



COSTEAS-GEITONAS SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Delegate Manual



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Research

Once the school has assigned you to your respective Committee, it is crucial to do in-depth research about the topics of the committee and the country's / organization's policies.

How to research a country?

In-depth knowledge about the country is essential. Firstly, you must know the fundamental facts in order to place the country in a global context. A historical background of your country is useful to know so as to understand the impact that the topics of your committee have on your country but also what stance you should take. Also important to explore is how your country perceives other countries and the other way around. Knowing foreign policy is always helpful and can assist in working well with other member states. It is best to gain an insight on the relations that your country has with the rest of the international community so as to know with which Member States you can cooperate during lobbying.

Regarding sources of information, websites and books prove to be easily available resources. A few good examples are:

CIA: The World Fact Book

<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>

BBC Country Profiles

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

US Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/el/bgn/index.htm>

Permanent Missions to the United Nations

<http://www.un.int/index-en/webs.html>

UN System: UN Organizations

<http://www.unsystem.org/>

Council of World Affairs

<http://www.worldaffairs.org/>

Also, the ministry of foreign affairs of the country you represent is a good source of information.

There are some questions that you can ask yourselves every time you profile a country.

- In which region is my country and what are the major disputes and issues in this part of the world?
- What is the political regime of my country (e.g. democracy, dictatorship etc.)? On this question do not only rely to official websites, since they can be “misleading” (e.g. The North Korea or DPRK claims that it is a democracy but it is apparent that this is not so.)
- What are my country’s relations with the rest of the nations in the region?
- Is my country currently or has ever been in a dispute with any other country?
- Is my country a member of large organizations (such as EU, Arab League, African Union, NATO etc.)?
- Has my country signed all major treaties and does it abide by them? (e.g. Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kyoto Protocol etc.)
- Historically (in the past decades), have there been any major conflicts that my country took part in?

How to research an issue?

Once a delegate has knowledge about the country, they must also do in-depth research on the topic. This may include an explanation of the problem and its international importance, relevant facts, statistics, previous UN resolutions, documents, treaties and prior attempts at solutions. It is best to start the research with the oldest information and work towards the most recent.

Things to consider are the country’s policy on the issue, how they have (if they have) taken any measures to resolve it, as well as the view of other member states.

As for sources, at first the **Study Guides** on the conference’s website are a good way to form an early opinion. It is also beneficial to check the bibliography of the study guide as it might contain useful websites.

Since most topics are from the UN, the United Nations website is a good way to start research (www.un.org). Try to isolate key words to use while researching rather than whole titles. Some other websites are:

News Bank

<http://www.un.org/members/missions.shtml>

Global Policy Forum

<http://www.globalpolicy.org>

Also, it would be advisable to use News Channels as a source, such as BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, France 24, Reuters etc. Generally, keeping up to date will help you to form an opinion about international politics and issues and help you operate in a committee.



Like the country, there are also some questions that if you can answer fully, you most probably have the knowledge to stand in a committee:

- What does my topic handle? Does it have a historic background?
- Has the UN taken any previous measures to alleviate the issue?
- What are (if any) the major events, conventions and treaties around the issue?
- Has my country taken any measures on the current issue?
- What are in general the points of view of the rest of the countries in the committee?
- Are there any UN bodies or other Non-Governmental Organizations established in the wake of this issue?

After obtaining a rounded view on the issue you should start writing your draft resolution. You can find a sample resolution in the Appendix. It is essential that you bring a draft resolution as you will merge it with other delegates during lobbying to compose the resolution which will later be debated in the Committee.

Policy Statements

A policy statement is a short speech, in which you express your country's point of view on the issues of the committee. It can concern either one of the issues or all of them. It should be as brief as possible, as it should not exceed the time length of one minute (~one paragraph). It is essential to prepare one, as you may be asked for policy statements at the beginning of debate.

Lobbying

During Lobbying, you may freely move around the room and form alliances. **Alliances** or **blocs** are groups of countries that, according to their national policy, cooperate well with each other and will work together on producing resolutions. The members of an alliance sign the **co-submitter sheet**, which is approved by the Chairs, and start working together by discussing their ideas and merging the clauses of their draft resolutions. In this process, teamwork is essential!

(Please keep in mind that even if your countries policies are the same there are certain states that cannot be in the same alliance e.g. the US with DPRK. Also, that you have co-submitted a resolution does not mean that you agree with it, but rather that you want it to be discussed)

After the draft resolution is ready, the bloc decides on a **main-submitter**, who will be the representative of the resolution, and the one who will introduce it to the Committee (also, often referred to as "House").

The Chairs will mainly check the draft resolutions for: grammar, syntax and content errors as well accordance to the UN principals and the Committee's jurisdiction (what the Committee is allowed to do). Another point the Chairs will correct is **plagiarism** (using the work of someone else and claiming it as your own).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated!

After corrections are made, the main-submitter types the resolution in the **Computer Room** (you are encouraged to use your own laptops in order to speed-up the process), and the paper gets a **D-number** (where D stands for Draft). The resolution is then sent via internal network to the **Approval Panel**, which will make final corrections, (such as checking accordance to the countries' policies and the UN Charter) and assign the resolution an **A-number** (A means Approved). Then copies will be made and sent to the Committee to be debated.

Rules of Procedure¹

Debate Time and Debate Mode

Open Debate is the mode followed in CGSMUN when debating resolutions. This means that a member of the House can deliver a speech and take any appropriate stance against a resolution. However, upon debating amendments the mode changes to Closed Debate, meaning that there is separate and set time for speakers in favour and speakers against.

We would like to remind you that speeches should always respect diplomatic courtesy and you should refrain from using the first person.

Points

Note: The only point allowed to interrupt a speaker is the *Point of Personal Privilege*, when referring to audibility.

- i. *Point of Personal Privilege*
 - Refers to the comfort and well-being of the delegate
 - It may only interrupt a speaker if it refers to audibility
 - It may not refer to the content of a speech
 - Not debatable and does not require a second
- ii. *Point of Parliamentary Enquiry*
 - A point that may not interrupt the speaker and is a question referring to the Rules of Procedure.
- iii. *Point of Order*
 - It refers to procedural matters only, i.e. if the chair makes an error in the order of debate or in the setting/observing of debate time
 - May NOT interrupt a speaker and is not debatable
 - It can only refer to something that just happened, direct referral.
- iv. *Point of Information to the Speaker*
 - The delegate asking the Point of Information may only speak if recognized by the Chair.
 - Delegates asking questions should remain standing when the speaker is replying to their Point of Information. Male delegates should have their jacket on.
 - Must be formulated in the form of a question. A short introductory statement may precede the question. Only ONE question comes by the same questioner.
 - There will be no dialogue between speaker and questioner on the floor.
 - There are NO follow-ups!
- v. *Point of Information to the Chair*
 - It is a question directed to the chair and may NOT interrupt a speaker
 - It is a question referring to anything that does not fall under the category of Point of Parliamentary Enquiry, Point of Order or Point of Personal Privilege.

¹ Please note that CGSMUN is a THIMUN affiliated Conference and therefore follows the THIMUN Rules of Procedure.

Motions

- a. *Motion to Move to the Previous Question*
 - This motion indicates the closure of debate.
 - It requires a second from the house and the Chair has to ask for possible objections.
 - When in time in favour of discussing an amendment, this motion means that the delegates wish to move to time against.
 - This motion is up to the discretion of the Chair, who can overrule it if he/she thinks that the topic at hand has not been fully covered.

- b. *Motion to Adjourn Debate*
 - Calls for the temporary disposal of debate.
 - The delegate putting the motion forward will have to deliver a short speech as a justification and then the Chair will have to give to give the floor to some other delegates as well (either in favour or against the motion).
 - Then there will be voting, in which simple majority is needed, so that the resolution debated is put aside.

- c. *Motion to Reconsider a Resolution*
 - Needs a majority of 2/3 of the house to pass. It is not debatable and refers to a resolution that has been previously debated and voted upon.

- d. *Motion to withdraw a resolution*
 - This motion can be put forward only if all co-submitters of a resolution agree on the withdrawal.

- e. *Motion to extend debate time*
 - It is up to the discretion of the Chairs whether this motion will be entertained or not.
 - Needs a second from the house.
 - This can be entertained either with a simple vote or with a decision by the chairs.

- f. *Motion to divide the house*
 - This motion disables voting delegations from abstaining, thus only votes in favour and against are valid.
 - No Roll-Call takes place. Delegates vote collectively.
 - May only be entertained when voting on resolutions.
 - It is at the Chair's discretion to entertain it or not.

- g. *Motion to vote by Roll-Call*
 - Unlike the previous point and popular misbelief, abstentions are allowed.
 - This motion should only be raised if votes in favour and against are very close, and the delegate feels that Admin Staff and/or Chairs have made a mistake in counting the votes or that a delegate has accidentally voted twice.
 - It is not debatable and at the Chair's discretion to entertain it or not.

- h. *Motion to retake the vote*
 - Should only be raised if the delegate feels that Staff and/or Chairs have made a mistake in counting the votes or that a delegate has accidentally voted twice.
 - Not debatable. It is at the Chair's discretion to entertain it or not.

Amendment of the First Degree

The Amendment should be written on an official Amendment Sheet that is available at the Chairs desk. The handwriting should be clear and legible. The delegate is responsible for moving the amendment and the Chair, knowing who has submitted an amendment, will recognize or not the delegate in particular. It is therefore the responsibility of the delegate to put an amendment forward.

If the Chair entertains an amendment, he/she will have to read it out to the house, so that the delegates are informed about the content of the proposed change. The amendment will be debated, even if it proposes that one word should be changed. However, if there is a grammatical/spelling mistake, it is up to the discretion of the Chair to step in and speed up the process. This is the so-called *friendly amendment*, which can be adopted without a vote, as long as there are no objections from the submitters of the resolution.

Closed debate is the norm for amendments, meaning that you may deliver only speeches in favour or against in the allocated time. However, the time is flexible, according to the significance of the change proposed. In any case, the debate on the amendment should have to take place with the same amount of speakers in favour and against of it (e.g. 2 for, 2 against).

We encourage you to make constructive amendments, rather than amendments to write out clauses of a resolution.

When voting on an amendment, delegates can either vote in favour, against or abstain from voting on it.

Amendment of the Second Degree

An amendment of the second degree can only be entertained in time against of the amendment of the first degree (though it should have been sent to the Chairs earlier). The same procedure followed in the debate of Amendments of the first degree also applies here. The debate time on this amendment does not count as time against the Amendment of the first degree and the discussion on the initial amendment will be continued, relentless of the result of the voting on the amendment of the second degree.

Yielding the floor to other delegations

The floor may be yielded by one delegation to another only once consecutively. Points of Information are in order even after yielding the floor to another delegation. It is still however under the Chairs discretion if they are going to allow the yield.

Voting

Only *member states* of the UN can vote on resolutions and amendments. NGOs cannot vote in these procedures, except for procedural motions, where they may participate in the voting.

When voting for resolutions and amendments, the members of the house can vote in favour, against or abstain from voting. When voting on procedural issues there are no abstentions from voting. During the voting procedure all points are out of order, except for the point of order, when it refers to the actual voting procedure. A resolution with a tied vote fails.

Note-passing

Note-passing is allowed between the delegates. All notes passing through the House will be read by members of the Administrative Staff. Note-passing between Committees is *not* allowed. Please keep in mind that Notes are only for diplomatic discussions and Notes with inappropriate content will be delivered to the Student Officers.

Funding

There is common confusion, on whether a Committee whose focus is not financial, has to include methods of funding the measures mentioned in the resolution. You should keep in mind that it is in order to include possible funding methods, without however explicitly referring to sums (e.g. Asks the World Bank to provide ~~5.43 million US dollars~~ funds to...).

Miscellaneous

- Always make reference to Less Economically Developed countries as LEDCs, not 'Poor Countries' or 'Third World'.
- Mobile phones must be switched off at all times.
- You may use Laptops/Tablets in the Committee room only during lobbying and only to type a resolution. Otherwise all other devices are prohibited.
- **Decency** for both sexes is essential. Women **should not** wear revealing clothes and men should always wear their jackets while standing.
- There will be a Computer room available for you to go and type your Resolutions.
- Whenever you exit the room individually (meaning that not the entire Committee exits for lunch or a plenary session), you should leave your badge on the Chairs desk.

Sample Resolution Format²

FORUM: 4th GA Committee

QUESTION OF: The situation in Pakistan

SUBMITTED BY: Brazil

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Argentina, Belarus, Iran, Mexico, Somalia, Venezuela

THE 4TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE,

Guided by the principles and the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan,

1. Calls for the implementation of measures to ensure that the madrassas (religious schools) refrain from recruiting mujahedeen fighters and religious terrorists, such as but not limited to:
 - a) revision of the current legislation for schools stating that:
 - i. the State is mainly responsible for providing education to children,
 - ii. school education is free of charge for all children,
 - b) interference of UN peacekeeping forces for a limited period of time;
2. Proposes the cooperation of the Security Council and the Disarmament Committee as far as the disarmament of Pakistani armed terrorists is concerned;
3. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

² Normally, a resolution should have more clauses. This is a sample to demonstrate the correct format.

Words and Phrases to introduce Preamble Clauses

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

Words and Phrases to introduce Operative Clauses

Accepts	Emphasizes	Proposes
Affirms	Encourages	Recommends
Approves	Endorses	Regrets
Asks	Expresses its appreciation	Requests
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Resolves
Calls for	Further invites	Seeks
Calls upon	Further proclaims	Strongly affirms
Condemns	Further recommends	Strongly condemns
Congratulates	Further requests	Strongly urges
Confirms	Further resolves	Suggests
Declares accordingly	Hopes	Supports
Deplores	Identifies	Trusts
Draws the attention	Invites	Transmits
Designates	proclaims	Urges