

Guide to ace your first MUN!

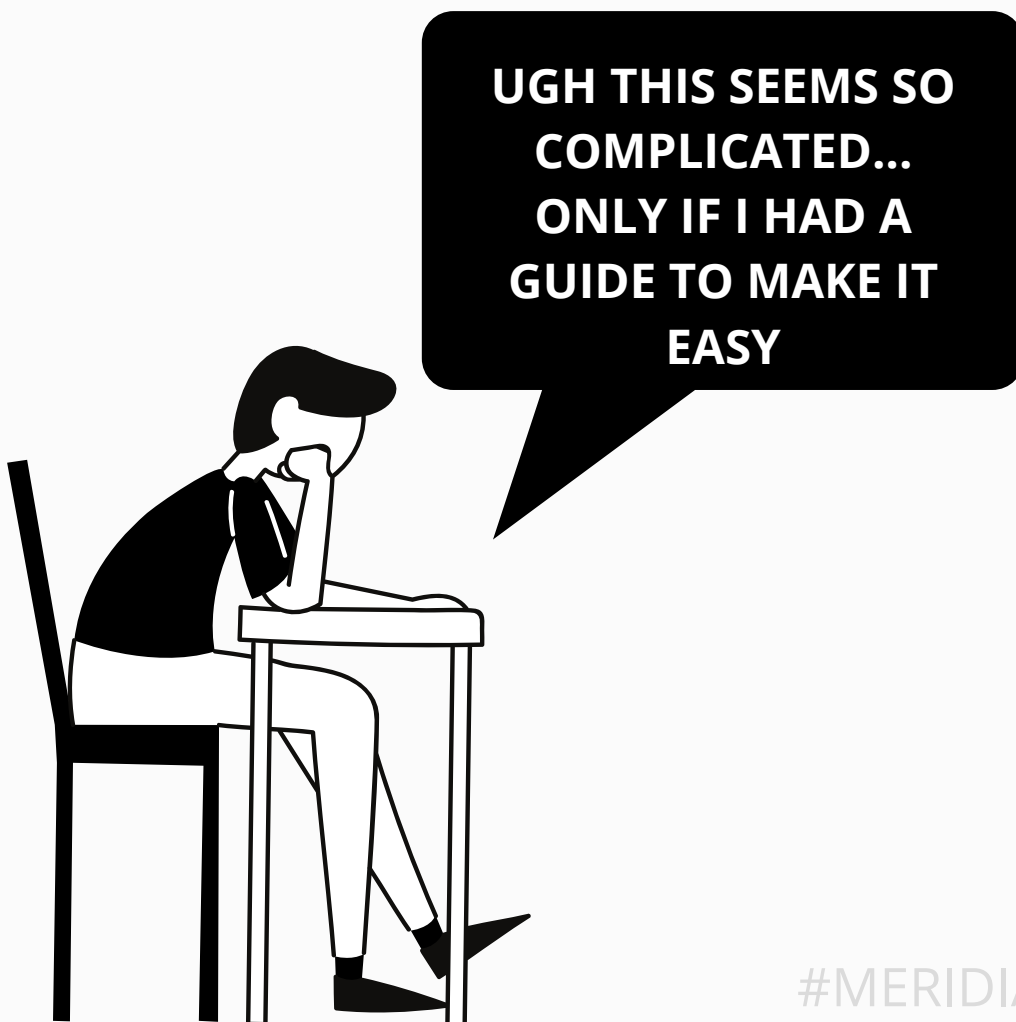


MERIDIAN MUN 2021

Organized by Meridian School, Banjara Hills

Introduction

MUN or Model United Nations is an academic simulation of a United Nations conference, to help students understand and learn problem-solving, debating, delegating, and improve verbal and critical thinking skills. Your first MUN might seem intimidating but with adequate help and understanding of the event, it will surely be a piece of cake.



To put it in layman's terms; In a MUN each delegate represents a country, organization, or person and each committee has an agenda, that is nothing but the topic everyone will be discussing. Delegates will debate and delegate together with the simple objective of solving important world issues. To help maintain decorum and avoid chaos in a committee Delegates will follow a Procedure.



Terms to Know



Delegate

A student acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN conference.



Motion

A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole should do something.



Executive board

The ones who moderate the committee



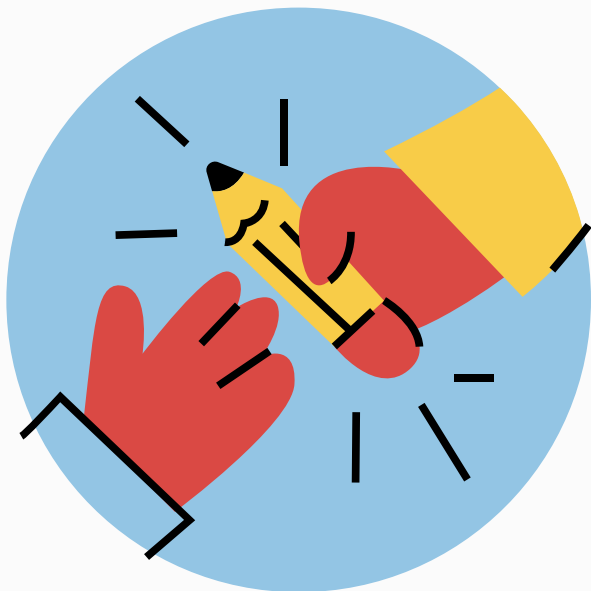
On the floor

Opportunity to speak in a group. Eg. "any motions on the floor?"



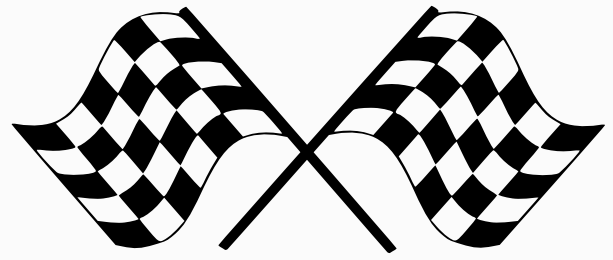
Abstain

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.



Decorum

Decency



Adjourn

All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting.



Second

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

Structure of A MUN

The Opening of the Debate

Roll call



Debates

GSL

Moderated caucus

Unmoderated caucus



Draft Resolutions



Closing the debate

Voting Procedure

The Opening of the Debate

Roll Call is taking attendance of everyone present in the committee. This lets The Executive Board (moderators of the committee who ensure the structure is followed and maintain decorum) calculate the majority which is required within procedural and substantial voting.

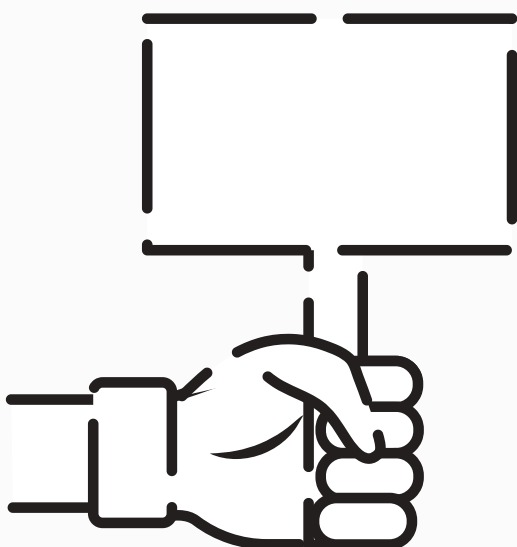
Procedural voting includes setting the topic for a Moderated caucus. Substantial voting includes votes on introducing draft resolutions and working papers, as well as the final vote.



Delegate
of India?

Presenting and
voting

Everyone must participate during the Procedural voting. But you can only vote in substantial voting if you said "Present and voting" during the roll call. This means that if you can either vote "YES" "NO" or "Abstain". Important: You cannot abstain if you are a sponsor for a Draft Resolution.



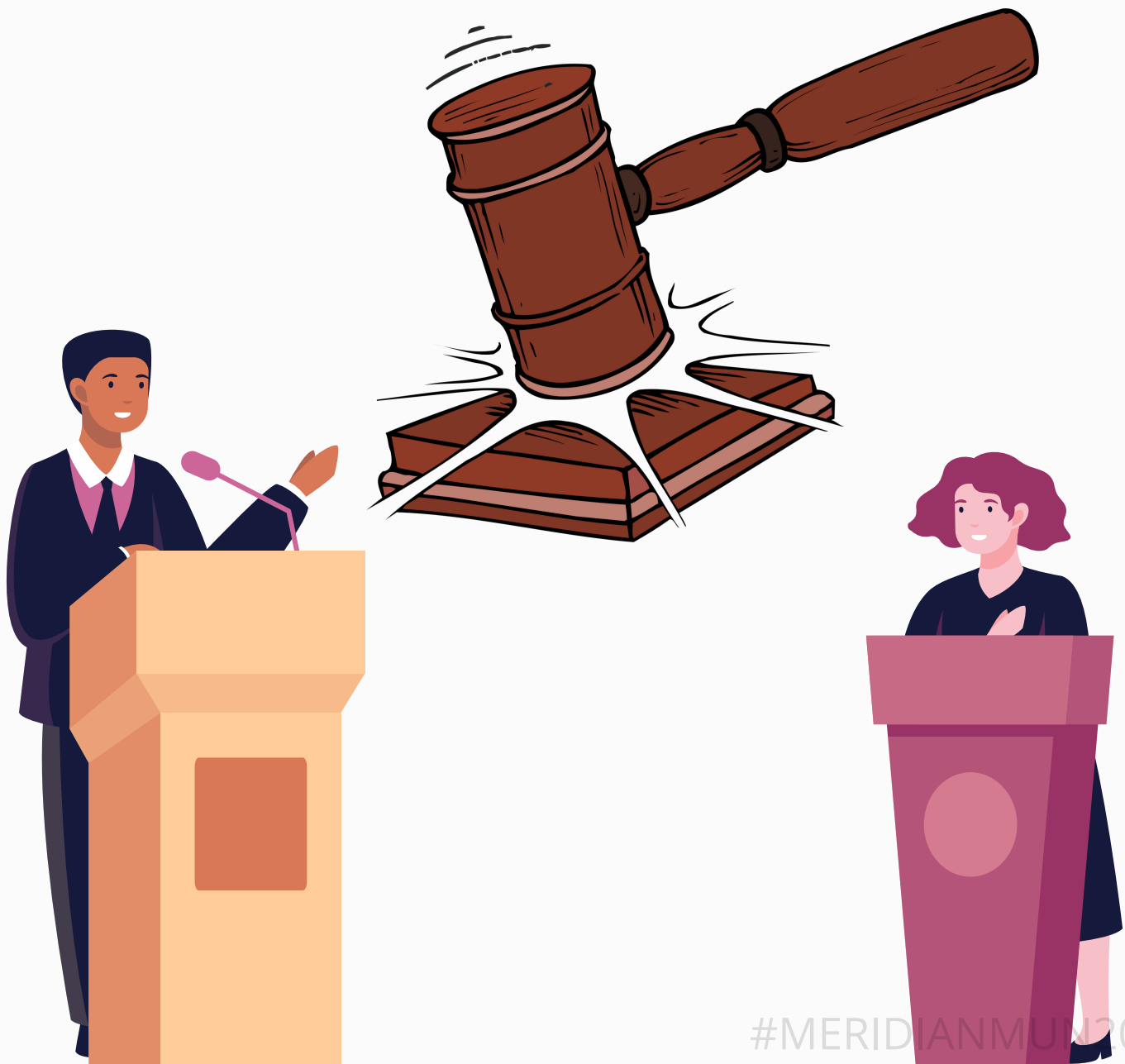
**What is the
difference between
"present" and
"present and voting"**

**Delegates who do not opt for
"present and voting" don't
have a say in substantial
matters , example: voting of
a draft resolution - their vote
won't be counted**



The Debate

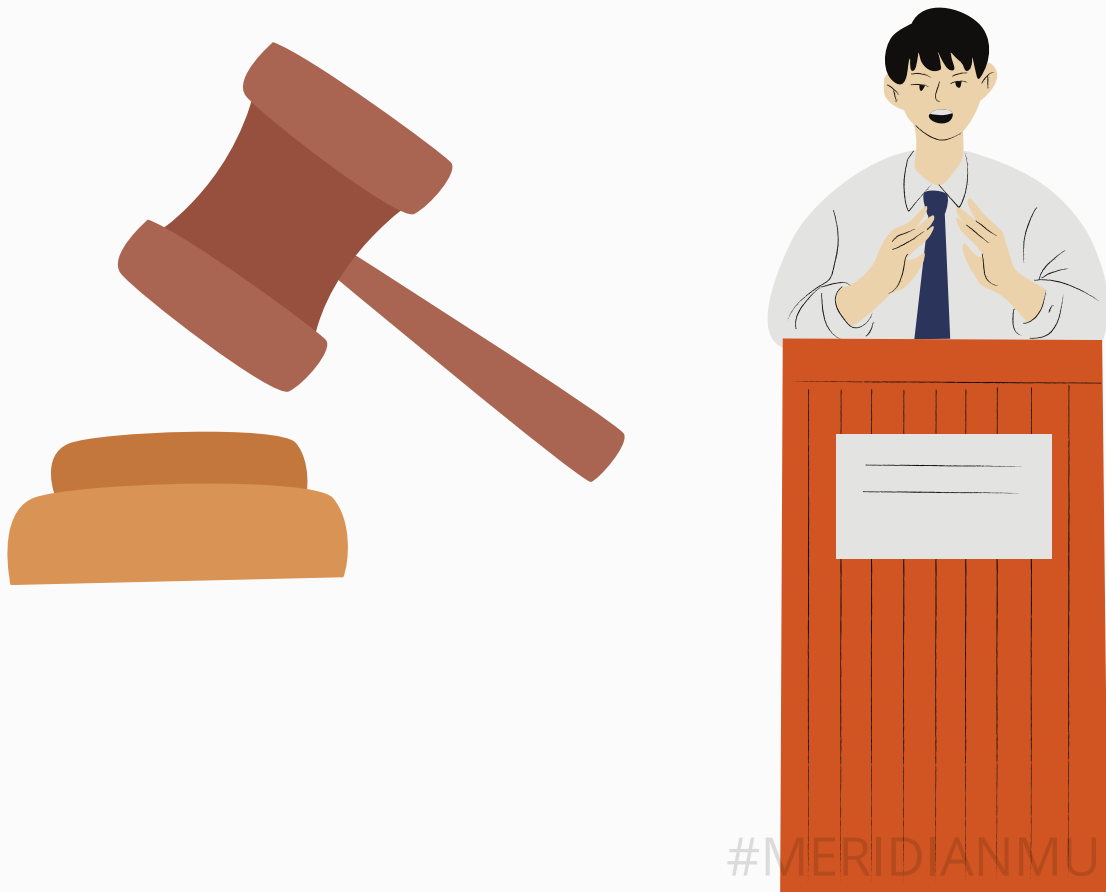
The General Speakers List: Firstly, what is The General Speakers? In a Gsl or a General speakers list a delegate can move the debate in any direction they want. Essentially you can discuss anything you like, given that it is related to the topic.



How do you start a GSL?

Chairs will establish a time limit that each speaker should adhere to (this will be done if the GSL motion is voted upon) and Countries can then ask to be added to the list, taking a turn to speak in the order the EB's have provided. The list will run throughout the committee sessions until it is exhausted or a motion to close the debate is passed.

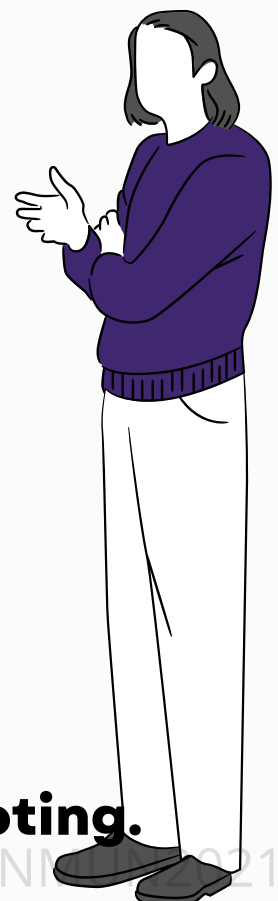
The default speaking time for a GSL is 90 seconds.



How to raise a motion for GSL?

The delegate (of country)
would like to raise a motion to
establish the general
speaker's list.

Noted delegate.
Everyone for the
motion...
Everyone against



Note: No motion will pass without a voting.

What to do if you finish your speech before time:

Types of yields-

Yield time to the Chair

Your remaining time will be given to the chair, incase you don't want to yield time to another delegate or questions .

Yield time to another Delegate

You can yield your time to anyone. There is no double yield. If you yield your time to a delegate who does up the remainder of speakers' time they must yield it to the chair.

Yield time to Questions

This allows other delegates to ask you a question

Important Points and Motions

Point of Order

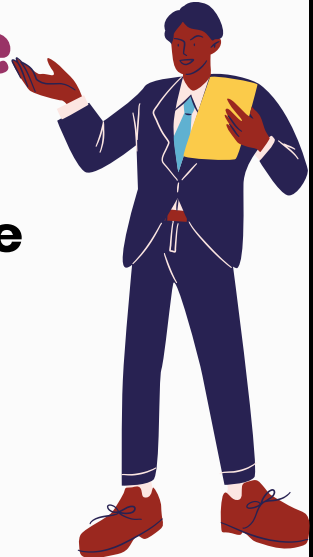
Used where you believe a mistake of procedure has been made. e.g. where someone was skipped on the Speaker's list, or the wrong voting procedure was used for a matter. This point can interrupt a speaker.

Point of Personal Privilege

Used where you experience some discomfort which hinders you from participating fully in the committee proceedings

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Used to ask any questions about procedure that you may have.



Right of Reply

Used where you believe there has been some insult or threat to your national integrity or sovereignty. If the Chair rules it in order, you will get the opportunity to reply outside of the speaker's list.



Motion to Appeal

Used where you believe the Chair has made a mistake with a certain decision.



Note: You can only raise a point or a motion by raising your placard, Kindly do not speak before you are recognized by the chair

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses

In a GSL you discuss general issues but when you need to discuss and debate about a specific topic you move onto a Moderated or Unmoderated caucus. A motion for a moderated caucus may be made by any delegate. A moderated cause has a specific topic that is selected using majority voting. The motion must include a time limit for the caucus, a speaking time for the caucus, and the purpose for the caucus. Unlike the GSL there is no order and you can not yield.

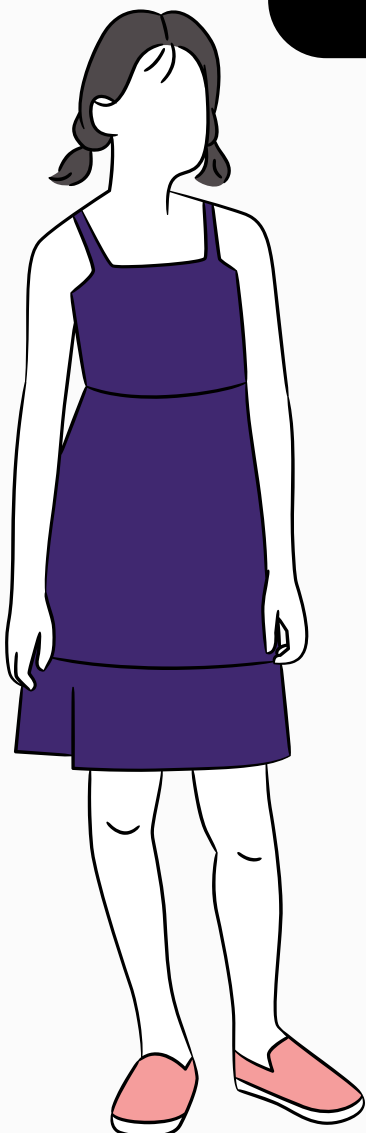


In an **Unmoderated Caucus**, all the rules are suspended allowing Delegates to converse freely. Since it is an online mun you will be allowed to create breakout rooms and text each other. The unmoderated caucus takes time for as long as the allotted time allows.



How to raise a motion for a Moderated Caucus:

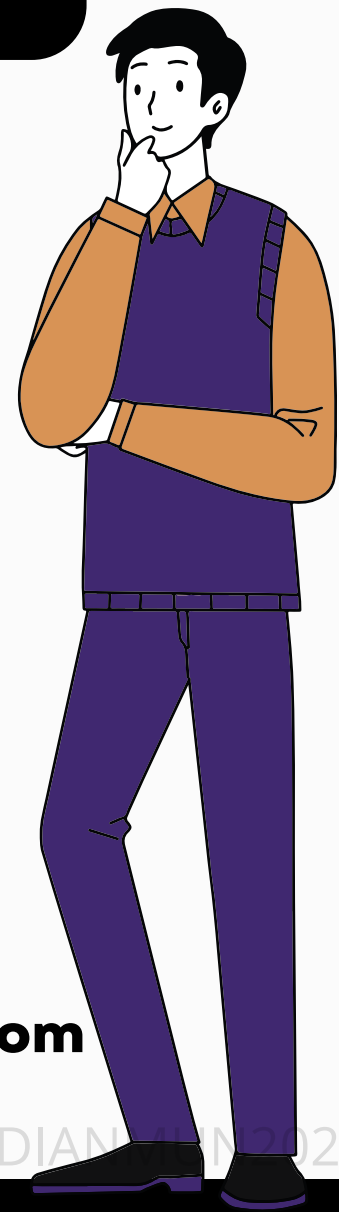
"The delegate of a (country) would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic (topic) for total time being (time) minutes and individual speaker's time being (time) seconds."



note: If you have remaining time there are no yields in a moderated caucus

How to raise a motion for an UnModerated Caucus:

The delegate (of a country) would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for total time being (time) minutes.



Note: Delegate may not leave the room without permission from the EB

What happens in an unmoderated Caucus?

The main objective of an unmoderated caucus is that delegates will get to about negotiating resolutions and working together. During Unmoderated caucus papers like the Draft Resolution are also written.

What is a Bloc?

Group of delegates who have similar views and want to work together on The Draft Resolution .



If you want to form a bloc you need to delegate and approach delegates during unmoderated caucus, share ideas and solution. You can also join other blocs. Blocs have an advantage when it comes to voting since most of them have similar opinions.

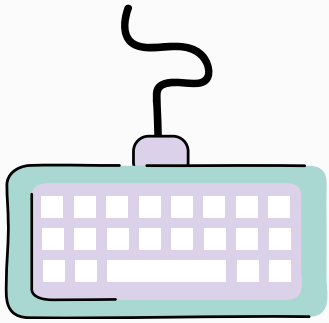
Working Papers

It is a document containing all solutions discussed in the committee and does not have a format which will be formally introduced to the committee. It consists of both pre ambulatory and operative clauses. They can be created individually. They do not have to be formatted to the Draft Resolution format, although that is encouraged to do so regardless.

Purpose of Working Papers

They could be the basis of Draft Resolutions, and also they can be the object of a moderated caucus. So, for example, if it is in work country's interest to understand the position of the other countries, or to propose and discuss solutions regarding a particular issue within the topic (in order to later make a Draft Resolution), then perhaps one way of obtaining such information is by writing a Working Paper, submitting it and propose a moderated caucus discussing this document.

Draft Resolutions

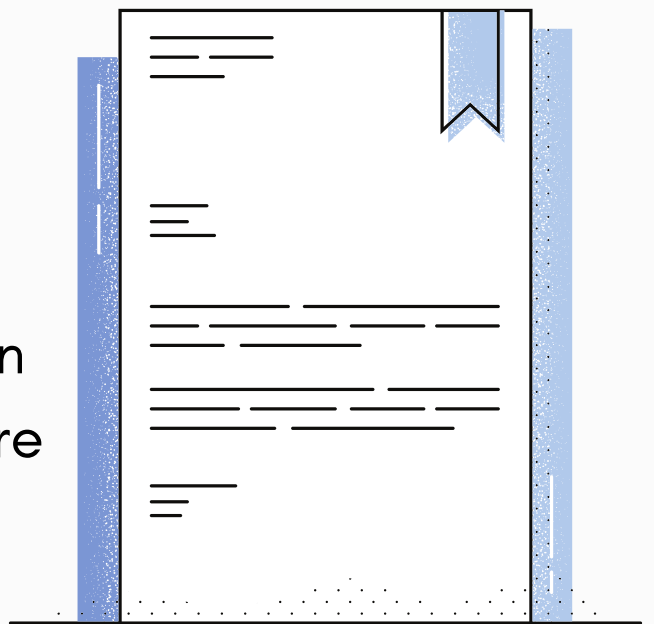


What is a Draft Resolution?

It is a formal document detailing all the solutions discussed for the problem at hand. It contains the perspective of everyone who has signed and written the document. The Draft Resolution follows a specific format.

Who writes a DR?

The Author of a draft resolution is called a sponsor. Usually there are multiple authors



When is it written?

During a Unmoderated caucus usually on day two . Pre written DR is not permitted.

How to write Draft Resolutions?

Heading:

Must include committee name, agenda .

Name of sponsors

Name of signatories (delegates who assist, approve, or support a document, and wish to see it in voting bloc.)

The pre-ambulatory clauses:

They state all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue.

Use commas to separate each clause.

Operative clauses:

State the solutions that the sponsors of the resolution proposes to resolve the issues. The operative clauses should address the issues specifically mentioned in the pre-ambulatory clauses above it.

The following is a list of verbs that may be used as verbs in preambulatory clauses:

Acknowledging

Affirming

Appreciating

Approving

Aware

Bearing in mind

Believing

Commending

Concerned

Conscious

Considering

Convinced

Desiring

Emphasizing

Expecting

Expressing

Fully aware

Guided by

Having adopted

Having considered

Having noted

Having reviewed

Mindful

Noting

Noting with approval

Noting with concern

Noting with satisfaction

Observing

Realising

Recalling

Recognising

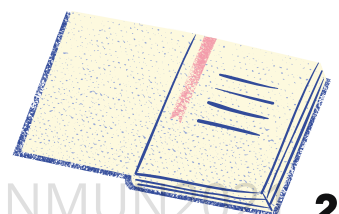
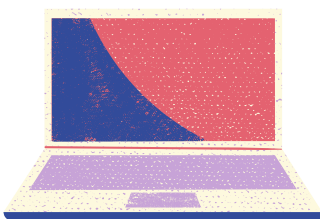
Seeking

Taking into consideration

Underlining

Welcoming

Whereas



The following is a list of Action verbs that may be used as verbs in clauses:

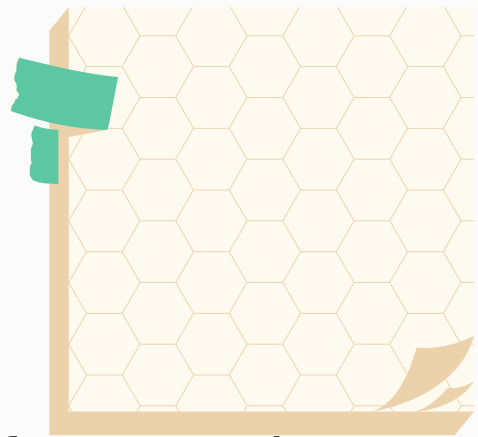


Accepts	Expresses hope
Adopts	Invites
Agrees	Notes
Appeals	Notes with approval
Approves	Notes with concern
Authorizes	Notes with satisfaction
Calls upon	Proclaims
Commends	Reaffirms
Considers	Recommends
Decides	Reminds
Declares	Repeals
Determines	Requests
Directs	Resolves
Emphasizes	Suggests
Encourages	Supports
Endorses	Takes note
Expresses appreciation	Urges



Amendments:

You use Amendments to modify a DR. An amendment is a written statement that adds, deletes or changes an operative clause in a draft resolution.



There are two types of Amendments

1. Friendly: A change that all sponsors agree with. Must be signed by all sponsors then approved by the committee chair.
2. Un-friendly: A change that the sponsors are not okay with. Will be decided by a vote.

How to write an Amendment?

Writing an Amendment is a piece of cake!
You simply write to make an operative clause that adds, deletes , or changes an operative clause in a draft resolution

Addition: Add an operative clause that reads: "Urges all nations to..."

Deletion: Delete operative clause 3.

Modification: Changes operative clause 15 to read "1. Calls upon the nations to..."

Closing the Debate

Voting Procedure: Once a Draft Resolution has been presented the whole committee will vote upon the resolution. Before we move to the Voting procedure The GSL must close this will happen if either the speaker's list has been exhausted or A motion is raised to end the debate.

The Delegate of
"country name" would
like to raise a motion to
end debate.

How to prepare for your first MUN?



Research! Research! Research!

As a delegate you will be a representative of your assigned country so you need to understand and learn about the situation and stance of the nation.

Main Objective of an MUN is to come up with creative and sustainable solutions to world problems. Spend time on ideating solutions.

Try and write few speeches for the moderated caucus on topics related to the agenda (you can raise a motion to speak about the topic).

Speak with confidence and grace!



We sincerely hope that each and everyone of you has an amazing experience and learn from your first MUN!

An MUN might seem complicated but at the heart of all the rules and procedures is smart problem solving.

Today's Worlds biggest problem is indifference and seeing the youth care for global issues and coming up with solutions to solve them gives us hope for a better tomorrow. Best of luck to all the delegates, May you give us your best!

- Team Meridian MUN 2021





References

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