



THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
GUIDE TO

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Introduction

Model United Nations, commonly referred to as '**MUN**', is a simulation of the activities of the United Nations, an international organisation that works to resolve global issues such as conflict, inequality, climate change, scarcity, poverty, and so on. MUN is a style of debating during which pupils take up the role of representatives of nations (so-called '**delegates**') and discuss these significant questions with other delegates. This guide is intended as a comprehensive handbook to explain all the concepts in MUN, and all protocols involved.

MUN often deals with very sensitive and nuanced topics. Hence, it is important to maintain a sense of sincerity, seriousness, and '**decorum**' whilst debating. Since delegates are diplomats or envoys from countries, they must always have the true stance of the country in mind. Delegates never argue their personal opinion, but always the political stance of the government of their country. This makes it more challenging than traditional debating — sometimes, you might be required to argue an opinion you profoundly disagree with, but you'll have to do so with passion and energy. Sometimes, there will be more than one person representing a single nation. In that case, they are referred to collectively as a '**delegation**' or '**deputation**'.

The principal item in question will be a '**resolution**'. Resolutions are documents that outline the background to an issue as well as steps the UN will take to solve it. Delegates usually write resolutions before the conference or session begins. Only one resolution can be debated at any one time.

There are very strict procedures that must be followed in an MUN debate. Delegates may not talk over one another and may not just start speaking when they choose. Presiding over any debate will be a '**Chair**'. The Chair's responsibilities are to direct the session according to protocol and maintain order. The Chair's word is absolute and must be adhered to. During a debate, everyone in the room that is not a Chair is referred to as the '**floor**'. If something adheres to protocol, it is called '**in order**'.

There are six key active components of an MUN debate:

1. '**Speeches**', during which a delegate can speak about their country's standpoint or discuss another nation's argument.
2. '**Points**', of which there are multiple varieties. Points are queries made by delegates relating to a number of issues.
3. '**Amendments**', which are changes to the resolution that the delegate introduces to the floor.
4. '**Motions**', of which there are a vast number. Most are either procedural modifications that a delegate wants the Chair to entertain, or emergency powers such as ejection.
5. '**Votes**', which are ballots held in the floor to decide to pass or fail a specific item.
6. '**Yielding**', which is a way of increasing your bloc's presence on the floor.
7. '**Lobbying**', informal discussion time for delegates to form blocs and mingle.

Organs

In MUN, there are two major '**organs**' or debating bodies. The first is the General Assembly or '**UNGA**'. Every member state of the UN is also a member of the UNGA. Every delegate therefore has equal speaking and voting rights. In many conferences, you will be a part of a '**committee**'. A committee is a smaller chamber of select delegates of the UNGA, combatting issues in a particular area. Examples include the Social and Humanitarian Committee and the Disarmament Committee.

The second organ is the Security Council, or '**UNSC**'. There are five permanent members of the UNSC, known collectively as the '**P5**': China, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France. There are also ten temporary members that are elected to seats that last two years, known together as the '**T10**'. In UNSC debate, each member of the P5 has a '**veto**', which means they can block any resolution from passing. T10 nations do not have veto power.

The UNSC has some special privileges over the UNGA, encapsulated in the concept of a '**higher strength of prerogative**'. The UNSC can condemn and deplore a nation's actions. It can dispatch UN Peacekeepers, a militia force used to help foster peace, and authorise military action. It is also the only body of the UN whose resolutions are theoretically '**binding**'.

There are other forums that can be simulated in an MUN conference, such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. However, these use completely different procedures which are not covered in this guide.

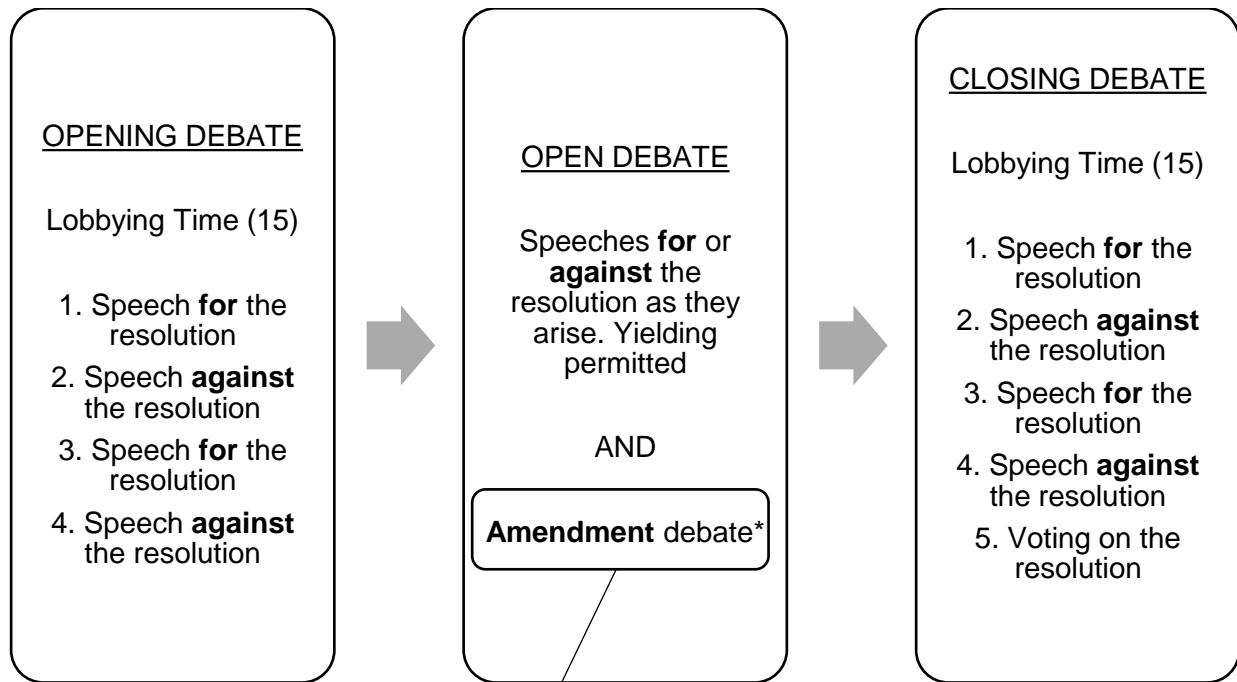
The Spirit of the UN

The United Nations is a strongly diplomatic organisation. Unlike regular debating, MUN is therefore fundamentally '**constructive**' as opposed to '**destructive**'. Instead of attempting to break down another delegate's argument, a good delegate will take on board their ideas and reasons and thence build a synergistically improved solution.

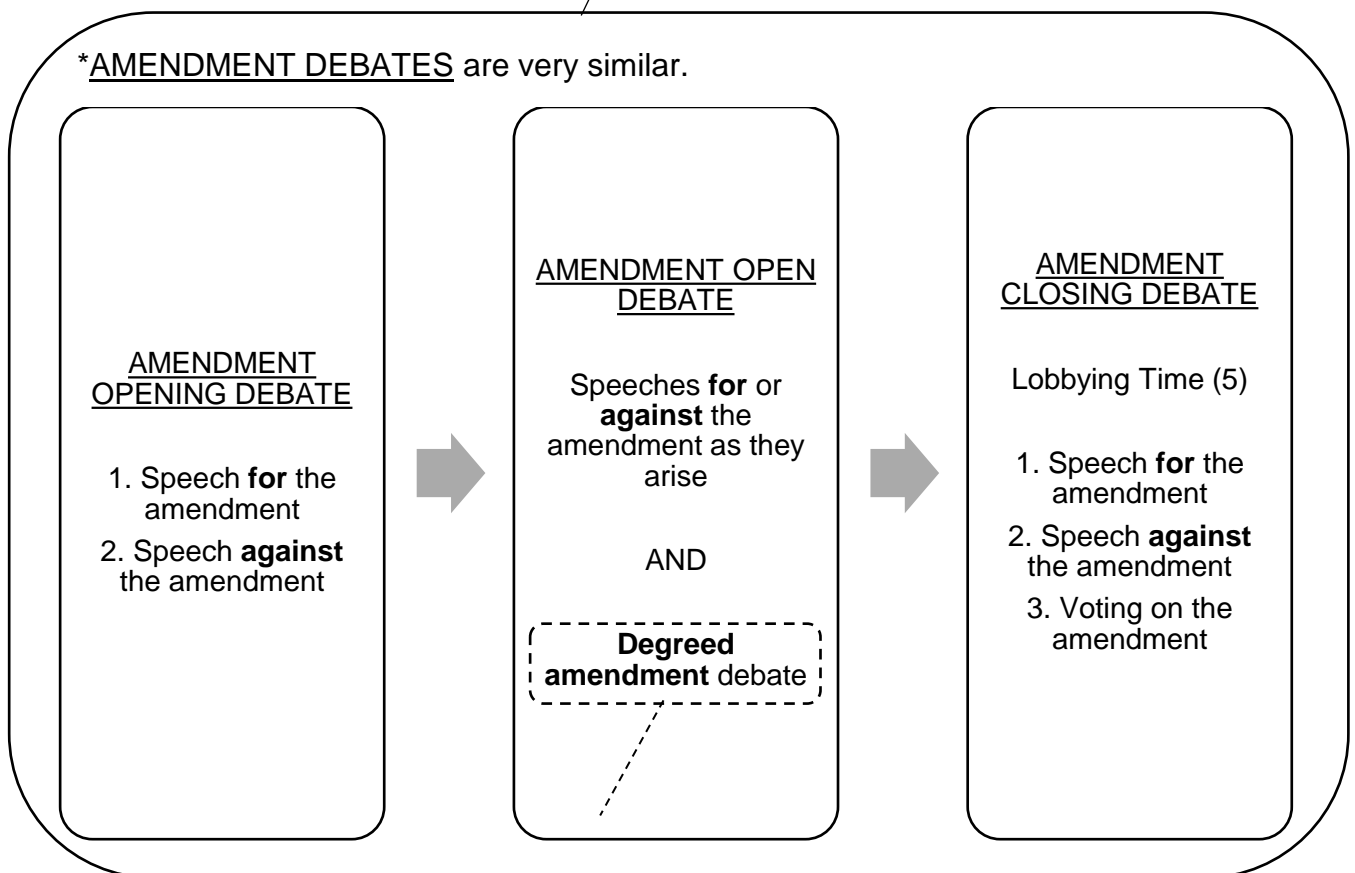
This is linked to a concept known as '**the Spirit of the UN**', which refers to the best path to a mutually agreeable resolution ... by favouring additory and amendatory modifications, for example.

Structure of MUN Debates

Below is the standard structure of the debate of a single resolution:



*AMENDMENT DEBATES are very similar.



Speeches

Chairs will invite speeches by saying: *“We will now be accepting/entertaining a speech for/against the resolution/amendment. All those wishing to make a speech should raise their placards now.”* Once the placards have been raised, the Chair will select a delegate and say: *“The delegate of [country], you have been recognised.”*

When invited by the Chair, a delegate must rise and come to the lectern. There, they make a **‘speech for’** or a **‘speech against’**. A speech is the opportunity for the delegate to explain their viewpoint on the topic at hand, and the reasons why their country believes what it does. The delegate should also use the time to point out the flaws in the other side’s arguments. Finally, the delegate should state whether they are endorsing or opposing the item at hand.

Speeches can be made in two contexts: for the resolution as a whole, and for an amendment. A speech for is made when you support the resolution or amendment and will vote for it; a speech against is made when you oppose it and will vote against it. Speeches do not have to be written or planned before the session begins, although it can be helpful to have a speech in your armoury.

When speaking in MUN, there are two golden rules:

1. You may not use the pronouns “I”, “you”, “he” or “she”. When referring to yourself, you must say “this delegate”, “the delegate of [country]”, “[country]”, or “we”. When referring to another delegate, you must say “the delegate of [country]”, “[country]”, or “they”. This is commonly referred to as the **‘no personal pronouns rule’**.

Example: *“Whilst the delegate of France believes firmly that food should be universal human right, we do not see how this is logistically feasible. However, France is fully supportive of all efforts to provide a global food aid network, and this delegate is therefore willing to vote for the resolution and encourages all delegates to do the same.”*

Example 2: *“The delegate of China stated in their speech that they believe in the use of artificial intelligence as a positive force for change. Nonetheless, this seems hypocritical given China has banned much AI from its military sphere, citing security concerns. They must first support the concept before endorsing a resolution to enact it.”*

2. You should not attack other delegate’s reasoning or thought processes. This is because they are simply acting as envoys of their countries. For example, you should not say: *“The deputation’s argument is fundamentally flawed. They simply do not understand that food is necessary for human life. This means that their conclusion is incorrect.”* Instead, you should say: *“While this delegate appreciates the deputation of Cuba’s opinion, we also believe that food is actually necessary for human life. As such, this delegate draws a different conclusion from Cuba.”*

Points

There are four different kinds of points that a delegate can raise:

1. **'Point of Information'** ('Pol'): This is a question from one delegate to another relating to something they have said in a speech. Points of Information (Pols) are invited after a delegate has finished their speech, if the speaking delegate agrees:

Chair: "Thank you, delegate, for your fine speech. Will you be accepting any Points of Information from the floor?"

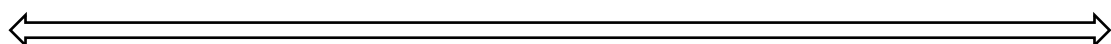
Delegate: "Any and all."

Chair: "Thank you, delegate. All those wishing to make a Point of Information, please raise your placards now."

The delegate may also refuse by stating "No" or specify the number they will accept.

Points of Information must be phrased as questions. There is a scale, known as the '**D-I-S spectrum**', of different intentions for Pols:

<u>DESTRUCTIVE</u>	<u>INTERROGATIVE</u>	<u>SUPPORTIVE</u>
<p>Destructive Pols are designed to break down the speaker's arguments and are usually not bona fide questions. They involve a firm opposing stance to the speaker's views.</p> <p>Example: "Does the delegate not see that by implementing the measures they are endorsing, the people and animals of the River Valley will be seriously harmed?"</p>	<p>Interrogative Pols are sincere queries about what a delegate has said and are neutral in nature.</p> <p>Example: "Could the delegate clarify what they meant by 'imperial' powers in their speech? The term could refer to both old colonial and neo-colonial powers, correct?"</p>	<p>Supportive Pols are questions used to establish a concordant position and show that the inquirer agrees with the speaker diplomatically.</p> <p>Example: "Does the delegate not further agree that these policies are not only beneficial for the healthcare industry but also necessary to keep it operational?"</p>



A range of Pols along this spectrum will be used by a good delegate at the appropriate time.

2. **'Point of Order'** ('PoO'): This is a query to the Chair as to whether a speaking delegate is in accordance with the rules and procedures of MUN. For example, it is against the rules to be misinformative or non-factual. PoOs can be raised by a delegate at the end of a sentence; the inquiring delegate may not interrupt the speaker mid-phrase:

Delegate of India: "China has, on many occasions, invaded India."

Delegate of China: "Point of Order."

Chair: "Please rise and state your Point of Order."

Delegate of China: "The delegate of India has misinformed the floor. China has not invaded India on many occasions."

Chair: "Delegate of India, is this fact or opinion?"

If the Delegate of India were to respond with *"Fact"* then the claim would have to be independently verified by the Chair. If they responded with *"Opinion"* then no further action is taken, and they continue their speech.

3. **'Point of Parliamentary Inquiry'** ('PoPI'): This is a query to the chair about the rules and procedures of MUN in general. It can be raised at the end of a speaker's sentence:

Delegate: "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry."

Chair: "Please rise and state your Point of Parliamentary Inquiry."

Delegate: "Is the delegate permitted to make another speech directly after the first?"

The Chair will respond by explaining the rule in question.

4. **'Point of Personal Privilege'** ('PoPP'): This is a way of raising an issue about the current debate which personally affects you. This is the only point which permits you to interrupt another speaker:

Delegate of India [interrupting China]: "Point of Personal Privilege."

Chair: "Please rise and state your Point of Personal Privilege."

Delegate of India: "The delegate of India cannot hear the delegate of China!"

The Chair would then take steps to rectify the issue.

'Right-to-reply' is a concept specific to Points of Information. It can be used to ask a follow-up question to the same speaker, but the Chair must grant it first:

Delegate of China: [makes speech]

Delegate of India: [asks Pol]

Delegate of China: [responds to Pol]

Delegate of India: "Right-to-reply?"

Chair: "That will be granted at this time."

Delegate of India: [asks second Pol]

Delegate of China: [responds to second Pol]

Delegate of India: "Right-to-reply?"

Chair: "This will not be granted due to time constraints."

The Chair has the right to reject any right-to-reply requests as they see fit.

'Deny-to-reply' is an important prerogative that the speaker has. The speaking delegate is under no obligation to actually respond to a Pol asked. Although it makes sense to in most cases, there are times when it would simply compromise their position:

Delegate of China: [makes speech]

Delegate of India: [asks difficult/compromising Pol]

Delegate of China: "This delegate denies to reply to that Point of Information."

'Right-to-clarify' is a prerogative that a delegate has to ask an inquirer or responder to rephrase their wording in a question or answer during the course of a Point of Information.

Delegate of China: [makes speech]

Delegate of India: [asks convoluted/incomprehensible Pol]

Delegate of China: "Right-to-clarify?"

Chair: "Could the delegate of India please repeat and rephrase their Point of Information?"

Amendments

Amendments are arguably the most foundational of all elements of an MUN debate. At the beginning of the Open Debate phase, the Chair will invite delegates to submit amendments to the resolution at hand, usually via e-mail. There are three types of amendment:

1. **'Additory'** amendments are used to add words to the resolution. This can come in the form of another word or phrase to an existing clause, a new subclause, or a whole new clause:

Clause: 6(d)

Add: "as well as humanitarian support to the region."

2. **'Amendatory'** amendments are used to change the wording of a certain clause. They essentially combine discarding one item whilst adding in another:

Clause: 1(b)(i)

Amend: "all countries in Europe"

To: "all countries both in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and in Europe"

3. **'Deletory'** amendments involve striking something from the resolution: a phrase, subclause, or whole clause:

Clause: 4(f)

Strike: all of subclause 4(f)

Deletory amendments are often not constructive and therefore are against the Spirit of the UN, so additory and amendatory changes are favoured.

Once an amendment has been submitted, the Chair will select the amendment to be debated. It will be introduced to the floor by modifying the resolution on screen in a different colour. As shown in the chart of debate structure, an amendment debate follows the same pattern as a whole resolution debate, but a 'mini' version, with only two opening and closing speeches.

During the Open Debate phase, delegates will be invited to submit '**degreed amendments**'. This is essentially an amendment made to an amendment. For example, this is an '**amendment to the second degree**':

5. **Encourages** all nations to *mandate municipal and national police forces to combat the international drugs trade through the execution of lawful warrants of arrest.* (Togo) (Germany)

As shown here, the floor is debating an amendment from Germany, in red, and Togo has introduced an amendment to the second degree in green. The second-degree amendment will undergo a similar 'mini' debate with one speech for and against.

Motions

A motion is either a modification to running protocol, or an emergency action. They can be brought up by a delegate at the end of a speech or point. Here are some common motions:

1. **'Motion to move to voting procedure'**: This is usually raised when the delegate thinks enough speeches have been made for a particular amendment and they want to go straight to a vote.
2. **'Motion to pass as a friendly amendment'**: This is raised when an amendment (or degreed amendment) is just a small change to grammar or wording and all delegates agree with it. If successful, the motion skips voting entirely and integrates the amendment immediately.
3. **'Motion to extend time for speeches / Points of Information'**: This is raised when a delegate wishes to make a speech or Pol but was not recognised initially. It can be denied due to time constraints.
4. **'Motion to constrain the delegate'**: This is an emergency motion raised if a delegate is speaking for far too long (**'filibustering'**), well over their time limit. If successful, it forces the delegate to finish their sentence and terminate their speech.
5. **'Motion to eject the delegate'**: This is an emergency motion raised if a delegate is being insensitive, indecorous, blatantly offensive, disregarding the Chair, violating the dignity of another delegate, or is a security risk. If successful, the delegate is forced to leave the chamber.

The Chair can overrule any motion, at their discretion. If they choose to entertain it, they will hear objections:

Delegate of France: "Motion to pass as a friendly amendment."

Chair: "This motion will be entertained. Do I hear an objection on the floor?"

Delegate of Belgium: "Objection!"

Chair: "The motion has been objected to and is thus rejected."

Any delegate can choose to object to a motion, and they do not need to explain their reasons for choosing to do so. The moment an objection is heard, the motion is thrown out. Another delegate can also voice their support for a motion by saying **"Seconded!"**

Votes

Votes are ballots held on either an amendment or a resolution. They take place after all the debate for the item has finished, at the end of the Closing Debate phase.

During a vote, the Chair will request a show of hands via placards:

Chair: "We will now be entertaining a vote on this resolution submitted by the deputation of Togo. All those wishing to vote for the resolution, please raise your placards now."

[seven delegates raise their placards]

Chair: "Thank you, please lower your placards. All those wishing to vote against the resolution, please raise your placards now."

[twenty-two delegates raise their placards]

Chair: "Thank you, please lower your placards. All those wishing to abstain from the vote, please raise your placards now."

[two delegates raise their placards]

Chair: "By an overwhelming majority, this resolution fails. Clapping is not in order."

Clapping is only in order if a whole resolution passes. '**Abstention**' (to abstain) means you vote neither for nor against but choose to maintain a neutral stance. They are only in order for whole resolutions. You cannot abstain from a vote on an amendment.

In the unlikely event of a tie between for and against votes, the Chair will introduce a '**motion to divide the house**'. This means abstentions are no longer in order. The vote will then be reperformed, without abstaining delegates.

In the unlikely event of there still being a tie after dividing the house, the matter is sent to be debated by the whole General Assembly at a later time.

Yielding

During the Open Debate phase (but not Opening or Closing) a delegate will be asked how they yield after a speech for or a speech against:

Chair: "Thank you delegate for your fine speech. How do you yield?"

If the delegate yields "*To the floor*", they are inviting Points of Information. If they yield "*To the Chair*", they are denying Points of Information. Finally, they can yield to another delegate:

Delegate of Canada: "To the delegate of Laos."

Chair: "That will be in order at this time. Delegate of Laos, you have been recognised."

If the Chair agrees, the delegate of Laos then automatically makes a speech. In longer conferences, '**yield chains**' can be set up whereby delegates yield continuously only to delegates with similar positions as them. This can help solidify your diplomatic position and overwhelm the opposing side. However, the Chair usually halts most yield chains at the second or third step, due to time constraints and in the interest of fairness.

Lobbying

Lobbying, also known as '**unmoderated caucus**', is a time before or between debate whereby delegates can mingle and talk amongst themselves informally. This is highly useful in, for instance, forming '**blocs**', which are groups of delegates with similar objectives that work together. Blocs can be useful when, for example, a delegate wishes to set up a yield chain.

During Lobbying Time, delegates can also discuss '**co-submission**', whereby two nations submit an amendment together to show their aligning diplomatic viewpoints and secure votes. An amendment can be co-submitted by as many delegates as wish to: there is no limit.

Fifteen minutes of Lobbying Time takes place before Opening and Closing phases of debate of resolutions, and five minutes of Time before the Closing phase of amendment debates.

Resolutions

When preparing to be a delegate in a conference, you will need to be aware of how to write and interpret resolutions. Resolutions are used by the actual UN as well as in MUN. Originally, they were letters sent from one delegate to the Chair to be put up for debate. They have now evolved into formal documents with a rigorous structure, but they still serve the same purpose.

In **Appendix A**, you can find an example resolution. Resolutions are split into three sections:

1. The **'header'** contains the subject fields which specify key elements of the resolution.
2. The **'preamble'** contains all **'preambulatory clauses'**.
3. The **'core'** contains all the **'operative clauses'**.

In the header, you specify the forum you are sitting in, any **'sponsors'** and **'signatories'** you have, the topic, and the submitters of the resolution:

<p>Forum: Special Political and Decolonisation Sponsors: [PENDING] Signatories: [PENDING] Topic: "The Issue Of Chinese Neo-Colonialism In Africa" Submitted by: Ghana</p>
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The forum will either be the committee you sit in (e.g., Disarmament Committee, or Security Council), or if you are in **'plenary'**, where the whole UNGA is in session, then you can simply write General Assembly.

The difference between sponsors and signatories is a key distinction that many delegates fail to make. Sponsors are delegates that have expressed support for both the debate and content of the resolution; that is, they both would like to see it debated, and they endorse what it sets out. In contrast, signatories only support the resolution being debated, and may not condone the material at all. Usually, nations become signatories as a show of **'diplomatic influence'**. Delegates may not acquire sponsors or signatories until the conference. In that case, the space should be filled with "[PENDING]".

The topic is decided by the body in charge of the conference beforehand. This body is usually called the **'Secretariat'**, and the people with the highest authority may be referred to as the **'Secretary-General'**, or deputies or assistants thereto. Note that the Chair technically only takes office once they have declared their forum in session, but the Secretariat holds authority before, during, and after the conference. Chairs may be, but do not have to be, members of the Secretariat.

The submitter is the country who has written and proffered the resolution, though in same cases, there may be multiple co-submitters, as discussed previously.

In the preamble, the resolution lists its preambulatory clauses, sometimes referred to colloquially as '**preams**':

Noting the increased presence of China in all African countries since the introduction of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000,

Reminding all nations of the considerable amount of aid provided by China for all African nations, especially the TAZARA railway project of the 1970s, and that China remains the largest donor of aid to Africa,

Emphasising the benevolence of PRC's President Xi Jinping's pledge of USD 60 billion to African aid in the 2015 FOCAC meeting,

Each clause occupies its own paragraph. It begins with a verb in the present participle, italicised, and ends with a comma. Preams are not numbered.

Preams lay out the background to the issue at hand. For example, they may remind delegates of historical events, make note of something that is currently occurring, draw the delegates' attention to significant elements of the issue, recognise the concerns of other deputations, and so on. The best preambles also reaffirm the decisions of previous actual UN resolutions that are relevant to the case at hand. The UN stores all its past resolutions on its website, easily accessible. There may be anywhere from roughly five to fifteen preams.

Crucially, the preamble does not lay out what the delegate wants to do to actually address the issue. That is reserved for the core, which lists operative clauses, colloquially referred to as '**ops**':

1. **Affirms** the fact that in order to fully come to a conclusion on the topic of Chinese presence in Africa, we must first conduct detailed surveys and reports of the effect it is having so as to fully understand the matter;
2. **Calls** for the creation of a subsidiary body of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) to observe Chinese military presence:
 - a. Requests this aforementioned body to conduct a report detailing the effect of Chinese military presence on both the state bodies and the people of the predefined countries:
 - i. The report is to be repeated every month, with details of the report being overseen by a select committee of the UNDPA;
3. **Decides** to remain actively seized on the matter

Again, each clause occupies its own paragraph. However, it begins with a verb in the third-person present active indicative, bold and underlined, and ends with a semicolon. Ops are numbered.

Operative clauses set out the delegate’s proposals for how to resolve the issue. They may urge countries to perform certain executive actions, encourage nations to pass laws to contribute to a global effort, establish committees of various UN organs, detail what those committees would do and how they would function, request reports, and express hope that countries will refrain from certain actions. It may also affirm certain viewpoints or perspectives on a matter. There may be from about five to twenty ops.

Delegates are only allowed to use a certain ‘**class of verb**’ when writing the first word of each type of clause. Preams must open with ‘**unassertive**’ verbs whilst ops must begin with ‘**exhortative**’ verbs. The team at St Paul’s School offers a very useful list of examples of each.

Sample preambulatory openers:

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

Sample operative openers:

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

[from St Paul’s School’s *Delegate Information Pack*, 2022]

These are not the only openers you can use, but certainly provide an excellent starting point, and give an idea of the class of verb you might need to use.

Due to their higher strength of prerogative, the UNSC has the three key rights which the UNGA, and committees thereof, do not hold. These are known as '**UNSC privileges**'. As discussed near the beginning of the guide, these actions are:

1. Condemning or deploring a nation's activities. For instance, only the Security Council could condemn the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. A UNGA committee could only go so far as to be saddened by it!

This also allows the UNSC to use the "condemn" and "deplore" as openers to its operative clauses. The UNGA cannot use these words.

2. Authorising military action by one country against another. For example, the UNSC has the right to grant one nation the right to declare war against another.

Delegates are strongly discouraged from doing this in their resolution. Evidently, it usually violates the spirit of the UN, but moreover, doing so could get you involved in areas of complex and murky international law. Whilst the UNSC's right to authorise war is established in some places, in others, the ICJ (International Court of Justice) has ruled it unlawful and void.

3. Dispatching UN Peacekeepers. For instance, the UNSC can establish '**missions**', which are often joint humanitarian-military operations in a country afflicted by a major crisis. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone is a good example. The Peacekeepers are a militia force maintained by the UN made up of sections of different armies from around the globe that work together under the UN flag to, as the name suggests, keep the peace.

If a situation is severe enough, a delegate in the UNSC only may request the dispatching of peacekeepers or the establishment of a new mission.

The core of a resolution may also contain '**sub-clauses**'. These may be opened with any word, relative to the grammar of the previous clause, and help break up a set of actions, or add something further to the main body of the clause. They are not formatted specially, except being indented one block further and lettered (a. through z.). If a clause has a sub-clause, the end of the main clause ends with a colon and the end of the final sub-clause with a semicolon. Note that preams cannot have sub-clauses.

Sub-clauses used in the additory sense may be used as in the example of ops above, whilst sub-clauses used in the listing sense may look more like this:

1. **Urges** all nations to consider the regulation of:
 - a. Fishing activities, to prevent overfishing,
 - b. Arable farming, to prevent overcultivation,
 - c. Livestock farming, to prevent overgrazing:
 - i. Note that cattle farming may also cause methane emissions,
 - ii. Note that methane contributes to the greenhouse effect,
 - d. Logging, to prevent excessive deforestation;

The above also contains '**sub-sub-clauses**', which are listed in lowercase roman numerals rather than letters. They serve the same function to sub-clauses as sub-clauses do to main clauses.

Each set of sub-clauses and sub-sub-clauses occupies its own paragraph.

The final clause of a resolution is typically:

7. **Decides** to remain actively seized on the matter.

This clause is used to suggest that the matter will be debated in further sessions of the UN well into the future. It is customary to end with this, as it suggests the UN will remain engaged with and involved in the matter at hand. As mentioned previously, the resolution, as a whole, ends with a full stop.

It is good habit to keep your resolution as specific as possible, avoiding the '**vagueness fallacy**'. If an operative clause is too non-specific, it can be criticised in a speech. Instead of just urging the creation of a committee to address an issue, for instance, you should detail which nations the committee will contain (any permanent nations, or temporary ones on a rota?), how often the committee will sit and where (in an impartial country?), what the committee will be mandated to produce (monthly reports to the UNGA?), what the remit and authority of the committee will be (are they part of the UNSC, and can they therefore authorise missions?), when the committee will be dissolved, and so on.

It is important that you recognise that in MUN, we technically have '**unlimited funds**', meaning that money should not factor into your decision to include or exclude a certain cause. Conversely, we do have '**finite resources**', both human and material capital, so you cannot dispatch several million peacekeepers, or endlessly exploit oilfields.

Finally, make sure the resolution is clear, pithy, of an appropriate register!

Appendix A — Exemplar Resolution

Forum: Special Political and Decolonisation

Sponsors: [PENDING]

Signatories: [PENDING]

Topic: “The Conflict in Northern Mali”

Submitted by: Ghana

The General Assembly,

Deeply disturbed by the enormous number of deaths and suffering caused by the Northern Mali Conflict,

Fully aware of the fragile peace treaties between Northern Malian separatist militias and the government of Mali,

Approving the charitable work of NGOs such as WorldVision in the area,

Recognising the serious threat of Islamist terrorist groups in and around Mali,

Viewing with appreciation the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in aiding the recuperation of the Malian nation,

Noting with satisfaction the transition of the country’s electoral system from largely autocratic to largely democratic,

Welcoming and re-affirming sanctions passed by S/RES/2347 (Security Council) and the EU/2017/1770 (European Council [non-UN body]),

1. **Calls** for the immediate creation of a UN Aid Commission to increase levels of humanitarian aid in Mali, especially the heavily-damaged Northern areas:
 - a. Requests that aid missions be accompanied by an appropriate force of UN Peacekeepers or MINUSMA armed troops;
2. **Encourages** MINUSMA troops to take a more active role in suppressing the Islamist threat in addition to their coexistent role of retaining security in separatist areas:
 - a. Further invites member states to provide assistance and support to MINUSMA if necessary
 - b. Trusts participating member states to also provide necessary counter-terrorism training to MINUSMA troops, as directed by MINUSMA senior officials;
3. **Recommends** the creation of the United Nations Agency for Verification of Malian Financial Aid Allocation (UNAVMFAA) to continuously check that monetary aid provided by the UN is not wasted but allocated in a reasonable fashion:
 - a. Reminds both Mali and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to remain open to UNAVMFAA auditors in every way possible, withholding no information;
4. **Decides** to remain actively seized on the matter.