



# AMUN Conference Preparation Newsletter

22–25 November 2025

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## How AMUN Bodies Work: From Resolutions to Consensus

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. We have been hard at work preparing for our 36th Annual Conference in beautiful downtown Chicago.

In this communication, you'll find:

- Tips for building consensus in the General Assembly
- The key to understanding report-writing bodies
- Drafting tips, style guide and other tools your students need to craft meaningful and effective resolutions.

We're thrilled about what's already shaping up to be another fantastic conference, and we look forward to welcoming you this November!

### The Key to the GA Committees: Collaboration

At the United Nations in New York, most resolutions are adopted by consensus—a sign that the international community has found common ground after extensive negotiation. Resolutions with broad agreement carry more political weight, and the process of achieving consensus is often as important as the final text.

Consensus does not mean that every delegation gets everything it wants. Instead, it reflects a spirit of compromise: finding language and solutions that everyone can support, even if imperfectly. This requires listening, incorporating diverse perspectives and sometimes putting shared objectives above a delegation's ideal position.

At AMUN, we mirror this real-world approach. We encourage representatives to merge similar resolutions, work in coalitions and focus on building a unified document rather than competing for a "win." The most successful representatives aren't those who get their resolution to the floor, but those who help shape a broadly-supported outcome.

By practicing consensus-building, representatives not only strengthen outcomes at Conference, they develop negotiation, persuasion and problem-solving skills that will serve them for life.

## The Key to the Report-Writing Bodies: It's In the Name

Unlike most AMUN simulations, report-writing bodies focus on producing a single report per topic rather than passing resolutions. Notably, reports are a collective effort, with sections divided among many Member States, and are intended to be adopted by consensus. To succeed, much of the formal debate should center on defining the report's scope—identifying the key areas the body believes the international community should address.

In 2025, AMUN's report-writing bodies are: the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) (CND) and the [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia](#) (ESCWA).

For guidance on the process, see [Report Writing 101: Understanding Reports and Report Drafting](#) on the [AMUN Accords](#).

## Drafting and Passing Resolutions at AMUN

Resolutions are the United Nations' primary tool for action, often the result of months of negotiation among governments and UN staff. Most UN resolutions are adopted by consensus, reflecting extensive diplomacy. At AMUN, however, delegates have just days to accomplish what takes seasoned diplomats months or years.

While drafting a resolution seems straightforward on paper, the process can be challenging and varies by simulation type. In GA and ECOSOC-style bodies, once the committee agrees on an approach, a group of representatives collaboratively drafts a resolution framework. To submit a draft to the Rapporteurs, it must have sponsorship from at least 35 percent of the body. This threshold encourages consensus and limits resolutions unlikely to pass.

Rapporteurs review drafts to ensure they:

- Follow AMUN's [formatting guidelines](#) and resolution checklist
- Are clear, professional and free of slang
- Align with the simulation's purview and realism guidelines
- Maintain diplomatic courtesy

Representatives revise drafts based on Rapporteur feedback, usually within two rounds. Once approved, the draft is numbered and made available for debate. On the floor, delegates discuss, amend and vote on the resolution.

Success depends on collaboration. For more details, see the [United Nations Documents](#) chapter in the [AMUN Handbook](#).

## Tips for Drafting Resolutions

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

- **Set the stage with preambular clauses.** Explain how the committee arrived at the current topic. Summarize the history of the issue, the countries involved and any relevant past UN actions or resolutions.
- **Build on existing UN work.** Reference specific past resolutions or reports whenever possible, including their document numbers or official titles.
- **Keep language diplomatic.** Avoid inflammatory or overly political language, especially when discussing specific Member States. Consensus is easier to achieve when no one feels singled out or targeted.
- **Think globally.** Focus on what's best for the entire region or international community, not just your own country's priorities.
- **Embrace collaboration and consensus-building.** If another proposal is similar to yours, consider merging efforts. Combined resolutions often have a stronger chance of passing.
- **Ask for help.** Committee Rapporteurs and AMUN's Home Government team are available to answer questions about both process and content.

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.

## Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please reach out to us at [mail@amun.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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