



American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter 20-23 November 2021

17 November 2021

Conference Policy Review

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. Please ensure all of your students review the following information prior to arrival at the Conference.

Reminder of Vaccination Requirements for Attendance

This is a reminder that all in-person AMUN participants must be fully vaccinated to participate in the 2021 Conference. Additional information can be found on the AMUN website under conference mailings, or by clicking [HERE](#). Participants will not be able to pick up their credentials without vaccination verification.

AMUN's Philosophy of Realism

The AMUN Secretariat wants you to have an enjoyable Conference, but most of all we want you to have an *educational* experience. To that end, AMUN goes to considerable lengths to ensure that we're providing a simulation of United Nations bodies that is as realistic as possible. This is why AMUN only simulates topics that have been previously addressed by the United Nations and why our materials and staff assist delegates with understanding the purview of each body. [Purview](#) is the basic delineation of responsibilities that limits what steps a body can take on the topics under debate.

Through both the [AMUN Accords](#) and the [AMUN Conference handbook](#), the AMUN Secretariat spends a great deal of time researching and producing content that will enable your students to draft substantively grounded resolutions and reports. At the conference, the AMUN Secretariat is also available through our Home Government offices in the Missouri Room on Level 2 of the Sheraton to answer substantive questions and provide roleplayers for bodies, peoples and countries that aren't in attendance at AMUN.

If you want to read more about AMUN's dedication to realism, read [A Commitment to Realism and Education: Understanding AMUN's approach to Model UN](#) by Dr. Jacqueline E. Whitt or [Why](#)

[Realism is Important: The Goals of AMUN's Security Council Simulations](#) by Nia Indelicato, both found on the [AMUN Accords](#) section of our website.

Accessibility & Accomodation at AMUN

The AMUN Secretariat wants to ensure that all Conference attendees are able to enjoy the Conference and participate fully in their simulations. If you or any member of your delegation requires any accommodations or modifications to get the most out of the AMUN experience, please contact Shannon L. Dunn, the Executive Director, at mail@amun.org as soon as possible so we can discuss appropriate arrangements. Additionally, you may speak to us once the Conference has started by visiting the Executive Office in the Ohio Room on Level 2 of the Sheraton.

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 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.

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 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 four 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's Harassment Policy

Before any of our other goals, 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 *Conference Handbook*, found online at www.amun.org/handbooks.

To provide all participants, including representatives, Faculty Advisors, exhibitors, hotel staff and AMUN Secretariat, the opportunity to benefit from 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).*
- *Assault of any kind.*

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, including online. 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 stopping by the Ohio Room, asking to speak to a member of the Executive Office at Conference Services, emailing, calling or sending a message through the conference app.

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 at www.amun.org/handbooks in the *Conference 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,

Dr. Alexandra Middlewood
2021 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

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You can review this and all conference communications at <https://www.amun.org/conference-mailings/>

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