

STUDY GUIDE

UNSC
IașiMUN 2019



Table of Contents

Welcoming letter.....	3
Introduction to the committee.....	4
Topic : Curent tensions in East Asia.....	5
1. North Korean threat	5
2. Japan-South Korea tensions	6
3. Territorial disputes	7
3.1. Dokdo/Takeshima Islands	7
3.2. Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands	8
3.3. Kuril Islands dispute	8
4. South China Sea.....	9
5. Hong Kong Protests	11
6. Taiwan	12
7. Further research	13
Writing a resolution.....	14
Tips and tricks	15

Welcoming letter

Dear delegates,

It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 11th edition of IasiMUN and to its first ever Security Council, one of the six principal organs of the UN. This edition we are going to discuss *Current Tensions in East Asia*.

We hope that this study guide will assist you in researching the topic, properly understanding the current situation and further explain you the mission of the Security Council, in order for you to be as prepared as possible for one of the most delightful MUN's you have ever attended. Since this is quite a difficult topic and a very vast one, we will address the problems individually (see the table of contents).

Please keep in mind that the Security Council is the committee with the greatest executive power, so be careful, because you, as a delegate, have so much power in your hands now! So if you have something to say, raise your placard as high as possible, stand up and show everyone what a magnificent delegate you are! Don't be afraid to stand up and express your thoughts, the only thing you should regret is not speaking at all!

With that being said, we are expecting from you to do your research properly, *always* respect your country's position and speak up as much as you can. Of course, IasiMUN is not only about debating, about the conference and about deciding the future of our entire world, but also about meeting new wonderful people, about becoming a better version of yourself and, most importantly, about having fun!

One more time, welcome to the group! Do not hesitate to contact us either by email or Facebook, if you encounter any problem. But until then, let's just hope that it won't be the case!

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Anghel

Victor-Adrian Roșca

Presidents of the Security Council

Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most important bodies of the organization based in New York and certainly the most powerful one, due to its exclusive right to take direct action when the international peace is endangered. Its very structure makes it difficult for any biased resolution to pass, as it is compounded of 10 Non-Permanent Members, each having 2-year terms and 5 well-known Permanent Members. The P5 members (Permanent 5) have a veto right which makes any resolution voted against by any of them automatically fail. While the Permanent 5 are France, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the 10 Non-Permanent members are elected as follows:

- Three seats for African countries;
- Two seats for Asian-Pacific countries;
- One seat for Eastern European countries;
- Two seats for Latin America and Caribbean countries;
- Two seats for Western Europe and other countries;



The UNSC is the body the entire UN relies on in case of an international security threat which requires immediate action, in order for it to be stopped. Besides, it has other paramount responsibilities, from providing a country with the “Member State” status to electing, alongside the General Assembly, the judges of the International Court of Justice. Another special characteristic of the Council is that it is the only UN body that has the power to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that the country's interests are affected. Both Members and non-members of the United Nations, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, may be invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

Current tensions in East Asia

1. North Korean threat

North Korea first got nuclear technology from the Soviet Union in the 1950's, when their allies helped them build nuclear reactors for energy. However, it first came to public attention in 1992, when the International Atomic Energy Agency discovered that its nuclear activity was more extensive than previously declared. The revelation led North Korea to withdraw from the IAEA in 1994. In order to stop North Korea from withdrawing from the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), the United States and North Korea negotiated the Agreed Framework, in which North Korea decided to freeze its nuclear activity and give access to IAEA inspectors in exchange for US light water reactors and energy assistance. However, this agreement lasted only until 2002. One year later, North Korea unilaterally withdrew from NPT, leading to Six-Party Talks between China, USA, Japan, Russia, South Korea and North Korea, which has the main purpose in solving this crisis in a diplomatic way. However, it failed in 2009, again.

From that point onward, no other significant measures had been taken until 2018, when the first summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un was held in Singapore. After that, some more diplomatic discussions between North Korea and the USA have been held, such as the one in Vietnam, between 27-28 February 2019 and then on the 30th of June 2019, held in North Korea, this one being related to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. Even if the diplomatic relations have improved, no specific agreement has been reached until this point.

North Korean nuclear tests: Under Kim Jong-un, about 80 missiles tests have been undertaken, including the nuclear tests from 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016, 2017. With those tests, North Korea intended to demonstrate that they could destroy Seoul and Tokyo, hit US bases from the Pacific and also hit Alaska.

Sanctions: In order to discourage North Korea from continuing to develop its nuclear program, there are lots of sanctions imposed by the Security Council and also by the European Union, such as banning the export of luxury goods, restricting investment and financial activities, banning oil exports and so on. Those sanctions did, indeed, have an impact at the negotiating table, since Kim Jong-un declared that he agrees with stopping its nuclear program if the sanctions are going to be lifted. However, the present situation is still glum, as North Korea keeps undertaking missile tests, despite the apparent progress which has been made, diplomatically speaking. As a result, the

political climate, especially, but not only in Asia is tense to say the least, as their continuous nuclearisation poses a great threat to international security. For this, China is, in part, to blame, as they are known to be assisting the North Korean government behind the stage, especially economically.

2. Japan- South Korea tensions

Historically speaking, relations between Japan and South Korea have become especially complicated after Japan's colonisation of Korea between 1910-1945. During this time, the Japanese occupation has been known to have infringed upon the human rights of the Koreans, one example being the issue of the comfort women, which still remains deeply rooted in the minds of Koreans and is one of the factors influencing the negative attitude towards the Japanese (at present, surveys say, 75% of South Koreans say that they do NOT trust the Japanese).

Despite the normalisation of relations between the two countries in 1965, the apologies offered by Emperor Akihito in 1990 for the colonial rule over Korea and the 1991 "Kono Statement" which offered "its sincere apologies and remorse" to the comfort women, tension has remained. Although relations had seemed to be improving, with the two actively collaborating on the North Korean issue, as the USA's most important allies in East Asia, the growing popularity of their cultural exchanges and mutual contributions in the tourism sector, this year they have hit rock bottom. This is the result of the conflict which ensued after South Korea's Supreme Court ruling against two of Japan's largest companies: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. was ordered to pay as much as \$134,000 to each of 10 claimants, while Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. was ordered to pay \$88,000 each to four plaintiffs. A South Korean court then ordered the seizure of shares valued at about \$356,000 that Nippon Steel has in a joint venture with South Korean steelmaker Posco.

The background of this decision also lies in the colonial period, when hundreds of thousands of Koreans were conscripted to work, often in brutal conditions, at dozens of Japanese companies. At the time of the 1965 treaty, which established diplomatic ties between the two countries, Japan paid the equivalent of \$300 million (\$2.4 billion in today's money) and extended \$200 million in low-interest loans. The treaty said all claims are "settled completely and finally." The then-struggling South Korea invested that money in industries that eventually helped turn it into an economic powerhouse. However, these recent South Korean court rulings said the victims were not compensated for their emotional pain and suffering. As both countries are known to possess a great nationalist spirit, one's retaliation only led to more retaliation from the other. Among many others, the two have removed each other from their export "white

list”, they have been boycotting each other’s products and, ultimately, South Korea has exited an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, a move which can have consequences for the USA.

Overall, this deterioration in these already fragile relations between the Asian countries is worrisome on a global scale, as they are crucial for keeping China, North Korea and even Russia (to an extent) in check. In an already tension-riddled East Asia, Japan and South Korea are the two pillars of stability the USA is relying on, however, with the recent developments, the two countries stand to lose this status.

3. Territorial Disputes

3.1. Dokdo/Takeshima islands

South Korea calls it Dokdo, which means solitary islands. Japan calls it Takeshima, which means bamboo islands. And it has also been known as the Liancourt Rocks, named by French whalers after their ship in 1849. Both Japan and South Korea claim the islands, so too does North Korea. The islands themselves consist of two main islands and about 30 smaller rocks. A South Korean coastguard detachment has been stationed there since 1954. Both Japan and South Korea say they have long-standing historical ties to, and claims over, the island grouping. Known as Dokdo (Solitary islands) in Korea, Takeshima (Bamboo islands) in Japan, South Korea says Dokdo was recognised by Japan as Korean territory in 1696, after a run-in between Korean and Japanese fishermen. The island grouping was formally placed under the jurisdiction of Ul-do county in 1900, it said, but annexed by Japan in 1905 ahead of its colonisation of the Korean peninsula. Dokdo was rightly restored to Korea after World War II, it says. "Dokdo is an integral part of Korean territory historically, geographically and under international law," it says on a government website dedicated to the issue.

But Japan's Foreign Ministry says on its website that Japan established sovereignty over the islands by the mid 17th Century, its sailors using it as a "navigational port, docking point for ships and a rich fishing ground". It says it then incorporated the islands into modern-day Shimane prefecture in 1905. South Korea acted illegally by declaring them its territory in 1952, it says, because they were not included in territory to be returned under the San Francisco Peace Treaty. "The occupation of Takeshima by the ROK (South Korea) is an illegal occupation undertaken on no basis of international law," the ministry of foreign affairs says. There have been sporadic flare-ups over the issue, which remains a sore spot for both nations.

3.2. Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands

The Senkaku Islands dispute, or Diaoyu Islands dispute, concerns a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan, the Diaoyu Islands in the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Tiaoyutai Islands in the Republic of China (ROC or Taiwan). Aside from a 1945 to 1972 period of administration by the United States as part of the Ryukyu Islands, the archipelago has been controlled by Japan since 1895. According to Lee Seokwoo, the People's Republic of China started taking up the question of sovereignty over the islands in the latter half of 1970 when evidence relating to the existence of oil reserves surfaced. Taiwan also claims the islands. The territory is close to key shipping lanes and rich fishing grounds, and there may be oil reserves in the area.

Japan argues that it surveyed the islands in the late 19th century and found them to be belonging to no one, subsequently, China acquiesced to Japanese sovereignty until the 1970s. The PRC and the ROC argue that documentary evidence prior to the First Sino-Japanese War indicates Chinese possession and that the territory is accordingly a Japanese seizure that should be returned as the rest of Imperial Japan's conquests were returned in 1945. The islands are included within the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, meaning that a defense of the islands by Japan would require the United States to come to Japan's aid. In September 2012, the Japanese government purchased three of the disputed islands from their private owner, prompting large-scale protests in China. As of early February 2013, the situation has been regarded as "the most serious for Sino-Japanese relations in the post-war period in terms of the risk of militarised conflict."

On 23 November 2013, the PRC set up the "East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone" which includes the Senkaku Islands, and announced that it would require all aircraft entering the zone to file a flight plan and submit radio frequency or transponder information.

3.3. Kuril Islands dispute

The Kuril Islands dispute, also known in Japan as the Northern Territories dispute, is a disagreement between Japan and Russia and also some individuals of the Ainu people over sovereignty of the four southernmost Kuril Islands. The Kuril Islands is a chain of islands that stretch between the Japanese island of Hokkaido at the southern end and the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula at the northern end. The islands separate the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean. The four disputed islands, like other islands in the Kuril chain that are not in dispute, were annexed by the Soviet Union following the Kuril Islands landing operation at the end of World War II. The disputed islands are under Russian administration as the South Kuril District of the Sakhalin Oblast.

They are claimed by Japan, which refers to them as its Northern Territories or Southern Chishima, and considers them part of the Nemuro Subprefecture of Hokkaido Prefecture.

The San Francisco Peace Treaty, signed between the Allies and Japan in 1951, states that Japan must give up "all right, title and claim to the Kuril Islands", but it also does not recognize the Soviet Union's sovereignty over them. Japan claims that at least some of the disputed islands are not a part of the Kuril Islands, and thus are not covered by the treaty. Russia maintains that the Soviet Union's sovereignty over the islands was recognized in post-war agreements. Japan and the Soviet Union ended their formal state of war with the Soviet–Japanese Joint Declaration of 1956, but did not resolve the territorial dispute. During talks leading to the joint declaration, the Soviet Union offered Japan the two smaller islands of Shikotan and the Habomai Islands in exchange for Japan renouncing all claims to the two bigger islands of Iturup and Kunashir, but Japan refused the offer after pressure from the US.

Russia launched an investment program for the Kuril Islands, including its military in 2011, amid growing calls in Japan to take the disputed territory back. Over the next three years the Defense Ministry sent some 350 modern vehicles to the islands and ramped up combat readiness of the stationed troops. The Russian Defense Ministry will modernize military settlements on the Kuril Islands and supply some 120 new combat vehicles by the end of 2014. Russia's sovereignty over four of the islands is disputed by Tokyo. "Over the period to 2016 all major objects – more than 150 of them – on the islands of Iturup and Kunashir will be completed. Those will be modern fully autonomous military settlements with a developed social infrastructure," Col. Gen. Sergey Surovikin, commander of the Russian eastern military district, said 18 April 2014. The military in the Kuril Islands will also receive 120 additional vehicles, including armored ones, by the end of the year, the general added. There are some 20,000 people living there at the moment, many of them Russian military and their families, who may see their living conditions improved in coming years.

4. ¹South China Sea

Before the Second World War, Japan, who had control over the entire region of the South China Sea, lost all its influence, marking the perfect moment for China to claim this region by drawing an imprecise line which encompasses about 90% of the surface

¹ This issue should only be addressed when and if the subject of China's military threat arises. This section only serves to offer you an insight into the background of the topic, so that you can gain a better understanding of it. Therefore, you should not pursue this matter any further than regarding the military presence of China and how it could be represent a source of danger in an eventual conflict in the **Eastern Asian area**. Your research on this topic should be carried out with this in mind and, therefore, should not be extensive, but should not be completely neglected either.

called the nine-dash line. China declared that its their right to claim the nine-dash line, considering their economic activity from the 15th century in this region. This drawing overlaps with the maritime claims of another 6 countries in that region: Vietnam, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

The territorial disputes exist over 8 different geographic regions, which are The Nine-Dash Line, Vietnamese Coast, Sea area North of Borneo, South China Sea Islands, Sea Area North of Natuna Islands, Sea area west of Palawan and Luzon, Sabah area and Luzon Strait.

In order to expand its influence over the sea, China is building artificial islands in the Spratly Islands Region and implements a strategy which is called The Cabbage Strategy, meaning that the Chinese surround a contested island with as many ships as they can, in order to cut the supplies of the foreign islands. This strategy is used all over the Spratly Islands. Adding the fact that China is expanding its artificial islands, we can clearly see how they are trying, in smaller steps, to achieve dominance over this region.

Why is this conflict of controlling the South China Sea so fierce? Because this region has a lot of economic potential and also one of the most important marine areas in the world. It is estimated that in this region there are 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion feet of natural gas, 10% of the world's fisheries. Also, most importantly, 30% of the global shipping trade goes through the South China Sea.

In July 2016, the International Court at the Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines, charging China for invading their legal territory, and also stated that China has no historical right of getting the entire Nine-Dash Line.



5. Hong Kong protests

Also called as the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill, they all started after the proposal of the Extradition Bill made by the government of Hong Kong that wanted to establish a mechanism to transfer fugitives from Hong Kong to Taiwan, Mainland China or Macau. This means that all those fugitives can be judged under the rules of the other states, which, in some cases, could be used as a political tool in order to reduce to silence the people considered as a threat by the Communist Party.

However, this was not the only reason that caused the beginning of the protests, there were several causes, including the alleged misconduct by the Hong Kong Police Force against protesters, the failure of another series of protests in 2014, called the Umbrella Revolution, Hong Kong-Mainland China conflict, economic and social inequality.

To properly understand the tensioned situation between China and Hong Kong, we should start from the beginning. Until 1997, Hong Kong was a British colony. After that, by implementing the Sino-British Joint Declaration which was signed in 1984, Hong Kong was returned to the mainland, however with some restrictions. Hong Kong was recognized under the “one country, two systems” policy as a semi-autonomous region, with its own elections, with its own police force and also with its own currency. The treaty is expected to expire in 2047, marking 50 years from the date it was implemented.

Numerous protests have been going on from March 31st, the biggest one being held on June 16, when more than 2 million people went on the streets, marking the largest protest in Hong Kong’s history. The goals which the protesters want to achieve are referring to full withdrawal of the extradition bill, retraction of the protests being characterized as “riots”, the release of arrested protesters and many others. Another large-scale demonstrations occurred on 1 October, when a student protester was shot while attempting to hit a policeman.

As a response to the protests, the government officially withdrew the bill on the 23rd of October. However, the protesters seem to be unstoppable, until all their conditions aren’t respected by the officials. Moreover, mainland China considers these on-going protests as being “a sign of terrorism” and forced Chinese companies from Hong Kong to fire their employees which took part to the demonstrations. The number of soldiers standing at the border between Shenzhen and Hong-Kong is estimated to have doubled, fearing that military intervention against the protesters might occur sooner or later. It is important to treat this conflict as a threat to the international security, because we should take into consideration a possible escalation.

6. Taiwan

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, is an island situated in the South East of the People's Republic of China. From 1683 to 1895, this island was administered by China's Qing dynasty and, in the meantime, during the 17th century, significant numbers of Chinese migrants settled in the region. However, in 1895, following Japan's victory in the First Sino-Japanese War, the Qing government had no choice but to cede Taiwan to Japan. But after World War Two, the Republic of China (one of the winners) began ruling Taiwan with the consent of its allies, the US and UK, after Japan surrendered and gave up control of territory it had taken from China. However in the next few years, the leader at the time Chiang Kai-shek's troops were beaten back by the Communist armies under Mao Zedong. Chiang and the remnants of his government fled to Taiwan in 1949. This group, referred to as Mainland Chinese and then making up 1.5m people, dominated Taiwan's politics for many years, even though they only account for 14% of the population. Having inherited an effective dictatorship, facing resistance from local people resentful of the 228 Massacre and authoritarian rule, and under pressure from a growing democracy movement, Chiang's son, Chiang Ching-kuo, began allowing a process of democratisation.

At present, there is disagreement and confusion about what Taiwan is, and even what it should be called. Chiang Kai-shek's Republic of China (ROC) government, which fled the mainland to Taiwan in 1949, at first claimed to represent the whole of China, which it intended to re-occupy. It held China's seat on the United Nations Security Council and was recognised by many Western nations as the only Chinese government. But in 1971, the UN switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing and the ROC government was forced out. Since then the number of countries that recognise the ROC government diplomatically has fallen to about 20. China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which it has vowed to retake, by force if necessary. But Taiwan's leaders say it is clearly much more than a province, arguing that it is a sovereign state. It has its own constitution, democratically-elected leaders, and about 300,000 active troops in its armed forces. Given the huge divide between these two positions, most other countries seem happy to accept the current ambiguity, whereby Taiwan has most of the characteristics of an independent state, even if its legal status remains unclear.

Militarily speaking, China is more than prepared to carry out an attack on the island. According to a 2018 U.S. Department of Defense report, China's military, the People's Liberation Army, has "continued to develop and deploy increasingly advanced military capabilities intended to coerce Taiwan, signal Chinese resolve, and gradually improve capabilities for an invasion." Beijing has stated numerous times

that it would not hesitate to use force in the region if necessary. As a response, Taiwan began heavy militarisation, especially with the aid of its only ally, the US, on which it is relying on for security. Therefore, an attack on Taiwan would most likely attract US military intervention. The consequences of such an event should not be underestimated, as it could trigger a domino effect in the already destabilised East-Asian region.

7. Further research

Here you have some of the most important links in order to start your research. Please keep in mind that you shouldn't limit your research to the links listed below. It is up to you from this point, how well-prepared are you going to be for the conference.

[Timeline: US-China relations](#)

[What are economic sanctions?](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwbYpdGpx8U>

[List of NK missile tests](#)

[North Korea Nuclear Weapons Threat](#)

[NK's Military Capabilities](#)

[Sanctions Against NK](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luTPMHC7zHY>

[Japan-South Korea tensions are eroding security in NorthEast Asia](#)

[China-North Korea relationship](#)

[Timeline: North Korean Nuclear Negotiations](#)

[Why are there protests in Hong Kong?](#)

[Disputed isles at center of feud between Japan, South Korea](#)

[China-Taiwan Relations](#)

[Comfort Women](#)

[Kuril Islands Dispute](#)

[Japan's Decision on Collective Self Defense](#)

[Hong Kong protests still threaten world markets](#)

[Beware a Faltering China](#)

[Dangers of a Rising China](#)

[Video: Taiwan vs China, the One China Policy](#)

[Video: Hong Kong and China- One country, two systems](#)

[List of UNSC resolutions regarding NK](#)

Writing a resolution

Although the Security Council is notorious for the difficulties it presents delegates with when it comes to writing resolutions, you should keep in mind that you should still strive towards one (of course, only **within your country's policy**). As the topic for this particular committee is rather broad, this section will hopefully aid you in organising your ideas.

1. You should first and foremost understand that you do not have to entirely solve all of these issues we have presented you with- the goal is to **diminish tensions**, as the current political climate in the area is dangerous and barely any of the issues have seriously been addressed internationally (for example, Hong Kong and Japan-South Korea). As a result, the problem can escalate if temporary measures are not taken in order to slow down the current developments. Ultimately, your solutions should *prevent* military escalation that can come about as a result of the chaos currently in the region.
2. When debating on these issues, you should already have a broad idea of what you want to achieve and what solutions your country could propose. There is not enough time for speeches which do not target the topic directly, so we would kindly ask that your speeches bring something new to the table and do not solely have the purpose of agreeing with and repeating a delegate's ideas, or repeating the same reasons why you disagree with something. Briefly, we encourage you not to repeat yourselves and prepare your ideas well, as well as your research, so that you will have time to debate on resolutions.
3. You should tackle each of the issues within a **moderated caucus**. While it is important to address what implications an event has and whether it should be dealt with immediately or not, please, do **not** use moderated caucuses to **only** fight on this part of the problem. If you agree that it does not pose an immediate threat, the matter should not be further pursued. If there are disagreements, the delegates who argue that the matter should be tackled urgently should also mention what solutions they propose.
4. You should take into consideration the main conflicts/sources of unrest which we have provided you with. Here are some questions you **can** bear in mind while tackling each of the subjects:
 - a. How could North Korea's nuclearisation be brought to a temporary standstill?
 - b. Can anything be done to prevent China from intervening militarily in Hong Kong?
 - c. How can Chinese-Taiwanese tensions be eased in order to prevent an attack from China in the next couple of years?

- d. How can the rows between Japan and South Korea contribute to military escalation in East Asia? What should be done about the two countries so that they do not place the area in jeopardy, strictly militarily speaking? Is the USA responsible?
- e. Do the aforementioned territorial claims in East Asia pose an immediate threat to the security of the region? If so, can the international community intervene and how?
- f. How can the threat of China's artificial islands in the South China sea be minimised?
- g. Are the relations between North and South Korea still a threat? (do briefly take this into consideration, but do not focus too much on it, as there are other issues which require more attention)
- h. Are there any general solutions you can think of that will minimise the risk of military escalation in East Asia? (do not forget that you should only act within your country's policy and the solutions should be in line with it)
- i. How responsible is the international community for keeping the peace within the region? (here, you must also refer to the consequences the conflicts could have on a global scale and, implicitly, for your represented country)

Tips and tricks

Not only how much research you have is important in order to be a good delegate, but you should also take into consideration the following aspects, that are not referring to the topic especially, but are going to help you every time you attend a MUN as a delegate.

1. Always and always respect your country's position

Please remember that you are the delegate of your state for a reason: to represent its interest. So if you don't do that, who else is going to help your country express its concern and find viable solutions for it? No one. To enter in your role properly, we encourage you to research addressing general facts about your country. Study its economy, its political regime, its international relations, population and general history.

2. How you do your research

Not only the quantity of your research is important, but also the quality of it. In order to have the best understanding of the topic we strongly encourage you not only to read articles and general information on Wikipedia, but also to watch Youtube videos,

because the pictures you might see in such a video can make you better understand the topic. It's like you have a teacher in front of you explaining the situation. From our personal experience, we further encourage you to make your research using Quora. Quora is an app where you can ask all kinds of questions, no matter you discuss international relations, economy, human rights, science and so on. You can read other questions that were already asked by someone else regarding our topics, or you can start a new conversation, feel free to use this research method as efficiently as you can.

3. For the delegates who have smaller countries

We know that it can be frustrating for you not to receive such a big country like China or the USA, but that should not be a problem. You can still be better than the delegate of China if you are the delegate of Vietnam! Through studying international relations between different countries, you might notice that some countries like Vietnam and China, or like Belarus and Russia have very good economic and diplomatic relations, so you might suppose that the solutions found by one big country can also apply to smaller ones. So, for example, if you are Vietnam, you can propose solutions like China does, because Vietnam is actually like a smaller China.

4. Speak up. And speak up. And after that, speak up again

The Security Council is the smallest committee of IasiMUN, so you should feel important considering this. Since the Security Council is going to have about 20 delegates, we are expecting to see all of you involved in the way the debate goes on. Don't be afraid to speak up. Nobody judges you. The only thing the other delegates are going to say about you are only good things, since you had the courage to stand up.

5. Consider the relevance of your speeches, too

Yes, it's important to speak up, but you should also consider the content of your speech. What we mean by that is that you should always ask yourself: Will the speech I am going to deliver help the debate reach its purpose? What we mean by that is you should always have a constructive part in your speeches and not accusing other delegates of not respecting their country policy too much. Explain why a solution works or does not, this is the first thing you should take into consideration. It is important to bring to other's attention when a delegate is not making sense, has not done their research accordingly or is not respecting their policy, however, *please* do **not** make this a priority and try to keep it at around 10% of the content of your speeches. Severe cases of misconduct will be addressed by us, however, if we somehow fail to see the issue, you should send us a note or talk to us in private.

6. Be careful who you vote for!

Don't get influenced by others when it's time to vote. Try to analyze the situation by yourself and think if it can really solve the actual problem (and whether or not it is in line with your country's policy). Don't vote for your friends only because they are your friends, and the same goes for the delegates you don't really like. Don't vote against them only because you dislike them. It is highly unprofessional and we will not overlook such behaviour.

Keeping all this in mind, now you are ready to prepare for the best MUN you have ever attended. You have now a general perspective of the topic, of the committee and you have also some advice you should keep in mind at every MUN. You have everything you need to start your research. Don't hesitate to ask us anything you want, from the rules of procedure to some general advice or the topic.