



AMUN Digital Conference Experience Preparation Newsletter

29 September 2020

Conduct, Privacy and Plagiarism Policy Reminders

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. Preparations for the 2020 Digital Conference continue!

AMUN Reminder

By this point your preparations for the 2020 Conference should be well under way. This email is a reminder about AMUN philosophy and policies that directly affect your students or club members. We strongly encourage you to share the contents of this email, or the email itself, with every member of the delegations planning to attend AMUN's 2020 Conference. Thank you for doing your part to ensure that the AMUN Conference is one where any student can have a fun and safe experience, especially while we are all online. The issues are different, but no less important than when we are in person.

AMUN's Conduct Policy

AMUN seeks first and foremost to provide all of the representatives and faculty attending our conference with a safe and harassment free environment within which anyone, regardless of country of origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or religion can have a fun and educational experience learning about the United Nations and the challenges of effective diplomacy. In response to specific feedback from participants AMUN updated its Harassment Policy in 2018; the full text of the current policy is copied below. This text is also found in the [AMUN Handbook](#).

Representatives are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting international diplomats. This means that every courtesy, both in speech and behavior, should be extended to all representatives, faculty members and AMUN Secretariat members at the Conference. AMUN expects the same level of diplomatic courtesy in written communications, including notes passed during formal sessions and posts to social media sites. AMUN reserves the right to expel any representative not acting in a courteous and professional fashion. Please refer to Rule 2.2, Diplomatic Courtesy, for more information.

To provide all participants, including representatives, Faculty Advisors, exhibitors and AMUN Secretariat, the opportunity to benefit from the Conference, AMUN is

committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone regardless of race or ethnicity, language, disability, appearance, religion, gender identity or expression, or any other group identity. AMUN seeks to provide a conference environment in which diverse participants may learn and enjoy an environment of mutual human respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and foster that environment for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are, therefore, specifically prohibited. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to:

- *Harassment or intimidation based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, language, physical appearance, race or ethnicity, religion or other group identity.*
- *Sexual harassment or intimidation, including persistent and unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact.*
- *Yelling at or threatening others (verbally or physically).*

Speakers are asked to frame discussions as openly and inclusively as possible and to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all conference venues. Participants asked to stop one of the aforementioned behaviors are expected to comply immediately. Any final rulings on violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to determination by the Executive Office with consultation as needed with the Board of Directors.

If anything happens throughout the conference that makes you feel unwelcome, unsafe or that prohibits you from fully participating in the AMUN experience, please let us know so that we can help you understand your options and decide what steps can be taken to address the issue. You can contact us anytime by entering the Executive Office virtual office, emailing, calling or sending a message through the virtual environment.

AMUN's Privacy Policy

Our Privacy Policy has been updated this year to reflect issues surrounding a virtual conference. Please be sure that all of your delegates familiarize themselves with this section of the [AMUN Handbook](#). The full text is copied below.

American Model United Nations (AMUN) will be recording some sessions of the 2020 Conference on Gatherly, Google, and other conference-sponsored platforms for use in future publicity and educational materials. By participating in the AMUN Conference, you consent to digital recording of AMUN sessions, including screenshots and video capture, and their release, publication, or reproduction by AMUN. AMUN will attempt to obscure personally-identifying information before release and will not identify participants by name when such material is used.

AMUN may also conduct interviews (audio, video, or written) with participants for use in publicity or educational materials. In these cases, individuals being

interviewed and recorded will be asked for their permission to use the interview material and their name and/or image.

Participants in the AMUN Conference should not record or otherwise capture images, screenshots, video recordings, etc. of the Conference proceedings without the express consent of AMUN.

AMUN's Plagiarism Policy

As a reminder to all students attending AMUN, please take time to review and communicate our Conference plagiarism policy. The text of this policy can be found online in the [AMUN Handbook](#). The full text is also listed below.

AMUN strives to create a simulation of the United Nations which is as realistic as possible while still allowing for the fulfillment of our participants' and the organization's educational goals. As such, the AMUN policy regarding plagiarism focuses on an educational rather than a punitive goal. At AMUN, plagiarism involves the substantial, verbatim or near-verbatim copying of language, without attribution, in published or unpublished texts, speeches or documents. Representatives should adhere to their country's policies at all times, but this does not give license to plagiarize existing materials. Thus, parts of speeches or position papers may be derived or paraphrased from previous speeches or papers, but should not be copied verbatim. Additionally, representatives should not copy and represent as their own the work of another representative or group of representatives. Collaboration and consensus-building is encouraged and appropriate, but representatives should take care that the authors of resolutions, reports and other documents are fully represented in the discussion of the body's work. Collaborative work remains the work of the collaboration even when not all representatives are able to sign on to the final product.

Similarly, AMUN expects that all representatives are familiar with past resolutions at the United Nations, but the work of the United Nations should be expanded on in representatives' work, not copied verbatim. There are some exceptions: for example, representatives are not necessarily expected to expand upon a phrase that is often or always used when a country gives a formal speech or a clause that is repeated verbatim through several years of resolutions on a topic. Generally, it is not necessary to explicitly credit such sources, although if substantial language is quoted, it should be acknowledged and cited. Final determinations on plagiarism and its consequences are at the discretion of the AMUN Secretariat.

The goal of any Model UN conference is to work toward the resolution of a problem facing the world. The documents created to this end are inevitably the work of a collaborative process; without that collaboration, States could never achieve consensus. Obtaining individual credit for the submission or sponsorship of a draft document should never be a State's or representative's goal during a Model UN Conference. Representatives are expected to collaborate in the drafting and submission of draft documents with the utmost level of respect and diplomatic courtesy.

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,

Joshua Adams
2020 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for Conference updates and United Nations news and content.

