Model United Nations Handbook

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Edited by
George Chen

Introduction

Dear Students,

This guide was compiled as a reference tool for you throughout your studies in Model UN. That being said, it is very technical and formal. Use the chapters as needed and you will find this a handy resource to have. While all the rules and procedures outlined in this book may seem daunting, in reality it isn't all that bad. In fact, much of it is pretty much common sense, just under new names and formalities. Don't let this freak you out, it's very easy to get a hang of.

Model UN is an amazing experience that will open your mind up to the world. You will learn about world issues and develop a sense of maturity that most students your age would never dream of attaining. Along the way, you will also develop excellent public speaking skills, as well as general communication tools. Such skills are handy in any environment, and your ability to speak impromptu in front of an audience will be a skill much sought after in your later years in college, business, and beyond.

I hope that when you compete in Model UN, it is not only for the joy of winning, but the pleasure of working as a team with the rest of the students from your school, as well as the joy of knowledge and discovering solutions to global issues. Whether you win or lose in a conference is dependant upon both your performance and the chair's discretion. That said, do not become discouraged if you didn't win or if your chair hated you or was generally a bad person. Everyone will have several bad chairs in their Model UN careers. What's important is that you know that you went into the conference giving it your all and that you came out an improved delegate.

My high school Model UN teacher once said that to be successful in MUN you must "adapt, improvise, and overcome." Indeed, this is the hallmark of Model UN; to adapt to changes within committee, improvise new solutions and gather new allies, and finally overcoming the challenge faced, whether as a committee or by another delegate. Quick thinking and analysis skills are deeply valued in Model UN, use them to your advantage. But mostly, have fun. Model UN, although a lot of work, is one of the most rewarding experiences. I wish you all the best in all your competitions, now and to the future.

Sincerely,
George Chen

Dedication

The editor would like to thank the following for their contributions to his Model UN experience:

Robert Timberlake
Wayne Knutsen
The class of Mira Costa Model UN
The students of Preuss Model UN

And finally, his parents, for paying for all his Model UN excursions and supporting him all the way.

1

What is the UN?

Origins of the United Nations

The United Nations came into existence on 24 October 1945. On that day, the United Nations Charter became operative, having been signed by the fifty-one original members. The concept of all nations uniting together in one organization designed to settle disputes peacefully was born of the desire of civilized nations to avoid the horrors produced by the First and Second World Wars. The United Nations developed as a successor to the League of Nations, which represented the first attempt by nations to achieve this unity. The League failed in large part because the United States never joined as a member. In 1942, President Roosevelt first coined the term "United Nations," when the Declaration of the United Nations was signed by forty-seven nations in support of the Atlantic Charter. In 1944, the United States, United Kingdom, USSR and China met in Washington, DC at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, where the first blueprint of the United Nations was prepared. In 1945, the final details for the United Nations were worked out at the Yalta Conference. Fifty-one nations gathered from 24 April through 26 June in San Francisco to draft the Charter of the United Nations, which was signed on 26 June 1945.

Purpose of the UN

The primary purposes for which the United Nations was founded are detailed in Chapter I, Article 1 of the Charter. These are:

1. To maintain international peace and security;
2. To develop friendly relations among Nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinctions as to race, sex, language and religion;
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

How does the UN seek to achieve it's purpose?

Since 1945, the United Nations has established itself as a forum for the discussion of international disputes. Also, Member States recognize that the United Nations has an established machinery which can be utilized as the means of solving international problems. The United Nations seeks, both through its principal organs and various subsidiary bodies, to settle disputes through peaceful means, without resort to the threat or use of force. It should be recognized that the United Nations is not a world government, nor does it "legislate." Rather, the actions of the United Nations, as evidenced by resolutions passed by its bodies, have a strong moral persuasive effect. The Member States frequently find it within their own best interests to follow UN recommendations.

Structure of the UN

The United Nations has six primary bodies:

The General Assembly (GA): The GA is the central organ of the United Nations. The GA has been described as the nearest thing to a "parliament of mankind," as all Member States are members of the GA, and each member has one vote. The GA makes recommendations on international issues, oversees all other UN bodies which must report to the GA annually, approves the UN budget and apportions UN expenses. On the recommendation of the Security Council, the GA elects the Secretary-General and holds the authority to admit and expel Member States. Voting in the GA is ordinarily by simple majority, although on "important questions" a two-thirds majority is required.

The Security Council (SC): The Security Council is charged with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It has the power to employ United Nations forces and direct action against threats to the peace. Fifteen members sit on the Security Council, including the five Permanent Members (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) along with ten "at-large" members who are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. A majority in the Security Council consists of nine members voting "yes." However, a "no" vote by any of the Permanent Members has the effect of vetoing or blocking motions.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): ECOSOC is the primary body dealing with the economic, social, humanitarian and cultural work of the United Nations system. ECOSOC oversees five regional economic commissions and nine "subject-matter" commissions, along with a sizeable system of committees and expert bodies. ECOSOC is composed of fifty-four Member States, elected by the GA for three-year terms.

Trusteeship Council (TC): In 1945 there were eleven Trust Territories, which were regions without their own governments. These eleven regions were placed under the TC, which helped them prepare for and achieve independence. With the admittance of Palau as a UN Member State in 1994, the TC has now completed its original mandate. The TC today is inactive, but is formally composed of the permanent Security Council members.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ): The International Court of Justice, or World Court, is the primary judicial organ of the UN, and decides international legal disputes. All UN members are automatically able to bring matters before the ICJ; however, States must agree to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ before it can decide a dispute involving that state. Fifteen judges serving nine-year terms sit on the Court.

Secretariat: The Secretariat is composed of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Staff. Approximately 16,000 people are employed as the staff of the UN, one-third of whom work at the UN headquarters in New York City. The other two-thirds work for various subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. The Secretary-General serves a five-year renewable term. In addition to the six main bodies, the United Nations includes a large "family" of specialized agencies and programs which the UN administers. Examples include the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

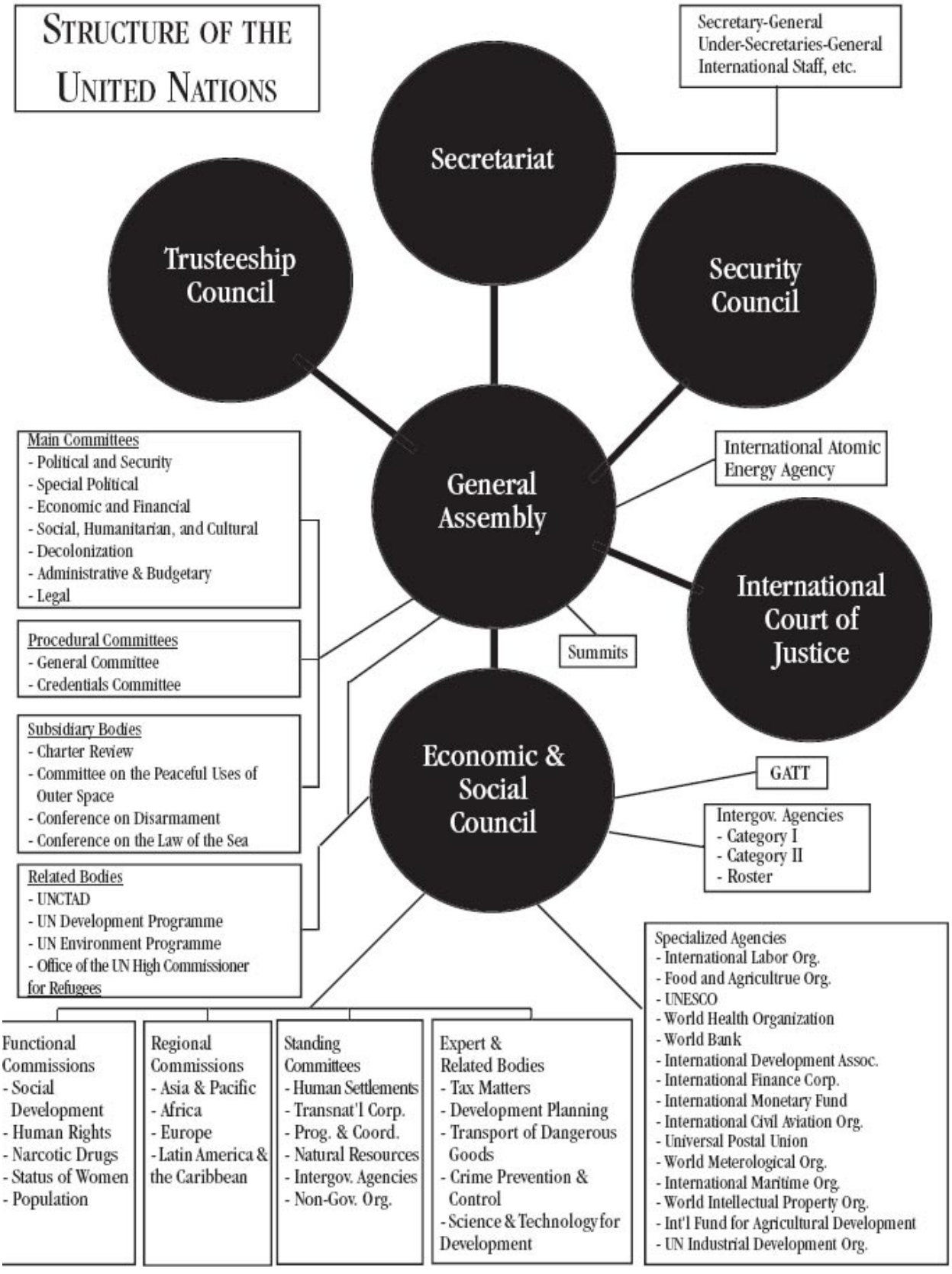
Bloc Politics

The system of "bloc politics" in the UN is one in which nations have organized themselves into groups based on areas of mutual interest. These blocs tend to be made up of nations with similar political, historical or cultural backgrounds. They are often formed on a geographic basis, but this is not exclusively the case. By organizing themselves with other nations that hold similar interests, bloc members hope to increase their influence above the level that they would have as a single nation in the General Assembly. Bloc politics in the UN today is a misunderstood and rapidly changing phenomenon. The necessity of blocs in the UN was formally established in 1957, when four regional groups were endorsed by the General Assembly: the Latin American, the Asian and African, the Eastern European and the Western European and Others. Since that time, the bloc system has grown to encompass many of the political, economic and military organizations of the world. Examples of the major blocs include the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the African Union (AU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the European Union (EU). Major changes in the utilization of blocs at the UN have occurred within the past five years, as explained below. Please note, however, that these groups do not have "official" standing as caucus groups at the UN, but are rather groups that meet, depending on the circumstances, to attempt to reach a consensus on various issues. Blocs are often thought of as "Voting Blocs," but this is a definite misnomer. They can be more realistically seen as "Caucusing Blocs:" groups which discuss issues together based on areas of mutual interest, but that often do not reach full agreement on all issues. A key consideration is that every country in a bloc will have different priorities based on its own national interests. Countries will often discount bloc considerations and vote in their own best interest in these priority areas. Blocs usually attempt to form a consensus among their members which will allow them to act as a cohesive group. The effectiveness of any given bloc in exerting its positions in the General Assembly will often depend upon its ability to form a consensus among its own members. These acts of compromise form the basis of UN politics, and often must occur within the various caucusing groups before they can begin to apply to the UN as a whole. Bloc politics have changed considerably in the last few years. Their viability as a political tool is diminishing; blocs are falling out of use. The most historically cohesive bloc, the Warsaw Pact, has ceased to exist as a military and political unit. Several other blocs, including the Western, are undergoing structural changes that will have a profound effect on the future of UN politics. The more organized blocs at present are the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity), the Organization of American States, and the European Union.

One often misinterpreted area of bloc politics is that of the "Third World," or developing bloc. A "Third World Bloc" has never existed. In actuality, several blocs of developing countries have existed. The Group of 77 (now consisting of 125+ nations) is the largest and is still sometimes thought of as the Third World Bloc. There are, however, developing nations which are not members of this organization, and many

members also belong to several other organizations, particularly the Non-Aligned Movement. Representatives should be aware that the Member State they represent may no longer actively participate in bloc politics, or may vote outside of its traditional bloc based on circumstances. For example, at the June 1992 Environmental Summit in Rio de Janeiro, several Group of 77 countries including India, a previous leader of the bloc, ignored bloc positions on environmental issues and followed their own national interests when participating at the Summit. The most accurate thing which can be said about bloc politics today is that they are in a state of flux. Many states are increasingly neutral on issues on which they once held strong views and that were shared with other members of their respective bloc. Other states are becoming increasingly independent on issues, or are concerned only with regional issues. One example of a new bloc which has formed in recent years is the "Alliance Against Biopiracy," formally known as the "Group of Allied Mega-Biodiverse Nations," which was formed to work together on sustainable development and similar issues. This group is comprised of 12 of the most biodiverse countries on the planet (China, Brazil and India, among others), with a combined total of over 70% of the world's biodiversity within their collective borders.

(Sources: Issues at AMUN #5, HMUN Guide 2006)


STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Secretary-General
Under-Secretaries-General
International Staff, etc.
Secretariat
Trusteeship Council
Security Council
General Assembly
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Court of Justice
Summits
Economic & Social Council
GATT
Intergov. Agencies
- Category I
- Category II
- Roster
Main Committees
- Political and Security
- Special Political
- Economic and Financial
- Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural
- Decolonization
- Administrative & Budgetary
- Legal
Procedural Committees
- General Committee
- Credentials Committee
Subsidiary Bodies
- Charter Review
- Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- Conference on Disarmament
- Conference on the Law of the Sea
Related Bodies
- UNCTAD
- UN Development Programme
- UN Environment Programme
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Functional Commissions
- Social Development
- Human Rights
- Narcotic Drugs
- Status of Women
- Population
Regional Commissions
- Asia & Pacific
- Africa
- Europe
- Latin America & the Caribbean
Standing Committees
- Human Settlements
- Transnat'l Corp.
- Prog. & Coord.
- Natural Resources
- Intergov. Agencies
- Non-Gov. Org.
Expert & Related Bodies
- Tax Matters
- Development Planning
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Crime Prevention & Control
- Science & Technology for Development
Specialized Agencies
- International Labor Org.
- Food and Agricultrue Org.
- UNESCO
- World Health Organization
- World Bank
- International Development Assoc.
- International Finance Corp.
- International Monetary Fund
- International Civil Aviation Org.
- Universal Postal Union
- World Meterological Org.
- International Maritime Org.
- World Intellectual Property Org.
- Int'l Fund for Agricultural Development
- UN Industrial Development Org.

2

Before the Conference

Research:

The first thing you should do when you receive your topic, country, and committee.

1.Topic Synopsis: This was prepared for you by the chair to give an overview of the topic(s). The chair may even choose to include controversial issues about the topics and what bloc positions are.

2. The Committee: Especially in specialized committees, learn how the committee is supposed to be run. The best way to do this is to visit the committee's website or by asking a fellow delegate who has been in the committee before.

3. Your country. Learn a bit about your country, specifically, the type of government and it's policy on your debate topic. A good resource for this is the CIA World Factbook.

4. The topics. The most important part of your research. Study the topic's history and current issues. Read articles from newspapers and magazines. When researching on the internet, be sure it is from a reputable source, usually groups with .org or .edu in their URLs.

5. Policy and Solutions. Develop the policy you want to argue and possible solutions. Be sure to consider whether or not the plan is feasible and past UN actions.

A good thing you can do is organize your research in a binder. Sample sections could be: General info on the topic, Country position and actions, and Past UN actions.

Position Paper:

Most conferences will require a position paper. The following is a generic outline to a position paper, however, specific conferences or committees may have different requirements, so be sure to check the conference's website for details.

General Format: 12 pt font, double spaced, typed, stapled (no covers), correct spelling and grammar.

Sample:

Country: _____
Committee: _____
Topic: _____

I. Description of the Topic

II. Past UN Actions

III. Country policy and solutions

Questions to consider:

A. Background of the Topic
• In your country's opinion, what are the main elements of the problem?
• What are the roots of those elements?
B. Position taken by your delegation
• What are your national interests in the situation?

• What are your nation's policies on the topic?
• What steps would you like to see taken to deal with the problem?

C. Justification

• What are your main reasons for supporting these positions?
• What do you predict will be the main opposition to your proposals?

Brownie Points: Cite your sources at the end!

(Sources: George Chen, HMUN)

Committee: Disarmament and International Security
Topic: Nuclear Test Ban
Country: The Republic of Sierra Leone
School: High School Academy

A. The nuclear test ban issue has been the first item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament since 1978 with good reason. In 1963, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the USSR entered into the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), which prohibited testing in the atmosphere and underwater. In 1974, the United States and the USSR entered into the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) which placed an upper limit of 150 kilotons on nuclear tests.

The next logical step, a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), has been long overdue. Nuclear weapon testing allows the arms race to continue and even escalate. The implementation of a test ban would slow down the development of new nuclear weapons and thereby slow down the arms race. Furthermore, a CTBT would not, as some states have claimed, threaten the stability of the policy of nuclear deterrence, on which both superpowers rely. In fact, a CTBT would maintain stability by preventing innovations and developments which could potentially give one nuclear state a unilateral advantage. Moreover, the increasing use of super-computers has essentially eliminated the need for actual testing.

B. The Republic of Sierra Leone believes disarmament to be crucial for the maintenance of worldwide security and considers a nuclear test ban to be an important step in the process of reaching that goal. Sierra Leone is not a nuclear power nor does it aid other countries in producing nuclear weapons.

Our policy in the past has been to work diligently toward a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We wish to accomplish this goal through negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament. In accordance with this policy, the Resolution 485 banning nuclear testing in Africa and Resolution 781 banning nuclear testing in Southeast Asia received wholehearted support from Sierra Leone. Furthermore, our government received glowing reports from the international press for our stance on the issue. The African Journal wrote that "To maintain the fundamental principles of Africa, the UN needs more nations like Sierra Leone" (Volume 48, 1993, pp. 12).

C. The Republic of Sierra Leone supports the following proposals for a nuclear test ban treaty:

The treaty must be a comprehensive and permanent one. Although Japan's proposal to have a progressive lowering of the threshold limit until it reached zero is an interesting idea, not only does this legitimize nuclear weapon testing, it also delays a true resolution of the problem. In addition, it gives the nuclear states a greater opportunity to escape their obligations through inevitable loopholes in the treaty.

Although peaceful nuclear explosions could potentially bring about beneficial results, the nearly insurmountable difficulty in differentiating between nuclear tests for weapons and nuclear tests for peaceful purposes makes such a distinction infeasible. The proposal that a state must provide the Secretary-General with all relevant data about the planned explosion is laudable, yet proper assurance of the peaceful nature of a test would require a degree of monitoring to which most nuclear states would not agree.

States can rely not only on all national means of verification which are consistent with international law, but also an international verification system. Current seismic monitoring systems, such as the Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR), are sufficiently advanced to determine whether states are complying with a CTBT. In addition, the 1984 experiment involving the World Meteorological Organization/Global Telecommunications System (WMO/GTS) illustrates the viability of an international seismic network. As per the Ad Hoc Group's report, Sierra Leone is in favor of an international network of seismic monitoring stations which would send their data to International Data Centers (IDCs) for analysis. These IDCs would automatically give out type I data (basic information) with type II data (data subjected to more advanced analysis) available upon request. Of course, even after the conclusion of a CTBT, there should be further research into the development of even more sensitive and accurate seismic monitoring equipment and analysis techniques. If the test ban treaty involved the gradual reduction of the threshold limit, then that limit should reflect current seismic monitoring technology. In addition, on-site inspections should be allowed.

Regarding compliance, a test ban treaty is of such paramount importance that violators should be punished. Yet the fact remains that embargoes would most likely have little if any effect on most nuclear states. Perhaps compliance measures will eventually rely on first convincing the superpowers, and any other nuclear states, to enter into a CTBT and then getting the superpowers themselves to ensure that their allies abide by the treaty.

Citing Sources

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3

Speech Writing

I am going to divide this chapter into three parts; preparation, writing, and delivery. What is important to note that is while I provide you with pointers on how to best approach a speech, it is ultimately up to you to determine your speaking style and adjust as necessary.

Preparation

Once you have finished your position paper, now the real research starts. In this case, it is time to begin focusing on solution ideas, looking at the problems of the topic and developing comprehensive ideas to solve them.

I'd recommend compiling two pages of research for the conference; one of quotations, another of fast facts. These are incredibly useful in conference for making impromptu speeches or comments. They are considerably easier to bring up in caucus and debate, and thus are quite a useful tool.

Some people find it useful to make a handout on their topic and their solutions. The advantage to this is that you get your name out and stake claim to ideas, the disadvantage is that it takes time, costs money, and isn't always effective. I would highly consider the benefits and costs before undertaking this.

TIP: Reality-based solutions: create a handout that is simply a newspaper clipping that argues your point. Include your country name at the bottom, and distribute it around. Since it's from the "real-world," many people will find it irrefutable.

Writing

The number one rule is do not summarize or provide a history lesson. You should immediately assume that everyone in the committee knows the background of the topic so don't waste your time.

Do not start off with a cheezy beginning. Don't use props, tearing off a doll's limbs, popping balloons, or anything like that. You will immediately have lost the respect of at least half the committee and the chair will no doubt mark off points for that. Instead, start off strong. Some common ways that catch attention:

- Sob stories
- Quotation
- Insane facts

Examples of good openings:

"We, the United Nations, have an obligation to aid the needy. The Charter of the United Nations expresses explicitly the responsibility of this assembly to endeavor to spread all over the world. And, in this conflict especially, the civil population has suffered for the past 3000 years. Thus, we should strive today to bring a decisive conclusion to the conflict in the region and ensure human rights for all."

"When Moses lead the Israelites from Egyptian captivity to the region today called Palestine, he was not the first to claim the land. Other peoples inhabited the region and lived peacefully, pursuing happiness and harmony. But the intruding Israelites deprived the people of their innocent existence and seized the land from the inhabitants. Thus, the Israeli claim to the region is historically not valid.

Nevertheless, the PLO recognizes the atrocities of the Second World War and the reasons for establishing an Israeli State in Palestine. But the PLO opposes vehemently that the Israelis deny the peaceful Palestinians to live in the region they inhabited before Moses brought his chosen people. The PLO, interested in solving the ongoing conflict by peaceful means, realizes that hard-line stances upon any questions cannot lead to success. Therefore, the PLO consents to mutual compromises if they prove to bring a sustainable peace to the region."

You have just a few seconds to catch and hold their attention, so make it count.

The Hook

Perhaps the most important part of your speech is the HOOK. This is what you must get out into the audience within the first 30 seconds of the speech to pull them in and HOLD ON to them. Why is this important? Because over the course of the debate, people will get into increasing degrees of stupor from listening to the same boring speeches. It's your job to spice things up and hold their attention. Once you grab their attention, use it and direct them to your solution ideas, which must be well developed. In this way, hopefully people will want to caucus with you and you can easily control committee.

But back to speech writing. When writing the speech, try to employ the use of bullets and outlines, which will allow you to vary your voice and force you to know what you're talking about. Employ rhetoric to it's fullest extent. Example of good rhetoric:

"Delegates, there is a line. A line between drug research and the third world countries that need them. It is THIS line, delegates, that we must bridge if we ever hope to defeat the problem of AIDS in Africa." (Or something like that)

Be sure to back up your facts, and if you can't, make it up. Bullsh*t is an essential skill, know that the truth isn't always going to be the easiest path to take, and sometimes the truth becomes close to impossible. Feel free to make up facts and figures, even quotes, as long as you can back them up. Examples:

-There are more paved roads in South Korea than in all of Africa

- "AIDS is the greatest epidemic facing the modern world today, and without combating it directly now, we risk losing the lives of many innocents. It is imperative that the UN take action immediately against this epidemic." - Kofi Annan

- Sir Thomas Boyle, head of the Center for Defense Studies, once said, "WMDs are the greatest threat to the survival of humanity and must be systematically eradicated immediately."

Now, none of those actually occured, but they have such a basis in fact that they're very believeable.

Delivery

After writing your speech, you must practice it at least a few times. In doing so, you must begin to define your own style of speaking; whether it be the fact-based logician, the humorist, aggressive person, etc. Do not read your speech! It immediately puts everyone to sleep and you begin speaking in a monotone. Learn to fluctuate your voice (fancy people call that vocal inflection), and know when to pause appropriately during your speech.

If you become nervous while speaking, don't hold on to the podium for dear life. Learn to walk around, or make hand gestures. Take a

deep breath, believe in what you're talking about. If you don't convey confidence, people will not believe in what you're saying.

Eye contact is supremely important. Learn to make eye contact with your audience throughout your speech to keep their attention. To make it seem like you're watching everyone, simply look towards the center of the room. Look side to side, but don't do so too much or you will look like a bobblehead and that becomes equally disracting.

Most of all, learn to enjoy public speaking. Practice often, and you'll find it becomes easier as you go along.

Random Rhetoric Generator

Take a verb and adjective and add it to a subject to create some fancy-sounding rhetoric for a speech.

Verbs

aggregate
architect
benchmark
brand
cultivate
deliver
deploy
drive
embrace
empower
enable
engage
engineer
enhance
envisioneer
evolve
expedite
exploit
extend
facilitate
generate
grow
harness
implement
incentivize
innovate
integrate
iterate
leverage
matrix
maximize
mesh
monetize
morph
optimize
orchestrate
redefine
reinvent
repurpose
revolutionize
scale
seize
strategize
streamline
synergize
synthesize
target
transform
transition
unleash
utilize
visualize
whiteboard

Adjectives

best-of-breed
bleeding-edge
clicks-and-mortar
collaborative
compelling
cross-platform
cross-media
customized
cutting-edge
distributed
dynamic
efficient
end-to-end
enterprise
extensible
frictionless
front-end
global
granular
holistic
impactful
innovative
integrated
interactive
intuitive
leading-edge
magnetic
mission-critical
next-generation
one-to-one
open-source
out-of-the-box
plug-and-play
proactive
real-time
revolutionary
rich
robust
scalable
seamless
strategic
synergistic
transparent
turn-key
ubiquitous
user-centric
value-added
vertical
viral
virtual
visionary
world-class

4

Dress Code & Packing List

Women

Blouse w/ skirt (not too short!)
Suit
Dress
Slacks w/ nice blouse
Dress shoes (not open toed)
Avoid lace and colored stockings
No heavy perfume
No costume jewelry
No School Uniform items!

Men

Black suit with tie
Dress shoes (not tennis shoes)
Black or dark navy socks
No jeans
No hats
No School Uniform items!

Bottom line: look professional

Extras

No gum; mints are acceptable
Cell phones should not be seen or heard in committee. You may only use your phones at lunch or after the conference is over.
Laptops are fine if they are used for writing resolutions, but you should not be using them to play games.
No walkman, MP3 players, iPods, etc. (You are not at a MUN conference to listen to music…)

Good to have:

Most experienced MUNers will be carrying a briefcase. These provide a means of bringing a multitude of necessities in an easily portable case. It also looks very impressive and gives the impression that you mean business. If a briefcase or attaché is not available to you, a backpack will be quite sufficient. No matter what kind of case you carry, there are several items to consider. They are as follows:

Ballpoint pens
Highlighters
Pencils
Mini stapler
Blank notebook paper (e.g. spiral notebook)
Eraser
Clipboard
Post-it notes
White-out
Spare change (for food, phones, etc.)
Research (only what is absolutely necessary)
Your position paper (for easy reference)
Kleenex
Overhead Transparencies and Overhead Pens
Computer Disk(s)
Note cards

5

The Debate (Generalized)

Success in formal debate depends on the use of a different strategy and different tactics from the negotiating techniques used in the lobby. The delegate needs to act in a manner which will lead to the successful attainment of the goals of his particular forum or interest group by demonstrating skillful use of the rules of procedure.

Delegates need to know how and when to obtain the floor, when and how to ask questions (points of information) and how, when and to whom to yield the floor. In general, speaking in formal debate falls into two main areas: the delegate either has the floor to speak on the main motion or on a proposed amendment, or he is rising to a point of information and asking a question of the speaker who has the floor. A point of information may be supportive to the speaker, or may question the validity of the speaker's points. Knowledge of formal debate techniques and order will allow the delegate to move for recognition to speak.

Order of Debate

Lobbying - Students introduce themselves in a casual manner and meet their allies. This can be done throughout the conference.

Roll Call- The secretary calls all countries, noting which are present. When your country is called, answer, "Present and voting" or "Present" depending on your country's policy. Do not answer "here"! Present allows your country to vote on resolutions on amendments, but keeps open the option of abstaining. Present and voting requires that you vote on every resolution.

General Debate- Each country gives a speech which states their stand on the topics being discussed. DO NOT PROPOSE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AT THIS TIME.
During General Debate, listen to the speeches to learn which countries will be your allies on the issue and form a general idea of your caucus group. Note that sometimes conferences skip this entirely and go straight into substantive debate.

Caucusing – Much like lobbying. Delegates discuss policy, solutions, and possible resolutions. Make sure to know what "bloc" you are in so you can find the people you are supposed to be caucusing with.

Substantive Debate- In Substantive Debate, countries offer and discuss different solutions for the issue. Resolutions are also written during this debate.

Vote on Resolution(s)- Before voting on resolutions, the countries vote on amendments to the resolutions. The majority must vote for an amendment to make it pass. The committee then votes on the amended resolutions. Two thirds of the votes are required for a resolution to pass. [Generally, when an amendment is passed, the resolution is automatically passed.]

Students should be in their assigned committees and active in those committees during the

whole conference. Being active involves getting a seat close to the front and close to the center. It also involves being on the speaker's list at all times, raising your placard regularly for comments, participating actively in caucusing, and being involved in the writing of resolutions.

(Sources: SMHS, George Chen)

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Resolution Format

Heading

1) The title should be centered, in capital letters, above the main body of the resolution. The title can be as simple as "DRAFT RESOLUTION."
2) On the left margin and two lines below the heading should be:
The committee name
The topic addressed by the resolution
NOTE: There are no sponsors of a resolution.

Body

The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. Just as grammatical rules make a language more uniform in its usage, so is the resolution in its format.
1) The resolution begins with The Gen er al Assembly for all GA committees, and with The Economic and Social Council for all ECOSOC committees. The Specialized Agen cies use their own names as the introductory line. The rest of the resolution consists of clauses with the first word of each clause underlined.
2) The next section, consisting of Preambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution, and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
3) Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense, active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semicolon
except the last, which ends with a period.

Resolution Introductory Phrases

The following ta bles indicate phrases that are suitable for be gin ning preambulatory and operative clauses:

Preambulatory Clauses

Affirming	Guided by
Alarmed by	Having adopted
Approving	Having considered
Aware of	Having considered further
Believing	Having devoted at ten tion
Bearing in mind	Having examined
Cognizant of	Having heard
Confident	Having received
Contemplating	Having studied
Convinced	Keeping in mind
Declaring	Noting further
Deeply concerned	Noting with regret
Deeply conscious	Noting with satisfaction
Deeply convinced	Noting with deep concern
Deeply disturbed	Noting further
Deeply regretting	Noting with approval
Desiring	Observing
Emphasizing	Realizing
Expecting	Reaffirming
Expressing its appreciation	Recalling
Expressing its satisfaction	Recognizing
Fulfilling	Referring
Fully aware	Seeking
Fully alarmed	Taking into account
Fully believing	Taking note
Further deploring	Viewing with appreciation
Further recalling	Welcoming

Sample Resolution

Operative Clauses

Accepts
Affirms
Approves
Authorizes
Calls for
Calls upon
Condemns
Congratulates
Confirms
Considers
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Draws attention
Designates
Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Further invites
Further proclaims
Further remind
Further recommends
Further requests
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Reminds
Regrets
Requests
Resolves
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns
Supports
Takes note of
Trusts
Urges

Sponsor: United Kingdom, United States
Committee: General Assembly
Topic: Peacekeeping Reform

Solutions to the Question Regarding UN Peacekeeping Reform

General Assembly,

Recognizing the forty-nine missions that the UN has embarked upon and learning from the successes and failures of each one,

Recalling the conferences of the past, such as the Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes… (1988), that provided a framework as to how the UN has come to be able to command its Peacekeeping forces,

Agreeing for all nations to abide by the doctrines decided upon in this resolution,

Wishing to see more member states willingly donate troops to the UN Peacekeeping effort;

1. Provides funding for the needed training improvements through:
    a. donations from willing nations and willing Non-Governmental Organizations such as the UN General Fund and World Bank,
    b. utilizing the reserve fund created by resolution A/47/832,
    c. funneling a portion of UN funding directly toward these improvements;

2. Recommends further development of the UN standby force, a.k.a. the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), focusing specifically on the areas of:
    a. getting all nations to sign on to its benevolent ideals,
    b. compiling data from participating nations such as:
        i. major equipment,
        ii. organization,
        iii. level of self-sufficiency,
        iv. movement,
    c. eventually utilizing this dynamic force;

3. Desires to see the UN intervene with the use of force only in matters of the utmost priority.

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Amendments

Pre-ambulatories cannot be amended.

If you want to add, edit, or delete sub-operatives you must re-write the entire operative with the new changes included.

The necessary number of sponsors and signatories per amendment is at the discretion of the chairs of each committee.

Note: A signatory does not necessarily agree with the amendment – his or her signature merely allows the amendment to be submitted for consideration. The amendments you sign as a signatory do not reflect your policy, but rather a resolution you would like to see debated. The amendments that you sponsor must follow your country's policy.

The purpose of pre-written resolutions is to give an idea of delegate's research and some of their solution ideas. Your amendments should show the chairs all of your solution ideas, those of your caucus group, your ability to work constructively with other delegates, and your grasp of the topics. Hopefully, you will conduct further research after the resolutions are turned in, and will bring fresh, innovative ideas to committee, as well as those ideas presented in your resolutions. Be realistic, be specific, and most importantly, be on policy.

Sample Amendment

Amendment to resolution C/3
Sponsors: Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Chad
Topic: Tuberculosis
Committee: FAO

1. Deletes operative 2;

2. Changes operative 4 to read:
    4. Recognizes the importance of research and development, especially:
        a. the development of new tubercu losis drugs;
        b. the investigation of gene therapy;

3. Adds an operative 12 to read:
    12. Supports the use of testing facilities in tuberculosis hotspots which would provide:
        a. WHO trained technicians and doctors;
        b. DOTS treatment and educational materials;
        c. testing persons suspected to be infected with tuberculosis;

4. Renumbers accordingly.

8

The Art of Communication

Often the most serious obstacle to a committee's progress is not some ir rec on cil able ideological dif fer ence, but simply a failure on the part of the delegates to listen to and understand one another.

Speakers List

During formal debate, the order in which delegates make their speeches is dic tat ed by their order on the Speakers List (to which names are added as soon as they are submitted). Therefore, especially on large General Assembly committees, it is important to get on the Speakers List **right from the start** and then as often as you can. Since you can only be on the Speakers List once at any given time, you should resubmit your name as soon as you finish speaking to maximize speaking opportunities. Don't worry about not knowing what you will say next time; by the time your turn finally comes around there will be plenty of issues that you will want to talk about. In some conferences, you can also attempt to increase the number of times you can address the committee by asking other delegates to yield time to you.

Yields (Does not apply to all conferences)

There are three different types of yields you can make. Please remember, though, that yields only apply to substantive speechtes, there is only one yield per speech, and yielding precludes any comments.

- To questions: With this yield, the Moderator selects del e gates who wish to ask you questions. Each delegate is allowed one question, and only your answer time is subtracted from your remaining time. Often the best kind of yield that you can make, yielding

to questions lets you clear any misconceptions that delegates may have.

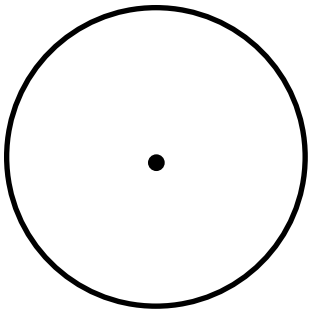
- To a delegate: When you yield to another delegate, he/she is given your remaining time to speak. You usually opt for this yield when an ally knows a particular idea especially well and would be better able to express it.
- To the Chair: After you make this yield, the Chair proceeds to the next speaker, unless there are any motions.

Comments

If a delegate's speech is substantive and involves no yields, then com ments are allowed. These 30-second critiques provide the timeliness of questions with the latitude of a substantive speech. The only re striction is that the comment must pertain directly to the content of the preceding speech.

Caucus

While formal debate is a time for communication, caucus is a time for negotiation. The Rules of Parliamentary Procedure are not in effect and delegates are free to talk amongst themselves on any subject.



When in caucus, you are graded by how close you are to the center. Thus, be the one that is commanding the group to hold their attention.

Ruling a Caucus

When a moderator visits your caucus group, he or she will be looking to see how much you are participating in the group, namely, how much attention others are giving you. With this in mind, it becomes important to control the caucus group AND also make sure the chair sees this. How do you accomplish this? Bring the caucus group right in front of the dais or close by. To control caucus, become the moderator of the group, pointing out who should speak next and giving other people on the edge a chance to speak. In this way, you could even control a caucus block without knowing what you're talking about!

You'll naturally come across people who will want to compete for the center, or just talk quickly and loudly to overpower everyone else. In that case, just get a few allies and form a new caucus group, invite people from the old one to come over and give them open voice. The Loudmouth control-freak will soon be left standing alone.

Moving to Caucus

A motion to caucus, since it is a non-debatable procedural motion, takes precedence over all other motions except for Parliamentary Points. When you motion for a caucus, the moderator will ask you for how long and for what purpose you want to caucus. If you feel that discussion among delegates outside of formal debate is necessary, then move to caucus. Generally, delegates will call for a caucus to accomplish one of the following specific goals:

• **Review ideas:** One of the first things you should do in caucus is meet with your allies and review what was said, deciding which new ideas are accept able and which are not. Encourage delegates in your cau cus ing session to put forth any new ideas they have. Also, you should analyze the response of the rest of the committee to the ideas you and your allies brought up.

• **Establish a consensus:** Try to establish a consensus on the major points as soon as you can. Do not expect to hammer out all the little differences, as that will take a while. Just reach an agreement on the fundamentals so that your bloc can present a unified front to the committee during the next formal debate session.

• **Contact other people:** Besides talking to delegates in your own bloc, it is a good idea to talk to delegates in other blocs. Try to get some rough idea as to the positions of the other blocs and see which delegates are potential allies and which will be your opposition. In addition, you should talk to the ADs and let them know your ideas and how negotiations are proceeding. Finally, you should begin thinking about forming strong coalitions.

Regardless of any suggested divisions, simplified or actual, you are, of course, free to caucus with any delegates you choose. In fact, after several caucuses, you will find blocs dividing and recombining in new ways, depending on both personalities and goals.

Moderated Caucus

Compared to the strict parliamentary order of formal de bate, caucus may appear to be disorganized and hectic. If it proves impossible to conduct productive caucuses, con sid er asking the Moderator to give you some help. One successful format for a moderated caucus divides the delegates pro and con on a particular issue and then al ter nates delegates from both groups, according each one minute to speak. Such moderated caucuses combine the best elements of formal debate and caucus, providing the order of formal debate with the spontaneous flow of

ideas associated with caucus.

Voting on a Resolution

Once debate is closed, the committee immediately moves to a vote on the resolution (or amendment; the parliamentary procedure is analogous). At this point, however, delegates may decide to use the Division of the Question rule or the Role Call Vote rule to their advantage.

Division of the Question (Occurs in only a few conferences)

This is the most complicated and, not coincidental ly, the most widely mis understood rule The dele gate making the motion wishes the committee to consider including only certain operative clauses of the resolu tion on which debate has been closed in the final version.

Roll Call Vote

If this motion is passed , the Moderator shall call the roll in alphabetical order, starting from a randomly selected country. There are two rounds of voting. During the first round, delegates can vote Yes, No, Abstain, or Pass.

During the second round, all delegates who passed must then vote Yes, No, or Abstain. Delegates may request the right to explain their vote during either the first or second round. This is called Yes/No with rights, and is used when you are voting out of policy. This method is usually only used in East Coast conferences.

The Roll Call Vote not only allows delegates to get a better picture of where delegates in the committee stand (which may be especially important if the resolution may be reconsidered), but also allows delegates to air their reasons for voting as they did. For instance, after a Division of the Question, some delegates may find that the changed resolution either does or does not fall in line with their national interests and may desire the opportunity to explain their vote. With both placard and roll call votes, a majority is defined as those members present and vot ing; therefore, abstentions do not count.

Points and Motions: Order of Precedence

1. Point of Personal Privilege - Used when a delegate is unable to participate in committee business.
2. Point of Order - Used to establish order if a delegate(s) are deemed to be out of order.
3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry - In order when the floor is open; used for questions about points of parliamentary procedure.
4. Motion for Right of Reply - Used to recognize the slandering of one delegate towards another; granted only at the chair's specific discretion.
5. Motion to adjourn debate - In order only if the chair deems it to be appropriate. (50% + 1)
6. Motion to suspend debate - Used to suspend debate until the next meeting; in order only if the chair deems it to be appropriate. (50% + 1)
7. Motion to caucus - Needs to specify length and a reason for; deemed appropriate by the chair.
(50% + 1)
8. Motion for moderated caucus - Needs to specify length and reason for; deemed appropriate by the chair. (50% + 1)
9. Motion to close debate - Ending debate on a topic or resolution. (2/3 majority; 2 speakers against)
10. Motion to postpone debate - Postponing debate on a topic or resolution. (2/3 majority; 1 speaker for, 1 against)
11. Motion to divide the question - Used when it is necessary to vote on certain parts of a resolution separately; a three tiered vote: 1) on

individual motions to divide, 2) on inclusion of amendments, 3) and on the final resolution. (50% + 1; 2 speakers for, 2 against)
12. Motion to reorder agenda - Used to reorder the topics being discussed or the order for which resolutions are to be voted upon. (50% + 1; 1 speaker, 1 against)
13. Motion for a roll call vote - In order only on procedural matters. (50% + 1)
14. Motion to question competence - Used only if competence of a committee is in question pertaining to a topic. (50% + 1; 1 speaker for, 1 against)
15. Motion to submit an amendment to a resolution.
16. Motion to submit a resolution.
17. Motion of resumption of debate - Resumes debate on a previously postponed resolution or topic. (50% + 1; 1 speaker for, 1 against)
18. Motion for reconsideration - Made only by a delegate that voted with the majority. (2/3 majority; 2 speakers against)

(Sources: George Chen, HMUN, SMHS)

9

Useful Links
(Just to get you started)

United Nations
http://www.un.org

UN IRIN
http://www.irinnews.org/default.asp

CIA World Factbook
http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

BBC Country Profiles
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

State Department Background Notes
http://www.state.gov/

UN List of Organizations
http://undcp.or.at/unlinks.html

Human Rights Watch
http://www.hrw.org/

Amnesty International
http://www.amnesty.org/

Stanford Model UN Research
http://www.stanford.edu/group/Jonsson/mun.html

UN Cyberschoolbus
http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/index.asp

UNA-USA Resources
http://www.unausa.org/

Harvard MUN
http://www.harvardmun.org/

American MUN
http://www.amun.org

National MUN
http://www.nmun.org/

UChicago MUN
http://www.munuc.org/

10

Vaguely Useful
(UN Charter, Declaration of Human Rights [Abridged])

Charter of the United Nations

We the peoples of the United Nations determined

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
And for these ends

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,
Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

Chapter I: Purposes and Principles

Article 1

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and

in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and

4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Article 2

The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.

2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.

3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

5. All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.

The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.

6. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the full text of which appears in the following pages. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.