

# TASMUN UN4MUN Guide 2020

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## Background Information

UN4MUN is a program initiated by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), with the aim to lessen the distance between the United Nations (UN) and Model United Nations (MUN). Among the six major organs of the UN (Security Council (SC), General Assembly (GA), the Trusteeship Council (TC), International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Secretariat), only the SC has the power to pass legally binding resolutions nations are obligated to follow. The GA does not have the power to do so, and can only enforce resolutions through soft-power, sanctions, diplomatic ties, and hard power.

As GA resolutions pass by simple majority, resolutions often neglect the interests of the minority that voted differently. When resolutions are non-binding, or in other words, merely suggestions for countries, countries will not implement resolutions that are not in their best interest. This led to ineffectiveness in the UN, which the international community addressed by adopting a consensus-based system, with voting as a last resort when consensus fails. This system is what the UN4MUN program aims to bring to MUN: a simulation-based on modern-day United Nations and the principle of consensus-building.

## What is Consensus?

Consensus means reaching an agreement on a resolution through consultation and negotiations until there are no strong objections to any part of the text. Consensus does not mean everyone likes all parts of the resolution. Think of a group of people negotiating on what toppings should go on a pizza. If we put the decision to a vote, some would not be able to eat the pizza due to dietary requirements. But if we reach consensus, even though the end result probably won't include everyone's favorite ingredients, everyone will still be able to eat the pizza, as no one objects so strongly to any ingredient that they refuse to eat the pizza.

## Rundown of Simulation

1. **Formal Consultations/Open Plenary:**
  - a. Delegates will present their opening speeches in alphabetical order
2. **Informal Consultations (only for GA Delegates, ECOSOC will be given a resolution)**
  - a. The committee will first come up with four sub-topics by consensus.
  - b. The committee will then split into four assigned political groups, each will focus on one sub-topic and draft paragraphs.
  - c. The Vienna Formula will be used to merge and remove paragraphs. Each political group will have a head delegate that negotiates on behalf of their group, the head delegate will switch every five minutes. (Not used in the real UN, but will be used to make the simulation more efficient)

### 3. Line-by-Line Review

- a. The committee will then begin the line-by-line review process. Delegates can identify themselves as sponsors or non-sponsors at any time during the process. Non-sponsors will propose all the amendments they want to make for the secretary to mark down on the resolution.
- b. The committee will then discuss each paragraph of the resolution from top to bottom a couple of times until the committee reaches consensus. For every paragraph, delegates can choose if they want to have informal consultations time (no rules of procedures) or have formal-informal consultations in which the chair mediates. The decision needs to be made through a consensus.

### 4. Action Phase & Final Formal Meetings

- a. One sponsor will formally introduce the draft resolution to the entire committee.
- b. The committee will then adopt the resolution either by consensus (without voting) or by voting (if consensus has not been reached).
- c. (If consensus fails), The chair will allow non-sponsors to introduce amendments during the final formal meeting and put them to a vote, or vote separately on certain paragraphs.
- d. (If consensus has been reached) Allow non-sponsors to explain a position or explain vote. This process is known as the explanation of positions.

### Reminders and Tips

More details about editorial guidelines for drafting resolutions can be found at:  
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/71/editorialguidelines.pdf>

For terms commonly used in resolutions, go to:  
[https://unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/Terms%20Resolutions\\_2010\\_0.pdf](https://unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/Terms%20Resolutions_2010_0.pdf)

Some comments on the use of sub-paragraphs:

Model UN Resolutions like to include sub-paragraphs and excessive details, but sub-paragraphs appear less frequently in the UN as the more detailed the text is, the more accommodating the terms are for differing situations and the harder it is to negotiate. Reaching consensus often requires making compromises, which may result in paragraphs more general in nature.

### Points

- Point of Order- If the chair violates rules or delegates are confused.
- Right of Reply- Member A says something Member B is offended

### Motions

- Motion to Suspend the Meeting- Back to Informal-Informal Debate
- Motion to Adjourn Debate- Move on to discuss the next paragraph and come back to discuss the current paragraph at a later time.

## Terminology

<u>Terms to Use</u>	<u>Terms to Not Use</u>
<p><u>Bureau:</u> Consists of Secretary and Chair. Chair, in theory, should be elected but will be appointed at TASMUN for logistics and training purposes.</p> <p><u>Preambular Paragraphs:</u> Paragraphs in a resolution that outlines past UN actions and key statistics.</p> <p><u>Operative Paragraphs:</u> Paragraphs in a resolution that outline solutions to the issue.</p> <p><u>Informal Informals:</u> When delegates are allowed free time to draft resolutions with no rules of procedure.</p> <p><u>Formal Informal:</u> When the line-by-line review of the resolution is led by the chair or a main-sponsor of the resolution.</p> <p><u>Consensus:</u> See above</p> <p><u>Sponsors:</u> Delegates who completely agree to the resolution.</p> <p><u>Non-Sponsors:</u> Delegates who do not completely agree to the resolution.</p> <p><u>Explanation of Position:</u> After consensus reached, delegates can explain parts they do not completely agree on but do not feel the need to take out as non-sponsors.</p> <p><u>Explanation of Vote:</u> When a resolution is adopted by vote, non-sponsors can explain their disappointment with the resolution or any reservations they may have on particular paragraphs.</p>	<p><u>Dais:</u> Please use the bureau instead, Dais is not a thing in the UN.</p> <p><u>Honorable Chair:</u> The UN is not a parliament. Please use Mr./Madame President or Mrs/Madame Secretary.</p> <p><u>House:</u> The UN is not a parliament.</p> <p><u>Director:</u> There are no directors in the UN.</p> <p><u>Friendly and Unfriendly Amendments:</u> These terms are not used in the UN.</p> <p><u>Moderated and Unmoderated Caucus:</u> These terms do not exist at the UN, please use Formal Informals and Informals Informals.</p> <p><u>Clause:</u> UN refers to them as paragraphs.</p>

**Contacts-** Please contact the Deputy Secretary General for UN4MUN or the secretary of your respective committee if you have any questions.

Kai Yuan M. (DSG of UN4MUN)- [21kaiyuanm@students.tas.tw](mailto:21kaiyuanm@students.tas.tw)

Amanda D. (Secretary of GA2)- [21amandad@students.tas.tw](mailto:21amandad@students.tas.tw)

Sonia F. (Secretary of ECOSOC CPD)- [23soniaf@students.tas.tw](mailto:23soniaf@students.tas.tw)

Lauren H. (Secretary of ECOSOC CSTD)- [22laurenh@students.tas.tw](mailto:22laurenh@students.tas.tw)