



American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter 19-22 November 2022

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AMUN's Commitment to Realism

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. In this newsletter we will be discussing AMUN's philosophy of realism, why AMUN doesn't use a speakers list and AMUN's plagiarism policy. Our commitment to producing an exceptional, educational conference is a source of great pride for AMUN and something that helps AMUN stand out as one of the nation's leading conferences.

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 are providing a simulation of United Nations bodies that is as realistic as possible. This is why AMUN simulates only 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 [2022 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, Home Government is available via Rapporteurs stationed in GA/ECOSOC simulations and Sim Staff in SC and HSC simulations to answer substantive questions and provide roleplayers for bodies, peoples and countries that are not 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.

Why AMUN Does Not Use Speakers Lists

AMUN does not use speakers lists at the Conference. This is a departure from the practice of the United Nations, where speakers 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 is 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 is not educational.** A formal speakers list with no questioning of the speaker, with no back-and-forth debate, is not a great learning opportunity for representatives. It does not encourage extemporaneous speaking, the debate and defense of ideas or the challenge of answering unexpected questions.
3. **It does not fit the flow of Model UN.** In Model UN, formal debate is more like informal caucusing at the United Nations. This is necessary because the resolutions that the United Nations votes on are often worked on over months by a staff of hundreds before they are ready to be voted on. We are asking your students to simulate this process over only four days of debate. That is a tall order for anyone, and we believe a debate with more back and forth helps representatives accomplish their goals.

If you want to read more about AMUN's take on Speakers Lists, read [Where's the Speakers List?](#) on the [AMUN Accords](#).

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 [2022 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,

Christina R. Johnson
2022 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

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