

Dhahran High School Model United Nations Delegate Handbook



2011

Acknowledgements

This guide is based on material taken from *The Hague International Model United Nations Instructional Guide* (Fifth Edition, 1994), prepared by Irwin Stein and David L. Williams; *A Guide to Delegate Preparation 1997–1998: Model United Nations*, edited by Fernando A. Flores; *BERMUN Instructional Guide for Delegates* (1998, updated in 2003), prepared by Martin Colliers and Benjamin Morris; and the *Cairo American College Model United Nations Instructional Guide* (2004 Edition), produced and distributed by the Cairo American College Model United Nations Club.

Pre-Conference Preparation

Researching your Member State:

In order to formulate an accurate policy, both in writing (Policy Statements and Resolutions) and when you're speaking (Lobbying, Opening Speech and Debating), delegates must prepare by doing thorough research. It is important for all delegates to be informed about their country, to have specific knowledge of the issues on the agenda, and to be aware of the opinions of the experts such as national economists, policy makers, and diplomats in general from their respective countries.

It is strongly recommended that you become comfortable with all the following aspects of your member state.

<u>Political Structure</u> Origin of Political Structures Constitution and Government Present Stability and Policy Government	<u>Natural Resources</u> Basic Commodities Produced Trade Agreements Degree of Self-sufficiency
<u>Cultural Factors</u> Ethnic Groups Religions Cultural History	<u>Defense</u> Military Structure Dependency on other Nations Membership of Alliances
<u>Geography</u> Bordering Countries Topography Geopolitical Considerations	<u>Views on World Problems</u> Role and Influence in the World Membership of Blocks and Geo-political Groupings Aid Donors
<u>Economy</u> Monetary System Dependency and Debt Membership of Economic and Trade Organizations	<u>History</u> General Last 50 Years Recent History

In addition to knowing about your own country, be sure to research the theme of your specific conference (ex: This year, BERMUN's is "Investing in the Youth: Empowering Future Generations") and what your country's position is on the theme. You should also have extensive knowledge concerning your country's position on the issues being discussed in your committee.

Resolution Writing:

Resolutions are the main focus of all negotiations at an MUN conference. The expectation at most conferences is that delegates arrive with at least one complete resolution.

Resolutions may be either general statements or directions for specific organizations, UN bodies, or states. They can criticize actions of states, call for collective actions, or, in the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions. Although resolutions *can* be used to criticize the actions of other states, resolutions should not be condemnatory in nature, but conciliatory. Resolution writing should not be viewed as an opportunity to make a rhetorical or ideological statement but should have effective suggestions aimed at solving the matter in question. Resolutions should draw member states together into dialogue so that member states can negotiate a solution to the issue for the greater good of the international community.

When writing resolutions, it is important to keep in mind the specific capabilities of the organ you're writing it for. The **General Assembly**, its committees, and all its sub-organs may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that no body other than the **Security Council** may require action or sanctions from member states.

Now that it's clear what a resolution should be about, it is very important to know how to properly write a resolution because it must follow a specific format to be considered for debate.

Definition of Resolution Terms:

There are essentially two terms you must be able to clearly define and distinguish from each other to write a proper resolution.

Resolutions are comprised of two parts: **Preambulatory clauses** and **Operative clauses**.

- **Preambulatory clauses** are the justifications for actions. They usually begin with present participles, such as “noting” or “taking into consideration,” and denote Charter authorizations for actions, past resolutions precedent, and statements about the particular purposes for the action.
- **Operative clauses** are the policy portion of the resolution. Each operative clause starts with a verb, and, taken as a whole, deals thoroughly and logically with one idea. In no case should a clause be a collection of unrelated thoughts or statements on a broad topic; each clause should deal with only one aspect of the problem.

Proper Resolution Format

- At the top left corner of your resolution, list the organ, topic and submitter
- Your “sentence” should begin with you addressing your respective forum
- Number each line where there is text, starting with the beginning of your first preambulatory clause.
- Begin all clauses with appropriate initiating phrases (listed below)
- End each preambulatory clause with a comma and every operative clause with a semi colon
- Skip a line after each cause
- End the final operative clause with a period.

Preambulatory Phrases:

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

Operative Phrases:

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

Resolution Writing Tips

- Keep your resolution consistent with your country's foreign policy.
- Be specific; define vague terms.
- Avoid wordiness.
- If possible, avoid singling out individual countries or regions for blame.
- Well-written resolutions should demonstrate the following:
 - Familiarity with the problem being addressed
 - Clarity of the issue
 - Conciseness
 - Depth
 - Proper format
 - Correct English grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation

SAMPLE Model United Nations RESOLUTION:

FORUM: The Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: The Enlarged Emergency Disaster Relief Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

- (1) Believing that the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) has been an important part
(2) of disaster relief efforts worldwide,
- (3) Congratulating UNDRO for its efforts to become a center for the exchange of technical
(4) information while coordinating international emergency efforts,
- (5) Noting with appreciation the assistance UNDRO has given to drought-stricken and locust-
(6) infested African nations, hurricane-ravaged Latin American and Caribbean countries, and flood-
(7) paralyzed lands in the Sudan and Bangladesh,
- (8) Realizing that the Emergency Disaster Relief Program does not have enough money to help all
(9) the nations who have fallen victim to nature's whim,
- (10) Pointing out that economically disadvantaged and underdeveloped nations are often the most
(11) affected by disaster and therefore that contributions would largely benefit such nations,
- (12) Deeply regretting that nations have given relief, or abstained from giving it, for political reasons
(13) instead of humane ones,
- (14) 1. Deplores nations who distribute, or refrain from distributing, relief money on the basis of
(15) governmental relations;
- (16) 2. Urges UNDRO to broaden its involvement in disaster relief efforts allocating funds directly to relief
(17) efforts and planning, which would allow UNDRO to:
- (18) a. Help provide shelter, medical assistance, and the technology and materials necessary for the
(19) construction of structurally safe buildings,
- (20) c. Form a committee of specialists in the field of natural disasters to study possible areas of
(21) disaster and forewarn the government(s) and inhabitants of the impending danger,
- (22) d. Draft plans for effective evacuation of high risk areas;
- (23) 3. Affirms that with the new responsibilities of UNDRO lives will be saved that previously could not
(24) have been;
- (25) 4. Encourages high risk countries to plan ahead for disasters by instituting policies that encourage
(26) population concentrations to grow in less disaster-prone areas;
- (27) 5. Suggests that able nations donate the equivalent of 1 percent of their UN dues to UNDRO;
- (28) 6. Reminds nations that the contribution of the extra funds will help ensure that the basic human right
(29) for food, shelter, and medical assistance referred to in Article 25, clause 1 of the Declaration of
(30) Human Rights will be met in times of crisis;
- (31) 7. Emphasizes that UNDRO will distribute said money without references to the political persuasions of

(32) existing governments;

Page 2 of 2

FORUM: The Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Enlarged Emergency Disaster Relief Fund

- (33) 8. Strongly affirms that UNDRO will begin a tradition of giving aid to civilians in need;
- (34) 9. Reminds states that increased disaster control programs will, in the long term, save lives and much-
- (35) needed funds for relief and other necessary programs;
- (36) 10. Recommends that all member states pay UN back dues by the 1995 fiscal year in order for the
- (37) implementation and completion of these suggestions;
- (38) 11. Expresses its hope that the United Nations Volunteer Program can play a greater role in the
- (39) implementation of disaster relief programs.

Policy Statements

Because delegates usually only have enough time to prepare one complete resolution before the conference, it is highly recommended (and for some conferences even required) that delegates prepare a policy statement for each issue on their committee's agenda.

Purpose of Policy Statements:

Policy Statements serve three primary purposes. Firstly, writing a policy statement generally allows the delegate the opportunity to think out his policy more thoroughly. Secondly, it is in the interest of every delegation to have a document that contains that country's policy on all issues at the conference so that there will be consistency among the various members of the delegation on all policy lines. Thirdly, a policy statement serves as an outline for the preliminary draft resolution.

It is worthwhile noting that at real international conferences certain nations may not even take a position on an issue. A real delegate may wait and see what emerges among other delegates and react to their decisions. Because MUN conferences are a one time experience, observing the decisions of other delegates before making one's one policy statement isn't a realistic path to choose. For MUN delegates, policy statements can serve as an opportunity to be creative. Although delegates should be as realistic as possible and as professional as possible, they should allow themselves some imaginative thinking on issues, while remaining within the realm of what their country's position might be. Breakthroughs in diplomacy do not occur to strict adherence to the status quo, but delegates should not jeopardize their country's legitimate interests in seeking such a "breakthrough".

Components of a Policy Statement:

- An explanation and definition of the question and its key terms exactly as they appear on the committee agenda. In a discussion of the creation of a nuclear free zone (NFZ) in Central Europe, for example, it is essential for a delegate to define terms such as NFZ, what would or would not be part of an NFZ, and the limits of what constitutes “Central” Europe.
- A summary of recent international events related to action on the question
- Some reference to key documents relating to the issue (these should be underlined)
- A general statement of the country’s position on the issue
- Specific suggestions for a solution to the question (to serve as the first draft for the operative clauses of a resolution)

Sample Policy Statements:

POLICY STATEMENT #1

Delegation: Russian Federation

Committee: Security Council

Question of: Situation in Iraq

Russia strongly reaffirms the absolute necessity of Iraq's compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. In many cases, however, Iraq has actually fulfilled many of the requests and this fact must be acknowledged, too. UNSCOM reported “significant” and “important” progress. All facilities and components of the manufacturing of chemical weapons have been eliminated. Russia believes that this action alone already shows not only Iraq's willingness to cooperate but also the strong degree to which it is willing to do so.

Numerous IAEA inspection teams have confirmed the absence of activity relating to nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, Russia is willing to acknowledge that there may have been some drawbacks in this cooperation. Such isolated instances, however, in no way justify the adoption of additional sanctions. (This was provided for in Reso 1115.)

The situation continues to deserve serious attention. We cannot, however, continue to punish Iraq for the reason that they are not complying with respective resolutions when, in fact, they are doing so at this moment. We must note the progress UNSCOM has made in the Iraqi program of products of mass destruction and draw our consequences from this, which should not be additional sanctions.

According to the reports by the IAEA, there has been significant progress in the nuclear sphere so that we can now view this part of the UN mission as accomplished. The Russian Federation fails to comprehend why these valuable reports made by the IAEA are so often

brushed aside by many of our fellow delegates. We also do not understand the problems that to our knowledge are being created about the composition of the investigative groups that draw up these reports.

POLICY STATEMENT #2

Delegation: Japan

Committee: General Assembly

Question of: Role of the UN in Peacekeeping and Security Forces

Japan, in its involvement in humanitarian aid given during UN peace-keeping Operations (PKO), has seen many problems with those operations. First, Japan believes that a study should be conducted to secure the effectiveness of an operation before it is put into action, and the operations should be reviewed regularly for continued effectiveness. In terms of financial problems, Japan believes this is necessary for the Security Council and troop contributing countries as well as other countries concerned that are making financial contributions to peace keeping operations. Most importantly, Japan feels that an overall streamlining is required. Japan has also proposed the idea of having a PKO Reserve Fund in order to fund operations and contributing nations in a timely manner.

Another problem Japan sees with current peacekeeping operations is the speed of deployment. Japan fully supports the ideas of UN Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters (RDMHQ) and UN Standby Forces High Readiness brigade (SHIRBRIG) to improve deployment. Finally, Japan believes that more training missions should be held for any nations who wish to contribute to peacekeeping operations.

Opening Speeches

Delegations will have an opportunity to take the floor during the opening session of the General Assembly. At this time, one of the delegates addresses the Assembly. The delegation's opening speech can be of either a general or a specific nature but must be representative of that nation's primary concerns about the state of world. All delegations should be ready to present an opening speech but in the interest on time the Secretary General will randomly select a few delegations to speak.

The delegation might focus on what it considers to be the single most important theme in the current atmosphere of relations within the world community. This theme might be in the field of war and peace, human rights, ecology, development or disarmament. A forward thinking delegation might emphasize the interrelatedness of the areas of concern such as the effects of development *on* the environment. On the other hand, the delegation might prefer to concentrate on a single item of contention affection many of the UN members such as human rights violations or the Palestinian Question

Speakers should not attempt to state their country's position on as many agenda issues as possible in the allotted speaking time. Under no circumstances may the speaker abuse this privilege by insulting other members of the United Nations or by presenting their own country in an unworthy fashion.

Opening speeches given during the opening ceremonies shall not exceed ONE minute and are not to be interrupted except for points of personal privilege. After the drawing of the first speaker, the speaking order will follow alphabetically. Speakers will be called to the podium in groups of five.

Sample Opening Speeches

↓

SAMPLE OPENING SPEECH #1

Issue: the peace process in the Middle East and Israel

Delegation: Denmark

Honorable Chair,
Fellow Delegates,

The State of Israel and the Middle East region have a long history of hostility. In religious differences or territorial disputes, most conflicts have escalated to an armed conflict. As in any crisis, the population suffers tremendously under the burden of war. Human rights violations and other atrocities have accompanied the seemingly eternal feud in the region.

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.

Thank you.

SAMPLE OPENING SPEECH #2

Issue: the peace process in the Middle East and Israel

Delegation: PLO (O.O.)

Madame President,
Honored Delegates,

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.

Right of Reply to Opening Speeches

Following the delivery of a number of opening speeches (usually every five), rights of reply are entertained by the President. The right to speak should be treated seriously and should not be abused. A right of reply should not be confused with a point of information. Rights of reply are statements pertaining to an item or items presented in opening speeches, not questions addressed to the speaker. Like the opening speeches themselves, they should be content-based and may be dramatic in tone, but should not be purely rhetorical or hostile.

SAMPLE RIGHT OF REPLY

We have just heard from the delegate of China that our continued "reprimands" concerning its human rights record are based on "outrageous lies" and that the United Nations should stay out of "internal Chinese affairs." But how can the world community ignore the gruesome statistics? Between January and March of 1990, more than 2900 human rights violations concerning the use of torture have been recorded. During the summer of 1990, more than 750 Chinese citizens were executed. As long as such human rights violations continue, China must be prepared to receive many more "reprimands."

At the Conference: Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure at all MUN conferences affiliated with the Hague Model United Nations follow parliamentary procedure based on *Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure*. These rules of order are followed throughout the conference and specific procedures should be followed in the following situations.

- Upholding the duties of delegates
- Addressing Members of the House and Requesting the Floor
- Replying to an Opening Speech
- Lobbying and Merging
- Debating
- Voting
- Voicing relevant Motions, Objections and Points

Duties of Delegates

- Respect the decisions of the Chair at all times
- Obtain the floor before speaking
- Stand when speaking
- Yield the floor when required to do so by the Chair
- Be courteous at all times
- Avoid the use of insulting and abusing language
- Use note passing for conference purposes only; write notes only in English
- During role call, remain silent and only speak when producing the appropriate response, "Present", or "Present and voting," (Note: NGO's may NOT reply, "present and voting" because they do not vote)

Addressing Members of the House and Requesting the Floor

Addressing Members of the House:

To address other members of the house, delegates must always refer to one another as well as to themselves in third person.

Instead of “I believe that this resolution is effective,” *say*, “The delegate of _____ believes that this resolution is effective.”

Instead of, “Don’t you think the third clause is redundant?” *Say*, “Does the delegate not believe that the third clause is redundant?”

Always refer to the Chair respectfully as Madame/Mr. Chairman.

Requesting the Floor: Placard Etiquette

The purpose of the placard is to make the identity and intentions of a delegate known to the chair during voting or while the delegate is attempting to gain the floor. The placard should only be raised when the delegate fully intends to make a point to the chair or request the floor; **do not raise your placard unless invited to do so by the chair.**

Lobbying and Merging

Lobbying

The conference process begins with informal dialogue between delegates from different nations.. This period, called lobbying, is when resolutions are amended, merged with others, or perhaps even discarded if the delegate has accepted another resolution that more adequately represents his nation’s interests.

Not all of the resolutions will survive the lobbying process or be accepted for debate. However, delegates should not be discouraged if their resolution does not reach the committee floor. Their preparation has not been wasted, for delegates can still attempt to add a few of their most important clauses to a more popular resolution. All delegates should remember that their main objective is to represent their country actively and constructively in the debates and to participate fully in the discussions on the agenda issues, whether or not their own particular resolution is debated.

There are dangers, however, in the merging process. Delegates who seek to create the largest lobby bloc of voting strength by merging as many resolutions as possible sometimes end up with an illogical, unrealistic, or inherently contradictory resolution. It is essential that delegates should be aware of this risk and seek to create resolutions that are representative of the policies of specific interest groups and that make realistic recommendations for action to be taken in dealing with the issues.

Merging Resolutions

To merge your resolution with those of other member states:

1. Review your country's general policy on the issue and consider which country or group of countries might most likely support your draft resolution.
2. Exchange resolutions and read carefully. **When exchanging resolutions be aware of who has your resolution, do not leave your resolution alone with anyone.**
3. Take time to discuss your resolution with your fellow delegates. Explain the meaning and purpose of certain clauses. Comment on the clauses that you either like or dislike. How can the resolution be strengthened and thereby improved? Make constructive suggestions.
4. If you see that certain clauses are similar, think about how you could merge (join into one) both resolutions. Always be open to merging resolutions. Merging can strengthen the resolution and, ultimately, the quality of debate.
5. If you decide to merge, start clarifying the vague clauses.
6. Always be careful that the resolution you and your fellow delegate are writing is in line with the foreign policies of both countries.
7. Remember: The contacts you make when lobbying are especially useful during debate. Through these contacts, you can yield the floor to those whom you know will endorse the resolution.

Debate

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

1. The Chair calls the house to order.
2. The chair calls upon the submitter of the resolution to read the resolution aloud to the house. The submitter is the author, or one of the co-authors of the resolution and its main proponent.
3. The Chair fixes the debate time e.g. 20 minutes of open debate.
4. The Chair gives the floor to the submitter, who delivers a speech on the motion, after which he may yield to points of information (answer questions from members of the house who have been recognized by the Chair. Points of information must be in the form of a question.) The time taken for the question is not included in debate time but the time taken for answer is included. The speaker may retain the floor for the whole of the debate time, or he may yield the floor during the debate time to another member of the house to speak in favor of the motion, or he can simply yield the floor when he has finished

without nominating the following speaker. Once a speaker has yielded the floor, no more points of information may be addressed to him.

5. If a speaker yields the floor without nominating another member of the house, the Chair will recognize any member of the house who wishes to speak in favor of the motion. This procedure is followed until debate time for the motion has been exhausted.
6. When the debate time for the motion has been exhausted, the Chair calls upon the speaker to yield the floor. He then declares the floor open to members of the house who wish to speak against the motion.
7. The Chair recognizes a member of the house to speak against the motion. The same procedure is followed for the opponents as for the proponents.

Amendments

Any speaker who has the floor may propose an amendment to the resolution. A resolution may be amended by adding, striking, or inserting any word, phrase or clause in the operative clauses. However, if this takes place in debate time for the resolution, the general purpose and intent of the amendment must be within the general purpose and intent of the original resolution and should seek merely to improve or clarify something in the resolution.

Amendments proposed in debate time against the resolution may seek to alter the resolution in a more radical way and, if carried, may have the effect of turning the original proponents into opponents and vice versa. A copy of the proposed amendment has to be submitted in writing to the Chair before it is proposed. The Chair will decide on the propriety of the amendment, once the speaker has formally proposed it. The amendment is then debated as a subsidiary motion, in the same way as the main motion (the Chair fixes a debate time for and against the amendment, recognizes speakers, closes debate on the amendment, conducts a vote on the amendment, which, if it carries, becomes part of the resolution).

Once an amendment has been proposed, debate on the main motion is suspended until the amendment has been debated and voted upon, after which debate on the main motion continues from the point at which it was suspended except that the floor will be declared open, i.e. the speaker who proposed the amendment no longer has the floor. Under Robert's Rules, it is possible to amend the amendment, but, under the circumstances of the MUN, usually they're not encouraged.

SAMPLE AMENDMENT SHEET #1

COMMISSION:	Ecology and Environment
QUESTION OF:	Water supply and its importance for world peace, the conservation of the environment as well as its role in the implementation of Agenda 21
RESOLUTION CODE:	EC/A/2
AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY:	Israel
PROPOSED AMENDMENT:	

(State clearly a) the line(s) and b) the clause(s) to be amended and the nature of the amendment.)

To add a new Operative Clause 8 stating:

"Affirms the sovereignty of every state in all matters of internal policy, including the management of natural resources;"

SAMPLE AMENDMENT SHEET #2

COMMISSION:	1 st Political Committee
QUESTION OF:	The situation in the former Republic of Yugoslavia and its effects on peace and stability in the region
RESOLUTION CODE:	PC/A/1
AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY:	Germany
PROPOSED AMENDMENT:	
<i>(State clearly a) the line(s) and b) the clause(s) to be amended and the nature of the amendment.)</i>	
To add in Operative Clause 4 the word	
"equal" in line 35	
so that the clause would read:	
" <u>Calls upon</u> all Nations to participate in the equal distribution of refugees from the Balkan region;"	

Voting

When the debate time has been exhausted, the Chair may, according to circumstances, propose an extension of time or close the debate and put the motion to a vote. Once the Chair has closed the debate, all points, except points of order relating the conduct of the voting, are out of order. To vote, a delegate must simply raise his/her placard.

After the Chair has announced the start of voting, no interruptions will be allowed except for points of order connected with the actual voting procedure. No person or delegate will be permitted to enter or exit the Assembly. Note passing will be suspended during all voting.

The Chair conducts the vote by counting the number of votes in favor, the number against, and the number of abstentions. Normally, a simple majority of those voting either for or against is required for the passing or failing of a resolution, abstentions being simply disregarded. (Other voting requirements should have been agreed on by the whole house before the debate commences.) The Chair announces the result of the vote.

Delegates may not abstain on amendments.

Division of the House

For votes on resolutions and amendments any member of an assembly may call a division of the house if the given vote is “close”. Determination of whether or not a vote is “close” will be at the discretion of the Chair (and also requires a second to the motion). A motion to divide the house may not interrupt the speaker.

The primary divisions of the house will be a simple recount of the vote by raising the placard. Additional divisions of the house will be allowed, but the decision to entertain more than one such division will ultimately be made by the chair according to debate time remaining and relevancy of the motion. During secondary and tertiary divisions, delegates will vote by role call and abstentions will not be in order.

Motion to Explain Vote

Motions to explain the vote will be entertained following any vote of an amendment or resolution only if there is a second to the motion. If the Chair decides to recognize the motion, the Chair will request one explanation in favor of and one against. Explanations of the vote will be given no longer than one minute each.

Motions, Objections and Points

Point of Personal Privilege refers to the comfort or well-being of the delegate. It may not refer to the content of any speech and may only interrupt a speaker if the speaker is inaudible.

Point of Order may refer to procedural matters only which is directed to the Chair.

Point of Parliamentary Procedure (synonymous for Point of Order)

Point of Information may be directed at the Chair OR the speaker. It must be formulated as a question, and may be preceded by an introductory sentence. A series of questions from the questioner will not be in order unless said questioner Requests a Follow Up and is granted the follow-up by the Chair.

Motion to Call for the Orders of the Day calls for the return to the main agenda. It may not interrupt a speech and must not refer to the content of the speech.

Move the Previous Question if this motion is passed, debate ends (in most conferences, motion to move into voting procedure will replace this motion)

Motion to Move Directly into Voting Procedure is self explanatory; delegates wishing to move into voting on a resolution or clause may request this motion.

Motion to extend Debate Time also self-explanatory; requested if delegate feels the resolution hasn't been discussed thoroughly enough and needs to be debated further

Objections:

Motions which may be objected to include:

- Motion to go directly into voting procedure
- Motion to extend debate time
- Amendments which have been proposed (this, if granted, will prevent the amendment from being debated and therefore passed)

Motions which may NOT be objected to include:

- Motions made in the interest of time
- Motions regarding voting procedures
- Speeches by delegates
- Anything which is not a motion

Essentially, you may NOT object to any decisions of the chair or to what another delegate is saying. MUN forums (apart from the ICJ of course) are not courtrooms, do not stand up defiantly and scream OBJECTION under ANY circumstances.