

MLRIT MUN 2025

BACKGROUND GUIDE.



MLRIT MUN Model United Nations



UNCSW.



MLRIT MUN

Model United Nations

COMMITTEE : UNCSW



UNCSW.

Agendas:

Agenda : Guaranteeing Women's Access to Quality Healthcare with Special Emphasis on Reproductive Rights

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Message From The Secretary General.

Dear Delegate,

If you're nervous, good. It means you care. Every great speaker, every confident diplomat, started right where you are: unsure, curious, and ready to learn. But at MLRITMUN, we don't wait for confidence to arrive; we build it.

This edition is more than debate and diplomacy. It is a space where ideas collide, voices rise, and leaders take shape. Here, you'll learn to think fast, speak with clarity, and solve problems that demand both logic and courage. You'll find mentors who guide you, peers who challenge you, and moments that transform you.

When the gavel strikes, remember it's not about being perfect. It's about being fearless. If you're backed against a wall, break the whole goddamn thing down. Don't wait for luck; make your own.

At MLRITMUN 2025, every delegate has a chance to rise. Speak. Challenge. Lead. Because this isn't just another conference. It's where your voice begins to matter.

And when it does, I'll be right there watching, guiding, and cheering you on.

I'll see you on the other side of the gavel.

With conviction,
Khaja Moizuddin
Secretary-General,
MLRITMUN 2025 | 7th Edition



Message From The Bureau.

Greetings, dear delegates.

This is a concise guide designed with the purpose of providing you a basic understanding of the agenda and the conduct of the simulation. Note that the perusal of this guide's content will be insufficient if you wish to enjoy a healthy and competitive debate. Use the information you find between these pages as just an accompaniment to your research efforts.

We shall be available to clarify any and all of your doubts beforethe conference. However, we would suggest you consider querying us as an option to be exercised as last resort, not first move.

Regards,
Bureau,
United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

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Basic tips for first timers

Debate and research

One of the first questions all first time delegates have with regards to MUNs is – how do we prepare for the debate? Fun fact: In MUNs, the process of preparing for the debate is termed ‘research’.

Contrary to popular belief, one does not have to know every thing about one’s own allotted country nor does one need to know about the country’s specific capacities in terms of territory, finance, ranking in major indices relating to various issues and aspects etcetera. What one does have to know is about their country’s current government’s stance on the given issue and the history and context within which such stance has been developed –or in fancier terms, the foreign policy of one’s country. A detailed explanation of what foreign policy is and how it can be identified can be found in the section relating to foreign policy in this guide.

Once you know and understand your country’s foreign policy, you can then try to find literature, legal, and scholarly material that helps justify and advance the country’s foreign policy stance.

For example, if you are allotted India and the agenda of the committee is India and Pakistan’s border dispute, you must try to find material that will justify India’s claim that Kashmir belongs to India – the stance that the Indian government takes on the issue.

With the same aforementioned example, let us look at what the ideal search terms for finding such research material will be in your preferred search engine: ‘India Pakistan border Indian legal claims pdf’.

You can change the search query according to the relevance of the results but in 99% of the cases, you can find the results you are looking for using the search query construction technique illustrated above. The term ‘pdf’ was included in the query because that brings up research papers and scholarly studies in the search results which are much more comprehensive and reliable than regular news sites, blogs, and video results.

For guidance on which sources will be treated as more reliable in comparison to others, please refer to the sub-section on hierarchy of evidence in the section ‘Specific contentious rules’ within this guide.



Diplomacy a.k.a “lobbying”

In MUNs, you learn how to work with individuals from different backgrounds and diverse ideas in order to build consensus and find lasting solutions to real world problems. This process is called ‘diplomacy’ in the real world and ‘lobbying’ in MUNs. As the delegate of a country in a United Nations body, you must find a way to convince the other delegates in your committee to work towards solutions that benefit both of you. In case there are differences in two countries’ foreign policies, as a diplomat, you must work to find a way past the differences and build a consensus; such a consensus might require a compromise, concession, or conciliation.

Documentation

At the end of most MUN simulations, the delegates are expected to work together and create formal documents that encapsulate the gist of proceedings over the course of past days and provide solutions to the issues discussed.

To make such a document, you must familiarise yourself with the syntax, structure, and purpose of those documents.

You shall find in the ‘About the [Name of the Committee]’ section a sub-section dedicated to explaining in brief what forms of documentation can be allowed in the committee and their purpose. Once you know that, just head over to <https://digitallibrary.un.org> and search for a sample of those documents to familiarise yourself with their syntax and structure.



General tip

We know all this may seem daunting at first but trust us – it is very simple and easy. All that you need to do is leave your fears and anxieties at home and give your best with the utmost aplomb you can muster.

Foreign Policy basics

What is foreign policy?

Foreign policy, in simple terms, is what your country aims to achieve with regards to the issue at hand or in general with its relations with other countries.

What role must foreign policy play in your research?

Understanding the foreign policy of your country must be a checkbox that you tick off at the very beginning of your research. Your foreign policy should dictate everything from the arguments you make, the reasoning you give for making those arguments, and the actions you take in the Council.

Where do I look to find foreign policy?

Most of the time, foreign policy is not explicitly stated. It must be inferred from the actions and statements issued by the country.

Pro tip: start reading the meeting records from previous meetings of ECOSOC (or any other UN body where your country might have spoken on the issue). If such records are unavailable, look for statements from your country's Foreign Ministry (or equivalent like Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs etcetera) and top leadership (PM, Pres., Secretary of State, Defense Minister).

How shall the EB analyse your understanding of foreign policy?

This Bureau shall focus on foreign policy representation rather than foreign policy advancement. To those that do not know the difference between the two, a proper explanation will be provided on the first day of the conference.



About the United Nations Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW)

What is UNCSW?

The UNCSW is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that was created to be exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women.

It was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\)](#) but had its mandate expanded by [ECOSOC resolution 1996/6](#) (see p. 20).

The expanded mandate made it responsible for reviewing the progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

The outcomes and recommendations of its each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

Further reading

0. [UNCSW Snapshot](#)
1. [Brief introduction to UNCSW](#)
2. [About the UNCSW](#)
3. [Dag Hammarskjöld Library research guide on UNCSW](#)
4. [Short history of UNCSW report](#)

Documentation in CSW

There are a few types of documents that UNCSW can produce at the end of its meetings or sessions. But the most used and useful forms of documents that UNCSW can adopt are:



Agreed conclusions

Agreed conclusions are recommendations on the priority themes that members of the UNCSW arrive at through negotiations during the session. They contain an analysis of the priority theme and a set of concrete recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies, other institutions, civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders.

Their passage requires unanimity.

Here is a sample.

Draft resolutions

Draft resolutions are formal documents that contain binding decisions in a written format that the UNCSW requests its parent organ ECOSOC to adopt. Their adoption requires a simple majority of members present and voting.

Here is a sample.

Further reading

1. Outcomes of UNCSW
2. Dag Hammarskjöld Library research guide on UNCSW



Agenda

Guaranteeing women's access to quality health-care with special emphasis on reproductive rights

Introduction:

If an alien species were to visit our planet and examine its dominant species – the human – they would be in awe at how such a species could make such progress while denying or being unable to provide half of its members decent healthcare. Women consistently rank the worst in terms of most, if not all, health outcomes across the world – from nutrition to mental health to sexual health and protection from violence or treatment post violence.

Despite great efforts and radical changes in policy by many nations since the last few decades, women's health outcomes are still not upto the mark. Women are still under-represented in medical research, denied or not provided adequate healthcare options and services from sanitary pads to cancer care, and even subjected frequently to medical malpractices like genital mutilation. Why is this the case? Why has the progress over the years not addressed these common and evident issues?

What changes must be brought about to address them – at a strategic and policy level? These are questions that you as delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women ought to answer over the course of the three days of the conference.



On a strategic level, examining the factual reality of the status of women's access to quality healthcare is just one step. The other, crucial but unseen, step is examination of the current strategic framework including the legal frameworks that undergird the current system. For making your job easier, here is a non-exhaustive list of international law treaties and conventions that reference women's rights:

- African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights along with the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa ("Maputo Protocol")
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- American Convention on Human Rights
- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
- Arab Charter on Human Rights
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women
- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ("Istanbul Convention")
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ("European Convention on Human Rights")
- European Social Charter & European Social Charter (revised)
- Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women



- Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights To Women
- Inter-American Convention on the Nationality of Women
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belém do Pará”)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Labor Organization Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On the level of policy-making, you must direct your attention to examination of the variation in policies that have different levels of success and the causal variables that led to their success. Further, you must, based on your previous examination of policies, evaluate whether successful policies in one area, geography, or setting can be replicated in another; if not, why not? Such assessments and their real-life applicability should then be matched with the economic, political, and social factors that may hinder their success when rolled-out.

To help everyone get upto speed with the basics of the agenda and all its aspects, you will find a glossary of common terms and a list of research resources below. You need not read through all of them, though we recommend you do. Regardless, we advise you come fully prepared when you step into the Commission on day one of the conference.



Glossary

0. Gender: “Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.”

1. Sex: ““Sex” refers to the physical differences between people who are male, female, or intersex. A person typically has their sex assigned at birth based on physiological characteristics, including their genitalia and chromosome composition. This assigned sex is called a person’s “natal sex.””

2. Gender mainstreaming: “Gender mainstreaming is an approach to policy-making that takes into account both women’s and men’s interests and concerns. The concept of gender mainstreaming was first introduced at the 1985 Nairobi World Conference on Women. It was established as a strategy in international gender equality policy through the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the 1995 Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, and subsequently adopted as a tool to promote gender equality at all levels.”

3. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): “Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice has no health benefits for girls and women and can result in severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later cysts, menstrual difficulties, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.”



4. Reproductive health: “Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.”

5. Abortion care: “Comprehensive abortion care includes the provision of information, abortion management including induced-abortion, and care related to pregnancy loss/spontaneous abortion and post-abortion care.”

6. Contraception: “Birth control, also known as contraception, is the use of medicines, devices, or surgery to prevent pregnancy.”

7. Sustainable Development Goals: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with concrete targets like ending child marriage everywhere, or ensuring everyone has access to affordable and reliable electricity. These goals are universal, meaning that all countries have committed to strive towards them. They aim to improve people's lives all over the world, foster prosperity and protect the planet.”

8. International law: “International law is a set of rules and principles governing the relations and conduct of sovereign states with each other, as well as with international organizations and individuals.”

9. International human rights law: “Human rights law is a set of international rules, established by treaty or custom, on the basis of which individuals and groups can expect and/or claim certain rights that must be respected and protected by their States. The body of international human rights standards also contains numerous non-treaty-based principles and guidelines ('soft law').”



10. International humanitarian law: “International humanitarian law is a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict on people, including civilians, persons who are not or no longer participating in the conflict and even those who still are, such as combatants. To achieve this objective, international humanitarian law covers two areas: the protection of persons; and restrictions on the means and the methods of warfare.”

11. Gender Based Violence (GBV): “Gender-based violence refers to any type of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity”

12. Violence Against Women (VAW): “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”

13. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): “Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.”

14. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR): “Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.”



Further reading.

0. [Progress on SDGs, Gender snapshot](#)
1. [CSW Strategic plan for 2026-2029](#)
2. [Global strategy for women and children's health, 2016-2030](#)
3. [Beijing at 30](#)
4. [Abortion care guidelines, WHO](#)
5. [Interventions to improve women's health](#)
6. [Prevention of FGM, WHO](#)
7. [Impact of contraceptive use, WHO](#)
8. [Global anemia reduction efforts for women of reproductive age](#)
9. [Caring for women subjected to violence](#)
10. [WHO guideline on preventing adolescent pregnancy](#)
11. [Gender, Equity, and Human Rights](#)
12. [FGM Factsheet](#)
13. [FGM WHA resolution](#)
14. [Violence against women, WHO](#)
15. [Strategy for aligning gender analysis and action into WHO work](#)
16. [Gender mainstreaming for health approaches](#)
17. [Universal Health Coverage, WHO](#)

Specific contentious rules

This section covers the Bureau's views on some of the contentious rules that usually create confusion, conflict, and consternation when not explicitly stated in advance. The judgement and scoring during the MUN will be based on the views expressed here.



Regarding this guide and evidence

Just because a resource has been mentioned in the background guide, does not mean that it can surely be used as evidence to your argument in the Council. Why? Because:

Eclectic nature of the resources:

The guide has resources of wide variety. Some of the resources could be opinion-based articles, some may be from sources sympathetic to one party in the conflict, some could be outdated (we will try our best to not share such resources but we cannot control for things such as emergence of new facts post guide publication).

Foreign policy commitments:

To explain this point, we'll be using an example. Pakistan claims Kashmir is legally theirs. India claims, contrary to Pakistan, that Kashmir is theirs. Both sides, many-a-times, use the same evidence to argue their case but still derive completely different conclusions. In such cases, the Bureau cannot accept the claims of one country while rejecting the claims of the other when both of those claims are backed by acceptable and equivalent evidence.

Hierarchy of evidence

Evidence can be presented from a wide variety of sources but not all sources are treated as equal. Here's the hierarchy in which evidence is categorised:

Tier 1: Includes: any publication, statement, resolution, or document released by any of the United Nations' official organs or committees; any publication, statement, or document released by a UN member state in its own capacity. The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.



Tier 2: Includes: any news article published by any official media source that is owned and controlled by a UN member state. E.g.: Xinhua News (China), Prasar Bharti (India), BBC (United Kingdom) etcetera. The evidence falling in this tier is considered sufficiently reliable in case no other evidence from any Tier 1 source is available on that particular fact, event, or situation.

Tier 3: Includes: any publication from news sources of international repute such as Reuters, The New York Times, Agence-France Presse, etcetera. The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation. Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

Plagiarism and machine-generated content

Any and all drafts submitted to be published as outcome documents for the Council shall be checked for plagiarism and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Due to the nature of UN legal writing, a 20% plagiarism rate will be tolerated. But plagiarism of any higher rate will render the draft outcome document inadmissible. If the draft outcome document is a draft resolution, only the operative clauses will be checked for plagiarism.

No use of AI shall be tolerated. Even if we detect rates of AI use as low as 5%, we shall reject the submitted document outright.

Personal pronouns

This particular Bureau does not care very much about whether a delegate uses personal pronouns to refer to herself/himself. As long as the language employed by the delegate is diplomatic in both tone and content, we will not mind the usage of personal pronouns.



Cheat-sheet on ROP.

For the purpose of making the simulation easier to the procedurally-unacquainted, the following ROP cheat-sheet is being made available.

Motions

Setting the agenda

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to set the agenda as _____.

Establishing a GSL

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to establish the general speakers' list with an individual speaker's time of _____.

Moderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic _____ for a total time period of _____ minutes with individual speaker's time being _____.

Unmoderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of _____ minutes.

Extension to informal debate

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to extend the current moderated/unmoderated caucus by _____ minutes.

Introduction of documentation

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to introduce draft resolution/press statement/Presidential statement [number].

Voting on introduced document(s)

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to table formal debate and move into voting on [document name].



Points

Point of personal privilege

- Personal inconvenience e.g. inaudibility of some part of the speech of another delegate
- CAN interrupt an active speaker

Point of parliamentary inquiry

- Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure
- CANNOT interrupt a speaker

Point of information

- Used to ask questions to other delegates on their speeches
- CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

Point of order

- Used to point out inaccuracies in procedure and if allowed, even on factual inaccuracies within the speeches of other delegates
- CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

Yields

Yield to points of information

Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you on the speech you made.

Yield to another delegate

Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech.

Yield to the executive board

Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time's usage is upto the discretion of the EB.

