



## AMUN Digital Conference Experience Preparation Newsletter

06 October 2020

# Diplomatic Courtesy, Member State Pronunciation Guide & Speaker's Lists

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, including the importance of correct pronunciation of Member State names, and why AMUN doesn't use a speaker's list.

## 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 and Observers 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.*

Just as we would in an in-person setting, we expect that all representatives and conference attendees behave toward each other as diplomats in the virtual setting. Representatives should exhibit to their fellow representatives, faculty advisors and the AMUN Secretariat the courtesy you would expect extended to professional diplomats or heads-of-state. This is not something that the AMUN Secretariat can oversee on its own, and we ask for your help as educators and club leaders in ensuring that everyone has an enjoyable conference, free of harassment, misconduct and undiplomatic behavior.

For more information on AMUN's Rule 2.2, please look at the [AMUN Conference](#) handbook. Or read [Diplomatic Courtesy 101](#) on the AMUN Accords.

## AMUN's Updated Country Pronunciation Guide

Pronouncing your fellow Representatives' country names correctly is a sign of respect and diplomatic courtesy, and mispronouncing them may be taken as a slight. Get them right by practicing with our pronunciation video, which is available publicly on YouTube at [AMUN Country Pronunciation Guide](#). This new version, created in 2020, reflects changes in country names and countries elevated to Member State status since our original 2014 version.

## 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 do not use 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 three we have at AMUN to conclude our deliberations.
2. It doesn't meet our educational goals. 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 believe 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.

## AMUN Virtual Conference Important Dates

We have put together important dates and times for the 2020 Conference to assist you in your preparations. We will continue to update this calendar as we solidify dates and times.

Ongoing

- [Flipgrid](#) open to record Opening Speeches

1 October

- ICJ Memorials Due
- Last day to request a Model UN in a Box Simulation Guide

7 October

- Position Paper Submissions close

8 October

- All Payments due
- Credentials due

13 October

- AMA #3, 1 p.m. Central (intended for all AMUN participants) via Zoom

19 October

- Gatherly Platform opens for representative familiarization sessions with times TBD. During these sessions, representatives will have access to:
  - Practice simulations
  - Tech help
  - Finance/registration help
  - General questions
  - Team huddles

22 October

- Opening Plenary and Keynote, 6:30 p.m. Central

23 October

- Graduate School and Career Expo, 2-5 p.m. Central
- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, time TBD

24 October

- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, time TBD

25 October

- FA/PR Feedback Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Central
- 2021 Country Lottery 10:30 a.m. Central

## 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,

Joshua Adams  
2020 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn  
AMUN Executive Director

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