

# Vocabulary and Terms

## Vocabulary

The following Vocabulary is used at MUN Conferences and is in alphabetical order:

### Abstain

When debate time elapses, delegates are to vote<sup>1</sup> on the resolution or an amendment. Delegates who wish to abstain are those who do not support the resolution or clause and also do not oppose it.

*"Any delegates wishing to **abstain** from voting?"*

### Ad Hoc

Ad Hoc refers to committees like the Security Council, APQ and IGO Committees<sup>1</sup>, where resolutions are not pre-written and then debated, but instead, clauses are submitted by delegates and together the committee debates the clause and make amendments to better the clause to appeal to the member states.

*"The Flow of Debate in the Security Council is **Ad Hoc**"*

### Adjourn

When the debate session adjourns, it means that session time has ended. The chair announces to delegates that the committee will be adjourned, either for a break, lunch or for the day.

*"Delegates, the committee is **adjourned** for lunch. Please be back at 1:45 for us to begin debate on another resolution."*

### Agenda

The agenda is the order in which resolutions, breaks and other events will occur in. It is the committee's schedule.

*"The first thing on the **agenda**, delegates, is roll call"*

### Amendment

An amendment is a change (addition, removal or adjustment) to a clause or a resolution. It is submitted by delegates during debate<sup>3</sup> and is debated upon in closed debate<sup>3</sup> and is then voted on.

*"The delegate submitted an **amendment** to strike clause six"*

### Binding

For a resolution to be binding, it means that the resolution has the power to be forced into action in member states.

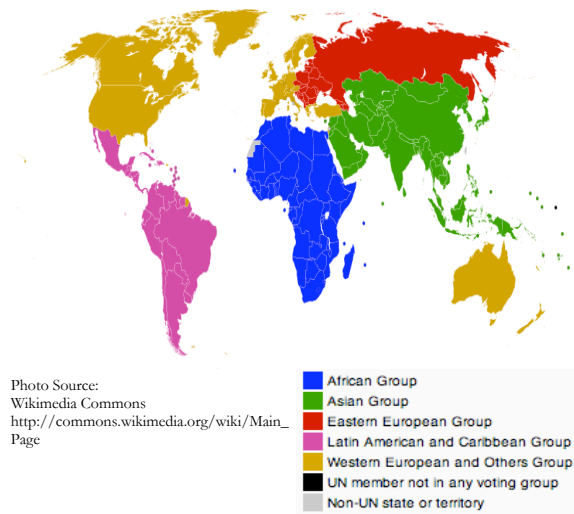
Binding resolutions are written in committees<sup>4</sup> like the Security Council, IGOs, ICC and ICJ, not in the other committees like the GA or ECOSOC.

### Bloc

A bloc is a group of member states who share similar views, or are of the same culture/ political policy/ language/ trade group/ geographical region etc.

*"The European Union is a trade, economic and regional **bloc** for European nations, likewise ASEAN is one for South East Asian Nations and the Arab League is one that was formed for Arab States. Some UN **Blocs** are the regional Blocs for countries."*

These can be seen in the image (below):



### Caucus

During a caucus, delegates may informally discuss a topic between themselves and lobby ideas on the current issue at hand and try to think of some constructive ideas to better the issue.

*"Delegates, the chair will entertain a five minute **caucus** for you to discuss the situation in DPR Korea"*

### Chair<sup>5</sup>

A chair is one of those in charge of a specific

Foot Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Please refer to page 59 to learn about Voting Procedures

<sup>2</sup>IGO Committees are the abbreviation Inter-Governmental Organisation Committees

They can either be a Chair/President or a Deputy Chair/ President. They are in charge of the committees functioning and the flow of debate.

*"The **chair** will set debate time for one hour"*

### Dais

The Dais is the group of people who form the chairing team. They consist of a Head Chair/President and deputies.

### Debate<sup>1</sup>

The Debate is where delegates exchange their delegations' opinions on an issue and try to resolve that issue by resolutions.

*"Delegates we are now **debating** the resolution on DPR Korea submitted by the delegate of Japan"*

### Delegate<sup>2</sup>

A Delegate is someone who assumes the role of a representative of a nation or an organisation in a specific committee.

*"I am the **delegate** of Japan"*

### Delegation

A delegation is a group of delegates representing the same country or organisation.

*"Would the **delegation** of Japan please go in for their **delegation** photo?"*

### Draft Resolution<sup>3</sup>

A Draft Resolution is a document that tries to solve a situation. It is written (drafted) by delegates together during the lobbying stage, and is then debated by the committee. If it passes in the committee, the draft resolution becomes a resolution as it has been amended and approved by the committee.

*"Japan and Germany wrote a **draft resolution** on the DPR Korea issue"*

### Expert Chair

An Expert Chair refers to a chair who is an expert on a specific topic. As there are several topics in committees to be debated. Each chair is expected to become "an expert" on one or a few topics each.

*"I am the **expert chair** on the topic of DPR Korea"*

### First Degree Amendment<sup>4</sup>

An Amendment to the First Degree is where a delegate submits an amendment to add, remove or adjust a clause in the resolution to become better and more appealing to the House.

*"That was a strong **amendment to the first degree**, submitted by the delegate of Japan. It helped improve the resolution greatly!"*

### Floor

The Floor is a metaphorical area, which delegates can obtain to be able to speak on a resolution or clause.

*"Delegate you may take the **floor** and speak on the resolution"*

### Flow of Debate<sup>1</sup>

This is the debate process at MUN conferences.

### Formal Debate

Formal debate is the debate style at MUN conferences, where delegates address themselves and each other in the third person, rather than saying "me" or "I" one would say "the delegate of".

### Head Delegate/Ambassador<sup>5</sup>

The Head Delegate or Ambassador of a Delegation is the delegate who is in charge of their delegation and are the most experienced delegate of their delegation. They are given responsibilities before and during the conference as they act as the head of that delegation.

### House

When addressing ones committee, it is addressed as "the House".

*"The delegate would like to ask all delegates present in the **house** what they feel about DPR Korea's stand on Nuclear Weapons"*

### Member State<sup>7</sup>

Member States are countries in the UN who are recognized countries by the UN. are apart of the UN and have the right to vote on resolutions and clauses.

#### Foot Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to page 57 to learn about Debate Procedure

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to page 40 to learn about the Role of a Delegate

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to page 28 to learn about Resolutions

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to page 60 to learn about Amendment Procedure

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to page 40 to learn about the Role of an Ambassador

### Moderated Caucus

A Moderated Caucus is where delegates may exchange ideas in the form of a break, but with one of the chairs present to moderate the discussion, however this is rarely implemented outside of the Security Council<sup>1</sup>.

### Motions

A motion is a request made by a delegate, which is requested to do something, such as moving into voting procedures or to extend debate time. To learn of the various motions, please refer to page 56.

### Notes and Note-passing<sup>1</sup>

A note is a piece of official delegation paper that delegates can send around the committee. Between delegates, they pertain to the debate and try to get each others' opinions or to get to generally talk to delegates. However, if the house gets rowdy, the has the right to suspend note-passing.

### Observer

An Observer is a delegate representing either an organisation or a country that is not a fully recognized UN country, therefore, these delegates may speak and make points of information, but cannot vote on resolutions or amendments.

### Placard

A placard is the sign paper the delegates hold up to be recognized by the chair to speak or to make a point of information. Every delegate has their own placard with the delegation written across it.

*"Delegates please lower your **placards**"*

### Point

A Point is a question raised by the delegate pertaining to the resolution or to the committee. They can be raised to the chair or to delegates who have the floor. To learn of the various points, please refer to the page.

*"The Delegate wanted to make a **point** of information to the delegate of Japan, but was unable to due to time"*

### Position<sup>2</sup>

During debate, delegates have a position.

Their position is their standing on a resolution or a clause, which reflects their delegation's views.

*"What's your delegation's **position** on the DPR Korea issue?"*

### Quorum

A Quorum is the minimum number of delegates required for debate to start. The Quorum doesn't apply to committees such as the Security Council, but in committees such as the GA, ECOSOC, and other commissions, there must be a minimum of one third of the house present for debate to begin.

### Rapporteur

The Rapporteur is like an expert chair on a topic, however, is the expert on all the topics. Many conferences have removed there being a Rapporteur, and instead have made there be expert chairs on topics.

*"I will serve as the **Rapporteur** for GA1"*

### Resolution<sup>3</sup>

Resolutions are documents written by delegates, which aim to solve a specific situation.

*"Japan wrote a fruitful **resolution** on the issue of DPR Korea"*

### Right of Reply

The Right of Reply is where delegates may reply to a speaker's comment. It is requested by a delegate to the chairs when a delegate has been insulted, or was mentioned on a delegate's speech and wishes to answer the delegate back on what they said about them.

*"The Delegate of DPR Korea stated how Japan was a Terrorist Island wishing to demolish DPR Korea. The Delegate of Japan requested the **Right of Reply** to explain to DPR Korea and the house that they aren't a Terrorist Island, but want stabilised international peace and cooperation."*

### Roll Call

The Roll Call is done at the start of the day and after breaks. It's like the register at school, where the chairs (instead of teachers) check for which delegates are present and if debate may begin.

Foot Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to page 41 to learn about Notepaper and Note-passing

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to page 53 to learn about Position Paper/ Policy Statements

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to page 28 to learn about Resolutions

## Second

A Second, is something called out by a delegate who agrees with a motion. If a delegate doesn't agree, they call out "Objection!". If a chair sees that a motion is in order, they'll ask if there are any delegates who second the motion, and if there are, the motion would be entertained.

*"Motion to Move into voting procedures!" "Are there any delegates wishing to **second** that motion?" "Second!"*

## Second Degree Amendment<sup>1</sup>

Amendments to the Second Degree are amendments which change an amendment to the first degree. They can only be submitted in the "time against" the first amendment.

## Signatories<sup>2</sup>

A signatory is a delegate who has signed onto the resolution. They are therefore a co-submitter and at the minimum want the resolution to be debated (that means that they might not support the resolution, but want it to be debated).

## Phrases

There are a few common MUN phrases

*"Is it in order to..."*

Is it allowed to

*"It is in order to..."*

It will be allowed

*"It isn't order to..."*

It won't be allowed

*"Debate Time"*

Time set for this debate

## Speaker's List

The Speaker's List is held by the chair and determines which delegates will speak.

It also serves as an account of how many times each delegate has spoken.

## Un-moderated Caucus

An Un-Moderated Caucus is like a Moderated Caucus, except chairs do not moderate what is being discussed. These are rarely requested by delegates, as breaks are used as a form of Un-Moderated Caucuses.

## Voting Bloc/Voting Procedure<sup>3</sup>

The Voting Bloc/ Voting Procedure is where delegates vote on either amendments, clauses or resolutions.

## Yield

Yielding is where a delegate gives the floor to either another delegate or gives the floor back to the chair.

*"Is it in order for the delegate to **yield** the floor to the delegate of Japan?"*

## "Time Constraints"

Restrictions of time

*"Request for Follow up?"* (to the chair)

Can I ask another question?

*"Yield the Floor"*

Give the floor to someone else

*"That will be Entertained"*

That will be allowed to happen

*"That won't be Entertained"*

That won't be allowed to happen

## Points

At MUN Conferences, there are several types of Points. Below, you can read about them and see their purpose.

### **Point of Personal Privilege:**

This point refers to the comfort and wellbeing of a delegate

When it is a point of personal privilege due to audibility, it may then only interrupt the speaker

It cannot refer to the content of a speaker's statement

It is not a point that is debatable and doesn't require any other delegate to second it

*"Point of Personal Privilege! Could the Air Conditioning be turned on, as it is a bit warm in here?"*

### **Point of Order:**

Refers to the rules of Procedure

A Point of Order is called if a delegate doesn't agree to a decision/ruling made by the chair

It isn't debatable and it can't interrupt the speaker

It can refer to a current decision made by the chair or to a general procedural matter

*"Point of Order!" Is it in order for delegates to yield the floor more than once, as the floor was just yielded to Japan?"*

### **Point of Information to the Speaker:**

Remember, when you ask your Point of Information, remain standing as a mark of respect

It is a question directed to the delegate who has the floor about their delegation's views or about the speech

It is a question to the speaker, not a comment!

If you want to get some information on the topic across to the house, you can do so by formulating it as a question *"Is the delegate aware that..."* or *"Does the delegate agree that..."*

Do not ask another question to the delegate unless the chair has allowed you to (request of follow up) as there is no direct dialogue between delegates

*"Does the delegate feel that the Six-Party Talks would be able to enforce the ideas in this resolution to DPR Korea?"*

### **Point of Information to the Chair:**

This Point of Information is directed to the chair

It can refer to anything that doesn't pertain to the Rules of Procedure or to Personal Privileges

A Point of Information to the chair can be a question or clarification on the issue being debated

*"Point of Information to the chair! Could the chair explain when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed?"*

It can refer to scheduling and the committee's agenda

*"Point of Information to the chair! What time is lunch?"*

### **Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:**

A Point of Parliamentary Enquiry refers to the Rules of Procedure

It is a question on the Rules of Procedure

*"Point of Order!" Could the chair explain what is meant by abstentions?"*

It isn't like a Point of Order, as that is a question on the chair's ruling. This is a question about the rules in general.

## Motions

At MUN Conferences, there are several types of Motions. Below, you can read about them and see their purpose.

### **Motion to Move to the Previous Question:**

This motion was known as “the motion to move to voting procedure”

This motion means that when discussing something in closed debate, if the house is in time in favour, motioning to move to the previous question, will move debate into time against. If debate was in time against, debate will then be moved into voting procedures

In open debate, it means that the debate will be moved into voting procedures

It may not interrupt the speaker

This motion can be moved by either a chair or delegate, but requires a “second”

Even if there are objections, it is up to the chair’s discretion to entertain the motion or not

The chair can overrule the motion if there is a lot of time left for the resolution and more debate can be created in the house

Remember to refrain from using “motion to move into voting procedure” as this motion no longer exists

### **Motion to Adjourn the Debate:**

This motion calls for the temporary stopping of debate

It may not interrupt the speaker

The caller of the motion will need to make a short speech on why debate should be adjourned, and therefore why the resolution should be tabled (put aside and debated after all other resolutions)

The chairs recognize speakers in favour and against this motion (debatable)

This motion is voted on and a simple majority is required for the motion to pass

Should the motion fail, debate will continue as normal

If a delegate wishes to re-debate the tabled resolution, they can appeal for it, but then a 2/3 majority vote will be conducted and the resolution will then be debated at the end

### **Motion to Reconsider a Resolution:**

This motion calls for a re-debate and a re-vote of a resolution that has already been debated

It will be a resolution debated at the end, as other resolutions have priority, as they hadn’t been debated

It may not interrupt the speaker

It will be entertained faster if there are no other resolutions on that particular topic

A 2/3 majority is required for this motion to be entertained and isn’t a debatable motion

### **Motion to Refer a Resolution to Another Forum:**

This is a motion that is made when certain clauses start with words like “Demands”, “Decides”, or “Condemns”

It is a discouraged motion, and the chairs would rather have delegates rephrase the clauses to say “Urges the Security Council to decide...”

It may not interrupt the speaker

A simple majority would be required when this motion is voted on

It is discouraged because the Security Council and other committees have busy agendas too, therefore there is little chance that they’ll debate that resolution

**Objection to the Main Motion:**

This motion is an objection to the debate

The delegate that proposes this motion must make a short speech on why they have proposed it

It will be voted on, and a two third majority is required for it to pass

It is strongly discouraged as it is destructive for the house

This motion is normally proposed if it is a topic that would result in a breach of national sovereignty

**Withdrawing a Resolution:**

If a delegate wishes to remove their resolution from the committee, a vote will be conducted between all those who co-submitted (signatories) and the main submitters of the resolution. All of these delegates need to agree for it to be withdrawn

It can however, be reconsidered by any delegate of the committee

It may not interrupt the speaker

**Motion to Extend Debate Time:**

This will be at the chair's discretion and is not a debatable motion

It may not interrupt the speaker

Another delegate needs to "second" this motion

It might not be entertained due to time constraints or if other events have been planned for the committee

## Voting

On Resolutions, Clauses and Amendments, only Member States can vote. This means that Observer Status delegates (organisations and unrecognized countries) cannot vote (this doesn't apply to the Advisory Panel).

However, on procedural matters, all delegates have the right to vote. For example, if a motion to adjourn debate is called, the chair will ask delegates to vote on it. Here, all delegates have the right to vote as it is a procedural matter.

If it was an amendment to add a sub-clause to a clause, when voting only member states can vote, as it is

## Yielding

Delegates can only yield once consecutively. One delegate cannot take the floor, speak, and yield to another and have them yield to a third delegate, as it restricts the house from hearing a varied range of delegates, who might not share the same views on that resolution and topic.

Therefore, it will be allowed to yield, however, chairs can call it "out of order" after which, delegates must then yield the floor back to the chair.



# How to Help MUN Delegates Become Prepared



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