Model United Nations

An Introduction

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Model United Nations

- Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the UN, in which students play the role of delegates of different countries.

- Through debating and resolution-writing, the delegates attempt to solve real word issues whilst representing the stance of their assigned country.

- In our usual MUN debates, the focus is placed on the debate, as opposed to the resolution-writing given the time constraints.

- This PowerPoint introduce you to the format of our MUN debates, and gives you a taste of the Rules of Procedure used in conferences.

Before the debate – a few tips!

- Refer to your country in the 3rd person. If you want to refer to yourself in particular, use "the Delegate of X", and use "we" or "our government" when you want to refer to your country's stance . **Never use I**

- Don't be afraid to raise your placard. The OUUNA members are a friendly bunch, so they're never going to laugh at you. If you make a mistake, the Chair will point out your mistake in a constructive manner. Speaking out and debating is also the only way you're going to get better!

Before the debate – if you have the time!

- **Committee** – Research the committee, even if it is briefly, so you are aware of its purpose and limitations.

- **Topic** – Read the study guide, and if you have time, also look for recent news on the topic at hand.

- **Country** – Choose a country in advance where possible. Research and be aware of your country's stance on the topic.

General Speakers List (Opening Speech)

- To begin the debate, the chair (moderator) will ask if any delegates wish to be added to the general speakers list. To be added, simply raise your placard.

- The general speakers list is essentially (not strictly speaking) a list of delegates who wish to speak at the beginning of the debate and make opening statements.

- The chair will run through the general speakers list, usually giving 90 seconds speaking time for each delegate to speak.

- *When called up, it is customary to set out your country's stance on the issue, and also useful to make clear what parts of the topic are of particular relevance to your country.*

General Speakers List (continued)

- If time runs out, the Chair will simply move to the next speaker. If there is sufficient time left, the delegate has 3 options
    - A. Yield to the chair (most common – the Chair simply moves to the next speaker)
    - B. Yield to questions (uncommon – the delegate can then be asked questions by other delegates)
    - C. Yield to another delegate (not recommended – the rest of the time is passed onto another delegate)
- The Chair may return to the speakers list at the end, so that delegates may make closing statements to reflect on the debate session.

Motions

- Motions are requests/suggestions of a delegate for the committee to do something as a whole.

- After a number of delegates on the general speakers list have spoken, the Chair will open the floor to motions.

- To propose a motion, simply raise your placard, and on recognition by the Chair, say "The Delegate of X proposes a motion for a …"

- In our MUNday debates, delegates may motion for:
  - Moderated Caucus (semi-formal debate, see page 10)
  - Unmoderated Caucus (informal debate, see page 11)
  - Extension of Caucus (see page 12)

The Process of Motioning: Diagram

Motion for a …

Chair: any seconds?

Yes

No

Chair: any objections?

Motion fails

Yes

No

Vote

Motion passes

>50% in favour

<50% in favour

Motion passes

Motion fails

The Process of Motioning: An Explanation

- After a motion has been proposed, the Chair will ask if there are any seconds. If there are none, the motion fails. If there is one or more, the Chair will then ask if there are any objections. If there are none, the motion passes. If there are both seconds and objections, the Chair will then ask all those in favour to raise their placards, and then all those against to raise their placards. If more than 50% of the committee votes in favour, the motion is introduced and the moderated/unmoderated caucus begins.

Moderated Caucus

- In moderated caucuses, the Chair calls on delegates to speak one at a time for a short time period to enable a freer exchange of opinion.

- Moderated caucuses are used to narrow the focus of the debate into sub-topics.

- When motioning for a moderated caucus, delegates must specify:
  - Topic
  - Total duration of the caucus
  - Individual speaker time

- There is no speaker's list, and therefore, after each speech, the chair will ask for other delegates wishing to speak.

- Any time remaining is automatically yielded to the chair.

Unmoderated Caucus

- In unmoderated caucuses, the delegates are free to get out of the seats and lobby with fellow delegates.

- Unmoderated caucuses are used to reach a consensus amongst groups of delegates over a particular policy or sub-topic.

- When motioning for an unmoderated caucus, delegates must specify:
  - Topic
  - Total duration of the caucus

Caucus Extension

- After a caucus elapses, delegates may motion to extend the caucus. The caucus cannot be extended by more than the original total duration, and there cannot be extensions upon extensions.

- Extensions are used when headway has been made in a caucus, and further discussion would be beneficial for the committee.

- When motioning for an unmoderated caucus, delegates must specify:
  - Amount by which the caucus is to be extended

Comments

- This PowerPoint only explains the basic level rules of procedure that needs to be understood for members to engage in our introductory MUN debates. It does not cover resolution-writing, which is more complex but critical in conferences. The complete Rules of Procedure are covered in our crashcourses and the OxIMUN page.

- Whilst these rules may seem overwhelming, you will be able to pick them up over the course of an introductory MUN debate. The more debates you attend, the easier it gets to remember the rules!

- The Chair may use a programme called WxMUN to chair the debate. This is available to download here.