ACMUN 19' Handbook

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1.Rules of Procedure

A.Understanding International Law

International treaties
These are agreements made under law that is upheld by participating Nations. They might be bilateral or multilateral. If a party (country) doesn't oblige to a treaty they are a part of - they can be held responsible for it. Words we need to know here are-:

Signing - Agreement between delegates of Countries (Note : this is not fully binding)

Ratifying - Approval by the State (by the Nation's Parliament) - once this happens it is binding.

What can I read regarding this ?
Ans.Vienna Convention on the Law of treaties

International customs
These are general practices accepted as law. These practices are one that have to be 'constant and uniformly use'. It then has to be accepted as 'opinio juris sive neccisitas' (that the Act is necessary legally). Once a practice becomes a custom, all Nations in the international community are bound by it whether or not individual states have expressly consented—except in cases where a state has objected from the start of the custom.

What can I read regarding this ?
Ans. Jus cogens and Geneva Convention

International General Legal Principles
These are issues not under legal treaties and not even under Customs that need to be dicussed.

What can I read Regarding this?
Ans. International Court of Justice (ICJ) and Article 38(1) of ICJ Statute.

2. Format - Parliamentary procedure , points and motions

- **Quorum** - It refers to the minimum required presence of delegates in the house. Proceedings cannot start until Quorum is satisfied. Quorum is generally one-fourth of total strength , however it is subject to change. It is established after Roll-call vote to ascertain as to whether Committee can begin or not

- **Roll call** - It refers to a list that consists of all countries required to make a note of attendance in Alphabetical order of Nations and for voting when the name is called out (it is the first procedure of the day) . A delegate can vote -:

      1.Present- He can then vote Yes,No,Yes with rights, no with rights , Pass or abstain while passing a resolution.

      2.Present and voting- The delegate can vote Yes, No,Yes with Rights , No with Rights or pass while passing a resolution. Abstention is not allowed.

3.Points - :

- **Point of Personal Privilege** - This is raised when the delegate feels some discomfort, wants the other delegate to repeat a speech etc. This is the only point that can interrrupt a speaker.

- **Point of Order** - It is raised when the delegate finds some procedural error. The point may not interrrupt a speaker. It will be entertained only after the Delegate is finished with his/her speech. At this time , the Chair will ask for any points. The paint may be raised only at this time . However it is the discretion of the Chair to entertain or not. It cannot be made against a speech made in the General Speakers list.

- **Point of Information** - It is of two kinds.This is only raised after a speech in the General Speaker's list . Consists of Questions, comments or questions and comments based on time remaining and the Chair's discretion

- **Right to Reply** - It is exercised when a delegate has offended the Sentiments of another country.If the delegate whose country has been offended raises the motion of right to reply, then each delegate is given a one minute of uninterrupted speech to define a stance. Thereafter, the house votes for or against the suspension of the delegate in question. The Chair may also use his/her discretion to gag the delegate.

- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry** - This point is used so that a delegate may ask a question to the bench. The Parliament inquiries will not be subject to any cuts in points, until second half of session on the first day.

4.Motions

1. **Motion to set working agenda** - Right after roll call vote in order to define the agenda (topic) for the day.

2. **Motion to open General Speakers List** - Names of countries are taken down and called to the podium to speak about the issue for a fixed time period.

3. **Motion to start a Moderated Caucus** - This is a medium for debating sub-topics on a main agenda . It must be initiated like this … "the Delegate of India proposes a motion to start a Moderated Caucus for a time period of 10 mins allowing 30 seconds per speaker on the topics problems regarding terrorism in Central Africa.

4. **Motion to extend the Moderated Caucus** - This is to talk more on the prevue topic once the time has elapsed . It is put forth as … "The Delegate of USA proposes a Motion to extend Moderated Caucus for a time period of 10 mins"

5. **Motion to start Unmoderated Caucus** - This is to put forth a draft resolution and/or working paper . Maximum time period Is 20 mins.

6. **Motion to table debate** - it is when a resolution is passed and the agenda is discussed for the whole session. If there are multiple agendas then it would begin proceedings for the next agenda. However a new motion must be set if another agenda needs to be spoken upon.

7. **Motion to adjourn session** - To end session for that particular day

8. **Motion to censure - It is when a delegate is suspended when there is violation of Code of Conduct. Voting takes place and 2/3rd majority is required**

——————————————-RULES OF PROCEDURE ENDS HERE —————————

2.Position paper

Many Model UN conferences require delegates to submit "Position Papers" on their topics before a conference starts to demonstrate their research and knowledge. Position Papers are normally 1-2 pages per topic, and should have 3-4 paragraphs. They should be written from the perspective of the government of your country, include a header, and answering the following questions. Your final Position Paper should look similar to the sample on the next page. Some points to get a better understanding are-:

a. Format
• Font to be used : Times new Roman
• Font size - 12
• No change in margins and ideally 1 page (not extending to more than 2 pages)

B.Heading

Committee: [Your Committee Title]
Topic: [Your Topic]
School: [Your School]

C.What should it contain

• Country's stance on the issue (read the foreign policy before this)
• What has your country done In this regard?
• What are some innovative approaches by other nations and International Organisations to tackle these issues.
• What is the future of the issue - both in your country's terms and for the World as well.
• Solutions to solve the issue (read news articles, books, previous UN resolutions)

D.Others points in this regard

• Try starting of with a quote on the issue by a prominent foreign leader
• Try putting the country flag on the right upper corner
• Think of something that you've followed in the news or read in the newspaper that you believe could be a one of a kind approach to solve this
• Try adding in a line or two about the problem and add in specific things to a solution such as legal framework , what corporates have been doing to curb the issue etc

- Could you create a new program, or further develop another one? Could you provide aid to an area, and at what cost? Will you involve NGOs or peacekeepers? Also read up how funding to issues happens and discuss how you can improve effective funds and prevent money laundering , corruption etc.

Sample Resolution paper

Committee: Social Cultural and Humanitarian Committee
Topic: Sample Topic
School:Anthony Claret School

"We did not come here to fear the future. We came here to shape it"- Barack Obama

The Central African Republic has been burdened with wars and dictatorships since the 1960's, and despite being endowed with internationally coveted resources such as expansive diamond minds, 73% of its population live on less than US$1 a day. During the past 15 years, life expectancy has declined from 45 to 35 years of age due to poor health care and the HIV/AIDS epidemic which plagues 35% of the CAR's population. Moreover, the lack of essential drugs and vaccinations has contributed to the recent outbreaks of other diseases such as Malaria, tuberculosis, polio and water-borne viruses. The World Health Organization's resident representative in the Central African Republic stated in a recent interview that the CAR's health system is "very precarious", adding that most health workers in rural areas have abandoned their posts because of the region's insecurity and unpaid wages. Like Zimbabwe and other African nations, the "Brain Drain" migration of health care workers and other trained professionals to the more developed world is significantly contributing to the Central African Republic's current health situation. Presently, the UN is appealing for 45 million dollars for humanitarian assistance for the CAR, however, they anticipate receiving less than a third of that. The CAR recognizes that although we have a need for vaccinations and other salutary goods, our health care system will never be able to reach the thousands of people in need without the physical manpower provided by doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.
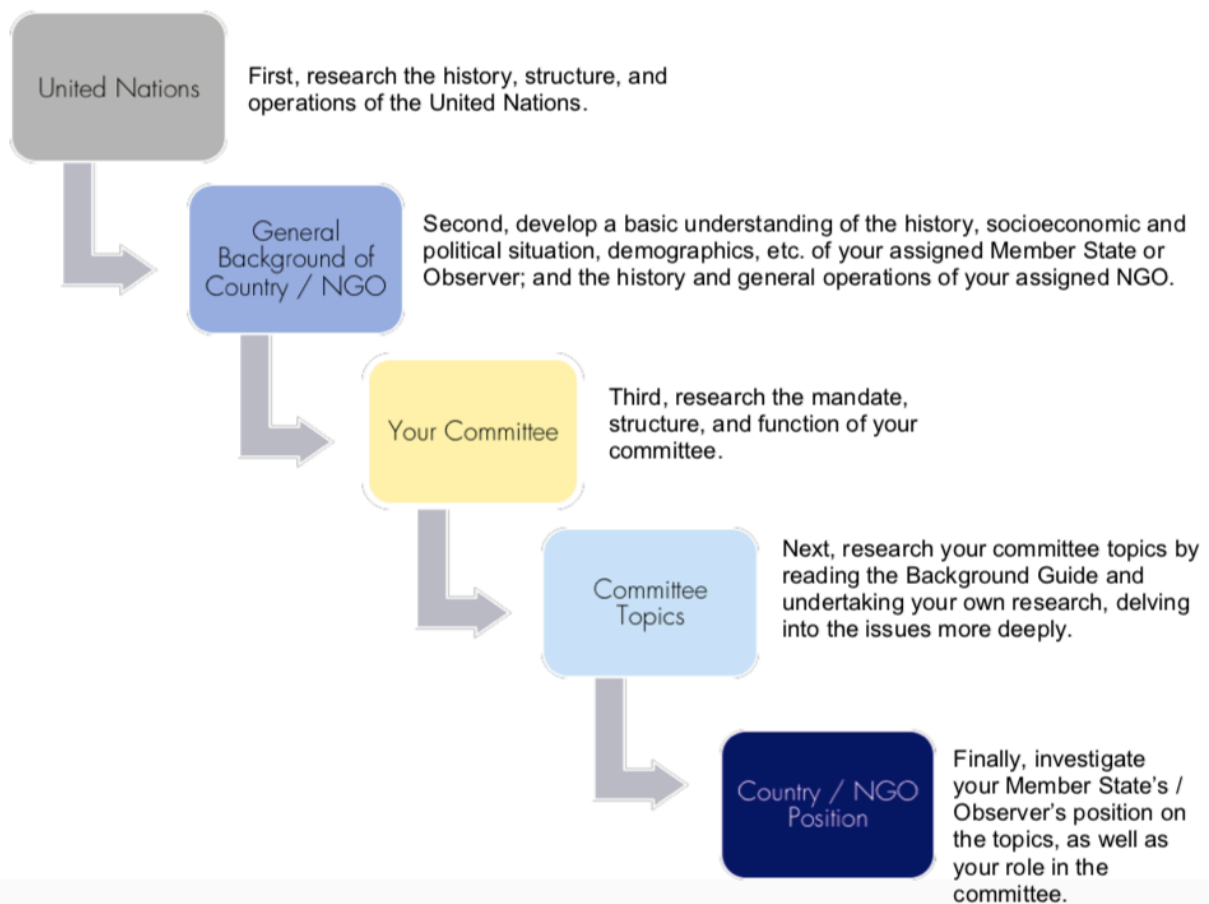
At the center of our nation's policy is the belief that without an international effort, there is no way of solving an international problem. The Central African Republic proposes a resolution which mandates that the subsidy paid by governments to train a doctor or nurse should be calculated, and repaid in an exact amount to the government if that person chooses to migrate. The cost would be paid by the country to which the person is migrating, as it is benefiting from the transfer of "human capital" trained at great cost by the country of origin. However, we also recognize that income alone will not be sufficient recompense for the lost immigrants and we therefore propose that in developing countries, (with a population of migrating workers over a certain percentage), the trained individuals would have to serve a short number of years in their country of origin before being allowed to migrate to practice in a different country.

The CAR also recommends that the UN channels funds through organizations like UNESCO, OECD and the World Bank to help improve the wages and living conditions of healthcare workers in third world countries, (like the CAR), who have no other means of financially motivating their citizens to remain and practice in their own nation. We also plan on advocating for a higher percentage of the national GDP to be devoted to research, development, and the promotion of the sciences. Additionally, as an African nation, we encourage our whole continent to forge a partnership with the diaspora community of Africans worldwide. An effective partnership implies

building capacity and exploiting existing capacity within the existing network of highly skilled and expertise African expatriates. Finally, the Central African Republic proposes a resolution that includes the created of a database on brain drain and capacity building, thus creating knowledge blocks to compliment national efforts in addressing deficiencies in education and training capacities as well as trying to maintain and effectively utilize them.

————————————-END OF POSITION PAPER PART 2————————————————

3.Research

United Nations — First, research the history, structure, and operations of the United Nations.

General Background of Country / NGO — Second, develop a basic understanding of the history, socioeconomic and political situation, demographics, etc. of your assigned Member State or Observer; and the history and general operations of your assigned NGO.

Your Committee — Third, research the mandate, structure, and function of your committee.

Committee Topics — Next, research your committee topics by reading the Background Guide and undertaking your own research, delving into the issues more deeply.

Country / NGO Position — Finally, investigate your Member State's / Observer's position on the topics, as well as your role in the committee.

Step 1 : Get a good idea of what the United Nations does and how it has been helpful in the past to issues that you deeply care about.

Step 2: Research about your nation (you could use something called the CIA Factbook) and find out basic facts and statistics regarding your nation and its development.

Step 3: Read the articles of the UN Charter of the Committee you are in and how it is different from the others

Step 4 : Read the background guide and pickup key clues the delegates want to speak about(use Wikipedia but not as a source of proof or allegations, use Reuters, Amnesty International)

Step 5 : With all this done, follow through on your position in the World with that topic, previous resolutions of other MUN's on the same topic (google topic and add MUN) and try to connect other things so as to find a solution.

Credible sources of information.

You can read up regarding your agenda on Wikipedia and the newspaper and other articles but you cannot use them as a source of proof(as in you cannot accuse a Nation of something you have read in Wikipedia and state that your proof is from Wikipedia).
Credible sources of information that you can research from are-:

1.Country Research
• CIA World Factbook
• Any Nations Bilateral Relations Fact Sheet
• BBC News country profiles

2.Agendae Research
• Reuters
• www.un.org (UN Website homepage)
• Human Rights Watch
• Amnesty International
• Transparency International (regarding Corruption)
• IMF,World Bank for economic related world issues
• International Court of Justice (ICJ) - for legal issues
• Other UN bodies such as WTO,WHO etc.
• rand.org (not credible source of proof however)

General Speakers List
Try addressing your GSL in this format
1.A short quote
2.One problem that the agenda has caused in your Nation

3.One law or feature enacted by either your country or another country to specifically counter this problem

4.Any Security Council Resolutions with regard to this or how this issue affects other global issues

5.Innovative solutions to counter this problems

General Guidelines for research(10 point guideline)

1. Do not feel like your country is too small/inconspicuous to debate on the issue. The UN was founded on collaboration and principled hard work and go on giving solutions, caucus topics etc.
2. Use the Unmoderated Caucus to give and receive information to better your points as well as counter another person's research
3. Do not merely print out your research the day before and rely on reading it in Committee. Read it multiple times to get a fair idea and do not rely on searching for sheets while you get the opportunity to speak.
4. Conduct Research even in the allied fields no matter what the Agenda is. Look at bringing up the same issue from a legal/social/health/economic perspective.
5. Do not let a more experienced delegate bully you into siding with him and do not lose out on motivation . Stay strong in your stance delegate.
6. Make sure you read the background guide before the MUN to ensure you get an idea of what the EB is looking to progress towards.
7. Look up Resolutions, treaties and conventions in regard to what you're talking about.
8. Use Think tank publications , blogs and google scholarly articles for your issue at hand to understand new perspectives and ideas from where you can get solutions.
9. Do not write down your speech verbatim. Write it as points in one word or a sentence and give it a glance just before you speak.
10. Don't be afraid.Confront your fears and ask all the doubts in your head that you think are silly. And don't get conscious just because your classmates are around.

——————————-END OF RESEARCH PART 3————————

4.Resolutions

• Writing resolutions is one of the most important tasks one needs to learn when first becoming a delegate. It can be a difficult and confusing process, but it's something we're all able to do with a bit of practice.

• Resolutions are the agreements passed in Model United Nations bodies. They acknowledge both what has been done in the past on a specific topic, and they layout what actions the committee has decided to take in the present and future.

• Resolutions are comprised of two parts, **preambulatory clauses and operative clauses**, and the entire resolution is one run-on sentence, punctuated with a smattering of colons, semicolons, and commas, with a period at the end.

How to Head a Resolution

• At the top of a draft resolution (one which has yet to be passed), delegates should write "Sponsors:", and then list all of the sponsors. A sponsor is a delegate who helped to write the resolution. Sponsors must be named by country.

▪ Under the sponsors write "Signatories:" and then list all of the signatories. A signatory is a country that would like to see the resolution

debated in committee; signatories need not necessarily support the resolution's content.

▪ Under the list of signatories, write the topic that is being debated, and under the topic write your committee's name, then a comma. Now you

are ready to begin the preambulatory clause .

Preambulatory Clauses

- The purpose of preambulatory clauses (or preams) is to acknowledge why your committee is addressing a specific topic, to point out the individual facets of the problem, and to address what has been done in the past on the topic.

- There is a generally-accepted list of words that can be used to start preambs. These words are shown on the following slide.

- At the end of each pream, delegates should insert a comma, skip a line, then begin the next pream.

  - Here's an example of a preambulatory clause:

  - "Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,"

  - Example phrases are - : Affirming , Alarmed by , Approving , Aware of , Declaring , Emphasizing , recalling , Reaffirming .

Operative clauses

Operative clauses are the meat of a resolution. They describe the specific actions the committee has decided to take to tackle the problem at hand, including the creation/involvement of regional and global agencies, specific countries' actions, and venues for multilateral action.

▪ Like that for preambulatory clauses, there is a list of words that are most often used at the beginning of the clause,Operative clauses are also numbered, and delegates should insert a semicolon at the end of every operative clause except the last, which ends in a period.

Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Encourages	Further recommends
Affirms	Endorses	Further requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls	Further invites	Notes
Calls upon	Deplores	Proclaims
Condemns	Designates	Reaffirms
Confirms	Draws the attention	Recommends
Congratulates	Emphasizes	Regrets
Considers	Encourages	Reminds
Declares accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Designates	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Draws the attention	Further invites	Supports
Emphasizes	Further proclaims	Takes note of
	Further reminds	Transmits
		Trusts

Sample Resolution   Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee
Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy
Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon
Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**

—————————————-END OF RESOLUTION PART 4—————————————————