

# 2 CHAPTER TWO ROLEPLAYING

## THE REPRESENTATIVE

Representatives' preparations are fundamental to any Model UN conference. A delegation's job is to research the positions of a UN Member State, both on the specific topics that will be discussed at the conference and for general overview of that nation's policies.

After preparation, Representatives should be ready to discuss the issues with their counterparts and to prepare draft resolutions, reports, or other documents based on the specifics of each simulation, which codify solutions to problems. These draft resolutions and documents may be submitted for debate at the Conference. See Chapter 5, "Draft Resolutions, Amendments, Reports & Statements," for details.

Finally, Representatives attend the AMUN Conference to represent their nation in discussing the various issues presented. When Representatives enter the Opening Session of AMUN, they assume the role of the Distinguished Representative from their country, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails.

At the Conference, Representatives, in the role of their country's spokesperson, will debate the issues on the agenda to seek solutions to the problems facing the world community. They will also create and discuss draft resolutions and reports, caucus with Representatives who are roleplaying other countries, and work to solve the problems facing the world. In the UN today, nations will usually debate an item in an attempt to reach a consensus that can be agreed to by all, or at least by most, nations. The draft resolutions and reports under discussion at AMUN can be accepted by consensus, adopted, amended, combined or even debated to the point that no final document can be produced on a given issue.

Special effort should be made to achieve consensus on issues, rather than requiring a formal vote, thus showing solidarity and strong support for UN decisions. Over seventy-five percent of the General Assembly's resolutions are now adopted by consensus. While not always achievable on every issue, passage of resolutions by consensus illustrates the importance of an issue to the international community. By aiming for universal agreement on their written work, AMUN committee simulations strive to emulate this aspect of international diplomacy.

## ROLEPLAYING

The AMUN Conference is a simulation of the UN. By its very nature, the quality and tone of debate will be dramatically different than in the "real" UN. At the UN, Representatives and their consular staffs spend months in preparation, caucusing behind closed doors, and interacting with other nations before an issue is brought to a vote. A UN Representative, or Head of State, will rarely make a prepared speech that would be surprising to the other Representatives present.

At AMUN, however, Representatives will have only four days to assume the role of their nation's Representative and simulate the actions of the UN. This consolidation of time leads to many different circumstances with which each delegation will have to contend. Among

the considerations is the fact that Representatives will rarely have the opportunity to give a pre-written speech on a topic. Instead, they will often be forced to verbally react to circumstances as they arise, and they may be in a position where it is reasonable to reinterpret their nation's position in light of new facts. Representatives should not simply read from their country's established record on the issues presented; they should be prepared to compromise with the other nations represented and adapt their policies where needed to meet the current circumstances of the world as simulated at the Conference.

Note that this in no way gives delegations license to act "out of character." Representatives should research and generally follow the policies of their country, modifying these as new circumstances dictate. Successful roleplaying involves walking a careful line on policy; avoid the extremes of either reading verbatim a country's past statements or creating an ad hoc policy with no previous basis.

## STRATEGY AT THE CONFERENCE

Toward the end of the preparation process, each delegation should determine its strategy and goals for the Conference. The delegation should be involved in working toward solutions to the problems placed before the United Nations. This requires a great deal of negotiation and compromise, often at the expense of certain positions which may be of concern to an individual delegation. Each delegation's Representatives must therefore decide which items are of greatest importance to their nation and set their strategies accordingly. Strategic areas to consider include

- What kind of role will the delegation play at the Conference (e.g., conciliatory, obstructive, aggressive, neutral or leading)?
- Will the delegation seek informal leadership positions in each committee and in the General Assembly Plenary?
- How can the delegation achieve the goals and interests identified in your research?
- With which other nations will the delegation attempt to work? (Note: this may vary by committee or by topic.)
- Which other delegations will be this delegation's main adversaries on each topic?

**Remember, passing resolutions and reports is not the true measure of success at the Conference.** While each delegation is encouraged to propose written solutions on the various issues, Representatives must stand ready to **compromise** to achieve any real solution to the problems being discussed.

## THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Each delegation must appoint one person to act as the primary Representative for that delegation, assuming the role of Permanent Representative when the delegation is on the floor for meetings. Schools with more than one delegation must appoint one Permanent Representative per delegation.



The Permanent Representative has a number of responsibilities, including

- Being responsible to the Secretariat for the delegation and its actions;
- Acting as the leader of the delegation for substantive matters;
- Coordinating the delegation across Committees, and during the move from General Assembly Committees into the Combined General Assembly Plenary and the ECOSOC Committees and Commissions into the Combined ECOSOC Plenary session;
- Coordinating and monitoring the delegation's submission of draft resolutions, reports and other documents;
- Representing the delegation at general meetings of Permanent Representatives called by the Conference;
- Acting as liaison to the Secretariat for any administrative matters at the Conference.

The Permanent Representative may sit in any Committee at AMUN on which that delegation is seated, in addition to the two regular Representatives allowed in any body. The Permanent Representative may be assigned to a specific Committee, or may float throughout the various simulations at the Conference, helping where needed. If the Permanent Representative is not assigned to a specific Committee, this person may be ideal to be available if your country is called into the Security Council or the Historical Security Councils. Permanent Representatives will be asked to provide their hotel room numbers, cellular phone numbers (if available), and Committee assignment to the Secretariat when they register at the Conference.

As leader of the delegation, the Permanent Representative should be the focal point for coordinating the delegation's efforts throughout the various Committees. This person should allow your nation to maintain a coherent policy on similar issues which may surface in the different simulations.

It is essential that the Permanent Representative maintain contact with all Committees to ensure that one Representative is not acting inconsistently with the remainder of their delegation. While the "character" of the delegation's roleplaying should be thoroughly discussed in advance of the Conference, the Permanent Representative must ensure that individuals remain within that character at the Conference.

Permanent Representatives should monitor draft resolutions, reports and other documents sponsored by the delegation. A draft resolution or document is a written statement of a country's viewpoint on the issue in question. Each draft resolution should be considered carefully to ensure that it is within the country's policies and is of sufficient content to not prove embarrassing to the country if submitted for consideration on the floor.

## THE FACULTY ADVISOR

If a school has a Faculty Advisor, AMUN suggests that his/her main role be in working with and preparing the school's delegation(s) before they attend the Conference. Regardless of whether the Faculty Advisor is a class professor or club sponsor, this person can assist the delegation in both logistical and content preparation for the Conference.

Logistically, the Faculty Advisor may be the main contact with both the Conference and the school administration. This role could include working with finances and group organization, registering the school

for the Conference, making hotel reservations, preparing travel arrangements, and a host of other preparations. Alternately, these roles could be delegated and assumed by the delegation leaders or club officers at a school.

In helping delegations prepare for the content issues they will face at the Conference, Faculty Advisors could either run a full-curriculum class or serve as a resource for a Model UN Club or other organization. They may use a well-established, proven curriculum or utilize this handbook as a guide to preparing the students who will attend. All registered schools may elect to receive the *Model UN "in a Box"* Simulation Guide, which contains resources to assist Model UN leaders in training delegations to participate at AMUN. Also, the Faculty Advisor can coordinate and run preparatory sessions to better prepare students for the Conference.

## GRADING THE MODEL UN EXPERIENCE

AMUN strongly recommends that Faculty Advisors not grade students based on quantitative measures of performance at the Conference. This very often leads to poor roleplaying as the students involved are working for their grade, and not necessarily to accurately portray their country. Several areas where AMUN specifically **discourages** grading include

- Students getting their draft resolution or amendment to the floor or passed;
- Students speaking a certain number of times (stressing quantity over quality); or
- Students making a certain number of motions.

If grading is necessary, AMUN suggests the following as possible areas for appraisal:

- Pre-Conference preparation (possibly including testing or paper submission);
- Quality of position papers, either internal or those submitted to the Conference;
- Quality of resolutions drafted;
- The effectiveness of the student at the Conference in playing the delegation's role (based on direct Faculty observations, not the quantitative items listed previously). Evaluation could include
- Clearly stating and basing all actions upon the country's position;
- Effectively working with other delegations, both on the floor and in caucusing; and
- Effectively working toward a consensus of the body, when appropriate;
- Whether or not the student is present and on time for all assigned Committee sessions; and
- A post-Conference paper based on what students learned and experienced at the Conference.

The interactive nature of the Model UN experience provides incredible learning opportunities for students who attend and become immersed in that experience. AMUN requests that Faculty Advisors not dilute the students' experience by linking grades to quantitative performance at the Conference.



## USING THE AMUN HOME GOVERNMENT OFFICE

AMUN's Home Government serves a variety of important interactive functions:

**Resource Center:** Home Government will be a resource center where Representatives can obtain information to supplement their pre-Conference research. AMUN's Home Government library has numerous documents about the United Nations and the issues being discussed. Home Government staff are able to access additional information on the Internet if needed. The Home Government staff will be available to give competent, general advice on many areas. They will also give some country-specific advice if a Representative is unsure of their country's policy. They will not, however, tell a Representative how to vote on any given issue.

**Roleplaying:** Home Government may be called upon to roleplay a country or organization that is not otherwise represented at AMUN. Home Government may also be brought in to provide a substantive report from the Secretariat; to provide an expert report as a Secretariat member from a relevant UN body; to serve as an informational source from a non governmental organization; or to give the perspective of an unrepresented Member State, observer, or other recognized group. This process can be used to clarify any points of confusion about the work of a simulation or to provide additional technical information or specifics about the current status of UN efforts in a particular area. All requests for roleplayers should be directed to the Dais Staff. Representatives may have the opportunity to raise points of inquiry to gain additional information regarding the subject.

**Substantive Issues Outside the Purview of a Simulation:** Issues occasionally arise which are outside the scope of an AMUN simulation. In these cases, Representatives should consult Home Government to determine whether the issue may be discussed at the Conference. All decisions of the Home Government Secretariat are final on such issues.

## DELEGATIONS THAT ARE "OUT OF CHARACTER"

Because students attending the Conference are not career diplomats representing their country and, in most cases, will not have lived or been raised in the country they are representing, questions do sometimes arise at Conference as to whether the actions of individuals are "out of character" in relation to their delegations' policies in the real world. AMUN has several specific suggestions to address this issue.

First, and most importantly, **being "in character" is the responsibility of each delegation, and ultimately falls to the Permanent Representative or the Faculty Advisor.** There is no possible substitute for extensive preparation on your country and the issues to be discussed before attending the Conference. AMUN operates under the expectation and assumption that the members of each delegation will enter the Conference prepared and more knowledgeable about their individual country and their country's stance on the issues than any other Representative present.

If you, or your delegation, believe that a Representative has not done sufficient research and is misinformed or acting "out of character" on a particular issue, AMUN recommends several steps which can be taken:

First, please revisit the actions taken by the Representative in question. Is the Representative "out of character" given the particular resolution and situation on the floor? Have circumstances (either in the real world or at Conference) changed such that the Representative could *realistically* modify their country's stance on a particular issue? Are you **certain** that you know the actual stance of the country in question on the issue? Many cases of a Representative appearing "out of character" are actually just misinterpretations of what was said or of a country's previously stated policies.

If you still believe that the Representative is "out of character," AMUN asks that you talk to the Representative about the issue before bringing the problem to the Secretariat. This can be easily done in a **non-confrontational** manner by stating something like: "*I hadn't realized that was your country's position on the issue, where did you see that?*" -or- "*I thought I read something in (state your source) about your country having a different opinion on this issue; have you seen that information?*" Directly confronting a Representative to say "*You're wrong on this*" will likely not succeed and could damage your diplomatic relations in the future.

The Representative will likely respond in one of three ways to your question. The Representative may respond with information to justify his/her statements, with a statement like "*I did the research and this is my country's view on the issue,*" or with interest in the new information you have provided. If this response answers your question, the issue is resolved. If a Representative is interested in more information, please send that person to the Home Government office, which has many files and resources to help with questions. If the Representative is non-responsive or chooses not to answer your question, you can bring the issue to the attention of the Dais Staff, who will assist Representatives in seeking further assistance from the Home Government Secretariat.

**Please note that AMUN Chairs and Rapporteurs are specifically instructed to NOT provide advice to Representatives on the issues being discussed.** AMUN staff members have different roles. Chairs are specifically trained on the Rules of Procedure. Rapporteurs are trained to assist with issues related to the drafting of resolutions and reports and ensuring that documents fall within the purview of a specific simulation. The Home Government Secretariat and Special Rapporteurs are trained on assisting Representatives with content questions. Committee Chairs or Rapporteurs may arbitrate disagreements but will never render an opinion regarding an "out of character" situation.

If delegations or individuals are finding it difficult to remain in character, AMUN's goal is to provide them with the information needed to correctly represent their country on a given issue. The delegation's Permanent Representative will always be sought out by the Secretariat if it appears that someone from their delegation may be "out of character" to inform them of the situation.

Because all participants at AMUN are learning about the United Nations as they participate, these situations may occur. AMUN expects that all delegations will take the time necessary to prepare and correctly portray their country on each issue under consideration. AMUN also asks that Representatives not jump to conclusions about other delegations' roleplaying without having a detailed background on the other country's position on the issue. Finally, AMUN asks that Representatives on all sides handle potential "out of character" situations with the utmost diplomatic courtesy for all parties involved. The AMUN Secretariat will be the final arbiter of any "out of character" disputes that arise at the Conference.



## UNDERSTANDING THE AMUN RULES OF PROCEDURE

While substantive discussions of the issues form the basis of any good simulation of the UN, the rules of procedure are used to facilitate the substantive debate which occurs. In general, these rules are intended to provide an even playing field, allowing each country to accomplish its individual goals in advocating their policies, while also maximizing opportunities for the group to reach agreement, or even consensus, on the issues. Several levels of preparation are possible on the rules. For new Model UN participants, it is recommended that each person have a working knowledge of the principal motions which can be made during the simulation, encapsulated on the Rules Short Forms on pages 35-36 of this book. The Dais Staff of each committee will assist Representatives in using these rules on the first day of the Conference, and assist in bringing everyone onto an even playing field. For experienced Representatives, especially those who have not attended AMUN in the past, we suggest reading AMUN's rules in-depth, both as a refresher on these rules of procedure and to note differences from other conferences a school might attend. Most Model UN conferences use slightly different rules of procedure, and in some cases the contrasts are significant. In order to best facilitate everyone's experience, it is incumbent upon every participant to learn and use the rules established for this Conference.

## PRACTICING THE AMUN RULES OF PROCEDURE

It is also recommended that Representatives be able to practice the rules side of their simulations in preparation for AMUN. Using the AMUN rules and formatting guidelines, develop several mock resolutions to discuss. Delegations can then hold a mock session, with each student representing a different nation and using the rules in a real setting. This can also give students the opportunity to trade roles as practice for the Conference. Note that this method of preparation has also been successful where delegations have held an open conference, including any interested students at their school, not just the members of their class or club. AMUN also provides the *AMUN Model UN "in a Box"* simulation guide to all registered schools, which can assist Faculty Advisors or club leaders in running practice simulations. *Please feel free to e-mail the AMUN Executive Office at mail@amun.org if you have any questions about the AMUN Rules of Procedure.*

## 2013 CONFERENCE SIMULATIONS

AMUN simulates the General Assembly (GA) Plenary, four Main GA Committees, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and the International Court of Justice. AMUN also features three non-traditional simulations: two Historical Security Councils and an International Press Delegation. Please see the *Issues at AMUN Handbook* for information about the topics and the purviews of these simulations.

In the **General Assembly**, the **First (Disarmament & International Security)**, **Second (Economic & Financial)**, **Third (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)** and **Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization)** Committees, as well as a Concurrent GA Plenary will meet for the first three days (Saturday through Monday) of the Conference. These four committees will then merge with the **Concurrent Plenary** to form a **Combined GA Plenary** session on Tuesday.

Note that Representatives who participate in the Committees will also participate in the Combined GA Plenary session (up to four Representatives may be seated at each delegation's placard). The purpose of this combined session is to build consensus on and ratify the resolutions which passed in the four main GA Committees. While a small amount of additional debate is typical, it is expected that the work done by each Committee over the first three days of the Conference will be respected. It would thus be rare for significant changes to be made, or for a resolution to fail in the Plenary session after passing in Committee. The combined General Assembly Plenary will also hear and consider the PKO's annual report.

The **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** will meet for the four days of the Conference. ECOSOC deals with the issues on its agenda, including any necessary interactions with the other bodies simulated. On Tuesday afternoon the ECOSOC Plenary session will take place to hear and consider the reports of CCPCJ and ECLAC.

The **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)** and the **Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** will meet for the four days of the Conference, reporting to the ECOSOC Plenary session on Tuesday afternoon. The purpose of this combined session is to build consensus on and ratify the reports and resolutions which passed in the bodies reporting to ECOSOC. While a small amount of additional debate is typical, it is expected that the work done by each subsidiary body over the first four days of the Conference will be respected. Plenary bodies that receive reports generally pass the resolution that accepts a subsidiary body's report by consensus or with overwhelming support.

The contemporary **Security Council** will be responsible for dealing with international peace and security issues as they stand at the time of the Conference. A tentative agenda will be given, but Representatives should be prepared to discuss any and all peace and security issues that a Member of the Council might bring to the table.

The **Historical Security Council** simulations will simulate the events occurring in the years 1956 and 1994. Representatives will follow standard Security Council rules and procedures, but will roleplay the viewpoint of their delegation as of the respective year of the simulation in which they are seated.

The **Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (SCPKO)** will meet for the four days of the Conference, reporting to the GA Plenary session on Tuesday. The SCPKO is responsible for the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** will feature Justices, drawn from any interested Representatives, presiding over cases brought before the Court by Member States or other entities. Individuals from colleges and law schools not affiliated with a delegation are also encouraged to participate in this simulation.

The **International Press Delegation (IPD)** will feature Reporters covering the issues of the Conference as they occur. The IPD will publish a once or twice daily newspaper on Conference topics and other issues of interest to Representatives. IPD will also accept personal ads and press releases and hold press conferences for interested delegations.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE ISSUES AT AMUN HANDBOOK.**