



**MODEL UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE GUIDE**

The Purpose of Junior ReiMUN

This conference is aimed at first time or inexperienced MUN delegates. You may have only recently joined an MUN club in your school. Perhaps you have been to a conference, but you felt overwhelmed by all the older and more experienced delegates.

This conference is intended to help you develop the skills needed to perform well at the major MUN conferences. You will receive coaching on, and will have the opportunity to practise:

- writing resolutions
- lobbying (persuading other delegates to support your resolution)
- debating

You should already have prepared:

- A position statement on the Motion
- A policy statement on the Main Topic you are debating in your committee
- Some notes to help you write a resolution on the Main Topic, including three or four points each on:
 - Why the issue is important
 - What you want the United Nations to agree to do about the issue
- Some note-paper headed with your country name (optional)

If you haven't, please try to do so before the conference begins.

Committee Agenda

Your MUN advisor should have assigned you to a country and to a committee. The topics you will be debating are set out below.

Committee 1 – Human Rights

Motion: “Free contraception should be made available to women 16 years of age or over”

Main Topic: The question of human rights abuses in Myanmar

Committee 2 – Political

Motion: “Production of electrical products made with conflict minerals should be banned”

Main Topic: The question of cyber terrorism

Committee 3 – Economic & Social

Motion: “The national debt of all African countries should be cancelled”

Main Topic: The question of tax havens and tax avoidance

Programme for the Day

9.30 – Opening ceremony in General Assembly

9.50 – Move to committee rooms. Instructors to brief on debate procedure.

10.00 – Position statements on Motion

10.05 – Debate on Motion

10.25 – Policy statements on Main Topic.

10.45 – Break for refreshments.

11.00 – Move to computer lab. Instructors to give short seminar on writing operative clauses, followed by time for delegates to write short resolutions on Main Topic 1 (3-4 operative clauses) individually or in groups in computer labs.

11.30 – Instructors to give short seminar on preamble clauses and layout, followed by time for delegates to add 3-4 preamble clauses, format and print resolutions.

12.00 – Instructors to brief on lobbying, followed by time for lobbying.

12.20 – Resolution submission, then break for lunch.

13.15 – Debate time on Main Topic in Committees. Aim for three resolutions.

14.30 – General Assembly debate

15.10 – Closing ceremony

15.25 – End of day

Points about Debating

Taking the floor – this means coming up to the front to speak and give your point of view. The person speaking is said to ‘have the floor’.

Point of information – this is a question that you ask to the person who has the floor about what they have said.

When speaking, remember:

- Make sure you are speaking about the particular resolution under discussion, and not just the general issue.
- Talk in the third person – “Sweden believes that...” not “I think that...”
- Address your speech to the Chair, not to other delegates.
- At the end of your speech, say, “I open myself to points of information” (so that people can ask you questions). After questions are finished, say either “I yield the floor to the Chair” (if you want the Chair to choose the next speaker) or “I yield the floor to [another country]” if you want to choose the next speaker (eg. one of your co-submitters).

When making points of information, remember:

- Stand up in your place to make your point, and stay standing until the person has answered.
- It must be a question and must be about what the person has just said.
- Ask the question to the Chair not to the delegate (eg. not “Do you think...?” but “Does the delegate of Syria believe that...?”)
- If you feel they haven’t answered your question, or want to respond to their answer, you may ask for a **right of reply** so that you can make a second point of information. *You must ask the Chair for permission.* Speaking without the Chair’s permission is called **dialogue** and is not permitted on the floor at any time.

Amendments

If you find that you agree with most of a resolution being debated, but there are a few bits that you want to change in order to make it better, you can **amend** the resolution. If you wish to do this, you should send a note to the Chair explaining how you want to amend the resolution. This will be in one of three ways.

- a) “Strike Clause 3” – this means that you want to remove Clause 3 from the resolution, but leave all the other clauses alone.
- b) “Add new Clause 6: ...” – this means you want to keep all the clauses in the resolution, but you want to add something extra as well.
- c) “Amend Clause 2 to read:” – this means that you want to change the wording of Clause 2, which may include adding words, removing words, or changing the way it is expressed.

If the chair agrees to let your amendment be debated, you will be invited to take the floor to explain why the resolution is better if it is changed. Other speakers may oppose the change. After discussion about the amendment, it will be put to a vote. If the amendment passes, debate on the modified resolution will continue. If the amendment fails, debate will continue on the original resolution.

If someone suggests amending your resolution and you agree with their amendment, you can shorten the debate by making a **friendly amendment**. This means that when the amendment is read out, you say to the chair, “Motion to make this a friendly amendment.” If the chair agrees, then the resolution will be changed without needing any more debate.

Voting

At the end of the debate, the resolution will be voted on. You may vote one of three ways:

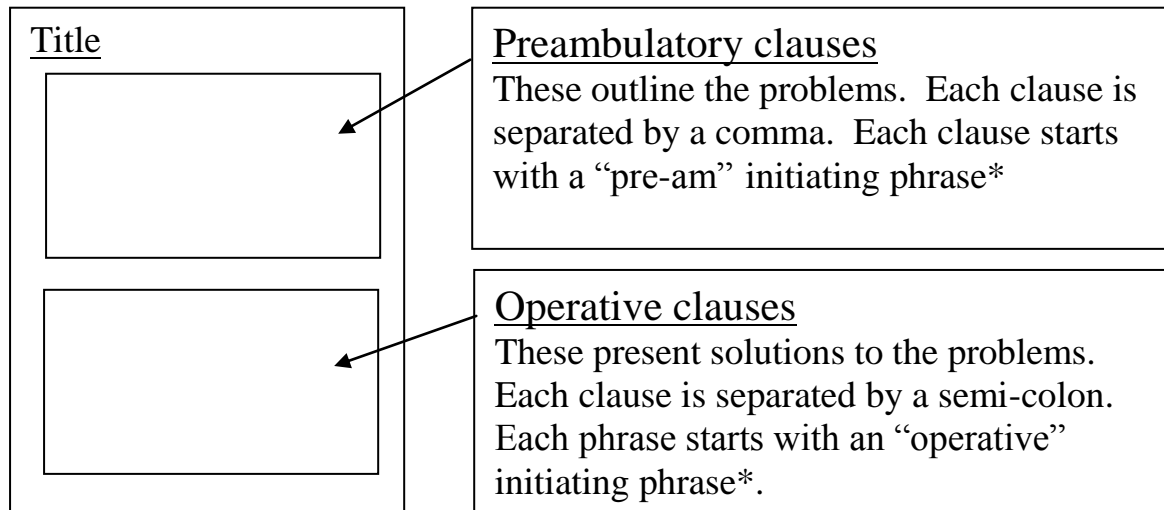
- For (this means you agree with the resolution and want it to pass)
- Against (this means you disagree with the resolution and want it to fail)
- Abstain (this means you have no view on the resolution and choose not to vote)

For voting on amendments, you may only vote for or against and may not abstain.

Writing a Resolution

During the morning, you will have the opportunity to write a resolution on the Main Topic of your committee.

The basic structure of a resolution is shown below.



OPERATIVE CLAUSES

- Operative clauses state what you want the UN to do.
- Use a present tense verb to start the clause,
e.g. Recommends, Suggests, Requests, Decides.
See below for more operative clause phrases.
- Number each clause.
- Underline the initiating phrase.
- End each clause with a semi-colon.
- Try to write between 3 and 5 operative clauses in this resolution. (For major conferences, 8 to 12 operative clauses will normally be expected.)

<i>Accepts</i>	<i>Declares</i>	<i>Further ...</i>	<i>Resolves</i>
<i>Affirms</i>	<i>Deplores</i>	<i>(+ another</i>	<i>Solemnly</i>
<i>Approves</i>	<i>Draws attention</i>	<i>term already</i>	<i>affirms</i>
<i>Asks</i>	<i>Designates</i>	<i>used)</i>	<i>Suggests</i>
<i>Authorises</i>	<i>Emphasises</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Supports</i>
<i>Calls for</i>	<i>Encourages</i>	<i>Proclaims</i>	<i>Takes note of</i>
<i>Calls upon</i>	<i>Endorses</i>	<i>Reaffirms</i>	<i>Transmits</i>
<i>Condemns</i>	<i>Expresses its</i>	<i>Recommends</i>	<i>Trusts</i>
<i>Congratulates</i>	<i>appreciation</i>	<i>Reminds</i>	<i>Urges</i>
<i>Confirms</i>	<i>Expresses its</i>	<i>Regrets</i>	
<i>Considers</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>Requests</i>	

PREAMBLE

- The preamble outlines the background to the resolution.
- Start each clause with a verb that describes the UN's attitude to the situation
e.g. Believing that..., Acknowledging that..., Concerned by...,
See below for more preamble clause phrases.
- Underline the initiating phrase.
- End each clause with a comma.
- Try to write 3 or 4 preamble clauses in this resolution (at a major conference 6 to 8 might be more usual).

<i>Affirming</i>	<i>Deeply</i>	<i>Having</i>	<i>Noting with</i>
<i>Alarmed by</i>	<i>regretting</i>	<i>considered</i>	<i>deep concern</i>
<i>Approving</i>	<i>Deploring</i>	<i>Having</i>	<i>Noting further</i>
<i>Aware of</i>	<i>Desiring</i>	<i>considered</i>	<i>Noting with</i>
<i>Believing</i>	<i>Emphasising</i>	<i>further</i>	<i>approval</i>
<i>Bearing in</i>	<i>Expecting</i>	<i>Having devoted</i>	<i>Observing</i>
<i>mind</i>	<i>Expressing its</i>	<i>attention</i>	<i>Reaffirming</i>
<i>Confident</i>	<i>appreciation</i>	<i>Having</i>	<i>Realising</i>
<i>Contemplating</i>	<i>Expressing its</i>	<i>examined</i>	<i>Recalling</i>
<i>Convinced</i>	<i>satisfaction</i>	<i>Having studied</i>	<i>Recognising</i>
<i>Declaring</i>	<i>Fulfilling</i>	<i>Having heard</i>	<i>Referring</i>
<i>Deeply</i>	<i>Fully aware</i>	<i>Having</i>	<i>Seeking</i>
<i>concerned</i>	<i>Fully alarmed</i>	<i>received</i>	<i>Taking into</i>
<i>Deeply</i>	<i>Fully believing</i>	<i>Keeping in</i>	<i>account</i>
<i>conscious</i>	<i>Further</i>	<i>mind</i>	<i>Taking into</i>
<i>Deeply</i>	<i>(+another</i>	<i>Noting with</i>	<i>consideration</i>
<i>convinced</i>	<i>term already</i>	<i>regret</i>	<i>Taking note</i>
<i>Deeply</i>	<i>used)</i>	<i>Noting with</i>	<i>Viewing with</i>
<i>disturbed</i>	<i>Guided by</i>	<i>satisfaction</i>	<i>appreciation</i>
	<i>Having adopted</i>		<i>Welcoming</i>

Formatting your resolution

1) At the top of your resolution put four headings, as shown below:

COMMITTEE:

QUESTION OF:

SUBMITTED BY:

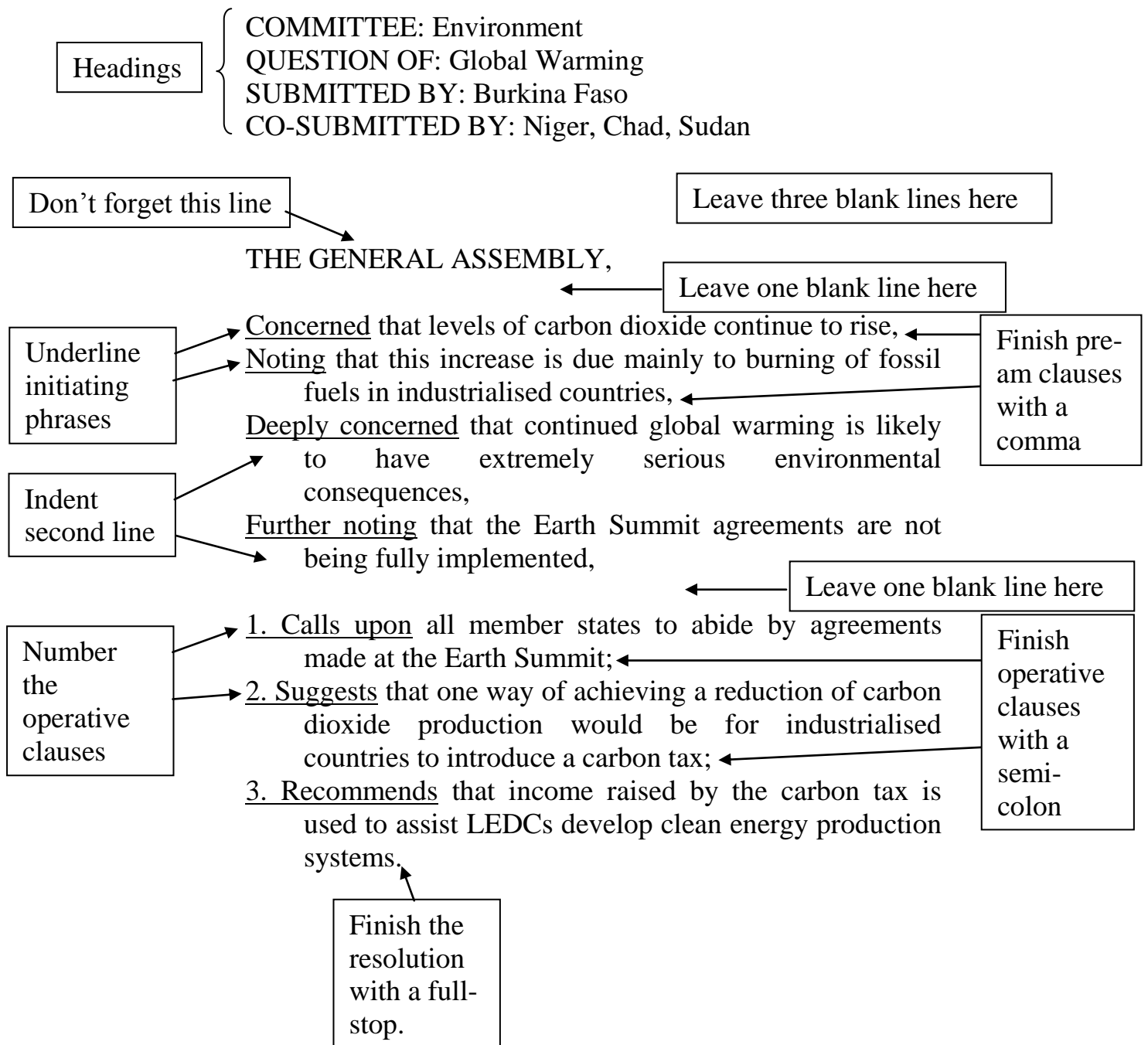
CO-SUBMITTED BY:

- After 'Committee', insert your committee name
(Political, Human Rights or Economic & Social)
 - After 'Question of', insert the topic of your debate
(‘Right to die’, ‘Iranian nuclear development’ or ‘Provision of primary education’)
 - After 'Submitted by', insert the name of the country of your group member who will be lead speaker on this resolution.
 - Insert the other group member countries after 'Co-submitted by'. Put them on one line separated by commas, e.g. ‘Iran, Libya, Syria’.
- 2) Under your heading, leave three blank lines to insert the names of other co-submitting countries.
- 3) Just above the preamble, write:
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
followed by a blank line.
- 4) Leave a blank line between the preamble and the operative clauses.
- 5) At the end of the last operative clause, change the semi-colon to a full-stop.
- 6) Indent the second and subsequent lines of any clauses that go over more than one line (like this sentence).

An example resolution is shown on the next page. Check that your formatting is like that one. Then show your resolution to an overseer or advisor and print a copy for each member of your group to lobby with.

Instructions for how to print should be on the interactive whiteboard in your classroom.

Example resolution



Lobbying

After you have written your resolution, you need to persuade others to support it. This is called lobbying.

During the lobbying process, you show your resolution to other delegates and encourage them to support it. If they agree, they add their name to the resolution as a **co-submitter**. You may also choose to co-submit other people's resolutions that you think are good.

Please note the following points:

- You may only co-submit one resolution, so choose carefully.
- You need at least three co-submitters for your resolution to be debated. (If you have more than three, that is even better!)
- If you co-submit a resolution, that means you agree to vote for it.
- Once you have all your co-submitters, you need to submit your resolution to the chairs.

Country Allocation

Argentina	Royal Hospital School
Australia	John Warner
Azerbaijan	Beaconsfield High
Brazil	Simon Langton
China	Simon Langton
Egypt	Brighton College
France	Lady Eleanor Holles
Germany	Christ's Hospital
Guatemala	Notting Hill & Ealing
India	RGS Guildford
Iraq	Saffron Walden
Japan	Christ's Hospital
Luxembourg	Wimbledon High
Mexico	Beaconsfield High
Morocco	Royal Hospital School
Pakistan	Wimbledon High
Poland	Saffron Walden
Russian Federation	Brighton College
Rwanda	Royal Russell
South Africa	John Warner
South Korea	Royal Russell
Togo	RGS Guildford
United Kingdom	Notting Hill & Ealing
United States	Lady Eleanor Holles

General Assembly layout

