

Delegates` Handbook and Guide Cyprus Model United Nations 2017 (CyMUN)

In preparing for any MUN, it is always useful to learn how to manage your time, as well as adapting to different study patterns. In doing so effectively, being organised is your KEY to success! Make sure you take some time to decide how to prioritise your responsibilities and how to plan your studying before the conference begins.

There are some main areas of research, which should be addressed in the preparation process:

1. The structure and history of the United Nations
2. Understand what a Model United Nations conference is
3. Study the structure and history of your Committee
4. Understand the politics of your assigned Member-State
5. Focus on the agenda topics from what is written in the background guides and beyond
6. Prepare a position paper outlining your Member State's policies towards the agenda topic
7. Learn how to write a resolution
8. Understand the Rules of Procedure

1. STUDYING THE STRUCTURE AND HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- Use as references the **UN Charter** <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>
- **United Nations website:** <http://www.un.org/> On the website of the United Nations you can access individual committee sites, links to specific issues on the UN's agenda, related information and data, and links to Representations of Member States to the UN, etc.
- **United Nations Bibliographic Information System:** <http://unbisnet.un.org/>

This source is one of the most basic and useful sources, including UN documents, resolutions of UN bodies, meeting and voting records or press releases.

- **United Nations WebTV:** <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml/>

This source outlines what really happens inside the UN bodies, as important meetings of the UN are recorded here. To see the videos it is necessary to download and install Real Player software.

2. UNDERSTANDING WHAT A MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IS

Model UN Conferences are formative programs aimed to teach students the inner workings of the United Nations. Participants represent member-countries in a simulation-game of multilateral diplomacy, reproducing the debate of one or more UN committees like real delegates. The aim of this experience-based program is to find common and effective solutions on the agenda topics by signing and approving a number of resolutions. Model UN conferences have been organized in many countries all over the world.

In an MUN conference, delegates reproduce two main aspects of multilateral negotiations, **the formal and informal debate**. **Formal debate** is a simulation of the committee's meetings where member states express their own positions in front of the entire Assembly through brief speeches (details on the rules of procedures section); **the informal debate** is a way to speed up the process of debating; also called with the parliamentary term "Caucus", the informal debate is a procedural "time out," where the committee can break down into smaller groups for discussing the topic, drafting resolutions, or debating the merits of various resolutions.

3. STUDYING THE STRUCTURE AND HISTORY OF YOUR COMMITTEE

It is necessary that all participants understand the role and the history of that body of the United Nations they have been assigned to in order to more actively participate in the debate.

4. UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICS OF YOUR ASSIGNED MEMBER-STATE

One of the scopes of the simulation is to represent your member-state as honestly and correctly as possible. That is why it is so important that most of your individual research focuses on the general overview of your country (populations, labour sectors, natural resources, type of government, economy, position in the international arena, important alliances, economic and social issues), and particularly about what your country has done regarding the agenda topics.

The CIA World Fact Book (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>) provides a general presentation about your country. Your individual research must focus on what actions your country has taken in the United Nations.

5. FOCUSING ON THE AGENDA TOPICS

As a participant of any MUN conference, you have to present a position paper before the beginning of the conference. A position paper is a document in which **you present the position of your member state on the agenda topics**. In order to write a strong position paper, you must understand the topics and know how your country feels about each topic, as well as any actions your country has taken in favour or against each topic.

Our suggestion is to first begin by studying topics one-by-one and then focus on other lesser areas before writing down your position paper.

6. PREPARING A POSITION PAPER

The following are the main guidelines for writing your position paper:

Position papers have to be prepared by each delegation per each committee (for example you, if you are 2 people representing Germany in DISEC, you have to present ONLY 1 position paper about the topic under discussion in DISEC; if you are a group of 8 people representing Sweden in 4 different committees, you have to present 4 position papers; etc.). Position papers outline **the summary of your country's position on the topics set in the agenda**. This is one of the most important parts of your preparation. It is the starting point of your research and one of the ways you will be presenting your country's political position on the agenda topics. **The best position paper will be awarded at the closing ceremony of the conference.**

All papers must be formatted as following:

- Length one single-spaced page or two double-spaced pages MAX.
- Font: Times New Roman size 12 pt.
- Your country name clearly labelled on the first page.
- Each agenda topic must be clearly labelled – national symbols are inappropriate.

Most of your preparation time for the Conference should be spent researching your actual committee topics.

What are you looking for in your research?

Basic Questions:

1. Which is the focus of each of the topics?
2. Why are these issues important internationally? Especially for your country?
3. If this issue has been addressed previously by the committee, why does it remain unresolved?
4. What are the most important resolutions on each topic? Is your country a signatory?
5. What actions have various international bodies taken in the past regarding these issues?
6. What actions are being taken, or what committees exist to address them?
7. What should be done from the perspective of your state to solve the issues?

Please note that your position paper must cover what the UN and your country have done previously to address the matter, what is currently in place, and what is planned for the future.

Internal structure of the position paper:

1. Introduction: Historical excursus (in brief) and Focus on topic;
2. Problem analysis: Political relevance of the topic, actions taken in the past by your country, Statements of political representatives of your country (Head of State, Ministries), reference to previous agreements to implement or to modify;
3. Solutions and proposals: Possible solutions, strategies proposals and actions to be taken, proposing at least one resolution, recommendation or declaration of principles, Cooperation with regional or international organisations.

The Position Paper must be coherent:

- Internal coherence: logical evolvement of the essay, starting from the problem and ending with the solutions
- External Coherence: declarations in line with the real politics of the represented country

An example of a position paper is on the next page.

ALL POSITION PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY **FEBRUARY 26TH** TO business.cymun@unic.ac.cy

[POSITION PAPER EXAMPLE] Delegation of Malaysia

Position Paper for General Assembly⁵

The topic before the General Assembly is: "Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty". Malaysia is a firm believer that a just and equitable international system needs to be in place for nations to reach peace, security and to pursue economic advancement. However, recent international events have dealt with the "3F" crises – fuel, food and finance adversely affecting nations worldwide. These crises are the most visible evidences of how interdependent the community of nations has become. Malaysia believes that the UN continues to be a relevant organization to provide a platform for nations seeking collective solutions to global problems.

Eradicating the extreme hunger and poverty

For half of a century, Malaysia has been trying to promote just economic system, which guarantees equal opportunities for every ethnic group. In fact, a priority for the government, as the Article 25 of the Universal Human Rights Declarations states, is to ensure every citizen a high standard of life, and adequate social services including access to food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Our progress to eradicate poverty and hunger has been demonstrated by the most recent United Nation Development Program (UNDP) report; in fact the New Economic Plan (NEP) created in the 1970's built a strong economic system based on urbanization that has reduced the poverty

trend. It is effectively known that in 1970 half of our population lived below the poverty line, in 2005 just 5.5%. We appreciate the solutions brought by the institution of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but these are not sufficient on their own. Respecting one of the common goals to halve the hunger rate between 1990 and 2015, since 1993 Malaysia has reduced the percentage of children under five years old who are underweight from 23.3% to 10.6%. This is only the first step of our development strategy, our ambition is to improve the results achieved in these past few years.

However we are convinced that a better world can be built only with just and transparent laws. As underlined in the 2009 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Sharm El Sheikh, there is an urgent need to reform the UN system to give more representation to every member. An important agency like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the expression of the global subordination of developing countries under the current economic power. Many times the poorer countries remain with a growing debt caused by the unsustainable rates of the loans given by the International Monetary Fund. It is deeply unfair that the financial policies of this institution are under the unilateral oligopoly of few developed countries. Agreeing with resolution A/64/418/Add.3, the issue of foreign debt is fundamental to cope with the problem of hunger and extreme poverty, but it isn't a sufficient reason to get rid of the interest rates on low-income countries until 2011. The crisis we are living in points out how in this system the poorest countries are the most affected. As reported by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in the 2009 Rome summit report, the number of malnourished people across the globe has increased from 824 million in 1992 to 963 million in 2007- 2008.

Asian and South Pacific countries have the highest number of hungry people: 642 million. These numbers make regional cooperation fundamental in order to combat the food crisis. Because of the volatility of food prices, every nation with an agriculture-based economy has suffered. For this reason, we want to discuss a reform of the global financial system that could ensure effective rules on the protection of economies based on the agricultural production. Too often, food prices have been used as an instrument for political and economic pressure and this is unacceptable. Food security and the objective to eradicate extreme poverty are essential topics guarantying international peace and security.

⁵ This is one of position papers which received the Award as best position paper in RomeMUN 2010

Awards Criteria for Position Papers:

1. Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
2. Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
3. General Consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
4. Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
5. Analysis of issue, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide 6.

7. HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

Delegates will be drafting their Resolutions in their respective committees along with other delegates that they will be working with. It is important to know the resolution format and phrases, but most conferences do not allow pre-written resolutions since they want countries to collaborate together during the committee.

(See *Rules of Procedure*)

8. UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

(See *Rules of Procedure*)

