



## American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter

19 October 2018

### Diplomatic Courtesy and Speaker's Lists *Understanding Some Key AMUN Aspects*

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. This email will discuss two key aspects of the AMUN Conference and what they mean for you and your students: Diplomatic Courtesy and why AMUN doesn't use a speaker's list.

#### **REMINDER: Your Position Papers are Due Next Week!**

Just a reminder that the deadline to submit position papers and be eligible for a position paper award is fast approaching. Position papers are due at **11:59:59 Central Daylight Time on 25 October**. To earn a Position Paper award, each delegation's Position Paper must include papers on both topics on every simulation on which your country is seated, at least one paper for any SC/HSC simulation, and one paper for each topic for any COI participants. [Submit your position papers online](#). If you need a reminder on what should be included or how to submit your position papers, see an earlier communication: [Why Write a Position Paper?](#)

#### **Diplomatic Courtesy – More Than AMUN's Catchphrase**

At the United Nations, decorum and respect is the norm among trained and professional diplomats, so it is therefore not established in a specific rule. At AMUN, however, to emphasize the importance of diplomatic relationships, this concept is enshrined in Rule 2.2 of AMUN's Rules of Procedure and is in effect for the duration of the Conference. . The full text of the rule is listed below.

*2.2 Diplomatic Courtesy. All participants in the AMUN Conference must accord Diplomatic Courtesy to all credentialed representatives, Secretariat Members, Faculty Advisors, Observers and Hotel staff at all times,*

- *Representatives who persist in obvious attempts to disrupt the session shall be subject to expulsion from the Committee by the Chair,*
- *The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any representative or delegation from the Conference, and*

- *This decision is not appealable.*

Whether in person, in writing or over the internet, we expect that all representatives and conference attendees behave toward each other as diplomats and afford their fellow representatives, hotel staff, faculty advisors and the AMUN Secretariat with the courtesy you would expect extended to professional diplomats or heads-of-state. This is not something that the AMUN Secretariat can do on its own, and we ask for your help as educators and club leaders in ensuring that everyone have an enjoyable conference, free of harassment, misconduct and undiplomatic behavior.

For more information on AMUN's Rule 2.2 or the AMUN Code of Conduct, please look at the [Rules and Procedures](#) handbook. Or read [Diplomatic Courtesy 101](#) on the AMUN Accords.

## Why AMUN Doesn't Use a Speaker's List

AMUN does not use speaker's lists at the Conference. This is a departure from the practice of the United Nations, where speaker's lists are used in all committee, council and plenary sessions. We eschew this United Nations staple for a variety of reasons.

1. **There's not enough time.** Listening to every Member State and Observer equally takes days at the United Nations, in fact usually more than the four we have at AMUN to conclude our deliberations.
2. **It's not educational.** A formal speaker's list with no questioning of the speaker, with no back-and-forth debate, isn't a great learning opportunity for Representatives. It doesn't encourage extemporaneous speaking, the debate and defense of ideas or the challenge of answering unexpected questions.
3. **It doesn't fit the flow of Model UN.** In Model UN, formal debate is more like informal caucusing at the United Nations. And that's necessary, because the resolutions that the United Nations votes on are often the work of months and staff of hundreds before they're ready to be voted on. We're asking your students to manage that in three days of debate. That's a tall order for anyone, and we think a debate with more back and forth helps them accomplish their goals.

If you want to read more about AMUN's take on Speaker's Lists, read [Where's the Speaker's List?](#) on the AMUN Accords.

## Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN club or class, please contact us at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good Luck on Your Preparations,

Nia Indelicato  
2018 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn  
AMUN Executive Director

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