



American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter

31 October 2018

Understanding the GA Committees *A Primer for New Students*

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. Please pass this newsletter along to your students. It contains information for new and returning students in the General Assembly Committees, the United Nations Environment Assembly and the World Health Organization.

Rules & Roleplaying Session

On Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Riverwalk-A room on the lower level of the Sheraton AMUN will be hosting a Rules & Roleplaying Session (RRP). AMUN's RRP for the General Assembly Committees will cover the basics of Model UN and the AMUN rules. RRP's are an excellent refresher for students that have gone to Model UN conferences before, but for first-time attendees to AMUN or Model UN in general, it's an essential foundational experience that gives new Model UNers the tools they need to be successful in simulations. AMUN's RRP will provide information on:

- How to give speeches and the flow of debate in simulations,
- The key rules of AMUN simulations,
- Diplomatic Courtesy and why it's essential,
- The Resolution and Amendment process at AMUN,
- And a lot more.

How the Combined General Assembly Plenary Works

From 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21 November in the Sheraton-Chicago Ballrooms on Level 4 of the Sheraton, AMUN will run its Combined General Assembly Plenary session. During this session representatives will review the work passed within the General Assembly Committees, UNEA and the WHO Executive Board. This represents a final opportunity for debate on resolutions and to hear and ask questions about the work of various bodies. It offers a chance for full delegations to work together and for the international community as a whole to express its will.

During the Combined General Assembly Plenary Session terminal committees (General Assembly Concurrent Plenary, UNEA and the WHO Executive Board), will be allotted fifteen (15) minutes to present their work to the body. Which Member States will present the report, and what the presentation covers, will be decided upon by those bodies before to the Combined General Assembly Plenary. (Generally, this discussion will take place during the Tuesday morning session.) Resolutions passed in the Main Committees (GA1, GA2, GA3, and GA4), will be submitted to the Combined Plenary for final consideration and passage. Each Committee will be afforded fifteen (15) minutes for open debate on one (1) resolution selected by the body before the start of the Combined General Assembly Plenary. At the end of those fifteen (15) minutes the Combined General Assembly Plenary will move into an immediate vote on that resolution.

Immediately following the Combined General Assembly Plenary, AMUN will host its Closing Plenary Session.

The Key to the GA Committees: Working Together

At the United Nations in New York, most resolutions are passed by consensus, representing the end of a long and lengthy process of diplomatic work that occurs both within and outside the actual halls of the United Nations. As a conference, AMUN stresses the [importance of this collaborative nature](#). It's why we encourage representatives to work to [combine resolutions](#) rather than vote on several documents that are similar in theme. Working collaboratively can be challenging, and it runs contrary to the first impulse of many new Model UN participants. In Model UN, "winning" happens when the international community achieves its collective objectives. But successfully engaging in the skills needed for consensus building will help students develop lifelong skills, not just success at Model UN.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at 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 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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