



Delhi University Model United Nations Conference

7-9 APRIL 2016

Inter-Parliamentary Union

BACKGROUND GUIDE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the sixth edition of Delhi University Model United Nations Conference 2016. We earnestly hope that these three days of the conference will prove to be fruitful and enriching.

IPU as we all know has been in existence since 1889, much before United Nations or even League of Nations came into the picture. We at DUMUN's simulation of the IPU shall be discussing, **"Use of media, including social media, in citizen engagement and democracy."** The agenda was chosen primarily due to the wide scope of debate it offers and its relevance in the current day scenario. This agenda has been discussed in IPU previously, then a valid question comes up that why are we discussing it again at the same platform. The answer is simply. Clearly the objective of utilising media in citizen engagement has not been adequately met and a lot remains to be done in this regard. At this committee, we shall aim to find the shortcomings of the previous discussion and come up with constructive yet practical solutions. We would want all of you to read the resolution adopted earlier on this issue to ensure that our discussion moves ahead of whatever has already been discussed, said and decided on this matter. Rhetoric is something that we are not looking for; learning from the mistakes in the past and moving ahead shall be our motto.

Keeping in mind that we will be welcoming a large chunk of first timers, the agenda provides great opportunity to them as one can easily perform well by using simple logic and the study guide itself. Coming to the study guide, we advise delegates to scan read each and every page as the study guide outlines the three days of debate. By analyzing the data present, we would request the delegates to build upon the given information and come up with innovative yet feasible and practical solutions. However, it should be noted that the information present in the

study guide only helps in understanding the agenda and it is expected that the delegates would explore further and bring forth to the council several other facets of the agenda too.

Also, it has to be noted that the study guide only contains certain basic information which may form the basis for the debate and your research and not be used as substantive proof of your arguments. Moreover, it is extremely essential that the delegates are well-versed with the rules of procedure as limited knowledge of the same hampers effective debate and hinders performance. Most importantly, please make sure that whatever you bring up in council must be sufficiently backed by proof and reason cause each and every word that you use counts.

Our aim in the council would be to urge you all to put your best foot forward and take back an unforgettable experience. For any queries, please get in touch with the Mr. Sankalp Dikshit, President for the IPU at sankalpdikshit@rediffmail.com. Good luck with research!

Many Regards,

Sankalp Dikshit

President

Karan Chowdhary

Vice-President

Aakash Sahai

Vice-President

Shiv Singh

Rapporteur

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The IPU is the international organization of Parliaments Established in 1889 in France, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was formed to encourage parliamentarians to engage in dialogue on an international level and promote representative democracy. Currently there are currently 167 Members and 10 Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

IPU's objectives are to-

- Fosters contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- Considers questions of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by parliaments and parliamentarians;
- Contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights - an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- Contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded eight times to the Union through its leading personalities in its formative years between 1901-27. The organisation works to promote parliamentary action by addressing international concerns in six main areas, being representative democracy, peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics, and education, science and culture.

The IPU meets biannually, and whenever else it's required to for matters of immediate concern, with its headquarters established in Geneva since 1921. The organisation is directed by a Secretary-General and a President. The organisation's policy making body is a Governing

Council composed of three representatives from each member parliament, while an Executive Committee oversees the IPU's administration. Each of the six geopolitical groups determines its own office-bearers and rules of procedures to be followed. Other than the six groups, there are also other committees which function as per their own rules and report to the Governing Council.

The IPU supports the efforts of and works in close co-operation with the United Nations, whose objectives it shares. The Union also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

We shall be broadly following the UNA-USA procedure during the three days of debate. You can find the procedure [here](#).

We will be making one major deviation from the procedure by directing delegates to come up with bloc-specific proposals. These proposals shall be prepared during the un-moderated caucus and will form part of the documentation process. These proposals are not supposed to be in a specific format, but will be a comprehensive, well-researched, and holistic action plan for your bloc, and may include the following:

- Issues identified
- Regional context analysis (distinguishing with other blocs)
- Long-term policy aims and goals
- Action plans including both short, medium and long-term solutions and their interactions there in.

PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTATION AND FINALIZATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals so prepared shall be presented before the committee and the authors/presenters would address queries of the committee by responding to a specified number of points of information. After discussion on proposals the committee will enter into a moderated caucus discussing all the proposals and indicating their opinion on how the final document should look like. Post this, the committee will break in an un-moderated caucus coming up with the draft resolutions. A maximum of two Draft Resolutions will be accepted by the Executive Board owing to time constraints. Later the UNA-USA procedure of resolution-making shall be followed.

Please note- Wherever and whenever the executive believes that the committee needs direction or the procedure is becoming a hindrance to quality debate, the executive board has full rights to deviate from procedure in the best interest of the committee, which in turn is solely decided by the executive board.