

Glossary

Chair – also known as a moderator, this is a member of the dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure.

Delegate - a participant acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee.

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

Flow of debate - the order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference.

Formal debate - the "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list. They must also formally yield the floor to questions, the chair, or another delegate.

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

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

Point - a request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate.

Procedural vote - a vote that requires all delegates to participate in (**i.e.** motion to close debate).

Resolution - a document that has been passed by a UN body aiming to address a particular problem or issue. The UN equivalent of a law.

Right of reply - a right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels that their personal or national integrity has been insulted or slandered by another's speech. It is easily the most over-attempted and misused motion in Model UN debating – delegates often fail to understand that asking for a ‘Right of Reply’ is making a very serious accusation and must not be abused. The Director decides whether to grant the Right of Reply and

their decision is not open to appeal. If granted the Chair will normally ask the offending party if they wish to apologize.

Roll call - the first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Chair reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain from a substantive vote.

- **Present** – a state that's present is a state that's given the Chair's indication of its presence, and may take part in formal debate and votes.
- **Present and Voting** – a state that's present and voting has given its obligation to vote on the topic at hand. States that are present and voting may not abstain during substantive votes. Some Chairs require all states present and voting be in the room for the voting procedure to start.

Secretariat - the most senior staff of a Model UN conference.

Secretary-General - the leader of a Model UN conference.

Simple majority – 50 percent plus one delegate in a committee. The amount needed to pass most votes.

Speakers List - a list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a Speakers List by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During the debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the Chair. Your country's name cannot be on the speakers' list more than once at a time.

Substantive vote: one that does not require the participation of all delegates. Those who announce themselves as "present" may abstain during a substantive vote (**i.e.** voting on a draft resolution).

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

Yield - in formal debate, the delegate must yield his/her time at the beginning of their speech in one of three ways:

- ➔ To the chair: once the speech is over the chair takes the floor and moves on with the Speakers List
- ➔ To questions: delegates can ask questions to the speaker for his/her remaining time
- ➔ To another delegate: another speaker uses up the remaining time to give a speech, but cannot yield themselves.