

Haarlem Model United Nations

New delegates workshop

HMUN 2009



By Matthijs Loop, updated 09-'08

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Introduction

Welcome to our online new delegates workshop. In this workshop we will introduce you to the world of Model United Nations.

Haarlem Model United Nations is one of the many Model United Nations (better known as MUN) conferences held all over the world. In these conferences we debate about international problems and try to find solutions for these problems. These solutions are put together in a so called “resolution”.

Most of the rules and procedures are similar to those used at the United Nations conferences. Therefore you are for example obliged to wear formal clothing and speak in appropriate English language.

At a MUN conference you will represent a country different from your own nationality. Research is required to understand their statements. And with this information you will debate from your countries political view.

The purpose of participating in MUN conferences is to create a better understanding of world politics and to improve your debating skills by discovering different points of view.

On behalf of the Executive Staff of Haarlem Model United Nations we wish you good luck at your first MUN conference.



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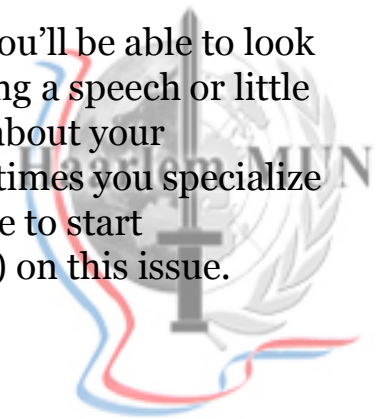
Research & policy statements

As I already told you in the introduction, MUN is not only about the conference itself, but also about researching your assigned country. This should be done in the month prior to the conference, this way you will have enough time for preparing a policy statement and researching your UN memberstate.

The first thing you should do is look your country up on a map. This sounds very obvious, but it's really useful. You should write down: in which continent your country is situated, the neighbors of your country and if it is surrounded by sea, land or both. "Why?" will be explained later on.

After this you should search for some basic facts about your country, related to the issues of your committee. E.g. when you represent the USA in the disarmament committee and there is an issue about the nuclear non-proliferation treaty you should be aware of the fact that the USA has nuclear weapons and is one of the 5 states who can legally possess these weapons within the treaty and that this will effect the opinion of the USA on the issue. A lot of these basic facts can be found on the CIA factbook site and in the country profiles of the BBC. Note that you should first understand your committee's issues before researching. If you don't understand your issues you can always contact your chair, the President of the General Assembly or the Deputy Secretary General.

When you have found what you were looking for, it is best to print it out. This way you'll be able to look it up easily, even at the conference itself. Basic facts might come in handy when writing a speech or little statement. If you have enough basic facts to understand the opinion of your country about your committee's issue, you should start specializing on one or two specific issue(s). Most times you specialize on the issue most related to your country. Start collecting information about this issue to start preparations for a few operative clauses (more about resolutions and clauses later on) on this issue.



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Research & policy statements

By now you should know enough about your own country, but the situation in neighboring countries could be of great influence as well. Therefore Some basic research for these countries will make your position stronger.

When you've collected all this information and specialized on specific issue(s). You are ready to make a policy statement. A policy statement is a short speech (around 1 minute) informing your committee about your countries opinion. This opinion should include the issue(s) most related to your country and why it is necessary to discuss it/them. Here is a list explaining what your policy statement should include and how it should be ordered.

1. Address the chair, the dep. Chair and the other delegates.
2. Give a very short introduction (E.g. "Brazil is very honored to be at this year's HMUN conference and hopes for some very fruitful and rich discussions.")
3. Draw the attention to the issue(s) most important for your country (E.g. "One of the issues that Brazil would like to see discussed in the coming days is the problem of women abuse.")
4. Give arguments about why this issue is so important and why it should be discussed. You could use facts and current situations to make your arguments stronger.
5. Give a possible solution for this issue or something that should be included in the resolution about this issue.
6. End your policy statement with something like "thank you for listening", but never with "this was my policy statement".



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Research & policy statements

Example Policystatement:

Policystatement of Argentina

“Honorable chairs and fellow delegates,

The delegation of Argentina is honored and specially proud to be here today, and sincerely hopes that we will have some very fruitful and rich discussions.

A subject high on the Argentina agenda is poverty reduction through political and economical stability. Because of the history of our country we are persuaded, that by providing stability in the broadest sense increases prosperity and well being of the people. We would therefore like to focus on disarmament, since overall weapons reductions clearly influence the future for the better. The meanest weapons in every day's life are doubtlessly small arms and mines. Worldwide control of these is of utmost importance. The place and time to discuss this is here and now!

So we would like to encourage all delegates here present and more specifically our fellow disarmament delegates to boldly step over historical barriers and dare support life saving resolutions.

Thank you.”



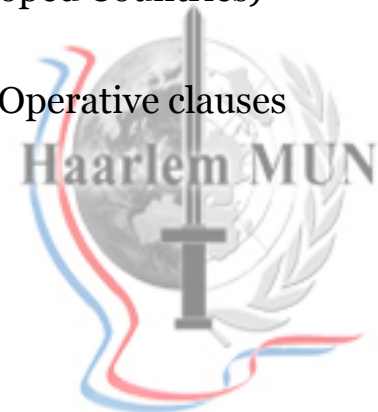
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Resolutions & comments

As I told you in the introduction, you will make, together with other delegates from your committee resolutions about the issues during the MUN conference. A resolution is a plan about how to solve a certain issue. A resolution consists of two parts, one with preambulatory clauses and one with operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses give examples of the problem, facts about the issue and any previously implemented measures. Operative clauses propose actions and measures to solve the problem.

There are rules about what a resolution should look like. I'll include an example resolution to show you the lay-out and tell you some important rules.

1. In a resolution you show respect to the other countries. No racism, discrimination or intimidation is allowed in a resolution. Keep in mind that you are working together to change the world for the better.
2. In a resolution you use appropriate language. Clauses like “suggests that cooperating with the OPCW would be a cool idea.” Are not allowed.
3. Never use “third world countries”, instead use LEDC's (Lesser Economically Developed Countries) and, for first world countries, MEDC's (More Economically Developed Countries).
4. Preambulatory clauses can be either underlined or in italics, but never numbered. Operative clauses should be numbered and underlined.



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Resolutions & comments

4. A perambulatory clause must begin with an underlined keyword chosen from the list below.

Acknowledging	Affirming	Alarmed by	Approving
Aware of	Bearing in mind	Believing	Concerned
Confident	Congratulating	Convinced	Deploring
Desiring	Disturbed	Emphasising	Expecting
Expressing its (hope, concern, regret, etc) etc)		Keeping in mind	Nothing (with regret, appreciation, etc)
Pointing out	Reaffirming	Realising	Recalling
Referring to	Regretting	Reminding	Stressing
Taking note of	Viewing (with concern, regret, appreciation, etc)		
Welcoming			

5. An operative clause must begin with an underlined keyword chosen from the list below.

Accepts	Appreciates	Asks	Calls for
Calls upon	Confirms	Congratulates	Considers
Emphasises	Encourages	Hopes	Invites
Notes	Proposes	Recommends	Regrets
Reminds	Requests	Seeks	Stresses
Suggests	Supports	Trusts	Urges

Note: please bear in mind that only the Security Council and its sub-commissions can force countries to take actions (with keywords such as, decided, demands, authorizes etc.). Other committees can only ask, propose, and stress.



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COMMITTEE: Special Conference on Scientific Development

SUBMITTED BY: Romania

QUESTION OF: Extending Internet Connectivity to Developing Countries

CO - SUBMITTED BY: India, Venezuela, Sweden, Finland, Mexico, USA, Norway, Germany, Kuwait, Portugal, France, New Zealand, Chile, South Africa, Hungary, Ecuador, Austria, Iceland, Brazil, Bangladesh, Belgium, Mozambique, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, Ireland

The Special conference,

Congratulating the governments for the efforts made toward the improvement of internet connectivity,

Affirming the fact that in MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) the presence of internet connectivity has become a basis for the development of the quality of life, due to increased and improved communications,

Aware of the fact that the world economy continues to grow under the support of electronic communications, and notes that the global dependence of internet communication is likely to increase in the future,

Realizing the future importance of e-governance and aware that without these e-governance's, LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) stand a chance of losing power and recognition globally,

Believing that the positive effects will outweigh any possible negative effects such as the possible increase of cyber crime,

Noting further that it would benefit many rural communities by improving access to public services such as doctors,

DO write down your committee, main submitter and question. Co-submitters are optional.

DO start-off with your committee.

DO state strong recent facts about the issue in the preambulatory clauses.

DON'T underline the whole clause, only the first word.



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1. Proposes the creation of the UNCIC (United Nations Committee for Internet Connectivity), which will:
 - a. Set up centers in LEDCs to train workers for educating rural communities in:
 - i. The implications of the internet,
 - ii. How to use the Internet effectively,
 - iii. How to reduce the possible dangers of using the internet,
 - b. Establish services available on the internet for rural communities to use such as:
 - i. Medical advice websites,
 - ii. Educational websites;
2. Asks all relevant organizations to invest in the previously mentioned UN CIC;
3. Encourages **developing countries** to set up initial internet connections and invest more money to increase the internet connection speed as the wealth of the country increases;
4. Urges the Commission for Enterprise to find an affordable way to obtain internet connectivity for **LEDCs**;
5. Requests the UN to work together with LEDCs in order to arrive at a suitable solution for the economic obstacles that may be crossed on the way to obtaining reliable internet connectivity such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Equipment,
 - b. Transportation,
 - c. Communication facilities;
6. Urges all member states to start using e-governance, as this will enable:
 - a. Easy spreading of future plans and national surveys
 - b. The government to hold on to their power and modernize together with the rest of the world instead of staying behind;

DO pay good attention to the way of numbering your clause; this should be done in the order of: 1, 2, 3 etc. a, b, c etc i, ii, iii etc.

DO number your operative clauses, but DON'T number you preambulatory clauses.

DON'T give precise numbers concerning the financial needs of a new UN organization, but DO mention organizations which could invest in the new organization.

DON'T use "third world countries", instead use: developing countries or LEDCs.

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7. Encourages the mentioned e-governance's to provide additional security for the prevention of possible infiltration by cyber terrorists;

8. Trusts the government to form training personnel to spread knowledge about the use and benefits of the internet;

9. Emphasizes the need of internet connection in all schools and educational facilities to accomplish the necessity of being involved in international politics and world issues;

10. Expresses its hope that all member states act upon the aforementioned clauses as soon as possible, in order to reduce the continuously increasing wealth gap among MEDCs and LEDCs.

DO try to find solutions to the problems that could occur when the issue is solved.

DO include cooperation between the governments and the UN in your resolution, as the governments have the primary responsibility of their citizens.

Extra advise: if you face a very long resolution. Skip the preambulatory clauses and read the operative clauses first. When are doing this you can also skip the subclauses as these normally only specify the operative clause itself. This should give you a good basic overview of what it proposes. Afterwards you can read the whole resolution.

DON'T end your resolution with something along the lines of "this was it" or "thank you", instead you could end it with a clause like this one.



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Lobbying

When you are lobbying you share your opinion with other countries about an issue and try to make an resolution together with countries that share the same point of view. In the lobbying process memberstates will come to you to co-submit their resolution. When you co-submit a resolution you agree with the measures proposed in the resolution or, but this is very rare, you want the issue to be debated and you think that with amendments the resolution could become a strong one. There are two ways of lobbying: lobbying through the use of the HMUN forum (www.hmun.nl) and lobbying at the conference itself, there will be time before the debate to lobby.

Some useful tips while lobbying:

- try to read as many resolutions as possible, this way you know what will be debated;
- if you have a resolution yourself try to merge with others, merging is: making one resolution out of two or more using the strong clauses of all the resolutions;
- you don't have to co-submit, stay in your role, that means that you shouldn't co-submit a resolution which doesn't share the same point of view of your state;

If you are all done with your resolution and you have enough co-submitters, you must go to the chair of your committee. They will tell you if your resolution is correct and what to do next.



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Lobbying

As stated before, the online forum can help you prepare for the conference. It is therefore of utmost importance that you log-in as soon as it is open and introduce yourself there.

Some rules and advise while using the forum:

1. Create an appropriate username such as 'Matthijs – President IAEA' or 'Canada GA1', inappropriate usernames might get banned.
2. Use formal language at the online forum. Swearing will not be tolerated nor will offense language be, these actions could result in a ban.
3. Create clear topics to make everything more organized.
4. Ask any questions you have concerning the rules or maybe the issue here.



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Debating

After the lobbying the real thing will start, the debate. Here is an example of what a debate could look like:

- introduction by the chair and deputy chair;
- roll call;
- any points or questions from the chair;
- the chair calls the main submitter forward to read out the operative clauses;
- chair sets debating time;
- main submitter has the floor to make a speech;
- floor will be yielded back to the chair or to an other delegate;
- delegate speeches are giving in favor or against the resolution;
- an amendment is made, it will be debated and after that there will be voted on the amendment;
- debating time has elapsed, there will be voted on the whole resolution;
- the chair calls the main submitter forward to read out the operative clauses of an other resolution;
- etc.



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Debating

Explanation of common used words and terms:

Roll call: a roll call is meant to see which delegation is and which one isn't present, this will be done by calling out every delegation. Just yell "present" when your delegation is called out.

Open and closed debate: these are the two different types of debating. In open debate you can speak in favor and against a resolution, while in closed debate there is a time to speak in favor and a time to speak against.

The floor: the floor is the "place" where the speeches are held. Most times this is next to the chair's table. You can only make a speech (this doesn't include questions, motions etc.) when you have the floor!

Yielding the floor: yielding the floor is the same as giving the floor to someone else. This is always done by the person who has the floor on that very moment. E.q. when the U.S.A. has the floor and finished their speech they can yield the floor to:

- a) an other delegation, or
- b) the chair.

Yielding the floor to an other delegation can only be done if the person having the floor on that moment got the floor from the chair and not from an other delegate. E.q. if the UK yields the floor to France and France wants to yield it to Germany, that is not possible.



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Debating

Amendments: Amendments are improvements made to the resolution. Amendments should be written on an amendment sheet and then send to the chair. The delegation that made the amendment should try to get the floor (by raising their placard when the chair asks “are there any delegations wishing to obtain the floor”) and when the delegation gets the floor the speaker should state: ‘we have submitted an amendment’, after which the amendment will be read out.

The submitter is then allowed to make a speech and after that there will be the same procedures as with the resolution itself. After time on the amendment has elapsed, there will be voted upon the amendment.

An amendment to the amendment is in order, same procedures as with the amendment. An amendment to the amendment to the amendment is not allowed.

Voting: there will be voted on certain motions, resolutions, amendments etc. You can vote in favor, against or abstain. With certain votes you can not abstain (eq. procedural votes).



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Points & motions

Points and motions can be called out throughout the debate. If you want to make a point or motion, you can, however, NOT interrupt the speaker. One exception is the point of personal privilege when you can not hear the speaker. Here is a list of the most common points and motions with an explanation.

Point of personal privilege

This point concerns your personal well-being. Most of the time, this point is made when somebody can't hear what's being said. When indeed referring to audibility, the point may interrupt a speaker. But when the point is referring to anything else discomfoting, such as the temperature of the room, it can not.

Point of information to the speaker

This is a question to the speaker, when a speech has ended. Every speaker has the choice to open him- or herself to such points. Also, the chair may set a limit to the number of points when debate time is short. Since the chair will normally ask if there are any points, you will only have to raise your placard, and not yell out 'Point of information'. A point of information can exist of only one question at a time. Follow-ups are allowed at the chair's discretion, but should relate to the original question.

Point of information to the chair

Used to ask the chair a question, such as: "how much debate time is left on this resolution?"



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Points & motions

Point of order

When one feels the rules of procedure are not maintained, one can raise a point of order. This can be done when a delegate feels insulted by a speech or point of another delegate, or when he or she feels the chair makes a mistake in the course of debate.

Point of parliamentary inquiry

This point is a point of information to the chair, related to the rules of procedure. A question can vary from what closed debate is, to how an amendment is submitted.

Motion to extend debate time

When debate time has elapsed, but one feels that more time is needed to discuss the resolution, amendment or motion, one can call for this motion. It needs a second and no objections, but in the end, the chair may decide if the motion is entertained.

Motion to move into previous questions/voting procedures

This motion can be used when debate time has not yet elapsed, but you feel that everything that needs to be considered is debated.

Motion to take a resolution from the table

Asks for the reconsidering of a resolution that has been tabled. This can only be done when all other resolutions have been discussed, and the motion needs a two-thirds majority to pass.



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Points & motions

Motion to divide the house

This motion can be called when votes have been taken and counted, and the results are very close. It is entertained very seldom, because of the large amount of time it takes. When entertained, the chair will ask every delegate to state their vote: in favour, against, or, if possible, an abstention.

Motion to reconsider a resolution

Meaning to re-debate a resolution that has already been passed. This can only be done if no other resolutions need to be discussed on the topic, and when two thirds of the house is in favour.

Motion to table a resolution

When this motion passes, debate on the resolution will stop immediately. The resolution can be reconsidered after all other business is dealt with. Due to lack of time, this usually means the resolution will not be discussed anymore.

Motion to appeal from the decision of the chair

A very rarely used motion, which refers to the last decision of the chair. It can only be used right after the decision is made, and will not result in a debate. It needs a two-thirds majority. When the motion is passed, the decision the motion relates to will be reversed.



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Points & motions

Objection to the main motion

Another rarely used motion, which needs a two-thirds majority to pass. It states a delegate's objection to the resolution that will be debated, it can only be used right after the operative clauses have been read out. The delegate raising this motion will be entertained one minute to explain his or her objection, after which the forum will move into voting procedures. Entertaining this motion means the resolution will not be further debated.

Motion to refer a resolution/question to another forum

The chair may start a debate on this motion. When direct action is taken, a resolution can not be passed in a committee, but should either be changed, or send to the Security Council. When the forum feels the issue can not be solved without direct action, the whole issue will be assigned to the Security Council. Because the Council already has its own issues to discuss, this usually means the issue will no longer be discussed.



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Different Councils

At a MUN conference you would notice the great amount of different committees and councils. I would like to give a brief overview of the councils and committees used at HMUN and explain what they are used for and what power they have.

Quick overview:

Security Council - 30 Delegates (2 Delegates per Nation.)

General Assembly (115 delegates total):

Disarmament and International Security Committee - 35 Delegates

Special Political and Decolonization Committee - 35 Delegates

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee - 35 Delegates

Special Conference on Reconciliation in Global Conflicts (70 delegates total):

Cultural & Religious Commission - 35 Delegates

Political & Economical Commission - 35 Delegates

Economic and Social Council - 58 Delegates

World Trade Organization - 35 Delegates

African Union Peace and Security Council - 30 Delegates (2 Delegates per Nation.)

Human Rights Council - 47 Delegates



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Different Councils

Security Council: The Security Council is the most powerful council within the UN framework. It is the only council that can take immediate action, military and economical. It is composed of 15 members of which 10 non-permanent and 5 permanent (United Kingdom, France, USA, Russia and China). The permanent members have veto powers.

General Assembly Committees (3x): The General Assembly is composed of different committees, in our case the Disarmament and International Security Committee, Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. These committees all address their own field of expertise. The committees at HMUN are composed of around 35 members, but at the UN they are composed of all UN members. On the Sunday, all committees are put together into one big assembly, the General Assembly. During this meeting, past resolutions will be discussed again with all committees present. All member states have equal rights within the General Assembly

Special Conference on Reconciliation in Global Conflicts: Special conference have a different theme at every conference. This year HMUN chose reconciliation as the theme. HMUN will address two aspects of this problem: the Cultural & Religious aspect and the Political & Economical aspect. The rules are the same as the General Assembly and both conferences are composed of 35 delegates.



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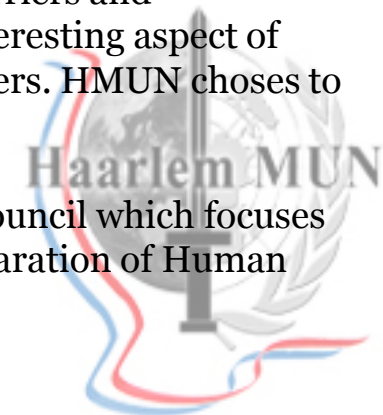
Different Councils

Economic and Social Council: The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is another organ within the United Nations framework. It is composed of 58 member states, chosen every 2 and 3 years from all the UN member states. Normally the ECOSOC also includes a great number of Non-Governmental Organisations. The ECOSOC stays separated during the weekend. All members are equal in the ECOSOC.

African Union Peace and Security Council: Being the highest organ of the African Union, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) is not part of the UN. HMUN decided to include this organ in 2007 because of the Africa theme. Due to the great success of the AUPSC, HMUN decided to include it in this year structure as well. The AUPSC is composed of 15 members, chosen every 2 and 3 years from all African Union member states. All member states are equal. Just like the Security Council, the AUPSC can take immediate action such as sanctions or military actions. Of course the AUPSC's military force is a lot weaker than the UN's.

World Trade Organization: The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the world's greatest organization focusing on international trade. The Organization addresses issues such as; trade barriers and embargoes, the cooperation within Free Trade Zones and many more. Due to the interesting aspect of trade in conflicts, HMUN decided this committee to be simulated along with the others. HMUN chooses to entertain 35 delegations of all the WTO members.

Human Rights Council: The Human Rights Council (HRC) is the independent Council which focuses fully on the international Human Rights. Its key document is the International Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. The HRC consists of 47 chosen members.



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With Special Thanks to Matthijs Loop

