Council will return to the topic previously under discussion. Should any further developments be brought to the attention of the Security Council, the provisional agenda may be amended again to add the same agenda item deemed “urgent” to address the new developments. Likewise, a different issue might be deemed “urgent” and can be considered by using the same procedure.

Outcome Documents

Unlike the other committees simulated at NMUN that have just one type of outcome document, resolutions, the Security Council can adopt three types of outcome documents: resolutions, presidential statements, and press statements.

The most common type of document that you will adopt as a delegate will be resolutions; however, in some cases, a presidential statement or press statement might be more appropriate, based on the topic under discussion or the dynamics of the committee. Generally, resolutions and presidential statements are adopted following formal consideration of a subject, whereas a press statement is usually adopted in immediate response to an incident. As the Security Council can move between topics over the course of the conference, it is possible that the committee may choose to adopt a press statement or presidential statement initially, and then a resolution after deliberations, should there be further developments on a situation brought to the attention of the Security Council.

Resolutions

Resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. A resolution is the most appropriate means of applying political pressure on Member States, expressing an opinion on an important issue, or recommending action to be taken by Member States, the United Nations, or some other agency. The only body that may produce resolutions that are binding upon the Member States of the United Nations is the Security Council, though not all Security Council resolutions or parts thereof are binding. Binding resolutions are utilized when undertaking action under Chapter VII of the *Charter of the United Nations*, including when renewing mandates of peacekeeping and political missions and establishing sanctions.

At NMUN, the Security Council may adopt resolutions on any topic on their agenda, as well as on urgent circumstances brought to the attention of the Security Council during the conference. Multiple resolutions may be adopted on a topic; however, if the Security Council is establishing, modifying, or renewing the mandate of a peacekeeping or political operation or a sanctions regime, the mandate must be contained in one resolution.

“Decides to remain seized of the matter” is virtually always added as the very last line of a Security Council resolution.

Presidential Statements

Presidential statements do not have the same weight as a resolution and are not legally binding. They are action-oriented, as opposed to Press Statements (see below), which are meant to express joint opinions. Presidential statements are adopted by consensus and are meant to reflect the opinion of the entire Security Council. They are often adopted when the Security Council wants to take action on a subject but cannot reach agreement on a resolution. For example, Security Council Members might all agree that a situation warrants attention by the international community; however, the specific way in which to take action cannot be agreed upon. Presidential statements are often adopted in urgent circumstances or in order to emphasize particular aspects of a situation. For example, in advance of elections in a Member State being discussed by the Security Council, the body will issue a presidential statement reinforcing its previous resolutions or recognizing progress.

At NMUN, a presidential statement is drafted and adopted in replacement of a resolution; therefore, a presidential statement and a resolution cannot be adopted on the same topic during the same voting procedure. However, in the event of an “urgent circumstance” brought to the attention of the Security Council following the adoption of a presidential statement, delegates may return to discussion on the topic and could adopt a resolution. Two presidential statements cannot be adopted on the same topic unless they are on different aspects. For example, in 2014, the Security Council adopted two presidential statements on Afghanistan – one focused on drug trafficking and one focused on elections. Presidential statements are adopted by consensus and cannot be divided. In voting procedure, the Chair will ask if there is any opposition and will not take a vote.

Press Statements

Press statements are not as significant as resolutions or presidential statements and they are used to indicate the Security Council's opinion on an urgent circumstance or recent event. Press statements are usually issued in two situations: (1) In response to a "specific event, such as a terrorist act, violence against UN personnel, a natural disaster or the death of a head of state or other prominent personality;" or (2) In an effort to convey a political message in rapid response or if a specific event has occurred or is imminent such as a briefing, an election, or international event like a conference that is on the Security Council's agenda. For example, press statements were issued in response to specific attacks by Boko Haram (SC/11768 and SC/11763). They expressed outrage at the attacks, called for accountability, and referred to future actions by the Security Council and international community, broadly.

At NMUN, the Security Council may only issue press statements in the event of an urgent circumstance brought to its attention during the conference. The body may issue a press statement and resolution or presidential statement on the same topic. Press statements are adopted by consensus and cannot be divided. In voting procedures, the Chair will ask if there is any opposition to adopting the press statement and will not take a vote.

Voting Procedure

Voting in the Security Council shall be in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter and of the *Statute of the International Court of Justice*. According to Article 27(2) of the Charter, decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members. Article 27(3) states that all substantive decisions shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

In the Security Council, the majority required for each type of outcome document is as follows:

- **Resolutions:** Affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members;
- **Presidential Statement:** Consensus;
- **Press Statements:** Consensus.

For details regarding voting procedure at NMUN, please see the [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#).