



# Chapter Two Roleplaying

## THE REPRESENTATIVE

Well-prepared representatives are critical to any Model UN conference. A delegation's job is to research the positions of a United Nations Member State, both on the specific topics that will be discussed at the conference and for a general overview of that country's policies.

With adequate preparation, representatives should be ready to discuss the issues with their counterparts and to prepare draft documents that, based on the specifics of each simulation, codify solutions to problems. These draft documents may be submitted for debate at the Conference. See Chapter 5, "Draft Documents," 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 spokespersons, will debate the issues on the agenda to seek solutions to the problems facing the world community. They will also create and discuss draft documents, caucus with representatives who are roleplaying other countries and work to solve the problems facing the world. In the United Nations today, countries will usually debate an item in an attempt to reach a solution that can be agreed to by all, or at least by most Member States. The draft documents 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.

One way that AMUN encourages representatives to work collaboratively on draft documents is by mandating a certain number of sponsors on a resolution, amendment or report before it can be considered by the body. This is not done at the United Nations in New York, where professional diplomats work together year-round to produce these documents. At AMUN, resolutions and reports in simulations other than the Security Council or Historical Security Council, require sponsorship by 35 percent of delegations registered in a simulation. Amendments have a lower sponsorship threshold and require 15 percent sponsorship. You can read more about these requirements in Chapter 5, "Draft Documents" and Chapter 7, "Rules of Procedure" of this handbook.

Special effort should be made to adopt documents through consensus rather than a formal vote. Adoption by consensus shows solidarity and strong support within the body for a decision or course of action. Over seventy-five percent of the General Assembly's resolutions are now adopted by consensus. Passing resolutions by consensus is not achievable on every issue, but it illustrates the importance of an issue to the international community. By aiming for universal agreement on their written work, AMUN simulations strive to emulate this aspect of international diplomacy.

## ROLEPLAYING

The AMUN Conference is a simulation of the United Nations. By its very nature, the quality and tone of debate will be dramatically different than at the United Nations in New York. At the United Nations, representatives and their consular staffs spend months in preparation, caucusing behind closed doors and interacting with other delegations before an issue is brought to a vote. A United Nations 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 United Nations. 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, which may put them in a position where it is reasonable to reinterpret their country'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 State, modifying these as new circumstances dictate. Successful roleplaying involves walking a careful line on policy, avoiding the extremes of either reading verbatim a State'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. Each 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 country and set their strategies accordingly. Strategic areas to consider include the following:

- 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 Combined General Assembly Plenary?
- How can the delegation achieve the goals and interests identified in your research?
- With which other countries will the delegation attempt to work? 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 who will assume 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, but not limited to, the following:

- 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 ECOSOC Plenary session
- Coordinating and monitoring the delegation's submission of draft 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 in 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 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 (if they have one) to the Secretariat when they register at the Conference.

As the leader of the delegation, the permanent representative should be the focal point for coordinating the delegation's efforts throughout the various simulations. This person should facilitate your delegation's ability 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 documents sponsored by the delegation. A draft document is a written statement of a State's viewpoint on the issue in question. Each draft document should be considered carefully to ensure that it is within the State'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 or 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. Alternatively, 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 the well-established, proven curriculum provided by 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 often leads to poor roleplaying as the students involved are working for their grade and not necessarily for the accurate portrayal of their country's positions. Several areas where AMUN specifically *discourages* grading include the following:

- Students getting their draft resolution or amendment to the floor or passed
- Students speaking a certain number of times (stressing quantity over quality)
- 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 delegation's position
  - Effectively working with other delegations, both on the floor and in caucusing
  - 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
- 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' experiences 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 is a resource center where representatives can obtain information to supplement their pre Conference research. AMUN's Home Government has specialized knowledge and training about the United Nations in general and the issues being discussed at AMUN in particular. They are expert researchers, who excel at finding information about unexpected aspects of the topics. The Home Government staff will be available to give competent, general advice on many areas. They can also give country-specific advice if a representative is unsure of their State's policy. Home Government is happy to provide



expertise on a representative's country. They will not, however, tell a representative how to vote on any given issue.

**Roleplaying:** Representatives and Secretariat members may request roleplayers to represent a country, organization or entity that is not otherwise represented at AMUN. All requests for roleplayers should be directed to the Dais Staff. Roleplayers may also be brought in to provide the following: a substantive report from the Secretariat, an expert report from a relevant United Nations body, an informational source from a non-governmental organization, or the perspective of an unrepresented Member State, observer or other unrecognized group. Roleplayers may be used to clarify any points of confusion about the work or goals of a simulation or to provide additional technical information about the current status of United Nations efforts in a particular area. Based on the availability of the Home Government roleplayer and at the discretion of the chair, representatives may have the opportunity to raise points of inquiry to gain additional information about the subject.

## SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Issues occasionally arise which are outside the scope of an AMUN simulation. In these cases, representatives should consult their Rapporteur or Special Rapporteur to determine whether the issue may be discussed at the Conference. Representatives on Security Councils should consult their Simulation Directors about such issues. All decisions of the Secretariat are final.

## 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 delegation's 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: First, please revisit, internally, 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.

Then, if you still believe that a 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 two ways to your question. The representative may respond with information to justify his or her position 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 suggest that person visit the Home Government office or speak to a Simulation Director in Security Council simulations. 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 or Simulation Director.

AMUN Secretariat members have different roles. Please note that AMUN Chairs, Rapporteurs and Special Rapporteurs are specifically instructed to NOT determine whether representatives are acting in or out of character. Chairs are specifically trained on the Rules of Procedure. Rapporteurs and Special 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. Committee Chairs, Rapporteurs or Special Rapporteurs may arbitrate disagreements but will never render an opinion regarding an "out of character" situation. The Home Government Secretariat and Simulation Directors are trained on determining whether representatives are acting in or out of character.

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 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 countries 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 countries' positions on the issues. 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 United Nations, the rules of procedure are essential to facilitating 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 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. All representatives are encouraged to attend the appropriate Rules and Roleplaying session on Saturday afternoon before Opening Plenary. These are led by senior AMUN Secretariat members and are designed to give representatives an overview of AMUN's rules and procedures.

## PRACTICING THE AMUN RULES OF PROCEDURE

In addition to preparing to represent their countries' positions, 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, representatives should develop several mock resolutions to discuss. Delegations can then hold a mock session, with each student representing a different State 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 *Model UN in a Box* simulation guide to all registered schools, which can assist faculty advisors or club leaders in running practice simulations. *Please e-mail the AMUN Executive Office at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) if you have any questions about the AMUN Rules of Procedure.*

## 2016 CONFERENCE SIMULATIONS

AMUN simulates the General Assembly (GA) Plenary, four Main GA Committees, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 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)** Committees will meet for the first three days (Saturday through Monday) of the Conference. These four committees will then merge with the **Concurrent GA Plenary** to form a **Combined GA Plenary** session on Tuesday.

Representatives who participate in the GA 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 is rare for significant changes to be made or for a resolution to fail in the Plenary session after passing in Committee. Delegations may place one or two representatives on each General Assembly committee.

Along with simulating the General Assembly Plenary and its First, Second, Third and Fourth Committee, AMUN will also be simulating the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**. IAEA will meet all four days of the Conference as a resolution-writing body. IAEA's membership is open to all Member States, and each delegation may place one representative on this body. Requests for a second seat on this simulation should be directed to the AMUN Executive Office. Delegations may place one representative on the International Atomic

Energy Agency. Permission to seat two representatives on this committee must be granted by the Executive Office.

The **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** will meet only on Tuesday afternoon as a Plenary body. ECOSOC deals with the issues on its agenda, and receives the annual reports of its functional and regional commissions. Schools with delegations seated on ECOSOC should prepare to send one or two representatives to the ECOSOC Plenary session on Tuesday afternoon so ECOSOC may hear the reports of its commissions.

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** and the **Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)** 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 list of topics 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. We recommend delegations place two representatives on each Security Council simulation in which they are represented.

The **Historical Security Council** simulations will simulate the events occurring in the years 1973 and 1990. 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, according to the start date listed in the *Issues at AMUN* handbook. We recommend delegations place two representatives on each Security Council simulation in which they are represented.

Along with simulating the General Assembly Plenary and its First, Second, Third and Fourth Committees, AMUN will be simulating the **Human Rights Council (HRC)**, which is the body responsible for strengthening the protection of human rights around the globe. Its 47 Member States will meet all four days of the Conference, and it will function as a resolution-writing body. Delegations may seat one or two representatives on the Human Rights Council.

The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** will feature Justices, drawn from any interested representatives, presiding over cases brought before the Court by Member States. Individuals from colleges and law schools not affiliated with a delegation are also encouraged to participate in this simulation. Delegations with a case before the ICJ will be expected to provide one or two representatives as Advocates to argue their case, and may appoint an ad hoc Justice to the Court to hear their particular case. Representatives assigned as Advocates or ad hoc Justices should also have an additional committee assignment, as these are not duration-of-the-Conference positions.

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 from representatives and hold press conferences for interested delegations.