

IPMUN 2024

Beginner delegate guide

Research

A) Your country

Since, (in most committees) you will be representing a country, and its interests, it is important for you to know some basics concerning the country of which you are a delegate. It is unnecessary to know the complete history or precise population of your country, however, here are a few things we recommend you focus on during your preparation:

- i) **Basics** – It would be good to know some basics about your country. Where is your country? Is it more or less developed? Is it/has it recently been involved in any disputes or conflicts? What language/s are spoken in your country? Where on the political spectrum does your country currently fall?
- ii) **Domestic Policies** – Depending on your topics, it is good to research your country's major domestic policies, that can somehow affect the topic discussed. Even if, these things won't necessarily come up in debate, it is better to know them than to be surprised when someone asks you.
- iii) **International policies** – This is perhaps the most crucial. Again, the topics of your committees will affect what exactly you research and who your allies will be, however, be sure to find out who your strongest allies are, who, on the other hand, may not be your ally. It is also good to know, as outlined above, whether your country has been involved in any international disputes that may affect its international policies.

B) Topics

Researching your committees' topics and understanding your countries position on them, is important for you to be able to actively participate in debate. There are two main areas of the topics you should research:

- i) **General background** – in order to be able to debate the topic, you must understand it. Although the research papers you will receive from your chairs will give you a lot of valuable information, we strongly encourage doing further research. Try to find as much background information on your topic as possible, including various legislation or resolutions which might have been passed on it.
- ii) **Your country's policy** – the second, and truly imperative, thing to consider when researching your topic, is your country's policy on it. Has your country made any statements or signed any resolutions/passed any legislation concerning the topic? What sort of goals has your country set out which are related to your topic? Has your country historically, ever had any kind of issues with the topic?

Position Papers

A position paper is essentially a concise summary (roughly one page) of your country's position on the debated topics and draft (but non-binding) ideas on what your country would want to see in a resolution.

What should a position paper include?

- i) A brief and general overview of the topic on an international and unbiased scale
- ii) Your country's stance on the topic
- iii) Past measures that your country has adopted to deal with the topic
- iv) Your country's propositions as to how to approach and deal with the topic collectively
- v) A short conclusion and summary

What to remember when writing a position paper?

- i) Don't freak out. Writing a position paper is especially to help you become more knowledgeable about your topic and country, it is not a test of your knowledge or skills.
- ii) Use formal and appropriate language. The position paper is still a part of the conference, so remember to speak in the third person when referring to your country and to be appropriate.
- iii) Make the position paper concise, organised and well-justified. Remember to organise your paper into paragraphs and to back up your claims with valid arguments.

Clauses and Resolution

Except for certain committees like the SC, GA committees are going to produce resolutions as the main product of their committee. Here is a basic outline of how such a resolution would look.

Pre-ambulatory Clauses

Pre-ambulatory clauses, while primarily a formality and not directly influencing the resolution's actionable components remain an essential part of the overall document. The key purpose of these clauses is to clearly express and affirm the general stance and objectives of the resolution. Pre-ambulatory clauses also follow a specific format, with introductory phrases that can be easily found online. Below is an example:

- *Urging* states to refrain from using refugees as a political tool or leverage, and instead

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses are the part of the resolution where delegates get to actually express their objectives and solutions. Once again, there is a specific format for these clauses that can be found online, an example can be found below:

1. Encourages the collaboration of states with the UNHCR or other NGOs with the consent of the state governments in order to:
 - . implement Human Rights of Migrants;
 - . Emphasize and spread awareness about this topic in order to:
 - . create understanding for refugees to prevent discriminatory actions;
 - . foster a safe and understanding community as it is vital in resolving the ill-treatment of refugees;

Additional information to remember

Dress code MUNs are a formal event, and a business formal dress code is necessary.

This is one of the many fun parts of MUN, dress up and step into the shoes of a real changemaker for a few days.

Formal address

During debate, delegates are required to adhere to a specific manner of speaking to ensure formal correctness. They must refer to themselves in the third person, as they are representing their respective countries rather than speaking on their own behalf.

Have Fun!

Whilst MUN and all of its rules might seem daunting, these conferences truly are a great place to not only learn but also have fun and work on ones confidence in public speaking and critical thinking. Even though it may be difficult at first, try to speak out in the committee and make new friends from different parts of the world.

