

Research + Resolutions

MACMUN 2018

MCMMASTER MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

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 organisations, 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

- World Fact Book for this part of the research. It is a rich and regularly updated portal of country profiles (**with glossary, data, flags, maps, country comparisons**).
- 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.
- 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, etc?

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*), 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

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Blocs

- Blocs form during unmoderated caucuses when delegates are able to communicate in an informal setting
- Blocs usually begin to draft resolutions during unmods
- Don't have to be only close allies, as long as interests align

Sponsors

- Delegates who took a lead role in drafting the resolution
 - Wrote and contributed clauses (preambulatory / operative) to the resolution
- Support the resolution and are able to thoroughly explain the clauses
- Limited number (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
- 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

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Preambulatory Clauses

- 1st section: 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.)

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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, doesn't 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

Fix a Resolution

Overall resolution format:

Committee

Sponsors

Signatories

Preambulatory Clauses

Operative Clauses

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Activity Time!

How could this resolution improve?

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DnLFKttDueKXyg9jX1D5BqM0W2EWzpH2SmANZnW0zqE/edit?usp=sharin>



Questions?