

# **R-NPSMUN**



# **DELEGATE HANDBOOK**

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# THE UNITED NATIONS

At the conclusion of World War II, the leading world powers decided that an international body should be created to prevent global conflict and to provide a forum for peaceful international relations. These leaders established the United Nations on October 24, 1945 for four main purposes:

- To maintain international peace and security,
- To develop friendly relations among nations,
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights, and
- To be a center for harmonizing the action of nations.

The United Nations has six major organs: the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the International Court of Justice. Today, the General Assembly has 193 member-states; the ECOSOC has 54 members; the Trusteeship Council has five members; and the Security Council and ICJ each have fifteen members.

At its most basic level, Model UN is exactly what the name suggests – a simulation of the proceedings of the United Nations and other international organizations. Delegates are assigned to a specific United Nations committee or crisis simulation in which they take on the role of a government diplomat representing a state, an international organization, or a specific political or historical character. Through active research, debate, and cooperation, delegates work to solve some of the world's most dire problems over the course of the conference.

# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Participants in a MUN are diplomats of different countries, so they always refer to themselves in third person. However, in case the committee you are attending allots portfolios, and not countries, you may refer to yourself in the first person.
2. A Delegate must raise their placards to get recognized by the dais, following which they can speak.
3. A Delegate must know about the recent history and general trends about his/her country/portfolio.
4. Read up general information about all countries like– who has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, etc.
5. A delegate must also read up about their respective topics well beyond the background guide and use the background guide as only a start for their research.

# PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

1. **Quorum:** Quorum is 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.
2. **Roll Call:** Roll call is at the beginning of session. The vote of the delegate influences his vote during resolution passing. A delegate can vote:
  - a. **Present:** The delegate can vote Yes, No, Yes with rights, No with rights. The delegate can Abstain or Pass during resolution voting.
  - b. **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.

# POINTS

1. **Point of Personal Privilege:** This is a point raised when the delegate feels some discomfort, like if the other delegate is incoherent. This can interrupt a speaker.
2. **Point of Order:** By far the most important point of all, the point of order is raised when the delegate finds some procedural error. It is the discretion of the chair to recognize the point or not. Note that a point of order cannot be raised against a statement made in the General Speaker's List. The error may be pointed out as a point of information later. Whether or not this point can interrupt a speaker depends on the committee you are in.
3. **Point of Information:** The point of information is of two kinds. This is only raised after a speech in the General Speaker's List, or during a crisis.
  - i. To comment on the speaker's speech.
  - ii. To question the speaker's statement.
4. **Right to Reply:** The point of right to reply is exercised when a delegate has offended the sentiments of a country. If the delegate whose country has been offended raises the motion of right to reply, then each delegate will either be given 1 minute of uninterrupted speech to define his stance, or to write a reply via chit- this is the chair's discretion. 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.
5. **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** This point is used so that a delegate may ask a question to the bench regarding parliamentary procedure.

# MOTIONS

1. **Motion to set working agenda:** This motion is raised by a delegate in order to set the working agenda as mentioned in the committee description.
2. **Motion for roll call:** This motion is raised by a delegate to begin roll call. Roll call is carried out so that the chair is aware of the delegate's voting stance.
3. **Motion to open General Speakers List:** The General Speaker's List is a broad overview of the entire agenda at hand. The delegates who speak in the GSL put forth their country's stance on the agenda and their personal opinions stating their solutions.
4. **Motion to start Moderated Caucus:** A moderated caucus is a medium for debating on a sub-topic on the main agenda. When making such a motion the delegate must specify the total time and the time allotment per speaker. Delegates remain in their seats and are recognized by show of placards, at the Chair's discretion. During a moderated caucus, the Chair shall call to order delegates who are making speeches to the designated topic.
5. **Motion to start Un-moderated Caucus:** An un-moderated caucus is a time of unmitigated debate. It is a time period wherein the draft resolution and/or the working paper is written. Maximum period is 20 min. It can also be used to decide the course of committee.
6. **Motion to Table Debate:** It is raised when a resolution has been passed and the agenda is completely dealt with. If there are multiple agendas, this motion would end debate on one and move into another agenda for discussion. However a motion to start the second agenda must be raised afterwards.
7. **Motion to Adjourn Session:** This is used to end the session for the day.
8. **Motion to Censure:** It's when a delegate is completely suspended from the house. It is applicable only when there is a gross violation of the Code

of Conduct. If the delegate has an objection, then the delegate may notify the bench. Voting takes place. A minimum of two-thirds majority is required.



# POSITION PAPERS

(REQUIRED ONLY FOR DISEC)

## HOW TO WRITE A POSITION PAPER

The structuring of the Position Papers is intended to elicit responses from the delegates that provide a clear picture of a nation's stance on a particular topic area. By providing an outline of a Position Paper, we hope that delegates will be able to illustrate clear knowledge of their country's policies and interests instead of simply regurgitating parts of the Background Guide. The position Paper must be of size 12, Times New Roman.

**Position Paper should include three sections, outlined below:**

### **A. Background of the Topic**

- In your country's opinion, what are the main elements of the problem?
- What are the roots of those elements?

### **B. Position taken by your delegation**

- What are your national interests in the situation?
- What are your nation's policies on the topic?
- What steps would you like to see taken to deal with the problem?

### **C. Solutions**

- What does your nation believe needs to be done to solve the problem?
- What do you predict will be the main opposition to your proposals?



DISEC

## SAMPLE POSITION PAPER



**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security Topic: Nuclear Test Ban

**Country:** The Republic of Sierra Leone

**Name of the delegate:** ABC PQR

**School:** High School Academy

*[Section A should discuss history/background of the issue]*

The nuclear test ban issue has been the first item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament since 1978 with good reason. In 1963, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the USSR entered into the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), which prohibited testing in the atmosphere and underwater. In 1974, the United States and the USSR entered into the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) which placed an upper limit of 150 kilotons on nuclear tests.

The next logical step, a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), has been long overdue. Nuclear weapon testing allows the arms race to continue and even escalate. The implementation of a test ban would slow down the development of new nuclear weapons and thereby slow down the arms race. Furthermore, a CTBT would not, as some states have claimed, threaten the stability of the policy of nuclear deterrence, on which both superpowers rely. In fact, a CTBT would maintain stability by preventing innovations and developments which could potentially give one nuclear state a unilateral advantage. Moreover, the increasing use of super-computers has essentially eliminated the need for actual testing.

***[Section B should discuss your country's position/history on topic]***

The Republic of Sierra Leone believes disarmament to be crucial for the maintenance of worldwide security and considers a nuclear test ban to be an important step in the process of reaching that goal. Sierra Leone is not a nuclear power nor does it aid other countries in producing nuclear weapons. Our policy in the past has been to work diligently toward a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We wish to accomplish this goal through negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament. In accordance with this policy, the Resolution 485 banning nuclear testing in Africa and Resolution 781 banning nuclear testing in Southeast Asia received wholehearted support from Sierra Leone. Furthermore, our government received glowing reports from the international press for our stance on the issue. The African Journal wrote that "To maintain the fundamental principles of Africa, the UN needs more nations like Sierra Leone" (Volume 48, 1993, pp. 12).

***[Section C should outline ideas and policy proposals]***

The Republic of Sierra Leone supports the following proposals for a nuclear test ban treaty:

The treaty must be a comprehensive and permanent one. Although Japan's proposal to have a progressive lowering of the threshold limit until it reached zero is an interesting idea, not only does this legitimize nuclear weapon testing, it also delays a true resolution of the problem. In addition, it gives the nuclear states a greater opportunity to escape their obligations through inevitable loopholes in the treaty.

Although peaceful nuclear explosions could potentially bring about beneficial results, the nearly insurmountable difficulty in differentiating between nuclear tests for weapons and nuclear tests for peaceful purposes makes such a distinction infeasible. The proposal that a state must provide the Secretary-General with all relevant data about the planned explosion is laudable, yet proper assurance of the peaceful nature of a test

would require a degree of monitoring to which most nuclear states would not agree.

States can rely not only on all national means of verification, which are consistent with international law, but also an international verification system. Current seismic monitoring systems, such as the Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR), are sufficiently advanced to determine whether states are complying with a CTBT. In addition, the 1984 experiment involving the World Meteorological Organization/ Global Telecommunications System (WMO/GTS) illustrates the viability of an international seismic network. As per the Ad Hoc Group's report, Sierra Leone is in favor of an international network of seismic monitoring stations, which would send their data to International Data Centers (IDCs) for analysis. These IDCs would automatically give out type I data (basic information) with type II data (data subjected to more advanced analysis) available upon request. Of course, even after the conclusion of a CTBT, there should be further research into the development of even more sensitive and accurate seismic monitoring equipment and analysis techniques. If the test ban treaty involved the gradual reduction of the threshold limit, then that limit should reflect current seismic monitoring technology. In addition, on-site inspections should be allowed.

Regarding compliance, a test ban treaty is of such paramount importance that violators should be punished. Yet the fact remains that embargoes would most likely have little if any effect on most nuclear states. Perhaps compliance measures will eventually rely on first convincing the superpowers, and any other nuclear states, to enter into a CTBT and then getting the superpowers themselves to ensure that their allies abide by the treaty.

# RESOLUTION

Your solution to the problems that the committee confronts take the form of a resolution. Resolutions represent the committee's final attempt to draw together the interests of many competing nations into a comprehensive solution that serves the interests of the collective world community. From the procedural perspective, the resolution is the formal document upon which the committee will take action via the amendment and voting processes.

A resolution is a complex document that follows a strict format (see sample resolution) and reflects the negotiation, debate, and innovative proposals that the committee has produced. Before a resolution can be formally introduced into a committee, it must receive the approval of the Director. The Director will sign a resolution if it demonstrates an adequate understanding of the issue, answers the questions posed in the Study Guide, and has a wide base of support. A well-written resolution exhibits the following qualities:

- Familiarity with the problem: Relevant background information and previous UN actions should be referenced. In addition, a good resolution should keep in mind the actual power and influence of the committee. An ambiguous, unenforceable resolution is useless.
- Recognition of the issues. At the very least, the resolution should address the ideas in the "Questions a Resolution Must Answer" section of the Study Guide.
- Concision. Every clause and phrase has a purpose.
- Good form. An otherwise sound resolution may suffer from clumsy grammar or sloppy format.
- Operative clauses must be numbered.
- All preambulatory clauses must end in a comma.
- All operative clauses except the last one must end in a semi-colon. The last one should end in a full-stop.
- Preambulatory clauses deal with past happenings related to the matter (like resolutions, wars, reports etc.) and are not a compulsory part of the resolution. Previous UN Resolutions regarding the topic can be reported via a preambulatory clause by referencing the corresponding resolution number.

- Operative clauses deal with the assembly's opinion/suggested action on the issue in question. A resolution is not in order if it doesn't have at least one operative clause.

## SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Committee: Commission on Information Regulation

Topic: International Newsflow Imbalance

Sponsors: United Kingdom, United States of America

Signatories: Algeria, Belize, Cambodia, Cameroon, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine (observer), Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela

### **Preambulatory Clauses**

The Economic and Social Council,

**Recalling** its Resolution A/36/89 of 16 December 1981, “The Declaration on Fundamental Principles Concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding,”

**Recalling** also Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone has the right to...receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,”

**Recognising** that the problem of news flow imbalance is that two-way information among countries of a region is either nonexistent or insufficient and information exchanged between regions of the world is inadequate.

**Realizing** the need for all Sovereign Nations to maintain their integrity and still play an active role in the international system,

### **Operative Clauses**

- 1) Recommends that a three-level information interchange system be established on the National, Regional, and International levels to ameliorate the current problems of news flow imbalance, which is to operate as follows:
  - a) Each region's member nations will report their national information and receive the information of other nations in their region from the REGIONAL level of this interchange system;
  - b) Nations will decide the character of the newsflow media best suited to the need of their sovereign territory, be this printed, audio, or audiovisual;
  - c) Regional News Gathering Agencies will serve to gather information from the nations in their region, and these boards will have no editorial discretion and will serve to forward all information to the International Board;
  - d) Each regional agency will be composed of representatives from every member nation of the region;
  - e) The primary function of the International Board will be to translate information accumulated from the regional news gathering agencies;
  - f) The secondary purpose will be to transmit all information gathered back to the member nations via the regional news gathering agencies;
  - g) In order to expedite the transfer of information from the international to regional level the international board will utilize a UN frequency on a European Economic Community (EEC) satellite;
- 2) Proposes that the following be designated as regional areas:
  - a) Africa;
  - b) Middle East;
  - c) Asia and the Pacific;
  - d) Latin America;



- e) Eastern Europe;
  - f) Western Europe and North America;
- 3) Urges the establishment of the University of International Communications, whose main branch will be in Geneva, Switzerland with additional branches located in each of the aforementioned regions, with the following aims:
- a) The University and branches will be established with the express purpose of bringing together world views and facilitating the transfer of technology;
  - b) All member nations of the United Nations will be equally represented at the University;
  - c) Incentives will be offered to students of journalism and communications at the University to return to their countries to teach upon completion of instruction;
  - d) The instructors of the regional education centers will be comprised of a multi-partisan coalition of educators from throughout the world;
  - e) The number of students admitted to the University will be contingent upon the amount of funding provided by the United Nations;
- 4) Calls for the continued use of funds from the International Program for the Development of Communications, Special Account, UNESCO, the UN Development Program, and other sources of funding including national governments and private donors;
- 5) Recommends that the distribution of funds be decided by the IPDC.

## SOME PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Affirming	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Alarmed by	Expecting	Noting further
Approving	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Bearing in mind	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Believing	Fully aware	Realizing
Confident	Further deploring	Recalling
Contemplating	Further recalling	Recognizing
Convinced	Guided by	Referring
Declaring	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply concerned	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply conscious	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply convinced	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply Disturbed	Noting with deep concern	Welcoming
Deeply Regretting		
Desiring		

## SOME OPERATIVE CLAUSES

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

## VOTING ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting procedure, no representative may enter or leave the room, nor shall any representative interrupt the voting. Once in voting procedure, when there are no points or motions on the floor, the Chair shall put the unfriendly amendments, draft resolutions or parts thereof, to a vote. There shall be no further debate except as specifically provided for in these rules. Once voting on draft resolutions has finished, the Chair shall declare the end of voting procedure and the committee shall return to the primary speakers' list. If all topics have been exhausted, the Chair may entertain a motion to adjourn the session.

**Method of Voting:** Each delegation shall have one vote per committee, and all matters will be voted on by a show of placards. Delegates must vote “yes,” “no,” “yes with rights,” “no with rights” or in the case of substantive matters only, they may also abstain, effectively forfeiting their vote. No member may cast a vote on behalf of another member.

**Roll Call Vote:** On a substantive matter, any member of the body may request a roll call vote, the granting of which is at the Chair's discretion and cannot be appealed. The roll shall be done alphabetically, either from the beginning of the alphabet or from a randomly chosen letter.

**Pass:** During a roll call vote, a delegate may pass, in which case he or she will be placed at the end of the voting roll. However, a delegate may only vote in the affirmative or negative only; abstentions are not in order for passed votes.

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