

# **HBTU MUN 2017 Guide**

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## **Part I**

# **Introduction**

# Chapter 1

## Model United Nations

### 1.1 History

Established in 1945 after the end of the Second World War, the United Nations is the largest, most comprehensive international organization in the world. The need for such a body as a forum for dialogue, maintenance of world peace, and development of social progress became apparent after the devastating consequences of the two World Wars. With the addition of South Sudan in July 2011, the UN now has 193 member states representing the vast majority of the world's population. The United Nations is led by the Secretary General, who oversees the workings of the entire organization. There are five main principal organs of the United Nations system:

- Security Council
- General Assembly
- Economic and Social Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

In addition to these organs, there are numerous subsidiary organizations and committees that are focused in specialized areas. The more popular of these include the UN Environment Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank.

The UN turned out not to be the mechanism for global peace for which many had hoped; instead, the organization's true success has been in its contributions to a global political culture that demands respect between nations, discourages conflict, and advocates for the peaceful resolution of the conflicts that it cannot prevent. Among the philosophical underpinnings of the UN system are beliefs that all nations are sovereign and equal, that members are to fulfill in good faith the obligations that they have assumed under the UN Charter, that international disputes are to be resolved by peaceful means, and that the organization is not to intervene in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state. As the organization has grown in size—the size of its membership has nearly quadrupled since the time of its founding—these principles of respect and amity between nations have become increasingly ingrained in nations' foreign policies.

## 1.2 Purposes & Principles

### 1.2.1 Purposes

Purposes and principles The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are:

- **To maintain international peace and security**, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
- **To develop friendly relations among nations** based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- **To achieve international co-operation** in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion;
- **To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations** in the attainment of these common ends.

### 1.2.2 Principles

The United Nations acts in accordance with the following principles:

- It is based on the sovereign equality of all its members;
- All members are to fulfil in good faith their Charter obligations;
- They are to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and without endangering international peace and security and justice;
- They are to refrain from the threat or use of force against any other state;
- They are to give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the Charter;
- Nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.

## Chapter 2

# General Assembly

### 2.1 Introduction

At the center of the UN system is the 193-member [General Assembly \(GA\)](#), comprised of seven main committees and various subsidiary and related bodies. The [GA](#) serves primarily as a forum for discussing general issues such as international peace and security and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields. The [GA](#) is also able to establish committees and other bodies to study and report on specific issues. Although the decisions of the [GA](#) have no binding legal force upon member-states, they do carry the weight of the moral authority of the world community.

### 2.2 Powers

The powers of the [GA](#) include the ability to make recommendations on the general principle of maintaining international peace and security. It may discuss any question that is not being discussed by the Security Council and make further recommendations. When required, it functions to commence studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the development of international law, and collaboration in economic, social, educational and health sectors.

#### Tip 2.1: GA Voting

To pass substantive resolutions, the GA requires a two-thirds majority. All other non-substantive questions are decided by simple majority.

### 2.3 Why GA?

With 193 seats, a full GA is one of the largest committees to sit in. Participation in a committee of this size will give you a chance to practice your public speaking skills and allow you to interact with a large number of delegates. Also, with the one member, one vote structure, the GA gives all countries a level ground for participation—even a small island state has just as much voting influence as a large and populous superpower!

## 2.4 Committees

**General Assembly (GA)** allocates items relevant to its work among its six Main Committees, which discuss them, seeking where possible to harmonize the various approaches of States, and then present to a plenary meeting of the Assembly draft resolutions and decisions for consideration.

The committees are:

- **First Committee** (Disarmament and International Security);
- **Second Committee** (Economic and Financial);
- **Third Committee** (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);
- **Fourth Committee** (Special Political and Decolonization);
- **Fifth Committee** (Administrative and Budgetary);
- **Sixth Committee** (Legal).

The work of the United Nations year-round derives largely from the mandates given by

- The General Assembly — that is to say, the will of the majority of the members as expressed
- In resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly. That work is carried out:
- By committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on
- Specific issues, such as disarmament, peacekeeping, development and human rights;
- In international conferences called for by the Assembly; and
- By the Secretariat of the United Nations — the Secretary-General and his staff of international civil servants.

# Chapter 3

## Fourth Committee

Here at the HBTU MUN 2017, delegates are to simulate the fourth committee of the [General Assembly \(GA\)](#); the [Special Political and Decolonization Committee \(SPECPOL\)](#).

### 3.1 History

The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations is the [Special Political and Decolonization Committee \(SPECPOL\)](#). Established in 1993, [SPECPOL](#) is the combination of the Decolonization Committee (formerly the Fourth Committee) and the Special Political Committee. This committee's inception took place in 1990 when the United Nations established 1990-2000 as the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism". This was particularly important considering at the time of the United Nation's creation, 750 million people lived in what would be considered to be a colonized territory. Over eighty former colonies have become independent since 1945. Today, in part due to the work of the Fourth Committee, this number has drastically decreased to approximately two million, an amount [SPECPOL](#) is still determined to address.

### 3.2 Mandate

[Special Political and Decolonization Committee \(SPECPOL\)](#), has a somewhat more fragmented mandate than other committees of the General Assembly, such as [DISEC](#), [ECOFIN](#), or [SOCHUM](#). The UN itself describes the committee as concerning itself with a variety of subjects which include those related to:

- Decolonization
- Palestinian refugees and human rights
- Peacekeeping
- Mine action
- Outer space
- Public information
- Atomic radiation



In short, SPECPOL covers both the issue of decolonisation, as suggested by its full name, as well as any other political issues not directly dealt with by the mandates of any other UN General Assembly committee.

### 3.3 Powers

While SPECPOL was derived from the Disarmament and International Security Committee, it takes on issues that the First Committee does not address, as well as looking at topics with a wider scope. Unlike other UN committees, SPECPOL shines a spotlight on issues pertaining to occupation, colonization, and subjugation, with the primary goal of making all countries independent and self-sufficient from outside powers.

#### Tip 3.1: Resolution Scope

Resolutions are **non-binding** and therefore peacekeeping operations or other punitive measures can **only** be suggested or recommended to the [United Nations Security Council \(UN-SC\)](#).

### 3.4 Why SPECPOL?

The Special Political and Decolonization committee holds a very unique role in the United Nations. While other main committees aim to resolve current global issues, SPECPOL concerns itself with healing countries from the lasting impact of their troubling histories. The committee's foremost goal is to ensure that all countries enjoy the benefits of the independence to which they are entitled, and only when all countries are economically, culturally, and socially liberated can the world move forward.

## **Part II**

# **Rules**

**Part III**

**Study Guide**

# **Appendices**

# Glossary

**DISEC** Disarmament and International  
Security Committee 7

**ECOFIN** Economic and Financial Affairs  
Council 7

**GA** General Assembly 5–7

**SOCHUM** Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural  
Committee 7

**SPECPOL** Special Political and Decolonization  
Committee 7, 8

**UN-SC** United Nations Security Council 8