World Assembly 001

Some really basic pointers on the General Assembly

Imperium Anglorum 2021

Debate in the Assembly
What to say?

- Support your arguments with reasons why they are true (warrants)

- Illustrate the impacts of your arguments

- Give reasons why your impacts are more important others (weighing)

- Don't attack your opponents!

- Do your research!

Analysing proposals
Problems, policies, and implementations

- What is the problem the proposal is meant to solve?

- What policy is used to solve that problem? Is the policy good? Does it affect other people negatively?

- Is the policy implemented properly?

The GA rules
Famously long and complex

- New laws need to be original, have direct effects on member nations, can't ban ideologies, cannot rely on previous resolutions, and cannot reference real world events

- Repeals cannot rely solely on national sovereignty arguments, cannot legislate in their text, and cannot misinterpret the repeal target

- Proposals generally cannot change game mechanics

- New laws need to be put into the proper category so the relevant statistical effect applies

- Proposals cannot amend, they cannot be adverts, they cannot block off whole categories, they must be written as laws, they cannot plagiarise.

The GA rules (cont)
Comments

- GA rules are long and complex

- Not covered fully in this introduction; see also

  - The Secretariat, *NationStates* (10 Jan 2012) https://forum.nationstates.net/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=159348;

  - Imperium Anglorum, 'GA rulings catalogue' *Google drive* (nd) https://bit.ly/gensec-catalogue;

  - Maowi and Imperium Anglorum, *WA 101* (26 Jun 2020) https://forums.europeians.com/index.php?forums/world-assembly-101.6000951/; Imperium Anglorum, *The World Assembly* (2020).

Conventions of the Assembly
Generally accepted ideas about how the WA world works

- Members don't interpret laws self-detrimentally (reasonable nation theory)

- Compliance is mandatory, but some nations fail to comply, even purposefully. Sanctions and fines are used to penalise non-compliance

- WA committees and agencies act competently

- The WA can make any law it wants; 'international law' in GA resolutions means 'GA law'

- GA 17 'WA General Fund' pays for everything with mandatory contributions

Writing a proposal
Brainstorming

- Always start with a problem that needs solving

- Think of a policy which solves it

Writing a proposal
Style

- If you're new, just copy how people have written proposals recently. See eg resolutions on this page https://forum.nationstates.net/viewtopic.php?p=38074232#p38074232.

- Generally, there's UN style and statute style:

  - UN style is like how the real life United Nations writes proposals

  - Statute style is how most legislatures write laws. Eg https://legislation.gov.uk.

- Both give commands directly to member nations. *Do not merely describe the law you want to enact!*

Writing a proposal
Getting help

- The GA forum is a place to get help

- If you are a member of a region active in the WA, ask for help from your region's WA staff

How does voting work?
Writing a proposal is not all

- If you have a working proposal, submit it

- If the proposal is legal, it can go to the floor

- If the proposal has approvals from 6 per cent of delegates, it goes to the floor

- If the proposal gets more votes for than against, it passes

How does voting work?
Getting approvals

- To get approvals, delegates have to know about your proposal's existence

- Send them telegrams to tell them about it and why it is a good idea

- Two major ways to send telegrams: stamps and API

  - Stamps cost money and are fast and easy to use

  - API does not, but requires installing software

- See generally Imperium Anglorum, 'A "short" guide on telegram campaigns' *NationStates* (18 Jun 2018) https://forum.nationstates.net/viewtopic.php?p=34215857#p34215857

Getting support
Lobbying

- People need to know why to vote for your proposal

- Tell them

- Do not send telegrams to all WA members, regions hate this

- Each region is different and needs to be approached in their way

- Ask people about how they want to vote

- If there is an off-site forum, sign up, engage in discussion

- Never be rude! You are trying to convince people, not browbeat them