



# **Model United Nations (MUN)**

# About MUN

- Simulation of the United Nations and its different organizations
- You don't represent yourself/your own views  
→ you represent a country!
- Discuss issues, find allies, work towards solutions



# Who's who



## Chairs

- Set topics, write background guides, facilitate the debate
- Answer questions about procedure



## Delegates

- Research, speak, participate in the debate

# General MUN Vocabulary

- **Placard:** the piece of paper with your country's name on it
- **Motions:** what you want to do
  - "Motion for a caucus on x topic" → I want to discuss x topic
- **Caucus:** discussion/debate
  - **Moderated caucus:** a discussion with a specified a) speaking time, b) topic, and c) length
  - **Unmoderated caucus:** a discussion with specified length. Delegates are free to discuss their ideas in an informal setting.
- **Resolution:** A document you write during an unmoderated caucus with your plans/solutions

# General MUN Vocabulary

- **Point of Information:** follow up questions that other delegates can ask you at the end of your speech
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** a fancy way for asking for the windows to be opened, if you can go to the bathroom etc.
  - “Point of personal privilege...would this delegate be allowed to go to the bathroom?”
- **Point of Order:** used if you have a question about procedure (i.e voting, what is happening etc.)

# Flow of debate

- 1) Roll call
  - a) Check which countries are present
- 2) Speakers List
  - a) List of countries that want to speak
- 3) Caucusing (discussion/debate)
  - a) On topics
- 4) Resolution writing
- 5) Debate on resolutions
- 6) Vote on resolutions



# 1: Roll Call

- Happens at the beginning
- Basically registration
- Raise your placard when the chairs call upon you and say:
  - “Present and voting” → you HAVE to vote at the end
  - “Present” → you don’t have to vote



## 2: Speakers List

- This is a good chance to tell other countries what your country thinks about this topic
- No **Points of Information** (questions from other delegates) allowed
- Speaking time: 30 seconds





# 3: Caucusing

- This is where the main debate/discussion happens
- **Moderated Caucus:** fixed topic, speaking time, length
  - “Motion for a moderated caucus, length x minutes, speaking time y minutes, on the issue of this nuclear reactor”
- **Unmoderated Caucus:** no fixed topic, speaking time, length
  - Opportunity to find allies, sit down and write resolutions!



# 3.1: Moderated Caucus

1. Someone proposes caucus topic, length, and speaking time
  - a. The person proposing speaks first
2. Speech
3. Points of information (questions from other delegates) are given
  - a. After your speech, the chairs will ask if you want to take any points of information
  - b. You can say “any and all” (unlimited number) **or** specify a number **or** refuse to take any
4. Next speech
5. This goes on until time has elapsed

## 3.2 Unmoderated Caucus

- Normally happens towards the end of formal debate (i.e. when people have already discussed a lot of topics)
- Usually 10-20 minutes in length
- Opportunity to get together with allies and write resolutions



# 4. Resolution Writing

- Documents which outline your/your group's
  - Position on the issues discussed
  - The issues discussed
  - **Your solutions**
- Important part of the session



# 4.1: Parts of a Resolution

- **Who:** The names of the countries which are signatories to/sponsor this resolution
  - Sponsor(s): Author(s) of the resolution
  - Signatories: May not necessarily agree with 100% of the resolution BUT would like to see it debated
- **Preambulatory Clauses:** States all issues that the committee wants to resolve
  - General background info, perhaps previous laws/actions taken by the UN and/or national governments
- **Operative Clauses:** States solutions that the sponsors have identified in response to the issues
  - Action words

## 4.2 Sample Resolution

Sponsors: China, Russia

Signatories: India

The [Committee],

*Alarmed* by the 20% increase of AIDS in East Asia in the past 20 years, etc.

1. *Calls upon* factories and pharmaceutical companies to provide drugs to patients in East Asia at a reduced cost;
  - a. *Encourages* members of the international community to subsidize these companies

# 5. Debate on resolutions

- Debate opens again after unmoderated caucus elapses
- Delegates read out their resolution
  - 2 speakers lists are opened: one for, one against
- Delegates can then suggest amendments (changes) to the resolution
  - Submitted in writing to the chair
  - 2 speakers lists are opened: one for, one against
  - Amendments need a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass
- Motion to vote on amendments
- Move back to general debate on resolution



# 6. Voting on resolutions

- Everyone has the right to vote
- We vote on resolutions
  - More than one resolution can be adopted
- You can say:
  - “Yes” → in favour of resolution
  - “No” → not in favour of resolution
  - “Abstention” → signifies that your country does not support the resolution BUT does not oppose it enough to say no
- Resolutions need a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass





# Speaking/POIs

- Refer to yourself in the **third person**
  - “[Your country’s name] believes that...”
  - “This delegate would...”
- Be concise; you only have 1 minute maximum (in most cases) to make your point!
- **POIs**: phrased as a **question**



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