WELCOME TO

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Presented by:

University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Club

University Center for International Studies

With special acknowledgement of:

African Studies Program
Asian Studies Center
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Welcome to the Twentieth Annual University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference

Dear Delegates, and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the University of Pittsburgh and all sponsors, I would like to welcome you to the Twentieth Annual University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference.

The world that surrounds us today is quite the dynamic one, one that requires the peaceful interaction of people regardless of cultural and physical boundaries. On November 7th, 2016, we hope to offer you an opportunity to interact with delegates representing different countries and individuals to tackle many of the issues the United Nations faces today. We hope that this Model United Nations simulation fosters attitudes of diplomacy and cooperation and offers insight into the inner-workings of international relations and global politics. In honor of our Twentieth Annual Conference, we’ve put together a comprehensive set of committees and topics, including a unique Board of Directors committee focused on the company BP. We tried our best to tailor the Member States present in each committee to the topics under discussion in an effort to involve all delegates in debate relevant to their positions, so keep that in mind as you prepare for PittMUN XX!

This Conference Manual will familiarize delegates with the rules and procedures of the conference and contains useful information for both novices and veterans. In addition to explicit instructions for writing position papers and drafting resolutions, the judging criteria that will be used to determine awards is also included for your reference. Furthermore, you will find the background guides for each committee in this Manual, as well. Please pay special attention to the Standards of Conduct specified at the end of this Manual. This section includes the dress code and behavioral terms, which must be strictly adhered to at all times. Failure to attend to these guidelines will result in consequences or even expulsion from the Conference. Please feel free to direct any questions about the Manual and its content to the Secretariat via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com.

Once again, welcome to the Twentieth Annual University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference! We look forward to having you at Pitt in November, and it is our sincere hope that this opportunity provides a valuable learning experience for you.

Sincerely,

Priya Chandrasekaran
Secretary-General, PittMUN XX
University of Pittsburgh Nineteenth Model United Nations
Delegates participating in Model United Nations should be familiar with the history of the United Nations as well as the rapidly changing role that the organization plays in international affairs.

1.1 Origins of the United Nations

The name "United Nations," coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" on January 1st, 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 countries pledged their governments would continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

The United Nations, however, was not the first attempt at international cooperation for peace. In 1899, the first International Peace Conference was held in The Hague to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare. It adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes and established the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902. The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the First World War, and was established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security."

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates considered proposals developed by representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States, in August-October 1944. Delegates of the 50 attending countries signed the Charter on June 26th, 1945. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24th, 1945, when China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories ratified the Charter. United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24th each year.

1.2 Purpose of the United Nations

The primary purposes for which the United Nations was founded are detailed in Chapter I, Article 1, of the Charter:

1. To maintain international peace and security;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinctions as to race, sex, language and religion;
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Since 1945, the United Nations has established itself as a forum for the discussion of international disputes. Also, Member States recognize that the United Nations has established machinery that can be used to solve international problems.

The United Nations seeks, both through its principal organs and various subsidiary bodies, to settle disputes through peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force. It should be recognized that the United Nations is not a world government, nor does it legislate. Rather, the actions of the United Nations, as evidenced by resolutions passed by its bodies, have a strong persuasive effect. The Member States frequently find it within their own best interests to follow U.N. recommendations.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Originally comprised of only 51 members, the U.N. today represents nearly every country in the world with 193 Member States. When states become members of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the U.N. Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations.

The United Nations is not a world government and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. At the U.N., all Member States — large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems — have a voice and a vote in this process.

The United Nations has six main organs. Five of them — the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat — are based at U.N. Headquarters in New York. The sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located in The Hague in the Netherlands.

- **The General Assembly (GA):** The GA is the central organ of the United Nations and has been described as the nearest thing to a “parliament of mankind.” All Member States are members of the GA and each member has one vote. The GA makes recommendations on international issues, oversees all other U.N. bodies, approves the U.N. budget and apportions U.N. expenses. On the recommendation of the Security Council, the GA elects the Secretary General, and has the authority to admit and expel Member States. Voting in the GA is ordinarily by simple majority, although for “important questions” a two-thirds majority is required.
- **The Security Council (SC):** The Security Council is charged with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. It is the only body that can draft binding resolutions. It has the power to employ United Nations peacekeeping forces and direct action against threats to the peace. Fifteen members sit on the Security Council, including the five Permanent Members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) along with ten “at-large” members that are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. A majority in the Security Council consists of nine members voting “yes.” However, a “no” vote by any of the Permanent Members will veto or block the passage of resolutions.

- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** ECOSOC is the primary body dealing with the economic, social, humanitarian and cultural work of the United Nations system. ECOSOC oversees five regional economic commissions and six “subject-matter” commissions, along with a sizable system of committees and expert bodies. ECOSOC is composed of 54 Member States elected by the GA for three-year terms. In addition to the six main bodies, the United Nations includes a large “family” of specialized agencies and programs. These agencies have their own charters, rules and memberships; ECOSOC merely coordinates their activities. Examples include the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

- **Trusteeship Council (TC):** In 1945, there were 11 Trust Territories or regions without their own governments. These 11 regions were placed under the TC, which helped them prepare for and achieve independence. With the admittance of Palau as a Member State in 1994, the TC completed its original mandate. The TC today is inactive, but is formally composed of the Permanent Members of the Security Council.

- **The International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The International Court of Justice, or World Court, is the primary judicial organ of the U.N. and decides international legal disputes. All U.N. members are automatically able to bring matters before the ICJ. However, a state must agree to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ before it can decide a dispute involving that state, as the Court’s decisions are binding on the parties. Fifteen judges serving nine-year terms sit on the Court.

- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is composed of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Staff. Approximately 16,000 persons are employed as the staff of the U.N., one-third of whom work at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. The other two-thirds work for various subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. The Secretary-General serves a five-year renewable term.
**SECTION 2. ROLE-PLAYING AND PREPARATION**

### 2.1 THE DELEGATE

Delegates are fundamental to any Model United Nations Conference. A Delegate's job is to research the positions of a U.N. Member State on the specific issues that his/her committee will discuss at the Conference as well as on general issues that influence that nation’s foreign policy. Delegates then prepare appropriate documents for debate. See *Preparation*.

On the floor of the Model U.N. Conference, a Delegate assumes the role of the Distinguished Delegate from his/her respective country with all the rights and responsibilities that this entails. Thus, Delegates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting international diplomats. Delegates should extend courtesy and respect, both in speaking and in behavior, to fellow Delegates, faculty members, and the Secretariat at the Conference. The University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations (PittMUN) reserves the right to expel any Delegate not acting in a courteous or professional fashion. See *Standards of Conduct*.

Each delegation will consist of at least one and at most two Delegates for each Committee on which that delegation is represented. While all countries are automatically represented on the General Assembly Committees, some Committees consist of a select group of delegations.

Delegates draft and discuss resolutions, caucus, and work to reach a universal solution on the issues at hand with fellow Delegates. Resolutions under discussion at PittMUN may be accepted by consensus, adopted, amended, combined, or even debated to the point where no final document can be produced on a given issue.

Name badges, which include the Delegate's country, act as his/her credentials for the Conference and are *mandatory* at all times during the day of the Model U.N. Conference. No one will be admitted to any Conference area without approved credentials.

A placard with the name of the delegation will be provided to each delegation at the beginning of the committee session. These are the property of PittMUN; the placard should not be defaced or removed from the room. PittMUN chairs or staff will not recognize defaced placards.

### 2.2 ROLE-PLAYING

Since PittMUN is a simulation of the U.N., the tone of debate will be dramatically different from the "real" U.N. In the U.N., Delegates and their consular staffs spend months in preparation by caucusing "behind closed doors" and interacting with other nations before an issue is brought to a vote. A U.N. Delegate, or Head of State, generally makes a prepared speech that will not be "news" to the other Delegates present.
However, Delegates at PittMUN have only one day to assume the role of their nation's Distinguished Delegate and simulate the actions of the U.N. This consolidation of time leads to many different circumstances with which each delegation will have to contend. For example, Delegates will rarely have the opportunity to make a pre-written speech on an issue. Instead, they will often be forced to react extemporaneously to circumstances as they arise. They may find themselves in a position where it is necessary to reinterpret their nation's position in light of new facts. Delegates should not simply read from their country's established record on the issues presented. They should be prepared to compromise with the other nations represented.

Delegates should research and follow the policies of their countries, modifying them as new circumstances arise. Successful role-playing involves walking a careful line on policy. Note that this in no way gives delegations license to act “out of character.” Avoid the extremes of either reading a country's past statements verbatim or creating ad hoc policy with no previous basis either in past policy or at the Conference. Students attending the Conference are not career diplomats, and most will not have lived in the countries they are representing. It is understood that students will not have a perfect knowledge of their country’s policy.

Each delegation is responsible for being “in character,” however. The ultimate responsibility falls to its Permanent Delegate and/or its Faculty Advisor. There is no substitute for extensive preparation on a country and the issues to be discussed before attending the Conference. PittMUN expects the members of each delegation to enter the Conference prepared to represent their country with integrity and with more knowledge about their respective nation’s policies than any other Delegates present.

Sometimes at a Conference, questions arise as to whether the actions of an individual are “out of character” in relation to the country's policy in the real world. At the Model U.N. Conference, if a Delegate feels that another Delegate is not prepared, is misinformed, or is acting “out of character” on a particular issue, PittMUN recommends that:

1. The Delegate revisits the actions taken by the Delegate in question. Is the Delegate “out of character” given the particular resolution and situation on the floor? Have circumstances, either in the real world or at the Conference, changed such that the Delegate could realistically modify the country’s stance on a particular issue? Are you certain that you know the actual stance of the country in question on the issue? Many cases of a Delegate appearing “out of character” are actually just misinterpretations of what was said or of a country’s previously stated policies.

2. If you still feel that the Delegate is “out of character,” PittMUN asks that you talk to the Delegate about the issue before bringing the problem to the Secretariat. This can be easily done in a non-confrontational manner by stating something like: “I hadn't realized that was your country's position on the issue. Where did you see that?” - or - "I thought I read something in (state your source) about your country having a different opinion on this issue. Have you seen that information?" Directly confronting a Delegate by saying “You're wrong on this” will likely not succeed and could damage your diplomatic relations in the future.

3. The Delegate will likely respond in one of two ways to your question.
   a. He or she may provide information that justifies the statements, with a statement such as “I did the research and this is my country’s view on the issue.”
b. He or she may show interest in the new information that has been provided. If the response answers your question, the problem is resolved.

Please note that PittMUN Chairs are specifically instructed NOT to provide advice to Delegates on the issues being discussed. The Chairs’ purpose in committee is to facilitate debate objectively. Providing research or assistance to a Delegate on his/her country position diminishes the Chair’s ability to act independently and objectively. Chairs may arbitrate disagreements, but will never render an opinion on whether a delegate is “out of character.”

Since all participants at PittMUN are learning about the United Nations as they participate, these situations may arise. PittMUN also asks that Delegates not jump to conclusions about other delegations’ role-playing without having detailed background on the other country’s position on the issue(s). Finally, PittMUN reiterates that all Delegates handle potential “out of character” situations diplomatically and with the utmost courtesy shown to all involved.

2.3 The Permanent Delegate

PittMUN has decided to eliminate the position of the permanent delegate. All students should participate in the conference as regular delegates.

2.4 The Faculty Advisor

PittMUN emphasizes that the main role of the Faculty Advisor lies in working with and preparing Delegates before the Conference. Regardless of whether the Faculty Advisor is a class teacher or club sponsor, he or she can assist the delegation in both logistical and content preparation for the Conference. Logistically, the Faculty Advisor likely will be the main contact for both the Conference and the school administration. This role could include working with finances and group organization, registering the school for the Conference, preparing travel arrangements, and a host of other preparations. Alternately, these roles could be delegated or assumed by the club officers.

In helping a delegation prepare for the specific issues it will face at the Conference, a Faculty Advisor could either develop a full class curriculum or serve as a sponsor for a Model U.N. Club or other organization. He or she may use a well established, proven curriculum or utilize this handbook as a guide in preparing the students who will attend. PittMUN strongly recommends that the Faculty Advisor coordinate and run mock sessions to better prepare students and give them a feel for the Conference. The United Nations Association can provide excellent background materials. See Sources of Information.

In the interest of fairness, we ask that Faculty Advisors do not assist their students during the Conference. Faculty Advisors will not be permitted to sit with their students while committees are in session. Additionally, PittMUN strongly recommends that Faculty Advisors do NOT grade students based on their performance at the Conference. This very often leads to poor role-playing as students concentrate more on their grade than portraying their country accurately. PittMUN specifically discourages grading regarding:

- Students getting their resolutions or amendments to the floor or passed;
- Students speaking a certain number of times (stressing quantity versus quality);
Students making a certain number of motions.

If grading is necessary, PittMUN suggests the following as possible areas for appraisal:

- Pre-Conference preparation (possibly including testing or paper submission);
- Quality of country profiles, position papers and resolutions submitted;
- Punctuality for assigned committee sessions;
- The effectiveness of the students at the Conference in playing their delegation’s role based on direct faculty observations, rather than the quantitative items listed above. This could include:
  - Clearly stating and basing actions on the positions of their countries;
  - Effectively working with other delegations, both on the floor and in caucusing;
  - Effectively working toward a consensus;
  - Developing a post-conference paper based on their learning experience at the Conference.

The interactive nature of the Model U.N. experience provides excellent learning opportunities for students who attend and become immersed in the experience. PittMUN requests that Faculty Advisors not dilute the students’ experience by linking grades to quantitative performance at the Conference.
SECTION 3. RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

NOTE: Moderated Caucus is not a part of this Conference’s procedure.

3.1 SESSIONS

The University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference shall meet every year in regular session commencing and closing on dates and at a location that is designated by the Secretariat.

3.2 AGENDA

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretariat and communicated to delegations prior to the start of the Conference. The agenda provided by the Secretariat shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of consideration for agenda items shall be determined by a majority of Members present and voting in each Committee.

3.3 CREDENTIALS

3.3.1 SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS

Proper registration of a Delegate shall be construed as sufficient evidence of his/her credentials. Such registration must be submitted to the Secretariat prior to the opening of a session.

3.3.2 THE SECRETARIAT’S AUTHORITY

The Secretariat has the sole authority to decide all questions concerning credentials. Committees shall be bound by the actions of the Secretariat in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any Member State.

3.3.3 OBSERVER STATUS

Those delegations having Observer Status shall be accorded all rights in Committees except the right to:
- Sign working papers or amendments.
- Vote on any substantive matter.

3.4 PRESIDING OFFICERS

3.4.1 CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND SECRETARIES

The Secretariat shall appoint Chairs and other officers to help conduct the sessions of PittMUN.
3.4.2 Acting Officers

If the Chair or other officer must be absent during any meeting, or is unable to perform his/her functions, the Secretariat shall appoint an acting officer to take his/her place pro tempore or permanently.

3.4.3 General Powers of Presiding Officers

In addition to the powers conferred on him/her by these rules of procedure, the Chair and his/her designate shall:
- Declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Committee;
- Direct discussions in plenary meetings, ensure observance of these rules;
- Accord the right to speak;
- Put questions to and announce decisions and communications from the Secretariat;
- Rule on points of order;
- Have full discretion over all proceedings in Committee;
- Be responsible for the maintenance of order.

The presiding officer may:
- In the course of discussion of an item,
  - Propose the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers;
  - Propose the limitation of the number of times each Delegate may speak;
  - Propose the closure of the speakers’ list or the closure of debate;
- Propose the suspension or adjournment of the meeting or of debate.

3.4.4 Voting by Officers

The Chair and other officers do not have a vote in Committee.

3.5 Secretariat

3.5.1 Composition

The Secretariat consists of the staff members of PittMUN. The Secretariat shall act as the Rules Committee for the duration of the Conference. All decisions by the Secretariat pertaining to the rules shall be final.

3.5.2 Functions of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:
- Appoint the Secretary-General and other officers and staff;
- Draft the PittMUN agenda;
- Amend the rules of parliamentary procedure, except during a session;
- Conduct all other business required for the planning of the Conference;
- Register Delegates and provide credentials before the Conference begins;
- Receive, print, and distribute resolutions and other documents of the various Committees;
- Have discretion to recruit and dismiss staff members and to control all access to the Secretariat’s equipment and facilities;
- Have authority to refuse any document submitted by a Delegate for copying or distribution. Delegates may appeal such decision to the Secretary-General. A document may be refused if the Dais finds it inappropriate or purposely disruptive.

### 3.5.3 Functions of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall serve as President of the General Assembly when the body is in session. He or she may designate a Member of the Secretariat to act in his/her place at any time and must do so when absent from the Conference. The duties and prerogatives of the Secretary-General are established by these rules.

### 3.6 Conduct of Business

#### 3.6.1 Quorum

The Chair may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when Delegates of at least one-third of the participating Member States are present. The presence of a majority of the participating Member States shall constitute a quorum for voting.

#### 3.6.2 Setting the Agenda

A motion to set the order of consideration for agenda items is in order at the beginning of Committee session. The motion is debatable and a speakers’ list shall be established for and against the motion.

#### 3.6.3 Speakers’ List

The Committee shall have, at all times, a Speakers’ List for the topic area being discussed. Separate Speakers’ Lists shall be established as needed for procedural motions and debate on amendments. A Delegate may move to open or close the Speakers’ List. The motion is not subject to debate and requires a majority vote of the Members present. Members may appear only once on the Speakers’ List, but may be added again after having spoken. Upon the exhaustion of the Speakers’ List, debate is automatically closed and the Committee enters voting procedures.

#### 3.6.4 Speaking Rights

No Delegate may address a Committee without having obtained recognition from the Chair. The Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they have signified their desire to speak and been placed on the Speakers’ List. The Chair may call a speaker to order if, in his/her judgment, the speaker’s remarks are irrelevant to the subject under discussion, disruptive, or dilatory.
3.6.5 Time Limit on Speeches

A Committee may, by majority vote, limit the time allowed to each speaker on the suggestion of either a Delegate or the Chair. Once the Delegate’s speaking time expires in limited debate, the Chair shall call him/her to order without delay.

3.6.6 Yields

When speaking time is limited, a speaker shall yield all or part of his/her time. The speaker must indicate the intention to yield time before his/her time has expired.

Delegates may yield to:

- Another Delegate. Yielding to another Delegate results in the Chair’s recognition of that Delegate for the remainder of the speaker’s time. The second Delegate may not yield to a third.
- Questions. Yielding to questions results in the Chair’s selection of Delegates who have questions for the speaker, with the speaker responding until his/her time has expired. Questioners shall be selected by the Chair and limited to one question each. All questions should directly pertain to the speech just completed. The Chair shall have the right to call to order any Delegate whose question is, in the Chair’s judgment, rhetorical, leading, or not designed to elicit information. Only the speaker’s answers to questions shall be deducted from the speaker’s remaining time.
- The Chair. Yielding to the Chair ends the speaker’s time without an opportunity for questions or comments.
- Comments. Yielding to comments results in the Chair’s selection of two Delegates wishing to speak. Comments must be relevant to the speech just completed, and commentators may not yield after commenting. Comments may not exceed thirty seconds. If a Delegate does not yield before the end of his/her speech, the speech is subject to two thirty-second comments. No comments shall be in order during debate on procedural motions, such as setting the agenda.

3.6.7 Right of Reply

If a remark directly insults the integrity of a Delegate or a Delegate’s State, the offended Delegate may request, and the Chair may permit, a right of reply at the end of the speaker’s remarks. The Chair shall impose an appropriate time limit for the reply. The Chair’s ruling on a right of reply is not subject to appeal. A right of reply to a reply is not in order. Requests for a right of reply should be made to the Chair in writing and may be denied at the sole discretion of the Chair.

3.6.8 Proposals, Draft Resolutions and Resolutions

Proposals must be submitted to the Chair in writing, in correct format with the required number of signatories. Total signatories must be greater than or equal to one-half the quorum. The Committee Chair may then at their discretion approve and accept the proposal, at which point it shall be known as a working paper and will be distributed to the Committee, or alternatively the Chair may send the proposal back with suggestions for improvement. See Quorum.
Upon the distribution of the draft resolution, the Committee will have an appropriate amount of time to read over the draft resolution. The co-sponsors, upon the discretion of the chair, will be allotted five minutes to explain any parts of the resolution, or answer any structural or grammatical questions. Delegates may ask the co-sponsors questions by raising their placards and waiting to be called on by the chair. Any explanations, questions, or answers shall be included as part of the five minutes allotted to the co-sponsors.

No draft resolution shall be put to a vote in Committee unless copies have been circulated to all delegations. If copies are required for distribution, the Chair must sign the original before submission to the Secretariat.

Delegates may not bring pre-written proposals, working papers to the Conference. Pre-written proposals will not be considered by the Committee. See Reference Guide to Working Papers and Resolutions.

3.6.9 Decisions of Competence

A motion to question the competence of the Committee to discuss a draft resolution or amendment is in order only immediately after the draft resolution or amendment has been distributed to the floor. The motion requires a majority to pass, and is debatable to the extent of two speakers for and two against.

3.6.10 On Motions in General

Substantive motions are motions relevant to the subject under discussion: motions for adoption of a resolution, recommendations, etc. Procedural motions are motions affecting the rules of procedure, conduct of the session, conduct of an individual Delegate, or personal safety.

Any Delegate (including those with Observer status) may offer a motion at the appropriate time by verbal application to the Chair. All motions offered to the Committee shall be considered only when seconded, except where otherwise stated.

Motions are stated as follows: "I move that..." "So moved," or "I make a motion that..." Motion is a noun, not a verb: "I motion that..." is incorrect.

The Chair may rule motions to be in order, out of order, or dilatory. The Chair may rule a motion in order if it is appropriate and there is enough time for debate. The Chair may rule a motion out of order if, in his/her judgment, the motion is repetitive, redundant, or will not further debate at that time. The Chair may rule a motion dilatory if, in his/her judgment, the motion is purposely disruptive or denigrating to debate or the Committee. An out of order motion may be appealed to the Chair; a dilatory motion may not be appealed.
3.6.11 Withdrawal of Proposals or Motions

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion or proposal thus withdrawn may be re-introduced at any time by any Delegate. When a proposal is re-introduced, it shall be considered as a new proposal.

3.6.12 Precedence

Oral or written statements from the Secretary-General or his/her designate shall take precedence over all other business. The Chair and other officers may accord themselves precedence for the purpose of clarifying rules or explaining any business before the Committee. Otherwise, the order precedence of motions is as follows:

1. Point of Personal Privilege
2. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
3. Point of Order
4. Appeal the Decision of the Chair
5. Suspension/Adjournment of the Meeting
6. Reconsider a Motion, Issue, or Proposal
7. Decisions of Competence
8. Open/Close Speaker’s List
9. Unmoderated Caucus
10. Postponement and Resumption of Debate
11. Closure of Debate

3.6.13 Points

There are three points that exist in Model United Nations. The points are to be used for the purposes outlined below and not for substantive speech.

- **Point of Personal Privilege.** A point of personal privilege shall be used to attempt to rectify violations of the rights, health, or comfort of any or all Delegates. These may include, but are not necessarily limited to a disturbance or disruption of business, an interference with the Delegate’s ability to participate in the proceedings, or threats to the safety of any or all Members. Points of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker. The Chair shall immediately rule on the validity of the point of personal privilege and decide whether and how to rectify the situation.

- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.** A point of parliamentary inquiry may be used to make inquiries on parliamentary procedure. If a speaker attempts to make a substantive comment, rather than have a parliamentary matter clarified, the Chair shall call him/her to order immediately. At the Chair’s judgment, points of parliamentary inquiry shall be submitted in writing. A point of parliamentary inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.

- **Point of Order.** During discussion of any matter, a Delegate may rise to a point of order to indicate an improper usage of parliamentary procedure. The Chair shall immediately rule on the point in accordance with these rules of procedure. A Delegate may not appeal the ruling of the Chair. A Delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on any other matter. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker. Following a point of order, if a
Delegate is still unsatisfied with the ruling of the Chair, he/she may submit a request in writing to the Chair requesting that the Secretary General review the Chair’s ruling. The Secretary General shall consider all requests.

3.6.14 Appeal the Decision of the Chair

A Delegate may appeal decisions made by the Chair, unless otherwise stated. The Chair may briefly defend the ruling. An appeal shall immediately be put to a vote. A “Yes” vote indicates a desire to overrule the original decision of the Chair. A “No” vote indicates that the Delegate does not wish to overrule the decision of the Chair. The Chair’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by “Yes” votes from a majority of Members present. Dilatory rulings cannot be appealed.

3.6.15 Unmoderated Caucus

A Delegate may move for an unmoderated caucus. He or she must specify the time limit for the caucus, and the motion must garner a second from another Delegate. The motion is not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote. A majority of Members present must vote for the motion for it to pass. Successive unmoderated caucuses may not exceed twenty minutes.

3.6.16 Suspension/Adjournment of the Meeting

At this conference, a Delegate may move for the suspension of the meeting for lunch only. Such motions are not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote, unless ruled out of order or dilatory by the Chair. A simple majority is required for the motion to pass. Suspension of the meeting suspends all Committee functions until the next meeting within the Conference.

A Delegate may move for the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions are not subject to debate and shall be put to an immediate vote, unless ruled out of order or dilatory by the Chair. Adjournment of the meeting suspends all Committee functions for the duration of the Conference and requires a majority of Members present to pass.

3.6.17 Closure of Debate

A Delegate may, at any time, move for the closure of debate, regardless of the number of Delegates on the speakers’ list. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair. The motion shall be voted upon, requiring a two-thirds majority of the Members present to pass. If the motion passes, all debate on the agenda item is ended and the Committee shall immediately proceed to vote on all working papers introduced under that agenda item.

3.6.18 Postponement and Resumption of Debate

During the discussion of any matter, a Delegate may move for the postponement, or tabling, of debate on the agenda item under discussion. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote, requiring a majority of Members present to pass. If the motion passes, the topic is tabled. The
Committee must re-set the agenda to an alternate topic. A motion to resume debate passes with a two-thirds majority and debate continues where it was postponed.

### 3.6.19 Reconsideration of Proposals

When a draft resolution or amendment has been adopted or rejected, the Committee, if decided by a two-thirds majority of Members present, may reconsider it. The Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which it shall be put to an immediate vote. The motion should be made at the conclusion of voting procedure after all draft resolutions or amendments are voted upon. The motion may be ruled dilatory if, in the Chair’s judgment, a previous successful draft resolution or amendment will create a contradiction with the draft resolution or amendment for reconsideration.

### 3.7 Voting

#### 3.7.1 Voting Rights

Each participating Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote. Official observers may participate in debate, but cannot vote. A vote may be cast only by raising a placard, with the exception of roll call voting. See Observer Status.

As soon as a motion to close debate passes, or the Speaker’s List is exhausted, the Committee is in “voting procedure.” No one may enter or leave the room until the procedure is complete. This includes Delegates who would otherwise have the right to vote, but are absent when voting procedure begins. No voting in absentia will be permitted.

#### 3.7.2 Conduct During Voting

After the Chair has announced that the Committee is in voting procedure, no Delegate shall interrupt the voting except with a point of personal privilege or point of order relating to the conduct of the voting procedure.

#### 3.7.3 Voting Procedure

For procedural matters, a Delegate may vote either in the affirmative or negative. All Delegates who are present must vote on procedural matters, and no roll call vote will be permitted.

For substantive matters, a Delegate may vote affirmative, negative, or abstain. If a delegate feels that a given vote diverges from his/her Member State’s policies, the Delegate may vote with a right of explanation. In this case, the Delegate will have thirty seconds to explain the vote at the conclusion of voting procedure. Immediately prior to a vote, a Delegate may motion for a roll call vote. A roll call vote is always in order on substantive matters. In this case, Delegates shall vote verbally in English, by English alphabetical order. If a Delegate is not prepared to vote when called upon, he or she may pass. Delegates choosing to pass will be returned to in English alphabetical order after all other delegates have cast their votes. Delegates may not pass a second time.

#### 3.7.4 Definitions of Passing Votes
For procedural matters, votes requiring a simple majority pass when more than fifty percent of Members present vote in the affirmative (the fifty-percent-plus-one rule). For example, six Members present must vote affirmative for a procedural matter to pass both when ten Members or eleven Members are present. Likewise, Votes requiring a two-thirds majority follow the two-thirds-plus-one rule: nine Members present would need seven votes in the affirmative to pass a two-thirds majority.

For substantive matters, votes requiring a simple majority pass when more than fifty percent of Members present at the last quorum check vote in the affirmative. Likewise, votes requiring a two-thirds majority require more than two-thirds of Members present at the last quorum check to vote in the affirmative. Note that this may not be the number of Delegates present if quorum has not recently been updated. The exception to these voting rules is the veto power of the permanent Members of the Security Council. See Security Council Veto.

### 3.7.5 Important Questions

Decisions on important questions before the General Assembly shall require a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. Important questions may include:

- Budgetary questions;
- Admission of new Members to the United Nations;
- Suspension of the rights and privileges of Membership;
- Questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system;
- Recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Committee may declare any issue an important question. On such a motion, the Committee will hear two speakers for the motion and two speakers against, chosen by the Chair, after which it shall then be put to an immediate vote, requiring a two-thirds majority of Members present for passage. Amendments to an important question also require a two-thirds majority. Any question not declared an important question shall be decided by a simple majority vote of Members present and voting.

### 3.7.6 Division of Working Papers and Amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment is voted upon, a Delegate may move that parts of the proposal or amendment be voted on separately. The motion shall be voted upon by majority rule. If more than one motion is made for division, the divisions shall be voted on in order from most to least destructive, as determined by the Chair. If all operative clauses of a working paper are rejected, the working paper shall be regarded as having been rejected as a whole. After voting upon all divided portions, all portions that were successful are then voted upon as a whole. The Chair may refuse to divide a working paper or to pass a working paper if, in his/her judgment, it is rendered incoherent by the proposed division. The preamble of a working paper cannot be divided.

### 3.7.7 Voting on Amendments

An amendment may add to, delete from, or revise any part of the proposal. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Chair prior to voting procedure.
Amendments may be friendly or unfriendly. Friendly amendments are those that all co-sponsors have agreed upon, and will be automatically adopted into the proposal without a vote. An unfriendly amendment is one that at least one of the co-sponsors has not agreed to, and shall be voted on separately from a working paper. When an unfriendly amendment to a working paper is proposed, the amendment shall be voted on before the working paper. When two or more amendments are proposed, the Committee shall vote on them in the order that they are submitted. However, where the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote if the first one is adopted.

3.7.8 Voting Order on Working Papers

If two or more proposals are related to the same question, the Committee shall vote on them in the order submitted.

3.8 Security Council Veto

The five permanent Members of the Security Council possess a veto power in the Security Council. By voting “No,” a permanent Member can veto a draft resolution and it shall fail, regardless of the number of affirmative votes. If a draft resolution specifically targets a permanent Member, as determined by the Chair, that Member may not use the veto power to defeat said draft resolution. The veto may not be used in procedural matters.

3.9 Standard Order of Business

A Committee normally proceeds in the following manner:
1. Call to order.
2. Announcements and explanation of rules, if necessary.
3. Roll call.
4. Determination of order of agenda items.
5. Opening of speakers’ list.
6. Speeches and motions.
7. Caucuses, as necessary.
SECTION 4. PREPARATION


4.1 PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

Delegates should become familiar with several topics before their participation in the Conference so they can represent their countries or positions to the best of their abilities.

- **The U.N. System.** Students should be aware of the purpose and goals of their committee as well as how it fits into the United Nations system. See *Structure of the U.N.* and *The United Nations System* chart.

- **General background of the country or position.** Students should gain a historical context in their study of the country or position to better understand policies towards specific issues. Suggestions for research include: population, type of government, natural resources, trade data, allies, adversaries, previous colonial status, etc. Much of this will be included in the recommended country profile. See *Country Profile*.

- **Specific background.** Crucial to Model U.N. research are the country’s previous views on issues, especially those to be discussed at the Conference, and how those views have changed. A position paper will help guide this research. See *Position Paper*.

- **The delegation’s relationship with the international community.** Knowing where the country you represent fits in the current world geo-political context, as a complement to your country-specific research, can answer many questions that may come up during the simulation, especially concerning illegal substances, industry, colonization, and health.

- **Views of other delegations.** Though difficult to research, it is important to know other countries’ stances on the Committee’s agenda topics. Most likely, Delegates will learn other delegations’ formal policies during committee.

- **Past U.N. action.** Many topics have been previously discussed and acted upon by the United Nations, but the problems still persist. By knowing past action, Delegates may be able to build on them to bring the problem to a resolution. Also, knowledge of the problem’s origin is beneficial so that a historical prospective can be brought into debate.

- **The PittMUN rules of procedure.** While the rules for PittMUN set by this manual are similar to those of the real U.N., there are discrepancies between them and also between rules from other conferences students may have attended. See *Rules of Parliamentary Procedure*.

Delegates should take advantage of all the people in their delegation by assigning different topics to each individual to research and report to the group.

4.2 COUNTRY PROFILE

PittMUN recommends that in addition to position papers, each delegation prepare a country profile, which may be copied or neatly removed from this book. Most of the information can be found on the CIA World Factbook ([www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook)).
COUNTRY PROFILE

COMMITTEE: ____________________________________________________________
DELEGATION: __________________________________________________________
HIGH SCHOOL: __________________________________________________________
DELEGATE NAMES: _______________________________________________________

1. General Information

Conventional Long Form Country Name ______________________________________
Government Type _________________________________________________________
Chief of State _____________________________________________________________
Head of Government _______________________________________________________
Language(s) (note which, if any, are official) ___________________________________
Population (include yr of statistics) __________________________________________
Major religions (include %s) ________________________________________________

2. History

Describe this country’s founding (how, when, from whom, etc.) ____________________
If your country has controlled colonies, where and for how long? Do you have friendly relations with your former colonies? ____________________
If your country was ever a colony or occupied territory, in whose sphere of influence and for how long? ____________________

3. Geography

Size (in sq. miles or sq. km) _________________________________________________
Bordering countries ________________________________________________________
Capital & major cities ______________________________________________________
Major ports ______________________________________________________________
Major waterways __________________________________________________________
Climate _________________________________________________________________

4. Status of Living

Annual per capita income (include yr) _______________________________________
Literacy rate (of total population; include yr) _________________________________
Birth rate (include yr) _____________________________________________________
Death rate (include yr) ____________________________________________________
Infant mortality rate (include yr) ___________________________________________
Unemployment rate (include yr) _____________________________________________
Major ethnic/cultural issues ________________________________________________
Current refugee/Internally Displaced Persons concerns _________________________
5. Politics

Political allies/blocs

Conflicts; both past and present

Do women freely participate in the political process (vote, hold office, etc.)?

Is there freedom of speech and of the press in this country?

Does this country regularly hold elections?

What are the active political parties, and is more than one party tolerated?

6. Economy

GDP and growth rate (include yr)

Major trade partners

Major exports and total amount (include yr)

Major imports and total amount

Amount of ODA (Official Development Assistance) given

Amount of ODA received

Agricultural products

Industries

Natural resources

Energy sources (include %)

7. Military

Military expenditures (% GNP spent on defense; include yr)

Major weapons, arsenal, nuclear capability, etc.

Is this country threatened by neighboring countries? Which countries? Do they have nuclear weapons?

8. U.N. Relations

Date admitted to U.N.

Has this country signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Has the U.N. ever had to intervene in any conflict involving this country? If so, what conflict(s)?
4.3 POSITION PAPERS

A well-written and well-researched position paper can serve as an excellent preparatory tool for committee. It helps to guide preparation among members of a delegation. The position paper will outline your country’s policies regarding topics that will be discussed in your Committee.

Please note that PittMUN’s policy regarding position papers has changed from previous years. **Position papers are no longer required from all delegates.** Position papers will be optional, but those submitted will be considered for an award. The top three position papers will be recognized at closing ceremonies, with the top paper receiving the Clarke Thomas Memorial Award.

In order to be considered for an award, position papers must be emailed to pittmodelun@gmail.com no later than October 7th, 2016. To be eligible for an award, position papers must adhere to all of the following requirements.

Position papers will only be accepted if the country and delegation are specified (for example, “France in the Security Council”), and only if both scenario topics are addressed. All of these formatting requirements **must be followed** to receive consideration for an award:

- Position papers should be attached to an email in .doc or .docx format
- The file should be named as follows: country_committee
- Both scenario topics must be addressed
- Each topic should be addressed in a separate section, but both should be contained in one file
- Each topic must be covered in no more than 500 words
- There should be a header with the country and committee name
- Student and school names should not appear in the position paper
- The font should be 12 pt Times New Roman
- There must be at least **three sources** cited for each topic – no specific citation format is required, but the source must be reasonably identifiable,
- **Wikipedia does not count as a source.** Any paper citing Wikipedia will be disqualified.

**Please take care to follow these directions.** Every year a significant number of position papers are disqualified from award consideration for failure to follow these requirements.

The content of the position paper should follow this format:

**First paragraph:** Overview of the topic
- General history of this issue
- How this topic affects your country
- Specific events that have occurred related to this issue in the past 3-5 months

**Second paragraph:** Country’s specific history in regard to the topic
- Your country’s previous policies and actions towards this topic
- Policies and actions of neighboring and/or allied countries
- Neighboring and/or allied countries’ reaction to your country’s policies and actions
Third paragraph: Goals for the conference

- Propose solutions for the future
- Action that your country believes needs to be taken
- What your country is looking for in a resolution
- Aspects of this topic on which your country is willing to compromise

If you are participating in the Board of Directors committee, your position paper should include a background of the person you are representing, past action by that person in relation to the company, and what they hope to achieve during committee.

Answering the questions above will help you to prepare your position papers, and for the actual conference. Sometimes you need to dig deep to find answers to many of these questions. In other cases, your country may be indifferent to a topic. However, in the United Nations, indifference is an opinion too. Agreeing with a block of countries on one issue may help or hurt you in negotiations in which your country has a vested interest.

A panel of judges drawn from the PittMUN staff will review position papers for the award. Due to the volume of papers, they will not be returned and critique or criticism will not be offered. The judges may disqualify any position paper at their discretion for failure to adhere to the above guidelines or for plagiarism. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will disqualify the student for any award at the PittMUN conference, and the student’s teacher will be notified.

Please direct any questions regarding position papers to pittmodelun@gmail.com.
4.4 Sample Position Paper


Committee: Special Political Terrorism
Delegation: United Kingdom

The Issue of Terrorism in the Middle East

For many years, the issue of terrorism has plagued the United Kingdom. Racist bombings by terrorists within the country as well as the recent bombings in London by the Irish Republic Army (IRA) have caused us to remain closely engaged in efforts to urge an end to violence and a rebuilding of confidence. These acts of terrorism represent a problem not only for the United Kingdom, but also for the world. The bombing of the World Trade Center in the United States on September 11, 2001, shows how terrorism has globally spread and continues to do so. This is a fear that the United Kingdom, along with many other nations, is faced with.

In attempts to minimize the apprehension, the United Kingdom has responded with military action, laws to prevent and prosecute terrorism, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic assistance. We have deployed over 10,000 troops in the Middle East, 4,000 of them in Afghanistan. With the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act of 2001, the United Kingdom enhanced its existing anti-terrorism legislation directly following the events of September 11, 2001.1 Our Department for International Development has contributed 60 million pounds for humanitarian support, and an additional 40 million pounds in funds have been allocated to United Nations’ agencies, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations. We have renewed diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and our government is backing international efforts to control nuclear terrorism with a 250,000 pound pledge to the International Atomic Energy Commission.2

The United Kingdom’s overall objective is to eliminate terrorism as a force in international affairs. We plan on achieving our goal by using all political and military means, such as isolating the current Taliban regime from all international support; taking direct action against Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda Networks, and terrorist facilities in Afghanistan; and fragmenting the Taliban regime if there is refusal to comply with the United States’ ultimatum, providing economic and political support to the neighbors of Afghanistan to help with the burden of this conflict, and building the largest international coalition with maximum support from the United Nations. The issue of terrorism is not to be taken lightly. The events of September 11, 2001, IRA bombings, as well as other terrorist acts that have occurred in the world, were aimed not just at the United States and United Kingdom but also at civilized values and the civilized world. The war against terrorism is being fought not only for our citizens but also for all the people in the world. With the full support of other countries, however, it is possible to cleanse the world of this force of evil.

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4.5 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

PittMUN recommends the following sources of information to use when researching:


Documents are also available through the U.N. **Department of Public Information/Publications** for *Everyone's United Nations, Basic Facts about the United Nations*, and/or **UNDPI Catalog**. You may write to them for a publication list.

**UNA-USA Publications**
801 Second Avenue, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10017
(212) 907-1300.

**U.N. Department of Public Information/Publications**
Room DC2-0853
New York, NY 10017
(212) 963-1234

**The United Nations Information Center** provides copies of U.N. documents free of charge upon request. Call (202) 331-8670.

Many U.N. documents and country resources can be accessed via the Internet. International databases containing information are easily accessible.

**U.N. Database**
- E-mail addresses for Representatives: [www.un.org/members](http://www.un.org/members)
- U.N. Wire daily newsletter: [www.UNFoundation.org](http://www.UNFoundation.org)
- U.N. Family of Organizations: [www.unsystem.org](http://www.unsystem.org)
- Permanent Mission to the U.N.: [www.un.int](http://www.un.int)

**Specific Committees**
Country-Specific Information:
- CIA World Fact Book: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook
- Country Reports: www.countryreports.org
- Foreign Embassies of Washington, DC: www.embassy.org/embassies
- US Department of State Country Information: www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn

Regional Sites
- African Union: www.africa-union.org
- All Africa: www.Allafrica.com
- Britain-USA: www.britainusa.com/index.asp
- EUROPA (European Union): www.europa.eu.int/
- Global Policy Forum: www.globalpolicy.org
- Google Asia Governmental Sites: www.google.com/Top/Regional/Asia/Government
- Google Middle East Governmental Sites: www.google.com/Top/Regional/Middle_East/Government
- International Atomic Energy Agency: www.iaea.org
- International Criminal Court (ICC): www.icc-cpi.int/home.html
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL): www.interpol.int
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: www.opcw.org

Selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org/
- The Center for Defense Information: www.cdi.org/
- The Center for Strategic and International Studies: www.csis.org
- Citizens for Global Solutions: http://www.globalsolutionspgh.org/
- The Henry L. Stimson Center: www.stimson.org/home.cfm
- The Heritage Foundation: www.heritage.org/
- Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org/
- International Crisis Group: http://www.icg.org/
- United Nations Foundation: www.unfoundation.org

Television
- Network News Programs
- BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/
- CNN: www.cnn.com
- C-SPAN: http://www.c-span.org/

Radio
- National Public Radio: www.npr.org
- BBC World News Service: www.bbc.co.uk/radio/
Newspapers
- The Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com
- Financial Times News: www.ft.com
- International Herald Tribune: www.iht.com
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: www.post-gazette.com/

Magazines
- Time: www.time.com
- The Economist: www.economist.com
- World Press Review: www.worldpress.com

For Students

For Educators
- Introduction to the Model United Nations: A booklet and videotape designed to acquaint teachers and students with the workings of MUN.

United Nations Bookshop
46th Street and 1st Ave
New York, NY 10017
(2120 963-7680)

U.N. Publications Office
2 United Nations Plaza
Room DC2-853, Dept. C001
New York, NY 10017
(212-963-8302)

- United Nations Curriculum Guide: A project of UNA-USA, the curriculum guide is an excellent resource for teachers. A descriptive brochure/order form is available from UNA.

**Pitt Model United Nations does not recommend that students use Wikipedia.** While it can provide basic information about an event or a country’s policies, it is an unreliable source of information. Students should only use Wikipedia as a starting point and not an actual resource.

Please contact PittMUN via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com if you need any assistance conducting your research.
SECTION 5. JUDGING CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

The Pitt Model United Nations (PittMUN) is a simulation of the actual United Nations and its committees. Delegates to PittMUN are area high school students who are assigned to represent specific countries. The PittMUN Secretariat chooses the committees and the topics that the students will be debating. Members of the University of Pittsburgh’s undergraduate Model UN Club moderate the committee sessions. PittMUN is a competitive event, and the delegates are judged by professionals, graduate students and educators from the community. There are two types of judges, stationary and roving.

Each stationary judge will be assigned to one PittMUN committee and will observe that committee for the entire day-long conference. Together with the committee moderator(s), the stationary judge will select the two country delegations that demonstrated the best performance in that committee to receive first- and second-place awards. (Please note that two delegates acting as a team may represent one country. In such cases, an award will be made to both students.) The portion of the PittMUN manual concerning a judge’s assigned committee will be reviewed by the judge in advance of the simulation.

There will also be a team of several roving judges. This group of judges will select the top delegations, or countries, of the entire conference. These are the delegations that performed at the highest level across all committees. First- and second-place country awards will be given to both large and small delegations. Typically, large delegations are those that are represented on at least five committees, while small delegations are those that are represented on four or fewer committees. Roving judges are asked to spend an equal amount of time observing each committee, and to review the portions of the PittMUN manual concerning the debate topics for all committees in advance of the simulation.

Decisions of the stationary judges will be made in consultation with moderators from the relevant PittMUN committees during the judges’ meeting at the end of the day. Decisions of the roving judges will be made by a process of cumulative voting led by a member of the PittMUN Secretariat. Stationary judges may participate in the roving judges’ discussion, but they do not vote on country awards. The committee moderators and stationary judges may answer questions about particular delegates if necessary to assist with the roving judges’ decision process.

Throughout the conference, delegates are only identified by their country and committee. The PittMUN registrar maintains a list containing school information. Judges are not informed of which school represents which country until after the award decisions are made.

Please note that delegations are not required to submit position papers to the PittMUN Secretariat in advance of the conference. Delegations are invited to submit position papers to compete for the Clarke Thomas Memorial Awards for the strongest papers, but delegations that do not submit position papers will still be eligible to receive awards for their performance at the simulation. The
position papers will be reviewed by a separate panel of judges from the team that judges the delegates on the day of the conference.

Delegates are evaluated on the following interrelated criteria:

**A. Representation of Country/Position (most important criterion):**

- Staying in character of the country/position
- Having relevant information about the country/position
- Being knowledgeable of:
  - The history of the country/position, including its international obligations and the treaties to which it belongs
  - The country/position’s allies and adversaries
  - Current events, as related to the country/position, and to the committee in general
- Demonstrating thorough research and prior preparation

**B. Knowledge of Topics under Discussion:**

- Being knowledgeable of:
  - Past UN resolutions and/or activities
  - Any relevant treaties and/or international agreements
  - Current events, as related to the country/position, and to the committee in general

**C. Adherence to Formal Procedures:**

- Being familiar with:
  - Resolution-writing
  - Formal Debate
  - Parliamentary Procedure

**D. Adherence to Unstructured Proceedings:**

- Maintaining diplomacy and overall effectiveness during caucuses
- Practicing conduct befitting of a diplomat

Some delegates may attempt to attract the attention of judges during the course of committee proceedings in order to influence the award outcomes. This behavior is considered out of character and not an accurate portrayal of a UN committee meeting. Delegates will be judged accordingly.
SECTION 6. REFERENCE GUIDE ON WORKING PAPERS AND RESOLUTIONS

6.1 RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are the basis for all U.N. debate, bringing one or several issues to the floor in a form that Delegates can discuss, amend, reject, or ratify as circumstances dictate.

Resolutions usually state a policy that the U.N. will undertake, but in some bodies, they also may be in the form of treaties, conventions or declarations. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, or require action or sanctions on the part of the Member States. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that nobody other than the Security Council can require action or sanctions from Member States. In some cases, final conventions and treaties may also require action, but this would be only on the part of the signatory countries.

A resolution has two parts – the preambulatory clauses and the operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses state the “why” of the resolution. Why is this resolution being written? Why is this U.N. body concerned with this issue? Operative clauses state the “what” of the resolution. What does this body recommend to resolve this issue?

6.2 WORKING PAPERS

Resolutions first start out as working papers, which are written in the same form (spacing, punctuation, language) as resolutions. After you have written a draft, take it to other Delegates to get their opinions and perhaps their support as a sponsor. Modify the working paper to fit the goals of its supporters. Continue revising the language of the draft until you believe that it is finished. Take the working paper to the chair at any time. The chair will read over the draft to make sure that it is appropriate, approve it, and have copies made for all of the delegations.

It is important to remember that prior to its submission to the Chair, a working paper can never be referred to in formal debate or in a speech given from the Speaker’s List. All working papers must be written during the conference. Working papers that were written prior to the conference will not be accepted.

Once the working paper has been discussed and changed as much as the sponsors see fit, sponsors must once again submit the draft to the chair. The chair will again review it and, if it is deemed acceptable, will give the draft resolution a designation (e.g. Draft Resolution 1.1) and have the revised paper copied for the other delegations. The draft resolution is formally introduced by one of the sponsors from the Speaker’s List by reading aloud the draft resolution to the body. After that time, the draft resolution may be referred to while speaking in formal debate.
6.3 AMENDMENTS

As stated above, the best time to change a working paper is in the drafting process. However, there will be times when it may become necessary to change it after its formal introduction. This is done with either “friendly” or “unfriendly” amendments. See Amendments.

6.4 GUIDELINES

The following list includes important points to consider when writing a resolution:

- Preambulatory clauses can describe the recent history of the situation, referencing past United Nations actions and resolutions, when available;
- Operative clauses include actions which will solve the problem;
- Do not be blatantly antagonistic in the content of the resolution;
- Take into account the viewpoints of other countries;
- Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate existing bodies;
- Don't create new Committees/Commissions/etc. without considering funding or if other similar bodies already exist.

6.5 RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions must be submitted using the following format. Any resolutions received in any other format will not be accepted. All Committee titles and topics must follow the exact wordings given in the Issues at PittMUN Handbook. Resolutions are:

- One sentence, with preambulatory clauses ending with a comma, operative clauses ending with a semi-colon, and the final operative clause ending with a period;
- Single-spaced throughout resolution, with double spacing between clauses;
- Clauses must begin with proper introductory words/phrases in capital letters;
- Each operative clause must be numbered and indented.
6.6 PREAMBULATORY & OPERATIVE CLAUSES

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging  Expressing its appreciation  Noting further
Affirming  Expressing its satisfaction  Noting with approval
Alarmed by  Fulfilling  Noting with deep concern
Approving  Fully alarmed  Noting with regret
Aware of  Fully believing  Noting with satisfaction
Bearing in mind  Further deploring  Noting with zest
Believing  Further recalling
Cognizant of  Gravely concerned
Confident  Guided by
Considering also  Having adopted
Contemplating  Having considered
Convinced  Having considered further
Deeply concerned  Having devoted
Deeply conscious  Having examined
Deeply convinced  Having heard
Deeply disturbed  Having received
Deeply regretting  Having studied
Desiring  Hoping
Emphasizing  Keeping in mind
Expected

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Accepts  Deplores  Offers
Adopts  Designates  Proclaims
Affirms  Draws attention  Reaffirms
Appeals  Emphasizes  Recommends
Approves  Encourages  Reminds
Authorizes  Endorses  Renew
Calls  Expresses its appreciation  Regrets
Calls for  Expresses its hope  Requests
Calls upon  Further endorses  Resolves
Commends  Further invites  Solemnly affirms
Condemns  Further proclaims  Strongly condemns
Congratulations  Further recommends  Supports
Confirms  Further reminds  Takes note of
Decides  Further requests  Transmits
Declares  Has resolved  Trusts
Demands  Notes  Urges
6.7 Sample Resolution

The Agenda Topic
The Committee Name

Co-Sponsors: Names of delegations who are sponsors
Signatories: Names of delegations who are signatories

The Committee Name,

Recognizing that it is crucial that all proposals, working papers, and resolutions be written in the correct format,

Having studied the resolution format in depth,

Deeply concerned that some nations may still use an incorrect resolution format,

Aware of the fact that pre-ambulatory clauses are followed by commas, while operative clauses are followed by semi-colons, and that the last operative clause is followed by a period,

1. Requests that all Delegates read the resolution format in depth;
2. Draws attention to the fact that operative clauses are numbered;
3. Urges Delegates to contact the Secretariat via e-mail at pittmodelun@gmail.com if they have any questions.
SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.1 UNITED NATIONS AD HOC
SECURITY COUNCIL

Introduction

The Security Council is composed of 15 total member states, with five holding permanent seats and veto power (France, Peoples’ Republic of China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States). The 10 non-permanent member states are elected by region in the General Assembly and hold two-year terms beginning on January 1st. The United Nations Security Council is one of the most influential bodies in the United Nations. It is the only body that can authorize military action and establish peacekeeping operations. It is also the only body capable of making legally binding resolutions. The Security Council exerts its influence through Security Council Resolutions, which can be legally binding under Chapter VII (Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression) or non-binding under Chapter VI (Settlement of Disputes) (Charter of the United Nations). While the Security Council contends with the most high-profile issues facing the international community, it also handles urgent situations that arise unexpectedly. This Ad Hoc Committee will focus on the latter, having convened in order to address specific critical issues that currently plague the international community.

Format

As delegates will not be aware of the topics beforehand, the flow of this session will vary slightly from others in this Conference:

Debrief: Once all of the delegates to this session are assembled, the Chair will debrief them on the two most urgent situations facing the Security Council at the present time. Delegates will then debate (using the formal speakers’ list and unmoderated caucuses) and vote on which topic will be discussed first.

Debate: The goal of this session, as in all committees, will be to pass a resolution that attempts to solve the issue at hand; however, delegates will receive updates on both situations, which they should incorporate into their debate and working papers. Furthermore, as their countries’ representatives to the Security Council, delegates have access to their full staff, which they can contact to ask for information on an issue, to direct specific people to take action, or to seek permission from their government to approach a topic from a certain perspective, if necessary. In order to do this, a delegate should write a note addressed to the appropriate staff member and send it to the Chair, who will e-mail it to the appropriate person.
**Resolutions:** After a resolution has been passed on the first issue, the body will move on to the next topic, but updates on the first topic will continue. The delegates may decide to return to the first topic if they deem it necessary. Delegates may even send messages to their government suggesting how it can respond to the resolution and its repercussions.

Although the format of this session is notably different, Parliamentary Procedure (Parlipro) will still be in effect. While the Chair will entertain any questions about Parlipro or Format, all delegates are expected to maintain a high level of decorum throughout the Conference.

**Participation**

As this Committee will require rapid decision-making and spontaneous action, the University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Secretariat highly recommends that only experienced delegates who are comfortable with brisk debate and have a working knowledge of international issues and inter-nation diplomacy participate in this simulation. The simulation requires careful debate in order to be effective, so delegates must be prepared and willing to bring their voice to the table.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What is the role of your country within the international community?
2. With which regional blocs does it associate?
3. In which IGOs does it involve itself?
4. How does your country approach international diplomacy?
5. Does your country usually work in conjunction with, or against, the Security Council?
6. Is your nation primarily a donor or benefactor in regards to foreign aid?
7. What are the most pressing issues plaguing each region of the world?
8. What is your country’s position on these issues?
9. Has your country been party to previous UN treaties relevant to these issues?
SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.2 SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN & CULTURAL

Introduction

Decisions regarding global peacekeeping are often entrusted to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the branch of the United Nations that has been charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. In order to achieve these goals, the United Nations Charter has given the UNSC jurisdiction in the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the instigation
of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. The UNSC also has the authority to investigate any situation that is found to be threatening to international peace.  

The UNSC consists of 15 members; five permanent members hold absolute veto power over the council’s decisions, and a rotating cast of 10 other member-states, which have memberships on the Security Council for two years at a time. The five permanent UNSC members are the People’s Republic of China, France, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The current non-permanent members are Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, and Rwanda. Though the UNSC represents only a small portion of the UN, all member states are required to carry out any action deemed necessary of them by the UNSC under the UN Charter.

**Topics**

Domestic Stability throughout Transitions of Power  
Information Security  

**Domestic Stability throughout Transitions of Power**

Transitions of power have occurred throughout all stages of history and continue to happen in countries today. Maintaining domestic stability throughout tumultuous situations has been increasingly difficult, especially in many present day cases. When transitions of power occur, it is important to maintain this “stability” for a number of reasons. These countries face a situation where economic problems could occur; civil war could potentially breakout; riots often ensue; food crises arise, etc. Recent examples of this transition have been the Arab Spring and establishment of a new government in Iraq.

Such transitions are not singular in cause. In the Arab Spring, especially in Tunisia, Yemen, Libya, and Egypt there were examples of various regimes being pushed out by military forces - and in some cases, civilians. These transitions were instigated by people within the countries themselves. Adversely, in Iraq, Saddam Hussein was removed from power after intervention by outside forces.

Egypt is a unique case. Over the course of approximately two years, the nation experienced a number of different transitions of powers. President Hosni Mubarak was overthrown, during an interim time before elections were held. Immediately thereafter, Mohamed Hussein Tantawim, the acting Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Army, served as Mubarak’s replacement. Once elections occurred, President Mohamed Morsi took office in July 2012. A year later, the Egyptian citizens once again protested the reign of their leader and demanded he be ousted. There were various accusations of corruption, increases in authoritarianism, and claims that he was going against the typical secular laws in favor of an Islamic agenda. Currently, Adly Mahmoud Mansou, who also serves as the head of the Egyptian Supreme Constitutional Court, is interim president.

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Iraq, on the other hand, is a case in which outside forces are causing a transition in power. The United States intervened in 2003, in order to overthrow Saddam Hussein’s regime. Within the same year, Hussein was captured, ending his reign over Iraq. After Hussein’s capture, Iraq underwent a multitude of interim governments. The “Coalition Provisional Authority”, was the first transitional government put in a place. The government was overseen by representatives from the United States and the United Kingdom. The government known as the “Iraqi Interim Government” was led by Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Both of these governments were meant to serve as temporary forms of leadership until a democratically elected president took over. Finally in April 2005, Jalal Talabani was elected president, and still serves to this day. Since his election, Iraq experienced a civil war from 2006-2007, and still faces many complications, including protest and bombings by different radical groups. In May 2013, a series of bombings killed roughly 450 people. These bombings were facilitated by insurgents who were protesting mistreatment from the predominantly Shia government. Most recently in April 2014, a series of bombs were exploded by another insurgent group at a Shia rally in eastern Baghdad. These bombings are a continual problem that the new government must find a way to deal with.

Transitions of power can be caused by a number of situations either internally and externally to a particular state. Developing nations often go through multiple transitions of power within just a few years. Many times these transitions continue until a government or individual takes power and is able to maintain stability. It is the duty of the United Nations to work to combat issues faced by these nations and provide assistance when countries are facing frequent transitions. In situations such as the cases previously mentioned, transitions of powers can affect the international community. As the Muslim Brotherhood falls from power in Egypt, the impacts can be seen in Egypt, the Middle East, and the international balance of power as a whole. Iraq’s transitions have led to a different situation. Since Hussein’s fall, Iraq has become a ground for terrorism, which not only affects Iraq, but neighboring countries and the international community as a whole. It is important that United Nations, and more specifically, the United Nations Security Council, creates solutions to these issues within the countries before they become more serious problems.

Questions to Consider

What role does the United Nations play in transitions of power? How can potential civil unrest be prevented once a transition of power begins to occur? If a nation cannot establish a stable government, should the UN intervene? What is the United Nations’ historical view and previous actions when dealing with situations such as these? Has your country faced a recent transition of power? Has there been a rise in the number of civil conflicts that result in new regimes?

Information Security

Information Security is a complex international issue that has many components that vary from country to country. Information security, for the purpose of this committee, can be defined as any provisions, agreements, devices, or legislation employed by a nation or series of nations to defend existing information, or gather additional secure information. To this end, intellectual property protection is considered an integral component of modern information security.
programs. Likewise, information security can also be maintained by controlling a greater volume of data, this can be maintained by large data collection programs, recent application of which can be demonstrated by the PRISM program in the USA. Information security is a critical issue for all nations. Striking a balance between open communication and clandestine acquisition of data, both domestically and from abroad, is imperative for prosperity in diplomacy and trade. For example, information about potential national security threats is essential to the preservation of a safe nation, but covert monitoring of foreign citizens can cause massive setbacks in diplomatic relationships. From a commercial standpoint, strong, globally extensive intellectual property rights help to protect domestic business interests, but can stifle innovation domestically, and greatly damage commerce between nations that do not share intellectual property protection systems. In attempting to advance your nation’s agenda surrounding the topic, consider the merits and drawbacks of data collection and intellectual property protection in the context of any UN action.

One means of maintaining information security is through the collection of a greater volume of data, especially data about other nations. One program, which has recently been exposed, is the PRISM program operated by the United States’ National Security Agency. Such programs are designed to collect intelligence on the citizens of foreign nations for the purposes of “national security”. In the case of PRISM, there has been considerable domestic backlash from civil rights groups about its implementation. The criticism was not solely domestic in nature; heavy criticism from Germany and other nations highlighted the damaging effects clandestine information collection can have. Balancing the utility of such programs with their potential drawbacks will be a prime concern for any nation that favors the implementation of such a program. Considerations must be made as to the size and scope of any information collection programs, and the UNSC’s jurisdiction over domestic policy must be made.

Intellectual property, consisting in the US of a system of patent, trademark, and copyright laws, is the basis by which an individual or business’s ideas or creative works are protected and monetized. On an international scale the PCT, or Patent Cooperation Treaty, is an international treaty that provides a framework for international patent law. Similarly, the Madrid Protocol and Berne Convention represent a framework for international trademark and copyright laws, respectively. Many nations are signatories of these agreements. However, it is important to understand that while these agreements constitute a respect of intellectual property laws and some means of enforcement for intellectual property rights according to a common standard; they do not offer a truly international patent system, only a system for filing for several nation-specific patents and trademarks simultaneously. Treaties and agreements like the PCT and the Madrid System represent the fundamental basis of current international information security in the area of intellectual property.

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Trade agreements represent another way of enforcing international copyright law. Trade agreements such as NAFTA can contain provisions for the defense and mutual respect of intellectual property laws among participant nations, independent of and extending beyond existing treaties. As a condition of becoming a signatory on a trade agreement, it is often required that intellectual property laws be modified or followed according to the rules of the trade agreement. This incentivizes the adoption of a “standard” or internationally respected and enforceable code of intellectual property law to which participant nations conform. The Trans-Pacific-Partnership stands to impose some of the most extensive changes to intellectual property law in history, and is enforceable throughout participating nations across the globe. Trade agreements are independent contracts between nations and do not fall under the jurisdiction of the UN; but can be considered a tool by which nations can advance their information security agenda. Trade agreements are currently the most effective means by which international intellectual property is protected.

Currently, the theft of important national information, such as intellectual property in the private sector or national security data in the public, represents an important geopolitical issue that can be remedied through national and international action. Programs to prevent hacking and data theft must be considered as a critical component of national defense. Likewise, programs to covertly or openly acquire information about citizens and leaders of other nations can be powerful tools to gain security for your nation. On an international level, treaties or trade agreements which include a common framework of law surrounding intellectual property with provisions against intellectual property theft can be used to combat attacks on the intellectual property of civilians, corporations, or governments. Likewise, intellectual property theft can represent a means for nations to grow more geopolitically powerful or further secure a position of economic power. The costs of surveillance or other clandestine means of acquiring information, whether the information is of state concern or intellectual property, must also be considered. The unique circumstances and existing policy employed by your nation must be taken into account when any action is proposed in the UNSC.

Questions to Consider

How can you balance open participation in a globalized economy while protecting your information? Can your nation permit other nations to collect information about your nation, its people, or its intellectual property? If so, under what conditions? Does your nation currently participate in similar programs? If your nation does not participate in such programs, why not? Do you believe such programs violate national sovereignty, or are they a valid way of maintaining information security? Could transparent data collection be an option? Would your nation support the ban of such programs, or perhaps further implementation? Should programs like PRISM be regulated by the UNSC? What, if any, major intellectual property protection agreements does your nation’s government participate in, if any (these include, but are not limited to trade agreements, UN actions, and domestic policies)? Should the UN take greater action in brokering trade agreements to this end? In terms of physical information security, what programs are in place to defend confidential national information, and what programs currently exist to collect more information? Should overt collection of data, foreign and domestic, be permitted? In disputes of international intellectual property, information collecting, or trade
agreements that center on intellectual property clauses, how is justice served or international actions regulated? Should international intellectual property laws be drafted?
SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.3 DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Introduction

The Disarmament and International Security Committee, or DISEC, is the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The First Committee is concerned with issues of disarmament and threats to peace that impact the global community, and strives to improve international security (United Nations). DISEC deals with all aspects of disarmament and international security that might arise within the boundaries of the Charter of the United Nations or pertaining to the powers of any other bodies of the United Nations (United Nations). In addition, the First Committee also considers the guidelines of armament and works to strengthen stability in the global community by lowering levels of armament (United Nations).

The First Committee works in coordination with the United Nations Disarmament Commission, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and the Conference on Disarmament, a disarmament forum of the international community that resulted from the first Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations (United Nations). DISEC sessions begin with general debate on the issue(s) at hand, followed by more detailed discussions of specific aspects of the issue(s), which then leads to action on draft-resolutions (United Nations). All member states of the United Nations are welcome to attend the annual DISEC meetings.

References:

Topics
Radioactive Waste
Illicit Trade in Small Arms
Radioactive Waste

Radioactive waste is a “byproduct” of nuclear reactors, fuel-processing plants, hospitals, and research facilities (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). High-level radioactive waste originates mainly from reactors that have just produced electricity, while low-level radioactive waste is a product of medical, industrial, and other commercial uses of radioactive materials (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). While some radioactive isotopes decay within hours or sometimes minutes, others disintegrate quite slowly. For example, isotopes like strontium-90 and cesium-137 have half-lives of about 30 years (meaning that half their radioactivity will decay within 30 years), while isotopes like plutonium-239 have half-lives of around 24,000 years (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). In such cases, when the waste stays in the environment for thousands of years, they can enter food chains and groundwater, which proves detrimental to organisms there.

High-level wastes are dangerous because they generate fatal radiation doses even during “short periods of direct exposure” (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). For example, ten years after radioactive waste has been discharged from a reactor or similar facility, the surface dose rate for an average “spent” (or used) fuel is over 10,000 rem per hour (rem being a large dose of radiation), which is much greater than the fatal whole-body dose for humans of approximately 500 rem in one go. When such wastes seep into sources of water, entire populations and communities are affected, both on land and underwater.

Low-level wastes are generally disposed of in “near-surface facilities rather than in geologic repositories (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). Low-level waste generally becomes exposed to radioactive materials through neutron radiation. Low-level waste is more often than not contaminated through commercial items such as cleaning products like mops and filters, and medical supplies like tubes, swabs, needles, and syringes (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). Low-level waste is normally authorized to be stored on-site, until it has decayed and can be discarded as normal trash, or until enough waste has
accumulated to be shipped away to low-level waste disposal sites (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015).

While radioactive waste is hazardous, the amount of radioactive waste in the environment is small relative to wastes produced by fossil fuel electricity generation (World Nuclear Association, 2015). In fact, nuclear power is proven to be the only large-scale energy-producing process that claims full responsibility over wastes produced (World Nuclear Association, 2015). In the United States, for example, a number of government agencies play an important role in the management of radioactive wastes. The Department of Energy carries out protocol for the safe handling of radioactive wastes and “develops waste disposal technologies” (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). The Environmental Protection Agency promotes environmental standards and guidelines for off-site radiation; such standards limit the amount of radioactive wastes entering the biosphere (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015). The Department of Transportation controls packaging and movement of radioactive materials and waste, which meets Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) standards, already compatible with international standards (United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2015).

While there are many regulations and standards in place on the proper management and disposal of radioactive waste set by a number of agencies, the purpose of improving such standards (from the perspective of the UN) is to protect humans and the environment. In order to do this, standards need to be improved such that decaying matter returned to the biosphere is harmless. For this to happen internationally, it is important to focus on the containment and proper disposal of not only radioactive wastes, but toxic wastes, as well. The strides taken internationally to ensure safe disposal and management of radioactive waste have been beneficial, but there is still progress to be made.

Questions to Consider:
1. What regulations and standards are currently in place in your country regarding the safe disposal and management of radioactive waste?
   a. Are they effective, or could they be improved? If they can be improved, how so?
2. What strategies have worked in the management of radioactive waste in your country?
a. Can such strategies be applied to other countries or other regions, or even adopted internationally? If so, how?

3. Due to the waste emitted by nuclear facilities and reactors, is nuclear power still a feasible, sustainable, and safe source of energy?
   a. If not, what are alternatives and how can they be adopted on a large scale?

References:
http://www.docfoc.com/pospap-disec-usa

Illicit Trade in Small Arms

It is the role of the Disarmament and International Security Committee to facilitate global peace through the prevention of weapons proliferation. While the weapons can be monitored through government regulations, underground sales of illegal small arms are much more difficult to trace. According to the NGO Saferworld, over 500,000 people are killed every year by small arms and light weapons (SALW). Many regional conflicts are fueled by use of this weaponry. When left unaddressed, illicit trade in small arms can have crippling effects on development, both economically and socially. However, cutting off the source of supply for SALW is extremely difficult because almost all illegal small arms begin as legal weapons. However, through modification, illegal sale, theft, and false documentation, legal weaponry can be funneled through illicit markets.¹

Human rights violations and the displacement of populations are often byproducts of the illicit flow of small arms. As a result, it is a priority of the United Nations to address the problem and attempt a diplomatic solution. Some action previously taken to combat this growing problem include the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate Illicit
Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The PoA was adopted in 2001 and under it, cooperating nations are to improve their own laws and tighten regulations relating to small arms. Additionally, it encourages international cooperation, particularly in relation to imports and exports of these small arms. The protocol’s statement of purpose is, “to promote, facilitate, and strengthen cooperation among States Parties in order to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, and the components and ammunition.” In conjunction with the PoA, the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) was adopted in 2005. Under this provision, governments must implement measures and regulations that ensure all weapons are marked and traceable. However, even with these regulations in place, the problem of illicit small arms trade continues to affect every region of the world.

While the majority of trafficking is conducted on a private basis, some governments, particularly those in war-torn or developing nations, engage or contribute to illicit arms trade. This can be conducted through arming terrorists or proxy groups. As a result, in some regions, the problem is further complicated with the element of corrupt governments. If the government is directly responsible for promoting or engaging in the trade of illegal small arms, cooperation in any UN regulation effort is unlikely. However, it is the goal of this committee to come up with solutions to combat this challenge.

Reducing illicit arms trafficking and generally reducing violence are listed among the UN Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, it is the role of DISEC to foster disarmament when it is a threat to international security. In order to do so, this body must seek comprehensive solutions to combat this growing problem.

Questions to Consider:
1. Underground trafficking of SALW mostly takes place at a local level. How can this UN body come up with solutions that cater towards the unique situations of individual nations?
2. How can domestic regulation be coordinated on an international level?
3. What are some ways to improve upon the already-existing regulations such as the PoA and ITI?
4. Seeing as most illicit SALW begin as legal weapons, what are some ways to regulate these weapons to prevent them from being funneled through illicit trade markets?

5. What can DISEC do to address governmental/institutional engagement of illicit trade of small arms?

References:

SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

7.4 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

Introduction

The Economic and Financial Committee, or ECOFIN, is the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Currently chaired by Mr. Andrej Logar of Slovenia, the Second Committee considers issues relating to economic growth and development such as questions on 1) macroeconomic policy, including international trade, the international financial system, and external debt, 2) sustainable development, 3) globalization and interdependence, and 4) technologies for development (United Nations). ECOFIN also deals with issues relating to Groups of Countries like the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (United Nations).

The Second Committee is set to dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions as well as meet with the Economic and Social Council as part of its future plans (United Nations). ECOFIN strives to improve the quality of debate and impact of decisions made in future sessions, as well as direct its focus more thematically on agenda items (United Nations). The Second Committee plans to hold meetings with non-governmental organizations in conjunction with the Economic and Social Council to further improve the impact of its deliberations (United Nations). At its 69th session, the Committee considered 41 drafts, and plans to act on a similar number of proposals during its next session (United Nations).

References:

Topics
Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Development
Financial Impacts of Green Energy
Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Development

Having a steady supply of safe and nutritious food is not a guarantee in many countries around the world. Developing countries, especially, have a difficult time providing adequate amounts of food for their citizens due to limited technology, seasonal changes, and minimal infrastructure. Countries in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America have faced continual struggles fulfilling the needs of their citizens. This growing issue has been widely referred to as the Global Food Crisis. While malnutrition and starvation faces many individuals in developing countries, this Crisis has started to impact developed countries as well. Global food prices have been rising faster than rates of inflation for the past two decades. The growing cost of food has put a burden on citizens regardless of country. An increase in agricultural technology for sustainable development would help to address these issues facing the global community.

One such example of food scarcity can be found in South Sudan. Since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan has had one of the least stable governments in the world. In 2013, fighting between factions of the government’s ruling party caused turmoil in the country. The violence that began in 2013 has continued to this day and has resulted in millions being displaced. With many farmers displaced, food has not been able to be produced at its normal level and a national food shortage has occurred. Citizens displaced have previously been able to survive on fish and other natural resources, but livestock-raiding and theft have further lowered the amount of essential animal products available. UN officials believe that the food shortage will only get worse as the country enters a dry season without a sufficient number of crops being planted. This situation requires immediate attention from the international community to resolve both the food shortage and the violence causing it.

Another important example of food shortage can be seen in Latin America, the Pacific, Asia, and Africa. Because of El Niño, an irregular weather phenomenon that occurs due to differences in ocean temperature and atmosphere temperature, rain patterns throughout the world have been greatly impacted; while some regions flood and others experience drought, crop supplies are being destroyed. The food shortage caused by El Niño will continue to be felt for the
next few years. As the food supply continues to decrease, food prices in affected areas only increases. Actions by local governments have been able to help the situation so far, but as more people are driven toward government assistance, it becomes harder for local governments to handle the issue alone. It is up to the international community to help the immediate food shortages being faced by the international community due to the extreme weather conditions caused by El Niño. But, because El Niño can occur every two to seven years, the international community must also start taking steps to mitigate the impact of such weather patterns in the future.

Recently, the Second Committee has taken action to increase food sustainability. During its 34th meeting, Israel introduced and later passed a text titled “Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Development” underlining the instrumental role that agricultural technology plays in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This text urges Member Nations, relevant United Nations organizations, and other stakeholders to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies. Member Nations are also urged to include sustainable development as an increased part of national policy and help disseminate such technology into developing countries. Though this may provide help in the long run, immediate action is required for those currently facing food shortages.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can we quickly get food and resources to areas currently facing food shortages?
2. What developments towards sustainability can we use in developing nations to protect against seasonal variances in the weather?
3. How can the international community effectively get new technology to developing countries?
4. What agricultural technology can be used in the long run to help the UN reach its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

References:
Financial Impacts of Green Energy

Today, the world is faced with the threat of climate change. Experts agree that human contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is directly responsible for the uptick in global temperatures that has been observed, and that, if left unchecked, the world will likely see rising sea levels, widespread drought, and another mass extinction. While there are many sources of greenhouse gasses, the largest share goes to the production of energy. Technology currently exists that can break global dependence on fossil fuels as a source of power generation; however, these sources remain far more expensive and less reliable than the current sources. Solar panels are expensive and can be rendered ineffective by a storm cloud, wind turbines produce small amounts of power (but rely on wind) and hydroelectric power can be expensive, both financially and in terms of the cost it exerts on the environment.

Green energy tends to be expensive to implement, and many poorer nations find themselves unable to shoulder the financial costs of making the switch. This issue is made more complicated by the lowering costs of fossil fuels we have observed recently, as they make the cost of transitioning to renewable alternatives even more expensive to the people and to their nations. Additionally, detractors say that making the switch to clean energy could potentially cost millions of jobs worldwide in industries such as coal mining, oil drilling, and fuel refining.

The United Nations has historically tried to take a large role on the issue of environmental sustainability, as we have seen through various agreements such as the Kyoto
Protocol and the Millennium Development Goals. However, many such agreements have been non-binding, and have focused little attention on the financial needs of many nations, particularly those in Africa. Although some independent businesses have begun to finance transitions in some nations, for most, natural transition is a long way off. Furthermore, some nations capable of funding their own transition have either refused to do so, or continue at a slow rate. These nations’ emissions account for the vast majority of the world’s emissions, yet often do very little to reduce emissions, in spite of prior UN agreements to do so.

The time has come to act on the issue of climate change, and to address the largest source of these emissions: electricity production. As the United Nations General Assembly, it is your duty to find agreement among nations and to pass directives that will allow the world to absorb the many costs of the transition to green energy, and compel all nations of the world to move toward a more sustainable future.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. How are the top few producers of greenhouse gases similar? How do they differ?
2. What influence have international organizations (not just the UN) had on the spread of green energy?
3. Which nations have been leaders in creating and converting to green energy?
   a. What do these nations (and/or their policies) have in common?
   b. How do these nations (and/or their policies) differ from one another?
4. Where has most major opposition to green energy come from?
   a. Can such opposition be reversed? If so, how?

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Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme, or UNDP, works in nearly 170 countries and territories worldwide, helping achieve the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion (UNDP). The UNDP assists countries in developing policies, leadership, alliances, institutional capabilities, and resilience to sustain future development (UNDP). In particular, the UNDP is looking to strengthen plans for sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building, and climate and disaster relief (UNDP).

Recently, leaders worldwide adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to attain these goals. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 1) no poverty, 2) zero hunger, 3) good health and well-being, 4) quality education, 5) gender equality, 6) clean water and sanitation, 7) affordable and clean energy, 8) decent work and economic growth, 9) industry, innovation, and infrastructure, 10) reduced inequalities, 11) sustainable cities and communities, 12) responsible consumption and production, 13) climate action, 14) life below water, 15) life above land, 16) peace, justice, and strong institutions, and 17) partnerships for the goals (UNDP). The UNDP’s aim is to traverse great strides in relation to all these goals by 2030.

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Topics
Sustainable Consumption and Production
Inclusive and Quality Education
Sustainable Consumption and Production

At the Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015, UN Member States adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” This Agenda highlights seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainable development. The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000, which focused on ending global poverty.

SDG 12 is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. This goal encourages the efficient use of resources and energy, the development of sustainable infrastructure (as related to technological advances), and the availability of basic services and jobs to promote an improved standard of living for all. Actions taken to meet SDG 12 are aimed at supporting the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its plan to reduce future social, economic, and environmental costs. In economic terms, sustainable consumption and production targets producing more (goods or services) at a higher quality using fewer inputs (or resources). By trying to produce more with less, the number of resources needed to produce a unit of a good reduces, and companies involved in the production of those goods save money. Environmentally, if a factory uses fewer resources to produce a good, the factory will release fewer pollutants into the atmosphere, which, in turn, increases the quality of the environment or prevents its quality from worsening.

The path to sustainable consumption and production involves many groups, including businesses, consumers, producers, policy makers, researchers, scientists, and the media, among others. Reaching a set of sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices requires a heightened level of communication among these groups so that they can reach an understanding about the larger issue at hand. The challenge with this intersection of groups is that each group has its own set of goals. While there is some overlap in the goals, many of the goals of these different groups might contradict one another. For example, the goal of a business is to maximize profit. To do so, the business might engage in non-environmentally-friendly practices, like creating more air pollution, or dumping substances into streams, rivers, and oceans. Meanwhile, environmental policy makers lobby for legislation aimed at reducing air
pollution and banning dumping into bodies of water. As illustrated in this hypothetical example, the goals of the business and the policy makers do not necessarily align, which could lead to problems in trying to come up with a solution acceptable to both sides. By coming up with a systematic approach that involves actors from throughout the production process of a good, awareness and education about sustainable lifestyles can be raised, and progress can be made on the path toward fulfilling these Sustainable Development Goals.

Humans are depleting and wasting basic necessities and resources like food, water, and energy at shockingly high rates, and achieving the SDGs will require the reversal of this trend. Globally, we waste three billions tons of food every year, while nearly a billion people go undernourished, and another billion go hungry (UN Sustainable Development Homepage, 2015). Likewise, over a billion people still lack access to fresh water, while others pollute water faster than nature can recycle it (UN Sustainable Development Homepage, 2015). Furthermore, despite advances that have promoted gains in energy efficiency, energy use is predicted to increase by 35 percent by just 2020 (UN Sustainable Development Homepage, 2015).

It is imperative, for the well-being of not only humankind, but also the environment, that SDG 12 is met by 2030. The hope is that actions taken on the path to reaching this goal will assist in achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can businesses, consumers, producers, policy makers, and other groups work cohesively to ensure that future consumption and production practices are sustainable?
   a. Is that sustainability short-term or long-term?
   b. If characterized as short-term, how can it become a long-term solution?
2. How can energy be better managed in the future to ensure that resources are not depleted at current rates?
3. How can food be better grown and managed to ensure that those who are hungry and undernourished receive enough, and those who are overweight waste less?
4. How can sources of water be better protected (from over-usage and/or from pollution) to preserve fresh drinking water on Earth?
Inclusive and Quality Education

In 1948, three short years after the creation of the United Nations, member states produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The document outlines a plethora of rights that would serve as “the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” While many of the rights and guarantees were viewed as highly idealistic at the time the document was drafted, it has served as a guide for the policy making of the international community ever since. Article 26 of the UDHR specifically address education, stating that it “shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages … higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.” Great strides were made towards universal primary education since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, reaching a total enrolment rate of 91 percent across all developing regions by 2015 (UNDP). Upon expiring, the MDGs have been replaced by the recently drafted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within the sphere of education, the new initiatives are focusing largely on increasing the inclusivity and quality of education for all.

“Goal 4” refers to the set of ambitious educational targets set for 2030. These nuanced goals include; ensuring equal access for all women and men to primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education, building and upgrading facilities that are safe and effective learning environments for all, increasing the supply of qualified teachers through international cooperation, and expanding the availability of scholarships for higher education in the least developed countries (UNDP).

Unsurprisingly, sub-Saharan Africa continues to offer the greatest obstacles to the realization of universal quality education. Varying levels of conflicts in countries such as Kenya,
Somalia, Sudan, DRC, CAR, Mali, Ethiopia, and Nigeria combined with historically low levels of development represent a significant challenge to implementation of even primary education programs (UN DPKO). Consequently, the potential for growth in this region is enormous, as over half of the world’s children not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa. Policymakers must be cognizant of these unique security challenges when considering implementing new programs.

Another hurdle that must be cleared is the abhorrent gender gap that continues to haunt global education initiatives. Of the 103 million youth lacking basic literacy skills, over 60 percent are female (UNDP). In many developing nations, deeply-rooted gender and racial discrimination has impeded the provision of quality education to significant portions of society. These unacceptable practices can only truly be stopped if we create a culture of tolerance and equality in new generations of students.

Every day, the world relies increasingly on the use of technology to create sustainable economic growth, necessitating higher education systems that place significant weight on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs and related vocational training. These programs are more cost-intensive for developing countries, and often lack the many skilled teaching professionals required. Accordingly, policymakers will have to consider how best to coordinate the actions of developing countries, donor states, and NGO’s to address this critical aspect of SDG 4.

Extending a quality education to all is undoubtedly a noble endeavor. If today’s educational challenges are properly addressed, millions of previously disenfranchised people will be empowered to improve their own lives, the lives of those around them, and the world at large.

Questions to Consider:
1. What methods will improve gender and racial inclusiveness in schools?
2. How can security risks of conflict-affected areas be balanced with the need for primary education programs?
   a. What actors need to be included in this effort?
3. How can STEM programs and vocational training be made more available in the developing world?
   a. Who will implement the programs?

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SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

INTRODUCTION

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), formerly known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations, with member-states across four continents. The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit, which took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 12th Rajab 1389 Hijra (September 25, 1969) as a result of criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Over the last 40 years, the Organization has grown from its 25 founding member-states to 57 member-states in light of the many challenges in the political scene of the 21st century. To address these challenges, the third extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit, held in Mecca in December 2005, laid down a blueprint called the “Ten-Year Program of Action,” which envisages the joint action of member-states to facilitate the promotion of tolerance and moderation, of modernization, of extensive reform in science, technology, education, and trade, and of human rights in the Muslim world, especially concerning the rights of children, women, and the elderly. The mandate of the OIC is to promote all-round cooperation among member-states, to safeguard Islamic holy sites, and to work toward eradicating racial discrimination and colonialism.

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TOPICS

Combatting Islamophobia
Promoting the Rights of Women
Combatting Islamophobia

Islamophobia can be defined as the "fear and dislike of Muslims," and can also refer to the practice of discriminating against Muslims. (A person who possesses such feelings or discriminatory thoughts is referred to as an Islamophobe.) Such discrimination can lead to stigmatization of the larger group in cultural and social contexts. The perception of Islam worsened after the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, which has led to the increasing intolerance of Muslims and the defamation of Islam, particularly in the United States, but also in other parts of the West. While many are aware that Islam is not an inherently-violent religion, such acts of terror have led to persistent anti-Muslim sentiments across the West. Some are even of the belief that Islam shares close to no values with other religions, and is a religion inferior to the religions of the West.

Causes of Islamophobia include the 1) ignorance and insufficient or misconstrued knowledge of Islamic values in non-Muslim communities, 2) abuse and/or misuse of freedom of expression, 3) exacerbation of anti-Muslim sentiments post-September 11th, and 4) insufficient circulation of Islamic culture throughout the world. Some Islamophobic issues relate to the Hijab, or the “veil that covers the head and chest worn by some Muslim women beyond the age of puberty in the presence of adult males outside of their immediate family and non-Muslims,” as defined by Wikipedia. A number of countries have banned the burqa, or the “outer garment worn by women in some Islamic traditions to cover their bodies while in public,” as defined by Wikipedia. Some believe the ban stems from a fear of Islamic practices, largely due to a lack of knowledge of Islamic practices. Countries that have placed a ban on the burqa include Kosovo, France, Turkey, and Tunisia. In France, the Burqa Ban is an act of Parliament passed by the Senate of France on September 14th, 2010, and included the banning of headgear of any form, including masks, helmets, balaclavas, niqābs, and other veils covering the face in public places. The ban also applies to the burqa, a full-body covering, if it also covers the face. There have also been cases, notably in Guantanamo Bay, in which the Qur’an, the central religious text of Islam, has been abused. Furthermore, among other Mosque-related incidents, the Swiss Minaret referendum of 2009 banned further construction of minarets in Switzerland.
To achieve the goals set forth by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and to correct the misconstructions of Islam held by many around the world, it is important to first educate the public on the real issues. It is your duty to develop strategies to combat Islamophobia, and mitigate the anti-Muslim sentiments that exist today.

Questions to Consider:
1. Does Islamophobia exist solely as a consequence of the September 11th attacks, or are there other reasons behind the phenomenon?
2. What is the current role of education in combatting Islamophobia?
3. Is the present framework used to counter Islamophobia viable at the international level? If not, how can it be developed further?
4. Does the present framework help promote inter-religious tolerance? If not, how can it be developed further?

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Promoting the Rights of Women

In many member-states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, women do not receive the same rights as men. They struggle in terms of political rights, economic opportunity and wages, and healthcare. The OIC must cooperate in order to combat these inequalities and promote equal rights for women.
The spread of Islam in the seventh century marked a general improvement in the status of women over previous Arab cultures. Mohammad ended female infanticide and recommended that people take their religious questions to his wife, Aisha. Under Islamic Law, women and men are considered moral equals and are subject to the same religious duties. That being said, only men are permitted to hold religious offices in Islam.

Many Muslim women wear the hijab, which is a scarf worn over a woman’s hair as a form of modesty and morality. It originated as a sign of high-status and respectability in the Byzantine, Persian, and Greek Empires and was absorbed into Islamic culture during the Arab conquests. There are different variations that cover different portions of a woman’s face and hair. Many Westerners consider this a form of oppression of women, and, as explained earlier, has even been banned in some Western countries.

In 1990, the OIC signed the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Islamic Law. It affirmed that “woman is equal to man in human dignity” and tries to combat wage discrimination, but it also reinforces traditional gender roles in that “the husband is responsible for the support and welfare of the family.”

In modern Islam, many Islamic cultures maintain traditional gender roles where a woman remains in the home and a man works outside of the home. Recently, many governments in developing countries have promoted education for both boys and girls, but compared to boys, fewer girls are enrolling in school. With economic instability, many conservatives call for women to remain in traditional roles so that they do not compete with men for jobs. As a result, it is frowned upon when women work outside the home in certain areas. As an example, in early 2013, six female social workers providing health care and education in rural Pakistan were murdered because of their non-domestic roles.

In 2015, the OIC held a summit on promoting women’s rights in member-states. In order to combat inequality, some speakers suggested establishing quotas, governmental gender responsive budgeting, and combatting violence against women in public and private spheres.
Questions to Consider:

1. How can women achieve economic equality (as compared to men) in OIC member-states while also respecting traditions?
2. What can this body do to promote equality in the long-term and the short-term?
3. What specific issues must OIC member-states address when dealing with women’s rights?

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SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2015

7.7 UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Introduction

According to the UN Charter, the primary goal of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security (United Nations Charter). The execution and upholding of this goal is entrusted primarily to the Security Council. For this reason, unlike other United Nations bodies, the Security Council has the power to make decisions that participating nations are obligated to follow. Action that the Security Council deems necessary in order to maintain international peace and security may include the imposing of sanctions, the instillation of peacekeepers, or even the implementation of military action.

The UNSC is comprised of 15 member-states, five permanent and ten rotating. The five permanent members are The French Republic, The People’s Republic of China, The Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America. Each of these countries has the power to veto any proposal presented by the UNSC. The 10 non-permanent seats are determined based on a regional distribution that consists of five seats for African and Asian States, one for Eastern European States, two for the Latin American and Caribbean States, and two for Western Europe and other states. Each of the non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. Currently, the ten members are Angola, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, and Venezuela (United Nations Security Council). Arguably, the greatest responsibility lies with the UNSC as it has the ability to make action mandatory for member states. It is the job of this UN Security Council to act responsibly and uphold the goal of sustaining international tranquility.

References:

Topics
Peace Consolidation in West Africa
Women in Peacekeeping

Peace Consolidation in West Africa

Ever since the end of the colonization of West Africa, and Africa as a whole, the region has been quite unstable. Political uprisings, cultural conflicts, and religious differences have all contributed to great capacity for violence between the nations and people within them all across West Africa. As the United Nations Security Council, it is your duty to try to mitigate these differences to establish and maintain peace throughout the region.

Liberia, 1989: The First Liberian Civil War

In late 1989, a small group of Libyan-trained Liberian rebels, under the control of Charles Taylor, entered Liberia from the Ivory Coast. Citing the repressive regime of President Samuel Doe, Taylor quickly took control over most of Liberia. In the process, Taylor’s rebel army fragmented, and rival rebel militia was formed, under the leadership of Yormie Johnson. Soon, a three-way civil war, between Doe’s forces, Taylor’s rebels, and Johnson’s rebels, was brewing. Although Johnson’s forces quickly took Monrovia, the country remained in a state of near-collapse for years to come, as factions continued to split and attempts by the West African community to ensure peace failed. Eventually, in 1997, attempts to disarm the various factions were successful, and elections were held. Approximately 200,000 people were killed, and more than a million displaced by the conflict.

Ivory Coast, 2002: The First Ivorian Civil War

In 2002, anti-government soldiers attempted a coup to prevent their forced demobilization. When the coup failed, the rebels retreated to the Muslim regions to the north, where anti-government sentiment was high. The rebels, with their newfound support, began to seize territory in the northern and central regions of the country. Pro-government forces, however, quickly stalled their advances. Talks of peace and ceasefires were common, but neither side trusted the other to uphold their parts of the deal. The rebels eventually fragmented, further complicating peace talks, as some groups continued to seize territory from the government.
Eventually, after five years of intermittent conflict, international peacekeeping missions, and peace talks, an interim government was formed and both sides lay down their arms.

**Western Sahara**

Western Sahara is officially a part of Morocco, claimed as part of their pre-colonization territory. Following the Madrid Accords in 1975, Spain ceded the territory to Morocco and Mauritania, and conflicts erupted within the region. After several years, Mauritania withdrew its forces, and left West Sahara to the Moroccans. For nearly a decade, low-intensity conflict was commonplace in the region. The total death toll is estimated to be between 10,000 and 20,000. The international community has repeatedly called for a referendum to be held, but attempts have been stalled by both the Moroccan government and by the people of Western Sahara themselves. However, sentiment in the region seems to be overwhelmingly in favor of independence, and the sentiment in Rabat, overwhelmingly against it.

The United Nations currently maintains four peacekeeping missions in West Africa: one in West Sahara, one in Liberia, one in Mali, and one in the Ivory Coast. The goals of these missions are all roughly the same: to ensure peace and stability of these nations as they try to transition to a more stable democracy. Otherwise, however, direct UN involvement is irregular and uncommon. It is commonplace in this part of the world for the colonizers of these nations to step up and deal with the issues and instability in their former colonies, as the world saw during the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast several years ago.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What do revolutions and rebellions across Africa have in common in terms of the demographics involved?
2. How big of a role have the former colonizers played in their former colonies since decolonization?
3. How effective have peacekeepers been on their missions?
4. What actions has the UN previously taken to combat instability on the continent?
5. What prevents a nation with a revolt from dealing with it effectively on its own?
References:

Women in Peacekeeping

Ever since the issue of gender equality was brought to the forefront of the international political arena, and after decades of relentless lobbying by women’s rights activists, much effort has been devoted to prevent gender-based discrimination and violations of human rights against women, such as rape and sexual assault (which are still prevalent on a worldwide scale and are especially endemic in conflict-stricken areas). Notwithstanding the attention that has been given to the victimhood of women emerging from such conflicts suffering from sexual abuses, too little focus is being allocated to strengthening the capacity of women to assume key leadership roles as peacemakers, peace builders and architects of just and equitable reconstruction processes. By ensuring that both men and women are included in rebuilding communities and important decision-making processes, peace is more likely to be achieved.

One of the pioneering efforts to promote full participation of women in peace-building and decision making processes to protect civilians and ensure durable peace, was voiced in 1995 during the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. This Conference was concluded with the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, which emphasized that: “The equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security ... If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented
adequately at all levels of decision-making.” [1] Such sentiments were further encouraged and reinforced five years later by the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security on October 31st, 2000 [2]. The adoption of this resolution marked the first time that the Security Council addressed the protection of women during armed conflicts, calling for an end to sexual abuse during and after conflict, as well as for the integration of a gender perspective in peacemaking and peacekeeping [3].

The first of a total of eight subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security adopted by the Security Council, the most recent of which was adopted on October 13th, 2015 [2], is Resolution 1325. Resolution 1325 reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, peace negotiations, post-conflict peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian interventions, planning of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, and post-conflict reconstructions, and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The resolution urged all actors to increase the participation of women and integrate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls upon all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women from gender-based violence [4] [5].

A watershed moment in the history of United Nations peacekeeping occurred on May 12th, 2014, when Major General Kristin Lund of Norway was appointed as the first female to serve as Force Commander in a United Nations peacekeeping operation – the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus [6]. Her appointment is considered a major acknowledgment of the implementation of Resolution 1325, especially after the deployment of all-female peacekeeping units in Liberia in January 2007 [7]. From only one percent of female uniformed personnel being deployed in 1993, the role of women in UN peacekeeping operations steadily increased to about three percent of the military and ten percent of police personnel by 2012 [6] [8]. Currently, women account for almost 30 percent of the international civilians working in peacekeeping and special protection missions [6]. Women are being deployed in all areas – police, military, and civilian – and have a positive impact on the peacekeeping setting, both in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women’s rights [6].
However, this still falls short of gender equality in peacekeeping missions, mostly due to lack of understanding among Member States about Resolution 1325 and UN policies on gender equality in peacekeeping operations [6]. The prevalence of social prejudice toward females and the gaps in data of female participation in national security institutions globally has also contributed to the low rates female participation in UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions [6], with women making up only 29 percent of international and 17 percent of national staff [8].

The most acute indication of lack of female participation in UN peacekeeping missions is marked by the statistics surrounding MONUSCO, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While MONUSCO is currently the largest UN peacekeeping mission, only 2 percent of staff is female, mostly in lower-level positions [9]. It is also reported that while progress has been made in protecting the local population against sexual violence and in improving women’s security, conflict-related sexual violence as a strategy in areas of conflict still occurs and has proved a challenge for peacekeeping missions [5]. Last but not least, an analysis of the implementation of Resolution 1325, published in 2014 by the Institute for Global and International Studies, pointed out that most Member States were too focused on addressing sexual violence, rather than gender equality and the empowerment of women, two goals at the heart of Resolution 1325 [5] [10].

For peacekeeping operations to better protect civilians, they need comprehensive intelligence-gathering capabilities [6]. The most effective way is to gather information by blending in with the local context and establishing rapport with and building trust among local civilian populations. However, when it comes to cases of sexual violence against women and children during conflicts, it is difficult for male soldiers to cross social and cultural boundaries required to build trust. This offers a window of opportunity for female peacekeepers to step in and provide women and children with a greater sense of security, as well foster trust, thus gathering valuable information in the process [6] [8]. In the case of Afghanistan, “Female Engagement Teams” were able to penetrate conservative male-dominated society by regularly interacting with local women and eventually obtaining information about areas where the Taliban were recruiting [6].
Better intelligence-gathering abilities as well as improved trust and credibility gained by female peacekeepers through interaction with the local population helps reduce conflict and confrontation, enabling not only better civilian protection, but also better protection of UN personnel from attacks [6] [8]. Furthermore, female peacekeepers can also facilitate the empowerment of women in local communities by serving as role models, thus inspiring women and providing them with any necessary material and moral support [8] [11].

Questions to Consider:

1. Is it better to deploy peacekeeping troops made up solely of women, or troops comprising of both genders?
   a. If of both genders, what gender ratio would be most optimal?

2. What measures can be taken to effectively monitor and strengthen the implementation of resolutions pertaining to women, peace, and security?

3. Under what circumstances is it most ideal to deploy peacekeeping troops composed by women, and what specific roles can they play?

4. How do the domestic laws and traditional values and prejudices of a nation affect a country’s position on women, peace, and security?

References:


SECTION 7. COMMITTEES AND TOPICS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2015

7.8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: BP

Introduction

BP plc (public limited company), formerly British Petroleum, is a British multinational energy company that dates back to the founding of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1908, which was established to exploit oil discoveries in Iran. In 1954, it became British Petroleum, and started expanding outside the Middle East to Alaska in 1959, where it was the first company to strike oil in
the North Sea. BP continued to grow throughout the twentieth century, until it merged with Amoco in 1998 to become the third largest oil company in the world. Since then, BP has been involved in numerous multinational projects, continuously expanding their operations (“Late Century”). Currently, BP has operations in approximately 80 countries worldwide. Though it is no longer the third largest oil company in the world, it is still considered one of the world’s seven “supermajor” oil and gas companies. It has large influence in the energy sector, and, being vertically integrated, has interests in all aspects of oil, gas, and—more recently—renewable energy production and distribution. (“BP at a Glance”)

As the Board of Directors, it is your job to determine the future goals and direction of the company regarding two pressing topics: the prevention of and response to various disasters and the recent move towards green, renewable, energy sources. Currently, the Board of Directors and the Executive Team consists of:

- Carl-Henric Svanberg, Chairman
- Bob Dudley, Group chief executive
- Dr. Brian Gilvary, Chief financial officer
- Paul Anderson, Non-executive director
- Alan Boeckmann, Non-executive director
- Admiral Frank Bowman, Non-executive director
- Antony Burgmans, Non-executive director
- Cynthia Carroll, Non-executive director
- Ian Davis, Non-executive director
- George David, Independent non-executive director
- Professor Dame Ann Dowling, Non-executive director
- Brendan Nelson, Non-executive director
- Phuthuma Nhleko, Non-executive director
- Paula Rosput Reynolds, Non-executive director
- Sir John Sawers, Non-executive director
- Andrew Shilston, Senior independent director
- Rupert Bondy, Group general counsel
- Tufan Erginbilgic, Chief executive, Downstream
Bob Fryar, Executive vice president, safety and operational risk
Andy Hopwood, Group operating officer, strategy and regions, Upstream
Katrina Landis, Executive vice president, corporate business activities
Bernard Looney, Chief executive, Upstream
Lamar McKay, Deputy group chief executive
Dev Sanyal, Chief executive, alternative energy and executive vice president, regions
Helmut Schuster, Executive vice president, group human resources director

* Please note that if you are a delegate in this committee, you will represent one of the aforementioned people. Not all people listed may be represented in the committee.

**Topics**
Deepwater Horizon
Green Energy

**Deepwater Horizon**

On April 20th, 2010, BP experienced a huge hit to its public relations when one of its oil rigs blew up in the Gulf of Mexico. The explosion on the rig, called the Deepwater Horizon, resulted in eleven deaths and the release of about 4.9 million barrels of oil (or 210 million U.S. gallons) over a period of eighty-seven days—placing it among the largest oil spills in the history of the industry.

The cause of the explosion was blamed on a build-up of methane gas from the well, which, when ignited, caused the platform to become engulfed in flames. Two days later, on the 22nd, the rig sank into the Gulf and the first signs that a spill was occurring became evident. Realizing that a spill was occurring, BP first attempted to staunch the flow by closing the valves on the blowout preventer—a device on oil wells meant to regulate pressure and prevent blowouts. In early May, BP resolved to lower the pressure on the failed well-head by drilling relief wells, but these would ultimately not be ready for months. In the meantime, BP tried to contain the leak with a containment dome—which also ultimately failed as the release pipe quickly became clogged. By
May 14th, almost a month into the disaster, the most that BP could do was to divert a small portion of the leaking oil into a drill ship [1]. On May 26th, attempts to staunch the flow of oil with mud (called a top-kill) and with miscellaneous debris (called a junk-shot) both failed. From June 3rd until mid-July, BP was only able to recover leaking oil but not staunch the leak. A major breakthrough occurred on July 15th, when BP engineers successfully install a cap on the well and stop the spill. It was not until September, after BP engineers successfully pump cement and mud into the well pipe, that the Federal government declares the failed well dead. However, the events surrounding the sealing of the well were just one aspect of the catastrophe.

The oil spill caused an environmental and economic disaster for the people and animals of the U.S. Gulf States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The spill had immediate impacts on seabird, dolphin and sea turtle populations in the Gulf in the form of heavily-oiled animals and higher-than-average annual die-offs of these species and of corals located near the spill site. Additionally, the spill seemed to have been especially problematic for the critically-endangered Kemp’s ridley sea turtle causing their annual stranding rate to increase by five times the annual average [2]. According to experts, these factors mean that the spill will have long-term consequences on the health of the Gulf’s ecosystem.

Starting on May 2nd of 2010, the NOAA began shutting down commercial fishing along the gulf coast in response to concerns over contamination from oil and dispersal agents used in the cleanup efforts. At its greatest extent, the no-fishing zone extended from the Mississippi River to Pensacola Bay—a whopping 86,985 sq. miles, which represents 36 percent of US waters in the Gulf [3]. Despite the relatively short-term implications that the spill had on commercial fishing, wildlife and fishing experts state that the gulf fishing industry may not be out of the woods yet. For example, because it takes yellow fin tuna about fifteen years to mature, it may take years to quantify fully the effects of the oil spill on the 2010 tuna hatchery. Additionally, because of oil’s ability to accumulate in sands, commercial fishing of bottom-dwellers, such as crabs and oysters, is another area that will take years to recover. As recently as last year, Gulf Coast crabbers reported fishing success down by as much as 75 percent compared to their pre-spill numbers [4]. In total, the spill caused over 172 million dollars in damage to the commercial fishing industry during the 2010 season alone [5].
On top of the impact of the oil spill on the commercial fishing industry is its potentially long-term ramifications for the tourism industry in the affected Gulf States. In the days after the oil spills, coastal hotels and resorts experienced numerous cancellations and the closing of otherwise lucrative sandy beaches amidst fears of the adverse health effects of the oiled waters. Overall, a report by the NRDC stated that the oil spill cost the tourism industry over $23 billion from 2010-2013 [6]. A bright spot in the disaster is that tourists have returned to the Gulf States since the oil spill, but the region is far from full recovery [7].

The Deepwater Horizon catastrophe caused BP to become embroiled in a massive legal battle with the Federal government and the affected Gulf State governments. On September 4, 2014, a judge in New Orleans declared that BP held 67 percent of the responsibility for the spill and that Transocean (the operator) and Halliburton (the cement contractor that helped construct the well) were accountable for 30 and 3 percent of the blame respectively [8]. In his decision, the Judge cited BP’s negligence and cost cutting in the construction of the oil well. Earlier, in 2012, BP plead guilty to fourteen federal charges. All told, BP estimated that it would have to pay $42 billion dollars, which includes $24 billion in cleanup and reparations to affected citizens, and the fishing and tourism industries, $4 billion in legal penalties, and as much as $17.6 billion in clean water act penalties [9]. Many, however, feel that BP should still do more to account for its role in the disaster.

Questions to Consider:

1. How should BP continue to tackle this public relations disaster?
2. In terms of assisting in the recovery of the Gulf economy, should BP do more? Or, on the other hand, have its efforts been sufficient?
3. How can BP renew confidence in itself, and the petroleum industry in general, among the public?

References:


**Green Energy**

In 1979, the Iranian Revolution disrupted the steady output of oil from OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) members. As a result, the costs of crude oil and all oil products skyrocketed, causing an energy crisis in the United States and other oil-dependent countries. The nature of this crisis enlightened many countries, especially Western industrialized countries, as they began to realize the extent of their dependence on OPEC oil and oil in general. Following this revelation, these industrial nations began to take steps to reduce their dependence on oil, switching to alternatives such as coal or nuclear power. Many national governments even initiated multi-billion-dollar research programs into the development of energy sources alternative to oil. (“A Short”)

The shift away from oil has only gained momentum over the years as it has become synonymous with the environmental movement. Greenhouse gas emissions, caused by machinery that utilizes oil or oil products and has an incredible detrimental impact on climate, have increased,
inciting international concern. In 1997, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change addressed this fact and international parties agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, which commits said parties to internationally-binding emission reduction targets (“Kyoto Protocol”). These parties have met annually in a series of conferences to ensure that climate change—and its causes—is addressed. A reinforcement of the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, was adopted at the most recent of these conferences in 2015, illustrating the global community’s commitment to eliminating climate change and pursuing renewable energy sources. (United Nations)

While international pressure and the issue of climate change are two of the major motivators in the shift towards green energy, the environmental impact of the aforementioned disasters have strengthened the movement as well. Five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, effects can still be felt and recovery is moving forward at a glacial pace. The spill not only killed thousands of animals at the time, but also affected local wildlife, still experiencing negative health conditions. Beyond animals, Louisiana itself is suffering, as the oil spill accelerated the pace at which the shoreline moves inland. This spill resulted in both outcry and an even bigger push away from oil and towards renewable, green energy resources. (Elliott)

This puts BP in a difficult position. While they have both a moral and legal obligation to consider environmental standards, the bulk of their operations and profits are based on oil and natural gas—the two resources most affected by this shift. BP has already spent $8.3 billion in investments in renewable energy; however, they have not set a new target, leading many to believe that the company has dropped their efforts to segue into the green energy sector (“BP Ends”). It is your job, as a committee, to decide how BP will react to the push for green energy moving forward.

Questions to Consider:

1. Should BP embrace green energy and attempt to claim its stake in that market? Or should BP stick with oil attempt to push back against the move towards green energy?
2. How will you achieve the goals you set out to attain, whether that be in green energy or in oil? Will you use political connections, investments, marketing strategies, etc., or a combination?
3. How can you ensure that profits and stock values will not fall?
References:


SECTION 8. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

PittMUN asks for your cooperation in maintaining order, both in and out of the committee sessions, and providing a safe, educational, and enjoyable Model United Nations simulation. We encourage you to discuss any questions or concerns relating to these rules with the Secretariat. Our Secretariat will work with the Representatives and their faculty advisors throughout the day in order to maintain the following rules.

8.1 PROFESSIONALISM
Delegates are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times during PittMUN. Members of the Secretariat and fellow Delegates should be addressed with the proper respect due to members and diplomats of the United Nations. Examples of inappropriate conduct include use of derogatory or obscene language and public displays of affection. Additionally, personal electronic devices such as cellular phones and iPods are not permitted in committee. **Please note PittMUN staff will be taking pictures throughout the day for use in promotional materials.** Delegates should maintain professionalism during this time as well.

### 8.2 Illicit Drugs

Illicit drugs will not be tolerated at PittMUN. Any Delegate using or in possession of drugs will be required to leave immediately and may be subject to further penalties under his/her school’s policy. For further information on the University of Pittsburgh's Policy for a Drug-Free School, see: [www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html](http://www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html)

### 8.3 Alcohol

The legal drinking age in Pennsylvania is 21. This will be strictly enforced by the Secretariat. Liquor found in the possession of any Delegate will be confiscated, and the Delegate will be required to leave and may be subject to further penalties under his/her school’s policy. For further information on the University of Pittsburgh's Policy for a Drug-Free School, see: [www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html](http://www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/06/06-02-01.html)

### 8.4 Harassment

An unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment will be considered an act of sexual harassment. Representatives found committing such an act will be asked to leave and might be subject to further penalties under their school’s policies. For further information on the University of Pittsburgh’s sexual harassment policy, see: [www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/07/07-06-04.html](http://www.pitt.edu/DOC/94/271/42590/policies/07/07-06-04.html)

### 8.5 Dress Code

The Secretariat requires all Delegates to dress in a manner befitting international diplomats. The appearance of participants at PittMUN provides the first impression of their national character to other Delegates. Attention to proper appearance sets an expectation for professionalism and competence.

The dress code for the PittMUN conference is "business dress," also referred to as "Western business attire."

The following are considered **inappropriate** for the conference: t-shirts, denim (including skirts), spaghetti straps (shoulders and upper arms must be covered), skirts shorter than knee length, shorts, athletic shoes, and clothing with any form of commercial advertising. Men should wear shirts and ties.
Decisions on appropriate attire are at the ultimate discretion of the Secretariat. Representatives who are inappropriately attired may not be recognized during Committee sessions and may be expelled from the PittMUN simulation.

The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any Representative from the simulation due to unacceptable behavior or inappropriate dress. **Strict adherence to the dress code will be observed.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion in Order of Precedence</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Interrupt Speaker?</th>
<th>Debatable?</th>
<th>Speakers Needed?</th>
<th>Vote Required</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point of Personal Privilege</td>
<td>To make a personal request</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Decision of the Chair</td>
<td>Deals with health, unable to continue participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of Parliamentary Inquiry</td>
<td>To make inquiries on parliamentary procedure</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Decision of the Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of Order</td>
<td>To correct parliamentary error</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Decision of the Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal a Decision of the Chair</td>
<td>To reverse the decision of the Chair</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Yes = Overturn, No = Uphold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Suspend/Adjourn the Meeting</td>
<td>To recess or end meeting respectively</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Lunchtime/End Session for the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsideration of Proposals</td>
<td>Re-open debate on issue or proposal</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>2/3 Majority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions of Competence</td>
<td>To question competence of committee</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Use with digression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption/Revision of Agenda</td>
<td>Approval/revision of Agenda Order</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Open/Close the Speakers List</td>
<td>To modify the freedom of debate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Once closed, voting procedure begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmoderated Caucus</td>
<td>To propose an unmoderated discussion with other delegates</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Successive caucuses cannot exceed 20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Postpone/Resumption of Debate</td>
<td>Table debate without substantive vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Defer proposals; Move to next topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Close Debate</td>
<td>Move to immediate vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>2/3 Majority</td>
<td>Vote on proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Divide the Question</td>
<td>To consider working paper's parts separately</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 Pro 2 Con</td>
<td>Simple Majority</td>
<td>Vote clause by clause</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What Can I Do When...**

- I Have Yield Time?
  - Yield to Questions
  - Yield to Comments
  - Yield to Another Delegate
  - Yield to Chair

- Yield to Questions
  - Yield to Comments
  - Yield to Another Delegate
  - Yield to Chair

- What Are Unmoderated Caucuses?
  - Review Research Material
  - Plan Next Speech
  - Discuss/Determine Other Delegates' Opinions
  - Make Alliances
  - Draft Working Papers
  - Gain Signatories

- I Need Required Signatures?
  - Working papers: sponsors and 25% of committee
  - Friendly Amendments: all sponsors
  - Unfriendly Amendments: none needed