

Toruń Model United Nations



OFFICIAL GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- GENERAL INFORMATION
 - Information about the United Nations
 - Idea of model United Nations
 - UN structure
- RULES
 - How to behave during debates?
 - Notes
 - Dresscode
- PREPARATION AND RESEARCH
 - Researching your issues and delegation
 - Writing a policy statement
 - Sample policy statement
- WRITING A RESOLUTION
 - Resolution format
 - Useful preambulatory phrases
 - Useful operative phrases
 - Sample resolution

GENERAL INFORMATION

INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) is a crucial international organization established on October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II. It was formed to promote global cooperation, maintain peace and security, and address pressing global challenges.

The UN operates through various bodies, with the General Assembly serving as a platform for member countries to engage in diplomatic discourse. The Security Council, consisting of permanent and rotating members, is responsible for addressing issues related to international peace and security.

The organization's core principles encompass the protection of human rights, social and economic development, and humanitarian assistance. Specialized agencies within the UN, such as UNICEF, WHO, and UNESCO, focus on specific areas to tackle issues like child welfare, public health, and education.

In essence, the UN is a critical forum where nations collaborate to find collective solutions to complex global problems, contributing to the maintenance of stability and the advancement of humanity.

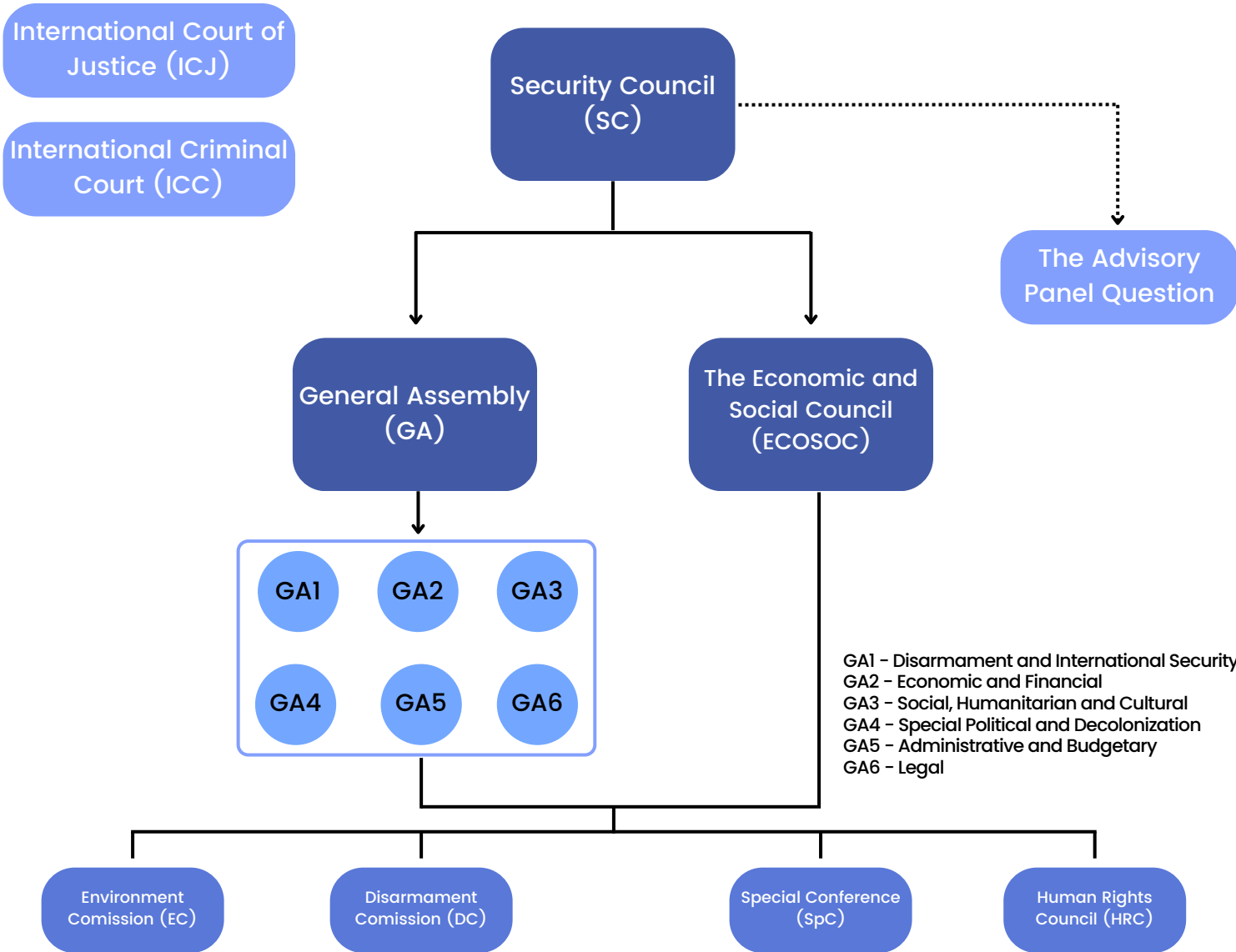
IDEA OF MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation that replicates the procedures and dynamics of the United Nations. It serves as a platform for students to immerse themselves in the complexities of international relations and diplomacy. Participants, representing different countries, engage in rigorous debates and negotiations on a wide range of global issues.

Engaging in MUN demands a commitment to in-depth research, analysis, and a nuanced understanding of multifaceted problems. The experience provides a practical education in public speaking, critical thinking, and diplomatic skills. It cultivates the ability to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes and formulate comprehensive, well-reasoned policy positions.

Beyond the academic realm, MUN fosters a sense of global awareness and cultural appreciation. It offers participants the opportunity to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering international understanding and cooperation. MUN serves as a serious training ground for future leaders, equipping them with the intellectual acumen and diplomatic skills required to address the pressing challenges of our interconnected world.

UN STRUCTURE



RULES

HOW TO BEHAVE DURING DEBATES?

Being a member of the ToMUN community, you have to remember that Model United Nations originate from the real United Nations, hence specified and formalized rules of behavior are in force.

You **cannot**:

- use personal pronouns (it is strictly **PROHIBITED**),
- present your personal opinion.

Instead of these, we propose to you following the rules below:

- Remember that you represent your country's policy, whether you agree with it or not.
- You are a delegate (or ambassador in SC) so always address yourself and other delegates this way.
- Fully understand your country, and its policy. **You can do that by:**
 - learning about your people – their beliefs, religion, culture, economy, priorities.
 - learning how the topic relates to your country: how does it affect your country?
 - Who are your international allies (especially superpowers)?
 - Who are your main representatives (presidents, prime ministers, and what do they think about the topic)?

NOTES

During debating time, all delegates are allowed to conduct correspondence by sending short notes to one another (the notes are passed around by admins). There are – however – several rules regarding this privilege. Firstly, all notes should be written down on the notepaper, prepared specifically for that one purpose. If you for some reason do not have a notepaper, please report it to your Chair. Keep in mind that the content of the notes has to be related to the issues discussed in the committee.

DRESSCODE

We ask delegates to look and behave in a way that is expected of real UN diplomats. The appropriate dress code is Western Business Attire – formal, usually darker clothing with white elements.

PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

Preparing for any MUN conference is a process of searching for useful information and learning anything that could help you in the course of debate. Even if you are more of an improvising type, having some background information on the issues you will be discussing and on the country you will be representing is always helpful and therefore strongly recommended. Just think of all the ways you could use your knowledge while writing a resolution or defending it in your committee.

For example, some less-known facts on the issues are amazing for writing speeches, as they might surprise your listeners or even impress them. Also, the more information you have, the better you understand your position as a delegate of a given country while discussing a particular issue.

Having your research well done makes you feel more comfortable and confident during the debate (especially if you are a beginner MUNer). While for some people preparing for the conference is a “necessary evil”, some of them find it interesting or even exciting. Whichever type you are, here is a list of four essential steps to follow in the process of your preparation:

RESEARCHING YOUR ISSUES AND DELEGATION

When it comes to researching your issues, you are not completely on your own, as you can rely on Study Guides provided by the Student Officers. However, you still have some work to do yourself. That is because Study Guides only give you the general picture of an issue, not specifying particular countries’ statements. Therefore it is up to you to collect information on your country’s policy with regard to the issues discussed in your committee.

While researching an issue you will probably come across both old and new information. You need to properly order it (chronologically) so you do not get all tangled-up and confused. Please notice that it would be advisable for you to search for all different kinds of information, such as historical facts, opinions, news, statistics, etc. Importantly, adopt the right, positive attitude, helpful in committing yourself to hard work. While preparing for your topic it is important to check what type of source you use and to keep in mind aspects like media bias and fake news.

News websites are often either left-leaning or right-leaning, this means that the news article may be influenced by the journalist's personal beliefs. For example Fox News is a media organization that is prominently right-leaning and as such not an objective media source.

Information that is found on the internet is in rare cases simply not true, this occurs for many different reasons, most common amongst them being media narration or the practice of abusing media influence for political gain. Best way to avoid this phenomenon is to verify the information by searching for a second or even third trusted source.

To best understand the topic we must also recognise different types of sources of information.

Three different categories are recognised, those being:

• PRIMARY SOURCES

These are the best type of source when writing a policy statement, they are the least affected by the aforementioned media bias and fake news. The name is a result of the way in which they are created. They are first hand accounts of events like for example UN conference proceedings or information directly published by those who are the creators of the information.

Examples of primary sources are the following:

- speeches
- interviews
- government documents
- archival material
- photographs (unaltered)
- conference proceedings
- first hand accounts.

• SECONDARY SOURCES

These are information sources that base their information on primary sources, however they are prone to media bias as they may contain the author's opinions. Despite that, they are a vital pillar in preparation for an MUN, as they present the information in an approachable way.

Examples of secondary sources are:

- news articles and websites
- biographies
- media documentaries

• TERTIARY SOURCES

These are also sources that base their information on primary sources, the difference being they are simply a “reorganization” of said information and as such are not victim to media bias. They provide the information in a simplified way, whilst still being as trustworthy as primary sources.

Examples of tertiary sources are:

- abstracts
- databases
- textbooks
- indexes

WRITING A POLICY STATEMENT

In preparation for a MUN conference, delegates should write **policy statements**, which are documents that briefly and clearly explain the policies of the delegate's country/organization with respect to the issues dealt within respective committees at the conference. It appears important to write policy statements as they serve as reference documents for delegation members and committee members during the conference. Additionally, policy statements may provide an excellent tool in the lobbying process; they may also serve as the basis for your opening speech in your committee.

In order to produce a useful policy statement, delegates ought to carry out thorough research. In a policy statement, the delegate should remember to include the following:

- Explain and define the issue and its most important terms;
- Provide a short summary of recent international action related to the issue;
- Refer to key documents that relate to the issue;
- State the country's general position on the issue;
- Briefly make suggestions that are in line with their country's policies to provide a solution to the issue.

At the top of the policy statement, please include an appropriate heading. The heading includes the name of the country/organization providing the statement, the name of the Committee/Council, and the issue the statement relates to (agenda topic). Policy statements should not be too detailed on the issue in question, as this is what resolutions should do.

Before you write your policy statement you must first be prepared. Remember to save documents, treaties and articles you read on the topic, as you must cite them at the end of the policy statement.

WRITING PROCESS

Any good policy statement has four primary elements:

- **Beginning note:**

This is the part in which you briefly introduce the problem at hand;

- **Your country's policies on the topic:**

In this part you must clearly state your country's policies. Remember to only write verifiable information;

- **Ending note:**

This part is for concluding your policies and for your country's plans or ideas for solving the issue;

- **Citations:**

At the end of the policy statement you must conclude by citing all the important documents and article you used in the writing process.

Artificial Intelligence

Writing your policy statement with the use of AI tools is strictly prohibited and all delegates who do it will be punished by the Chairs.

SAMPLE POLICY STATEMENT

Delegation: United States of America

Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Question of: Discussing the use of armaments and munitions containing depleted uranium

Depleted uranium is a by-product of the uranium enrichment process and for many years it had been considered an unusable waste product. However, during the 1970s when pentagon was searching for material capable of penetrating Warsaw Pact's newly developed tanks it had found its purpose. Thanks to its high density, self-sharpening and flammable properties it was started to be used not only as armor-piercing projectile but also as armor plate and counterbalance weight in fighter aircrafts. Since then depleted uranium weapons have been used throughout 1991 Gulf War, NATO intervention in Yugoslavia and 2003 invasion of Iraq during which they proved themselves to be extremely advantageous.

Amid the uranium enrichment process uranium waste is devoid of the uttermost amount of its radioactive qualities. Depleted uranium emits only alpha particles which do not travel far through air, and do not penetrate either clothing or skin with the only way to negatively affect human health is either by inhaling or ingesting it. While the radioactivity of DU is low, it is not absent. It has been pointed out that if even a little as 1–2% of the 300 tons of DU used in the Gulf War were converted to respirable dust it would produce three to six million grams of DU dust. Using the figures provided by Durakovic this would release 1.16 million to 2.32 million Ci of radiation, a measure that would exceed the New York state safety levels for monthly release of 150Ci by a factor of 7,733 to 15,467. However, it is unlikely that this amount would be inhaled or ingested by a population, most of it would probably end up in the soil or diluted by the wind. This mechanism is also precisely followed by considered conventional lead. Many studies point out similarities between the negative side-effects of overexposure to lead and depleted uranium that are not common among military personnel.

The United States of America is fully aware of consequences that come along with the usage of depleted uranium weapons however, due to its minor negative health effects and prominent application in military America is and will be committed into further development of such weaponry. The United States as a global upholder of world peace, stability and democracy strongly believes that possession of depleted uranium technology will yet contribute to quicker and less ferocious resolvings of armed conflicts as it leads to the increase of spendings on waging warfare. Acknowledging all of the facts the USA calls upon undeniably casting aside the controversies related to depleted uranium by congressing a convention that would declare DU weapons as conventional and safe to use for all militaries around the globe.

Sources

- <https://www.epa.gov/radtown/depleted-uranium>
- https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted_uranium/
- https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted_uranium/
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2819790/>

WRITING A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION FORMAT

By definition, United Nations resolutions are formal documents, expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. They generally consist of two clearly defined sections: a **preamble** and an **operative part**.

The preamble generally presents the background of the issue in question, the considerations on the basis of which action is taken, an opinion expressed or a directive given.

The operative part states the opinion of the organ or the action to be taken.

The resolution should be written in an appropriate form as it is supposed to match the original UN format.

The Heading at the top of the resolution is very important, as it is used to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and the Committee Chair in processing the draft resolution. The Heading includes the subject of the resolution (agenda topic), the name of the Committee/Council to which it will be presented, and the name or names of the countries submitting the draft resolution, as well as the date.

It is advisable that the perambulatory part is concise in content, providing the key points illustrating the background of the issue in question and/or its historic justification. It is essential that each preamble clause begins with a relevant preambulatory phrase, which is highlighted (e.g. underlined or in italics). **Each preamble clause should end with a comma.**

The operative part is the more important part. Its purpose is to develop the points stipulated in the preamble part accordingly, and to provide relevant solutions to the problem(s) listed in the topic and in the preamble. The arguments used should be sound, and the actions to be taken should be described in as much detail as possible, supported with examples, which can be enumerated in sub-clauses. **Each operative clause should end with a semicolon.**

Sub-clause pattern:

- 1.operative clause (1)
- 2.operative clause (2)
- 3.operative clause (3)
 - a.operative sub-clause (3a)
 - b.operative sub-clause (3b)
 - i.operative sub-clause (3bi)
 - ii.operative sub-clause (3bii)

Each sub-clause should end with a comma, except for the final sub-clause, which should end with a semicolon, as it marks the end of the entire operative clause.

During the lobbying phase, delegates will seek support for their draft resolution from fellow committee members. Once they find support, they'll collaborate on merging drafts and refining their resolutions. In the final draft, the main submitting country will be called the "Submitter," with co-submitting countries labeled as "Co-Submitters." Other interested countries will be referred to as "signatories," a detail that should also be mentioned in the final draft's heading.

It's important to note that a draft resolution remains tentative until it's discussed and voted on, at which point it becomes a resolution. When writing your draft, aim for detail, consider funding and management for new programs, and cite facts when possible. Be realistic and ensure proposed objectives are achievable by the relevant body. For example, only the Security Council, not the General Assembly, can sanction a country.

In order to keep the debates flowing and not waste additional time, **each ToMUN committee will be provided by its Chairs with the appropriate preset of the resolution.** Such preset will include the necessary formatting and legalities. Any delegate will then be free to prepare a draft resolution using this preset.

USEFUL PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Affirming	Having studied
Alarmed by	Keeping in mind
Approving	Noting further
Aware of	Noting with approval
Bearing in mind	Noting with regret
Believing	Noting with satisfaction
Confident	Observing
Contemplating	Reaffirming
Convinced	Realising
Declaring	Recalling
Deeply concerned	Recognising
Deeply conscious	Referring
Deeply convinced	Seeking
Deeply disturbed	Taking into account
Deeply regretting	Taking into consideration
Desiring	Taking note
Emphasising	Viewing with appreciation
Expecting	Welcoming
Expressing its appreciation	Guided by
Expressing its appreciation	Having adapted
Fulfilling	Having considered
Fully alarmed	Having considered further
Fully aware	Having devoted attention
Fully believing	Having examined
Further deploring	Having heard
Further recalling	

USEFUL OPERATIVE PHRASES

Accepts
Affirms
Approves
Calls
Calls upon
Condemns
Confirms
Congratulates
Considers
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Designates
Draws the attention
Emphasises
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Further invites
Further proclaims
Further recommends
Further reminds
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Regrets
Reminds
Requests
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns
Strongly urges
Supports
Takes note of
Transmits

All of the phrases in **red type** can only be used by the Security Council and no other committee

Sample Resolution Format

United Nations



9 December 2023

Disarmament and International Security Committee

**Draft resolution adopted by The Disarmament and International Security
Committee**

on December 9th, 2023

on the topic of

Discussing the use of armaments and munitions containing depleted uranium

Sponsors: the Federal Republic of Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Signatories: the Kingdom of Belgium, the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United States of America

the Disarmament and International Security Committee,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Fully aware of the possibly negative impact caused by contact with depleted uranium,

Believing in the possibility of quicker and less ferocious resolvings of armed conflicts,

Having devoted attention to people's health and environmental conditions,

Keeping in mind countries' right to self-determination,

1. *Calls upon* Member States not to proliferate depleted uranium (further referred to as DU) weaponry with the exception of:
 - a. internal management within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
 - b. situations in which a country fights a defensive warfare against a nation possessing and using depleted uranium on the battlefield;
2. *Proposes* to create a DU free zone in Ukraine by:
 - a. Russian Federation withdrawing their DU weaponry from the battlefield;
 - b. Ukraine not using the donated DU weapons;
 - c. providing neutral, unbiased observers, such as Chinese observers, agreed upon in an international consensus in order to ensure the lack of DU usage by the Russian Federation;
 - d. providing neutral observers able to check Ukraine's magazines and DU resources;
 - e. stopping the US and the UK shipments of DU to Ukraine;
3. *Encourages* the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among Member States regarding the management and disposal of DU munitions, with a view to minimizing their long-term impact on human health and the environment;
4. *Calls upon* the international community and the United Nations Secretary-General to:

- a. support research and development efforts aimed at finding alternatives to DU munitions, while ensuring their compatibility with international humanitarian law and the legitimate defense needs of states;
 - b. promote awareness and education campaigns to inform affected communities, military personnel, and relevant stakeholders about the potential risks associated with DU munitions and the measures to mitigate those risks;
 - c. encourage the inclusion of DU-related issues in relevant disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation discussions, including within the framework of the CCW and its Protocols;
5. *Suggests* that UN member states keep in mind the already known facts considering depleted uranium properties and potentially harmful consequences;
6. *Promotes* transparency and information sharing regarding the use of DU munitions through the submission of relevant data to:
 - a. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA);
 - b. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
7. *Conducts* comprehensive risk assessments and studies on the potential health and environmental impacts of DU munitions, taking into account the latest scientific research and evidence;
8. *Endorses* developing and implementing national policies and guidelines to minimize the risks associated with the use, storage, and disposal of DU munitions, including measures to protect civilian populations, military personnel, and the environment;
9. *Further encourages* to consider the potential risks and long-term consequences of using DU munitions when developing military doctrines and operational plans, with a particular emphasis on minimizing civilian harm and environmental damage;

10. *Promotes* research and development of alternative materials and technologies that can replace DU munitions, while ensuring the effectiveness of defense capabilities;
11. *Urges* to support affected countries in addressing the environmental and health consequences of DU munitions, including, through financial and technical assistance for remediation, medical care and awareness-raising programs;
12. *Remains* actively seized of the matter.