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Background Information

UN4MUN is a program initiated by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), with the aim to lessen the distance between the United Nations (UN) and Model United Nations (MUN). Among the six major organs of the UN (Security Council (SC), General Assembly (GA), the Trusteeship Council (TC), International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Secretariat), only the SC has the power to pass legally binding resolutions nations are obligated to follow. The GA and its organs do not have the power to do so, and can only enforce resolutions through soft-power, sanctions, diplomatic ties, and hard power.

When GA resolutions passed by simple majority, resolutions often neglect the interests of the minority that voted differently. As resolutions are non-binding, or in other words, merely suggestions for countries, countries will not implement resolutions that are not in their best interest. This led to ineffectiveness in the UN, which the international community addressed by adopting a consensus-based system, with voting as a last resort when consensus fails. This system is what the UN4MUN program aims to bring to MUN: a simulation-based on modern-day United Nations and the principle of consensus-building.

What is Consensus?

Consensus means reaching an agreement on a resolution through consultation and negotiations until there are no strong objections to any part of the text. Consensus does not mean everyone entirely agrees with all parts of the resolution, but overall, everyone is largely in agreement. This makes it so countries are more willing to implement the resolutions, as they were involved in modifying the paragraph to something acceptable.

Rundown of Simulation

1. General Debate (**Formal Consultations**):
 - a. Delegates will approach the podium and present their opening speeches in alphabetical order
 - b. Delegates speak in order, cross talk is not allowed, there are no questions allowed, no free conversation
 - c. Right of Reply: Delegates can request a right of reply, to respond to a direct question or offense by another delegate.
 - i. Rights of reply can only be exercised after a delegate has notified the chair prior through notes, or after all opening speeches have been presented, after which chairs can ask for rights of reply at their discretion
 - ii. Right of Reply speeches will only be given after all opening speeches have been conducted.

- iii. Delegates whom they reply to will also have a chance to reply
- iv. Afterwards, both delegates will have exhausted their right to reply

2. **Informal Consultations:**

- a. After the General Debate, the committee will enter informal consultations, and work on creating and amending a draft resolution.
- b. Delegates can choose between two forms of informal consultations:
Formal-Informal or Informal-Informal
 - i. **Formal Informal:** Delegates speak when recognized by the chair, changes can be made through expressing them clearly to the chair, chair facilitates debate.
 - ii. **Informal Informal:** Delegates are free to move around, converse, and draft amendments. Delegates may only introduce changes to the resolution after returning to Formal Informal.
 - 1. (Informal Informals are recommended to help draft longer amendments or discuss when consensus is not reached)

3. **Resolution Drafting Phase:** The committee will split into **2 groups, 1 for each topic**. Each chair should moderate these sessions and assist in making changes

- a. Each drafting phase, from subtopics to paragraph drafting, can be done in formal informal as well as formal informal.
 - i. If done in **formal informal**, the chair will help facilitate the debate by recognizing delegates who wish to speak, typing up each delegates' proposed subtopics, and help delegates modify their subtopics/merge paragraphs
 - ii. If done in **informal informal**, delegates will discuss and draft documents independently, then provide chair with the discussed subtopics or paragraphs for the resolution.
- b. Each committee will only submit 1 resolution per topic, and its submitters will be the respective topic groups, particularly the **sponsors**.

4. **Subtopics session:**

- a. Delegates will decide four subtopics the resolution's **operative paragraphs** will address via a consensus
- a. (Informal-Informal) Delegates can proceed to discuss on their own, and come up with four subtopics, which they will submit to the chair.
- b. (Formal informal) The chairs will hear from delegates wishing to add a subtopic, or change existing ones. The committee will narrow them down to

four subtopics.

- i. Delegates should:
 1. Propose the subtopics orally in a clear manner
 2. Announce any changes (merging/deleting/adding/modifying a topic) they wish to make to the chair
- c. Once all delegates have reached consensus on the subtopics, they can proceed to compiling paragraphs into a draft resolution.
- d. Delegates will be allowed to edit the documents and add their paragraphs under the header of relevant topics.
 - i. There will also be some time to draft paragraphs and converse with other delegates in informal-informal

5. Merging session:

- a. Delegates merge similar paragraphs by consensus, either deleting or merging paragraphs
 - i. Delegates should be focused on shortening the resolution, merging paragraphs, and eliminating repeats
 - ii. Delegates should avoid content-oriented debates, and save disputed paragraphs for Line by Line Review.
- b. Delegates can debate on **any** paragraph in the resolution in no particular order.
- c. (Formal Informal) The floor is open for any delegate to speak on any paragraph. The Chair will project the proposed changes on the document live, and delegates are free to speak on the proposed changes immediately when recognized by the chair.
 - i. Delegates can use the paragraph amending tool, but it is not mandatory.
- d. Once the committee decided it is done with merging, decided via committee consensus or the chair's discretion, the resolution will be submitted to the approval panel

6. Sponsorship:

- a. Delegates can determine whether they want to sponsor the resolution: The minimum sponsors required for a resolution is one.
- b. Sponsor:
 - i. Largely agrees with the text
 - ii. Can only submit changes if all sponsors agree
 - iii. Sponsor changes must be announced and approved by all delegates
- c. Non-sponsors:
 - i. Can propose changes and amendments

- ii. Can switch to sponsors at any time, until

7. Amendment Phase: (Informal Consultations)

- a. Before moving into the amendment process, the two topic groups should reconvene, and the chairs will decide which group's draft resolution should be debated upon by the committee first.
- b. The committee will be heavily encouraged to use **formal-informal** instead of informal-informal. Changes to the resolutions can now only be made by the chair during formal-informal.
- c. Delegates will receive reading time per the chair's discretion.

8. Line-by-Line Review:

- a. Non-sponsors will **propose** all the amendments they want to make for the secretary to mark down on the resolution
- b. Delegates can submit amendments in two ways:
 - i. Proposing them orally when the chair reaches the paragraph the delegate is trying to modify.
 - ii. Use the paragraph amending tool to submit the changes ahead of time.
 - 1. Delegates should use the **paragraph amending tool** for longer amendments that may take longer to process.
- c. There is **no debate yet**. Delegates should focus on introducing amendments instead of debating/negotiating with each other. However, they can give **short** comments explaining their stances.
- d. Chairs will read each paragraph of the resolution from top to bottom, starting at the preambulatory paragraphs, and ask if there are any changes delegates would like to make
 - i. Purpose is to document all proposed changes on the document
- e. Non-sponsors can:
 - i. Co-sponsor an amendment (meaning delegates support this change)
 - ii. Retain the original wording (reject the change)
- f. Sponsors can:
 - i. Retain the original wording
- g. After Line by Line of preambulatory paragraphs is done, delegates can decide to stop and address all preambulatory amendments or continue to Line by Line on the operatives
 - i. This is decided via consensus

9. Amendment Debate:

- a. Committee goes through each submitted amendment, again from top to bottom, in a paragraph by paragraph fashion
- b. Chair will give submitter of amendment a chance to explain the amendment
 - i. Once the committee has reached agreement, the paragraph will be agreed ad ref
 - ii. If there are no objections initially, it will also be agreed ad ref

10. Review

- a. After all amendments have been resolved, the Chair should scroll through the entire resolution paragraph by paragraph and ask the delegates to carefully read the text to make sure there are no further objections.
- b. Delegates can propose new amendments to the resolution before the resolution is decided upon (voted)

11. Action Phase (Final Formal Meeting)

- a. One sponsor will formally introduce the draft resolution to the entire committee.
- b. Delegates will be given the opportunity to deliver an Explanation of Position speech before the vote and express their final opinions on the resolution.
 - i. Delegates can raise their placard to be recognized for these speeches, and will approach the podium one by one.
- c. After all Explanations of Position have been given, the committee will then adopt the resolution either by consensus (without voting) or by voting (if consensus has failed).
 - i. Voting is **very discouraged** in UN4MUN
 - ii. The delegates can request a vote if they feel it is absolutely necessary. There are two kinds of voting in UN4MUN: Voting by Show of Hands and Voting by Roll Call.
 - iii. Voting by Show of Hands: Chair calls on delegates voting for, against, and abstaining to raise placards, and a majority vote is required.
 - iv. Voting by Roll Call: Each delegate is called in alphabetical order, and asked individually to either vote for, against, or abstain.
- d. **Explanations of Positions**
 - i. Explanation of Position after Action is Taken (If resolution is adopted via consensus)
 1. Non-sponsors will be allowed to give a final speech regarding what paragraphs they still disagree with, although not to the extent they would vote against the resolution.
 - ii. Explanation of Vote after Voting (If consensus fails and the resolution is voted upon),
 1. Allow delegates (particularly non-sponsors) to explain their vote.

Amending Process

- Delegates will submit amendments into a form, and then the chairs will format it onto the resolution

#	Paragraph	Sponsor (Submitter)	Action
A1	36	Bolivia	Delete Paragraph
A2	1	Congo	Replace “furthermore” with “as well as”

- Formatting:
 - Add the designation of the amendment before the amendment: [TYPE:COUNTRY]
 - ~~Strikethrough the changed wording~~
 - Underline new wording
- Example:
- Encouraging a gathering of member states every six months to discuss action on the plan, [REP: CON] : ~~furthermore~~ as well as sending reports to the secretary general every quarter

Reminders and Tips

More details about editorial guidelines for drafting resolutions can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/71/editorialguidelines.pdf>

For terms commonly used in resolutions, go to:

[UNITAR Terms Used in Resolutions](#)

Some comments on the use of sub-paragraphs:

Model UN Resolutions like to include sub-paragraphs and excessive details, but sub-paragraphs appear less frequently in the UN as the more detailed the text is, the less accommodating the terms are for differing situations and the harder it is to negotiate. Reaching consensus often requires making compromises, which may result in paragraphs more general in nature.

Points

- Point of Order: If the chair violates rules or delegates are confused. (Only used in General Debate)
- Right of Reply: Member A says something Member B is offended

Yielding

- Yielding your time to another delegate or to POIs is not allowed during Formal Consultations.

Motions

- Motions will not be entertained. When delegates wish to transition from a phase of debate, they must reach consensus that the current phase is complete, then inform the chair.

Informal Consultations

- Formal Informal: Delegates speak when recognized by the chair, and can engage in open conversation once recognized.
- Informal Informal: Procedural rules are suspended, delegates are free to move around the room and discuss with each other.

Formal Consultations (Formal Formal)

- Chairs call on delegates to speak individually at the podium in a predetermined order
- Delegates are not allowed to converse or speak with each other.
- The only point allowed is point of order
- Note passing is suspended
- Only used in General Debate/Action Phase

Terminology

<u>Terms to Use</u>	<u>Terms to Not Use</u>
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Bureau: Consists of Secretary and Chair. Chair, in theory, should be elected but will be appointed at TASMUN for logistics and training purposes.

Preambular Paragraphs: Paragraphs in a resolution that outlines past UN actions and key statistics.

Operative Paragraphs: Paragraphs in a resolution that outline solutions to the issue.

Informal Informals: Delegates are allowed time to freely converse, draft amendments, discuss, move around the room, but are not allowed to take action on the resolution.

Formal Informal: When the discussion/line-by-line review of the resolution is led by the chair or a main-sponsor of the resolution.

Consensus: See above

Sponsors: Delegates who completely agree to the resolution.

Non-Sponsors: Delegates who do not completely agree to the resolution.

Tabling: Suspending Amendment Debate on any paragraph.

Explanation of Position: After consensus is reached, delegates can explain parts they do not completely agree on but do not feel the need to take out as non-sponsors.

Explanation of Vote: When a resolution is adopted by vote, non-sponsors can explain their disappointment with the resolution or any reservations they may have on particular paragraphs.

Dais: Please use the bureau instead, Dais is not a thing in the UN.

Honorable Chair: The UN is not a parliament. Please use Mr./Madame President or Mr./Madame Secretary.

House: The UN is not a parliament.

Director: There are no directors in the UN.

Friendly and Unfriendly Amendments: These terms are not used in the UN.

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucus: These terms do not exist at the UN, please use Formal Informals and Informals Informals. Plus, delegates wouldn't need to call for one.

Clause: UN refers to them as paragraphs.

Parliamentary points (e.g., Points of Personal Privilege, Points of Information, and Points of Inquiry) and motions (e.g., Motion for Moderated or Unmoderated Caucuses, Motion to Set Agenda, Motions to Set Speaking Time, Motion to Move to Voting Procedures, etc.) are not allowed during the conference. These are **parliamentary** rules of procedure.

“Are there any points or motions on the floor”
When delegates wish to raise a point of order, they must do so unprompted.

Contacts - Please contact the Secretariat team members listed below or the Secretary of your respective

committee if you have any questions.

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