



**UNITED AMBASSADORS
MUN4UN YOUTH ASSEMBLY
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
AUGUST 23-26, 2016**

DISCUSSION TOPIC GUIDE





Welcome Message from the Organizers

Dearest Delegates,

Welcome to the United Ambassadors MUN4UN 2016 Youth Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York! This inaugural MUN Youth Assembly is a pioneering initiative in the International MUN Landscape, and the very first of its kind, around the world. In it, we will be discussing the role of Model United Nations (MUN) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the specific challenges regarding the existing framework of MUN and different MUN procedures, and ultimately, the changing structure and role of MUN in an increasingly global and interconnected world.

As we welcome you all to the United Ambassadors MUN Youth Assembly at the United Nations, we would like to emphasize some important points.

In this Assembly, MUNers from all corners of the world, will gather to share personal perspectives, or opinions on Model United Nations, with a focus on particular discussion topics that revolve around the UN 2030 Agenda and its relation to MUN, as well as global MUN Reform. Despite the controversial nature of the topics and questions being raised in this guide, we are committed to ensuring that open MUN discussions are made available, along with opportunities to raise valuable questions with a purpose of generating constructive thoughts and ideas to support and enable continuous progress and evolution of MUN simulations worldwide.

However, as this discussion process unfolds, we would like to encourage delegates to maintain all possible forms of **diplomacy**, open mindedness and acceptance of various opinions, as this is a prerequisite to the success of the discussions. It is important to focus on the ultimate purpose of the Assembly, which is to inspire young people around the world, to become global youth citizens through MUN, in addition to a secondary purpose of driving global MUN reform and advocating for the Sustainable Development Goals through MUN.

Model United Nations is an activity that spans the globe, and is as beneficial as it is popular. The MUN landscape around the world is changing every day. United Ambassadors is proud to be one of the most prominent organizations worldwide that is contributing to the influence and reshaping of the narrative of Model United Nations on a global scale. United Ambassadors has taught Model United Nations in Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Europe, North America, and has had the honor of launching the world's first public Multilingual MUN Resources website, and the first ever MUN focused Youth Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters.

At United Ambassadors, it is in our view that all MUN platforms should be experienced and celebrated. We trust in the value of MUN as an educational activity, but also as a developmental platform that expands every possible element of a young person's skill set, be it intellectual, interpersonal, academic or otherwise. Mastering the MUN skill-set (public speaking debate, negotiation, research and writing) is the highlight of our MUN Academy. Because we have faith in the value of all Model UN platforms, we are committed to teaching Traditional (North American) MUN, THIMUN and of course, UN4MUN, at our various educational workshops, conferences, MUN Summit and MUN Academy.

With this, we would also like to emphasize the underlying element that propels this entire Youth Assembly the UN HQ, and the fundamental reason we are all here this week: **Y.O.U.T.H.**



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Model United Nations was created because young people saw the necessity of youth participation in the global-decision making processes. It exists because young people are deeply interested in the changing world around them. It thrives because young people will become tomorrow's world leaders, and we understand that our actions today have enormous impact on the earth we will inherit.

Model UN in our view is the sole best platform for Youth Development, that serves as a stepping stone for the true comprehension of "global citizenship". We strongly believe in the value of Model United Nations, and its power in creating **Everyday Ambassadors** who can have a positive impact on the world through daily decisions, regardless of their future chosen career path.

At the core, MUN is about youth. MUN's significance comes from the fact that it is a platform for youth education, development, and engagement with global issues. MUN is powerful because it is a tool that builds important partnerships among young people that transcend barriers of culture, language, and distance. We come from 7 continents and all corners of the world, but we all share something in common. We share MUN. Which is why, we all speak **one language**. The language of a global citizen.

As MUNers, and importantly, as youth, we drive the present and the future. We are important agents for social change, innovation, and development, because we bring a special energy, intensity, and optimism that is absolutely necessary to advance the vision of a more equitable and more peaceful world.

In December 2015, the Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 2250**, a groundbreaking and legally binding resolution recognizing youth as critical actors in the global peace building process. Our presence here today affirms the purposes of this resolution. We are here today to discuss how MUN can build global partnerships, engage youth in sustainable development, and effectively create positive and measurable change in the world.

It is also our belief that part of the MUN experience should include reflecting on what its impact has been on a young person's life, character, and future. This vision connecting MUN, youth, and global change is at the heart of this Assembly, and while you will be discussing specific topics in different committees, the final outcome will be driven by a collective effort to answer the same question—*how can MUN change the world?*

At United Ambassadors, we firmly believe that so long as Model United Nations is creating "**Everyday Ambassadors**" and Global Youth Citizens, **MUN stands as humanity's biggest success**. The purpose of this Assembly, is merely to openly discuss, and analyze, exactly how this can be better achieved.

We hope you will keep this message in mind, as you go through the topics, and begin this journey with us. The journey of the very first United Ambassadors MUN4Un Youth Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters. We are so excited for the ideas you will bring to our discussions, negotiations, and debate this week.

*Dearest Delegates,
Welcome to the MUN4UN Youth Assembly.*

Sincerely,
The President, Vice Presidents and Secretariat Team
of the United Ambassadors MUN4UN 2016 Youth Assembly
United Nations Headquarters, New York - August 23-26, 2016.



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COMMITTEE A

MUN 2030 - SDG's in Focus: Poverty, Hunger, Health, Education, Employment, and Economy

Experts: Dominykas Milasius, Ludvig Daver

Panelist: Adria Yelina De La Cruz

Section 1: Committee Introduction

LETTER FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Hi and welcome to the **MUN4UN 2016** Committee A!

The key objective of this conference is to further the understanding that Sustainable Development Goals are more than a political or academic concept, only relevant to the halls of the UN or the briefing rooms of policy makers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is actually a global agenda open for everyone to partake in. And one of the ways to do so – is through MUN initiatives and educational simulations.

A key target audience to involve in the 2030 Agenda is the youth of today, as they (or should we say “we”?) are the key stakeholders in the decisions surrounding the global well being by the year 2030. Today’s young people are also the driving force behind merging the gap between the goals set in the past, the action that needs to be taken today, and the results we will all face by 2030.

The decision to host MUN4UN at the real United Nations in New York City is not by any means accidental – it is both strategic as well as symbolic; and we hope you will embrace that with your active and meaningful participation.

From a strategic point of view, the life of New York has been extensively influenced by the life of the United Nations. NYC has established itself as the centre of international diplomacy and is home to thousands of diplomats and foreign affairs experts. Thus, NYC is *the* place to be for anyone in the field – and that’s why we are bringing you here, so that we can introduce you to the *modus operandi* of the UN institutions and to expose you to the diplomatic circle that works here.

Symbolically – what would a better location to host a first ever “United Nations of the Model UN” be? Together, finding new ways to extend the MUN teachings into the real life, the product of our work will be hopefully written into the history of diplomacy. Some of us are even very likely to work on the implementation stage and be able to say “it all started at the UN in New York”.

This is the mindset with which we approach the conference, and specifically Committee A – a gathering, in which we will go over some of the most critical development issues like economy, poverty, health and education, often considered to be the very backbone for kick-starting development in general, and crucial for ensuring that development is sustainable.



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SUGGESTED PREPARATIONS

For our discussion to be most fruitful, we encourage the delegates to prepare for two streams of work:

1. Familiarize yourselves with basic approaches to development. Think about this: what are the conditions needed for development? If you have a limited amount of financing, but many SDG areas to cover, how do you distribute the funding? How do you make decisions to prioritize key targets or goals?
2. Consider SDG-related questions from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. For example, when talking about SDG 1, we are not only interested in hearing your suggestions on both how to eradicate poverty by 2030, but also, and more importantly, your thoughts on what the role of MUN in such efforts could be both in local and global capacities.

In order to brainstorm best practices to represent the SDG agenda within MUN communities, organizations, and conferences, consider MUN's relations with the following:

- **Academia:** How can we share best practices in MUN-related academic initiatives with MUN participants from countries at varying stages of development? How do we focus on an end output that is informative, educational and has real life applicability;
- **Advocacy:** How can we bridge MUN with advocacy campaigns that raise awareness about pressing development problems and encourage innovative solutions by young people?
- **Activism:** How do we support on-the-ground work to help make the SDGs a reality? This discussion will focus primarily on how to build partnerships between SDG organizations and MUN communities, organizations, and conferences.

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two-way street. Consider: How do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and similarly, how can MUN support the real-world SDG agenda?

In this committee, we would like you to carefully consider how the ideas you include in the final resolution can be implemented in reality. The success of the final resolution will depend on how consciously it is constructed and followed.

Our goal is to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 by promoting the sustainable approach to development within MUN organizations. As we mentioned before, the agenda goes both ways; in order for MUN to have an impact on the SDGs, the SDGs must have an impact on MUN. It is your responsibility to think of what measures or decisions can make MUN more inclusive, be of higher quality, represent equity and be accessible for those who want to take part and have not been able to do so. The simulations should also reflect the kind of changes we have considered must be undertaken in the world.

And we hope you agree that the best possible outcome could be – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide. We can't wait to hear your ideas on bringing the UN and MUN closer together, and empowering simulations to become platforms for change in implementing the SDG agenda that are in constant growth for the best interest of the international community.

Yours in diplomacy,
The MUN4UN Academic Committee



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Section 2: SDG Background

On September 25, 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” known commonly as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Summit marked a tremendous milestone in history. Not only were the goals unanimously adopted by all member states, but it was also one of the largest UN summits ever in regards to the number of heads of state present, underscoring the importance of the new goals.

The new Sustainable Development Goals build upon their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs, issued during the Millennium Summit in 2000, constituted a 15-year plan to improve living conditions in the world’s poorest countries by 2015. The MDGs have been the single greatest effort to improve lives and reduce poverty in the world. During the course of the MDGs the number of out-of-school children of primary school fell from 100 million to 57 million, over two billion more people gained access to clean drinking water, new HIV infections were reduced by 40 %, and the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 835 million in 2015, with the most progress occurring during the last 15 years. Still, the goals were not achieved.

In 2012, with just over three years left to achieve the MDGs, the UN commenced work on a new agenda to succeed the MDGs. The new agenda, initially called the Post-2015 Agenda, involved consultations with over eight million people worldwide spanning over three years, making it the largest and most ambitious UN agenda to date.

The new agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets. Many of the new goals are similar to the MDGs, but they have been elaborated further to include more aspects than before. The new agenda is more holistic and inclusive, and will be a global plan for development over the next 15 years. As the MDGs were mainly focused to foster development in the poorest countries of the world, the SDGs are designed to include all countries.

The 17 SDGs are constructed as distinct goals, but it is critical to recognize that they are very interconnected. Because they are interdependent, the progress made on one goal will necessarily affect progress on all other goals. As one example of many, progress on gender equality will also have positive effects on poverty reduction and literacy rates.

Because of its complexity, the agenda cannot be achieved only by governments and state actors. The success of the SDGs depends upon the collaboration of all aspects of society. Cooperation of states, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society is critical to achieve the agenda. The adoption of the SDGs could not have been successful without the efforts of civil society organizations and businesses mobilizing people and making the goals known throughout the adoption process.

The SDGs are a global framework for sustainable development. With the goals adopted, it is now up to all member states of the UN to create their own national action plans for how to achieve the goals in their country. These national action plans may include strategies for achieving the goals on a national, regional and even local level.

Achieving the goals will not be a cheap task. Great investments are needed to meet the targets stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. But the costs of inaction are believed to be even higher than the costs of action. During the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015, a financing framework was agreed upon. This framework provides the foundation for the achievement of the goals.





Some countries will have more difficulties than others in implementing strategies to achieve the goals. This is why collaboration between different countries and the inclusion of all sectors of society are so important. It is critical to establish effective partnerships because every country is vital to the realization of this global agenda, and the failure of one country to implement the SDGs will impact the progress of all others. There have already been a few regional and international collaborations set up by some governments, but more of those are necessary for the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The real impact of the Sustainable Development Goals will be measured and determined by a set of indicators. These indicators have been developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). In March 2016, the expert group presented a proposed global indicator framework containing 230 indicators. It is important to remember that these 230 indicators are not definite and could change due to technological development during the course of the 15 years, as well as the fact that the indicators are intended for a global revision, and might not be applicable in all national contexts. The development of the indicators will therefore continue ahead, and the progress will be discussed during the first UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2017.

Youth have been recognized as an especially important group for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The young people of today will be the decision-makers in 2030. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on young people to demand and foster the dramatic progress needed in the world, as well as calling youth agents of change for a sustainable development.

Less than a year has passed since the adoption of the goals and the member states have started to work on how to implement them on a national level. During the recent High-level Political Forum, taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York in July, the member states met and reviewed the progress made to achieve the goals. The forum included the National Voluntary Reviews where 22 countries presented their national progress.

The member states will report their achievement progress to the UN and they will continuously meet in different forums to discuss the advancement of the agenda until 2030. The world has its blueprint to achieve a better world for all, and now the member states must deliver on its promises. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, “we are the first generation that can end poverty, but also the last that can end climate change”.

Section 3: History of former MDGs and committee SDGs in MUN

Model United Nations originated in the 1920's with conferences that simulated the League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations. The first Model United Nations was held at St. Lawrence University from February 11–13, 1949. It was initiated by Dr. Harry Reiff, Head of the History and Government Department, with the assistance of departmental colleague Otto L. George. Since then, MUN conferences have proliferated, not only in North America, but also worldwide.

As an educational tool that teaches the workings of multilateral diplomacy and demonstrates the operation of the United Nations, MUN has become an important extracurricular activity for youth worldwide. MUN not only introduce students to global issues, but they also teach important skills in debating, writing, public speaking, leadership, and teamwork. While MUN has been a vital tool in connecting youth to global issues, the MUN community can stand to improve upon its ability to translate its simulative aspects to reality.

MUN conferences since the adoption of the MDGs (2000-15) have made efforts to involve the Millennium agenda; many resolutions, preparation guides, trainings, and briefings included awareness campaigns that instructed participants of MUN conferences about the different aspects of the goals. Below are some notable examples:





Harvard World Model United Nations (WorldMUN), an internationally recognized conference, facilitates interaction between participants, diplomats, politicians, and academics through workshops, allowing delegates to better understand and engage with the topics. Another example is Georgetown International Relations Association (GIRA), which links philanthropy with the National Collegiate Security Conference (NCSC) and North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN). Each year, GIRA's secretariat selects an international charity for which money is raised, demonstrating philanthropy as part of its core values.

Additionally, the United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB) has been emphasized the MDGs in its conferences. UNYSAB's second conference in 2003 was inspired by MDG Goal 6, which worked to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. The 2003 conference had HIV/AIDS as its main topic of discussion, consistent with the agenda that the UN was working with at that time. Furthermore, in 2006, UNYSAB and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) banded together and organized a "Model United Nations Conference on Quality Education and Millennium Development Goals". UNYSAB'S most recent MUN conference was in 2015 and it hosted 521 delegates, constituting the largest MUN conference in Bangladesh.

Plenty of top-notch examples of MDG and MUN connection from other regions are also worth presenting, yet, at this moment our main interest is addressing SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, which stand for: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth. The current Post-2015 Agenda is the result of an intensive and extensive process of consultation that was carried out under the global survey, MY World and other such actions campaigns.

MY World is a global survey for citizens led by the United Nations and partners to share the perspective of civil society. The purpose of the survey is to strengthen a post-2015 agenda that reflects the needs and aspirations of the world's populations—one that complies with the principles of universality, transformation, and indivisibility.

The participants were asked to answer two simple questions: "What matters to you? Which of these are most important for you and your family?" Participants were asked to choose the 6 main issues that represented a priority for them, their families, and their countries. More than 9,727,339 votes were received at www.myworld2015.org and multiple votes were collected manually in all the continents.

MY World mobilized over 150,000 participants in 190 countries to vote for their most important priorities. The data generated by the survey yields important information on global priorities specified by characteristics such as gender, age, education level, and location. Many MUN participants and organizers attended the call of the UN. Important organizations that contributed to the process were: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad del Rosario, United Nations Association of Venezuela, Universitas Budi Luhur, World Federation of United Nations Association, United Nations Association of the United States of America, Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, United Nations International School.

As previously mentioned, the current agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets that originate from the priorities raised by people from all over the world, of different genders, education levels, and ages. After less than a year, the Post 2015 agenda has raised wide interest in the international community. The main principles driving the agenda are: leaving no one behind, putting sustainable development at the core, transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth, building peace and effective, open, and accountable institutions for all, and forging a new global partnership for the goals. The main differences between the MDGs and the SDGs not only pertain to the breadth and specificity of the new goals, but also pertain to the inclusivity of the new goals. The SDGs involve every nation in the world, underscoring inclusivity and interdependence.



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Section 4: Present state of SDGs in MUN and related challenges.

Participation in MY World survey, and the discussions that resulted in the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals are just the first steps for MUN organizers, leaders, and participants. In setting such ambitious goals, we face many challenges, just as we did with the former Millennium Development Goals.

Now that you are taking part of this Youth Assembly and studying in depth the mechanisms to contribute to the United Nation's work, goals and targets, it is imperative to forge strategic partnerships. MUNs must grow in accordance with common principles, values, and a strong creed. The challenge is not limited to analyzing SDGs during the simulations, delivering briefings, workshops or training about the SDGs and the Agenda Post 2015, even though these are very important tools. The new goals require active participation from participants of MUN even outside of a MUN context. Activism within MUN, and beyond MUN, using MUN tools, is critical to eradicating poverty, improving and increasing education, health, and sanitation, fighting hunger, and promoting decent work and economic growth.

MUN can serve as an example of the principles of the Post 2015 Agenda by becoming more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable. As one of many options, philanthropy is an option that MUN organizers, leaders, and participants can incorporate. Creativity is key to building resilient and quality MUN conferences that become long lasting opportunities for growth in both local and global capacities.

National United Nations Associations (UNA) such as UNA-USA have advocacy programs (in addition to Model UN programs) that form a coalition dedicated to informing, inspire, and mobilizing people to support the ideals and work of the United Nations. The organization also provides food, vaccines, and promotes maternal health in 73 countries. Other UNA's and MUN organizations may consider broadening the scope of their mission (or strengthen existing goals) to include an advocacy component.

MUN organizations should assess their strengths, weaknesses, and overall capacities in order to determine best practices to link the SDGs to the communities and people they serve.

On July 18th 2016 a new stage of MY World survey was launched at the UN Headquarters. The new campaign results from a partnership with UNDP, ODI and Global Pulse. The purpose is to contribute to efforts to report back on progress, mobilize youth, and build dialogue between decision-makers and citizens.





Section 5: Potential solutions & new ideas

During the Assembly, we will constantly be posing the following question: What are the key elements necessary to align Model United Nations with the implementation of the SDGs?

Broader questions to consider:

1. How are the SDGs currently being incorporated at MUN conferences?
2. What is the significance of including these SDGs in MUN?
3. What are the benefits and advantages of creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDGs?
4. How can organizers overcome some of the obstacles associated with creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDG's?
5. How can these SDGs become distinct topics in MUN committees?
6. What are some of creative ideas to popularize SDGs within MUN Academic settings/conferences/ committees/ topics?
7. How can SDG goals and targets be reflected in the organization of MUN? For example, how can SDGs promote the principle of inclusivity and accessibility for all?
8. How can MUN engage participants with SDGs outside the committee work?
9. Can MUNers contribute to the realization of these SDG's? How? Give practical recommendations to achieve this vision.
10. How can we practically incorporate the UN Sustainable Development Goals into MUN educational programs, conferences, or curricula?
11. How can the introduction of SDGs to MUN conferences improve the overall learning experience?
12. What are some of ways your MUN conference or community can leave a lasting positive impact on the world?
13. Once a conference is over, what can organizers do to practically implement resolutions?

We hope you have paid careful attention to the above questions and request that you brainstorm more of your own. We have prepared the following suggestions to further guide your thinking in before you attend the Assembly.

1. Conference Agenda

A basic strategy to incorporate SDGs into the Model UN world is to relate SDG concepts to conference topics, agendas, and core values.

General Assembly: Consider your committees – if an organizer is set on having a General Assembly committee, it is possible to shift its focus towards sustainable development discussions in the framework of ECOFIN or ECOSOC, spreading general awareness about SDGs.

If a certain SDG target is related to simulated issues, include it as proof points in the agenda.

Crisis committees: Attempt to link your crisis scenarios to the SDG targets – for example, holding a specific delegate accountable for country's policies that fail to be on track with a certain SDG target.

Ad-hoc committees: Another option is to simulate the work of "Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators" that was established by the Statistical Commission to "develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets". Give your delegates a chance to follow up on SDG implementation! And hold other delegates in the conference accountable, if your conference allows for an inter-committee work.





Historic committees: You can always revive the SDG adoption back to life – with a Historic simulation of their adoption, that is. Raise awareness through simulating the adoption process again, and see of how close would your delegates come to the real SDGs.

Back to the Future Crisis Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals! This is an innovative United Ambassadors developed simulation that starts in the year 2030, where disastrous ramifications of under-achieved SDG's (like unmitigated climate change) are unfolding. Crisis updates take place in 2030 (the future). After a series of debates on the current situation (in 2030), delegates are given the option of raising a motion to go back in time, to 2016 (the real present time) to draft a valid resolution that would save the world from the concerning future that was witnessed at the beginning of the simulation. However, in order to ensure the text of the resolution (the solutions, operative clauses) are realistic, and will truly make a difference if implemented, delegates keep returning to the future to explain what 2030 looks like, if certain clauses of the resolution are achieved – ie: they go “Back to the Future”. In this simulation, wide agreement or what is closest to “consensus” is encouraged, as the wider the agreement on the resolution drafted, the more likely that it will be implemented - a learning from UN4MUN. At the very end, all delegates go back to 2030, and witness the changes they were responsible for creating, as a result of their meeting that took place in the past. The Back to the Future Crisis Committee was successfully implemented twice in July 2016 at the United Ambassadors MUN Leadership Academy. You may see its background guide at the end of this guide.

For more in-depth discussions, you could choose to **dedicate your whole conference to analyze one of the SDGs** thoroughly through all simulated organs. This would result in a comprehensive review on the SDG work and interrelationship between different organs in their implementation – especially if the responsibility of producing a report on the findings is charged to the **GA**.

Delegate preparation: Encourage your delegates to reach out to national statistical offices and other bodies responsible for SDG review in their preparations. You could also urge the participants to include national review stats into their position papers.

Implement the SDGs internally: MUNs face internal challenges that sometimes make them unsuccessful on being an example of the sustainability creed. Having said that, make sure that anything that's possible is done to make the conferences more accessible by taking cost effective measures that have an impact on the price. People with disabilities and other marginalized groups should equally be included and empowered through this educational tool. Take into account that the premises where the conferences take place should always be accessible for those with motor disabilities and don't forget to pay attention to the economic measures while organizing the simulations, because they impact the registration fees and these should also be as accessible as possible.





2. Conference Architecture

Real-life advisors: consider involving working professionals and academics to consult the organizers and participants on practical implications surrounding the discussions, and adding more context to the debate.

This could come in the form of guest speakers specific to select committees, or external advisors who agree to become observers in a committee and provide feedback to the organizers and the participants alike – before, during and after conference.

The people you could consider for these roles could vary from politicians and diplomats, to judges and social entrepreneurs, journalists and activists – anyone, whose experience could provide an additional practical dimension to your simulation.

The organizers are also encouraged **to involve local UN representatives** into the conference preparations. Numerous agencies are constantly asking for public feedback on the UN's work, so engage them – both before conference asking for advice and after the work is completed, presenting your findings.

SDG officer: structure your Secretariat to have an SDG officer / advisor, who could help the chairs prepare for the committee work.

Side events, themed socials and field visits: organize SDG-themed side events, or even social events! Gather a panel discussion between delegates and guest speakers to discuss health issues. Ask the delegates to wear sustainable attire to a social event. Visit a local refugee centre, water cleaning facility, solar power plant, NGO working with SDGs. Whatever works, as long you consider taking that extra step besides regular logistics, until it becomes a norm. You can also get involved in social work by sponsoring specific actions as a result of a certain fundraising related with the MUN conference or implementing your own aid program beyond the MUN with the volunteers from the organization as well as the delegates.

Sustainable conference: make your conference paperless. Or make a pledge to host a green conference, working to offset CO₂ emissions. Reuse, recycle, reduce waste, and make sure the delegates are sensitized aware of how they can about how they can practically do that be more sustainable during the conference and after it. Dumpsters can be identified for disposal of products in different categories or the delegates can be called to attend the conference with a certain amount of elements that can be reused, for example plastics. You could choose to reimburse delegates who choose travel means with less CO₂ emissions, or have the lowest carbon footprint to attend your conference. And yes, encouraging your delegates to submit their expected ecological footprints of their participation is another great idea on raising awareness.





Section 6: Summary & Questions to Consider

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two way street – how do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and how can the work done through MUN support the real-world SDG agenda?

We suggest you consider the MUN's relation with Three A's: Academia, Advocacy and Activism.

We want to encourage you to contribute to empowering the MUN to support global development. This might require some thought across the whole MUN spectrum:

- **Before the conference:** how can you make your conference more sustainable and inclusive, and encourage the participants to be more sustainable and SDG-aligned? What kind of statement make, or what kind of cause can your organisation work to promote, in accordance with the Agenda 2030?
- **During:** how are SDGs incorporated into your conference's agenda? Are delegates learning more? Are you providing a real life perspective to your conference – through speakers, advisors and other stakeholders?
- **After the conference:** What is the long lasting impact of your conference? What are the lessons that could be shared? How can your conference's outcomes contribute to the SDG agenda? Can your staff and delegates take action and support Sustainable Development outside of classrooms? If yes, what kind of help can you provide?

A social movement is composed of people with a shared objective to create change together. The strategies the committee will develop as a whole can include advocacy, media reach, legal action, research and much more. We hope you agree that the best possible outcome for MUN4UN is – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide.

We will prepare these guidelines together – and that's why your preparations in advance are crucial.





References

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COMMITTEE B

MUN 2030 - SDG's in Focus: Global Partnerships, Peaceful Societies, Social Justice & Gender Equality

Experts: Dominykas Milasius, Ludvig Daver
Panelist: Agnese Cigliano

Section 1: Committee Introduction

LETTER FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Hi and welcome to the **MUN4UN 2016** Committee B!

The key objective of this conference is to further the understanding that Sustainable Development Goals are more than a political or academic concept, only relevant to the halls of the UN or the briefing rooms of policy makers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is actually a global agenda open for everyone to partake in. And one of the ways to do so – is through MUN initiatives and educational simulations.

A key target audience to involve in the 2030 Agenda is the youth of today, as they (or should we say “we”?) are the key stakeholders in the decisions surrounding the global well being by the year 2030. Today’s young people are also the driving force behind merging the gap between the goals set in the past, the action that needs to be taken today, and the results we will all face by 2030.

The decision to host MUN4UN at the real United Nations in New York City is not by any means accidental – it is both strategic as well as symbolic; and we hope you will embrace that with your active and meaningful participation.

From a strategic point of view, the life of New York has been extensively influenced by the life of the United Nations. NYC has established itself as the centre of international diplomacy and is home to thousands of diplomats and foreign affairs experts. Thus, NYC is *the* place to be for anyone in the field – and that’s why we are bringing you here, so that we can introduce you to the *modus operandi* of the UN institutions and to expose you to the diplomatic circle that works here.

Symbolically – what would a better location to host a first ever “United Nations of the Model UN” be? Together, finding new ways to extend the MUN teachings into the real life, the product of our work will be hopefully written into the history of diplomacy. Some of us are even very likely to work on the implementation stage and be able to say “it all started at the UN in New York”.

This is the mindset with which we approach the conference, and specifically Committee B – a gathering, in which we will go over some of the most critical development issues like economy, poverty, health and education, often considered to be the very backbone for kick-starting development in general, and crucial for ensuring that development is sustainable.



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SUGGESTED PREPARATIONS

For our discussion to be most fruitful, we encourage the delegates to prepare for two streams of work:

1. Familiarize yourselves with basic approaches to development. Think about this: what are the conditions needed for development? If you have a limited amount of financing, but many SDG areas to cover, how do you distribute the funding? How do you make decisions to prioritize key targets or goals?
2. Consider SDG-related questions from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. For example, when talking about SDG 1, we are not only interested in hearing your suggestions on both how to eradicate poverty by 2030, but also, and more importantly, your thoughts on what the role of MUN in such efforts could be both in local and global capacities.

In order to brainstorm best practices to represent the SDG agenda within MUN communities, organizations, and conferences, consider MUN's relations with the following:

- **Academia:** How can we share best practices in MUN-related academic initiatives with MUN participants from countries at varying stages of development? How do we focus on an end output that is informative, educational and has real life applicability;
- **Advocacy:** How can we bridge MUN with advocacy campaigns that raise awareness about pressing development problems and encourage innovative solutions by young people?
- **Activism:** How do we support on-the-ground work to help make the SDGs a reality? This discussion will focus primarily on how to build partnerships between SDG organizations and MUN communities, organizations, and conferences.

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two-way street. Consider: How do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and similarly, how can MUN support the real-world SDG agenda? In this committee, we would like you to carefully consider how the ideas you include in the final resolution can be implemented in reality. The success of the final resolution will depend on how consciously it is constructed and followed.

Our goal is to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 by promoting the sustainable approach to development within MUN organizations. As we mentioned before, the agenda goes both ways; in order for MUN to have an impact on the SDGs, the SDGs must have an impact on MUN. It is your responsibility to think of what measures or decisions can make MUN more inclusive, be of higher quality, represent equity and be accessible for those who want to take part and have not been able to do so. The simulations should also reflect the kind of changes we have considered must be undertaken in the world.

And we hope you agree that the best possible outcome could be – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide. We can't wait to hear your ideas on bringing the UN and MUN closer together, and empowering simulations to become platforms for change in implementing the SDG agenda that are in constant growth for the best interest of the international community.

Yours in diplomacy,
The MUN4UN Academic Committee



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Section 2: SDG Background

On September 25, 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” known commonly as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Summit marked a tremendous milestone in history. Not only were the goals unanimously adopted by all member states, but it was also one of the largest UN summits ever in regards to the number of heads of state present, underscoring the importance of the new goals.

The new Sustainable Development Goals build upon their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs, issued during the Millennium Summit in 2000, constituted a 15-year plan to improve living conditions in the world’s poorest countries by 2015.

The MDGs have been the single greatest effort to improve lives and reduce poverty in the world. During the course of the MDGs the number of out-of-school children of primary school fell from 100 million to 57 million, over two billion more people gained access to clean drinking water, new HIV infections were reduced by 40 %, and the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, with the most progress occurring during the last 15 years. Still, the goals were not achieved.

In 2012, with just over three years left to achieve the MDGs, the UN commenced work on a new agenda to succeed the MDGs. The new agenda, initially called the Post-2015 Agenda, involved consultations with over eight million people worldwide spanning over three years, making it the largest and most ambitious UN agenda to date.

The new agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets. Many of the new goals are similar to the MDGs, but they have been elaborated further to include more aspects than before. The new agenda is more holistic and inclusive, and will be a global plan for development over the next 15 years. As the MDGs were mainly focused to foster development in the poorest countries of the world, the SDGs are designed to include all countries.

The 17 SDGs are constructed as distinct goals, but it is critical to recognize that they are very interconnected. Because they are interdependent, the progress made on one goal will necessarily affect progress on all other goals. As one example of many, progress on gender equality will also have positive effects on poverty reduction and literacy rates.

Because of its complexity, the agenda cannot be achieved only by governments and state actors. The success of the SDGs depends upon the collaboration of all aspects of society. Cooperation of states, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society is critical to achieve the agenda. The adoption of the SDGs could not have been successful without the efforts of civil society organizations and businesses mobilizing people and making the goals known throughout the adoption process.

The SDGs are a global framework for sustainable development. With the goals adopted, it is now up to all member states of the UN to create their own national action plans for how to achieve the goals in their country. These national action plans may include strategies for achieving the goals on a national, regional and even local level.

Achieving the goals will not be a cheap task. Great investments are needed to meet the targets stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. But the costs of inaction are believed to be even higher than the costs of action. During the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015, a financing framework was agreed upon. This framework provides the foundation for the achievement of the goals.





Some countries will have more difficulties than others in implementing strategies to achieve the goals. This is why collaboration between different countries and the inclusion of all sectors of society are so important. It is critical to establish effective partnerships because every country is vital to the realization of this global agenda, and the failure of one country to implement the SDGs will impact the progress of all others. There have already been a few regional and international collaborations set up by some governments, but more of those are necessary for the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The real impact of the Sustainable Development Goals will be measured and determined by a set of indicators. These indicators have been developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). In March 2016, the expert group presented a proposed global indicator framework containing 230 indicators. It is important to remember that these 230 indicators are not definite and could change due to technological development during the course of the 15 years, as well as the fact that the indicators are intended for a global revision, and might not be applicable in all national contexts. The development of the indicators will therefore continue ahead, and the progress will be discussed during the first UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2017.

Youth have been recognized as an especially important group for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The young people of today will be the decision-makers in 2030. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on young people to demand and foster the dramatic progress needed in the world, as well as calling youth agents of change for a sustainable development.

Less than a year has passed since the adoption of the goals and the member states have started to work on how to implement them on a national level. During the recent High-level Political Forum, taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York in July, the member states met and reviewed the progress made to achieve the goals. The forum included the National Voluntary Reviews where 22 countries presented their national progress.

The member states will report their achievement progress to the UN and they will continuously meet in different forums to discuss the advancement of the agenda until 2030. The world has its blueprint to achieve a better world for all, and now the member states must deliver on its promises. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, “we are the first generation that can end poverty, but also the last that can end climate change”.





Section 3: History of former MDGs and Committee SDGs in MUN

Starting with the Millennium Declaration, the UN has continued to look for strategies to engage civil society in its policy making processes, with particular focus on youth. As stated in clause 30 of the Millennium Declaration, one of the objectives of the international community in order to strengthen the United Nations is “to give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization’s goals and programmes”. This statement in principle has been implemented through several initiatives, one of the most effective being the “World We Want” project. The “World We Want” aimed at developing worldwide surveys in order to acknowledge which targets were perceived as priorities by the citizens.

The initiative played a greater role than the one envisaged at the time of its creation as it gradually led to the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the new initiative “Beyond 2015”. The resolution A/RES/70/1 establishing the SDGs states in its preamble: “On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Goals and targets”.

These UN initiatives have certainly impacted MUN. Because the SDGs and former MDGs are highlighted as pivotal in the UN agenda, MUN societies and conferences have often utilized the goals as topics in their events.

The following section will analyze how MUN has incorporated topics related to:

1. Gender equality (as considered in MDG 3 and SDG 5);
2. Reduced inequalities (as considered in SDG 10);
3. Inclusiveness and sustainability of human settlements (as partially considered in MDG 7 and fully developed in SDG 11);
4. Justice for all (as considered in SDG 16); and,
5. Global partnerships (as considered in MDG 8 and SDG 17).

There are two main issues to consider:

1. Framing the SDGs: Topics relevant to the SDGs are often discussed within the MUN context, but may not be framed as such. For example, though topics such as gender equality and eradication of diseases may be discussed in MUN, the words “sustainable development” may not be used to contextualize such topics.
2. Allocation of SDGs in conference committees: Generally, the specific mechanisms of UN agencies present several challenges when it comes to simulating them in a MUN context. While General Assembly committees may be easier to simulate, UN specific bodies and agencies simulations open the door to mandate issues, consultative statuses and adoptability of provisions, allowing delegates to delve further into specific issues concerning the SDGs. Making committee topics more specific may benefit discussion of the SDGs in an MUN context, but because all the SDGs are interdependent, it is critical to establish an interaction among different committees. It may not be a good practice to match UN bodies and agencies to agenda topics solely on the basis of issue compatibility (i.e. discussing all environmental issues in the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), or gender equality and related issues solely in UN Women). This is especially valid for MDGs and SDGs as their targets and goals present a broader impact than the one they have on the discussion of certain clusters of topics. While the growing trend of including UN bodies and agencies in MUN conferences has benefits, we should carefully assess present strategies incorporating SDGs in these specialized bodies.





In conclusion, while MUN societies and conferences have incorporated MDGs and SDGs in their agendas, these goals have neither always been properly framed, nor have they been incorporated in the best way possible. While there are certainly challenges in connecting MUN to the SDGs, past and present efforts to incorporate the UN's priority issues into MUN demonstrate a promising future.

Section 4: Present state of SDGs in MUN and related challenges

The relationship between SDGs and MUN today is similar to the relationship between MDGs and MUN in the past. In this section we will assess the most recent (2016-2017) editions of some select prominent university-level MUN conferences and look at their interaction with the SDGs.

- National Model United Nations-New York (NMUN-NY) 2017;
- Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) 2017;
- London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) 2016;
- Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) 2016;
- The European International Model United Nations (TEIMUN) 2016.

NMUN-NY 2017

A list of committee topics for NMUN-NY 2017 relevant for our analysis are as follows:

- GA 1st, Increasing Women's Role in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation;
- GA 2nd, Designing Effective Policies and Institutions to Reduce Inequalities (SDG 10);
- ECOSOC, Mobilizing Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development;
- CSW, Enhancing Women's Role in Peace Processes and Political Transitions;
- CCPCJ, Strengthening the Rule of Law for Post-Conflict Recovery;
- CSodC, Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- UNESCO, Empowering Vulnerable Groups through Access to Information and Communications Technology;
- UN-Habitat, Eliminating Urban Slums and Ensuring Access to Adequate Housing;
- UNICEF, Promoting the Social Inclusion of Children;
- SC, The UN-AU Partnership on Peace Operations.

While the aforementioned topics are all at least in part related to SDGs 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17, the term "Sustainable Development" is only mentioned once in the GA 2nd Committee. In the overall agenda for NMUN-NY 2017, themes deeply pertinent to the SDGs are mentioned on a recurring basis in many committees and in a majority of topics, but they are rarely framed in the context of specific SDGs and targets.

HarvardMUN 2017

An analysis of the agenda of HarvardMUN 2017 demonstrates that SDG-related issues are a minority amongst the topics, and the framework of SDGs is not utilized to cover these few topics. Topics falling under the same cluster of SDGs occur only in two cases, both related to SDG 5, which concerns gender equality.

- 1. Topic B of the World Conference on Women, "The Representation of Women in Government"
- 2. Topic b of the African Union, "Gender-Based Violence"

In both cases, there is no explicit connection of the agenda to the SDGs beyond the broader area in which gender equality may be categorized.



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LIMUN 2016

LIMUN 2016's agenda covered SDG-related themes only in one of the two topics of the ECOSOC: Reducing global poverty in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Overall, sporadic references to sustainable development and sustainability in its broader interpretation have been included, but there was not any meaningful interaction with the SDGs.

GIMUN 2016

GIMUN 2016's agenda included SDG-related topics in only one of its six committees. Specifically, both the topics of the ECOSOC fall under the same cluster of issues addressed in the framework of the SDGs. These are:

- The impact of economic sanction on vulnerable populations,
- Empowering female entrepreneurs in developing countries.

These topics clearly align with the goals of SDG 10 and SDG 5. SDG 10 addresses reducing inequalities in and between countries, while SDG 5 addresses gender equality. However, these topics are not discussed within a SDG-centred framework.

TEIMUN 2016

TEIMUN 2016's agenda explicitly recalled the SDGs in one of the two topics for the GA, Advocating the Role of Indigenous People in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. It is interesting to note that indigenous people are named in the framework of SDGs on only two occasions (target 2.3 and 4.5). The aforementioned topic is thus innovative in that it incorporates elements of different SDGs.

From this analysis, we can conclude that while MUN conferences often cover topics that fall under the SDGs, it is uncommon that MUNs explicitly refer to SDGs and frame topics in their agenda in an SDG context.

The reason for this may be related to the fact implementation and reporting, critical phases in the UN, do not take place in MUN.

This may be the main challenge of debating SDGs in MUNs: how do we find ways to effectively implement the work developed during simulations, and how can we apply the ideas in the adopted resolutions?



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Section 5: Potential solutions & new ideas

During the Assembly, we will constantly be posing the following question: What are the key elements necessary to align Model United Nations with the implementation of the SDGs?

Broader questions to consider:

14. How are the SDGs currently being incorporated at MUN conferences?
15. What is the significance of including these SDGs in MUN?
16. What are the benefits and advantages of creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDGs?
17. How can organizers overcome some of the obstacles associated with creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDG's?
18. How can these SDGs become distinct topics in MUN committees?
19. What are some of creative ideas to popularize SDGs within MUN Academic settings/conferences/ committees/ topics?
20. How can SDG goals and targets be reflected in the organization of MUN? For example, how can SDGs promote the principle of inclusivity and accessibility for all?
21. How can MUN engage participants with SDGs outside the committee work?
22. Can MUNers contribute to the realization of these SDG's? How? Give practical recommendations to achieve this vision.
23. How can we practically incorporate the UN Sustainable Development Goals into MUN educational programs, conferences, or curricula?
24. How can the introduction of SDGs to MUN conferences improve the overall learning experience?
25. What are some of ways your MUN conference or community can leave a lasting positive impact on the world?
26. Once a conference is over, what can organizers do to practically implement resolutions?

We hope you have paid careful attention to the above questions and request that you brainstorm more of your own. We have prepared the following suggestions to further guide your thinking in before you attend the Assembly.

3. Conference Agenda

A basic strategy to incorporate SDGs into the Model UN world is to relate SDG concepts to conference topics, agendas, and core values.

General Assembly: Consider your committees – if an organizer is set on having a General Assembly committee, it is possible to shift its focus towards sustainable development discussions in the framework of ECOFIN or ECOSOC, spreading general awareness about SDGs.

If a certain SDG target is related to simulated issues, include it as proof points in the agenda.

Crisis committees: Attempt to link your crisis scenarios to the SDG targets – for example, holding a specific delegate accountable for country's policies that fail to be on track with a certain SDG target.

Ad-hoc committees: Another option is to simulate the work of "Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators" that was established by the Statistical Commission to "develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets". Give your delegates a chance to follow up on SDG implementation! And hold other delegates in the conference accountable, if your conference allows for an inter-committee work.



Historic committees: You can always revive the SDG adoption back to life – with a Historic simulation of their adoption, that is. Raise awareness through simulating the adoption process again, and see of how close would your delegates come to the real SDGs.

Back to the Future Crisis Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals! This is an innovative United Ambassadors developed simulation that starts in the year 2030, where disastrous ramifications of under-achieved SDG's (like unmitigated climate change) are unfolding. Crisis updates take place in 2030 (the future). After a series of debates on the current situation (in 2030), delegates are given the option of raising a motion to go back in time, to 2016 (the real present time) to draft a valid resolution that would save the world from the concerning future that was witnessed at the beginning of the simulation. However, in order to ensure the text of the resolution (the solutions, operative clauses) are realistic, and will truly make a difference if implemented, delegates keep returning to the future to explain what 2030 looks like, if certain clauses of the resolution are achieved – ie: they go “Back to the Future”. In this simulation, wide agreement or what is closest to “consensus” is encouraged, as the wider the agreement on the resolution drafted, the more likely that it will be implemented - a learning from UN4MUN. At the very end, all delegates go back to 2030, and witness the changes they were responsible for creating, as a result of their meeting that took place in the past. The Back to the Future Crisis Committee was successfully implemented twice in July 2016 at the United Ambassadors MUN Leadership Academy. You may see its background guide at the end of this guide.

For more in-depth discussions, you could choose to **dedicate your whole conference to analyze one of the SDGs** thoroughly through all simulated organs. This would result in a comprehensive review on the SDG work and interrelationship between different organs in their implementation – especially if the responsibility of producing a report on the findings is charged to the **GA**.

Delegate preparation: Encourage your delegates to reach out to national statistical offices and other bodies responsible for SDG review in their preparations. You could also urge the participants to include national review stats into their position papers.

Implement the SDGs internally: MUNs face internal challenges that sometimes make them unsuccessful on being an example of the sustainability creed. Having said that, make sure that anything that's possible is done to make the conferences more accessible by taking cost effective measures that have an impact on the price. People with disabilities and other marginalized groups should equally be included and empowered through this educational tool. Take into account that the premises where the conferences take place should always be accessible for those with motor disabilities and don't forget to pay attention to the economic measures while organizing the simulations, because they impact the registration fees and these should also be as accessible as possible.





4. Conference Architecture

Real-life advisors: consider involving working professionals and academics to consult the organizers and participants on practical implications surrounding the discussions, and adding more context to the debate.

This could come in the form of guest speakers specific to select committees, or external advisors who agree to become observers in a committee and provide feedback to the organizers and the participants alike – before, during and after conference.

The people you could consider for these roles could vary from politicians and diplomats, to judges and social entrepreneurs, journalists and activists – anyone, whose experience could provide an additional practical dimension to your simulation.

The organizers are also encouraged **to involve local UN representatives** into the conference preparations. Numerous agencies are constantly asking for public feedback on the UN's work, so engage them – both before conference asking for advice and after the work is completed, presenting your findings.

SDG officer: structure your Secretariat to have an SDG officer / advisor, who could help the chairs prepare for the committee work.

Side events, themed socials and field visits: organize SDG-themed side events, or even social events! Gather a panel discussion between delegates and guest speakers to discuss health issues. Ask the delegates to wear sustainable attire to a social event. Visit a local refugee centre, water cleaning facility, solar power plant, NGO working with SDGs. Whatever works, as long you consider taking that extra step besides regular logistics, until it becomes a norm. You can also get involved in social work by sponsoring specific actions as a result of a certain fundraising related with the MUN conference or implementing your own aid program beyond the MUN with the volunteers from the organization as well as the delegates.

Sustainable conference: make your conference paperless. Or make a pledge to host a green conference, working to offset CO₂ emissions. Reuse, recycle, reduce waste, and make sure the delegates are sensitized aware of how they can about how they can practically do that be more sustainable during the conference and after it. Dumpsters can be identified for disposal of products in different categories or the delegates can be called to attend the conference with a certain amount of elements that can be reused, for example plastics. You could choose to reimburse delegates who choose travel means with less CO₂ emissions, or have the lowest carbon footprint to attend your conference. And yes, encouraging your delegates to submit their expected ecological footprints of their participation is another great idea on raising awareness.





Section 6: Summary & Questions to Consider

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two way street – how do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and how can the work done through MUN support the real-world SDG agenda?

We suggest you consider the MUN's relation with Three A's: Academia, Advocacy and Activism.

We want to encourage you to contribute to empowering the MUN to support global development. This might require some thought across the whole MUN spectrum:

- **Before the conference:** how can you make your conference more sustainable and inclusive, and encourage the participants to be more sustainable and SDG-aligned? What kind of statement make, or what kind of cause can your organisation work to promote, in accordance with the Agenda 2030?
- **During:** how are SDGs incorporated into your conference's agenda? Are delegates learning more? Are you providing a real life perspective to your conference – through speakers, advisors and other stakeholders?
- **After the conference:** What is the long lasting impact of your conference? What are the lessons that could be shared? How can your conference's outcomes contribute to the SDG agenda? Can your staff and delegates take action and support Sustainable Development outside of classrooms? If yes, what kind of help can you provide?

A social movement is composed of people with a shared objective to create change together. The strategies the committee will develop as a whole can include advocacy, media reach, legal action, research and much more. We hope you agree that the best possible outcome for MUN4UN is – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide.

We will prepare these guidelines together – and that's why your preparations in advance are crucial.





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COMMITTEE C

MUN 2030 - SDG's in Focus: Climate Change, Sustainable Urbanization, & Responsible Lifestyles

Experts: Dominykas Milasius, Ludvig Daver

Panelist: Cheyma Azzouz

Section 1: Committee Introduction

LETTER FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Hi and welcome to the **MUN4UN 2016** Committee C!

The key objective of this conference is to further the understanding that Sustainable Development Goals are more than a political or academic concept, only relevant to the halls of the UN or the briefing rooms of policy makers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is actually a global agenda open for everyone to partake in. And one of the ways to do so – is through MUN initiatives and educational simulations.

A key target audience to involve in the 2030 Agenda is the youth of today, as they (or should we say “we”?) are the key stakeholders in the decisions surrounding the global well being by the year 2030. Today’s young people are also the driving force behind merging the gap between the goals set in the past, the action that needs to be taken today, and the results we will all face by 2030.

The decision to host MUN4UN at the real United Nations in New York City is not by any means accidental – it is both strategic as well as symbolic; and we hope you will embrace that with your active and meaningful participation.

From a strategic point of view, the life of New York has been extensively influenced by the life of the United Nations. NYC has established itself as the centre of international diplomacy and is home to thousands of diplomats and foreign affairs experts. Thus, NYC is *the* place to be for anyone in the field – and that’s why we are bringing you here, so that we can introduce you to the *modus operandi* of the UN institutions and to expose you to the diplomatic circle that works here.

Symbolically – what would a better location to host a first ever “United Nations of the Model UN” be? Together, finding new ways to extend the MUN teachings into the real life, the product of our work will be hopefully written into the history of diplomacy. Some of us are even very likely to work on the implementation stage and be able to say “it all started at the UN in New York”.

This is the mindset with which we approach the conference, and specifically Committee C – a gathering, in which we will go over some of the most critical development issues like economy, poverty, health and education, often considered to be the very backbone for kick-starting development in general, and crucial for ensuring that development is sustainable.



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SUGGESTED PREPARATIONS

For our discussion to be most fruitful, we encourage the delegates to prepare for two streams of work:

1. Familiarize yourselves with basic approaches to development. Think about this: what are the conditions needed for development? If you have a limited amount of financing, but many SDG areas to cover, how do you distribute the funding? How do you make decisions to prioritize key targets or goals?
2. Consider SDG-related questions from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. For example, when talking about SDG 1, we are not only interested in hearing your suggestions on both how to eradicate poverty by 2030, but also, and more importantly, your thoughts on what the role of MUN in such efforts could be both in local and global capacities.

In order to brainstorm best practices to represent the SDG agenda within MUN communities, organizations, and conferences, consider MUN's relations with the following:

- **Academia:**

How can we share best practices in MUN-related academic initiatives with MUN participants from countries at varying stages of development? How do we focus on an end output that is informative, educational and has real life applicability;

- **Advocacy:** How can we bridge MUN with advocacy campaigns that raise awareness about pressing development problems and encourage innovative solutions by young people?
- **Activism:** How do we support on-the-ground work to help make the SDGs a reality? This discussion will focus primarily on how to build partnerships between SDG organizations and MUN communities, organizations, and conferences.

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two-way street. Consider: How do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and similarly, how can MUN support the real-world SDG agenda?

In this committee, we would like you to carefully consider how the ideas you include in the final resolution can be implemented in reality. The success of the final resolution will depend on how consciously it is constructed and followed.

Our goal is to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 by promoting the sustainable approach to development within MUN organizations. As we mentioned before, the agenda goes both ways; in order for MUN to have an impact on the SDGs, the SDGs must have an impact on MUN. It is your responsibility to think of what measures or decisions can make MUN more inclusive, be of higher quality, represent equity and be accessible for those who want to take part and have not been able to do so. The simulations should also reflect the kind of changes we have considered must be undertaken in the world.

And we hope you agree that the best possible outcome could be – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide.

We can't wait to hear your ideas on bringing the UN and MUN closer together, and empowering simulations to become platforms for change in implementing the SDG agenda that are in constant growth for the best interest of the international community.

Yours in diplomacy,
The MUN4UN Academic Committee



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Section 2: SDG Background

The Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

On September 25, 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” known commonly as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Summit marked a tremendous milestone in history. Not only were the goals unanimously adopted by all member states, but it was also one of the largest UN summits ever in regards to the number of heads of state present, underscoring the importance of the new goals.

The new Sustainable Development Goals build upon their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs, issued during the Millennium Summit in 2000, constituted a 15-year plan to improve living conditions in the world’s poorest countries by 2015. The MDGs have been the single greatest effort to improve lives and reduce poverty in the world. During the course of the MDGs the number of out-of-school children of primary school fell from 100 million to 57 million, over two billion more people gained access to clean drinking water, new HIV infections were reduced by 40 %, and the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, with the most progress occurring during the last 15 years. Still, the goals were not achieved.

In 2012, with just over three years left to achieve the MDGs, the UN commenced work on a new agenda to succeed the MDGs. The new agenda, initially called the Post-2015 Agenda, involved consultations with over eight million people worldwide spanning over three years, making it the largest and most ambitious UN agenda to date.



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The new agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets. Many of the new goals are similar to the MDGs, but they have been elaborated further to include more aspects than before. The new agenda is more holistic and inclusive, and will be a global plan for development over the next 15 years. As the MDGs were mainly focused to foster development in the poorest countries of the world, the SDGs are designed to include all countries.

The 17 SDGs are constructed as distinct goals, but it is critical to recognize that they are very interconnected. Because they are interdependent, the progress made on one goal will necessarily affect progress on all other goals. As one example of many, progress on gender equality will also have positive effects on poverty reduction and literacy rates.

Because of its complexity, the agenda cannot be achieved only by governments and state actors. The success of the SDGs depends upon the collaboration of all aspects of society. Cooperation of states, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society is critical to achieve the agenda. The adoption of the SDGs could not have been successful without the efforts of civil society organizations and businesses mobilizing people and making the goals known throughout the adoption process.

The SDGs are a global framework for sustainable development. With the goals adopted, it is now up to all member states of the UN to create their own national action plans for how to achieve the goals in their country. These national action plans may include strategies for achieving the goals on a national, regional and even local level.

Achieving the goals will not be a cheap task. Great investments are needed to meet the targets stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. But the costs of inaction are believed to be even higher than the costs of action. During the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015, a financing framework was agreed upon. This framework provides the foundation for the achievement of the goals.

Some countries will have more difficulties than others in implementing strategies to achieve the goals. This is why collaboration between different countries and the inclusion of all sectors of society are so important. It is critical to establish effective partnerships because every country is vital to the realization of this global agenda, and the failure of one country to implement the SDGs will impact the progress of all others. There have already been a few regional and international collaborations set up by some governments, but more of those are necessary for the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The real impact of the Sustainable Development Goals will be measured and determined by a set of indicators. These indicators have been developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). In March 2016, the expert group presented a proposed global indicator framework containing 230 indicators. It is important to remember that these 230 indicators are not definite and could change due to technological development during the course of the 15 years, as well as the fact that the indicators are intended for a global revision, and might not be applicable in all national contexts. The development of the indicators will therefore continue ahead, and the progress will be discussed during the first UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2017.

Youth have been recognized as an especially important group for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The young people of today will be the decision-makers in 2030. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on young people to demand and foster the dramatic progress needed in the world, as well as calling youth agents of change for a sustainable development.





Less than a year has passed since the adoption of the goals and the member states have started to work on how to implement them on a national level. During the recent High-level Political Forum, taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York in July, the member states met and reviewed the progress made to achieve the goals. The forum included the National Voluntary Reviews where 22 countries presented their national progress.

The member states will report their achievement progress to the UN and they will continuously meet in different forums to discuss the advancement of the agenda until 2030. The world has its blueprint to achieve a better world for all, and now the member states must deliver on its promises. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, "we are the first generation that can end poverty, but also the last that can end climate change".

Committee Introduction - MUN 2030, SDG's in Focus: Climate Change, Sustainable Urbanization & Responsible Lifestyles

The focus of Committee C is to discuss how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be reflected in Model United Nations and how MUN plays a role achieving the SDGs. In Committee C the SDG focus is on climate change, sustainable urbanization, and responsible lifestyles.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN member states in September of 2015, serves as the cornerstone of diplomacy and development issues. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs aim to transform the world by 2030. The SDGs are the most ambitious UN agenda to date, and they target all sectors of society and in all countries in the world.

Committee C focuses on six SDGs in particular:

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Climate change is perhaps the most pressing issue of our generation, and the decisions we take today will affect all future generations. The climate agreement decided upon during COP21 in December 2015 is not only a very important tool to achieve SDG 13, but also critical to achieving all other SDGs. As is inherent to all the SDGs, failure to achieve one of the goals will impact the success of all others. More than half the world's population already lives in cities and towns, and by the year 2050, that number will climb to 70 percent. There is a clear need for sustainable production and consumption, in addition to investments in sustainable industry, innovation and infrastructure.





The international community has the important task of making sure the SDGs are implemented and achieved, and to do so, we must first spread awareness of the SDGs. Increasing knowledge of the SDGs is critical because if people don't know what their rights are, they cannot fight for them. Youth have been recognized as a key factor for the successful achievement of the SDGs, and Model UN conferences play a great part in engaging youth in the SDG framework. Participation of youth is vital to achieving the 2030 agenda, and they will become key decision-makers by 2030. Engaging youth at an early stage will facilitate the implementation process as they can introduce new ideas and perspectives to the agenda. Model UN conferences are great forums to bring together talented youth from all over the world to discuss and develop these ideas and perspectives.

In this committee we will discuss how the seven aforementioned SDGs, and the SDGs overall, can be incorporated into Model UN educational programs, conferences, and simulations. Throughout the Assembly, we will continuously ask the question: how can MUN help achieve the SDGs and, more importantly, improve the world?

An overview of former MDGs and actual SDGs in Model United Nations

The question of whether we can advance the SDGs through MUN around the world cannot simply be answered with a yes or no. Many MUN conferences in the past and present have incorporated elements of the MDGs and SDGs into their programs. For example, many conferences have simulated UNEP, the United Nations Environment Program, advancing topics such as climate change and responsible agricultural practices. Conferences such as HamMUN (Hamburg), Wadi MUN (New Delhi), BSBMUN (Brasilia), IndonesiaMUN or MUNESD (Vienna) have simulated the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the UN body responsible for assembling the Conference of the Parties (COP) every year.

Major achievements in the promotion of MDGs and SDGs by conferences must be saluted. PIMUN 2015 (Paris) decided to simulate the COP21 for their Plenary Assembly, half a year before COP21 took place in Paris. It was a very good experience for delegates who had most likely never experienced a simulation of a COP before. However, it did not carry on the following year (except for including a few topics such as the “promotion of scientific cooperation for sustainable development” in UNESCO and the “redefinition of green investments to eradicate poverty” or the “Urban development for the post-2015 agenda building sustainable and smart cities” for UNEP) when the freshly signed Paris Agreements would have constituted an interesting following.

While we can affirm the MDGs and SDGs have been incorporated into Model United Nations, we must also note that such incorporation has not been as effective as it could have been. Even conferences that have made addressing the SDGs the focal point of their agendas have not been able to measure their actual implementation. For example, the last session of ScotMUN had the ambitious topic of “the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,” but understandably, the participating delegates did not actually implement the SDGs post-conference.

Another conference that worked with a particular emphasis on the SDGs is the WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN). This conference adopted the Post-2015 Agenda as its conference theme in 2015 and “Global Transformation: The Sustainable Development Goals” in 2016. The size and potential impact of the conference makes it one of the most important conferences working on the promotion of the SDGs.





Present State of SDGs in MUNs and related challenges

Assessing the history of MDGs and SDGs in MUN, we can see that while SDG-related topics may be addressed in conference agendas, they are often done so in the absence of an SDG-specified framework. The lack of a SDG framework hinders the progression of all the SDGs because issues are framed as independent from an interconnected framework of issues. For example, gender equality is linked to climate change, but in the absence of a comprehensive framework, it may be easy to dismiss these issues as unrelated. To give a concrete illustration, below are some topics from LIMUN 2016:

ECOFIN: “The promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development” and “The promotion of sustained economic growth and the sustainable development of small island developing states”

ECOSOC: “The prevention of food wastage through improved infrastructure in developing countries.”

UNDP: “The facilitation resilient infrastructure in developing countries” and “The work towards affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all.”

UNEP: “The eradication of poverty through an inclusive green economy and the Implementation of the international agreement to address climate change.”

Although the topics above are clearly related to the SDGs, they are not described in an SDG context.

As MUN conferences increasingly incorporate SDG-related topics into their agenda it is important that these topics are labeled as such. One notable conference utilizing an SDG framework is NMUN-NY 2017.

The simulation is almost entirely composed of SDG-related topics. Below are some of the included topics.

- The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals
- Investing in Sustainable Energy for Rural Areas
- The Implementation of the Paris Agreement
- The Sustainable Use of the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources
- The Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Urbanization through Information and Communications Technology
- Access to Adequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene to Promote Urban Health
- Climate Change and Food Security: Strengthening National Capacity and Resilience

Similarly, NMUN-Japan in their next session will discuss “Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals for All Nations and Peoples and All Segments of Society” in their ECOSOC committee.





Challenges:

One challenge with incorporating SDGs in the MUN agenda is making clear the distinction between SDGs and MDGs. Because it has been only one year since the adoption of the SDGs (which encompass a vastly greater scope than the MDGs), the broad scope and novelty of the SDG framework may present a challenge in effective incorporation.

Another major challenge relates to the implementation process. In MUN conferences, ideas are considered, debated, and written down, but post-conference, but the results of the resolutions are rarely considered post-conference or implemented. In order to promote the Sustainable Development Goals effectively, MUNs would benefit from having post-conference developments to their resolutions.

Section 5: Potential solutions & new ideas

Since the SDGs in focus in our committee all relate to the environment, it is beneficial for us to look at the UNFCCC. The goal of the UNFCCC is to provide guidelines on how to set binding agreements to reduce the degree or intensity of greenhouse-gas emissions. Today, UNFCCC consists of 196 countries that meet annually in the Conference of the Parties (COP) to prevent climate change. Similarly, the Kyoto Protocol is directly linked to the current SDGs, setting a precedent with the UNFCCC for the Sustainable Development Goals to emerge. Both have engaged in continuous negotiating and amending processes in order to achieve more determined results by 2030. In promoting environmental sustainability and mitigating climate change, an international solution is critical, something we stress at the Assembly.

Youth have been recognized as an especially important group that will drive the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The young people of today will become the decision-makers in 2030. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has youth agents of change for sustainable development, and has called upon youth to demand and foster the dramatic progress needed in the world.

Hence, while the solutions we will brainstorm during this Assembly are primarily related to MUN, it is important to note that MUN can function as an extension of youth activism. On a fundamental level, MUN is about youth, and therefore, you are encouraged to think beyond the context of MUN in devising solutions. With this Assembly, we wish to not only revolutionize the MUN world, but also to bring as much positive change as possible to our everyday environments. During the Assembly, we will constantly be posing the following question: What are the key elements necessary to align Model United Nations with the implementation of the SDGs?





Broader questions to consider:

1. How are the SDGs currently being incorporated at MUN conference?
2. What is the significance of including these SDGs in MUN?
3. What are the benefits and advantages of creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDGs?
4. How can organizers overcome some of the obstacles associated with creating specialized MUN committees on these particular SDG's?
5. How can these SDGs become distinct topics in MUN committees?
6. What are some of creative ideas to popularize SDGs within MUN Academic settings/conferences/ committees/ topics?
7. How can SDG goals and targets be reflected in the organization of MUN? For example, how can SDGs promote the principle of inclusivity and accessibility for all?
8. How can MUN engage participants with SDGs outside the committee work?
9. Can MUNers contribute to the realization of these SDG's? How? Give practical recommendations to achieve this vision.
10. How can we practically incorporate the UN Sustainable Development Goals into MUN educational programs, conferences, or curricula?
11. How can the introduction of SDGs to MUN conferences improve the overall learning experience?
12. What are some of ways your MUN conference or community can leave a lasting positive impact on the world?
13. Once a conference is over, what can organizers do to practically implement resolutions?

We hope you have paid careful attention to the above questions and request that you brainstorm more of your own. We have prepared the following suggestions to further guide your thinking in before you attend the Assembly.

5. Conference Agenda

A basic strategy to incorporate SDGs into the Model UN world is to relate SDG concepts to conference topics, agendas, and core values.

General Assembly: Consider your committees – if an organizer is set on having a General Assembly committee, it is possible to shift its focus towards sustainable development discussions in the framework of ECOFIN or ECOSOC, spreading general awareness about SDGs.

If a certain SDG target is related to simulated issues, include it as proof points in the agenda.

Crisis committees: Attempt to link your crisis scenarios to the SDG targets – for example, holding a specific delegate accountable for country's policies that fail to be on track with a certain SDG target.

Ad-hoc committees: Another option is to simulate the work of "Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators" that was established by the Statistical Commission to "develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets". Give your delegates a chance to follow up on SDG implementation! And hold other delegates in the conference accountable, if your conference allows for an inter-committee work.

Historic committees: You can always revive the SDG adoption back to life – with a Historic simulation of their adoption, that is. Raise awareness through simulating the adoption process again, and see of how close would your delegates come to the real SDGs.





Back to the Future Crisis Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals! This is an innovative United Ambassadors developed simulation that starts in the year 2030, where disastrous ramifications of under-achieved SDG's (like unmitigated climate change) are unfolding. Crisis updates take place in 2030 (the future). After a series of debates on the current situation (in 2030), delegates are given the option of raising a motion to go back in time, to 2016 (the real present time) to draft a valid resolution that would save the world from the concerning future that was witnessed at the beginning of the simulation. However, in order to ensure the text of the resolution (the solutions, operative clauses) are realistic, and will truly make a difference if implemented, delegates keep returning to the future to explain what 2030 looks like, if certain clauses of the resolution are achieved – ie: they go “Back to the Future”. In this simulation, wide agreement or what is closest to “consensus” is encouraged, as the wider the agreement on the resolution drafted, the more likely that it will be implemented - a learning from UN4MUN. At the very end, all delegates go back to 2030, and witness the changes they were responsible for creating, as a result of their meeting that took place in the past. The Back to the Future Crisis Committee was successfully implemented twice in July 2016 at the United Ambassadors MUN Leadership Academy. You may see its background guide at the end of this guide.

For more in-depth discussions, you could choose to **dedicate your whole conference to analyze one of the SDGs** thoroughly through all simulated organs. This would result in a comprehensive review on the SDG work and interrelationship between different organs in their implementation – especially if the responsibility of producing a report on the findings is charged to the **GA**.

Delegate preparation: Encourage your delegates to reach out to national statistical offices and other bodies responsible for SDG review in their preparations. You could also urge the participants to include national review stats into their position papers.

Implement the SDGs internally: MUNs face internal challenges that sometimes make them unsuccessful on being an example of the sustainability creed. Having said that, make sure that anything that's possible is done to make the conferences more accessible by taking cost effective measures that have an impact on the price. People with disabilities and other marginalized groups should equally be included and empowered through this educational tool. Take into account that the premises where the conferences take place should always be accessible for those with motor disabilities and don't forget to pay attention to the economic measures while organizing the simulations, because they impact the registration fees and these should also be as accessible as possible.





6. Conference Architecture

Real-life advisors: consider involving working professionals and academics to consult the organizers and participants on practical implications surrounding the discussions, and adding more context to the debate.

This could come in the form of guest speakers specific to select committees, or external advisors who agree to become observers in a committee and provide feedback to the organizers and the participants alike – before, during and after conference.

The people you could consider for these roles could vary from politicians and diplomats, to judges and social entrepreneurs, journalists and activists – anyone, whose experience could provide an additional practical dimension to your simulation.

The organizers are also encouraged **to involve local UN representatives** into the conference preparations. Numerous agencies are constantly asking for public feedback on the UN's work, so engage them – both before conference asking for advice and after the work is completed, presenting your findings.

SDG officer: structure your Secretariat to have an SDG officer / advisor, who could help the chairs prepare for the committee work.

Side events, themed socials and field visits: organize SDG-themed side events, or even social events! Gather a panel discussion between delegates and guest speakers to discuss health issues. Ask the delegates to wear sustainable attire to a social event. Visit a local refugee centre, water cleaning facility, solar power plant, NGO working with SDGs. Whatever works, as long you consider taking that extra step besides regular logistics, until it becomes a norm. You can also get involved in social work by sponsoring specific actions as a result of a certain fundraising related with the MUN conference or implementing your own aid program beyond the MUN with the volunteers from the organization as well as the delegates.

Sustainable conference: make your conference paperless. Or make a pledge to host a green conference, working to offset CO₂ emissions. Reuse, recycle, reduce waste, and make sure the delegates are sensitized aware of how they can about how they can practically do that be more sustainable during the conference and after it. Dumpsters can be identified for disposal of products in different categories or the delegates can be called to attend the conference with a certain amount of elements that can be reused, for example plastics. You could choose to reimburse delegates who choose travel means with less CO₂ emissions, or have the lowest carbon footprint to attend your conference. And yes, encouraging your delegates to submit their expected ecological footprints of their participation is another great idea on raising awareness.





Section 6: Summary & Questions to Consider

In short, the preparation for this committee requires you to consider the relationship between the UN and MUN as a two way street – how do real life concepts, such as SDGs, enrich your MUN committee work, and how can the work done through MUN support the real-world SDG agenda?

We suggest you consider the MUN's relation with Three A's: Academia, Advocacy and Activism.

We want to encourage you to contribute to empowering the MUN to support global development. This might require some thought across the whole MUN spectrum:

- **Before the conference:** how can you make your conference more sustainable and inclusive, and encourage the participants to be more sustainable and SDG-aligned? What kind of statement make, or what kind of cause can your organisation work to promote, in accordance with the Agenda 2030?
- **During:** how are SDGs incorporated into your conference's agenda? Are delegates learning more? Are you providing a real life perspective to your conference – through speakers, advisors and other stakeholders?
- **After the conference:** What is the long lasting impact of your conference? What are the lessons that could be shared? How can your conference's outcomes contribute to the SDG agenda? Can your staff and delegates take action and support Sustainable Development outside of classrooms? If yes, what kind of help can you provide?

A social movement is composed of people with a shared objective to create change together. The strategies the committee will develop as a whole can include advocacy, media reach, legal action, research and much more. We hope you agree that the best possible outcome for MUN4UN is – our final resolution being able to serve as a white paper for MUN communities worldwide.

We will prepare these guidelines together – and that's why your preparations in advance are crucial.





How to prepare:

Below are some important questions you should consider before you arrive at the Assembly:

1. How can we, young MUNers from all over the world, take effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change in our communities and everyday lives?
2. Can we promote sustainable development in a more concrete way than through a committee simulation?
3. How can we use our MUN networks to promote sustainable development?

Research: In order to take concrete measures at the Youth Assembly, come to the conference with a clear view of your local city and MUN society's actions regarding the SDGs. Get acquainted with youth entrepreneurship initiatives around you, and try to determine what is missing, what you may be able to add.

Brainstorm: Solving the world's greatest problems is a daunting task, and only with a global effort can we strive to accomplish it. The combination of ideas you all will bring to the Assembly is therefore critical. Think of ways you can work towards incorporating and implementing SDGs into your local communities first, then think on a global scale.

Get ready to collaborate: The SDGs stress collaboration, inclusivity, and partnerships for an important reason—it is impossible to achieve them without great teamwork. The partnerships you build not only within this committee, but also with all delegates at the Assembly are key to success.

Be ready to work after the Assembly: The creation and adoption of the Assembly's final resolution is just the first step. Post-assembly, it will be upon all of us to see that the ideas brainstormed during the Assembly are implemented.

Keep updated on the UN Agenda: Progress on the SDGs is always moving, and it is critical that you keep updated on these changes. Note that COP22 will take place in Marrakesh from the November 7-18, 2016.





Key points and Summary

In committee C, we will work on both the promotion and the implementation of the SDGs. In order to increase knowledge of the SDGs, MUN societies and conferences should work on framing SDG-related topics in an SDG context. Doing so will facilitate the implementation process, as it will provide actual goals to work towards. An SDG framework will increase understanding of the interconnectedness of many important global issues.

In order to implement the ideas negotiated, debated, and written down during MUN conferences, MUN societies should create a follow-up process to assess the impact of their work.

The MUN4UN Youth Assembly is a gathering of driven people working to create solutions to positively impact the world. We welcome you delegates, who come from all over the world, to bring forth innovative ideas to solve the world's most pressing problems through MUN.

As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, "we are the first generation that can end poverty, but also the last that can end climate change". We are looking forward to meeting you and discovering all your brilliant ideas in August.

Sincerely,
Ludvig Daver and Cheyma Azzouz

Resources:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
<http://www.un.org/climatechange/towards-a-climate-agreement/>

"A short history of the SDGs": <http://deliver2030.org/?p=6874>

The unlikely journey to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
<http://deliver2030.org/?p=6767>

"MY World: how we gave the world a voice": <http://deliver2030.org/?p=6966>

"5 steps towards implementing the SDGs": <http://deliver2030.org/?p=6833>



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Committee D

The UN4MUN Phenomenon

Sections:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. History of UN4MUN**
- 3. What is UN4MUN? A Concise Overview of UN4MUN**
- 4. UN4MUN Implementation**
- 5. Potential Solutions and New Ideas**
- 6. Summary, Key Points & Questions for Consideration**

Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct honor to welcome you to the MUN4UN Youth Assembly at the UN Headquarters this August.

The Assembly will give us the unique opportunity to discuss the evolution of Model UN to date, including the various MUN platforms that exist around the world, the place of UN4MUN in the existing global MUN circuit, and areas for improvement in the near future. Specifically, our Committee will focus on the UN4MUN Phenomenon.

UN4MUN is a Model UN Platform developed, sponsored and spearheaded by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) in order to bring the Rules of Procedure (RoPs) adopted by MUNs around the world closer to those used at the real UN.

The idea of UN4MUN was brought to fruition in 2009 when the UN DPI organized the first Global Model UN (GMUN) Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. This marked the very first time in which a MUN Conference was organized, structured and run according to UN RoPs. Subsequent GMUN conferences took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2010 and in Incheon, South Korea in 2011. Over the years, through the organisation of the GMUN Conference, best practices began to emerge which enabled MUNers around the world to disseminate knowledge about a new style of MUN, one that more closely reflects the true workings of the UN.

After three successful GMUN conferences, a large and diverse number of university students in all corners of the world were exposed to UN4MUN and its RoPs. Rather than continuing to add to an already extensive list of MUN Conferences organized by students, youth NGO and academic institutions around the world, the UN DPI shifted the focus of its efforts to developing best practices and tools such as UN4MUN Guides for the General Assembly and Security Council. In 2012, the UN DPI hosted the first Model UN Workshop at the UN Headquarters in New York, which was aimed at sharing the vision of UN4MUN with MUNers from around the world. Since then, the UN DPI has organised yearly MUN workshops which have equipped students with the tools and practical experience necessary to disseminate information about UN4MUN to their MUN networks. United Ambassadors began teaching UN4MUN in 2015, and is holding the first ever UN4MUN focused MUN Summit at the UN Office of Geneva in November 2016, after the GMUN conference by the UNDPI which was held at UNOG in 2009.





While every MUNer has experienced different RoPs popular across the MUN circuit, it is important for us to recognize that these rules differ quite significantly from those practically used during sessions at the UN. In fact, prior to the creation of the UN, parliamentary rules were adopted in simulations of the League of Nations, and since then, over the years, the RoPs used in MUN have barely been reformed. The most significant differences between parliamentary rules adopted by a vast majority of MUNs around the world, and those practically used at the UN, include the concept of moderated and unmoderated caucus, the role of signatories of a resolution, and the extensive power offered to chairs, to name a few.

As delegates of Committee D, you will be discussing these and other differences between existing MUN platforms and UN4MUN. Importantly, you will be crafting strategies and action points on ways in which to protect and promote UN4MUN around the world, and identifying the various roles which MUN leaders can play in order to bring MUNs closer to the real workings of the UN.

We look forward to meeting you all in August for a fruitful week of discussions on these important issues!

Agnese Cigliano
Co-Expert

Hannah Moosa
Panelist/Co-Expert



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The History of Model UN

The Birth of the North American MUN Simulation

Key moments in North American MUN history

Simulations of the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, first emerged in the United States almost a century ago. The oldest Model League of Nations can be traced back to Harvard University in 1927.

While the precise date of the first Model UN Conference is debatable, conferences that have served as an important milestone in MUN history date back to the early 1950s. Berkeley Model United Nations (BMUN), established in 1952, is widely recognized as the first high school Model UN Conference in the world. A year later, Harvard University established the Harvard Model UN (HMUN) for high school students, and in 1955, only a decade after the creation of the UN, the Harvard National Model UN (HNMUN) Conference was founded.

Global reach

To date, the HMUN and HNMUN Conferences continue to be two of the largest conferences on the global MUN circuit, and are attended by a host of international schools and universities. Harvard's MUN program has had an immense impact on the evolution of MUN across North America and around the world, and in recent years, it has expanded its reach abroad, through HMUN China, HMUN India, and HNMUN Latin America.

The MUN community across North America has grown significantly since the early 1950s, and today, the US stands as the country with the most developed MUN program in the world, by a number of measures, including: total conference attendance, number of large conferences (1500+ delegates), mass availability of conferences at all academic levels, innovation of MUN committees (e.g. diversity of crisis committees), and academic rigor in MUN. (Chan, 2016)

Rules of procedure

North American/traditional MUN, is one of the oldest MUN platforms, and is derived from Parliamentary Procedure. Despite variations in rules of procedure from conference to conference, today, the vast majority of conferences worldwide follow some variation of North American parliamentary procedure, sometimes dubbed 'Harvard Procedure'.

The rise of Model UN in Europe – The establishment of The Hague International MUN (THIMUN)

Key moments in THIMUN history

1968 marked the establishment of The Hague International Model UN (THIMUN), the first Model UN conference in Europe.

In 1981, the THIMUN Foundation was established, to further the mission of promoting and fostering collaborative solution-oriented discussions of critical global issues amongst youth. In 1995, the THIMUN Foundation was accredited as an NGO associated with the UN Department of Public Information. The first annual session of the THIMUN Youth Assembly was held in 2001, and in 2003, the THIMUN Foundation was granted Roster Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC.



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While THIMUN started as a small, local conference in The Hague, over the past several decades, it has significantly expanded its reach, leading to the introduction of MUN simulations to tens of thousands of **high school** students across Europe, as well as in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It is important to note that THIMUN is a high school level MUN conference.

Global reach

Today, THIMUN Hague is one of the largest and most internationally diverse conferences on the global MUN circuit. Additional THIMUN Conferences organized yearly include MINIMUN (the Hague), THIMUN Singapore (since 2005), THIMUN Qatar (since 2011), and THIMUN Latin America (in Uruguay since 2014). THIMUN Hague serves as the hub for European high school MUN, THIMUN Qatar serves as the hub for the Middle Eastern high school MUN, and THIMUN Singapore serves as the hub for Southeast Asia high school MUN. In 2013, Online Model UN became a full THIMUN partner as well (THIMUN O-MUN). The THIMUN Foundation organizes other regular MUN-related activities around the world and provides support for numerous additional MUN conferences. It also maintains a prestigious affiliation programme, with 46 THIMUN-affiliated conferences across five continents.

Rules of procedure

The establishment of the THIMUN Conference brought with it a new set of rules of procedure, one derived from British parliamentary procedure. THIMUN procedure, which includes lobbying sessions and open and closed debate, is more standardized than North American procedure, and is the second-most used procedure in the global MUN circuit.

The role of the UN in MUN

For much of MUN history, the United Nations itself has not been actively involved in simulations and conferences organized at the high school and university levels. The UN has primarily assisted in renting out the General Assembly Hall for conferences such as NMUN, NHSMUN, and GCIMUN, while the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has granted NGO consultative status to a number of MUN organisations and conferences, including the Geneva International MUN (GIMUN), THIMUN, and the McGill International Relations Students Association (IRSAM).

UN DPI and UN4MUN – the emergence of a new MUN platform

Since the establishment of MUN over half a century ago, the international MUN landscape has been significantly shaped by the North American MUN and the THIMUN platforms. MUN conferences around the world, for the most part, either directly model the procedures and formats of one of these styles, or have developed variations and offshoots of these simulation styles. While from its inception, the core aim of MUN has been to simulate the UN proceedings as accurately as possible, in reality, these MUN conferences have for decades been inaccurately simulating various fundamental aspects of the workings of the UN. Most notably, in terms of procedure, the UN is not a parliament and as such, does not use parliamentary procedure, as is used in both the North American and THIMUN models. Furthermore, in practice, an estimated 80% of UN resolutions are adopted by consensus, rather than through voting, which is the norm in MUN. Thus, due to a lack of knowledge of the procedural and substantive roles played by UN diplomats, simulations of UN bodies and agencies have often digressed from *the real life decision-making mechanism and negotiation processes of the UN*.



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In response to some traits seen as deviations/ inaccuracies, in both the procedure and practice of MUN globally, the UN itself, through its Department of Public Information, organised its very first MUN conference, the Global Model UN (GMUN) Conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2009. The purpose of the Conference was to serve as a first step to improve MUN simulations, bringing to life a truly accurate simulation experience of the UN, its structure, procedures and decision-making processes, one which differed markedly from the mainstream approaches on the MUN circuit. Following the success and widespread interest in the Global MUN phenomenon amongst youth worldwide, subsequent GMUN conferences were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2010 and in Incheon, South Korea in 2011.

It is in the context of these three global conferences that new rules of procedure, and a new approach to running MUN simulations of the UN General Assembly and Security Council emerged. This pioneering approach was formalised through the launch of the UN4MUN project.

So what exactly is UN4MUN?

UN4MUN is a Model UN platform developed, sponsored and spearheaded by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) to provide an accurate simulation of the United Nations. It was developed at the United Nations starting 2009 by Mr. Bill Yotive, who was till December 2015, project manager of the UN Global Teaching Project within UNDPI's Education Outreach Division. He proposed and developed a completely new approach to Model UN. UN4MUN is unique in that it simulates the real procedures of the United Nations more than any other procedures, and is intended to educate MUNers about the UN's authentic proceedings. The United Nations conducted three Global MUN conferences that completely follow UN4MUN in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Drawing upon three successful GMUN conferences (2009-2011), the UN DPI's Outreach Division shifted the focus of its efforts to partnering with and assisting existing MUN programmes in gaining a better understanding of how the UN truly works. To this end, the Division developed a new model of cooperation and experience-sharing focused upon the training of trainers, attended by United Ambassadors at the UN HQ in November 2015. United Ambassadors is the first to hold UN4MUN centered MUN Summit at the UN Office of Geneva in November 2016, after the last GMUN conference by the UNDPI at the UNPG is 2009.

Beginning in 2012, UN DPI launched a series of programmes, most notably, an annual UN4MUN Workshop, in order to provide formal training and guidance to student leaders and MUN advisors from around the world who are actively involved in organising university-level MUN conferences. After a successful first workshop at UN Headquarters in New York in August 2012, UN DPI committed to organising two workshops each year, in order to deepen students' understanding of the art of diplomacy and its invaluable role in the work of the UN, as well as to equip students with the experience, resources and tools necessary to disseminate information about UN4MUN to their MUN networks. Between 2012-2015, UN DPI ran UN4MUN workshops in various cities around the world, including in New York, Geneva and Vienna, which also featured key UN staff who provided first hand experience of the workings of the UN.

Serving as a complementary resource for interested MUNers around the world, the UN DPI has developed and made available online, UN4MUN Guides for the General Assembly and Security Council, which details the structure, procedures, negotiation processes and skills necessary to conduct a simulation that accurately captures the true essence of UN conferences. (outreach.un.org/MUN/guidebook)



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WFUNA and UN4MUN

In recent years, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) began to take an active role in Model UN. To date, WFUNA has organized two (WIMUN – WFUNA International MUN) Conferences that follow UN4MUN procedure. One in 2014 in Rome, and one in November 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York, followed by one in India in April 2016. WIMUN is the first and one of the very few existing international MUN conference that provide an accurate simulation of the UN, through the full adoption of UN4MUN Rules of Procedure.

United Ambassadors is holding an International MUN Summit at the United Nations Office of Geneva in November 2016 that contains a UN4MUN simulation and UN4MUN training elements and workshops for delegates and participants.

How does UN4MUN work?

Highlighting the key differences between UN4MUN and mainstream MUN platforms, North American MUN and THIMUN

As the MUN phenomenon has spread around the world, different MUN programmes, networks, countries and regions have adapted mainstream MUN platforms to fit the needs of their particular educational context. As such, a multitude of styles and variations of MUN exist around the world. However, for the purposes of this Committee, and our discussions, we will be focussing on comparing and contrasting UN4MUN with the two most well known MUN platforms worldwide, namely, the North American (or traditional MUN) and the THIMUN platforms.

So what is the key procedural difference between these three platforms? While North American-style MUN and THIMUN are based on Parliamentary Rules of Procedure, UN4MUN, which has been developed by UN DPI, follows real GA or Security Council Rules of Procedure.

Other key differences between these three platforms can be found in: the leadership structure, the terminology, the negotiation process and the conference phases.

Let us now take a closer look at these key differences.

1. The Leadership Structure

UN4MUN introduces a leadership structure and responsibilities that more accurately mirror the relationship between the General Assembly and the UN Secretariat. Consequently, student leaders play a more substantive role in the MUN conference than they do in typical MUN simulations, adding further to the appeal of their participation.
(outreach.un.org/MUN/guidebook)

At the UN, the Secretariat and the General Assembly are two separate and distinct organs. UN4MUN introduces a leadership structure in which this distinction is clear, and thus serves as a more realistic simulation of the UN leadership structure.



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The leadership structure of a UN4MUN conference is divided into:

- a. The Secretariat: an appointed team, headed by the Secretary-General, and comprised of Under-Secretaries-General who manage different departments, such as the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Department of Public Information (DPI), and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management (DGACM). These various departments together work on organising all aspects of the conference, prior to and during the simulation, in order to facilitate the work of the delegates
- b. GA Officials: the President of the General Assembly and Vice-Presidents heads this elected team of officials. Each committee has a Committee Bureau, which comprises a chair, a vice chair, a rapporteur, and a secretary (who is a member of the secretariat). Committee Bureaus preside over formal meetings and facilitate negotiations during informal meetings.
- c. President of the Security Council: Since the Presidency of the UN Security Council rotates monthly, in UN4MUN, the Presidency is assigned to the delegation representing the country which is presiding over the real UN SC that particular month

2. The Rules of Procedure

While we see some variation in the rules of procedure used by MUN programmes around the world, for the most part, they are largely based on parliamentary rules of procedure. Since the UN is not a Parliament, these rules of procedure are thus vastly different to those used at the real UN.

UN4MUN introduces Rules of Procedure, which are much closer to those used daily at the UN. Some of the key differences between UN GA Rules of Procedure and UN SC Provisional Procedure on the one hand, and Parliamentary Rules of Procedure on the other, are highlighted below:

- a. During the opening plenary, the preliminary agenda is adopted by the entire membership of the UN GA; it is not announced by the person chairing the meeting (i.e. the presiding officer, in this case, the President of the GA)
- b. UN GA Rules of Procedure do not have many of the points and motions used during MUN simulations. There are no points of information, points of personal privilege or points of inquiry. In UN4MUN, only points of order exist, and these are sparingly used
- c. In UN4MUN, the majority of conference time is spent in “informal consultations,” in which negotiations are informal; this reduces the need for using points
- d. In some instances, parliamentary procedures violate the sovereign rights of Member States. As a result, they are not appropriate to be used in simulations of the UN GA or SC. In UN GA/SC Rules of Procedure, and thus, in UN4MUN practice, state sovereignty is reflected. Any delegate has the right to raise a motion at any time (in formal meetings), and these motions do not need to be seconded. Any delegate can request that a resolution be tabled at any time and presented to the committee. GA officials are elected rather than appointed, and therefore exist to serve the delegates; and the chair serves in a supportive rather than authoritative role



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3. Terminology

The terminology used in UN4MUN is markedly different from the terminology that has evolved in traditional MUN. At the UN, and thus in UN4MUN rules, the distinction between friendly and unfriendly amendments does not exist, and the terms moderated and unmoderated caucuses are not used either. Rather than the terms formal debate, moderated and unmoderated caucus; in UN4MUN, the terms formal meetings, informal informal consultations, formal informal consultations, opening and closing plenaries, are used. In UN4MUN, there is a ‘committee bureau’ rather than a ‘dais’.

4. Consensus-based negotiation

So what exactly is consensus-based negotiation? Before looking at the differences across Traditional/North American, THIMUN and UN4MUN platforms, let us consider what consensus actually means.

Consensus is defined as passing or adopting a resolution without a vote. It is not the same thing as unanimously adopting a resolution, where all delegates “vote in favour” of the resolution. Consensus is not simple or super-majority. It does not mean that every single delegate in the room is 100% in favour of every single word in the resolution. Rather, consensus means that not a single delegate disagrees with the resolution or a section of it *enough* to request that a vote be taken on it before it is passed.

In North American MUN and THIMUN, voting is an integral part of, and normal conclusion to the flow of debate. Across the MUN circuit, the widely accepted, inevitable outcome and expectation is for resolutions to be passed by simple majority. However, this process does not encourage compromise with dissenting minority opinions once a simple majority has been reached. Furthermore, it is not reflective of the way in which decision-making works at the UN.

In reality, in the UN GA and even SC, decisions are made by consensus, and the leadership structure and rules of procedure help support a working environment, which encourages delegates to build consensus.

UN4MUN, in an effort to provide an accurate simulation experience of the processes, procedures and structures of the UN, thus also has a focus on adoption of resolutions by consensus – this is the expected norm and goal. Voting is not encouraged, and is considered a last resort in UN4MUN. Adopting resolutions by consensus helps ensure that there is no disagreement amongst delegates. This is important to ensure that sovereign states would implement resolutions in real life. Through UN4MUN workshops and the UN4MUN online guides for the UN GA and SC, delegates are introduced to new ideas of how MUN simulations can encourage an atmosphere of consensus building.





5. The Flow of Debate / Conference Phases

The ‘flow of debate’ in a UN4MUN conference is quite different to both the North American/traditional MUN and THIMUN styles.

In a traditional North American MUN conference, over 50% or more of conference time is usually spent in the debate phase. In this MUN platform, the debate phase includes both formal debate, which follows a speakers list, as well as informal debate, where speakers are recognised by the chair after raising their placards, and then given the floor. In this instance, debate takes place before and after draft resolutions have been presented to the committee. In contrast, in THIMUN conferences, the period of lobbying (what is considered unmoderated caucus in North American style) begins at a much earlier stage than in the traditional MUN platform. In THIMUN conferences, lobbying, or informal negotiations, consume almost the entire first day of committee sessions. During this time, delegates gather in blocs to discuss the various topics on the agenda and draft resolutions to address these issues. During the second half of the conference, once draft resolutions have been approved, delegates move into the debate phase, to continue discussing the resolutions. The debate phase in THIMUN conferences thus revolves around particular clauses, paragraphs or amendments to the resolutions themselves.

In a UN4MUN GA Conference simulation, there are three main phases: the Debate phase, the Informals Phase, and the Action phase. Over 65% of conference time in a UN4MUN conference is spent in the Informals phase. In a UN4MUN Security Council Simulation, there is also a much wider set of options as to the form of meetings delegates may conduct. The flow of debate is also much more complex, flexible, fluid and does not necessarily follow a specific structure.

The table below provides a simple guide to help compare the flow of debate across the three MUN platforms.

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	
Debate** (Formal & Informal)** (Over 50% of Conference time).	Speakers List (Formal Debate)	INFORMALS ** (Over 65% of Conference Time)	Formal Meetings Committee Sessions Begin (Speakers List)	Speakers List (Opening Speeches)	
Moderated Caucus**			Informal – Informal Consultations	Lobbying** (Over 50% of Conference Time)	Choose Topic, Blocs Discuss Topics.
Unmoderated Caucus**	UN-Moderated Caucus Also called informal debate (Draft Resolutions)		Formal – Informal Consultations	Draft Resolution on Each Topic, Main Submitter & Sponsors present to approval panel.	
With sufficient Sponsors & Signatories, chair presents resolution to committee as draft.				Approval Panel: Reviews Resolution, Sends back to Chair/ Committee as Draft.	
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)	Negotiate Resolution one by one, (Amendments & Vote).	Review each clause, propose amendments, debate amendment, vote on amendment.
	Vote on Resolution (Passes/ Fails) Only 1 resolution can pass on each topic.		Closing Plenary (Take Action on Resolution in Plenary) (Part of Simulation)		Vote on Resolutions as a Whole (Passes/ Fails) More than 1 resolution can pass on same topic.
Closing Ceremony		Closing Ceremony		Closing Ceremony	

Elassar, Nabila. "The Worlds of MUN - Comparing The Most Famous Model United Nations Rules of Procedure - Traditional/ North American, THIMUN & UN4MUN." *United Ambassadors for Model United Nations*. United Ambassadors, 1 May 2016. Web. June 2016.



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4. UN4MUN Implementation: possible scenarios

Some preliminary words about UN4MUN Rules of Procedure

MUNs are generally defined as role-plays or experience-based programs teaching students about the work of real diplomats within UN bodies, agencies and/or regional organizations. The educational experiences and lessons learned through participation in MUN vary from student to student, as MUN attracts youth studying a variety of different subjects. Additionally, the experiential learning component is tailored to the level of participants, as MUNs are organised for primary, high school, and university students.

Though MUNers constitute a diverse demographic of students pursuing studies in a diversity of fields, because many MUNers are interested in the field of diplomacy and international relations, UN4MUN may provide a valuable opportunity for MUNers to experience the procedural functions of the real UN.

The main aim of UN4MUN Rules of Procedure (RoP) is to ensure that simulations of the UN provide students with a learning experience that represents, as closely as possible, the real workings of the UN. On this basis, chairs do not have as pivotal of a role as they do in North American MUN. In UN4MUN, the sovereignty of all States is the main priority and the structure of debate operates with this in mind.

Since UN4MUN RoP constitute the most accurate representation of the UN's operating procedures, it might be logical to assume that UN4MUN is highly popular among MUNers, particularly those interested in the details of the organisation's work. However, in reality, this has not been the case. Only a few MUN societies and organisations around the world have implemented UN4MUN rules of procedure in their simulations due to two primary reasons.

(1) Tradition: Many MUN societies offer general trainings to their members during which 'standard' (parliamentary) rules of procedure (either North American, or THIMUN-style) are taught; thus students learn from the outset the 'standard' rules of procedure, and accept them as the norm; as such they are usually less open to the idea of 'new' or 'different' rules of procedure, which would require additional training and preparation;

(2) Novelty of UN4MUN: There is a general lack of awareness and understanding of what UN4MUN actually is; and confusion around this 'new' way of doing MUN. UN4MUN is often perceived as more difficult than "standard" Rules of Procedure and the different structure may deter even experienced MUNers who do not know what to expect from these simulations.





Scenarios of a UN4MUN simulation

In this section, we will consider various scenarios of a UN4MUN simulation, which will help explain what to expect when implementing these Rules of Procedure.

First, it is important to emphasize that UN4MUN Rules of Procedure are easy to understand and follow. While North American MUN utilizes many points—i.e. point of personal privilege, point of information, and point of parliamentary inquiry—points do not exist in UN4MUN. Instead, UN4MUN rules of procedure work to enhance the value of the dialogue and the negotiation process amongst different states.

In traditional MUN simulations, delegates may become distracted from the real issues at hand due to strict regard for implementation of parliamentary rules of procedure. In contrast, UN4MUN's rules of procedure help create an environment in which there is more focused attention on discussing the agenda items themselves.

Because the majority of time in UN4MUN simulations are spent in informal, rather than formal debate, delegates may be able to more freely express their thoughts and views in UN4MUN simulations compared to traditional MUN simulations.

UN4MUN offers opportunities for students to gain an accurate and realistic simulation of the UN, as well as a better understanding of the real nature of international relations and the importance of working together in order to achieve common goals.



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The formal debate

There are different views on the value and purpose of the formal debate in MUNs. Generally, formal debate is used as a forum to introduce ideas at the beginning of session and to sum-up points after crucial brainstorming sessions during a moderated caucus or an unmoderated caucus. The reasons for moving to formal debate vary depending on a number of factors, such as the state of negotiations and the chairing style of the moderator.

Additionally, opening statements, which are usually a maximum of 2 minutes per delegation, may be included in the Rules of Procedure. These are often in the form and structure of speeches within the formal debate even if a speakers' list is not adopted, and they are usually conducted following the alphabetical order of the States represented in the committee.

These opening speeches provide an important opportunity for delegates to not only share their own positions, but also learn about the positions of all other delegates in the committee room, as all delegates are usually requested to speak.

Arguably, such speeches also present disadvantages, as they may be time-consuming and inefficient. Often more than one session is necessary to complete the entire list of delegations represented, and may also become redundant as similar and broad ideas are often presented at the preliminary stage.

Additionally, while the delivery of these preliminary statements seeks to reflect the UN's founding principle of equality, in actuality, giving every State the right to speak at the earliest stage of the negotiation process may not significantly impact the large power differentials that exist between Member States.

However, the principles of equality and sovereignty are integral to the UN Charter, and the UN seeks to uphold these principles in many other ways. One of the clearest expressions of this dedication is the voting process in the General Assembly. Every State is granted one vote regardless of its size or power.

In UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, the formal debate is called General Debate and it is the main forum in which delegations may express their positions and make official statements. In UN4MUN, there are no moderated or unmoderated caucuses. The formal debate, or General Debate, is the only occasion in which the delegations can hear the position of the other Member States. From a MUN perspective, this is also the only occasion in which the chair of the committee can record the positions of the delegations within the committee, allowing all those to get an overall picture of the state of the negotiations.

The speeches of the General Debate following UN4MUN Rules of Procedure are slightly different from those presented during formal debate in traditional MUN. While the formal pattern of the debate remains unchanged, the role of the speeches is slightly different. In 'standard' Rules of Procedure, speeches delivered by delegates in formal debate often remain vague in their proposals. Discussions of potential solutions are discussed in much greater depth during moderated or unmoderated caucuses. In contrast, the General Debate of UN4MUN is more directed at facilitating the action process/phase. Additionally, as the name suggests, the General Debate is a critical structural point in UN4MUN.





So what really changes for the delegates?

Perspective. While “standard” Rules of Procedure do not emphasize formal debate as pivotal part of the discussion, and delegates utilize moderated caucuses to vocalize more specific proposals, in UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, the General Debate is the critical moment in which delegates have an opportunity to address all member states, and gain an overall sense of the varied positions within the committee.

This different approach enhances the value of the position of every single Member State, and better reflects the sovereignty of States within the UN system. But arguably, what the greatest change is the way delegates present their ideas. In the General Debate, delegates must be more flexible and combine the formal pattern of their speeches with the advancement of the debate. Delegates will maintain their formality while presenting more detailed proposals from session to session.

To conclude, in UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, the General Debate has its own authority and cannot be seen in any way as a dead moment of the simulation; it serves as a pivotal moment to move proposals from the informal stage to the formal one in which it is presented to every delegation within the committee.

The informal consultations

As in the real day-to-day operations of the UN, in UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, moderated and unmoderated caucuses are substituted with informal consultations. These are in the form of formal-informals and informal-informals.

The difference between the two types of informals is mainly related to the setting of the meeting; what the two types of informals have in common is the fact that they take place outside the committee and are conducted informally. Another characteristic of informal consultations is that Rules of Procedure are not strictly followed, i.e. there are no rules for the suspension or the adjournment of the debate. This is because informal consultations happen outside the debate environment. However, principles integral to the core of the UN system, such as the sovereignty of States, must still be respected.

Informal consultations are arguably one of the most exciting aspects of UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, as they truly reflect the decision process of the UN system. However, it is understandable that they may cause some confusion if compared to “standard” Rules of Procedure where none of these consultations exist.

First, it is important to clarify that informal consultations may take place before, during or after the General Debate. It is common that heads of delegations attend formal-informals before or after the sessions to get a better sense of the state of negotiations and to draw some preliminary conclusions. Informal consultations also take place during the General Debate and they may be composed of a few or more delegations. In practical terms, delegates may arrange meetings outside the committee room and discuss common issues or clarify misunderstandings they may have.

In the structure of UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, informal consultations facilitate the possibility for delegates to more easily reach an agreement, as they are given the opportunity to speak informally and solve problems outside the boundaries of formal diplomacy.



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Informal consultations also facilitate the conclusion of draft resolutions, as these informals have a more flexible structure allowing every delegation to contribute to the process.

Through informal consultations, delegates have the opportunity to add input to a draft resolution or comment on critical parts, without discouraging the enthusiasm which is often characteristic of the committee atmosphere prior to tabling a resolution (or did you mean to say, prior to *introducing* a resolution?).

The perspective also changes markedly in this case: unlike with ‘standard’ RoP, it is no longer a group of delegates presenting a draft resolution to the committee, with other delegates commenting, asking questions and possibly misreading the true meaning of the document. Instead, with UN4MUN RoP, as in the real UN, all delegations come together to create a collective document; the principles included in the resolution and the actions to be adopted are the ultimate result of a group effort.

In the UN system, informal consultations are conducted to reach an agreement before any decision is adopted during the official debate. It is often said that many resolutions of the General Assembly are adopted at the Vienna Café in the UN Headquarters, and not in the General Assembly Hall. This is because within the UN system, resolutions are generally adopted by consensus, and this implies a higher involvement of all delegations in negotiations before any draft is presented. UN4MUN Rules of Procedure also simulate this aspect of the real working of the UN which promotes the adoption of resolutions by consensus.

With regard to informal consultations, the confusion that may arise relates to the lack of rules for their arrangement. However, this lack of rules, is also their strength, as through this flexibility, informal consultations actually facilitate the reaching of an agreement among delegations.

Let us briefly consider a scenario for the arrangement of an informal consultation in an MUN simulation, where one delegation invites other delegations for a briefing session. In order to do this, MUNs should ideally provide delegates with rooms to be used for these meetings, but in the absence of these additional facilities on the site of the simulation, informal consultations can easily be conducted in any corridor of the conference venue. In this scenario, the hosting delegation will present a proposal or even a working paper when the General Debate is at an advanced stage/has progressed to an advanced stage/at an advanced stage of the General Debate? (not quite sure what you are trying to say here – the working paper is at an advanced stage, based on discussions in the general debate?).

The invited delegations will then provide comments, until a general agreement regarding the proposal or working paper has been reached. With regards to the order of speakers during the informal consultation, we can assume that the hosting delegation will be the first to take the lead, with other delegations following up with comments. At all times, delegates would respect each other and rules of common courtesy such as, by speaking one at a time, and not over one another. Determining how to arrange the informal consultations would possibly also be a part of the diplomatic exercise promoted by MUNs.

Of course, informal consultations may be arranged by more than one delegation. A regional group could also take the lead in arranging an informal consultation, and their composition may vary on the basis of the topic and the positions presented during the General Debate.



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In the event of limited participation during some of the informal consultations, three or four delegations may also arrange meetings, in order to solve issues among the groups, and avoid disagreements during larger informal informals, or even the General Debate. Delegations may also decide to report the results of the informal consultations during the General Debate, in order to inform not only other delegations, but also the chairs, to help give the entire committee an overall picture of the state of the negotiation process at that time.

In UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, delegates are constantly inter-changing between the General Debate and informal consultations, with the primary aim of reaching a consensus.

The Arria-formula meetings

It is also interesting to explore a specific format of informal consultations which takes place in the Security Council. Known as the Arria-formula meetings, this form of informal consultations was initiated in 1992 when the Venezuelan Ambassador Arria was president of the Security Council.

What makes this format of informal consultations stand out/distinct, is that it is not only delegation representatives that take part in these meetings, but also representatives of Governments, international organizations and non-State actors. The idea behind the Arria-formula meeting is to facilitate a dialogue and an interaction with any actor/stakeholder who is concerned with the matter to be debated, and who can bring a different point of view to the discussions.

Through this kind of informal consultation, delegations get a more comprehensive/nuanced understanding of the situation at hand. By including other stakeholders and representatives, discussions become more neutral; this in turn may facilitate the quicker reaching of an agreement.

Usually the convening member, i.e. the member of the Security Council who decides to arrange the meeting and invite the other 14 representatives, also invites the representatives of Governments, international organizations and/or non-State actors willing to convey a message relevant to all Council members.

During the Arria-formula meetings, all SC members can interact in a direct dialogue with the representatives invited in a informal, flexible manner. This can be seen as an informal exchange of views.

Another important aspect to note is that the Arria-formula meetings are generally chaired by the convening member.

This specific format of informal consultations may help in better understanding the working procedure of informal consultations more generally. Moreover, their structure can be easily applied and implemented in the MUN context. .

The Consensus

One of the main differences between “standard” Rules of Procedure and UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, is the idea of the adoption of resolutions by consensus.

The majority of the resolutions of the UN General Assembly are adopted by consensus. This is one of the effects of the non-legally binding character of the resolutions of the GA. Thus, as States do not have any obligation to implement the resolutions, consensus is the means through which to guarantee that they will take action, as all members agreed on the same text.





In MUN conferences, there is no implementation phase; consequently, this aspect of UN proceedings may seem of lesser importance. However, it is undeniable that consensus-based resolutions are stronger, as they are the result of a more effective and efficient negotiation process. A negotiation aimed at reaching consensus must include every delegation in the process and consider every position expressed on the topic under discussion. UN4MUN Rules of Procedure, mirroring the procedures of the UN, thus lead to this process.

From a MUN point of view, the adoption of resolutions by consensus serves as a more accurate representation of the true workings of the UN, as it emphasises cooperation and inclusion, factors which characterise the negotiation process in any UN debate.

The above are all points to be considered when implementing UN4MUN Rules of Procedure specifically, and organizing a MUN more generally.

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COMMITTEE E

The Changing World of Multilingual MUN

Panelist: Réka Varga

Expert: Aleksandra Grishina

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- I. Committee “E” Introduction: Aims and Opportunities
- II. Background and History of the Agenda
- III. Present State of Multilingual MUN and Related Challenges
- IV. Potential Solutions for Multilingual MUN development
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I. Committee “E” Introduction: Aims and Opportunities

“An essential factor in harmonious communication among peoples, multilingualism is of very particular importance to the United Nations. By promoting tolerance, it thus ensures effective and increased participation of all in its work, as well as greater effectiveness, better outcomes and more involvement”,¹

Kofi Annan, the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations

Modeling the UN in all the six official languages of the Organization is not a common practice among various MUN conferences conducted in the world due to the complexity of the organization process and to the lack of organizing experience. This Background Report will guide you through the history of multilingual MUN, describe the present state of this concept, explain the challenges related to the topic, and provide you with helpful information about strategies in multilingual MUN development. All Committee E members are critical to the development of action points to be added to the MUN4UN Youth Assembly resolution's preamble and operative clauses.²

Committee E aims to discuss the concept of multilingual MUN and its significance within the framework of the MUN World, the strategies of adoption, promotion of the multilingual aspect, and the challenges that we may expect on the way.

The very first goal for delegates in Committee E is defining and articulating the stance on multilingual MUN that the MUN community should adopt and maintain. It is vital to consider all the benefits that the popularization of multilingual MUN could bring in foreseeable future. The new concept of organizing and conducting MUN in several or all the official languages of the UN is already being implemented in some MUN communities, which means that these groundbreaking efforts now serve as the foundation for the upcoming actions and achievements.

¹ The report of the Secretary-General on Multilingualism A/61/317, para. 3, 2006;

² <http://www.unitedambassadors.com/#!mun4un-topics-committees/jo52k>





Committee E delegates are also responsible for the determination of the action plan within the framework of the agenda. The action points should be aimed at the formulation and adoption of the comprehensive strategy that will result in greater development, proliferation, and practice of the multilingual MUN concept. It is essential to take into careful consideration the many challenges that remain present during the arrangement and implementation of multilingual MUN conferences. They include, but are not limited to such obstacles as matter of a Secretariat members' eagerness and linguistic qualifications, lack of delegates interested in multilingual committees, and media or budget-related matters. This list of potential obstacles is not complete because the concept of multilingual MUN has not still reached its climax. Considering the challenges listed above is not only integral to the successful addition and promotion of committees in different languages, but it is also integral to organizing simultaneous interpretation (SI) and written translations. Therefore, while the committee's action plan is expected to be promising and encouraging, it also must address the pragmatic challenges specific to multilingual MUN. Moreover, the delegates are expected to highlight the potential of MUN leaders to play a positive role in the field of the multilingual concept's development. Involvement of global MUN leaders is one of the many tools the committee is called to include in its action plan. The emphasis of the committee is to turn the multilingual agenda into a global initiative, and ultimately increase the number of multilingual MUN conferences conducted in the world.

The evolution of multilingual MUN is proceeding now, and it is up to the most inspired MUNers to give it a boost.

II. Background and History of the Agenda

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the official languages of the Organization are Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Arabic was later added as an official language of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.³ The Charter's Preamble states: "*the peoples of the United Nations are determined to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained*". Multilingualism at an official level not only effectively serves the above-mentioned purpose, but also encourages respect for different cultures. It is important to emphasize that in an era of globalization and multiculturalism, language itself becomes "the outward manifestation of the spirit of a nation,"⁴ and therefore turns into the key to gaining new perspectives. Multilingualism unites, not separates nations.

Multilingualism is not only a vital element of cultural diversity, but also a concept enshrined in the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirty-third session in October 2005, and welcomed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-third session. The organizations of the United Nations system have a collective and shared responsibility in the implementation of this core value throughout their daily work and relations with their constituencies.⁵ Thus, Model United Nations as an activity and as an institution luckily is not an exception.

3 "The United Nations Today", UN Department of Public Information – p. 5, 2008;

4 Wilhelm von Humboldt, "Über das vergleichende Sprachstudium" // *Abhandlungen der Berliner Akademie*, p. 58;

5 "Multilingualism in the United Nations system: Status of implementation" // JIU/REP/2011/4 – p. 1, 2011;



Since the first stages of its development to the present day, English remains the official working language of the majority of MUN conferences conducted in the world. However, as the MUN phenomenon became more widespread and appealing to minority groups (for example, Spanish-speaking communities in the United States),⁶ bilingualism as an integral component of the MUN process has come into its own by means of introducing new language committees. Because Model UN, much like the actual UN, is present in many countries worldwide, regional languages are often incorporated into conferences. Overall, the goal of organizing and conducting multilingual MUN, and introducing committees in all the official and working languages of the UN is not one most MUN communities in the world prioritize. Advancing MUN into a global educational and multilingual initiative is often ignored by MUN secretariats due to challenging (but not insurmountable) obstacles, which are to be outlined in detail in the next section.

It is almost impossible to track the gradual implementation of each official language of the UN in MUN, but we know that the first initiative to conduct a Model UN in all the six official languages of the UN dates back to 2012, at the Russian State University for the Humanities Model UN ([VI International Historical UN Model RSUH](#)). Thus, during the aforementioned Model UN, six committees in six working languages were introduced and held for the first time. This unprecedented breakthrough may be considered as a starting point for what we call “multilingual MUN” for the absolute commitment to the United Nations’ reference of the term “multilingual” and for the readiness to take responsibility for extraordinary volume of work with which typically MUN secretariat do not handle.

RSUHMUN 2012 Agenda

Model committee	Agenda	Language	Participants in number
Historical General Assembly	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, November 3, 1994.	Russian	54+1
Historical Security Council	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. September 12, 2001.	English	15
Historical Security Council	Suez Canal, October 30, 1956.	French	11+2
Historical Security Council	Question relating to the case of Adolf Eichmann. June 23, 1960.	Spanish	11
Historical Security Council	The situation in Vietnam. August 3, 1965.	Chinese	11
Historical Security Council	Iraq-Kuwait. November 29, 1990.	Arabic	15

⁶ Ross Feldman, "Global Classrooms: Minnesota Model UN Conference" // *United Nations Association of the USA*;





This commendable concept was implemented in full during [Moscow International Model UN](#) three years later – more than 650 delegates participated in 12 committees in all the six official languages.⁷ Some significant challenges of the first multilingual MUN ever were taken into careful consideration due to the close and constant collaboration between the two Secretariats. The conference was a success, and the necessity of holding at least one committee in each official language became clear. Multilingualism has since become an essential part of this Model UN conference. Today, the official periodical of the conference – “MIMUN Herald” – also contains articles in the six languages. The coordinator of Moscow International Model UN, G.M. Kovrizhenko, insists on successful addition of new language committees, raising the bar, which has not been lowered since then. The MIMUN Secretariat has proven its commitment to the idea of **complete** multilingualism (in all 6 official languages) and continues to conduct MUN conferences in all 6 official languages of the United Nations.

As we know, multilingualism in the framework of modeling the United Nations is implemented not only by means of introducing new language committees, but also in the progressive approach to the organization of a Model UN itself. Thus, the feature of professional simultaneous interpretations during ceremonies was raised to an unprecedented level at [Geneva International Model UN](#). The Secretariat gives Conference Interpreting students the unique opportunity to participate in live interpretation at the UN Office Geneva headquarters for five consecutive days so that the delegates are able to receive interpretation in both English and French, while student-interpreters are honored with the experience of real conference conditions.⁸ The GIMUN Secretariat encourages this linguistic diversity which is the essential element of the UN itself. Therefore the team of translators and interpreters consists of students with professional experience who continue to demonstrate an extremely skilled performance each year. Because the interpreters hold much responsibility, their preparation process and their performance throughout the week are monitored by a team of teachers. The trainers are to deliver a special seminar prior to the conference and the accompanying teacher is to oversee the students' progress on forming the Pedagogical team. All in all, the invented system works smoothly due to the fact that the education and practice in translation and interpretation have become cornerstones of the whole Model UN.

To conclude, we must emphasize that the history of multilingual MUN is still being written – we are at the beginning. The achievements of several MUN Secretariat teams will serve as a basis for the upcoming improvements and innovations in the field of promoting and implementing multilingualism in MUN world.

⁷ <http://bestdelegate.com/a-book-called-mimun-behind-the-scenes-of-moscow-international-model-united-nations/>;

⁸ <http://gimun.org/?jobs=interpreter>;



III. Present State of Multilingual MUN and Related Challenges

To begin, the concept of multilingual MUN is currently undergoing a transformation from theory to reality. MUN around the globe is moving away from a monolingual tradition and towards a trend of introducing bilingual or even multilingual committees. Implementing different means of multilingualism – adding new language committees, organizing simultaneous interpretation during ceremonies, providing written translation of documents, preparing multilingual articles in an official periodical, implementing preparatory trainings in different languages, et cetera – is groundbreaking, but a necessary consequence of the globalization process in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations itself.

Unfortunately, progress towards multilingual MUN faces a distinct set of obstacles:

- **Matter of demand.** The question “Do we really need this?” has ruined more prospective attempts than has any real obstacle. The very doubt that delegates need or want new language committees or multilingual media broadcast leads to an inevitable failure before multilingual MUN is even attempted;
- **Matter of staff.** If a MUN Secretariat decides to implement a bilingual or multilingual Model UN, then the Secretariat team must reflect a multilingual team. The absence of qualified multilingual members can present significant challenges in implementation.
- **Matter of demand.** Even if MUN societies successfully incorporate multilingual committees, delegates themselves may not rise to the occasion. This is the most tricky and essential point of the whole process of multilingual MUN implementation – even though the organization itself may reach an unprecedented level in incorporating multilingual initiatives, it is vital to keep in mind that much of the success of a MUN conference is dependent upon delegates. It is not enough to introduce new language committees – these committees must also attract qualified and interested delegates, which may be a challenging task due to the novelty of the concept and potential challenges of language barriers for non-native speakers;
- **Media-related matters.** Choosing to implement multilingual MUN influences all fields of a conference – academic, informational, and organizational. In terms of the informational sector, the media broadcast of a Model UN should also correspond to the multilingual conception. This however may pose difficulties, as journalists and editors must be qualified to write and edit in different languages. Additionally, this relates to the qualifications of translators and interpreters;
- **Other matters.** Introducing a new language to a Model UN conference may cause a myriad of unforeseen issues. As one example, designers who are used to working with Latin typography may have difficulties advertising committees in Arabic or Chinese.

The aforementioned issues are only part of the thorny path leading to multilingual MUN triumph.





IV. Potential Solutions for Multilingual MUN Development

The Committee E delegates are encouraged to articulate the stance on multilingual MUN development to be adopted and maintained by the MUN community. This is not just a formality to start the ball rolling – the articulated stance should summarize not only the eagerness of the MUN community to popularize and to promote the multilingual concept, but also share the importance of incorporating official languages of the UN in MUN. It may also discuss including non-official languages of the UN (for example, committees in German or in Italian), which may pose an interesting debate. It is up to the Committee E delegates to choose whether to approve or disapprove this initiative of total multilingualism and acceptance of non-official languages.

The Action Plan of Committee E must be organized. The potential solutions should be divided into sections which represent different fields of activity in the planning of an MUN conference. This approach will be immensely helpful when there is disagreement concerning specific points. It is vital that the Committee members collaborate and pay close attention to the very organization of the final document in order to create a comprehensive resolution.

The delegates should not only consider the issues related to the implementation of language committees, but also to different areas of the organizational process that are greatly affected by the addition of multilingual committees (for example, related media, simultaneous interpretations and written translations, new features of design, increased amount of work with foreign participants).

The mission of Committee E delegates involves identifying and paying thorough attention to potential challenges in order to brainstorm methods to overcome them, putting MUN on a progressive path. Below are *the key questions to consider* while writing the position paper and preparing for the upcoming Youth Assembly:

- What stance on multilingual MUN development should the MUN community adopt and maintain?
- Should the MUN community's position be on modeling the UN committees in non-official languages of the UN?
- What are the main fields of the organizational process that are affected by introducing new language committees?
- What measures do you propose for the MUN community to take into consideration while working on the development and promotion of multilingual MUN?
- What potential challenges can you identify and how can we deal with them in order to turn the multilingual MUN concept from a successful experiment to a stable tradition?





V. Summary

Overall, the changing world of multilingual MUN is already in the hands of the prospective MUNers understand the needs of an increasingly global MUN community. Multilingualism is incredibly applicable to the MUN community, and its history has will only grow. The example highlighted in this document provide evidence that this bright initiative can be brought to life. Now it is your turn, honorable delegates, to let this initiative prosper in your own communities.

As Voltaire once stated, “If you know many languages, you have many keys for a lock”. The United Nations represents this belief – as MUNers, do we?

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COMMITTEE F

A Global Vision - MUN Think Tank

Note: This is more of an “opinion” based committee. This guide is written from the perspective of its authors. Varying opinions are accepted and welcome.

Section 1: Committee Introduction

Model United Nations is the true international activity that has the ability to bring together people from very different backgrounds across the world. The ultimate MUN experience is therefore eminently plural. And because of its inherent diversity, there is no universal consensus on what MUN is or indeed what it ought to be. It is nonetheless a challenge to make sure MUN works well with the universal objectives of the United Nations as a whole, including but not limited to the SDGs. It is furthermore of the utmost importance to ensure a common framework of understanding push forward the progress we want to see in tomorrow’s world through participating in MUN.

This committee is about bringing the brightest and most passionate delegates together, to understand diversity, appreciate variations, and embrace this complexity under the agenda we are all committed to see triumphing. You will have to come to grips with tough issues that most often perplex or even divide the MUN community, such as the role of awards, the homogenization of Rules of Procedure (RoP), among many other aspects. Your role will therefore be that of pioneers, embarking on a perilous — but we hope rewarding — journey to enhance the global appeal of MUN to leaders of tomorrow.

Whilst the first stage of your participation will undeniably focus on listening to other Ambassadors’ experiences, the second stage of the conference will require you to take a more active step towards defining the future of MUN you want to see. We shall assist you in drafting Action Points that aim at becoming a hands-on guide, setting common objectives of change you want to bring to your community and to the world. Connecting MUN societies around the world is a point we identify as particularly urgent, and we are therefore looking forward to see how you can bring specific answers to such a topic. Acknowledging heterogeneity is a true sign of tolerance, which will then enable you to build bridges in your communities as opposed to erecting walls. We will have succeeded by making you think hard about the pressing need to grasp cultural differences in the world of MUN, ultimately bringing a positive impact to the world and to the future.





Section 2: History of Global MUN styles

Currently, there are a wide range of MUN procedures being used around the world. The three main types of rules of procedure (ROP) are North American, UN4MUN, and THIMUN procedure. However, these ROP systems are neither used homogeneously across MUN communities, nor do they align along geographic lines. Given the great diversity of MUN procedures, this guide will focus on the history of the aforementioned three styles of ROP.

A) UN4MUN Procedure

UN4MUN is a Model UN platform developed, sponsored and spearheaded by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) with the purpose of promoting the UN's goals through engaging youth participation in MUN. It was developed at the United Nations starting 2009 by Mr. Bill Yotive, who was till December 2015, project manager of the UN Global Teaching Project within UNDPI's Education Outreach Division. He proposed and developed a completely new approach to Model UN. UN4MUN is unique in that it simulates the real procedures of the United Nations more than any other procedures, and is intended to educate MUNers about the UN's authentic proceedings. The United Nations conducted three Global MUN conferences that completely follow UN4MUN in 2009, 2010 and 2011. After that, the UNDPI started teacher/ adviser UN4MUN workshops, attended by United Ambassadors at the UN HQ in November 2015. United Ambassadors is the first to hold UN4MUN centered MUN Summit at the UN Office of Geneva in November 2016, after the last GMUN conference by the UNDPI at the UNPG is 2009.

UN4MUN brings back the educational rather than competitive element of Model UN by providing a strict interpretation of MUN ROP, and thus allows its participants to understand how different member states make collective decisions. UN4MUN strives to teach MUNers about member state sovereignty and consensus, principles that are critical to the function of the UN's GA committees.

In addition, the UN uses a system that encourages consensus and collaboration rather than bloc competition. Resolutions are mostly passed in the absence of disagreement from all delegates in the committee, placing a greater focus on diplomacy and cooperation.⁹ Furthermore, UN4MUN procedure emphasizes the sovereignty of each state and their representatives, thereby decreasing the compulsory power of the chair compared to other ROPs.¹⁰ Instead of acting as the judge and dominant leader, the chair is elected from among the delegates and acts solely as the moderator. Since this type of procedure is very young, its use has not proliferated to many conferences yet across the world. One of the major UN4MUN conferences today include WIMUN, the WFUNA International MUN conference held annually at the UN headquarters. This conference brings together MUN delegates from around the world across a range of ages, including high school and post-secondary students.

B) North American Procedure

North American MUN procedure is the most longstanding system today, with a history even longer than the UN itself. It began in the United States, where students fascinated in the UN created a simulation of the organization using congressional/parliamentary proceedings soon after 1945 (although some argue it was derived from the book *Robert's Rules of Order* to ensure smooth decision-making). North American MUN was previously called Model League of Nations, and was later replaced by the current system.

⁹ <http://munforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/UN4MUN.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://bestdelegate.com/un4mun-workshop-recap-4-big-differences-between-model-un-and-the-real-un/>



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As a student-led initiative, MUN quickly became a popular program across post-secondary education institutions, especially among prestigious universities in the US. UC Berkeley's conference, founded in 1952, is famous for being the first organized MUN conference as we know it.¹¹ Another example of a prominent conference today using this procedure is NAIMUN (North American Invitational Model UN), hosted by Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Compared to UN4MUN procedure, North American procedure does not emphasize simulating the accuracy of the UN, instead prioritizing the development of skills such as critical thinking and impromptu speaking. It institutionalizes awards to incentivize competition, and instead of consensus, North American procedure encourages delegates to form blocs with their allied countries. The skills of negotiation and lobbying are distinctly different from UN-related awareness, thereby distinguishing North American procedure from the UNDPI's ROP.

North American ROP is the most popular system used across the world, used in many European and Latin American countries. However, North American procedure's most influential byproduct is what we know as the ‘crisis committee’. This form of committee differs entirely from normal UN operating procedures (and often traditional North American MUN ROP), because it discards the formalities of ROP and replaces it with a fast-paced sequence of crises. From history to current events to fictional simulations, crisis committees have truly taken the most liberal interpretation of MUN and provided delegates with an innovative experience.

C) THIMUN Procedure

THIMUN originated in the Hague in 1968 under the leadership of Mr. Paul Sand.¹² Its influential annual youth assembly began in 2001, and has been one of the most prominent MUN conferences in Europe since then. The procedure has extended far beyond the continent into places such as Singapore, Qatar etc. It is also well-known for its innovative form of MUN through its online platform, OMUN. Since its inception, THIMUN procedure and events have brought together esteemed delegates from around the world, and also provided amazing opportunities for learning and diplomacy.¹³

One of the elements that differentiate THIMUN procedure from others is its strict opposition to awards at the conclusion of conferences.¹⁴ This is due to its loyal belief in education as the priority of MUN, rather than competition. Aligning with its commitment to quality education, all working papers/draft resolutions at a THIMUN conference must also be reviewed by an approval panel composed of teachers, in order to ensure the accuracy of the content prior to amendments.¹⁵

¹¹ <http://bestdelegate.com/berkeley-bmun-60/>

¹² <http://www.thimun.org/index.php/about/thimun-history>

¹³ <http://www.thimun.org/index.php/about>

¹⁴ <http://www.unitedambassadors.com/#!Contrasting-Commonly-Used-Terms-in-Traditional-North-American-Model-UN-vs-THIMUN-European/ju7bo/5725ef7b0cf2a12871bda9cf>

¹⁵ <http://www.thimun.org/>





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Section 3: Present state of committee topic and related challenges

Rules of Procedure

Before discussing the homogenization of Rules of Procedure (RoPs)--and how that could come about--it seems important to identify why we might need to bring them closer together in the first place. It is well known by any and all frequent MUN participant that delegates have increasing opportunities to participate in conferences around the world. There are more conferences today than ever before and accordingly, many operate with different rules. As one example, we will look at multilingualism in MUN, that is how using different languages can impact the way MUN procedures are conducted. Even within the Anglo-Saxon world, several RoPs coexist (THIMUN and UN4MUN for instance). Whilst it will up to the members of this committee to figure out which option is preferable--and which is more likely to be enforced--it is the duty of the academic committee to give you as much information as possible on what the implications of your decision will be. This is why we shall aim as much as possible to let you see the broader picture of the entire debate, help you weigh the pros and cons of your decision, whilst diving into specifics too.

We identify two main challenges posed to MUN in the future. The first one is multilingualism, and the second concerns the homogenization of the RoPs. It must be made clear from the start that these two challenges also represent two exceptional opportunities offered by MUN to worldwide participants. Multilingualism presupposes that MUN is suited to any and all languages. MUN is therefore open to all kinds of interpretation and all cultures have the ability to transform MUN according to their own values. Whilst multilingualism is a clear asset MUN must treasure, it is also clear that different takes on MUN can sometimes obscure its message altogether. Many MUN participants are fluent--or at least comfortable--in several languages and understand very well that not everything can be directly translatable from one language to another. Many of us have and will participate in conferences in different languages. Let's pick one specific example: conferences run in English and French have for instance very little in common in respect to the approach to the themes--let alone the applications of RoPs. A topic on the democratization of Northern African countries will be approached rather specifically in a francophone committee as opposed to any other committee--where one may suspect with some confidence that some native speakers will be in the room whilst other participants will be well acquainted with French culture and History. Indeed, the history of colonization of the Northern African continent by the French over the past centuries brings in a particular awareness and sensitivity to this topic which makes the Francophone approach to this topic rather unique.

This example could be extended indefinitely to many other cases: Indian MUN participants will most certainly have fascinating insights to share were a debate to be organized on the situation of Pakistan--or vice-versa. Australian debaters will undeniably come up with original points were a debate to be organized on the status of refugees or aboriginal people. In short, it is evident that our background and culture--all channeled through one language--shapes our approach and our understanding of the world. It is therefore no surprise that a similar topic approached in a different language will be covered differently. This is after all why MUN is so fascinating.





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One might have noticed that Anglophone committees--all following RoPs aforementioned--tend to be stricter on the application of rules of procedures whilst francophone committees stick more to *l'esprit de la règle* (spirit of the rule) as opposed to the rule itself. Of course, one must take into consideration that individual chairing style definitely impacts one's MUN experience, in a way that goes beyond following closely rules of procedures or not, but it can nonetheless be said with some confidence that MUN experiences vary from one language to another, since culture, norms and values do also come into play. This is one quick example of the kind of differences you must be aware of--among many other that you should draw from your personal experience--in order to comprehend better the challenges that face the MUN community before attempting to finding solutions.

Whilst diversity is a value the United Nations cherishes--and rightly so--we must be careful to unify as much as possible Rules of Procedures in order to make sure all MUN participants across the world can enjoy the same benefits of MUN on the one hand, but also are able to relate to similar experiences. Unifying does not mean that one RoP should emerge and leave on the side other debating styles. It however means that RoPs should be clearly understood by participants across the world if possible to make sure the MUN family remains quite solidly unified. It would be problematic if at some point one MUN society applied rules that would be so different from what another MUN society would apply that both societies would feel they have very little common ground. Whilst United Ambassadors very much encourages the development of different types of MUN styles--and therefore supports the emergence of different RoPs--we have to figure out what can be done in order to bring together debaters from different backgrounds and different MUN traditions. Whilst embracing diversity is vital for the MUN project to succeed--and therefore acknowledge that no RoP can be superior to another--we also have to ensure MUN as a unified debating activity remains firmly together. It is up to this committee to decide what has to be done on that matter and whether the emergence of more RoPs and their moves away in different directions poses a problem--or not--to the stability of MUN altogether. Whilst such diverse experiences must be respected, it is nonetheless very important to make sure such additions to the MUN family vitalize our debating style and don't bring extra complications to already quite heavy procedures.

Posing such a problem begs a very important question: how to enforce such a vision for MUN? And more importantly, is the homogenization of the Rules of Procedures truly desirable? We all know that MUN history throughout the past has very much been bottom-up. Trying to implement measures--however good and legitimate they might be--from the top-down seems to be a very perilous journey to embark on, unless we bear in mind--as we are sure all participants reading this guide do--that MUN is threatened on the mid/long-term if it does not find a way to truly bring together its different cultures.





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We do not want someone in Dhaka to feel that MUN is exactly similar to what another delegate might have experienced in Caracas, but we do want to make sure there is enough overlap between the two different types of MUNs in order to make sure we can bring them closer as much as possible--and this undeniably goes through resolving tensions that might occur among different RoPs.

We have made it clear that a truly universal MUN experience can only rise from the grassroots--hence the purpose of this committee and of this conference as a whole. We are convinced that you, active members of the MUN community from across the world have the legitimacy to establish rules in order to strengthen the place of MUN for future generations.

However, we should now ask ourselves *how* to homogenize the Rules of Procedures. Should it be done on a continent-based level? Whilst this might very much make sense in so far as certain MUNs are bound to have greater interaction based on the relevant circuits they are part of--it is in that respect very clear that the European MUN circuit will get to travel around the continent and familiarize itself with different types of MUN practices in Europe more than it will with Asia for instance, for all societies work under constraints of time and limited funding on a permanent basis. Yet, if it is decided to go down this route via the continental basis, it is uncertain if much will be gained for the MUN community as a whole. As a matter of fact, geographical proximity already plays a big role in bringing together nearby MUN societies which therefore means there is a greater tendency for MUN in Germany to share--or at least understand--what fellow Polish MUNers do, in the same way that Canadians follow by and large similar rules to Americans. Besides, the objective of MUN should be to bring together people who would not normally have gotten in touch.

Whilst this need to bring together a new generation of future leaders and thinkers of tomorrow's challenges is absolutely pressing for our generation since we will face global problems--probably even more so than any other generation before--we must also think about the kind of message it will send to MUN communities if we are able to become more integrated. MUN will not only show the world that it is a fantastic opportunity for young people to become confident by becoming familiar with public speaking, but it will further show that MUN is useful in solving tomorrow's problems--not only because it already deals with issues that are particularly topical--we can think of the MDGs for instance--but also because it enables young people to break down cultural barriers.

MUN seems to be engaged in a contradictory exercise--which both aims at protecting and respecting diversity by making sure all debaters from across the world feel their practice of MUN is as legitimate as their neighbor's, whilst on the other hand we want to bring such practices closer which implicitly but implacably announces the triumph universalism over particularism. The latter would undeniably be an excess we have to avoid at all cost, since it would neglect those differences we cherish, which is why it is up to you, Ambassadors of this committee, to think very hard and very carefully about the solutions you want to implement in order to navigate the MUN ship safely to its harbor--albeit the rough waters past and ahead.



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Awards

The question of awards in MUN is exactly where one might wonder whether the cultural differences between different MUN schools of thought are truly reconcilable. It is very clear that the Northern American circuit as a whole--and more recent circuits such as the Asian one too--put a specific emphasis on winning awards. The latter are by and large regarded as the true sign of competency in debating--and not being granted such a notification is by and large regarded as a failure.

Whilst the reader must be aware that this is a generalization to a certain extent--some people decide to join MUN regardless of awards--one cannot quite deny the emphasis put by some MUN societies on training sessions designed to prepare delegates to winning such awards or the support provided by academic advisors before and during conferences. Whilst other societies across Europe and elsewhere too can prove to be very competitive and determine their success through the number of awards given, it is not at all clear if success in MUN should be determined through winning as many awards as possible. We can write with reasonable confidence that all delegates at some point or another in their time as debaters have noticed that awards seem to go to the wrong person.

We might further have experienced that awards might be given on a rather arbitrary basis, or at least for reasons that do not seem evident to all committee members in the room--which is rather problematic in so far as delegates should have a very clear idea of what the goals of the committee have to be. In other words, we all know that awards do not always go to the most deserving delegates. Yet, we all have noticed how empowered we feel when granted such a reward, which leads us to think that awards might on certain occasions play a disproportionate role in MUN--delegates not granted awards have not failed everything and delegates having won an award are not necessarily the very best. One must factor into account the degree of subjectivity which comes into play when awarding such prizes. Whilst some chairs very much bring in other fellow co-chairs in the process to make it as transparent as possible, we must also acknowledge this is not always the case. Some awards are sometimes given for non-objective reasons--and how could they?

Whilst being given a recognition for outstanding diplomatic experience is always very valuable feedback--as is being nominated as *primus inter pares*--it is highly problematic if success is only determined through the award process, considering how subjective it can be. The situation of awards in MUN seem to be even more concerning in so far as it is not explicit what delegates should truly aim for in committee--there is no such thing as a commonly agreed upon charter defining the conditions that have to be met to win such prizes. We have seen in the section above that different types of MUN prioritize different elements in debating: whilst Northern American Procedures emphasize the need to build bloc positions, THIMUN procedures and others do not necessarily push in the same direction. Besides, the award process is not at all unified across the world. Some MUNs award delegations as a whole, others only individuals, some committees have several rewards, allow ex-aequo rewards, whilst others do not. The meaning of being given an award is therefore very aleatory. Is a quiet person part of a very active delegation which is given an award necessarily more deserving than another delegate who has struggled getting a point across because his or her country does not have much to say on a given issue? Not necessarily, since we clearly understand that the latter might have been more proactive than the former at making the resolution move forward. Let alone this specific case--and assuming that the award process is as free and fair as it can be--it seems quite concerning to give such power to a practice which is not totally transparent--and worse seems to have quite counter-productive effects on delegates.





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Delegates keen on getting an award, which is common, may spend time and energy trying to act in committee to please chairs or get their attention. Whilst this may be good if it is effectively accompanied by outstanding diplomatic practice--which should be at the basis of all award-process ceremony--it is permitted to have doubts if such widespread behaviour truly benefits the committee as a whole. It is clear to all of us here that MUN is not at all composed of debating only, but it must always be preceded by lobbying.

MUN is a challenging exercise, partly since it requires delegates to work on two sets of skills which may be difficult to execute together--having the best debate skills does not necessarily also mean having the best lobbying skills, and vice versa. This is why skills development is a pivotal aspect of the Model UN Experience. However, it is equally clear to us that debating is much more visible than lobbying to chairs--who do not have the chance to tour the room at any given time.

In summary, whilst being a good debater is definitely an important component to become a good MUNer, it is only getting you halfway there. You also need to be good at lobbying and that's sometimes harder to measure. Hence the difficulty to have a truly global and fully structured vision of the award process.

Additionally, we all recall having met many delegates, chairs or Secretariat members, who attended MUN conference for the human experience more than being awarded a prize. These people were keen on getting in touch with other young people across the world and think hard about problems they felt deeply about, but they were not desperate to become leader of their bloc in hope to be noticed by chairs. This may at times, be counterproductive in so far as main submitters are sometimes keener to see their country's name appear at the top of the page and less about the overall coherence and consistency of the resolution. It can sometimes become a rather loosely connected string of points, which clearly shows that no ideological cut was made, as the main submitter has attempted to please all co-submitters and co-signatories in order to garner support. Chairs do not then have neither the time nor the energy to go through an in-depth read of the analytical points, and are tempted to give credit to such a draft which brings together many different countries. Again, this is not always the case, and successful lobbying most certainly achieves the exact opposite, but one cannot ignore that such a reality exists.

Whilst all the points raised undeniably challenge the current foundation of awards in MUN, it does not mean awards are inherently flawed--and should therefore be abandoned. We rather think committees members should look into a way to make awards constructive and inclusive for the MUN community as a whole--as they should have been from the very start. For, we do firmly believe all chair awarding prizes at the end of a conference do so in the best way they can. Indeed, whilst the current section has drawn a rather bleak picture of the award procedure in MUN, it does not question the pertinence of awards altogether as it hopes to raise awareness on what their current limitations are.





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Section 4: Potential solutions & new ideas

Just as MUN communities are different from city to city, the delegates that make up these communities are similarly diverse. This section of the background guide is meant to stimulate discussion rather than produce a right or wrong answer. The MUN4UN Youth Assembly provides an open-minded forum for a global discourse about MUN, so delegates, please feel free to express any opinions you may have about the program we all love so dearly.

1. Like many public-speaking related extracurricular programs, MUN takes a diverse spectrum of forms in a variety of communities. However, given its universal nature both in content and in reach, should MUNers place priority in the global standardization of its procedures, and thus truly achieve consensus on this matter? Or should the international MUN community celebrate the diversity and preserve the unique elements of each MUN style with regards to ROP, the awards structure, resolution formatting etc?
2. To what extent does MUN ought to simulate the UN? Although UN4MUN provides a great framework of procedure, other systems may also offer unique but equally important learning, despite not accurately depicting the situation in the UN as an international institution. Does the MUN community need to prioritize its accuracy relative to the UN to ensure its educational impact or its purpose?
3. Should MUN encourage and incentivize competition by establishing an awards system? Currently, most conferences include a hierarchical system of prizes for outstanding behavior in committees on the basis of debate, resolution writing, and overall participation. In the spirit of collaboration, should the awards system be amended to discourage gavel-hunting tactics and power delegates? Or does abolishing awards disincentivize delegates from pursuing excellence in this diplomatic simulation, and thus compromise the benefits of MUN among youth?
4. Overall, how can we improve MUN? How can we ensure that students around the world are able to take part in the best form of MUN possible? Does this include re-defining certain criteria and purposes of the program overall, or does it necessitate a more collaborated international effort to enhance the status quo?
5. How can we maximize the impact of Model UN worldwide? How can we inspire practical leadership and diplomacy through structurally amending this program, and what are the tangible action points we need to bring to the table? How can MUN leaders like yourself implement our recommended ideas?

Delegates, we look forward to hearing your innovative ideas!



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Section 5: Summary and questions to think about

A lot of ground has been covered in this guide. Whilst Sections 2 and 4 are rather comprehensive since they are presented in bullet-points, Section 3 on RoPs & Awards might need some further analysis.

On RoPs: the crux here is to consider how to make sure MUN remains a comprehensive debating activity despite the ever-increasing number of RoPs worldwide.

All MUN is valuable, all MUN platforms are in the end, a way to carry out the amazing experience that is MUN. However, are the variations between MUN procedures worldwide, a positive or negative phenomenon? What about variations, not only between THIMUN, UN4MUN and Traditional (North American), but also the variations within Traditional MUN (North American style MUN) conferences? One of the major disadvantages of variations, are the lack of information, that cause confusion. Some conferences that state they are using North American procedures, are unaware they are using THIMUN. Some are not even aware of the differences. At United Ambassadors, these differences are taught as a core element of all of our educational curriculums. Yet, lack of information on a larger scale, does exist. On the other hand, diversity creates variety of experiences in MUN, which provides more opportunities to experience MUN in a new light and with a different experience. More questions to think about:

Should RoPs be unified by language to adapt to the cultural differences aforementioned? Whilst it might be complicated to bring together THIMUN RoPs with Northern American RoPs that both currently operate in English, it might make sense to suggest to bilingual conferences to move towards the same format.

Should RoPs be adapted to the type of conference more than the language? Should we look into bringing together conferences that are of the same size through the same rules, or should we instead promote greater integration with MUNs that operate on a different system?

Is there a way to maintain a strong degree of difference between RoPs and still bring closer together the MUN community?

On Awards: In spite of the difficulty to acknowledge outstanding diplomatic performance objectively, the current awards system nonetheless provides such a platform. Questions to think about though re:

Should success be measured only through awards or should other parameters be included? For sure the relationships one makes at an MUN conference are more long-lasting and valuable than an award. Is it at all possible to make the awards procedure transparent, so that delegates know prior the conference which conditions should be met to win an award?

Should different award selection procedures be homogenized between famous MUNs? Should awards determine, who become MUN role Models? Should awards be based on who is the best debater? If we make awards criteria based on who is more accepted in a committee, and less on debate skills, would that not risk MUN awards becoming a popularity contest?

Or should perhaps, awards be encouraged, and competitiveness celebrated, only when they are celebrating something productive. When they celebrate positive impact on society, or on fellow members of the MUN community, like perhaps: ***the United Ambassadors MUN Pioneers Hall of fame Competition?***



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On behalf of United Ambassadors:

At United Ambassadors, we believe all MUN platforms should be experienced and celebrated. We firmly believe in the value of MUN as an educational activity, but also as a developmental platform that expands every imaginable element of a Young person's intellectual, interpersonal, academic skill set. In addition to the main MUN skills, public speaking debate, negotiation, research and writing, focused on heavily at our MUN Academy. Model UN in our view is the sole best platform for Youth Development, that serves as a stepping stone for the true comprehension of "global citizenship".

Model United Nations is an activity that spans the globe, and is as beneficial as it is popular. The MUN landscape around the world is changing every day. United Ambassadors is proud to be one of the most prominent organizations worldwide that is contributing in influencing and reshaping the narrative of Model United Nations around the globe. United Ambassadors believes in the value and importance of Model UN in general and that all MUN platforms should be experienced and celebrated, as all MUN, in the end, should aim to create global youth citizens, regardless of the platform, language, RoPs used, location, time, or criteria of participants.

United Ambassadors has taught Model United Nations in Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Europe, and has had the honor of launching the world's first public Multilingual MUN Resources website. We strongly believe in the value of Model United Nations, and its power in creating Everyday Ambassadors who can have a positive impact on the world, regardless of their future chosen career path. It is our opinion that all Model United Nations platforms have benefit, and should be experienced and celebrated, and therefore teach all Model UN platforms, including Traditional (North American), UN4MUN and THIMUN.

Despite the controversial nature of the topics and questions being raised in this guide, we strongly believe that MUN discussions should be open, and questions need to be raised, thoughts shared, and ideas generated, in order to ensure continuing progress and evolution of Model UN worldwide.

Aside from the importance of participating in MUNs, we also believe that part of the MUN experience should be in reflecting on what its impact was on one's life, character, and future, as well as thinking about how MUN can improve.

We believe, that so long as MUN is creating "Every Day Ambassadors" and Global Citizens, MUN stands as humanity's biggest success.

The purpose of this Assembly, is merely to openly discuss, and analyze, exactly how this can be better achieved.



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Annex: Back to the Future Crisis Committee Agenda 2030 - Background Guide MUN 2016 Leadership Academy by United Ambassadors

Chaos. Destruction. Conflict. Uncertainty. Starvation. Ruin. Despair.

It is the year 2030. A year that had been marked as a milestone for endless hope, progress and achievement. Today, blame, is all that remains. In different places on planet earth, human beings are suffering. Children everywhere are dying from widespread infectious diseases. Families have lost their homes because entire cities have disappeared. Natural disasters, Tsunamis, Hurricanes, Tornados, Earthquakes all over the world. Hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their jobs after being laid off from work, while some companies are witnessing staggering rise in sustained profit. Starvation has replaced hunger. Massive food shortages around the world, particularly in the Americas and other developing countries have caused uprisings among societies that depend on agricultural goods to thrive. Global economy has also tanked due to the decline of the agricultural industry worldwide. The “Arctic Ice Caps” can now only be observed in history books, where schools can still be found. Heavy droughts in Asia are destroying livelihoods and causing fear of a global refugee crisis of a population of a reported 1.3 billion. Dust and sandstorms have turned day into night across thousands of miles of former prairie & roads, where entire towns are now engulfed by sand. Continued decline in the world’s oil resources in the absence of sustainable accessible alternative sources of energy is now one of the heaviest threat to International Peace & Security due to global competition over energy.

Introduction

Today, on September 15th, 2030 – we have gathered here for an emergency summit to discuss where we stand. In 2015 former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had envisioned that *world leaders could transform the world*. It was an ambitious challenge and looking around us, we have to admit we failed. The status of implementation is discouraging, to say the least.

Looking back, 2015 was an important year for the UN. With four major events it set out to shape a path towards sustainable development. In March 15 years ago, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was established for a period until today. Subsequently, in July the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development was passed. This agenda aimed to establish a basis for financial support to achieving the SDGs. It was at the opening ceremony that Ban Ki-moon declared: “*Leave no one behind in the new development agenda*”. His appeal might have been forgotten, looking at the world we are living in today. Finally, in September 2015, the groundbreaking Agenda 2030 was passed at the UN in New York. *Coming in force at the beginning of 2016* it aimed to ensure sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimension.





The Paris Agreement & The Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda highlighting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals was unanimously adopted in the General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Agenda contained 17 goals, with many sub-targets that highlight the elements that would need to be achieved in order to reach the overall target. In December 2015, world leaders reiterated their commitment to combat climate change and global warming as the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris, the so-called Paris Agreement on climate change was passed. With guidance from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), states aimed to limit their greenhouse gas emissions in an attempt to reduce global warming.

In 2016, saying Paris meant the Paris Agreement and saying SDGs referred to the UN resolution that was passed in New York the previous year. The Paris agreement focused on climate change and New York or the SDGs on sustainable development. Goal 13 of the SDGs dictates that *states need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*. There is more to it than the fact that environmental sustainability, such as *combatting climate change, is part of sustainable development*. Climate change has severe consequences for everyday life: it also impacts public health, food and water security, migration, peace and security. At the time, the UN feared, rightly so, that "*Climate change, left unchecked, will roll back the development gains we have made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible*". Moreover, it was recognized that "*Investments in sustainable development will help address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience*". Thus, climate action directly contributes to sustainable development. Already 15 years ago it was recognized that "sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action" (UN).

Therefore, both agreements were *greatly linked*. While the SDGs set out the overall frame, the COP21 Summit Paris Agreement *strived to cover the needed details*.

Warning Signs

Back in 2016, predictions stating that if climate change is not immediately tackled, within the next century we will witness a dramatic rise in vector-borne diseases. Pandemic rates will rise, increasing morbidity and mortality not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. Melting Arctic ice caps will raise sea levels by over 15 centimeters, wiping out major coastal cities, countries, and livelihoods. Diminished bee population will affect the production of 80% of crops worldwide, causing an agricultural crisis and greatly affecting agriculture based economies. Resources, like clean water, which were once public goods will become private commodities. The poorest on our planet would be dying and the richest easily surviving, while the gap between the rich and poor continues to widen to create an unbridgeable chasm.



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The Present Time

In 2030, people around the world lost their homes: island states like the Maldives are completely uninhabitable, but also major cities like London, New York, Los Angeles & others. Additionally, habitats of several species have disappeared: glaciers melted, the great barrier reef died and arctic ice was reduced to the extent that polar bears have been extinct. Despite the impact on humans and animals, our blue planet has changed: contradictory developments led to larger deserts, land swallowed by water and human actions like continued deforestation have also left their marks.

Conflict is arising between different governments, companies, NGOs, and among civil society. Part of the conflict revolves around blame; who should be labelled as the highest contributor to the devastation being witnessed today (in 2030) due to inaction or adverse action on climate change since 2016, the year that marked the start of **Action** for the Global Goals.

A larger part of the conflict however, is future oriented. The challenge of survival and continuity is becoming more prominent, in a world where resources are becoming scarce, particularly oil and reliable energy sources, when non-renewable energy and solar energy plants are not sufficiently widespread to cover half of the energy needs of an increasingly demanding global population. The declining bee population is posing great threat to global agriculture. Media channels around the world are suddenly re-quoting Albert Einstein who stated, almost a century ago “If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live”.

Everyone is blaming everyone else.

Among those who are being blamed today are large Multinational Corporations that have had a consistent strategy of publicly denying climate change since before 2016 till today, as well as funding multiple independent groups through channels like the *Donors Trust* to support the skepticism campaigns targeted towards civil society. The Koch Brothers, Exxon Mobil and General Motors are among this group. In 2016, Greenpeace made a public statement claiming that the Koch Brothers sent at least \$88,810,770 directly to **80 groups** denying climate change science since 1997.

On January 1st, 2016, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued in 2014 was published in the 6 official languages of the United Nations. That report was labelled by **Global Weirding** as the “**single most important document in the world at the moment**”. This is a comprehensive group of documents that describe, after long and complex assessments, how future developments caused by climate change will unravel over the decades that follow. In 2016, Global weirding simplified this report and explained it in an animated breakdown of years and predictions on their home page ([www.globalweirding.is/here](http://www.globalweirding.is/)).





After 2016, a strong group of independent think tanks, experts, as well the Echo Chamber who had been allegedly funded by Exxon Mobile and the Koch Brothers to solidify societal skepticism over climate change, have succeeded in their mission. Their efforts have had a significant impact on shaping global public opinion, youth and society since 2016.

The world witnessed a tragic decline in active efforts led by key global youth organizations like AESEC in initiating worldwide projects and campaigns encouraging **youth advocacy & activism** in support of the UNs 2030 Agenda and highlighting the importance of engaging young people with the United Nations, and working together to combat climate change.

Less publicity campaigns and volunteering opportunities became available to young people around the world, and efforts to create well informed societies and promote the concept of *global citizenship and everyday ambassadors* were diminished. This outweighed many efforts exerted by the United Nations to raise awareness about the significance and imminent threat being posed by climate change, as the role of youth in promoting & raising visibility for the SDGs is insurmountably critical.

Among those most affected today are large insurance companies like Swiss Re, that witnessing the effect of costly and unsustainable life insurance plans, as well as famous agriculture companies like Monsanto, whose core business practices were greatly threatened by recent developments. Hundreds of employees were released, and the companies are at risk of foreclosure. Both organizations had been public supporters of Climate Action since 2016. Both are suffering today. As for the United Nations Development Program, these are sad and concerning times indeed. Fueled by the rising need for UNDP offices worldwide to work towards the urgent implementation of various development projects to counteract the adverse developments that had taken place in the last decade, a fear remains, which is that some of the damage at this point may be irreversible.

While the earth has become a darker and less habitable place over the past decade, mankind has also achieved technological progress. Humanity might have one chance to save its future – earlier this year, the first successful test with time travelling have been conducted. Alarmed by the state of the world today (in 2030), leaders of large corporations, Youth led organizations and UN Specialized Agencies used collective technological resources to travel back in time. As 2016 marked the year of Action for the Global Goals, and seemed to be a critical turning point in the history of climate action, they set the time travelling machine to July, 2016.

During the summit being held today in 2030, the will relocate the meeting to the year 2016 to discuss how the adverse effects of climate change can be stopped. They know time is scarce and 2030 not too far away. They are hoping that when they travel **back to the future** – back to their real life in 2030 - to witness the effects of their active discussions in 2016, they will return to find a better world, a more humane and tolerable world than the one they left, and paint a brighter image of the world we live in today.





Character / Delegation Matrix

1. Green Peace
2. Swiss Re (Insurance Company)
3. UNDP (United Nations Development Program)
4. AEISEC
5. Exxon Mobile
6. Sinopec (Chinese Oil Company)
7. IPCC
(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
8. Monsanto
9. Koch Industries
10. OPEC (Oil & Petroleum Exp. Countries)
11. General Motors
12. IRENA
(International Renewable Energy Agency)
13. MASDAR
14. Saudi Aramco
15. KNPC
16. Global Weirding
17. The SDG Action Campaign
18. Office of the UN Youth Envoy
19. Lloyds of London
20. Nestle
21. FAO
(Food & Agriculture Organization)
22. WHO
(World Health Organization)



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Sources:

Global Weirding is Here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dA4lGZtai4&feature=youtu.be>

Global Weirding Homepage Animated Description of the Future

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IPCC Report - Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Full Report

http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full_wcover.pdf

IPCC Report - Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Summary for Policymakers

https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_FINAL_SPM.pdf

UNDP – Climate Action Home Page

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-13.html>

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform – SDG 13

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13>

Monsanto on Climate Change

<http://www.monsanto.com/pages/default.aspx>

Insurance Companies on Climate Change:

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NASA – Global Climate Change

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Global Warming Prediction Project

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Green Peace: Allegations against Koch Brothers

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Global Warming Skeptic Organizations

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Stars Join in Music Video Mocking Climate Change Deniers

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Charles Koch Opinion on Climate Change

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Climate Change Denial Machine

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The Echo chamber

<http://echochamber.com/services/>

ExxonMobil/ Koch-funded Climate Denial Echo Chamber

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2015/11/23/research-confirms-exxonmobil-koch-funded-climate-denial-echo-chamber-polluted-mainstream-media>

Corporate funding and ideological polarization about climate change

<http://www.pnas.org/content/113/1/92.abstract>



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