



**Thailand International Model United Nations**  
in collaboration with the Barriers Initiative  
**Delegates' Research Guidebook and Position Paper Guide**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Position Papers Guidelines for THAIMUN XI.....</b>	<b>4</b>
An Example of an Award-winning position paper:.....	6
Another Example of an Award-winning position paper:.....	8
<b>Key Differences for Rules of Procedure.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Rule 19 - Opening Speeches.....	10
Rule 21 - Motions.....	10
Rule 26 - Procedure for Debating Resolutions in Committee.....	12
Rule 27 - Means of Determining Speakers.....	12
Rule 28 - Amendments.....	12
<b>The United Nations System.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Resolution-writing, Policy-making and Policy Implementation.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Resolutions.....	16
Some guidelines for resolution-writing in committee sessions:.....	16
An Example of a “binding” resolution:.....	21
An Example of a “recommender” resolution:.....	27
<b>A Guide on Agenda-Specific Research and Understanding.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Reading Chair Reports.....	33
Conducting Agenda and Country Specific Research.....	36
General Guidelines for Research.....	37
How to find a reliable source?.....	40
Application to Position Papers.....	41
<b>Creditories.....</b>	<b>44</b>

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**FYI, this is not your Rules of Procedure for the conference. THAIMUN Rules of Procedure may be viewed here:** [☰ THAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#)

**Special Committee Guidebooks are viewed here:**

[Rules of Procedure - THAILAND INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS](#)

**This document does not include guidance for special committees.**

**References Documents for Special Committees are here:**

[☰ THAIMUN SPECCOM Reference Documents](#)

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## Position Papers Guidelines for THAIMUN XI

**THAIMUN XI delegates will be required to submit a position paper.** A position paper is a document written by the delegate presenting their country's stance on the assigned topic of the committee. Position papers require thorough research of the topic and in-depth understanding of the issue. Position papers are required for this conference and will be considered for position paper awards. **The chairs will provide comments on the position papers to ensure that delegates best represent their stances.**

- For traditional committees (along with HSC & PRESS): Delegates will submit only one position paper, written on two topics with length not exceeding two pages (including citations).
- For special committees (USCC, UKPC): Delegates will submit only one position paper, written on three topics with length not exceeding three pages (including citations).
- Committees exempted from writing position papers are HCC, HSOC, ICJ.

General Guidelines are as follows:

- 12-pt. Times New Roman or Arial
- 450-word minimum
- 1 or 1.15 spacing, up to the delegate
- Justify text of your paragraphs so both the left and right sides have straight edges
- The UPDATED deadline for Position Papers is on **March 20th 2023**.

In-text citations (footnotes and parentheticals) are not compulsory but can be used to avoid detection of plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic disqualification of position paper awards.

- Press Corps position papers should outline their news agencies' media tactics, writing styles or alignment with the topics that are presented in the conference.
- HSC position papers should be based on historical context and influence given before the start of the committee date. To establish your aim and what you hope to achieve for your committee (hypothetical win conditions) should be made.
- With an exception, ECOFIN papers are due 24 hours before the conference.

Position papers should be mailed to committee's respective chairs and chairs will compile all papers into a google drive folder and then subsequently submit it to the secretariat.

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Example header on the first page:

Include a short introductory paragraph at the beginning of your position paper that introduces the topics on your committee's agenda and your Member State's or Observer's commitment to addressing these topics. (See the example position papers at the end of this guide for an illustration of the introductory paragraph.)

For the remainder of the paper, address the topics before your committee in the order in which they appear within your Committee Background Guide. Label each topic, with the name of the topic bolded and centered.

**Delegation:** South Sudan

**Name:** Akira Keene Teotrakool (TUS)

**Committee:** UNOOSA I

Example topic title:

1. The question of preventing man-made space debris and space-pollution

For each topic, address the global/regional context of the topic (including relevant statistics and information); what the international/regional community and your Member State or Observer have previously done to address the topic; and provide both broad and specific actions that your committee and the international community can take to address the topic going forward (while also acting in line with your Member State's or Observer's positions and policies).

Most position papers are written like the following:

1. An introduction and statement of the problem, explain
2. National, Regional and Global precedent on the topic, try looking for the following:
  - a. Speeches (quote their content)
  - b. Programs (real actions)
  - c. Events (meetings and things that happened)
  - d. Agreements (guide your policy through soft law, hard law)
  - e. Reports (use statistics to guide your stance)
3. Solutions that you may propose to the committee, in line with your stance

See examples for position papers on the next page.

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### **An Example of an Award-winning position paper:**

Delegation: France

Name: Suniti (Pong) Sudkungwan

Committee: UNSC

Topic: Regional Mechanisms to the Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Disputes

. With increasing geopolitical strife and challenges to international norms, negotiated settlements of conflicts by international organizations have been harder if not outright impossible to achieve. Against the highly volatile situation, it is crucial to recognise the growing number and assertiveness of regional mechanisms actively contributing to the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes even as the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts by such mechanisms have varied. For its part, France greatly values the contributions of regional mechanisms to the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes and has long stressed the importance of regional integration in the maintenance of international peace and security, with France being a champion of regional efforts to prevent and peacefully resolve disputes through both itself and the European Union in conjunction with other regional mechanisms and supported by the UN.

France, as a long-running contributor to preventive diplomacy and regional efforts to peacefully resolve disputes, has developed a new comprehensive crisis prevention strategy in accordance with SDG 16 titled “Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace” which will see France take a more proactive role in preventing conflict, building resilience and sustaining peace in developing countries. This new approach would see France prevent crises and conflicts from arising by diplomatically intervening from a very early stage in addition to lending its support to local and regional actors in developing inclusive and resilient crisis alert systems to detect low-level and early risk-related signs such as the African Union’s Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) which could facilitate decision making that preemptively prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts as early as possible. Furthermore, France has more than doubled the French Development Agency’s Peace and Stability Fund which will be used to assist international and regional efforts to address the root causes of state and society fragilities which more often than not led to such conflicts in the first place.

Through its 20-point proposal for the Secretary General’s A New Agenda for Peace, France has highlighted its belief that the New Agenda provides an opportunity to redesign a comprehensive approach to the pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the UN Charter. France believes that regional mechanisms need to be more involved in any and all mediation efforts led by the UN. At the same time, however, France recognises how the involvement and contributions of regional mechanisms still do not amount to effective conflict

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prevention and peaceful resolution systems, especially given their limited capacity from the absence of proper resources and adequate institutions to undertake such efforts. Towards this end, France specifically underlines the need for renewed approaches to mediation by mobilizing and relying more heavily on regional mechanisms to ensure the success of UN-led mediation efforts through partnership and coordination with state and regional actors on the local level. Additionally, this would also require a robust system of incentives which may include flexible, predictable and sustainable UN funding for instance.

Hence, France would like to pursue a multifaceted approach to increasing the contributions of regional mechanisms to the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes through three measures which France believes will improve the utilization of Chapter VI to greater effect and appropriately incentivise regional mechanisms to take on such greater roles they will play as a result of these measures.

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## **Another Example of an Award-winning position paper:**

Delegation: Germany

Name: Alexis Jade Melocotones (IPS)

Committee: Historical Security Council (HSC)

Agenda: The Berlin Conference and the Scramble for Africa

In the late 1800's, nations were stocked with economic aspirations as well as colonialist motives. The industrial revolution was pumping out products faster than ever and called for higher rates of natural resources to be extracted. Not only that, capitalism came with ramifications, such as unemployment, poverty, and homelessness. In the UK alone, unemployment rates rose from 2.2% to 10.7% between 1875 and 1879, which occurred during the Long Depression. However, Africa granted a solution to this. Africa was an El Dorado of natural resources, was suitable for settlers, and satisfied Europe's imperialist ambitions. Tensions escalated as nations clambered for African colonies, leading to militarization and conflicts threatening to occur. In response, the Berlin Conference began on November 15, 1884, and endured for around three months and a half, overflowing with discussion and debate regarding the cooperative partition of Africa.

Otto von Bismarck was a Prussian prime minister who advocated for German unification, succeeded after obtaining Alsace-Lorraine from France, and became the chancellor of the newly established Second Reich in 1871. The Industrial Revolution was immensely consequential in the empire and was followed by economic expansion and inflation in population by 10.4 million people from 1873 to 1895. Numerous immigrants relocated to the Americas due to this; however, these people were no longer regarded as Germans. The necessity for land to provide living space or the later-coined 'Lebensraum' for German citizens rose. Colonization had already transpired before German unification, though organizations such as the Brandenburgisch-Afrikanische Compagnie failed miserably. As France and Britain began to capture territories, Germany's interest in colonization was resurrected. Otto von Bismarck devised the Berlin Conference to pave the way for peaceful European collaboration while dividing Africa.

Africa is to be divided depending on the proportion of natural resources or population in a region, that reflects the necessities of a nation, instead of land area only. The Europe-Africa Trade Union (EATU) should be established to facilitate trade agreements that will include decreasing economic barriers between Europeans to trade the goods extracted from the African lands. Funds would then be allocated to the technological development of the colonies from the military budget which would be almost futile if peace is achieved in Africa and Europe through these methods. Germany will experience economic benefits from the abundance of natural and human resources, along with 'lebensraum' for German settlers. It is essential to support the rights to liberty and life, freedom of expression, and many others among the African people, who could

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add on to European economies by being transformed into an industrial workforce with the aid of education. This could lessen damages caused by conflict between European colonizers and the indigenous. Peaceful relations can occur with trade agreements in which countries exchange the natural resources of their respective territories with each other.

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## Key Differences for Rules of Procedure

**THAIMUN XI uses modified UNA-USA procedures or “IASASMUN” procedures.**

UNA-USA refers to the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

For THAIMUN XI, most committees should permit motions and establish procedural reasoning based on the key/base ROP referred to by this document: [THAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#)

We have decided to adopt these procedural changes to expedite resolution debates phases where a nonuniform method has previously been used to facilitate debates for a resolution for most conferences in Thailand. Therefore, this ROP should give the Thailand Model United Nations circuit structure in performing more facilitated and rule-guided debates to ensure equity.

Some other notable ROP systems include the Harvard procedure, UN4MUN, THIMUN (Hague). We would like to point out some crucial procedural changes in rules concerned for the rules of procedure below:

### Rule 19 - Opening Speeches

- a. Opening speeches are speeches which explain a country's stance on a topic, chairs will entertain opening speeches on the first day of the conference.
- b. All delegates are expected to write one opening speech which includes their stance on all topics being debated.
- c. Delegates can motion to alter the time allotted for each speech. If no time per speaker is specified, then the default time is set to 60 seconds.
- d. Delegates will be called for opening speeches in alphabetical order.

### Rule 21 - Motions

- a. Motions are proposals for advancing the committee forward. Delegates can propose motions during the committee session, however, it is up to the chairs discretion to entertain them. In Committee, the Chair may require at any time that all motions, with the exceptions of Point of Order and Points of Personal Privilege, be submitted in writing before they are recognized. Motions require a simple majority to pass. This section will cover the different types of motions.
  - b. Moderated Caucus
    - i. The moderated caucus is a formal debate on a specific topic proposed by delegates. The delegate proposing the motion must concisely explain the topic, set
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- the time limit for the entire caucus, and the time limit per speaker. The chair would then add the caucus to the voting list.
- ii. Once a moderated caucus has passed, the chairperson will ask the delegate who proposed the motion whether they wish to speak first or last. Then, other delegates wishing to speak in this caucus must raise their placards until recognized by the chairs.
  - iii. There is no yielding in a moderated caucus. Once a delegate has finished their speech, the chair will immediately invite the next delegate up to the podium.
- c. Unmoderated Caucus
- i. As explained above, the unmoderated caucus is an informal debate session in which delegates can move around freely as well as engage in direct conversations with other delegates. Delegates who motion for an unmoderated caucus must state the session's time limit.
  - ii. During the unmoderated caucus, delegates may form blocs with other delegates who hold similar views, lobby other delegates, work on their working papers and draft resolutions. Delegates may also use first person singular pronouns during this session.
- d. Consultation of the Whole
- i. This motion incorporates features of both the moderated and unmoderated caucuses. Consultation as a whole is still a formal debate format as delegates must take turns making speeches and remain seated throughout the session. The overall period for the consultation will be determined by the delegate who proposed the motion. They will also have the opportunity to speak first, and once finished, the delegates can yield the floor to another delegate of their choice without having to refer back to the chair. There is no time limit for each speaker during the consultation of the whole.
- e. Motion to divide the question
- i. A motion to split a topic into distinct segments of debate E.g: An amendment calling for lower criminal penalties and increased enforcement may be divided into two amendments, each of which calls for one of these proposals.
- f. Tabling for Incompetence
- i. If a delegate believes that a Resolution being presently debated is incoherent, or in some other way quite inappropriate for debate, that delegate may raise a motion entitled "Tabling for Incompetence". A delegate should be cautious before taking this step, as the inference is that the Co-Submitters have been incompetent in drafting the Resolution, a serious allegation to make on other delegates. Once such a motion has been made to the Chair, the motion is debatable to the extent of one speaker "For" and one speaker "Against".
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- ii. The motion requires a supermajority of delegates present and voting to pass.

**Rule 26 - Procedure for Debating Resolutions in Committee**

- a. During the lobbying/caucusing session, a Resolution must obtain at least signatories of at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the committees before it can be forwarded to the Faculty Vetting Committee and 2 authors
- b. Once a Resolution has been vetted, the Chair shall then hold a vote to determine which resolution is debated first, the resolution with the majority of votes will be debated first.
- c. When debate on the Resolution opens, the Chair will allot a 5 minute reading time for all delegates to read the proposed resolution. Once the allotted reading time has concluded the chairs will invite the two main submitters to make a 4 minute main submitter speech then to answer Points of Clarification from other delegates, upon completion of all points, the chairs must then ask if they are open to any points of information. If they are then the chairs will move into the procedure for point of information.

**Rule 27 - Means of Determining Speakers**

- a. In Committee and the General Assembly, speakers will be determined by placard-recognition from the Chair. After the main submitter speech has concluded, the delegate will respond to Points of Clarifications and then respond to Points of Information.
- b. The delegate then has the right to Yield the Floor to another delegate or back to the Chair.
- c. The Chair will call for a show of placards from those delegates who wish to speak "Against" the Resolution, and will select a speaker.
- d. Following the "Against" speech, the Chair will call for those who wish to speak "To" the resolution, and after that speech, the Chair will again call for "For" speakers.
- e. The Chair will follow the "For, Against, To" sequence until completion of debate. "To" speakers are those who wish to remain neutral regarding the Operative Clauses of the Resolution under debate, but who nevertheless wish to express their country's point of view on the general issue.
- f. "To" speakers must be careful to make no direct reference to any Operative Clause, and should they err and make reference, they may be challenged by another delegate, or by the Chair, by means of a Point of Order.

**Rule 28 - Amendments**

- a. After the draft resolution presentation has ended and all points of information have been addressed, the chair will open the floor to motions to amend the presented resolution. Delegates motioning for an amendment must specify which parts of the resolution, usually a clause or subclause, they wish to modify, and what changes they would like to
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see. Then, the speaker will ask the sponsors of the presented draft resolution to determine whether the proposed amendment is a friendly or unfriendly amendment.

b. Friendly and Unfriendly Amendments

- i. If the main submitters conclude that the amendment is friendly, changes to the resolution can be implemented immediately and without debate.
  - ii. If the main submitters conclude that the amendment is unfriendly, the chairs will invite speakers in support and opposition to the amendment. Each speaker will have 60 seconds to deliver their remarks on the amendment. Following the conclusion of the debate period, the committee will vote on whether the amendment passes or fails. To enact an unfriendly amendment, a supermajority of two-thirds of the total number of delegates in the committee is needed.
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## The United Nations System

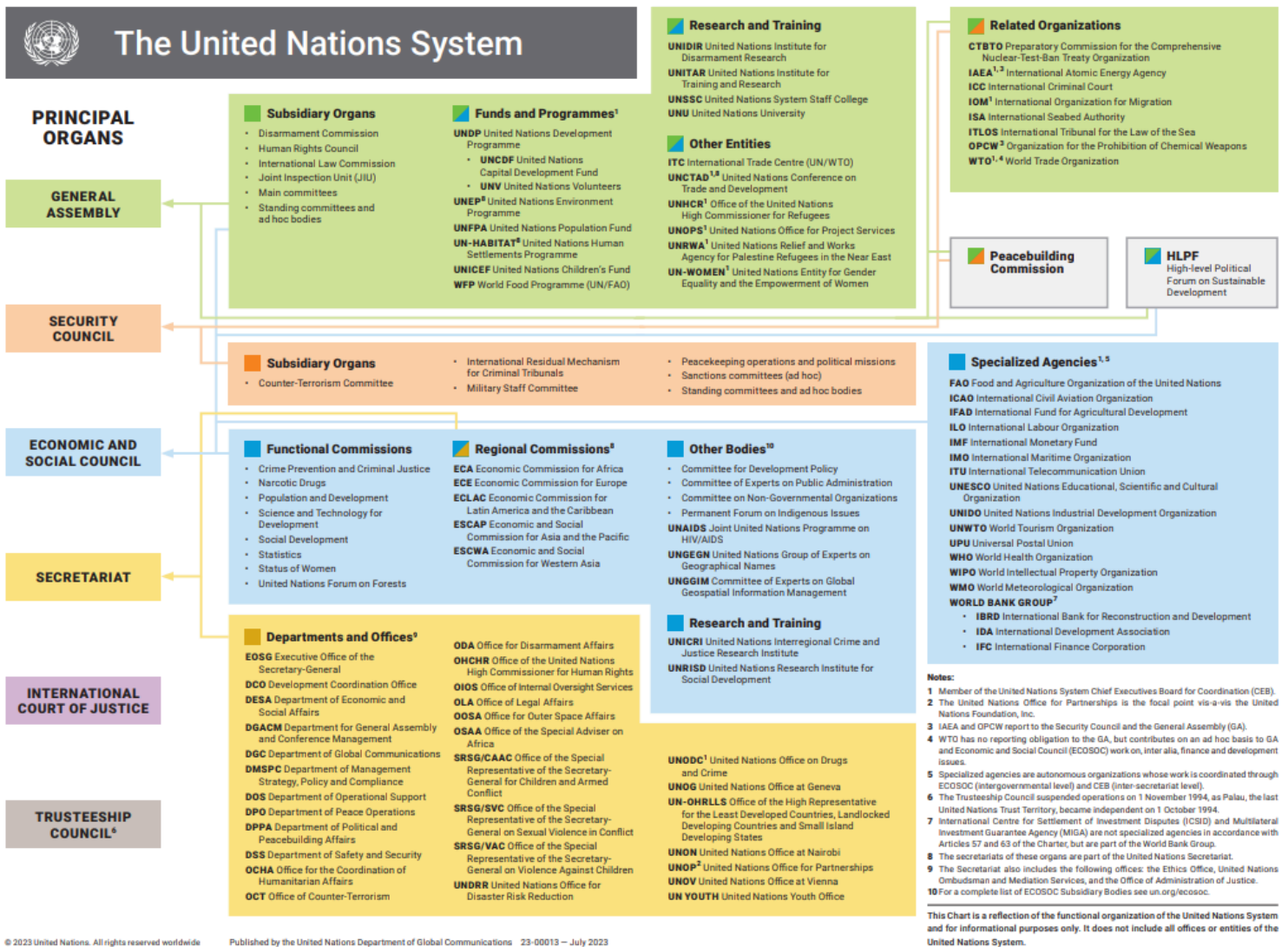
The United Nations system serves as the foundational framework upon which Model United Nations (MUN) conferences are based on. It encompasses the mechanisms of international policymaking designed to cultivate global consensus among member states. Central to this system is the production of resolutions, documents, reports and statistics that articulate the collective stance and objectives of the international community.

Most traditional MUN simulations typically take place within committees or official international bodies governed by the UN system. Each committee possesses distinct responsibilities and mandates (the authority to carry out a policy or course of action), dictating the topics under discussion. For instance, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) may address the annexation and status of occupied territories by Israel, a technical question under the general assembly; while the Human Rights Council focuses on ongoing human rights challenges in specific regions. A comprehensive understanding of the United Nations system is imperative for ensuring accurate representation within MUN simulations.

Moreover, not only does the UN system provide a forum for discussion through UN bodies, it also provides the instruments to create concrete action for the world. Instances like how the Security Council may authorize direct action for UN Peacekeeping forces as UN Missions or how the UNDP as a fund/program carries out duties related to combatting direct social inequality. The UN system is a wide umbrella of responsibilities that the world takes on in order to scope the ongoing problems of the current international order. Hence, in MUN simulations, delegates should be guided by past actions of the system, which can be done through research and understanding.

Lastly, the outcomes of MUN simulations are evidently viewed from resolutions, documents that provide a consensus of a committee/meeting session that should be taken into consideration or be implemented directly according to how it is enacted. The policymaking aspect of writing a resolution is the most important part of making Model United Nations meaningful and a learned process for participants.

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UN System Chart PDF - July 23 version

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/23-00013\\_un\\_system\\_chart\\_11x8.5\\_print\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/23-00013_un_system_chart_11x8.5_print_e.pdf)

Additional Explanations for modes of action unique for specialized committees can be seen in this document: [THAIMUN SPECCOM Reference Documents](#)

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## Resolution-writing, Policy-making and Policy Implementation

### Resolutions

Resolutions are the basis for all U.N. debate, bringing one or several issues to the floor in a form that Delegates can discuss, amend, reject, or ratify as circumstances dictate. Resolutions usually state a policy that the U.N. will undertake, but in some bodies, they also may be in the form of treaties, conventions, or declarations. They range from very general to very specific in content. Depending on the body involved, they may call for or suggest a course of action, condemn an action, or require action or sanctions on the part of the Member States. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may only call for or suggest actions. It should be noted that nobody other than the Security Council can require action or sanctions from Member States. In some cases, final conventions and treaties may also require action, but this would be only on the part of the signatory countries.

A resolution has two parts: the preambulatory clauses and the operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses state the "why" of the resolution. Why is this resolution being written? Why is this U.N. body concerned with this issue? Operative clauses state the "what" of the resolution. What does this body recommend to resolve this issue?

#### **Some guidelines for resolution-writing in committee sessions:**

- Resolutions first start out as working papers, which are written in the same form (spacing, punctuation, language) as resolutions. After you have written a draft, take it to other Delegates to get their opinions and perhaps their support as a sponsor. Modify the working paper to fit the goals of its supporters. Continue revising the language of the draft until you believe that it is finished. Take the working paper to the chair at any time. The chair will read over the draft to make sure that it is appropriate, approve it, and have copies made for all of the delegations.
  - It is important to remember that prior to its submission to the Chair, a working paper can never be referred to in formal debate or in a speech given from the Speaker's List. All working papers must be written during the conference. Working papers that were written prior to the conference will not be accepted.
  - Once the working paper has been discussed and changed as much as the sponsors see fit, sponsors must once again submit the draft to the chair. The chair will again review it and, if it is deemed acceptable, will give the draft resolution a designation (e.g., Draft Resolution 1.1) and have the revised paper copied for the other delegations.
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- Preambulatory clauses can describe the recent history of the situation, referencing past United Nations actions and resolutions, when available;
- Operative clauses include actions which will solve the problem;
- Do not be blatantly antagonistic in the content of the resolution;
- Take into account the viewpoints of other countries;
- Refer issues which need further discussion to appropriate existing bodies;
- **Don't create new Committees/Commissions/etc. without considering funding or if other similar bodies already exist.**

#### Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Emphasizing	Having devoted	Realizing
Alarmed by	Expecting	attention	Reaffirming
Approving	Expressing its	Having examined	Recalling
Aware of	appreciation	Having studied	Recognizing
Believing	Expressing its	Having heard	Referring
Bearing in mind	satisfaction	Having received	Seeking
Confident	Fulfilling	Keeping in mind	Taking into
Contemplating	Fully aware	Noting with regret	account
Convinced	Fully alarmed	Noting with	Taking into
Declaring	Fully believing	satisfaction	consideration
Deeply concerned	Further deploring	Noting with deep	Taking note
Deeply conscious	Further recalling	concern	Viewing with
Deeply convinced	Guided by	Noting further	appreciation
Deeply disturbed	Having adopted	Noting with	Welcoming
Deeply regretting	Having considered	approval	
Desiring	Having considered	Observing	
further			

#### Operative Phrases

Accepts	Deplores	Further invites	Reminds
Affirms	Draws the	Further proclaims	Regrets
Approves	attention	Further reminds	Requests
Authorizes	Designates	Further	Solemnly affirms
Calls	Emphasizes	recommends	Strongly
Calls upon	Encourages	Further resolves	condemns
Condemns	Endorses	Further requests	Supports
Congratulates	Expresses its	Have resolved	Trusts
Confirms	appreciation	Notes	Takes note of
Considers	Expresses its	Proclaims	Transmits
Declares	hope	Reaffirms	Urges
accordingly	Recommends		

#### Vetting Panel Instructions for Delegates & Advisers

##### What is a vetting panel?

1. A team of teacher-advisers working to improve the clarity of a Resolution.
2. The panel will check that the Resolution follows the standard format and basic language expectations.
3. The panel will not comment upon the factual accuracy, or correctness of a Resolution's political position.

##### Steps for Delegates to Follow:

1. Take your laptop with the electronic version of the Resolution to an adviser seated at a vetting table in the vetting room.
2. Sit down with the adviser and go through the Resolution. Any changes required will be made on your computer.
3. When the adviser has finished vetting he/she will type, "VETTED BY..."
4. You will then send the vetted resolution to the email address of your committee Chair.

##### Steps for Vettors to Follow:

1. Sit with the delegate using his/her own computer.
2. Check correct spelling.
3. Check correct grammar and punctuation.
4. Ensure that the numbering of lines and of Operative Clauses is accurate.
5. Ensure that the Pre-ambulatory Clauses are indeed Pre-ambulatory, not Operative clauses (and vice versa).
6. Make the appropriate changes
7. When you have finished vetting write "VETTED BY [YOUR NAME]. The delegate sends the resolution to the committee Chair

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS - RESOLUTION CHECKLIST

### Assumptions and Suggestions: *Good resolutions....*

- are focused on one issue – they don't try to cover too many issues superficially.
- should be a plan of action which represents the voice and flavor of your country.
- suggest **REALISTIC** (economically feasible and politically viable) solutions to a problem.
- show evidence of research.
- attempt to strike a balance between specificity and generality – should not be too general so that the resolution has no clear actions, but should not be specific enough to be inflexible or unsupportable.
- avoid discussion of specific monetary figures.
- should provide suggestions for new solutions rather than re-stating actions or methods which have already been tried.
- should realistically represent the views of the country that submits and co-submits the resolution.

### Checklist: *The submitter/resolution should...*

- utilize pre-ambulatory clauses that provide the audience with a brief overview of the background and context for the proposed actions - including a references to any relevant UN actions in the past.
- utilize operative clauses which describe the actions/measures to take to **solve** the problem
- include name of the main submitter *plus* names of a **minimum** of 8 co-submittees who support the resolution
- place the following information at the top of the resolution
- keep clauses relatively short and simple to ensure clarity
- use formal, 3<sup>rd</sup> person, diplomatic language
- include a space before and after the words "THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY".
- try to limit the number of pre-ambulatory clauses to between 3-5
- number the lines of the resolution **beginning with the pre-ambulatory clauses**
- include a space before starting the operative clauses
- indent** all operative and sub-clauses
- note that the entire resolution should be ONE long sentence
- refer to relevant organizations, past conventions, resolutions and treaties when possible
- italicize, bold, underline, and capitalize** the first word of the pre-ambulatory clause
  - main clauses should end with a colon if sub-clauses follow
  - sub-clauses should end with a comma
  - final sub-clause under each main clause should end with a semi-colon
- follow this outline format:
 

```

1. Requests
    a) Establishing
        i. Calls for
            1. Provision of
            
```
- To have a sub-clause, a minimum of TWO sub clauses (or sub-sub clauses) must be provided - single sub clauses are not allowed
- check for spelling or grammar mistakes before submitting to vetters
- include any previously vetted drafts with your submission to the vetters.
- Use 10 point Calibri font
- not exceed 80 lines in length (quality not quantity!)

COMMITTEE: Economic and Social committee  
 QUESTION OF: The role of the UN in Rebuilding Iraq  
 MAIN SUBMITTERS: Iraq, Egypt  
 CO-SPONSORS: Ethiopia, Qatar, Syria, Yemen, Jordan, UAE, Libya, Indonesia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

1 **Reminding** that the United Nations has a vital responsibility in  
 2 the reconstruction and administration of Iraq,  
 3 **Believing** that the International Community and the neighboring  
 4 Arab countries should participate in the reconstruction and  
 5 administration of Iraq,  
 6 **Aware** of the need for rehabilitation of public services,  
 7 **Approving** the work undertaken to establish a permanent Iraqi  
 8 constitution,  
 9  
 10 **Requests** direct support from the League of Arab  
 11 States and the United Nations for helping Iraq's  
 12 sovereignty by:  
 13 a.) Governing council be given to Arab observers  
 14 designated by the delegates of the League of Arab  
 15 States to protect the administration process,  
 16 especially elections, constitution, and government  
 17 body from becoming biased,  
 18  
 19 i. Calls for funding for this council to be acquired  
 20 from the League of Arab States,  
 21 ii. Recommends that the monitoring of the activity  
 22 of the above committee is carried out by  
 23 representatives of the UN,  
 24 b.) Aiding with funds raised by the League of Arab  
 25 States to assist the formation of Iraqi government in  
 26 terms of elections, especially the advertisement of  
 27 education of elections;  
 28 2. **Urges** the coalition authority and Iraqi governing council to  
 29 allow a greater role for the UN and the international  
 30 community in the following areas:  
 31 a.) More multinational forces for reconstruction,  
 32 designated by the UN, especially in the area of  
 33 engineering,  
 34 b.) To secure and to enhance the situation of Iraq's  
 35 stagnant domestic economy,  
 36 c.) Control over all international funds by a special  
 37 committee designated by the UN to insure the  
 proper distribution of funds;

As a delegate, what do I expect to see from a resolution that I am supporting? - As a delegate, you expect to see your opinions, ideas, and proposed solutions reflected in the document. This includes seeing language that aligns with the positions you advocated for during debates and negotiations within the committee. You anticipate that the resolution acknowledges the key points you raised while lobbying, incorporates the amendments you proposed, and addresses the concerns you voiced. Moreover, you look for clauses that outline concrete actions or policies that you believe are necessary to address the issue effectively.

What does it mean when we submit, sponsor or be a signatory for a resolution? -

- **Submitting:** Delegates may formally introduce a resolution by submitting it to the committee for consideration. Submitting a resolution indicates that the delegate or delegation takes ownership of the document and seeks its adoption by the committee.
- **Sponsoring:** Delegates may choose to sponsor a resolution by adding their names to the list of sponsors. Sponsors are typically those who have contributed to the drafting process or who support the resolution's objectives. Sponsoring a resolution demonstrates support for its content and intent.
- **Being a Signatory:** Delegates may sign onto a resolution as signatories, indicating their support for the document without necessarily being directly involved in its drafting or sponsorship. Being a signatory signifies endorsement of the resolution's goals and would like to see it debated.

What does it mean when a MUN resolution is passed? - When a resolution is passed, it signifies that the committee has reached a consensus on the proposed solutions, actions, or policies outlined in the resolution. Passing a resolution indicates that the committee has agreed to endorse the recommendations and directives contained within it. Once a resolution is passed, it becomes an official outcome of the committee's deliberations and may be implemented, circulated, or further endorsed as appropriate.

There are two common types of resolutions in traditional country committees:

### **1. Binding Resolutions (UN Security Council - UNSC):**

**Authority:** The UN Security Council is tasked with maintaining international peace and security, and its resolutions are considered legally binding on member states.

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**Scope:** Binding resolutions adopted by the UNSC compel member states to take specific actions, such as imposing sanctions, authorizing peacekeeping interventions, or establishing missions.

**Implementation:** Member states are obligated to comply with the directives outlined in binding resolutions, and failure to do so may result in diplomatic or economic consequences.

**Example:** Resolution 242 (1967) called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War, emphasizing the principle of "land for peace."

## **2. Recommender Resolutions (Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC/General Assembly - GA/Subsidiary Committees):**

**Authority:** Committees such as ECOSOC, GA, or subsidiary bodies typically formulate recommender resolutions, which carry persuasive rather than binding authority.

**Scope:** Recommender resolutions express the collective opinion, recommendations, or guidelines of the committee on various social, economic, and developmental issues.

**Implementation:** While recommender resolutions lack the legal force of binding resolutions, they play a significant role in shaping international discourse, influencing policy decisions, and mobilizing resources for addressing global challenges.

**Example:** A recommender resolution adopted by ECOSOC/UNESCO/HLPF might call for increased funding for education in developing countries, urging member states and international organizations to prioritize educational initiatives in their development agendas.

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## **An Example of a “binding” resolution:**

### **The UN Security Council at Thammasat Model United Nations 2024**

**Topic:** Addressing Systemic Instability in the Sahel (Mali)

**Lead Author:** Suniti Sudkungwan

**Sponsors:** Canada, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Mali, Federal Republic of Nigeria, United Kingdom, United States

**Signatories:** Republic of Guinea, Republic of India, Russian Federation, Republic of France, People's Republic of China, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Islamic Republic of Iran

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### ***To the Security Council,***

*Recalling* all previous resolutions and press statements on the situation in Mali,

*Reaffirming* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and independence of Mali and its desire to work with the Transitional Government of Mali,

*Emphasises* the need to work towards the restoration of constitutional order and democratic governance and the importance of inclusive dialogue and active negotiations with Malian political groups who recognise the unity and territory integrity of Mali,

*Deeply concerned* about the continued deterioration of the political, security, and humanitarian situation in Mali, including the resurgence of attacks by terrorist groups and widespread abuses of human rights by armed groups in the north and centre of Mali,

*Recognising* the importance of regional actors such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) in the stabilisation of Mali,

*Keeping in mind* the root causes leading up to the Mali coup of 2020,

*Realising* that Northern Mali territories have fallen into the hands of the Islamist Militia, deemed a terrorist organisation by the United Nations, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States,

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*Strongly condemning* the crimes and human rights violations happening in jihadist-controlled,

*With consideration* to the UK embassy siege,

*Acting* under chapter VII of the United Nations,

1. Authorises the establishment of a Committee of the Security Council, consisting of all the members of the Security Council, the African Union Peace and Security Council, and Mali, in accordance with rules 28 and 29 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, to undertake the following tasks and to report on its work to the Council with its observations and recommendations;
    - a. To serve as a forum for high-level dialogue on the situation in Mali;
    - b. To seek from all States further information regarding actions which could be taken to effectively address the deteriorating political, security, and humanitarian situation in Mali;
    - c. To identify, analyse, and recommend best practices, challenges, opportunities, and initiatives for further resolution of the situation in Mali;
    - d. To annually make periodic reports to the Security Council;
  
  2. Decides to authorise and mandate the establishment of an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Mali (UNAMIM) for an initial period of twelve months, to be reviewed every six months after the adoption of this resolution, which shall;
    - a. Consists of up to 20,000 military personnel, including 500 military observers and liaison officers, and a civilian component of up to 5,000 police personnel from member states of the African Union and the United Nations, including but not limited to Canada, Kenya, India and Congo;
    - b. Protect civilians under the imminent threat of physical violence and restore security and public order through the use of appropriate measures, including but not limited to deadly force within its capacities and areas of operations;
    - c. Take all necessary measures to stabilise the country and restore the authority of the Malian State over the whole territory of Mali;
    - d. Contribute to national and international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism by assisting the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) in combating groups such as but not limited to the Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS) through measures including but not limited to direct combat and intelligence gathering;
    - e. Support the Transitional Government of Mali in its transition to constitutional order and democratic governance by assisting in the organisation of inclusive,
-

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- free, fair, and transparent presidential and legislative elections and by promoting the participation of civil society groups through the provision of logistical and technical assistance and effective security arrangements;
- f. Monitor, investigate, and report to the Security Council on any abuses or violations of ~~human rights~~ or international humanitarian law throughout Mali and assist the transitional authorities in preventing such abuses and violations;
  - g. Be jointly directed by the African Union High Representative for Mali and Sahel and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali;
  - h. Inspect and take action on regional governmental corruption, bribery, money laundering schemes, and illegitimate seizing of salaries;
  - i. Embrace peace and multiculturalism to align with the United Nations core values;
3. Requests the Secretary-General gather and allocate additional funding for the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Security in Mali which shall be transferred from MINUSMA to UNAMIM and used to finance UNAMIM in its mandate to assist Mali in its transition to constitutional order and democratic governance and to assist the MSDF in its counter-terrorism efforts, especially with regards to jihadist groups;
  4. Endorses the creation of a multi-partner trust fund called the Mali UN Country Trust Fund, which shall be carried out by the Secretary-General and handled by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which shall:
    - a. Receive contributions from donors who are governments of member states of the United Nations, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, or private sources including but not limited to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the African Union Integration Fund and Canada;
    - b. Accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mali, especially with regards to SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 on hunger and food security, SDG 3 on health, SDG 6 on water and sanitation, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 15 on land development;
    - c. Support the coherent resource mobilisation, allocation, and disbursement of donor resources to under-funded and under-developed cross-sectoral economic areas of Mali under the direction of the MPTFO including but not limited to the agricultural sector, the financial sector and local infrastructure;
    - d. Serves as a vehicle for pooling funds and overall investments into Mali to aid Mali in its economic recovery, further develop Mali's economic sector, and tackle strategic challenges for Mali's economic recovery and development;
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- e. Develop Mali's agriculture, water, and land by assisting the transitional authorities through measures including but not limited to land titling and registration with resources contributed to the fund by donors;
    - f. Complement, coordinate with and support other similar trust funds such as the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Security and the African Union Peace Fund to best support Mali's economic recovery and development;
  5. Calls upon the Transitional Government of Mali to return to the original transitional road map, including but not limited to the indefinitely delayed presidential and legislative elections, with logistical, technical, and financial assistance for the implementation of the transitional road map to be requested from the Secretary-General and facilitated through UNAMIM;
    - a. Countries will recognize the legitimacy of Mali's transitional government and support its transition into a stable and constitutional country;
  6. Requests that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) lift the suspension of Mali, Guinea, Niger and Burkina Faso as a member state of their respective organisations upon the full transition towards and the restoration of constitutional order and democratic governance being achieved in the aforementioned countries and especially in Mali;
  7. Emphasises the importance of inclusive dialogue between the Transitional Government of Mali and Tuareg independence and other separatist groups such as the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) willing to recognise the unity, territory integrity and political independence of the Malian State to:
    - a. Continue the implementation of the Accords d'Algiers and its four pillars;
    - b. Facilitate the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process to be led by the transitional authorities and supervised by UNAMIM;
    - c. Establish special governance zones in northern Mali under the Constitution of Mali which will devolve power to such groups to govern themselves democratically under the supervision of the Malian State;
  - ~~8. Calls upon limitations of foreign mercenaries and private military contractors<sup>2</sup> involvement in terms of their military activities within Mali, including but not limited to restrictions to logistics, intelligence, and training of personnel;~~
  9. Urges the Transitional Government of Mali and the private sector to expand their public-private partnerships (PPP) towards the sustainable long-term economic revival of
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the Malian State through private investments and engagement with the private sector in multi-sectoral economic sectors of Mali which are planned by the transitional authorities and supervised by UNAMIM which shall:

- a. Allow the transitional authorities to designate certain economic sectors which are to be specifically regulated or nationalised by the Malian State including but not limited to the gold mining sector or the agricultural sector;
  - b. Facilitate planned engagement of private firms in certain economic sectors which will benefit Mali's economic recovery and development, increase the living standards of the Malians, expand job opportunities and job skills training among Mali's population, as well as be profitable enough for the private firms involved including but not limited to the energy sector;
  - c. Catalyse investments from the private sector into certain economic sectors that strengthen the economic resilience of the Malian people and its economic system including but not limited to the agricultural sector;
  - d. Reform Mali's microfinance sector to strengthen legal and financial certainty for local and international businesses in the country through measures including but not limited to improving the financial sector stability by reducing the non-performing loans (NPL) ratio in the banking system;
10. ~~Recommends that private militaries' involvement be limited in terms of their military activities in Mali, instead serving in advisory capacities in conjunction with MSDF;~~
11. Emphasises the Security Council's determination that the situation in Mali shall significantly improve so that the Council can consider, in due course and as appropriate, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the African Union Chairperson, the drawing down and eventual termination of UNAMIM;
12. Requests the Mali government to provide ground support for the task force on the ground and authorise the use of Mali air space to ensure the safety of the task force.
13. Supports the evacuation of the embassy of the United Kingdom and all of its personnel to be handled by a multinational task force which shall: and
- a. Consist of the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) and observers from the following countries including the United Kingdom, France, Canada, India, Kenya, Congo, Russia, Guinea and Iran;
  - b. Be organised from Air Base 101 near the Diiori Hamani International Airport in Niamey, Niger with the following details;
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- i. The MDSF will carry out the process of lifting the siege of the embassy of the United Kingdom under the supervision of observers from countries mentioned in sub-clause a;
  1. Observers will include medical and healthcare professionals in the transporting aircraft and Airbase 101 to monitor and aid the task force, negotiators from Mali, France and Kenya.
  2. France will provide sustenance for all personnel involved in the operation, the array of food will contain baguettes, croissants, hot chocolate, fromage, escargot, pieds de porc and more.
- ii. The MDSF will delegate responsibilities to the Nigerien Armed Forces upon the arrival of helicopters of the Nigerien Air Force to the UK embassy and escort the evacuated personnel to Airbase 101 in Niger;
- iii. The United States Air Force will provide their military aircraft to transport the evacuated personnel to the United Kingdom;
- c. Assign the sub-committee of the Security Council on the situation of Mali and UNAMIM to investigate the causes of the embassy siege in conjunction with Malian transitional authorities and the multinational task force;

14. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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## An Example of a “recommender” resolution:

### The UN Human Rights Council at NISMUN I

**Topic:** LGBTQ+ Rights with an Emphasis on Same-Sex Marriage

**Lead Author:** Suniti Sudkungwan

**Main Submitter:** Canada

**Co-Submitters:** France, Belgium

**Sponsors:** Ireland, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Netherlands, China, Namibia, Thailand, India, South Africa, South Korea

**Signatories:** Nigeria, DPRK, Iran

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*To the Human Rights Council,*

**Guided by** the purposes and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

**Recalling** Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that every adult of both biological sexes has the right to marry and found a family if they wish to,

**Further recalling** Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,

**Fully believing** that everyone should be afforded the same rights and freedoms to which all are entitled, regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other status,

**Recognising** the importance of respecting regional, cultural, and religious values, systems as well as particularities in considering human rights issues on the international level,

1. **Reaffirms** that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, religion, or other status;
  2. **Calls upon** all States to introduce relevant legislation that would ensure the recognition and legalisation of same-sex marriage, as well as full respect for the right to private and family life of LGBTQ+ individuals without discrimination to be discussed in their respective national legislative bodies such as;
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- a. Legislation that would decriminalise consensual same-sex activities;
  - b. Legislation that would prevent discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals;
  - c. Legislation that would allow same-sex marriage;
  - d. Legislation that would allow legal recognition of same-sex couples through registered partnerships or civil partnerships;
  - e. Legislation that would allow legal recognition of unregistered or cohabiting same-sex couples;
  - f. Legislation that would allow legal recognition of same-sex marriage and civil partnerships formed in another State;
  - g. Any other relevant legislation that would provide alternative forms of legal recognition to same-sex marriage and couples that has not been mentioned;
3. ***Decides*** to appoint, for a period of three years, a **special rapporteur** on the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBTQ+ people with the following mandates;
- a. To examine, monitor, advise, and publicly report the status of LGBTQ+ rights worldwide, including the legal status of same-sex marriage globally and the progress of any relevant national legislation and policies introduced aimed at advancing LGBTQ+ rights and same-sex marriage;
  - b. To seek views and engage in dialogue with States and other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations and academic institutions;
  - c. To work in cooperation with States in order to foster the promotion and protection of LGBTQ+ rights while taking into consideration and respecting the prevalent regional, cultural, and religious values and systems;
  - d. To conduct, facilitate, and support the provision of advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building and international cooperation in support of national efforts to effectively implement legislation that would advance LGBTQ+ rights and protect LGBTQ+ individuals, including relevant legislation mentioned under Clause 2 of this resolution;
  - e. To work in close coordination with the Independent Experts on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and to consider every possibility to coordinate their works with these mandate holders in the most effective ways, such as through joint communications and by sharing relevant information;
  - f. To report annually to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly;
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4. ***Invites*** the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council to conduct a study, to prepare a research-based report, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, and to submit the report to the Human Rights Council in its next session on;
    - a. Discrimination and stigmatisation faced by LGBTQ+ individuals with an emphasis on same-sex couples and civil partners in particular;
    - b. The importance of national legislation and policies that would advance;
    - c. promote and protect LGBTQ+ rights, with an emphasis on any legislation that would provide legal recognition of same-sex marriage, civil partnership or cohabitating same-sex couples;
    - d. The role and contribution of regional, cultural, and religious values in the infringement and violation of the rights of LGBTQ+ people;
    - e. Practical suggestions for the wider advancement, promotion and protection of LGBTQ+ rights while taking into account the view of States as appropriate;
  
  5. ***Resolves*** to establish an LGBTQ+ forum to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to individuals belonging to the LGBTQ+ community with the following mandates;
    - a. To provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTQ+ people and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
    - b. To identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities, and initiatives for further resolution of issues pertaining to LGBTQ+ individuals;
    - c. To focus on the obstacles and challenges facing further recognition and legalisation of same-sex marriage globally in its first meeting;
    - d. To be open to the participation of States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialised agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organisations, regional organisations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on LGBTQ+ issues and non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;
    - e. To be chaired by a chairperson of the Forum who will be appointed for each session by the President of the Human Rights Council, on the basis of regional rotation, and in consultation with regional groups among experts of LGBTQ+ gender or sexual identities, on LGTBQ+ issues, nominated by members and observers of the Human Rights Council, and serving in their personal capacity;
    - f. To be guided in its work by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBTQ+ people and the Independent Expert on
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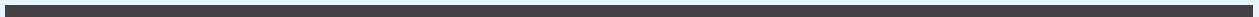
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protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, who will also prepare its annual meetings, and invites them to include in their reports thematic recommendations of the Forum and recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Human Rights Council;

- g. To meet annually for two working days allocated to thematic discussions, starting from the year 2023;
6. ***Determines***, that in order to assist the Human Rights Council in its efforts to advance, promote and protect LGBTQ+ rights worldwide, to establish a subsidiary expert mechanism to provide the Human Rights Council with thematic expertise on same-sex marriage with the following mandates;
- a. To search for, identify, and share best practices in the advancement, promotion and protection of LGBTQ+ rights with States;
  - b. To promote and raise awareness about LGBTQ+ rights worldwide, including by using #MarriageEquality hashtags on Twitter, sponsoring pro-LGBTQ+ rights social media influencers, and using television advertisements;
  - c. To consist of five independent experts, the selection of which shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established in paragraphs 39 to 53 of the annex to the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 who;
    - i. Are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights and same-sex marriage;
    - ii. Are nominated as special procedures mandate-holders by governments, regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights system, intergovernmental organisations or their offices;
    - iii. non-governmental organisations or other human rights bodies;
    - iv. Will serve for a three-year period;
    - v. May be elected for one additional period;
  - d. To meet once annually for three working days in Geneva and once annually for three working days in New York, and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings,
  - e. To be open to the observation, of States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialised agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organisations, regional organisations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on same-sex marriage issues and non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,
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7. **Requests** the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur, the Advisory Committee, the Forum and the Expert Mechanism with all the human, technical, and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of their mandates;
  8. **Encourages** Member States to share best practices and success stories in advancing LGBTQ+ rights, including legislation, policies, and initiatives that promote equality, non-discrimination, and inclusion, in order to inspire and guide the work of the Special Rapporteur, Advisory Committee, Forum, and Expert Mechanism;
  9. **Notes** that the recognition and legalisation of same-sex marriage is a mainstream political, social, human and civil rights issue and should be reflected as such;
  10. **Emphasises** that States must ensure that they meet their human rights obligations, with regards to members of the LGBTQ+ community worldwide in particular;
  11. **Reminds** the United States of America to overturn Florida's "Don't Say Gay Bill" which outlaws the discussion of queer people and rights in schools, directly influencing the social views and laws surrounding same-sex marriage;
  12. **Draws attention to** the religions that accept and recognise LGBTQ+ relationships as equal to heterosexual and cisgender relationships, pertaining to;
    - a. Christianity;
    - b. Hinduism;
    - c. Paganism;
    - d. All recognized pre-colonialism religions of the Americas, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands;
    - e. Any and all other religions that accepts LGBTQ+ rights as a part of its beliefs that has not been mentioned;
  13. **Urges** countries to create a government system that provides the ability to report cases of discrimination on the grounds of being part of the LGBTQ+ community with the intention of said cases being investigated, in ways such as;
    - a. Discrimination at the hands of the police;
    - b. Discrimination in the workplace or on educational grounds;
    - c. Discrimination from family members;
    - d. Or discrimination in any other forms;
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14. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.



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# A Guide on Agenda-Specific Research and Understanding

Chatpat Tanavongchinda & Kraiwit Watthanaphuthikamjorn (2023)

## Reading Chair Reports

Chair reports (also known as “background guides”) are your introduction to the agenda at the center of the committee. Delegates should never neglect this document since it identifies the focus and direction of the committee’s debate. This should be the first step for all delegates in their MUN research.

Chair reports are usually released at least a few weeks before the actual conference date. It is not necessary for delegates to rush into reading these reports in full as soon as they are released if they conflict with more pressing concerns; many conferences will release documents two to three months beforehand. However, it is important to at least give these report’s background or introductory sections that are short read within the first few days of the agenda being released to ensure that delegates are able to grasp the complexity of the challenges ahead.

Once the difficulty of the topic has been established, one can suitably determine a timeline for when to start research and preparation. For example, a straightforward discussion of the causes of climate change may require approximately three weeks of research since it is more broadly familiar to most in the community and is regularly apparent in public discourse. On the other hand, reform of the World Trade Organization is more technical and may require some delegates a whole month to adequately prepare for. In any case, delegates should ensure that they comprehensively finish the study guide and start research approximately two weeks before position papers are due to ensure that a generous buffer is available if any unexpected challenges in research (such as a lack of resources in an understandable language) arise.

Chair reports are usually structured in the following manner:

1. Introduction: A short 1-2 paragraph passage briefly describing the topic and the committee.
    - a. Committee: Some specialized committees will include a tailor-made introduction to explain their unique rules of procedure, focus, roles, and customs. These introductions can range from a few sentences to several pages depending on the difference in committee’s role relative to those usually found in the General Assembly.
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5. **Further Research:** A list of recommended sources is available at the end of a majority of study guides, especially those that concern complex and highly technical ideas which cannot be succinctly summarized in a few pages. These recommended resources are often focused on deepening the reader's understanding of the committee's agenda in general as opposed to offering nation-specific information as these sources are universally used by all delegations. Therefore, delegates should find supplementary sources specific to their nation's position to support their position paper and policies.
  6. **Bibliography:** Chairs (just like delegates) also have to cite their sources to support their statements. In addition to the recommended sources in the further research section, delegates may also wish to investigate sources cited by the chair if aspects of the report are unclear or lacking in detail.
  7. **Other Components:** Study guides are not rigid documents. Their structure and content are heavily dependent on the context of the committee, its focus, and the MUN community from which the author originates from. In any case, all study guides aim to give the reader a brief description of the issue and the competing explanations of its cause and solutions in addition to ensuring that delegates understand the happenings in the committee at the moment they walk in. So long as the delegate places enough emphasis on the identification of the topic's symptoms and causes to synthesize a rational solution as well as noticing any differences in the committee's operations, that delegate should be well prepared for the conference.
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## Conducting Agenda and Country Specific Research

1. Read the background guide (or chair report) before engaging in the following steps.
    - a. Background guides are usually structured from broad to narrow with a general introduction before mentioning specific examples or remedies. Hence, it is usually advised to read the background guides in their predetermined sequence for ease of understanding.
    - b. Follow-up on recommended or cited sources at the end of the background guide to getting a deeper understanding of the topic.
    - c. In both steps, focus on:
      - i. What does the problem look like?**
      - ii. What are the causes?**
  2. Once delegates complete background research, country-specific stances should be determined. This can be achieved by establishing:
    - a. How has this problem affected your country?**
    - b. What actions or positions has your government taken (or should take)?**
      - i. How does this translate into actionable solutions?
      - ii. Why do you support such policies?
      - iii. How will you propose and reflect these positions to the committee; will this be reflected in draft resolutions?
    - c. It is important to consider local sources, especially when researching countries which are less globally well-known. This can be easily achieved by looking at the country's Foreign Ministry press releases on their website or visiting local English language newspaper's website if the local language is foreign to the delegate.
    - d. It is also advisable to check each country's previous votes on a similar issue at the UN or other international forum to determine its stance on each specific issue.
    - e. In some cases, blocs such as the EU adhere to a series of agreements or common values. Evaluate existing international agreements in which your nation is a party to determine their key beliefs.
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## General Guidelines for Research

Once delegates complete their chair report, the next step is conducting additional research to deepen the delegate's understanding of their nation's stance, especially by identifying examples and concepts specific to their country assignment. Therefore, this section shall offer an introduction to the standard methodologies for research, which can then be applied to position papers and in-committee decisions afterwards. What is a source and examples What is a source: A source is a piece of information or evidence that people use to find out more about a certain topic or used to back up a certain claim. In terms of historians, they can be used to find out more about the past.

Examples of sources:

- Letters
- Documents
- Diaries
- Texts from books
- Websites
- Pictures
- Cartoons, etc

### Types of sources

There are three different types of sources:

Primary sources: A primary source, in terms of history, is a source that was written or recorded at the same time of an specific event or period. An example would be a letter written during World War 2 Examples: Autobiographies, letters, ancient artifacts, audio recordings, newspapers written at the time, etc. Primary sources are usually highly regarded for their accuracy and dependency.

Secondary sources: A secondary source, in terms of history, is a source that was written about an event, however was not written during the same period that the event happened. An example would be a book written about World War 2, but wasn't written during World War 2. Secondary sources are highly prized as summaries and commentaries on past events from a third-person perspective.

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Examples: Bibliographies, Magazines, websites (can be considered primary if the website was made during the period of the event), etc.

Tertiary sources:

A tertiary source, in terms of history, is a source that combines both primary and secondary sources, such as a book about World War 2 that also contains quotes and letters written from soldiers who were fighting during World War 2. These can be especially useful when trying to understand a primary source in a more approachable, contemporary perspective.

Examples: Almanacs, encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.

### **What is a citation?**

A citation is the action of telling the reader about the piece of information that you used is from a certain source and was not written by the author directly. Citations could also help the reader to find the source that was used in the writing, such as...

- Information about the author
- The title of the source
- The name and location of the company that published the source
- The date the source was published
- The page number of the source.

**Citations are essential for all MUN research as to avoid plagiarism and create greater credibility (ethos) for the delegate to enhance persuasion.**

### **In-text citations (in MLA format)**

An in-text citation is in a piece of text, you acknowledge the author of the source that you got the information from. An in-text citation should include the last name of the author and may include the page number or date depending on the context of the work being cited. All of the requirements of an in-text citation should be contained in brackets following the sentence or group of text in which the information is utilized as a reference.

An in-text citation in the MLA style, one commonly used style in MUN position papers, should be formatted like the example below: (Last name of author + page number).

An actual example of an in-text citation should look like:

The proposition that economic growth is the most important metric is questionable due to other indicators such as the Human Development Index (Smith 101).

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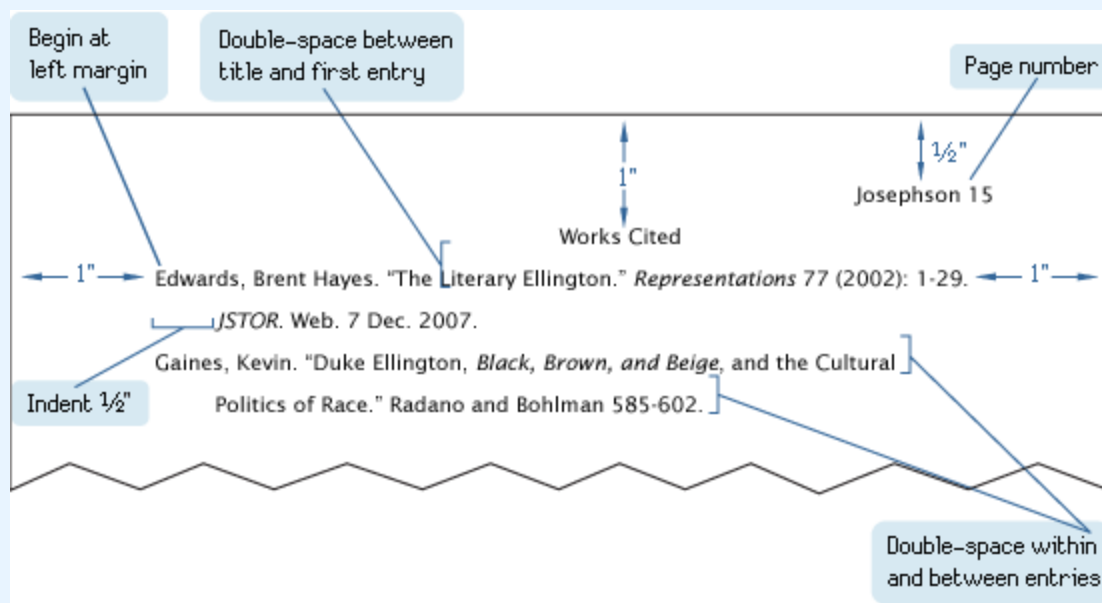
It is important to note that different chairs will have different requirements for citation formatting. In all cases, always find the style guide of the format used by your chair to ensure that any discrepancies are considered. For THAIMUN XI, the conference is using MLA8 style.

### Work cited/Bibliography page

A bibliography page is a list of all the sources cited with the same format (such as MLA 8, MLA 9, etc.) at the very end of an essay, it should be contained all in one page and all of the sources cited should be ordered alphabetically with the last name of the author of each source.

A work cited page should also have a heading at the start of the work cited page.

An example of a work cited page should look like:



This is an example in the MLA style. Note that many conferences may use alternative styles such as APA or Chicago.

### **How to find a reliable source?**

Usually people will use the first website they see and use it as their source, however, some people don't know if these are actually trustworthy. . In order for a source to be reliable, it must feature all of these following criteria:

1. The website or book lists the author who wrote it and the author is well respected, such as a university professor, a news reporter, or someone who specializes in the same topic the website was talking about, such as a meteorologist writing a book about weather.
  2. The sources that the piece referenced were clearly acknowledged.
  3. The source must be up to date, such as if you want to write about the total casualties at the end of World War 2, however the book was written in 1944 before the war had ended is not a reliable source.
  4. The source must be unbiased, such as an article about the first World War should focus on the situation of both the Allies and the Axis Powers, not just one of the two sides.
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## Application to Position Papers

Once chair reports have been fully read and deeper research is completed, delegates must document their understanding by explaining their nation's stance in a position paper. Note that not all conferences will require a written position paper; some may ask for similar information in another format like a video or make it completely optional. In most cases, it is advisable to at least draft a position paper to ensure that delegates are broadly aware of their opinions and talking points. Position papers can also be easily transformed into opening, pro, and con speeches afterwards. Hence, position papers are a highly beneficial tool for delegate preparation.

The main goal of position papers is to demonstrate to the chair that the delegate adequately understands the agenda and its relation to their country to ensure that they have actually prepared for the conference. Many delegates view their position papers as a summary of their research. This document usually depends on previous research and understanding from the study guide for its content. Position papers in the Thai MUN community is usually composed of the following:

1. Background or History of the Topic

**Summarize the causes, symptoms, key events, stakeholders, and overall progression of the topic listed in the agenda.** This section seeks to demonstrate that the delegate has a strong general understanding of the topic. Delegates are usually encouraged to provide examples and statistics to illustrate the severity of the problem in addition to consulting a variety of sources to reflect their comprehensive understanding.

Although the background should consist mainly of a general description, delegates may wish to elaborate on the background from a position that centers around their nation's perspective. For example, Thailand may focus on insurgents on its southern border when discussing terrorism in addition to providing a general explanation on the complex causes of war on terror across all five inhabited continents. Such a focus approaches and frames the issue in a specific and often favorable manner for the country the delegate is representing, which allows the reader (the chair) to be more easily convinced by the narrative used to support its successive positions and policies.

2. Country Position and/or Past Action

**Provide a stance or opinion about the topic.** This should usually take the form of a value judgment such as being very “concerned” about climate change, “encouraging collaboration” in the area of vaccinology, or “condemning” animal experimentation.

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This can sometimes be followed by a brief description of the policy or solution which the paper will elaborate upon in the last section although this should not be the main focus of this particular portion of the position paper. Such stances should then be supported with an explanation of the country's past action, which should correlate with its official position. This description should be specific and in-depth as opposed to offering a general description. In particular, the United States should support its opposition to narcotics by examining its war on drugs and support of South American governments in their local elimination of the production of illicit substances. Some country assignments may lack a direct link to the topic. In these cases, it is acceptable for delegates to investigate the adjoining region or the action of international organizations which the country is a member of. It is also possible to examine the votes taken by the specific nation on resolutions at the United Nations. All these efforts should have the final goal of exhibiting your nation's opinion on the topic.

### 3. Potential Solutions for the Committee

**Recommending 1-2 policies for the committee can be adopted to remedy the agenda.** These policies should be reflective of your country's opinions and should not contradict the majority of its past actions unless there has been a clear acknowledgement by your nation's government that its past decisions were not ideal. Policies usually take the form of new regulations such as the implementation of sanctions against nations deploying banned weapons in conflicts or it may be an entire system of interconnected measures. The latter is often utilized when addressing issues of great complexity such as a climate change where several careful steps must be planned in timely succession to facilitate transitions from fossil fuels to cleaner sources of energy. Specifically, most delegations would not propose an immediate and complete halt to all oil drilling. Instead, they may first suggest the creation of subsidies for clean energy investment, followed by limitations on new drilling, the creation of green industries to create replacement jobs and revenue, and then eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuels altogether.

**All policies must include a justification of why it is likely to solve or at least mitigate the problem.** This usually takes the form of case studies of entities where similar policies have been implemented; policies that have been tried before are very rarely proposed by delegates in MUN due to the difficulty in explaining or proving its effect. Delegates should also ensure that they fully explain and rationalize the process in which a policy results in a desired result, especially if the relationship between the issue's causes and its solutions is not intuitive.

For instance, it is not immediately clear how the creation of safer prisons would necessarily result in a reduction in cartel recruitment capacity and recidivism despite strong empirical evidence in the Caribbean (see *Narconomics* for further reading).

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The explanation that must be undertaken by a delegate advocating for this policy in UNODC in this case is that the existence of dangerous prisons further creates an incentive for inmates to group together into gangs during their imprisonment for mutual protection. This grouping makes it even harder for inmates, many of whom were already involved in the drug trade before their imprisonment, to move beyond organized crime and create the independence necessary to stay out of crime after their release. In other words, the assembly of prisoners into “gangs' ” for mutual protection makes it easier for cartels to recruit and maintain members during imprisonment, mostly negating the goal of imprisonment of separating the convict from various vices and “rehabilitating' ” them. All in all, policy proposals should be explained and justified in detail to ensure that the chair is able to understand what, why, and how the policy will be implemented.

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## Creditories

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### Conference

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