



Delegate Handbook

University of California Berkeley Model United
Nations (UCBMUN)

Mahith Amancherla and Apratim Vidyarthi, Head Delegates 2013-2014

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Introduction and Infrastructure

UCBMUN has a proud tradition of travelling to away conferences, even since before the UCBMUN-BMUN split. Over the years, we have fared well at California conferences, where we send large delegations and often sweep the committees. We normally send small to medium sized delegations to east coast conferences, winning delegate awards at each away conference. The following are some frequently asked questions.

What is an away conference?

Away conferences are those which are organized by different universities or organizations. The UCBMUN club sends delegates to participate in committees at these conferences. In the current calendar year, we participate in 8 away conferences: 3 in California and 5 on the East Coast.

Why do we go to away conferences?

UCBMUN has two goals for members who go to away conferences: to gain valuable experience in Model United Nations (MUN), debating, public speaking, international relations, lobbying, and politicking; and to improve the performance of our club by winning more individual awards and more delegation awards.

Why should I care?

Away conferences are a good way to gain personal experience in debating, public speaking, international relations, lobbying, and politicking. Moreover, the MUN circuit helps in networking and getting to know people who have similar interests. Since we travel to eight different cities, MUN exposes you to different parts of America (and Canada, also known as the 51st state). Furthermore, there is always the opportunity to win awards and enhance your resume, and represent UC Berkeley in high level competitions across the nation.

Who pays for away conferences?

Delegates participating finance themselves. However, UCBMUN is in its second year of running a subsidization program to reduce the heavy costs of travelling (courtesy of ex-head delegates Anirudh Garg and Shannon Thomas, and treasurer Noah Efron). We have currently allocated a net subsidy of \$2,000 for each of four conferences (to be divided between those delegates going to the away conference): UPMUNC, HNMUN, LAMUN, and ChoMUN (See Away Conferences section). These subsidies are paid *post conference*.

We also apply to Berkeley's Student Opportunity Fund (SOF) and Academic Opportunity Fund (AOF); the SOF is a grant that is awarded to on campus organizations; normally, we are granted the SOF once a year and spend it either on CMUNNY or McMUN; the SOF amounts to approximately \$300 per person. The AOF is a grant that is given to individual students, who we help apply.

Delegates may pay in cash, check, or through credit card. More information shall be announced at club meetings.

What do we pay for?

The net payment for each conference includes the following: individual delegate registration fees, a fraction of the delegation registration fees, flight costs, hotel costs, and an equal dividend of payment for *one* head delegate. If two head delegates are going to the conference, one head delegate pays the entire cost. We try to minimize costs by reserving flights early and fitting four people to a hotel room.

If you have any suggestions for reducing expenses, feel free to address your head delegates.

Who can go to an away conference?

Any active member is permitted to go to an away conference. However, for those conferences that are subsidized, known as tier 1 conferences, the club requires that members attend a certain number of training sessions in order to achieve a sum total of 45 points (see ‘What is the point system?’) Some conferences cap a large delegation size, and if we have more sign ups than the cap, then we have to select members based on the points system and performance at any prep conferences that we have organized.

How do we sign up for an away conference?

The head delegates will announce the deadlines for signing up about 2 weeks before signups take place. By the deadline, members wishing to go have to pay the first installment, the amount of which will also be announced, so that the head delegates can make necessary travel arrangements early enough to keep costs low. The second installment must be paid closer to the dates for the conference. In between the payments, members will provide committee preferences and rooming preferences to the head delegates.

What days are away conferences held on?

Away conferences happen from Thursdays to Sundays, with the exception of SBIMUN and DCCMUN, which are 3 day conferences. For the East Coast conferences, we fly out Wednesday night, and return Sunday evening. For the West Coast conferences, we drive out Thursday mornings and return Sunday evenings. In all cases, the club will arrange for excuse letters so that missing classes is not an issue; furthermore, after the provision of excuse letters, most professors are amenable to rescheduling midterms.

What kind of committees can I participate in?

Most conferences have two types of committees: traditional resolution based committees of varying sizes, and crisis committees.

Resolution based committees such as General Assembly and ECOSOC committees focus on debating a real-world, UN-focused topic (such as the Israel/Palestine conflict). The aim of the committee is to produce a resolution which outlines the steps and actions that the committee will take to resolve the matter at hand. At the heart of these committees, they are standing bodies in that the topic does not evolve – unlike a crisis committee, there is no inflow/outflow of information and the situation that you are dealing with does not change. If you are interested in experiencing how the UN works, talking about important contemporary and historical international topics, and facing the politics and lobbying of the UN, then this is a good experience.

Crisis committees are non-standing bodies where delegates take actions to change the situation, essentially making the committee interactive, where delegates need to react quickly to crisis situations in order to come out on top and ensure that their country’s/representative’s objectives are fulfilled. The topic evolves as committee proceeds. The goal of the committee isn’t to produce a resolution, but to resolve the crisis by taking steps that “interact” with the “real world” (i.e. the committee) to produce the best outcome for yourself and your committee.

How are committees assigned?

Delegates are assigned committees primarily based on preference, but also based on their relevant interest in the topic, whether they are most qualified (out of the delegates who put that committee as their top preference) to participate in that committee, and whether they’ll work well in a double delegation.

What kind of awards can we win?

While UCBMUN emphasizes that the sole goal of attending away conferences is not only to win awards but also enjoy a learning experience, there are several awards that conferences award to participants: honorable mention, outstanding delegate, and best delegate. Moreover, if the entire team performs well and several of the teams participants win awards, the team can win an outstanding small/large delegation, or best small/large delegation, depending on the size of the delegation. Such delegation awards help improve the ranking of the team nationally, and also provide us with the foundation and reputation to get better country assignments the forthcoming year.

What is the points system?

The points system is part of the training system that the club provides in order to prepare delegates adequately for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 conferences. The head delegates will be providing two different kinds of training sessions: hour long “lectures”, which will take place after the club meeting on Tuesdays, and three hour long simulations/interactive trainings, which will take place on weekends. Attending each lecture will be worth five points, and each simulation will be worth ten points. In order to qualify for going to Tier 1 conferences that we register for in the fall – UPMUNC and HNMUN, members must earn 50 points in the fall. In order to qualify for going to Tier 1 conferences that we register for in the spring – LAMUN and ChoMUN, members must earn 45 points in the spring. The calendar for the fall training sessions will be available at www.club.ucbmun.org. Furthermore, attending BayMUN will also earn delegates 15 points. Points from the fall semester *do not carry on* to the spring semester.

What are the goals for the 2013-2014 calendar year?

The head delegates would like to focus on three things for the 2013-2014 calendar year: better preparation, more competitiveness, and better team experiences:

- Better preparation: we would like to encourage participating members to do more efficient and effective research, place an emphasis on public speaking and lobbying/networking skills, and focus on being more skilled in both forms of Model UN: traditional resolution based committees, and crisis committees.
- More competitiveness: we want to improve the ranking of the team from rank 18 at the beginning of the season. We want to do this by working to ensure better committee assignments, ensuring that delegates are better prepared, teaching the finer nuances of committees (such as paperwork), and fostering a well-rounded environment for members and the club.
- Better team experiences: we want to provide a memorable experience for team members, by accompanying them to social events, hosting a mandatory delegation dinner on the final night of conferences, providing hospitality (food and beverages) to the entire team, courtesy of the head delegate, and providing help between committee sessions.

Training Schedule

- Each hour of training is worth five points.
- Thus, each lecture is worth five points and attending each simulation is worth ten points.
- To go to UPMUNC and HNMUN, members must have 50 points at least.
- BayMUN is worth 15 points.

Date	Topic	Presenters
September 24th, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Introduction to MUN	Apratim and Mahith
October 1st, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Traditional Committees	Apratim and Mikaela
October 6th, 12:00 – 2:30 PM	Simulation: Traditional Committee	Mahith
October 8th, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Crisis Committees	Apratim, Mahith, Sebastien, Adam
October 13th, 12:00 – 2:30 PM	Simulation: Crisis	Apratim and Mahith
October 15th, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Paperwork	Apratim, Mahith, Mikaela
October 22nd, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Research	Apratim, Mahith, Shannon
Tentative: October 26th, 12:00 – 2:30 PM	Simulation: Crisis	
October 29th, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Public Speaking	Apratim, Kareem
TBA	Simulation: Joint Crisis	
November 5th, 9:10 – 10:00 PM	Lecture: Advanced Topics	Apratim, Mahith, Sebastien
November 15th, 9:00 – 5:00 PM	BayMUN	

Away Conferences Calendar

Summary

Date	Name	City	Approximate Cost	Tier	Size
October 3rd – 6th	Columbia MUN in New York (CMUNNY)	New York	\$750 + SOF	2	Medium
November 8th – 10th	Santa Barbara Invitational MUN (SBIMUN)	Santa Barbara	\$150	2	Medium
November 14th – 17th	University of Pennsylvania MUN Conference (UPMUNC)	Philadelphia	\$700 - \$200 subsidy	1	Large
January 24th – 26th	Davis Collegiate Conference MUN (DCCMUN)	Davis	\$150	2	Small
January 23rd – 26th	McGill MUN (McMUN)	Montreal	\$750	2	Large
February 13th – 16th	Harvard National MUN (HNMUN)	Boston	\$700 - \$200 subsidy	1	Large
April 3rd – 6th	Los Angeles MUN (LAMUN)	Los Angeles	\$260 - \$60 subsidy	1	Medium
April 17th – 20th	Chicago MUN (ChoMUN)	Chicago	\$600 - \$200 subsidy	1	Medium

Columbia Model United Nations in New York 8 (CMUNNY 8), Tier 2

www.cmunny.org

Dates: October 3rd – 6th

Location: Columbia University (116th and Broadway), New York City

Approximate Cost: \$725

Size: Medium, ~300 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Apratim

Committees: All committees are crisis committees. (** - application based committee)

- Kronstadt Soviet: 1917
- TAIF Conference: Lebanese Civil War, 1989
- The Tale of Rio de Janeiro, 2010 (JCC)
- Cabinet of His Majesty's Government: UK, 1947
- The High Porte of Sultan Mahmud II: Ottoman Empire, 1838
- Cortes de Cadiz: Spain, 1812
- Inter-Services Intelligence: Pakistan, 1977
- The Court of Ivan the Terrible: 1547
- Post-Colonial Nigeria: 1965
- Extra-official Cabinet of the President of Mexico: 2013
- The Kuomintang: China, 1927
- The Derg: Ethiopia, 1975
- Roman Senate: 44 BCE
- Myanmar Parliament: 2012
- Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea: DPRK, 1950
- The Sand War: Morocco, 1963
- Jamaican Cabinet: 1977
- Ad-hoc Committee of the Secretary General**

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delegate-to-staff ratio is high.• Some committees are well run and the topics are interesting.• Many big schools are now coming.• New York is great socially and has a lot of attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The conference lacks on professionalism.• It's still run on campus, which can be both a good and a bad thing.• New York is expensive.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- July 15th – final date for sign ups and first deposit (\$500).
- August 30th – final date for second deposit (\$300).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“The conference takes advantage of the university's great renown and resources to provide a relevant and exciting conference and delegates get to explore NYC in what has been in the past some actually adequate free time. As a warning, we are the only west coast team participating (aside from the Furd) so be prepared for the usual east coast snobbishness that might occur.” – Princess Paige Xio Alvarez, IVP 2012-13

“My committee was a pretty cool idea but the execution was a bit sloppy. Not the best but certainly not the worst. And New York is always a plus.” – Mahith Amancherla, Head Delegate 2013-2014

“Definitely enjoyed committee. Compared to the other East Coast conferences, there are less egos, less hardcore gavel-grubbers, but still a legitimate level of debate. Conference happens on campus and socials happen in the middle of New York, so you'll be missing out on a lot of fun, balanced with a good level of debate, if you don't go at least once.” – Apratim Vidyarthi, Head Delegate 2013-2014

Santa Barbara Invitational Model United Nations 2014 (SBIMUN 2014), Tier 2

www.sbimun.org/college/

Dates: November 8th – 10th, 2013

Location: University of California, Santa Barbara

Approximate Cost: \$180

Size: Medium, ~350

Accompanying Head Delegate: Apratim and Mahith

Committees:

- General Assembly Plenary
- National Collegiate Athletic Association
- Commission for Social Development
- United Nations Environmental Programme
- Group of Twenty
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- United Nations Development Programme
- Organization of American States
- Revolutionary War Crisis
- Present-Future Crisis

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good experience for beginners.• Affordable.• Large delegation size can be enjoyable.• We have won Outstanding Large Delegation for the last four years.• Only three days long.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not very professional.• Committees don't follow the conventional HNMUN rules but follow the THIMUN rules.• Not many committees.• Committees can be large.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- October 4th – final date for sign ups and first deposit (\$120).
- October 18th – final date for second deposit (\$60).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“Although SBIMUN is a newer conference, it provides delegates an opportunity to perfect their debating skills in a beautiful locale. For those who are new to MUN, SBIMUN allows you the opportunity to practice your speaking and diplomatic skills in a less intimidating settings as opposed to other conferences. Overall, SBIMUN is a great conference for a great price.” – Andrew White, President 2012-13

“Committees are a little unprofessional, but a lot easier than other conferences. The staff tries to make it enjoyable and the environment is second to none. The food in the area is great too! Overall, if you do not care about chairing and want a relaxed environment or just want an easier conference/are a newer member this is a great conference for you.” - Benjamin Wigley, club jester and Under Secretary of Crisis, UCBMUN 2014

“The committees weren’t great, the social aspect was good, understaffed, over expensive, no local hotels means you always need a driver, good food, great views.” – Adam Fratford Spaulding, Secretary General, UCBMUN 2014

University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference XLVII (UPMUNC XLVII), Tier 1

www.upmunc.org

Dates: November 14th – 17th, 2013

Location: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel, Pennsylvania

Approximate Cost: \$700, and a \$200 subsidy post-conference

Size: Large, ~2000 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Apratim and Mahith

Committees: (* - double delegation, ** - application based)

- General Assembly
 - First Committee: Disarmament and International Security*
 - Second Committee: Economic and Financial Council
 - Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural*
 - Sixth Committee: Legal Committee*
 - World Trade Organization*
- Economic and Social Council Committees and Specialized Agencies
 - United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
 - United Nations Human Rights Commission
 - World Health Organization*
- Crisis Committees
 - United Nations Security Council, 1956
 - 1984
 - Kashmiri Secession, 2020
 - Oligarchs of Eastern Europe
 - The Godfather
 - Question of Hong Kong
 - Joint Crisis Committee: Israel, 2006

- Joint Crisis Committee: Hezbollah and Israel, 2006
- Ad-Hoc Committee of the Secretary-General**
- Chinese Investment Corporation
- Papal Conclave
- Anonymous: Hacktivism

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very professional. • Good committees which are well run; high level of debate. • One of the most prestigious conferences on the circuit. • Large size (which can be good or bad). • Great socials and a great social scene. • Good for networking and interesting speakers for the opening ceremony. • It's subsidized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large size can be overwhelming. • Philadelphia is no New York City • Recent experiences weren't too good. • High level of debate (cutthroat). • Committees can be large and intimidating. • We might not get excellent countries.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- October 4th – final date for sign ups and first deposit (\$500).
- October 18th – final date for second deposit (~\$200).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“The first day of crisis was jaw-droppingly fast-paced and overwhelming. People singlehandedly churned out directives WHILE they passed notes to crisis AS they made speeches. It was nuts, but you have to get used to it. My committee was really well-run and the chair and CDs knew what they were doing (contrary to what I heard from a lot of other people's experiences at Penn). I feel like it's safe to say that overall, crisis at Penn is not for the faint of heart. And the social was great because we yelled Cal cheers the whole bus ride over and were all equally happy.” – Mikaela Rear, Secretary 2012-2013

“GA committee quality was not great. Lot of fun though, make sure you lobby really hard because it's super important out there.” – Rajit Kinra, Director of Merchandise, UCBMUN 2014

“Usually a very well-run, competitive conference so come with your A-game. Great experience to see Philadelphia, however sometimes they flaunt their money too much and their committees suffer for it. Overall, a great experience and solid conference.” – Sebastien Welch, President 2013-2014

Davis Collegiate Conference Model United Nations (DCCMUN), Tier 2

<http://www.davismun.org/collegiate>

Dates: January 24th – 26th, 2014

Location: University of California, Davis

Approximate Cost: \$100

Size: Small, ~150 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Undecided

Committees: Not up yet!

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small conference.• Very personal.• Very good for beginners to understand/witness a proper committee.• Only two days long.• Has interesting committees.• Cheap.• We've always gone to Davis so we get great country assignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not too professional since it's still a young conference.• Only two days long.• All colleges don't go there so you won't get to network much.• Social scene is okay, but not great.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- December 3rd – first and only deposit and final sign ups (\$100)

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“Davis is a good conference to go to if you're just starting MUN. It's not too competitive, so you have lots of opportunity to speak up and practice!” – Zahra AbouKhalil, Chief of Staff – Internal, UCBMUN 2014

“Average crises, poor planning. Cheap, close by, good chance of winning, and a great experience for first time speakers.” – Akash Sharma, Chief of Staff – External, UCBMUN 2014

McGill Model United Nations Assembly 25 (McMUN), Tier 2

<http://mcmun.org/>

Dates: January 23rd – 26th, 2014

Location: Le Centre Shreaton, Montreal, Canada

Approximate Cost: \$700

Size: Large, ~1400 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Undecided

Committees: (* - double delegation, ** - application based)

- General Assembly
 - United Nations Trusteeship Council
 - International Telecommunications Union
 - United Nations Special Session on Aging
- Economic and Social Council Committees and Specialized Agencies
 - World Water Forum 2039
 - European Food Manufacturing and Safety Summit
 - United Nations Human Rights Council
 - International Civil Aviation Organization
 - African Development Bank
- Specialized Agencies
 - Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio
 - Meeting at the Government Conference Centre, Canada 1981
 - Joint: Bid for 2020 World's Fair
 - Dubai, UAE
 - Guangzhou, PRC
 - Ultimate Fighting Championship**
 - United States Council of Economic Advisors**
 - Les Etats-Generaux, France 1789 (Bilingual)
 - International Criminal Court**
 - Search for the Twenty-Sixth: Apple Board of Directors

- Crisis Committees
 - Joint: DEFCON Countdown**
 - South Korea, USA, Canada
 - North Korea, Russia, China
 - Triple Joint: People Power Revolution (Philippines)
 - Marcos + Armed Forces
 - Enrile & Ramos + Reform Armed Forces
 - Cardinal SIN + NAMFREL
 - UNSC
 - Joint: Manifest Destiny
 - USA
 - South American States
 - The Great Empire**
 - Ad-Hoc Committee of the Secretary General**

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very professional. • Good committees which are well run; pretty high level of debate. • You get to go to Canada! • Large size (which can be good or bad). • Best social scene on the circuit. • Good for networking and interesting speakers for the opening ceremony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large size can be overwhelming. • Montreal is freezing at this time of the year. • High level of debate (cutthroat). • Committees can be large and intimidating. • We might not get excellent countries.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- November 1st – final date for sign ups and first deposit (\$500).
- November 22nd – final date for second deposit (~\$200).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“McMun is one of the best organized and most smoothly run conferences you will have the opportunity to attend, buffeted by amazing funding and an enormous staff. In addition to excellent and creative committees, this is also by far the best social experiences you will have on the circuit.” – Shannon Thomas, Head Delegate 2011-13

“Many characters were superfluous. I was in the German Olympics committee and we only dedicated 2 sessions out of 7 to the ones from 1936, which were the most interesting by far. Powers overlapped and debate was not that great. Also, the chair was inexperienced and we had to raise quite some points. Also, crisis was a mess; notes were approved and the next crisis completely contradicted the approved note. Party, though, was spectacular.” - Clàudia Baró, Exchange student, 2012-2013

Harvard National Model United Nations 60 (HNMUN), Tier 1

<http://www.hnmun.org/>

Dates: February 13th – 16th, 2014

Location: Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston

Approximate Cost: \$700, and a \$200 subsidy post-conference

Size: Large, ~3000 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Mahith

Committees: (* - double delegation, ** - application based)

- General Assembly
 - First Committee: Disarmament and International Security
 - Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural
 - Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization
 - Sixth Committee: Legal Committee
 - World Health Organization
 - Special Summit on Sustainable Development
 - Historical General Assembly, 1993
 - Non-Governmental Organizations Program
- Economic and Social Council Committees and Specialized Agencies
 - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
 - Commission on Sustainable Development
 - Commission on the Status of Women
 - Futuristic UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 2025
 - Global Health Cluster
- Regional Bodies
 - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
 - Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
 - League of Arab States
 - Special Summit on the Unity of European States, 1991
- Specialized Agencies:

- Security Council
- Ad-hoc Committee of the Secretary General**
- Ikh Khuraldai of the Mongol Empire, 1227
- James Monroe's Poker Club: American Oligarchs, 1820
- Tsar Alexander III's Imperial Court, 1884
- Court of the Guanxu Emperor, 1898
- The Second United Front, 1936
- Gabinete Ejecutivo de Isabel Peron, 1974
- Joint Crisis Committee: The Berlin Crisis, 1961
 - East German Politburo
 - West German Cabinet

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very professional; run like a business conference. • Committees are okay run. • One of the most prestigious conferences on the circuit. • Large size (which can be good or bad). • Socials are relatively okay. • Good for networking and interesting speakers for the opening ceremony. • It's subsidized. • Has the most variety of committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large size is overwhelming, especially for GA's. • Awards are kind of biased. • Recent experiences weren't too good. • High level of debate (cutthroat). • Committees can be large and intimidating. • We might not get excellent countries. • Boston is cold at this time of the year.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- November 8th – first deposit and signups (\$500)
- December 23rd – final date for second deposit (~\$200).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“Committees weren’t my favorite, socials were great, cold weather. Glad that they had a tour of Boston, it was the highlight of my trip. The magnitude was impressive – it’s a truly international conference with people from all over the world.” – Katie McCloskey, Internal Vice President, 2013-2014

“HNMUN is definitely worth experiencing at least once. It is the most professional conference, but is run more like a business conference than a Model UN conference. The size is massive (3,000 people), with delegates from every continent; the socials are magical. However, the quality of crisis and debate isn’t as high as UPMUNC, and you will suffer from the snobbishness that is expected from a conference so large and so East Coast.” – Apratim Vidyarthi, Head Delegate 2013-2014

Los Angeles Model United Nations 8 (LAMUN), Tier 1

<http://www.bruinmun.org/college-conference/>

Dates: April 3rd – 6th, 2014

Location: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel, Pennsylvania

Approximate Cost: \$250, and a \$60 subsidy post-conference

Size: Medium, ~400 delegates

Accompanying Head Delegate: Apratim and Mahith

Committees: Not yet released!

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most professional West Coast conference.• Committees are generally well run, though not necessarily so.• We get to drive down, so it's a road trip!• Medium size.• We've won best large delegation for the last six years in a row and send about 30 people a year.• We are guaranteed to get good countries, but that means more competition with your peers.• It's subsidized and also cheap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committees are not too competitive.• Not the best run conference on our calendar.• Might not be a great networking opportunity since newer schools not seen on the rest of the circuit are present.• Road trip is 6-8 hours of driving.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- Late February – first deposit and final sign ups (~\$180)
- Late March – second deposit (~\$70).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“LAMUN was my hands down favorite conference. The atmosphere was relaxed without losing in competitiveness, so it's a good place to grow. Driving down with friends and hitting the beaches was great too.” – Trevor Nissen, EVP 2013-14

“Committee was fine.... Since it was a GA there were lots of beginners. Nothing too spectacular. The social sucked because it got shut down early, but the night before where we went to the 500 Days of Summer bench and bookstore was really cool. Overall, a solid California conference, even if it's nothing amazing.” – Mikaela Rear, Secretary 2012-2013

“From my experience it is often disorganized, but most chairs are really good. The rest of the staff is not as great (although there were one or two bright spots as far as CDs go.) A lot of people are happy since it is the end of the year and it is generally a really fun time. I would definitely go again.” – Benjamin Wigley, club jester and USG of Crisis, UCBMUN 2014

Chicago Model United Nations XVII (ChoMUN XVII), Tier 1

www.chomun.org

Dates: April 17th – 20th, 2014

Location: The Palmer House Hotel, Chicago

Approximate Cost: \$600, and a \$200 subsidy post-conference

Committees: (information about double delegation not available at time of writing)

- Large Sized Committee
 - Nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China
- Medium Sized Committee
 - Constitutional Convention
 - The Emergency Summit of Thailand
 - Ford Motor Company: Annual Shareholder's Meeting
 - The Salon of Catherine de Vivone, Marquise de Rambouillet
 - The Senate of the Republic of Colombia
 - Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
- Small Sized Committees
 - Boris Yeltsin's Last Drink
 - Country at a Crossroads: Modern Cabinet of Turkey
 - Finnish Wartime Cabinet
 - The First Roman Senate
 - Government of the Chilean Junta
 - The Great Indian Empire: Mughals Through the Ages
 - The Latter Day Saint Movement: The Nauvoo Legion
 - Mayhem in the White City: The World's Columbian Exposition
 - The Russian Empire
 - Yes We Can! Obama's 2008 Campaign
- Joint Crisis Committee
 - The Court of the Jiaqing and Ching Shih's Red Fleet

Pros and Cons:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very professional.• Good committees which are well run; high level of debate.• One of the most prestigious medium sized conferences on the circuit.• Medium size.• Great socials.• Good for networking and interesting speakers for the opening ceremony.• Cheaper than other East Coast conferences since it's nearer.• It's subsidized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large size can be overwhelming.• Chicago weather is terrible.• Recent experiences weren't too good.• High level of debate (cutthroat).• Some committees are large and intimidating.• We might not get excellent countries.

Dates for Payment and Registration:

- Early to Mid February – final date for sign ups and first deposit (\$400).
- Mid March to End March – final date for second deposit (\$200).

Reviews by Previous Delegates:

“ChoMUN was one of my most memorable conferences on the circuit. The staff was well-trained, the secretariat was easily accessible, and the hotel was the grandest one I have stayed in on the circuit. ChoMUN is an all-crisis conference, and they are the only conference that guarantees at least one double delegation committee every year. They have recently been experimenting a lot with the idea of crisis committees by trying out large-sized (200 odd delegates) crisis committees; surprisingly, they are doing a decent job of running these. DEFINITELY worth participating in at least once during your time at UCBMUN.” – Anirudh Gargles, Deputy Secretary General, UCBMUN 2014

“Crisis quality is really good. conference is organized really well. Chicago is a great city, my favorite on the circuit so far!” – Rajit Kinra, Director of Merchandise, UCBMUN 2014

“Crisis was not flexible at all. All matters were political even though there were 40% of religious leaders in my committee. One character accumulated an enormous power because the powers were very disproportionate. However, it was an interesting conference and the level of professionalism and debate was quite good.” – Clàudia Baró, Exchange student, 2012-2013

How-To

Crisis versus Resolution Based Committees

Resolution based committees such as General Assembly and ECOSOC committees, focus on debating a real-world, UN-focused topic (such as the Israel/Palestine conflict). The aim of the committee is to produce a resolution which outlines the steps and actions that the committee will take to resolve the matter at hand. At the heart of these committees, they are standing bodies in that the topic does not evolve – unlike a crisis committee, there is no inflow/outflow of information and the situation that you are dealing with does not change. If you are interested in experiencing how the UN works, talking about current international topics, and facing the politics and lobbying of the UN, then this is a good experience.

Crisis committees are non-standing bodies where delegates can take actions to change the situation, essentially making the committee an interactive one where delegates need to react quickly to crisis situations in order to come out on top and ensure that their country's/representative's objectives are fulfilled. The goal of the committee isn't to produce a resolution, but resolve the crisis by taking steps that "interact" with the "real world" (i.e. the committee) to produce the best outcome for yourself and your committee. Crisis committees are moving bodies where the crisis evolves, and thus the topic on the table can change, though it sticks to a general "idea". The committee itself is run by a crisis team which sits in the background and decides which actions are acceptable, and decides what direction the crisis updates take. In essence, the crisis team plays god, and the chair and dais only watch over the debate happening inside the committee room.

Hence, the objective of the committees is not to draw up a resolution, but to take actions to advance personal agendas first, and then committee agendas. These actions involve committee directives, which are shorter, less formal resolutions, and personal directives, which are directives that involve taking unilateral action and do not necessarily require debate within the committee. Furthermore, there are other forms of interaction with the crisis team, such as through notes, press releases, and joint personal directives, which will be elaborated upon in forthcoming sections.

Research

Good research sets up a solid foundation for a good conference. Without knowing your position well, it becomes extremely easy to make a misstep makes you look bad in the eyes of the chair. This is easier to with more important countries. For example, while most people won't be sure of Burkina Faso's policy on disarmament, most people will know the United States' position; it doesn't look good if you advocate a policy diametrically opposite to what your country actually supports.

That said, good research does not have to mean hours and hours of research. Realistically, most of us won't have days to spend researching for a position; good concentrated research is worth hours of dilute research. For starters, the very first thing you should do is **read the background guide**. If you do nothing else, do this! The background guide is your bible during the conference and a well-written guide is often the distillation of hours of research by the committee staff and is definitely worth reading. Often, they will include a blurb about your position, so that you have an idea of how the staff sees your position.

After reading your background guide, **a good start to get more information is Wikipedia**. Unless this is a futuristic committee, Wikipedia should have some information that will be useful for you. Read/skim it and gather the relevant information. Focus on what you deem relevant information – the powers and abilities a position grants you, for example. If you are given the position of the head of

the ISI for Pakistan, you should definitely know what exactly that allows you to do. What organizations are under your command? What personal powers do you have? How much power/weight do you carry in the government? If you are a country, then focus on the specific time period/conflict that the committee focuses on. If you are US during WWI, there really isn't any use to know what happens in the US after 1925 and most likely before 1880. Try to focus and dial in the time frame to avoid wasting time. That said, don't be afraid to follow links on articles and spend some time browsing Wikipedia. It isn't uncommon for people to end up with 30-40 Wikipedia tabs. Not all will be read, but just glance at them to see if there is anything interesting or useful to you. **However, remember that Wikipedia isn't always the most reliable of sources, and that you should not be quoting it in any official reports, speeches, or papers (ever. In college. At all. For anything.).**

If you are a country in a relatively modern committee, the CIA World Factbook is an invaluable resource. It provides a SparkNotes version of all the issues and aspects of a country's government. Actually, if your committee is a realistic committee in the modern-era, check out CIA World Factbook to get a snapshot of any and all countries involved in the committee. Here's the link: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

If you are in a Specialized Body or GA where resolutions are going to be passed/created/debated on, it is worth your time to check out prior UN resolutions on the topic, **and relevant charters and documentation** (it's always good to know the UN charter). And it looks pretty impressive if you can reference a prior resolution in committee. People will think you know what you are talking about. Also, seeing prior resolutions give an idea of what actual UN diplomats considered viable solutions to the issue and you can use that for inspiration. This website is a good start: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/>.

With regards to specialized bodies and GAs, it is also worth writing a list of solutions (or writing a list of existing solutions off of existing resolutions) that your country/position would want passed. This is useful when deciding what kinds of moderated caucuses you'd like to speak on, and what you'd want on your final resolution.

Another venue of research that is worth pursuing and perusing are the citations used in the background guide. Hopefully your background guide has plenty of citations and they are a mix of books and internet sources. Check out the Internet sources, for starters, because they're really easy. It should give you an idea at what the author(s) were looking at when they were writing and it'll give a more complete idea than the concise version of the background guide. If you want to go above and beyond the call of duty, you can check out the books cited in the background guide. This also applies for Wikipedia. You can always follow the Wikipedia citations at the bottom of the page, if you care to.

Especially with regards to crises committees, you may wish to write down a few crises strategies and techniques – assassination plots, propaganda ideas, etc. You could easily research available techniques and technologies for details on how to assassinate people or to create more detailed crises actions. This comes in handy when writing crisis directives for past/future committees (see crisis techniques, below).

The final venue you could pursue is other people in the club. Our club members are a huge wealth of knowledge and many of them have focused on certain areas of the world or time periods for a long time and know a lot about it. Don't hesitate to ask them for any guidance; they are more than happy to give you some pointers and share the knowledge. **Also do not assume you know everything there is to know about a topic. There is always someone better than you.**

Because your time is valuable, researching everything and anything about your country is not viable. Use your judgment on deciding whether it's worth spending time reading about something. If you

are in an ECOSOC committee, the likelihood of you needing to know about any country's nuclear position and status is very minimal.

Hopefully by this time, you have enough information to think about how you want to approach the committee and what you want to do. Before you step into committee, you want to answer this question: By the end of Saturday/Sunday, what do I want to have accomplished and how can I accomplish that?

Summary:

- Read background guide!
- Check out Wikipedia for relevant articles
- CIA World Factbook
- Prior UN Resolutions/Decisions
- Other club members
- Follow citations
 - Internet
 - Books

Common Sources of Information/Research

- Google: <http://google.com>
- CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Debatepedia
- UN Charter: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>
- Other relevant UN documentation, treaties, and charters: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.shtml>
- News:
 - o Reuters
 - o BBC
 - o CNN
 - o Al Jazeera
 - o Relevant news programs (The Daily Show works for me!)
- Wikipedia (for informal research)
- JSTOR (digital library): <http://www.jstor.org/> (requires Calnet ID)
- Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.com/>
- UC Berkeley's *immense* libraries: <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/>

Committee Conduct: The Basics

General Model United Nations Glossary

Abstain - During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a state does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

Adjourn - All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next year's conference).

Agenda - The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

Amendment - A change to a draft resolution on the floor. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

Background guide - A guide to a topic being discussed in a Model UN committee usually written by conference organizers and distributed to delegates before the conference. The starting point for any research before a Model UN conference.

Binding - Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice; resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council are not.

Bloc - A group of countries in a similar geographical region or with a similar opinion on a particular topic.

Caucus - A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus.

Chair - A member of the dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure. Can be known as a Moderator.

Dais - The group of people in charge of a Model UN committee. It generally consists of a Chair, a Director, and a Rapporteur.

Decorum - The order and respect for others that all delegates at a Model UN conference must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of a speaker, of the dais, or of their roles as ambassadors.

Delegate - A student acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee for a weekend.

Delegation - The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference.

Director - A member of the dais that oversees the creation of working papers and draft resolutions, acts as an expert on the topic, makes sure delegates accurately reflect the policy of their countries, and ensures that decorum is maintained during caucuses.

Division of the Question - During voting bloc, delegates may motion to vote on certain clauses of a resolution separately, so that only the clauses that are passed become part of the final resolution. This is known as division of the question.

Draft resolution - A document that seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become into a resolution.

Flow of debate - The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. See www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=471395.

Gavel - The tool, shaped like a small wooden hammer, that the Chair uses to keep order within a Model UN committee. Many conferences give the gavel used in a committee to the delegate recognized by the dais as the best in that committee; therefore, the term is frequently used to refer to the award given to the best delegate, even in cases where no actual gavel is given.

Formal debate - The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

Head Delegate - The student leader of a Model UN club or team.

Member State - A country that has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and whose application to join has been accepted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Currently, there are 191 member states. The only internationally recognized state that is not a member state is the Holy See.

Moderated Caucus - A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be possible in formal debate.

Motion - A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into voting bloc. See www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=457155.

Observer - A state, national organization, regional organization, or non-governmental organization that is not a member of the UN but participates in its debates. Observers can vote on procedural matters but not substantive matters. An example is the Holy See.

On the floor - At a Model UN conference, when a working paper or draft resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in debate. After it is approved by the Director and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

Operative clause - The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.).

Page - A delegate in a Model UN committee that has volunteered to pass notes from one delegate to another, or from a delegate to the dais, for a short period of time.

Placard - A piece of cardstock with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

Point - A request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate. Examples include a point of order, a point of inquiry, and a point of personal privilege. See www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=457155.

- **Point of Information:** To ask the dais or speaker at the podium a question about factual information.
- **Point of Inquiry:** To ask the dais a question about parliamentary procedure.
- **Point of Order:** To notify the committee about a substantial factual error that a delegate has made. Delegates often abuse this, chairs often find it dilatory.
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** To make a point about a physical discomfort (can't hear speaker, can't see, too cold, need water).

Position paper - A summary of a country's position on a topic, written by a delegate before a Model UN conference.

Preambulatory Clause - The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.).

Procedural - Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.

Quorum - The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution. In the Security Council, no quorum exists for the body to debate, but nine members must be present to pass a resolution.

Rapporteur - A member of the dais whose duties include keeping the speakers' list and taking the roll call.

Resolution - A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue. The UN equivalent of a law.

Right of Reply - A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. Generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

Roll Call - The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Rapporteur reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

Second - To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

Secretariat - The most senior staff of a Model UN conference.

Secretary General - The leader of a Model UN conference.

Signatory - A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed. Usually, Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

Simple Majority - 50% plus one of the number of delegates in a committee. The amount needed to pass most votes.

Speakers' List - A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the dais.

Sponsor - One of the writers of a draft resolution. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

Substantive - Having to do with the topic being discussed. A substantive vote is a vote on a draft resolution or amendment already on the floor during voting bloc. Only member states (not observer states or non-governmental organizations) may vote on substantive issues.

Unmoderated Caucus - A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort countries into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

Working Paper - A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. Frequently the precursor to a draft resolution.

Veto - The ability, held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no.

Vote - A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. There are two types: procedural and substantive.

Voting bloc - The period at the end of a committee session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. Nobody may enter or leave the room during voting bloc.

[Source: United Nations Association of the USA]

Flow of Debate

As Model U.N. conferences have lengthy agendas and many students are interested in speaking it is essential that order is maintained by deciding who speaks, on what, and when. Therefore, rules of procedure are utilized by most Model U.N. conferences.

Conference procedures are divided amongst two types of discussions: formal and informal debate.

FORMAL DEBATE

During formal debate, delegates have the opportunity to share their views with the entire committee, while the rules of procedure are being observed. In formal debate, delegates make speeches, answer questions, introduce and debate resolutions and amendments. While formal debate is used to further the work of the committee, delegates can slow down debate by not knowing the rules of procedure.

UN-MODERATED CAUCUS

A delegate may motion for caucus time, which is a temporary recess. Rules of procedure are suspended during caucusing. During this time delegates can meet informally with each other and the committee staff to discuss draft resolutions, amendments and other issues.

MODERATED CAUCUS

In order to move into a moderated caucus a delegate must make a motion, which the committee will vote upon. A moderated caucus is a mixture of both formal and informal debate. This form facilitates debate, especially when there is a long speakers list. In this format the rules of procedure are also suspended. When a motion for a moderated caucus is passed, the Chair calls upon delegates as they raise their placards to address the committee for a predetermined amount of time.

Chart of Basic Model U.N. Procedural Rules (Points and Motions)

Motion		To pass, the vote requires:
Motion to Set Speaker's Time	This is a motion to set or change the speaker's time. It is a procedural motion, which requires two (2) delegates speaking for the amount of time motioned for, and two (2) delegates speaking against.	Simple Majority
Motion to Open and Close the speakers list.	At some Model U.N. conferences, once the speakers list is closed it is closed for the remainder of the session or topic. However, at most Model U.N. conferences the speakers list can be opened and closed multiple times. Once the speakers list is exhausted, it means no one else wishes to speak, debate is over, and the committee then moves into voting procedure. This motion requires an immediate vote.	Simple Majority

Motion to Suspend meeting	This motion is made to suspend the meeting for the purpose of a regular caucus or a moderated caucus, but its use also depends upon the conference you are attending. When moving to suspend the meeting, the delegate should specify a certain amount of time and the purpose. This motion requires an immediate vote.	Simple Majority
Motion to Adjourn meeting	This motion is made to end the committee session until the next session, which at times is until next year. This motion is most commonly made to end committee session for the purpose of lunch or dinner. This motion requires an immediate vote.	Simple Majority
Motion to Adjourn debate	This motion must not be confused with the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn debate is a tactic to put all of the work that the committee has completed on the topic in which they are discussing on hold and to table it. At some Model U.N. conferences you could table the topic by adjourning debate, move on to another topic and then return to the first topic at later time. However, at most Model U.N. conferences, once you adjourn debate on a topic, the topic is considered tabled and cannot be discussed any more. This motion requires two (2) delegates speaking for the adjournment of debate and two (2) delegates speaking against the adjournment of debate.	2/3 Majority
Motion to Close debate	This motion is made in order for the committee to move into voting procedure. Once a delegate feels as if they have made their country's position clear, there are enough draft resolutions on the floor, and everyone is ready, a delegate makes a motion to move into voting procedure by moving for the closure of debate. This motion requires only two (2) delegates speaking against the closure of debate and zero (0) delegates for the closure of debate.	2/3 Majority
Point of Order	During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the chairperson in accordance with the rules of procedure shall immediately decide the point of order. A delegate may appeal against the ruling of the chairperson (noted below). The appeal shall be put to a vote, and the chairperson's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. A delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.	

Point of Inquiry	When the floor is open, a delegate may move for a point of inquiry, in order to ask the chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.	
Point of Personal Privilege	A delegate may raise a point of personal privilege in order to inform the chairperson of a physical discomfort s/he is experiencing, such as inability to hear another delegates speech.	
Point of Information	After a delegate has given a speech in formal debate, s/he may choose to yield his or her time to a point of information, a question another delegate raises concerning the speech.	
Appeal to the Chair's Decision	This motion is made when a delegate feels as if the chairperson has made an incorrect decision. The delegate wishes to challenge the chairperson and does so by formally making a motion to appeal the chairperson's decision. This motion may be made verbally or in writing. The opposing delegate speaks and the chairperson defends his or herself before the vote.	2/3 Majority

[Source: United Nations Association of the USA]

General Assembly: Example of a Resolutionⁱ

The following resolution is taken from the Security Council and deals with tensions in the Middle East in 2012. It is important to note that the resolution process involves three steps, culminating in the resolution: the working paper, which is essentially a list of solutions; the draft resolution, which is a list of solutions with proper clause language (see next section), including both preambulatory and operative clauses; the resolution is the final product that gets voted upon after amendments to contentious clauses have been made.



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2012

Resolution 2084 (2012)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 6893rd meeting, on
19 December 2012**

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force of 27 November 2012 (S/2012/897), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement, including the presence of the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and unauthorized military equipment inside the Area of Separation,

Concurring with the Secretary-General's finding that the military operations carried out by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces have affected adversely the efforts of UNDOF to effectively carry out the mandated tasks,

Expressing serious concern at the presence of armed members of the opposition in the area of separation,

Underscoring that recent incidents across the ceasefire line have shown the potential for escalation of tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, and jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries,

Condemning the 29 November incident in which five peacekeepers were injured,

Expressing its continued appreciation to the military and civilian personnel serving with UNDOF in an increasingly challenging operating environment,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;
2. *Calls on* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of UNDOF, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements and *stresses* the need to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF personnel;

3. *Stresses* the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, *calls on* the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, and *underscores* that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;
 4. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;
 5. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2013, and *requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the Force has the capacity necessary to fulfil the mandate;
 6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).
-

General Assembly: Clauses

As is seen in the example of the resolution above, resolutions are divided into two parts: the preamble, which outlines the situation and describes the environment; and the operative clauses, which detail the actions to be taken by the committee. The following are examples of how to start perambulatory clauses and operative clauses. Having these pages on hand is especially handy when getting down and dirty in writing a resolution.

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging...	Deeply disturbed...	Having...	Observing...
Affirming...	Desiring...	...adopted...	Reaffirming...
Alarmed...	Determined...	...approved...	Realizing...
Anxious...	Emphasizing...	...considered...	Recalling...
Approving...	Encouraged...	...examined further...	Recognizing...
Aware...	Endorsing...	...received...	Referring...
Bearing in mind...	Expressing...	...reviewed...	Regretting ...
Being convinced...	...appreciation...	Keeping in mind...	Reiterating ...
Believing...	...deep appreciation...	Mindful...	Seeking ...
Cognizant...	Expecting...	Noting...	Stressing ...
Concerned...	Fulfilling...	...further...	Welcoming ...
Confident...	Fully...	...with approval...	
Conscious...	...aware...	...with concern...	
Considering...	...believing...	...with deep concern...	
Contemplating...	...bearing in mind...	with grave concern...	
Convinced...	Grieved...	...with regret...	
Declaring...	Guided by...	...with satisfaction...	

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Operative clauses are set out to achieve the committee's main policy goals on the topic. Each operative clause begins with a number and ends with a semicolon (the final clause ends with a period). Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy proposal. Keep in mind that all resolutions except those passed by the Security Council are non-binding.

Accepts...	Confirms...	Endorses...	Recommends...
Adopts...	Congratulates...	Expressing...	Regrets...
Affirms...	Considers...	Instructs...	Reiterates...
Appeals...	Decides...	Invites...	Repeats...
Appreciates...	...accordingly..	Notes...	Suggests...
Approves...	Declares...	...with appreciation	Strongly...
Authorizes...	Deplores...	...with approval...	Supports...
Calls upon...	Designates...	...with satisfaction...	Takes note of...
Commends...	Directs...	Reaffirms...	Transmits...
Concurs...	Emphasizes...	...its belief...	Urges...
Condemns...	Encourages...	Recognizes...	Welcomes...

General Assembly and Crisis: Position Paper Example

Conference: LAMUN; Committee: Question of Puerto Rican Statehood; Character: Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior

Puerto Rico has been a United States commonwealth since December 10th, 1898. Over the 115 years as a US commonwealth, the Puerto Rican state has shown itself to be American, from providing soldiers during the conscription of World Wars I and II, to now voting for statehood with a 61% majority. Over the years, the minds of Puerto Ricans have changed from being pro-independence, to being pro-statehood, as the fairness of being a commonwealth becomes less advantageous to both the United States and Puerto Rico.

In my previous post as Senator for Colorado, I introduced legislation in the Senate in 2007 advocating for Puerto Rican statehood (S. 1936). This legislation attained bipartisan support, with at least 14 senators strongly supporting the bill. While my job has changed from Senator to Secretary of the Interior, I remain strongly committed to the issue of statehood, both on behalf of President Obama and his cabinet, and because I believe that Latinos deserve fair representation within the United States of America.

While ideological commitments often hard to understand, there are advantages both for the United States and Puerto Rico, in attaining statehood:

- Puerto Rico would receive approximately \$20 billion yearly, in addition to current social security and Medicare, which would assist it in economic development. In particular, the relatively high unemployment of 13% would be pushed downward by U.S. economic policies and federal funding, allowing Puerto Rico to reach the U.S. per capita income. The 50th state, Hawaii, saw similar economic development after its admission as a state.
- The Puerto Rican people will get a stronger voice in the U.S. Congress, with 2 voting Senate seats and 5 voting House seats. This will enable representation for Puerto Ricans still living in Puerto Rico; currently, Puerto Ricans living on the mainland are allowed to cast votes. Considering the sacrifices and contributions made by Puerto Rico for the U.S., it is necessary that they get an audible voice in the most powerful legislative body.
- Puerto Rico will experience the trade treaties that the United States has signed. It is clear, historically, that the United States has benefited vastly from trade treaties such as NAFTA; such economic and social benefits will only be carried over to the Puerto Rican people.
- The United States government will gain the ability to place federal and corporation taxes in Puerto Rico. It is unfortunate, and unfair to companies stationed on United States soil, that they face a competitive disadvantage to companies stationed on a United States commonwealth. Moreover, the Puerto Rican people will easily benefit from federal spending in the state.

While the benefits of statehood are clear and visible to the majority of the population, there are several issues that must be tackled to expedite the process of statehood:

- Expedite the passing of legislation by performing a more formal, externally overseen plebiscite, to ensure the legitimacy of the opinion of the Puerto Rican people, and thus dispel any controversy over the previous vote.
- Encourage the enforcement of current U.S. standards against criminal behavior, to slowly transition the legal environment from a Puerto Rican one to an American one.
- Emphasize the importance of Puerto Rican statehood to businesses and corporations in order to encourage investment and support from an economic standpoint.

Being a Hispanic Secretary myself, I firmly believe in Latin American representation in America, and will do my utmost to support the plight of Puerto Ricans in their bid for statehood.

Crisis: Directive

Directives are the crisis version of resolutions. They are much less formal, take actions, and don't have to have the official format or language of a resolution. Directives are voted upon quickly, and the crisis team takes the directive into account in order to evolve the situation that the delegates face.

If a directive takes action that needs to be accepted/enforced by the entire committee, then it must be voted upon by the committee. If it is a unilateral action, then it can be directly sent to the crisis team; if it is joint action that doesn't require the consent of the entire committee, then it can be directly sent to the crisis team after all members wishing to take action have signed the directive.

The example below is in regards to the agenda of the Europe in the 1870's:

Committee-Wide Directive, taken from Ad-Hoc in CMUNNY 2011 ("Queen Victoria's Tea Party")

Author: Napoleon III, Republic of France

Sponsors: Tsar Alexander, Russia; King William, Prussia

- Declares that the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire cede its Egyptian, Algerian, and other North-African territories to France, as a repayment for the damage caused during the war between the French, Russian, and Prussian coalition, and the Ottoman Empire and Italy.
- Declares that the Italian republic allow a coalition of French, Russian, and Prussian forces to be stationed in Rome, Venice, and Sardinia, to prevent further violence that would serve to destabilize the European continent.
- Calls for an investigation into the burning of French vineyards, Russian vodka distilleries, and Prussian breweries; nations found to be guilty in participating in such offensive activities shall fully reimburse the affected countries with a 3% interest rate, and guaranteed trade treaties to be decided between the countries themselves.
- If Turkey shall instigate once again a war similar to the previous one, it shall be noted that the war it waged was an unjust war and that there will be severe repercussions to Turkey's trade and control of the Strait of Bosphorus.

In a similar vein as this, personal directives are simply actions that delegates may take, that can be sent to the crisis team. Joint personal directives work in the same way, and don't need to be revealed to the committee. All they need are signatures from those taking action, and can then be sent to the crisis team.

Crisis/GA: Note

A note is used to communicate with any delegate or with the dais/crisis team. The forthcoming note is a simple example.

To: United Kingdom

From: USA

D'you want to get together and bomb the damn hell out of... Iraq? Seriously though, they're really annoying and I totally think that they're full of weapons of mass destruction. Even if we're not though, Dick Cheney says that it's cool and we can totally lie to the public about it, and if anything goes wrong then we can use our Darth Vader and our other allies at Fox and Friends to make it seem like they're going to welcome us with open arms. USA USA!

Notes don't have to be formal, but try not to use vulgar language or insult other countries, especially in GA's, since there will be pages sending your notes who can also read them.

Dealing with Specific Situations

How to handle traditional committees

- Focus on networking first, and sticking to the topic, by sending notes to every delegate at the start of the first committee session.
- Try to divide the topic into subtopics and tackle each one in a separate moderated caucus
- Have a list of solutions written down beforehand; this helps organize your thoughts and work towards a goal.
- Make sure you do pertinent research about your agenda, how it relates to your country, and try to get "dirt" on any major countries that could pose a problem or be rough competition.
- Focus on speaking more in the moderated caucuses and responding to arguments, rather than waiting for your turn on the speaker's list.
- The most work is done during the unmoderated caucuses: if you can get others to follow you by showing that you're a leader and making valid points, then they'll refer to you during the moderated caucuses. If you manage to become the primary sponsor for a resolution, then you'll definitely be competing to pass your resolution and will be on the floor more often than others. This is partially done by being in the right place at the right time – writing a draft resolution quickly and getting appropriate sponsors by networking during the unmoderated caucuses. For committees that allow laptops, it's good to write a draft resolution on a laptop, since it's easier to use, and since people will automatically flock to you if you're writing something quickly.
- Don't be afraid to call out other delegates when they're factually incorrect and have invalid arguments.

How to get attention in large committees

- For traditional general assembly committees at the larger conferences (UPMUNC, McMUN, and HNMUN), the GA's consist of almost 200 countries, sometimes double delegations. The first few committee sessions normally focus on paying attention to everyone, so delegates don't get more than one or two chances to speak in committee. In order to capitalize on that time, try networking by sending notes to other delegates and taking action during unmoderated caucuses.
- After the first few sessions, raise your placard, but not necessarily consistently. The dais will not select someone who seems like they always have something to say, because that would mean that the value of their input decreases. If you raise it once every two to three minutes, the dais may be willing to choose you because they want to hear a new voice and think that you have something important to say.
- If you're still not selected to speak, send a note to the dais telling them that you have something important to say and haven't been selected.
- Make sure that if you hear a factual inaccuracy or an invalid argument and aren't selected immediately, that you write to the dais notifying them that the fact was incorrect. They might announce it and be willing to select you to speak because you have something relevant to say.
- Make sure that you lead a group in an unmoderated caucus. Part of this involves lobbying skills, especially when trying to gather countries that have similar policies. You need to set your group up before an unmoderated caucus by sending notes to those countries who you think can work with you: "To: Cuba. I think that yourself, North Korea, Russia, and myself have a mutual dislike for the United States and thus can work together. Meet me at the next unmoderated caucus!"
- During unmoderated caucuses, try not to be a zealous overlord. Be diplomatic in letting everyone speak, but make sure that you come off as the leader by controlling the debate and writing the resolution first.
- GA's can be frustrating, but you have to keep trying. While many delegates consider crisis to be harder to deal with because of the pace of the committee, GA's and resolution based bodies are hard to deal with because of the stamina required to make your voice heard. The bottom line is, do not go into committee with a "this is easy" attitude. You're going to have to chip at the committee bit by bit to gain a foothold.

How to deal with being an “irrelevant” country

Sometimes, countries aren't too pertinent to an agenda. For example, there's a good chance that Guinea-Bissau (yeah, it's a country) has nothing to do with the debate on Syria. However, there are many ways to gain a foothold even when this happens.

- If you're in a resolution based body, just speak. Because you're not a major country, no one will know how to attack your claims (i.e. it's easy to call Russia out on human rights violations but the same cannot be said of Guinea-Bissau). You'll easily be able to call other countries out, without having the same pressure on you.
- You can always use generic arguments. For example, Guinea-Bissau is a developing country, and in the Syrian example, can always claim that developing countries do not like outside interference from developed countries. Such generic arguments will allow you to rally other countries with the same stance/opinion, and will amplify your voice.
- Always do more research on the agenda. While it's easy to play the blame game, some daisies like delegates who advance the solutions to the topic, so always make sure to propose solutions and *call out other delegates when their solutions suck*. Doing so will make you the center of attention and will show that although you might have an irrelevant country, you have a lot to say on the topic; this will encourage the dais to choose you to speak, since they know that you know what you're talking about.
- In crisis committees, your goal is to gain the upper hand in the committee. In order to do that, you need to ensure that you're interacting with the crisis team by sending them a lot of notes regarding personal/joint personal directives, so that they know that you're taking action. Even if your character/country has limited resources, having *joint* personal directives will allow you to pool in resources and also lead a small group of people.
- Make sure to call out other countries when they're in the wrong.
- If you're really up for it, if a country is defying the committees rules (i.e. the USA is funneling arms to Afghanistan even though it's illegal by international treaties), you can move to censure them or reprimand them. That'll make you the center of attention.
- Make sure that you're always thinking one step ahead of other delegates so that you can catch them when they're wrong.
- *Always speak.*

How to deal with advanced crisis delegates

If you plan to go to a crisis committee in a Tier 1 conference, you will encounter great delegates. This is especially true of Joint Crisis Committees (JCCs) and ad-hoc committees. These delegates have extensive experience on the circuit in dealing with other great delegates; they're also well versed in pertinent agendas and know how to flabbergast other delegates. While there are no set tips and tricks for dealing with them, you can keep the following in mind:

- You have to be consistent both with speaking and with paperwork. You need to have a directive on the floor as soon as there's a need for one; you need to consistently be communicating with crisis and trying to formulate a plot that works for you. Essentially, you need to be on your toes, listening to what other delegates are saying, and also writing directives and resolutions simultaneously. This is a skill that's acquired after learning to deal with public speaking and listening.
- You have to be clever with your crisis ideas. For example, if you're in a historic war committee (Europe in the 1850s), you should be forming treaties with conflicting countries, so that regardless of who's fighting whom, you come out on top. Other delegates will be trying to predict your moves so that they're one step ahead of you, so you need to do the same.
- When writing personal directives, make sure that you write *detailed* plans and ideas. If the crisis team sees that you've put a lot of effort into a personal directive, then you have a greater chance of seeing it happen. Write speeches to "your people". Send spies, but make sure that you outline the finer details of their missions.
- When speaking, make sure to speak slowly and enunciate your words; focus on the public speaking aspect of debate. Once you have everyone's ears on you, then you've got their attention and you know that they're not scheming for a minute. Make eye contact and use other public speaking skills in order to have them focus.
- In high level committees, many delegates can be divisive and aim to come out on top. If you can, aim to unify the committee and move forward without being obvious in furthering a personal agenda. Some daisies like that.
- Get to know your dais and the crisis team. Asking them for feedback and asking them why your plans/personal directives don't go through can help you improve what you do.
- Use colored sheets of paper instead of white paper. The crisis team can identify your notes quickly and it makes their lives easier. You'll get your notes back much faster, and they'll make sure to respond to your notes because they can identify them.
- *Make sure to write clearly.* Having been a CD, reading bad handwriting makes life so much harder. If you're not writing clearly, then your notes are gibberish and thus equivalent to trash.
- Don't send strips of paper. Send sheets of paper so that the crisis team can respond to what you've asked them to do.
- Use props, but not necessarily extensively. For example, if you're a dictator, you're welcome to speak with a cigar in your hand. If you're a communist, feel free to wear a commie badge. Get creative, but don't go overboard.

How to deal with being put on the spot

- Make sure that you know what you're talking about. If you're actively bullshitting, make sure that you're on top of your bullshit.
- You can always say that you'll reply in writing, but that can leave a bad impression.
- *Don't* be aggressive when on the spot. Make sure to bide your time by speaking slowly and choosing your words carefully.
- Don't freak out. A test of a good delegate is that they know how to talk their way out of trouble, so choose your words carefully and try to make light of the situation.

Other tips and tricks

- **Read the UN charter.** It will help you if you're in a committee that has to do with the UN. Also read relevant documents; if you're in the Human Rights Committee, read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc.
- Read your background guide. It will help you narrow your research down and will put you ahead of 50% of the committee.
- If your committee is having working lunches, then sadly, you should try to take part in them.
- Personally, I don't like being the hyper-aggressive kind of delegate all the time. Try to get to know the people you're going to committee with, because at the end of the day, it's just as much about making new friends as it is about working hard and aiming to do well. In the same vein, get to know the people in your committee by name instead of by country, not only because it's polite, but because it's friendly.
- Body language while you're speaking counts for a lot. Try to make eye contact and use your hands while talking.
- MUN is about leadership, and leaders are just as good at speaking as they are at listening. So make sure to listen to the people you're with, and participate in the debate instead of working alone.
- Unless you need your laptop, don't bring it. Don't bring a bag to committee. A folder and a notepad should be enough, especially when you're trying to make the impression that you're professional and aware of what you're up against.

Club Members with Specialized Knowledge

Name	Topics
Adam Spaulding	Libya; Colonial America; Printing
Anirudh Garg	South Asian Politics (indian subcontinent especially); cyberwarfare committees
Apratim Vidyarthi	Nuclear policy (both policy and scientific side); European history/military strategy; Economic development; US Congressional Diplomacy/Anti Diplomacy.
Ben Huber	Brazil; South American regional relations
Benjamin Wigley	Modern China History (1841-present); Cold War History/Politics; American History/Politics
Bernabe Cesena	Latin American region; economics
Eviane Leidig	India
Katie McCloskey	Natural resource use, environmental problems, food systems, central asia
Lana Ramadan	General Middle Eastern topics
Lynn Yu	Supreme Court of the United States; Kenya; U.S. Politics; China
Mikaela Rear	South East Asian politics, terrorism
Ravi Punj	Cybersecurity; South Asian Geopolitics; Narcoterrorism; Espionage; Nuclear Power
Redha Qabazard	Global Health, Middle East/Gulf States
Sebastien Welch	Historical; Military; Geopolitical Crisis Committees.
Shannon Thomas	Middle East, Israel/Palestine, Turkey.

ⁱ "United Nations Official Document." *UN News Center*. UN, n.d. Web. 26 Aug. 2013.