



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

16 November 2021

Preparatory Reminders & Videos

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat.

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.

Review the Rules Before You Arrive!

If you attended AMUN in the past, you are probably familiar with our Rules & Roleplaying sessions. Every year, we provide presentations to demonstrate tips and tricks for Representatives to be successful at AMUN. These demonstrations usually take the form of skits that Representatives and Faculty Advisors attend before the Opening Plenary and include an opportunity to ask questions.

This year, for Representatives participating in GA and ECOSOC bodies, our Rules and Roleplaying content will be presented asynchronously so you can access it at your convenience before Conference—and return to it as needed once Conference has started. (Of course, during the Conference, AMUN Staff will also be available to answer your questions!) The Rules and Roleplaying content is hosted on Flipgrid, with unique locations for each type of simulation: In each place, you will find Secretariat-produced videos about rules and procedures, processing resolutions and amendments, and the task of roleplaying in committee.

The physical Rules and Roleplaying session at Conference will be a short presentation with a longer question-and-answer session. Please watch these videos ahead of time, and come prepared with questions! We have created [this playlist](#) with all the videos, but if you want to watch them by topic, here is the breakdown:

- Videos for GA bodies
 - [Resolution Drafting](#)

- [Amendments](#)
- [Rules](#)
- Videos for Report Writing Bodies
 - [Document Processing](#)
- Videos for GAs and Report Writing Bodies
 - [How to Excel at Roleplaying](#)

AMUN's Resolution Process

The resolution is the United Nations' principal mechanism for action and many are the product of months of work between governments and the United Nations bureaucracy. At the United Nations, **most resolutions are adopted by consensus**, something that is a testament to the long hours of difficult diplomacy that it takes to draft even one resolution. At AMUN, however, you only have days to accomplish what it takes seasoned ambassadors months or years to accomplish.

On paper, the process for drafting a resolution is simple; however, in practice it can be more challenging. How resolutions fit into the work of the body depends on the type of simulation. For more information about how diplomacy and resolution writing works in the Security Council, check out this AMUN Accords [post on the topic](#).

In bodies that use GA/ECOSOC rules, after the body has an idea about how to address the issue, they will often work to produce a draft resolution. Working together, a group of representatives will draft the framework for their resolution. Even at the earliest stages, we suggest that this be a deeply collaborative effort. Once a basic framework is proposed, it's time to gather support. **35 percent of the body must sponsor the draft document** before it can be submitted to the Rapporteurs. If this seems like a challenge, it's meant to be: requiring 35 percent support of the body mimics the consensus building nature of the United Nations and should lead to few, if any, resolutions being brought to the floor that stand little chance of passing.

Once support of 35 percent of the body has been achieved, Representatives may then turn in the draft resolution to the simulation's Rapporteurs. Rapporteurs edit the document to ensure the draft resolution meets the following standards:

- Conforms to AMUN's Style Guide and resolution checklist
- Is clear and easy to understand
- Uses correct grammar in Standard American Written English and does not contain slang
- Falls within the purview of the simulation
- Follows AMUN guidelines about the realism of simulations and is not a disruptive resolution
- Maintains the highest standards of professionalism and diplomatic courtesy

Rapporteurs will then return the resolution to its authors for revision. Our goal is to accomplish this back-and-forth editing process in no more than two rounds. Once it is approved by the rapporteurs,

they assign the resolution a number in the Document Processing System and request that it be copied and distributed to the body. Once printed copies of the document are available, you are able to bring the draft resolution to the floor for debate. Once it is on the floor, the body can discuss, amend and vote on the resolution.

Authors and sponsors will need to work collaboratively to achieve success. They'll need to build a broad and diverse group to support the draft resolution, and they'll need to work with the authors of other resolutions to combine their efforts, and possibly their documents, to find success. For more information about the draft resolution process, please read *the [United Nations Documents](#)* chapter in the [AMUN Handbook](#).

Tips for Drafting a Successful Resolution

The following are a few tips on drafting a successful Resolution:

- Use [preambular clauses](#) to set the scene. How did we get to where we are now? The history of the topic under debate, the countries involved, and specific past United Nations actions and previous resolutions are all topics that should be addressed in the preambular clauses.
- Build on existing United Nations resolutions and reports. When possible reference specific past United Nations action on the issue, or related issues. Make sure you reference the United Nations document number or report title.
- Avoid vitriolic or political words and phrases. In topics involving general or broad regions or concepts, avoid pointing out the bad actions of specific Member States. Building consensus is impossible if an individual or a group feels singled out or attacked.
- Think about the big picture! It's not about your country and what you want. It's about what's best for a region or for all countries.
- Don't be afraid to combine! The collaborative nature of resolution-writing means that sometimes your best chance of success will be finding other, similar proposals and combining your efforts and your resolutions.
- Ask questions! The committee Rapporteurs and AMUN's Home Government department are here to answer process and content questions to help you on your way to passing your resolution.

To read more about how to work with other Member States to combine resolutions, read [How to Combine Resolutions](#) in the *AMUN Accords*. Also on the *AMUN Accords*, be sure to read [Previewing Purview: Stay in Your Lane](#) for more information about the role of purview in your simulations.

AMUN's Style Guide

The editing process is an extremely important part of the process. One thing you and your students can do to facilitate the process is to be familiar with AMUN's Style Guide with respect to drafting

resolutions. Following this simple and short list of style and grammatical rules will help our Conference Rapporteurs assist delegates to produce resolutions that look and read as close to the professional standards of the United Nations as possible. [You can find our style guide online.](#)

Faculty Advisors Roles and Participation

In response to feedback from schools and faculty over the years, AMUN recently made the following changes to AMUN's recommended roles and participation for faculty advisors.

- Each school (not delegation) will be allowed to bring a total of **four** faculty advisors to the AMUN Conference. Full language for this policy can be found in [Chapter One](#) of the AMUN Rules and Procedures handbook, under the section "Minimum and Maximum Delegation Counts."
- Some concerns have been raised over the years by faculty advisors and representatives regarding faculty participation during Conference. Addressing this concern, AMUN has updated our language on faculty advisor roles. For your ease, the language specific to this change is also listed below.

"AMUN recognizes the important role faculty advisors have in a delegation's preparation for and negotiating the logistics of attending the Conference. Faculty can act as a sounding board for their students during the Conference, but that advice and consultation should generally be given outside of official session times. If consultation during sessions is required, it should take place outside of committee rooms. It is important to note that faculty are not delegates to the Conference. It is therefore inappropriate for faculty to participate in or interfere with the work of the body. Faculty will not engage in caucusing or resolution drafting and may not take a seat at the Member State's placard. Faculty from one school should never engage representatives from another school in debate on issues relating to conference participation. Faculty are welcome to observe formal debate from the gallery seating provided at the back of committee rooms. Faculty should model the level of professionalism expected of all attendees of the conference."

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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