



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Program Area Guide

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the Anderson or Mondale General Assembly!

First you should familiarize yourself with the Model UN Toolkit. Specifically, you are responsible for knowing the following sections:

- What's expected of you
- Preparing for Model UN: Learn your Country
- Preparing for Model UN: Roleplaying
- Writing Resolutions
- How to Caucus
- Parliamentary Procedure

WHAT IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The General Assembly is the body in the UN with universal representation. Every country is present there with a single vote. It makes sense why the General Assembly is the first stop for most global issues. The Secretary General relies on the General Assembly to try and find consensus on issues. Consensus means that most of the countries present at the UN agree with the solution to an issue as written in a resolution.

The General Assembly was formed in 1945 along with the creation of the United Nations under the UN Charter.

The General Assembly generally suggests action or sets long term policy goals for its members. In the case of immediate force or physical peacekeeping is required, the GA forwards its recommendation to the UN Security Council. In resolving other disputes between two or member states the GA would refer the parties to the International Court of Justice.

The two GA's at MUN work on many topics. In order to field all the topics there is a committee structure. A resolution, before it comes to the entire assembly, must be written and passed in its committee.

STEPS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. Research, research, research! You are expected to be an "expert" on both your country and the topics in your specific committee.
2. Print extra copies of your position paper and status report in case other members of your group need them
3. Practice by arguing an opposing viewpoint to your country. Use your delegation director or a student in a country group very different from yours to represent that opposition.

4. Turn your position paper into a resolution or working paper to practice the writing style and format.
5. Keep a list of your countries best allies so you know who to caucus/who might support your resolution.
6. Be careful to base all your country roleplay in statistics, verifiable facts from multiple sources, and very basic consensus information. Do not act or speak out of cultural stereotypes.

AT THE CONFERENCE

- As a member of the GA you will spend your time in either your assigned committee or in the larger assembly sessions. You can find the scheduled times in the session book. Be sure to be on time and stay in the session until it is adjourned. Roll call will be taken, and adult volunteers monitor every meeting space.
- It is recommended that delegates use the committee time as their first chance to speak. First, it is much easier to speak in the smaller (relative to the full GA) committee rooms where the Chair is choosing from fewer potential speakers. In order to make sure your countries position is heard it is recommended you use the committee time to at least read the thesis or main idea from your position paper on a topic.
- The blocks of time in General Assembly are meant to be productive. If you notice the debate is not flowing toward a positive outcome, make a motion. You can move to caucus, move to table a specific working paper or resolution, or even move to switch back and forth between topics. Changing course can make time go quicker and make the whole room more engaged.
- Talk to everyone in your committee. A resolution is much more likely to pass if you have the measure of everyone in the room. That includes blocs of countries that disagree with the current working paper or resolution. Find out what you can do for those delegates to get their support. You might even make some friends.
- Remember the full Code of Conduct is in effect in every meeting room. This means no food or drinks (even coffee!) in ANY meeting space. We want to keep the rooms tidy. There will be water available in most meeting rooms.
- The front of your committee room or general assembly will have all necessary paperwork including amendment and resolution forms.
- Bring copies of your position paper and status report.
- The Secretariat is a group of college advisors at the conference who specialize in your committees' topics. Ask them for help if you get stuck, for tips on public speaking, or if you cannot quite figure out what your countries stance would be on a particular working paper.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the HRC!

First you should familiarize yourself with the Model UN "Toolkit." Specifically, you are responsible for knowing the following sections:

- What's expected of you
- Preparing for Model UN: Learn your Country
- Preparing for Model UN: Roleplaying
- Writing Resolutions
- How to Caucus
- Parliamentary Procedure

WHAT IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL?

As the name suggests, the HRC is tasked with protecting human rights around the world. The task is constantly evolving as the world decides what is a "human right" and what specific groups require protection. The fact that the HRC was only established in its current form in 2006 reflects this growing transparency in the global discussion on human rights abuse. The HRC receives complaints and reports of human rights violations through a variety of channels. The HRC is tasked with investigating and deliberating on these complaints through "special procedures." At Model UN we condense the timeframe through which the HRC works on a topic. At the conference you will be debating and writing resolutions on two specific topics relating to human rights which have been researched by the Secretary General and Secretariat.

There is significant controversy surrounding the HRC. Powerful nations have boycotted the council because of "bias" or perceived impartiality toward nations in conflict like Israel. The number one goal of the HRC is to achieve full transparency on an instance of human rights abuse. Once revealed and debated the council can try to achieve consensus in recommending a course of action on the topic with protection of rights in mind.

STEPS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. Absolutely familiarize yourself with the group(s) involved in the two topics selected. What protections do they have? What protections might they need based on the context of the region they reside in?
2. Learn your own country's history with human rights. This will help you find your place in the discussion. For example, you might not want to encourage sanctions on a country for a specific human rights grievance if your country is also accused of that abuse.
3. Countries have different ways of referring to groups. Sometimes these references are derogatory (bad). It's important to acknowledge and understand these labels, but not to bring them into debate. Remember as an ambassador you should be using diplomatic language to show respect for all groups involved in a topic.
4. Look up what other countries are going to be in the HRC. Find allies and anticipate ways you can find common ground with potential rivals.
5. Bring copies of your status report and position papers to reference in resolutions and working papers.
6. Bring any relevant news articles to the topic to share with the HRC to reinforce parts of your resolution/working paper.

AT THE CONFERENCE

- The HRC must be perceived as legitimate to be effective. Your resolutions should be written to avoid bias and achieve maximum consensus.
- Continuing the first bullet point, you only have two topics for the whole weekend. You should spend the program area time exploring those topics in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner. Take your time, argue many working papers and make sure the resolutions reflect your best work. The Secretary General may return resolutions that do not meet their expectations.
- It's ok to disagree. Acknowledge these disagreements in working papers, and individual clauses in your resolution to show you have tried to compromise (like showing your work in math class).
- Reading the "thesis" or main idea of your position paper is a great way to start if you are nervous speaking in public.
- Your debate is part of a larger historical discussion on human rights. It's worth acknowledging past UN action on related issues so you can show how your work during the conference fits into the past and future of human rights work.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the ECOSOC!

First you should familiarize yourself with the Model UN "Toolkit." Specifically, you are responsible for knowing the following sections:

- What's expected of you
- Preparing for Model UN: Learn your Country
- Preparing for Model UN: Roleplaying
- Writing Resolutions
- How to Caucus
- Parliamentary Procedure

WHAT IS THE ECOSOC?

The Economic and Social Council was established as one of the 6 primary organs of the U.N. in 1945. Its purpose is clear in its name. The ECOSOC is the primary area where policy around economic development and social issues is addressed. The ECOSOC operates by establishing commissions on issues. These commissions are boards (groups) of people who meet to develop goals for a specific topic. For example, the ECOSOC has commissions on forest care, the status of women, science & technology, and drugs. Economic and social topics can be very broad, so the council is advised by numerous non-governmental organizations (NGO's). These NGO's provide practical, regional or topical reports to the council to help inform resolutions.

At Model U.N. the Senior ECOSOC prepares the conference budget. Funding for specific areas of the U.N. roll over from year to year. The budget is adjusted by the ECOSOC, voted on, then approved by the Secretary General. The adjustments are based on debate in the ECOSOC, recommendations by members of the CRC, and specific needs of resolutions passed in other organs.

Global peace is often based on the health of the global economy. Violence is often a product of people being unable to meet basic needs like shelter, food, water, sleep etc. Your task in a way is to maintain peace through economy.

STEPS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. Know your country's economy well. You should be able to layout the major sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, financial service) as well as the major products (corn, computers, intellectual property).
2. Know how your country's economy interacts with the rest of the world. Does your country export a lot of a certain good? What surpluses do you have?
3. Identify areas of the globe in need of economic stimulation. Where are droughts, famine, poor transportation, etc.?
4. Identify the social groups and their dynamic (interactions) in your country AND in your region.
5. Grades 9-12: Try and come up with three priorities you want in the budget. What does your country want to fund the most?
6. Check out the list of ECOSOC countries. What countries have the most similar economies or levels of development to yours? What countries near you if helped to develop economically would benefit you?
7. Learn the terminology of the topics you will be discussing. Discussions on energy, water, forests, etc. will all have their own specific language.
8. Bring copies of your status report and position papers to reference in resolutions and working papers.
9. Bring any relevant news articles to the topic to share with the ECOSOC to reinforce parts of your resolution/working paper.

AT THE CONFERENCE

- Each ECOSOC only addresses two topics. The resolutions should be written to achieve maximum consensus. This requires a huge amount of debate and many working papers over the course of the weekend. The Secretary General will return resolutions that do not meet a high level of thoughtful commentary and on a topic.
- ECOSOC Grades 9-12: Do the resolutions you are passing affect the budget? What parts of the UN will you need to increase funding for based on the resolutions passed?
- It's ok to disagree. Acknowledge these disagreements in working papers, and individual clauses in your resolution to show you have tried to compromise (like showing your work in math class).
- ECOSOC Grades 7-8: Reading the "thesis" or main idea of your position paper is a great way to start if you are nervous speaking in public.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the Security Council!

First you should familiarize yourself with the Model UN "Toolkit." Specifically, you are responsible for knowing the following sections:

- What's expected of you
- Preparing for Model UN: Learn your Country
- Preparing for Model UN: Roleplaying
- Writing Resolutions
- How to Caucus
- Parliamentary Procedure

WHAT IS THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

The Security Council was founded in 1945 as one of the UN's six main organs. The Security Council's role is to focus on the most difficult challenges to global peace. While the General Assembly wields its power to create long-term goals and policy, the Security Council is uniquely devised to act on conflict. The Council intervenes to prevent the start of violent conflict or intervenes in areas where there is already open conflict. The Council is made up of permanent member states and a rotating cast of states. Some of the permanent members of the Security Council, the United States, France, UK, Russia, and China (The Permanent Five, or "Perm Five") have veto power over resolutions. This makes voting in the Security Council unique and challenging. It can be argued that the presence of the veto power stops countries from acting rashly. It has also been argued that the veto power has perpetuated conflicts like the Syrian Civil War because of global political polarization.

STEPS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. The Security Council has a smaller roster than other organs. For each topic, know who your allies and rivals will be on a specific issue.
2. The Security Council meeting room has unique technology for presentations and resolution writing. Bringing a laptop, phone or other smart device is encouraged **BUT NOT REQUIRED**.
3. Chances are the Security Council has commented on the topic you are discussing. Look up past UN action on both topics and prepare to continue that discussion.
4. Learn the specifics of how your country plans to respond in case of certain conflict. Example: The United States "redline" policy toward chemical weapons.
5. Remember to research and practice as an educated roleplay of your country and NOT a stereotyped version of their culture and foreign policy.
6. Come with a strategy and specific working papers you want to see in a resolution.

AT THE CONFERENCE

- The Perm Five's veto power will extend debate quite a bit. It is important to use working papers to figure out which of the Five might want to veto specific language before you add it to your final resolution.
- Not using working papers will cause you to fail many resolutions and have to constantly start over.
- In most cases threatening war or violence is extremely out of line at Model UN. In the Security Council you will be dealing with situations where real people have died. Please reflect the serious nature of your discussion in your tone, and the words you choose for your resolution.
- You do have the option to use stronger operative clauses in your resolutions, BUT those stronger clauses may cause one of the Perm Five to veto the resolution.
- Because of the oversized reputation the Perm Five countries have based on their military, size of their economy size, veto power etc it is a common misconception they hold all the power. Any of those nations will still need to build a consensus among the non-permanent members to pass a resolution.

CRISIS

The Security Council may be called upon to address an unexpected topic. These crisis situations call for quick action. These crises can even occur outside program area time (for example, after curfew). The Secretary General and their staff will provide briefings on any crises and advise the Security Council. There is not a way to prepare for a crisis except to have an exceptional grasp of your countries current policies on a huge number of issues.

CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER (CRC)

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the CRC!

Your role is unique. Consider the CRC to be a combination of a number of real jobs that help make the UN run.

Reading and comprehending the Model UN Toolkit will help contextualize the conference so you can understand how the CRC fits in.

These sections will be especially helpful:

- What's expected of you
- Preparing for Model UN: Learn your Country
- Preparing for Model UN: Roleplaying
- Writing Resolutions
- How to Caucus
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Program Area Guide: ECOSOC (separate from the Toolkit)

WHAT IS THE CRC?

There is no real-life organ or agency quite like the CRC. In the real UN however, there are numerous supporting agencies which are crucial to keeping peace. You might have heard of some of these specialized agencies. They have abbreviated names sometimes referred to as the "alphabet soup" agencies.

Here are a few examples: International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

STEPS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

1. Organize with the CRC elected officer. Communication via email and at training will determine your agency choice, help with research and make sure you know your role.
2. Once you have an agency in mind, research the goals, funding, and major initiatives of that agency.
3. Look ahead at the Study Guide and determine what topics the General Assembly might need your agency's input on.

AT THE CONFERENCE

As a CRC member you will represent the viewpoint of one or more specialized agencies. The research required to play an agency is similar to how other delegates will research a country. You will need to understand how the agency operates in various regions and what their long-term goals are. You will also need to find a way to convince the members of your overseeing body, the ECOSOC, why your specific agency needs more funding to reach its goals.

You will have to coordinate with many officials in different organs to find out when topics your agency wants to address will be discussed. Committees in the GA revolve around a specific focus to make it easier to figure out where you should focus your time.

The CRC keeps the master copies of each resolution passed. This helps the conference transmit the resolutions from committee to general assembly. CRC members should analyze each resolution to determine what budgetary changes they call for, or what budget adjustments the CRC will have to advise the ECOSOC to make. Coordinate with the ECOSOC President to find out what time budget deliberation will be happening.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

(ICJ)

WHAT IS THE ICJ?

The International Court of Justice is the primary judicial organ of the U.N. system. It operates out of the Hague and has a roster of 15 justices. Ten of those justices rotate national origin and five are always justices representing the “big five” countries similar to the U.N. Security Council.

Article 96 of the U.N. Charter allows the General Assembly, the Security Council, and most U.N. specialized agencies to request an advisory opinion. Every U.N. member state falls under the jurisdiction of the ICJ however the court seeks to have states accept its decisions in each case pre-deliberation with varied success. Advisory opinions are incredibly important to creating precedents in international law; however, they often lack an operative ability, or the ability to force a state to stop an action deemed illegal. In extreme cases where the ICJ needs to compel a state to action they refer that action to the Security Council.

Thus, the ICJ serves an important role in mediating between states in an official legal apparatus meant to make sure arguments between states stay civil, legal, and away from violent conflict.

YOUR MISSION

Each ICJ participant will author a memorial on a case involving their country and another party. The judges will hear arguments and craft a decision on each case.

WRITING ICJ MEMORIALS

To present or respond to a case to the Model International Court of Justice, a party must prepare and present a Memorial. A memorial must contain three basic elements:

1. Claims of Fact
2. Assertions of Law
3. Prayers for Relief

CLAIMS OF FACT

Applicants (memorial authors) must briefly outline the issues and facts relevant to the case to be decided by the ICJ. They must also list the “Respondents” or the country, person(s) or agencies they are filing the case against. Claims of Fact detail the events that lead to the dispute. Historical, legal and political research will be helpful in providing relevant facts. Even though you are representing the best interests of your country, you should try to maintain an objective legal framing for your argument. Facts do not

equal political rhetoric. Your facts should have citations, and not be skewed so the case can move forward quickly.

ASSERTATIONS OF LAW

This section is the most important part of the Memorial. It contains the relevant principles and sources of law such as international treaties, international conventions, customary law, previous ICJ decisions, United Nations Resolutions and the works of noted international law writers and jurists. Basically, you are compiling all the relevant sources in international law relevant to your case.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

In this section, each party requests that the court rule and act in their favor. Applicants will generally ask the court to direct the Respondent to correct the wrong or injustice committed, or applicants will seek sanctions or a simple declaration of the rights and duties that exist between the disputing parties.

To find ideas for Memorials, watch your daily newspaper and magazines for current world events. All nations sitting on the ICJ are required to author at least one memorial. Nations not sitting on the ICJ are strongly encouraged to write and submit a memorial. THERE IS NO FORM FOR MEMORIALS – they are simply typed in the same format as the sample Memorial and are limited to 3 pages.

MY COUNTRY IS BEING SUED; WHAT NOW?

If a nation is sued in the International Court of Justice (ICJ), it will be required to submit a counter-memorial, due before the first day of the Model United Nations. Countries being sued will be notified by the CYV State Office through their delegation director and will be supplied with a copy of the memorial brought against them. If you have concerns or questions check in with your delegation director or the State Office. At the Conference, you can go to the ICJ student officer or the ICJ Program Specialist with all your questions or to ask for help. Here are the deets:

- As a Respondent to an ICJ memorial, your counter-memorial will have the same structure.
- Confer with the other members of your country to create a strategy, and who you want to represent the country in front of the ICJ (usually the ambassador)
- Respond to the facts listed in the original memorial with your countries perspective or explain why the facts the original memorial chose are not valid.
- Check and make sure the original memorial authors did not leave out any relevant international law that supports your country.
- Respondents generally request a dismissal of the case or seek counter-relief against the Applicant(s). What is your country owed as part of the cases outcome?

SAMPLE ICJ MEMORIAL

There is no “default” format for an ICJ Memorial or Counter-Memorial, but sometimes it is helpful to have a guide to follow. In this example, the Russian Federation is claiming that their sovereign rights to follow cultural norms have been impacted by an extension of staff benefits to same-sex partners of staff as passed by the UN GA Budget in 2013. See below for the specifics:

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

APPLICANT: The Russian Federation

RESPONDENT: Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (Requests the Presence of The Human Rights Council President)

CLAIM:

That the Sept. 24, 2013, U.N. General Assembly budget committee passing of the extension of staff benefits to same sex couples is a violation of the sovereign rights for countries to follow their cultural norms;

That the act of extending staff benefits has procedurally forced the Applicant and other nations to go against their cultures through the current form of the pension process;

That nowhere in binding United Nations documents have there been sections directly pertaining to the right to same sex marriage; rather, previous ICJ cases have already established that the binding UN documents supports heterosexual marriage only;

That Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has overstepped his authority by implementing the policy change of recognizing same sex employees without consultation of Member States.

ASSERT:

Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 7 states that 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;

General Assembly Resolution A/HRC/29/23 states that States are not required under international law to recognize same-sex marriage;

The 1999 HRC case *Joslin v. New Zealand* recognizes marriage as “only the union between a man and a woman wishing to marry each other.”

PRAYERS:

That the ICJ would recommend a reconsideration of the issue within the UN General Assembly and that a compromise may be made between contending parties;

That current document ST/SGB/2004/13/Rev.1 be withdrawn until a compromise be made;

That the ICJ would recommend the General Assembly committee responsible to communicate with ECOSOC in order to formulate a better system to implement benefit payouts.