UNITED AMBASSADORS
MUN YOUTH ASSEMBLY (MUN-YA)

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SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORTS

The MUN Youth Assembly

Sixth Committee: Model United Nations and Accurate Reflections of the United Nations

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First Session
Agenda Item 6

Enhancing the accuracy of Model UN in simulating the real United Nations - UN4MUN, Multilingualism, and Alternative MUN Platforms.

Report of the UA-MUN Youth Assembly Secretary General

Introduction:

The United Nations, is an international membership organization, comprised of 193 Member States.

The United Nations was established in 1945 with a purpose to maintain international peace and security, to prevent and remove threats to the peace, to promote social progress, human rights, reinforce the rule of international law, and promote equality between men and women.

The creation of the UN was based on the UN charter and it outlines the purpose, structure and rules. Soon after, simulations of the UN follow the creation of the organization itself.

As time continues to transpire, Models, or simulations of the United Nations have evolved, with the purpose of educating youth about the United Nations. However, since the UN was founded, it has evolved, and Model UN's have also continued to improve and evolve.

Most conferences around the world to date, have adopted the two famous formats based on Parliamentary Rules of Procedure called North American (Traditional) MUN, and THIMUN. These have promoted competition more so than cooperation between delegates. The resulting impact is the creation of discrepancies pertaining to accuracy, and the values the UN is premised on. In fact, prior to the creation of the UN, parliamentary rules were adopted in simulations of the League of Nations, since then, the rules of procedure used in MUN have not received reform.

In 2009 the UN Department of Public Information created UN4MUN, which was the first format to accurately mirror the relationship between the General Assembly and UN Secretariat, the rules of procedure, and most significantly, the negotiation process. This is the most accurate simulation in accordance with the actual UN, and how the organization functions.

However, The accuracy of UN4MUN procedure can still be further improved upon. The means through which this may be possible, is by adding multilingualism, and by improving alternative platforms to allow more students to participate in the debate and changing some aspects that still create discrepancies between MUN simulations and the UN.

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The Real United Nations.

There are 5 key elements in the UN Decision Making Process. Debate (giving speeches on the topic), Negotiation (drafting and negotiating resolutions on the topic) and Taking Action (adopting or passing a resolution on the topic) are three elements that are implemented at Model UN Conferences.

Two elements however, namely: Implementation (actually implementing resolutions) and Reporting (tracking and reporting on the progress of implementation) are not implemented at Model UN Conferences.

There is only one exception: The MUN Youth Assembly by United Ambassadors.

Below are some areas through which Model UN Simulations could be brought closer to the Real IN:

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I. Committees:

The United Nations consists of 6 main organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat, the International Court of Justice and the Trusteeship Council[1].

The General Assembly

Is established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. Occupying a central position as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations,[2] The General Assembly is among the most diplomatic. It consists of 6 main committees,[3] The Committees are as follows: First Committee[4] is related to disarmament and international security, The Second Committee[5] is related to economic and financial matters, the Third Committee[6] is related to social, humanitarian and cultural matters, the Fourth Committee[7] is related to special political and decolonization matters, the Fifth Committee[8] is related to administrative and budgetary matters, and the Sixth Committee[9] is allocated agenda items related to legal matters.

The Security Council

Has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.[10] It has 15 Member of which ten are elected members, and five permanent members (China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation).

The Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC) established in 1945 as one of the six main organs is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.[11]

The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.[12]

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[1] The Trusteeship Council suspended its operations on 1 November 1994 (http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/trusteeship-council/)
[2] http://www.un.org/en/ga/
[3] http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/committees
[4] http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/ Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)
[5] http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/ Economic and Financial (ECOFIN)
[6] http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/ Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)
[7] http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/ Special Political and Decolonisation (SPECPOL)
[8] http://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/
[9] http://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/
[10] http://www.un.org/en/sc/
[11] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/ https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/pdf/rules.pdf ECOSOC rules of procedure
[12] The principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) http://www.icj-cij.org/en

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However, these are not the only committees in the UN and more commissions, board and bodies can be effectively simulated in MUNs. For example, the Disarmament Commission[13] (DISEC), Human Rights Council[14] and many more shown in the picture below are simulated in MUNs around the world.
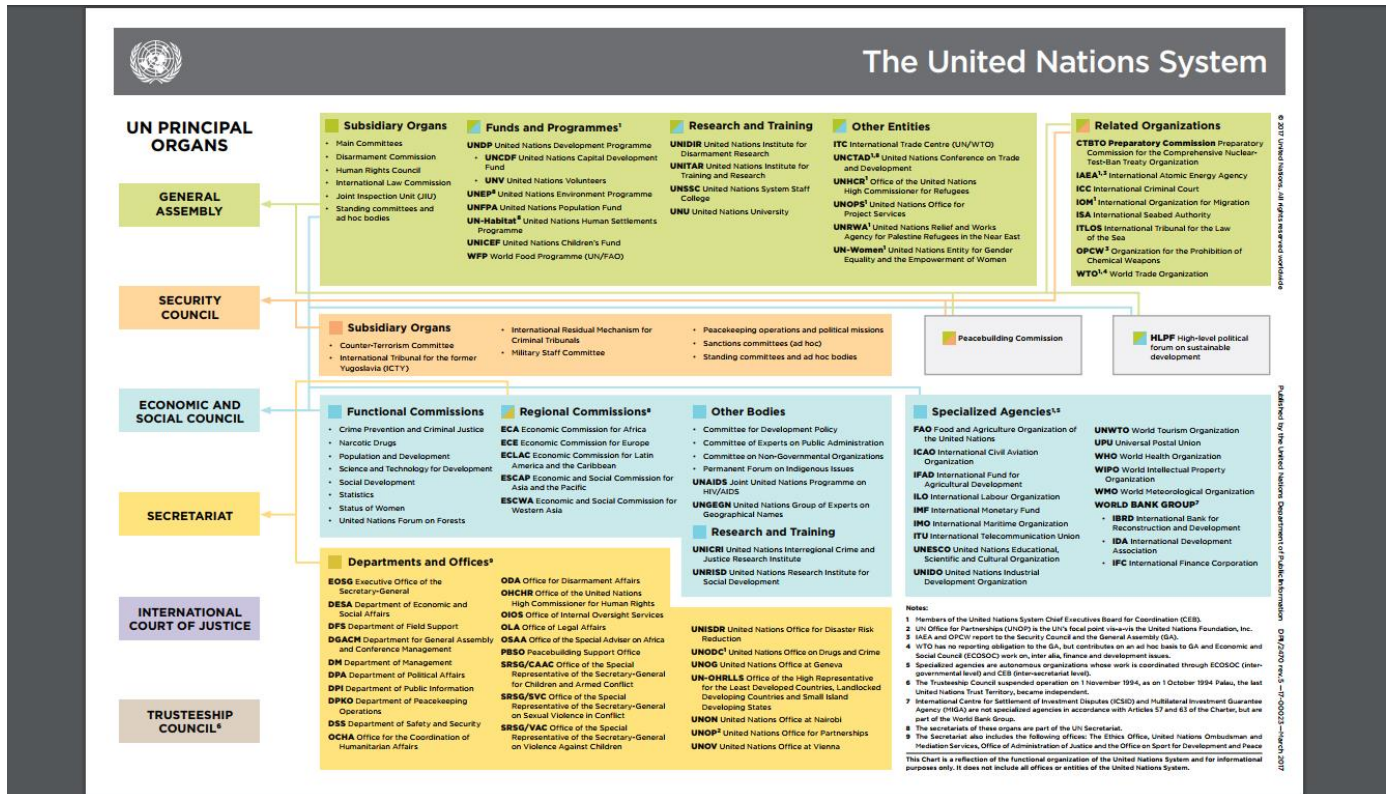

Figure 1 https://www.un.int/sites/www.un.int/files/Permanent%20Missions/un_system_chart_eng_final_march13_2017_1.pdf

II. Implementation and Reporting:

As stated above, there are 5 key elements in the real UN decision making process. Implementation and reporting are not included in Model UN Simulations. Only the MUN Youth Assembly by United Ambassadors, attempts to do so.

The implementation phase in MUN is hard to achieve since conferences are predicated on simulation, and are not intended for global implementation. However, topics such as "Enhancing the accuracy of Model UN in simulating the real United Nations," exist to improve conferences and refine the already realistic UN4MUN format. In the 2016 United Ambassadors Youth Assembly has adopted the resolution A/RES/01/01,[15] which directly influenced future implementation of favorable enhancements to the UN4MUN platform, which was observed at UA-MUNC, United Ambassadors Model UN Conference that follows UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, as well as in United Ambassadors UN4MUN training workshops.

The recommendations for MUN reform at the UA MUN 2016 Youth Assembly included encouraging new means of implementing Multilingual MUN initiatives, recognize the commitment of all MUN

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[13] https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/ Established by GA resolution 502 (VI)
[14] http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx
[15] https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/f06a9e_94e6c6249b3e4fabaa38934b6a72fabe.pdf

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Societies, Clubs, and Organizations towards the development of global awareness, and understanding the social responsibility of Model United Nations participants and organizers to their local communities.

These recommendations were published, and shared with the global MUN community. The MUN Hall of Fame is a real initiative that aims to celebrate MUN leaders who demonstrate an ability to implement the recommendations made at the United Ambassadors MUN Youth Assembly.

The current report of the Sixth Committee of the MUN 2017 Youth Assembly, is attempting to report on the progress made within the Model UN community concerning the recommendations made at the MUN 2016 Youth Assembly.

Hence, making United Ambassadors the only Model UN Organization (to date) that actually includes "implementation and reporting", in its Model UN programs.

III. The Negotiation Process:

UN4MUN is a Model UN Platform that aims to accurately mirror the negotiation process that takes place at the real UN. One of the critical differences between this platform and Parliamentary based MUN platforms, is that the negotiation process in UN4MUN simulations encourages: consensus. IE: The negotiation and adoption of a resolution without a vote. See the main phases of the three most famous Model UN platforms below.

NORTH AMERICAN			UN4MUN		THIMUN	
Opening Ceremony			Opening Ceremony		Opening Ceremony	
Formal Committee Session Set Agenda		GENERAL DEBATE	**Opening Plenary** Adopt Agenda & Statements by Delegates. (Part of Simulation)		Formal Committee Session Set Agenda	
	Speakers List (Formal Debate)		**Formal Meetings** Committee Sessions Begin (Speakers List)		Speakers List (Opening Speeches)	
Debate** (Formal & Informal) ** (Over 50% of Conference time).	Moderated Caucus**	INFORMALS ** (Over 65% of Conference Time)	Informal – Informal Consultations		Lobbying** (Over 50% of Conference Time)	Choose Topic, Blocs Discuss Topics.
						Draft Resolution on Each Topic, Main Submitter & Sponsors present to approval panel.
Unmoderated Caucus**	UN-Moderated Caucus Also called informal debate (Draft Resolutions)		Formal – Informal Consultations			Approval Panel Reviews Resolution, Sends back to Chair/ Committee as Draft.
With sufficient Sponsors & Signatories, chair presents resolution to committee as draft.					Negotiate Resolution one by one, (Amendments & Vote).	Review each clause, propose amendments, debate amendment, vote on amendment.
Negotiate Resolution, (Amendments & Vote).	Friendly/ Unfriendly Amendments Vote on Amendments	ACTION PHASE	Take Action on Resolution in Committee (Adopt by Consensus, by Vote, or Take No Action)			Vote on Resolutions as a Whole (Passes/ Fails) More than 1 resolution can pass on same topic.
	Vote on Resolution (Passes/ Fails) Only 1 resolution can pass on each topic.		**Closing Plenary** (Take Action on Resolution in Plenary) (Part of Simulation)			
Closing Ceremony			Closing Ceremony		Closing Ceremony	

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IV. Multilingualism:

Multilingualism is a critical and defining characteristic of the United Nations. The UN states: "An essential factor in harmonious communication among peoples, multilingualism is of particular importance to the United Nations. By promoting tolerance, multilingualism ensures effective and increased participation of all in the Organization's work, as well as greater effectiveness, better outcomes and more involvement."[16]

The United Nations has 6 main working languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. [17] Multilingualism enables communication between the UN's linguistically and culturally diverse Member States within the meeting rooms and halls of the UN. In the MUN world there are very few conferences that use languages other than English; an example is LIMUN, which simulates a committee in every official UN language. More MUN simulations around the world are beginning to host a similar committee structure, as they wish to make the experience for participants as accurate as possible in accordance with the real UN. Moreover, Through employing the use of various languages, younger MUN'ers which may not have fantastic capacities in their proficiencies of speaking English may begin their MUN careers in their mother tongue helping them to become more involved in the world of MUN. Considering this notion, questions may be raised as to how accurately this resembles the real UN, as language specific committees do not actually exist. When delivering a dissertation to the General Assembly, delegates are required to speak in one of the official languages which is then translated into the remaining five.

To date, the Model UN world has slowly adopted more Multilingual MUN initiatives.

The very first MUN conference to adopt a "fully multilingual" IE: Conference with active committees in all 6 working languages if the UN was Moscow International Model United Nations. Its founder & coordinator, Mr. Gregory Kovrizhenko, was offered a spot on the United Ambassadors MUN 2017 Hall of Fame.[18]

The second MUN conference to adopt committees in all 6 official working languages of the UN was London International Model UN 2017. The Secretary-General of that edition was also awarded a spot on the MUN 2017 Hall of Fame by United Ambassadors. [19]

More Conferences are attempting to adopt new language MUN committees. However, it is a task that does present challenges worthy of consideration, as per the MUN 2016 Youth Assembly Resolution.[20]

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[16] Multilingualism at the United Nations: https://www.un.org/sg/en/multilingualism/index.shtml
[17] Multilingualism at the United Nations: https://www.un.org/sg/en/multilingualism/index.shtml
[18] United Ambassadors MUN 2017 Hall of Fame https://www.unitedambassadors.com/hall-of-fame-2017
[19] United Ambassadors MUN 2017 Hall of Fame https://www.unitedambassadors.com/hall-of-fame-2017
[20] Understanding the Resolution of the UA-MUN 2016 Youth Assembly: https://www.unitedambassadors.com/single-post/2016/10/26/Understanding-the-Resolution-of-the-Model-United-Nations-2016-Youth-Assembly-at-the-UN-Headquarters

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V. Alternative MUN platforms:

The United Nations places great emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed María Soledad Cisternas Reyes of Chile as his Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility.[21]

The Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD)[22] has a mission to to promote the rights and advancement of persons with disabilities within a broad mandate provided by the World Programme of Action (1982), Standard Rules (1994) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)[23], as well as other relevant human rights and development instruments.

Creating alternative MUN platforms for people with disabilities that can be physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory is crucial for reducing inequalities. Online conferences such as the O-MUN help close the gap in the MUN society and ensure inclusive, and highly qualified education for all participants. Questions in accordance with this notion may outline whether or not new platforms should be created, or if current conferences can possibly adapt a new structure in order to suit the needs of differently-abled delegates. Furthermore, committees for disabled persons can be created to better accommodate the needs of delegates subjected to impairments.

However, the concept is still rather new in the Model UN Community, and the Delegates of the MUN 2017 Youth Assembly are encouraged to propose ideas through which implementation of these alternative MUN platforms could become feasible.

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[21] United Nations DESA: https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/news/specialenvoy-disability-accessibility.html
[22] UN Secretariat on the Rights of People with Disabilities: https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us.html
[23] Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities:
http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf

VI. Awards:

In contrast to other conferences, UN4MUN awards diplomatic capacities to the most cooperative individual in the consensus reaching process. The Diplomacy award is granted to the most influential delegate in the committee decisions making process, as a result of their ability to work with others to find solutions threatening the consensual agreement to a draft resolution. Other simulations such as, THIMUN, and the North American conferences, grants awards such as "Best Delegate" fueling competition. Due to the use of this criteria, MUN simulations are subjected to detrimental practices as the award structure is not aligned with the aims of the United Nations, impeding on accuracy. However, the award structure that is widely utilized, is essential for many MUN clubs around the world in order to entice delegates into action, and, to receive additional funding from their institutions. Questions over this notion, may possibly articulate as to how delegates should be awarded for their outstanding work without making it a competition. It may be possible to pose the question pertaining to whether or not awards should be given-out at all, or should new awards be introduced in the place of the current structure recognizing cooperation and team-work.

However, while some argue that there is a reason why awards exist in Model UN [24], the question, is how does Award assigning become productive, and add value to the Model UN Community as a whole? That question was raised at the United Ambassadors MUN 2016 Youth Assembly. [25]

Consequently, in 2017, United Ambassadors introduced a new global MUN award, called the MUN Hall of Fame, that aims to recognize MUN leaders who have proven positive contributions to the Model UN Community.[26]

[24] Chan, Kevin F., Why Awards Exist in Model United Nations, January 2016, Best Delegate, http://bestdelegate.com/why-awards-exist-in-model-united-nations/
[25] Understanding the Resolution of the UA-MUN 2016 Youth Assembly: https://www.unitedambassadors.com/single-post/2016/10/26/Understanding-the-Resolution-of-the-Model-United-Nations-2016-Youth-Assembly-at-the-UN-Headquarters
[26] United Ambassadors MUN Hall of Fame: https://www.unitedambassadors.com/hall-of-fame-2017

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VII. Questions for the Committee:

- Is competitiveness in Model UN too popular for UN4MUN or consensus based simulations to witness sustained growth and popularity?
- What are the challenges UN4MUN and Multilingual MUN face as they are slowly introduced, and how can they be overcome?
- What is needed for accurate simulations of the UN to gain popularity and success?
- Who are the key players needed to help Multilingual MUN and UN4MUN grow worldwide?
- Do accurate simulations of the UN help MUN better develop true youth leadership?
- Why is Model UN for people with disabilities important?
- How can UN4MUN gain rapid and sustained popularity worldwide?
- How can UN4MUN as a platform be improved?
- How can Multilingual MUN gain rapid and sustained popularity worldwide?
- How can previous versions of Multilingual MUN conferences be improved?
- How can we slowly introduce MUN for people with disabilities into the arena?
- How can cooperation/ partnerships among Model UN institutions or with other organizations/ NGO's/ companies on this topic be developed?

VIII: Further reading

United Nations: Celebrating Multilingualism
(http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/celebrating-multilingualism/)
Discover MUN in the Six Official Languages of the United Nations!
(https://www.unitedambassadors.com/multilingual)
United Nations UN4MUN Programme
(https://outreach.un.org/mun/)
UN Department of Public Information
(http://www.un.org/en/sections/department-public-information/outreach-division/)
THIMUN
(http://www.thimun.org/)
Why Awards Exist in Model United Nations
(http://bestdelegate.com/why-awards-exist-in-model-united-nations/)
General Assembly Rules of Procedure
(http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/Uploaded%20docs/rules%20of%20procedure%20of%20ga.pdf
)
4 Pillars of the United Nations
(https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/4-pillars-united-nations)
International Court of Justice Rules of Procedure
(http://www.icj-cij.org/en/rules)
Security Council Provisional Rules of Procedure
(http://www.un.org/en/sc/inc/pages/pdf/rules.pdf)
UN4MUN Security Council Provisional Rules of Procedure
(http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/105463_f69ca4270104408cb980416b4b42b067.pdf)