

# Research + Resolutions

MCMASTER MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2022-2023

# Researching Your Committee

- The place to start your committee research is the official United Nations portal.
- From there, browse through the section Structure and Organization of your committee, past actions taken on similar issues, resolutions passed, etc.
- Pay attention to the committee's resources, cooperations with other multilateral organizations and/or NGOs, etc.

## Places to research

- Global Policy Forum: an independent policy watchdog that monitors the work of the United Nations and scrutinizes global policymaking  
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/about-gpf-mm/introduction.html>
- UN Resource Library:  
<http://research.un.org/c.php?g=98277&p=636218>
- The United Nations University: <https://unu.edu/publications/articles>
- UN News: <https://news.un.org/en/>
- Academic Council on the UN System: <https://acuns.org/scholarly-articles/>
- Your Actual Committee webpage!

# Researching Your Country

## Refer to:

- The World Factbook. It is a rich and regularly updated portal of country profiles (**with glossary, data, flags, maps, country comparisons**).
  - <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>
- Your country's government website(s)
- Local news networks from your country
- Your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or a permanent mission to the UN and check the policies taken on an issue
- Analyze the UN resolutions, statements and voting records regarding your country and the related policies
- Speeches by politicians; Leaders, foreign affairs minister etc
  - **Speeches by your nation to the UN (on your topic if possible)**

# Research the Issue

## Read the BACKGROUND GUIDES

- Think about potential responses your country may have to this topic
  - **Ex:** what is France's response to the Syrian crisis? How the government in Paris has reacted so far, what position it has taken in the Security Council?

# Some People Have Excellent Gardens.

- **Social:** Know about the ethnic structure, culture, habits, religion, languages, and general social cohesion of your country
- **Political:** Know about the politics within your nation and internationally. Know about the politics of key players in the topics discussed
- **Historical:** Know about relevant past events, important leaders, policies, and alliances to see what has and hasn't been tried
- **Economical:** Policies at hand depend on the aggregate capacities of economic resources a country possesses, as well as the ability of its leadership to maximize their use (Small state vs Large state)
- **Geographical:** Geographical position in relation to relationships with neighbouring countries- Regional relationships (*The African Union, The Arab League, ASEAN, EU, NAFTA etc*), and allies

# To Get You Started!

Here is a link to a list of important questions you should know about your country's history, economy, and policies that will be useful for your reference at the conference:

<https://bestdelegate.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Best-Delegate-Country-Profile.pdf>

There are 20 short questions to help guide your research!

# Blocs

- A group of nations (or individuals) with similar opinions on an issue, often having regional or ideological ties
- ie: The United States, Canada, Germany, and France
  - NOT Iran and The United States



# Blocs

- Blocs form during unmoderated caucuses when delegates are able to communicate in an informal setting
- Blocs usually begin to draft resolutions during unmoderated caucuses
- Do not have to be only close allies, as long as the country's interests align

# Sponsors

- Delegates who took a lead role in drafting the resolution are called sponsors
  - Wrote and contributed clauses (preambulatory / operative) to the resolution
- Support the resolution and are able to thoroughly explain the clauses
- Limited number of sponsors permitted (varies by committee)
- Typically, three sponsors will present the resolution to the committee and run a question / answer period

Common Misconception: You do not need to be a sponsor on a resolution to win an award at the conference! Do not argue with other delegates to present - showing diplomacy is more important.

# Signatories

- Delegates who may or may not have contributed ideas to the draft resolution
- Being a signatory does not necessarily mean that you “agree” with everything on the draft resolution, it simply means that you would like to see the resolution be presented and discussed further
- Each committee will require a certain number of signatories to have a draft resolution be presented
  - Your chair will inform you of this number at your first committee session

# Preambulatory Clauses

- 1st section of the resolution
- Gives context for the resolution
- Describes the scope of the issue and previous actions taken on the topic
- Begins with a specific participle or adjective (i.e. noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.)

# Preambulatory Clauses

## Examples:

- *Alarmed* by the lack of enforcement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- *Cognizant* of the importance of gender-neutral education standards by 2015 as a component of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

# Operative Clauses

- 2nd section: gives the actions to be taken on a topic
- Includes specific actions, programs, timelines\*, costs\*
- Begins with a specific verb (i.e. strongly suggests, encourages, requests, urges, condemns, etc.)

\*sometimes, does not need to be super detailed

# Operative Clauses

## Examples:

- Requests that all member states develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of humanitarian relief during emergencies
- Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding deployment of these forces

# Draft a Resolution

## Overall resolution format:

### Header:

- Committee
- Sponsors
- Signatories

### Body:

- Preambulatory Clauses
- Operative Clauses



The background of the slide features a large, faint, light blue watermark of the United Nations emblem. The emblem consists of a central shield with a world map, flanked by two olive branches, all enclosed within a laurel wreath.

Questions?