



**London School of Economics Student Union
Youth Model United Nations**

7-9 February

MUN BEGINNER'S GUIDE



Contents

I. Researching: The Essentials

Using the Study Guide	1
What to Research	1-2
How to keep your research	2-3
Research Checklist	3

II. Chronology of the Debate: What Happens When

Procedural vs Substantive Debate	3
Basic Chronology of the Debate	4

III. Points and Motions Summary

Cheat Table for points and motions	5-6
Types of Yields	7

IV. Resolution Writing

Sample key words to start a Pre-Ambulatory Clause	7
Sample key words to start an Operative Clause	8

V. Sample Resolution

8

VI. Glossary of Terms

9-11

I. Researching: The Essentials

Using the Study Guide

Prior to your arrival at YouthMUN 2020, a Study Guide for your Committee will be provided by the chairs on the YouthMUN website. The Guide will provide foundational information concerning the agenda topics your committee will be debating through the conference. You'll find the guide will be a brief yet comprehensive explanation of the history of the topics, what is currently the issue, how the key international players are involved, what previous UN resolutions have been adopted to try to resolve the issue and some key questions that should be debated and answered throughout the conference.

Although the Study Guide is a highly valuable document you should make sure to read (and highlight and annotate if you wish to do so!) with ample time before the conference takes place, keep in mind it should not be your only source of information. You are expected to conduct thorough research on your own, specially concerning your country's position on the issue.

If you have any questions concerning the study guide or your committee in particular, make sure to reach out to your chairs. Their contact e-mails will be provided to you. They are there to help you out, so don't feel intimidated!

Study Guide Tip: When you are reading the Study Guide, make sure to highlight important events, key individuals involved in the issue, the codes of UN resolutions mentioned, names of treaties and other key terms. When you are conducting your individual research, make sure to go back to the aforementioned key terms and research them in thorough detail. This will help you be holistically informed on your agenda topics and be better prepared for the debate. Reading through past UN resolutions will also help give you some ideas for resolutions you can incorporate when writing Draft Resolutions.

What to Research

Your role as a delegate is, ideally, to know your country's foreign policy like the back of your hand when debating the topics in your committee's agenda. Therefore, once you have read through your study guide, your main focus should be finding out exactly how your country has been involved and what type of actions they have taken in the past. When researching, you want to make sure to cover the four following aspects: the basics of your country, how they are involved with the issue at hand, your country's policies towards the issue, and any proposed solutions. Here are some places where you can look for that information:

Country's Basic:

- CIA Factbook: this is where you go to find your country's location, neighbors, population size, type of government, type of economy, trade partners, and the international organizations it's a part of. This will give you an idea of who your country's allies and enemies are.
- Wikipedia: this is where you can get the basics of your country's history and its recent controversies. However, make sure to double check the information you find here against other sites and newspaper articles!

Topics:

- News Articles: this will help you get a holistic idea of what has recently been happening regarding the topics you will be debating, and how your country has been involved. A good idea is to make a note of the headlines and jot down the details underneath in your research. Sites like the New York Times, Foreign Policy and The Economist will have more in depth analysis.

- Resolutions, Treaties and Conventions: before you can do anything on the topic, you need to know what has already been done. You can find past resolutions through the UN documentation center.

Resolution Researching Tip: Once you are able to find the latest resolution concerning your topic, the perambulatory clauses will very likely mention previous resolutions that have been adopted. Take a note of the code of those mentioned resolutions and look them up.

Policies:

- Speeches and Press Releases: These are the ways that policy-makers set policy. Be sure to use speeches and press releases from people in the executive branch of your country's current government (President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister / Secretary of State, Ambassadors). Legislators and judges may say something different, but as a representative of your country, you work for the Head of State / Head of Government. Start with the website for your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Department of State.
- Voting Record: Actions speak louder than words. If your country's leaders have not clearly articulated a policy on your topic, then you can infer it from how your country has voted on past resolutions, treaties, and conventions (or whether they were even present). Note that recent speeches may indicate a change in policy away from however your country has voted in the past, especially if your government has changed administrations. Nonetheless, you still want to know how your country's past actions on the topic, for your own knowledge, and in case anyone asks.

Solutions:

- Op-ed and Blog Articles: These writers are coming from a personal or journalistic perspective, but they can still give you ideas that you can propose in committee and use in resolutions. You can start with large publications like the New York Times or Wall Street Journal, but don't forget about blogs, too. Just be aware of their biases, and make sure their ideas conform to your country's policies.
- Think Tanks: Think tank publications have more depth and evidence than an opinion article, but they're typically not as dense as an academic paper. They might also be pushing a certain agenda, so be aware of that. Otherwise, they are a great starting point for proposing potential solutions.
- Academic Papers: These are tough reads and the information is way too dense for Model UN. But they are probably the most insightful and rigorously edited sources you will find online. Given that academic papers are quite dense, the best way to go about them is to read the abstract and extract ideas from there.
- Your Ideas: A great way to get your ideas rolling is to brainstorm some of your ideas (make sure they align with your country's foreign policy). Once you jot them down, try to add as much detail as you can, including the terms that could apply to resolution.

How to Keep you research

Although a big part of recording your research boils down to how you personally like to keep yourself organized, most delegates will opt for bringing a binder to the conference with their notes, printed articles, information and UN resolutions. A fast and easy way to record your research is to type it up and then print

it out the day before the conference takes place.

Keep in mind that you will not be allowed to use your laptop or researching device during the conference so print everything you think you will require throughout the debate. In addition, make sure to bring plenty of scrap paper for notes, working papers, amendments and draft resolutions.

Research Checklist

- Read the Study Guide and highlight important terms, key players and events.
- Country's Basics
- Recent News concerning your topic (including how your country is involved)
- Previous UN resolutions that have been adopted and other international treaties
- Your country's policies regarding the topic
- Possible Solutions to the issue (brainstorm included)

II. Chronology of the Debate: What Happens When

Procedural vs Substantive Debate

There will always be two types of debate matter within committee sessions, procedural and substantial.

Procedural: Procedural voting is voting on the process the committee goes through to produce a resolution, such as voting on motions and the debates associated with them. Procedural debate is not an argument on the topic of the debate, but of the method associated with the discussion of the topic.

For example: Debate on what order to debate the draft resolutions

Substantive: Substantive debate is debate on the actual text or information presented in the draft resolution and any associated amendments.

For example: Debate on whether what is written in an operative clause of a draft resolution is the best way to address the topic at hand.

Basic Chronology of the Debate

CHRONOLOGY OF AN MUN DEBATE

This chronology will help give you a basic idea of the layout of the debate. Make sure to go through the Rules of Procedure document to learn about all the intricacies of each motion, point and procedure.

Roll Call

Chair will call on the committee's countries in alphabetical order. You mark yourself either 'present' or 'present and voting' by raising your placard.

General Speaker's List

The Chairs will start a General Speaker's List by asking who wants to be added to it. To do so, you can raise your placard. After the GSL (General Speaker's List) has been set, speeches from those on the list will be entertained.

Introduction of Working Papers or Draft Resolutions

When a draft resolution is introduced (these are usually co-written by sponsors during unmoderated caucuses) the Sponsors will either propose a Panel of Authors to discuss the resolution or go into a moderate caucuses wherein the draft resolution is debated upon.

Voting on Draft Resolutions

After there has been ample debate on the proposed draft resolutions, the house moves in substantive voting on the resolutions. Only one may pass and be adopted.

Setting the Agenda

The Agenda topic that will first be debated is chosen by the committee by a 'Motion to set the Agenda to [insert topic name here]'

Proposal of Motions

At Chairs discretion, the floor may be open for Motions. This is when moderated and unmoderated caucuses are proposed by delegates. When raising a motion, remember to clearly raise your placard, state what type of motion you are proposing, its specific purpose, individual speaking time, and overall time the motion will be entertained for.

Introduction of friendly and unfriendly amendments

Amendments may be introduced to amend draft resolutions. You can submit an amendment electronically or handwritten. Make sure to be clear on which clause and sub-clause (if applicable) you are amending.

Closure of debate

Once a resolution has passed, a motion to close the debate is in order. Once this passes, the topic is closed for debate and the committee will move onto the other topic in the agenda. The whole process described above is repeated.

III. Points and Motions Summary

Point or Motion	Description	Interrupts Speaker	Appropriate Time	Second Required	Vote required
Point of Personal Privilege	Refers to the speaker's audibility or the comfort of the delegate	Yes	Always	Chair recognition	No
Point of Order	Used to point out when an improper use of the rules of procedure takes place.	No	Immediately after the speech in question	Chair recognition	No
Point of Information	A question directed towards another delegate moderated through the chairs.	No	If the delegate yields time to Points of Information	Chair recognition	No
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	An inquiry about the rules of procedure	No	As long as no one is speaking	Chair recognition	No
Appeal to the Decision of the Chair	Used to reverse a chair's decision	No	As long as no one is speaking	Yes	2/3 majority
Motion to Set Agenda to '[topic]'	Considers the order in which the agenda topics will be discussed.	No	Following the closure of debate, or at the start of the conference	Yes	Simple majority
Motion for a Moderated Caucus	Move to a moderated caucus. When proposing the motion, the delegate must specify the topic of the caucus, its length (less than 20 minutes) and individual speaking time. Delegates remain seated.	No	As long as no one is speaking	Yes	Simple majority
Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus	Move to unmoderated caucus. When proposing the motion, the delegate must specify the topic of the caucus, its length (less than 30 minutes). Delegates can stand up, walk around the room and discuss working papers, foreign policy and draft resolutions.	No	As long as no one is speaking	Yes	Simple majority
Motion to extend moderated/ unmoderated caucus	Aims to extend the time of the current caucus after it has elapsed. Extensions to the second degree are not in order.	No	Once the time of the caucus has elapsed	Yes	Simple majority
Motion to close debate	A Motion to Close Debate requests ending all discussion on the Agenda item and moving into voting procedures on all Draft Resolutions proposed.	No	Prior to closure of debate, when chair asks for Motion	Yes	2/3 Majority
Motion to resume debate	Requests reopening debate on an Agenda item previously adjourned.	No	Prior to closure of debate, when chair asks for Motion and if an agenda item has been previously adjourned	Yes	Simple Majority
Motion to adjourn the debate	Requests adjourning the Agenda item under discussion. Implies no further action will be taken upon the agenda topic.	No	Prior to closure of debate, when chair asks for Motion	Yes	Simple Majority
Motion to suspend the meeting	Used to take a short break	No	As long as no one is speaking	Yes	Simple majority

Point or Motion	Description	Interrupts Speaker	Appropriate Time	Second Required	Vote required
Motion to Adjourn the meeting	End of the Committee's work in the current session of YouthMUN 2020	No	At the end last session of the Committee	No	Simple Majority
Motion to introduce draft resolution/ working paper	Once a Draft Resolution has been approved and made available to committee, delegate may choose to introduce a draft resolution for debate	No	As long as no one is speaking and the draft resolution/ working paper has been approved	No	Simple Majority
Motion to introduce amendment	An Amendment is introduced for debate and a Supplementary Speaker's List is opened for speakers for and against.	No	As long as no one is speaking and the amendment has been approved	Yes	Simple Majority
Motion to start a Panel of Authors	The Sponsors of the Draft Resolution in Question may ask for a Panel of Authors, wherein the sponsors answer delegates' questions concerning the resolution's content and meaning.	No	After Draft Resolution has been introduced	No	No
Right of Reply	A Delegate may request a Right of Reply only in cases where the Delegate feels another Delegate has personally offended them or has impugned their country's national integrity.	No	Submitted in a written note to the Chair with an explanation, or when Chair deems a right of reply is in order	No	No
Motion for a consultation of the whole	The rules of parliamentary procedure are suspended, and the Committee members moderate the ensuing discussion. A specific time limit and topic must be stated upon proposal.	No	As long as no one is speaking	Yes	2/3 Majority
Motion to vote by Roll Call	Move into voting procedure. The delegate must specify on which draft resolution the committee will be voting on. Member States are called to vote in alphabetical order. If you were marked as 'present and voting' you cannot abstain.	No	Following the closure of debate and before moving into voting procedure	No	Simple Majority
Motion to reorder draft resolutions	If two or more Draft Resolutions are on the Floor (if the debate was closed by Motion), they will be voted on in the order in which they were introduced, unless the Committee decides otherwise	No	Following the closure of debate and before moving into voting procedure	Yes	Simple Majority
Motion to Divide the Question	A Delegate may propose a Motion to vote on a specific operative clause of a draft resolution separately. The proposal must specify how the Draft Resolution will be divided.	No	Following the closure of debate and before moving into voting procedure	Yes	Simple Majority
Motion to Divide the House	If abstentions are recorded and the proposal fails, a Delegate may Motion to Divide the House. When adopted, the substantive vote that failed occurs again but delegates may not abstain.	No	Following a failed substantive vote in which abstentions were recorded	No	Simple Majority
Right to explain vote	Delegates may choose to vote No with Rights and make a brief statement consisting solely of the explanation of their vote after voting has been completed.	No	Before debate on the agenda item is closed. Granted at chair's discretion after written explanation is submitted to the Chair.	No	N/A

Types of Yields

If a Delegate granted the right to speak on a substantive issue – not during a caucus – has time remaining at the end of his or her speech, the Delegate may yield in one of three ways. It is at the discretion of the Chair to permit these yields.

Yield to Another Delegate: Their remaining time will be given to that Delegate, who may not further yield the Floor.

Yields to Points of Information: The Chair will select Delegates wishing to ask a question of the current speaker, and these Delegates will then be limited to one short question. The Chair will have the right to call to order any Delegate whose question is rhetorical, leading, or not designed to elicit information. Only the time taken for the speaker's answers to questions will be deducted from the speaker's remaining time. Follow-up questions to the speaker are at the Chair's discretion and should be permitted in cases where the speaker's initial question has, in the opinion of the Chair, not been adequately addressed.

Yield to a Chair: Such a yield should be made if the Delegate does not wish to yield to questions or another Delegate. The Chair will then move to the next speaker.

IV. Resolution Writing

Sample Key words to Start a Pre-Ambulatory Clause

The pre-ambulatory clauses states all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue. It may state reasons why the committee is working on this issue and highlight previous international actions on the issue. Pre-ambulatory clauses can include:

- Past UN resolutions, treaties, or conventions related to the topic
- Past regional, non-governmental, or national efforts in resolving this topic
- References to the UN Charter or other international frameworks and laws
- Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency
- General background information or facts about the topic, its significance, and its impact.

Sample Preambulatory Phrases

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

Sample Key words to Start an Operative Clause

Operative clauses state the solutions that the sponsors of the resolution proposes to resolve the issues. The operative clauses should address the issues specifically mentioned in the pre-ambulatory clauses above it. In order to write an operative clause, start with an underlined operative phrase followed by the solution you want to propose. End the clause with a semicolon. A simple way to strengthen each operative clause is to answer the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of each resolution. These details can actually be broken down into sub-operative clauses underneath the main operative clause.

Operative clauses are numbered to show a logical progression, which means your most important operative clauses should come early in the resolution.

Sample Operative Phrases

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

V. Sample Resolution

Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: “Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies”

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. **Encourages** all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. **Urges** member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. **Requests** that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. **Calls** for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. **Stresses** the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. **Calls** upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. **Requests** the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**

VI. Glossary of Terms

Abstain: During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a country does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

Adjourn: All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next year's conference).

Agenda: The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

Amendment: A change to a draft resolution on the floor. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

Binding: Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice; resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council are not.

Bloc: A group of countries in a similar geographical region or with a similar opinion on a particular topic. Blocs typically vote together.

Chair: A member of the dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure. Also known as a Moderator.

Caucus: Normally less formal than normal debate procedure. There are two types: moderated, which involves a topic to be discussed and a maximum speaking time per speech, and unmoderated, where delegates can leave their seats and engage in informal conversation with others, normally to merge draft resolutions. Both moderated and unmoderated caucuses require a total length.

Dais: The group of people leading the committee. Depending on the size of the committee it may consist of one chair, one chair and one vice-chair or one chair and two vice-chairs. Many other combinations are also possible and conferences adopt different dais structures.

Decorum: The order and respect for others that all delegates at a Model UN conference must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of a speaker, of the dais, or of their roles as ambassadors.

Delegate: A student acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee.

Delegation: The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference. They are usually all from the same school.

Division of the Question: During voting bloc, delegates may motion to vote on certain clauses of a resolution separately, so that only the clauses that are passed become part of the final resolution. This is known as division of the question.

Division of the House (Motion to Divide the House): When passed, this motion prohibits abstentions. In this sense, the house is divided: delegates must vote either in favor or against the document being discussed. Normally a motion to divide the house is proposed if the results of the normal voting procedure are very close or if there is a chance that not everyone voted. In some conferences, such a motion will also result in voting being carried out by roll-call, that is, each delegations will announce their vote individually and out loud.

Draft resolution: A document that seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become into a resolution.

Faculty Advisor: The faculty member in charge of a Model UN team, class or club.

Flow of debate: The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. This usually indicates the movement between formal and informal debate and the process of drafting, debating and voting on resolutions.

Formal debate: The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

Member State: A country that is a member of the UN or the organ the committee is simulating.

Motion: A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into voting procedure.

Observer: A state, national organization, regional organization, or non-governmental organization that is not a member of the UN but participates in its debates. Observers can vote on procedural matters but not substantive matters. An example is the Holy See.

On the floor: At a Model UN conference, when a working paper or draft resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in debate. After it is approved by the Director and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

Operative clause: The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.).

Page: A delegate in a Model UN committee that has volunteered to pass notes from one delegate to another, or from a delegate to the dais, for a short period of time.

Placard: A piece of cardstock with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

Point: A request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate. Examples include a point of order, a point of inquiry, and a point of personal privilege

Position paper: A summary of a country's position on a topic, written by a delegate before a Model UN conference.

Preambulatory Clause: The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.).

Procedural: Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.

Quorum: The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution. In the Security Council, no quorum exists for the body to debate, but nine members must be present to pass a resolution.

Resolution: A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue

Right of Reply: A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. Generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

Roll Call: The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Rapporteur reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

Rules of Procedure: The rules by which a Model UN committee is run.

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

Second: Agreeing with a motion that has been proposed. Most motions requires seconds in order for them to be voted.

Secretariat: The staff of a Model UN conference. **Secretary-General:** The leader of a Model UN conference.

Signatory: A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed. Usually, Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

Simple majority: 50% plus one vote of the number of delegates in a committee. The amount needed to pass most votes.

Speakers' List: A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the dais.

Sponsor: One of the writers of a draft resolution. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

Substantive: Having to do with the topic being discussed. A substantive vote is a vote on a draft resolution or amendment already on the floor during voting bloc. Only member states (not observer states or non-governmental organizations) may vote on substantive issues.

Study Guide: A guide to a topic being discussed in a Model UN committee usually written by conference organizers and distributed to delegates before the conference. The starting point for any research before a Model UN conference.

Working Paper: A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. Frequently the precursor to a draft resolution.

Veto: The ability, held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no.

Vote: A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the