



AMUN Conference Preparation Newsletter

22–25 November 2025

25 August 2025

Realism and Position Papers at AMUN

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat! As autumn arrives, our preparations for Conference are in full swing—and for participants, it's the perfect time to begin drafting your position papers (if you haven't already). In this newsletter, we'll explore AMUN's philosophy of realism and why we don't use a speakers list, as well as share key information on position papers and our plagiarism policy. Our commitment to a realistic, high-quality simulation is one of the reasons AMUN stands out as one of the nation's leading educational conferences.

AMUN's Philosophy of Realism

The AMUN Secretariat is committed to providing an educational and realistic Model UN experience. That's why we simulate only topics previously addressed by the United Nations and carefully define each body's [purview](#).

Through detailed research and resources like the [AMUN Accords](#) and [AMUN Handbook](#), we support your students in drafting well-informed resolutions and reports. At the Conference, Home Government teams and Simulations Staff are available to answer questions and represent absent countries or roleplayers.

Unlike the United Nations in New York, AMUN does **not** use speakers lists during debate sessions. While speakers lists are a UN staple, they are not practical or educational for a four-day simulation. The UN's extensive formal debate can take days or weeks, but our limited schedule demands a more dynamic approach.

Formal speakers lists encourage lengthy speeches without interaction, limiting opportunities for spontaneous speaking, direct debate or defending ideas under pressure—key skills we want to foster. At AMUN, debate is designed to mimic informal caucusing at the UN, allowing more back-and-forth discussion that helps representatives negotiate and build resolutions effectively in a short timeframe.

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, [Why Realism is Important: The Goals of AMUN's Security Council Simulations](#) by Nia Indelicato, and [Where's the Speakers List?](#) by Dr. Jacqueline E. Whitt on the [AMUN Accords](#).

Position Papers are UN Realism in Practice

Writing a position paper reflects AMUN's philosophy of realism by grounding students in the mindset of actual diplomats, whose primary concern is advancing national interests within the constraints of sovereignty and power politics. A position paper requires representatives to research and articulate their assigned country's public policies, priorities and limits, mirroring how real diplomats prepare briefing documents and official statements to guide negotiations. This preparation ensures that debate reflects the calculated, interest-driven decision-making that defines realism at the United Nations.

There are two types of position papers at AMUN: internal and public.

An [internal position paper](#) is a private document to help you prepare for the Conference. It familiarizes you with the topics and outlines your country's goals and approach.

A [public position paper](#) is submitted to AMUN and shared with all participants. It serves as your country's official statement on the topic, showing your stance and policies. Public papers also help representatives understand how to engage in debate by reviewing their peers' positions.

AMUN encourages drafting both types of position papers because:

- Defining your country's position through an internal paper is the best preparation and requires research into your country's history and the issue at hand.
- Public position papers serve as your first communication with other participants.
- Reading others' public papers helps you anticipate debate dynamics, recognize allies and opponents and identify common goals.

For detailed guidance, see the [AMUN Handbook](#) and the [Position Papers](#) page on our website.

Position papers for all delegations are due by 11:59 p.m. CT on 25 October. Because of the time involved in reviewing and posting position papers to the AMUN website, late position papers will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. CT on 7 November.

All position papers received by the 25 October deadline will be posted online by the end of the first week in November. You will receive a notification when position papers are available online. Papers received after 25 October will be posted on a rolling basis.

Position Paper Award Eligibility

AMUN awards a Position Paper Award to all delegations that submit a complete position paper for each simulation and topic on which their country is seated.

To qualify, all position papers, COI preparatory statements and ICJ memorials must be submitted to the AMUN Secretariat **by 11:59 p.m. CT on 25 October**.

At minimum, countries must submit papers for all topics covered by the General Assembly Committees and any other simulations where they hold a seat. While position papers for the two topics in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are encouraged if you are placing a representative on the committee, they are not required to be eligible for a Position Paper Award.

To confirm your committee assignments, please review your [Delegation Committee Report](#).

Plagiarism Policy

Please take time to review our Conference plagiarism policy with your team. The full text of this policy is listed below and can also be found online in the General Conference Information section of the [Handbook](#).

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 collaborators 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 United Nations 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; States could never achieve consensus without this collaboration. 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 United Nations 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 reach out to us at mail@amun.org—we're happy to help!

If you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN program, please send updated information to mail@amun.org or complete our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form.

Best of luck with your preparations,

Tessa Schutt
Secretary-General

Alexandra Middlewood
Executive Director

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)! And subscribe to our blog, the [AMUN Accords](#) for Conference updates, United Nations news, Model United Nations content and more.



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