

# Delegate Preparation

## ROLE PLAYING AND PREPARING THE DELEGATE

Delegates are fundamental to any Model UN Conference. A delegate's job is to research the positions of a UN Member nation, both on the specific topics that will be discussed at the Conference and as a general overview of that nation's policies. Delegates attend the Conference to represent their nation in discussing issues presented. When delegates reach the floor of the Model UN Conference, they assume the role of the Distinguished Representative from their country, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails. At the Conference, Representatives in the role of their countries' spokesperson will debate the issues on the agenda for discussion. They will also draft and discuss resolutions, caucus with Representatives who are role-playing other countries, and work to solve the problems facing the world. In the UN today, nations will usually debate an item in an attempt to reach a consensus that can be agreed to by all, or at least most, nations. The resolutions under discussion at ECUMUN X can be accepted by consensus, adopted, amended, combined or even debated to the point that no final document can be produced on a given issue.

## ROLE PLAYING

ECUMUN X is a simulation of the UN. By its very nature, the quality and tone of debate will be dramatically different than in the "real" UN. In the UN, Representatives and their consular staffs spend months in preparation, "behind doors" caucusing, and interacting with other nations before an issue is brought to a vote. A UN Representative, or Head of State, will almost always make a prepared speech that will not be "news" to the other Representatives present. At ECUMUN X, Representatives will only have two days to assume the role of their country's representative and simulate the actions of the UN. This consolidation of time leads to many different circumstances with which each delegation will have to contend. Among the considerations is the fact that Representatives will rarely have the opportunity to make a pre-written speech on a topic. Instead, they will often be forced to verbally react to circumstances as they arise, and they may be in a position where it is reasonable to reinterpret their country's position in light of new facts. **Representatives should not simply read from their country's established record on the issues presented; they should be prepared to compromise with the other nations represented, and where needed adapt their policies to meet the current circumstances of the world as simulated at the Conference.**

Note that this in no way gives delegations license to act "out of character." Representatives should research and generally follow the policies of their country, modifying these as new circumstances dictate. Successful role playing involves walking a careful line on policy: avoid the extremes of either reading verbatim a country's past statements, or creating ad hoc policy with no previous basis, either in established policy or at the Conference.

## **DRESS CODE**

Representatives will be expected to dress in standard business attire for all ECUMUN X meetings. Casual dress is acceptable for post-meeting events. ECUMUN X reserves the right to refuse admittance to the Conference floor to any Representative who is inappropriately attired.

## **CONDUCT**

Representatives are expected to conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner befitting international diplomats. This means that every courtesy, both in speaking and behavior, should be extended to all Representatives, faculty members and Secretariat members at the Conference.

**ECUMUN X** reserves the right to expel any Representative not acting in a courteous and professional fashion.

### **Preparation of delegates**

#### ***Preparation of delegates should involve the following:***

- 1) **Research** on the history of the UN and how its committees and councils work;
- 2) **Research** on the issues before each committee and council;
- 3) **Practice** parliamentary procedure
- 4) **Research** on the history of the nation assigned, its political and economic system, and its culture and values; as well as the history of the committee or council assigned to an individual delegate (or delegates);
- 5) **Research** on the assigned nation's position on the issues;
- 6) **Writing** position papers and resolutions;
- 7) **Practice** in speech-making and caucusing;
- 8) **Developing** negotiating skills;

### **(1) RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF THE UN AND HOW ITS COMMITTEES AND-COUNCILS-WORKS.**

Even though the ECUMUN X is a simulation, it is important that all students begin their preparation with a basic understanding of the United Nations. Be familiar with the UN Charter. It is a handy reference; it's good for quotes in speeches, position papers and resolutions; and it provides students with a sense of the organization's purpose and mission. Refer to the "United Nations at a Glance" published annually. In addition, you may wish to purchase and assign readings from the BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS, EVERYONE'S UNITED NATIONS, and the YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE BLUE HELMETS is an excellent review of UN peace-keeping operations. The ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE UNITED NATIONS is an expensive, but very important, research tool. Most students do not know very much about the UN, e.g, what it is; what it can do; what role it plays in international politics, etc. Some students may come to ECUMUN X with unrealistic and unworkable ideas about the UN. This initial part of the preparation will help students put the UN in proper perspective. (The delegate's guide includes a short overview of the U.N. and how it works but more information can also be learnt from [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) and other websites.)

### **(2) RESEARCH ON THE ISSUES BEFORE EACH COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL**

This is very important because this is the purpose of the conference. In this packet you will be introduced to the issues in each committee. While you are still waiting to hear about your particular country assignment, use this time to research as much about the particular issues as you can. The delegate's guide provides you with additional web resources on each of the topics but note that this is not an extensive link. Know as much about the topics and be particularly familiar with differences in opinion and perception as this will help you once you receive your country assignment. We are here to help with any questions and to aid you on your quest for information. But we understand that researching issues is the best means to prepare yourself for success at the ECUMUN X. In this area

of research know the main players in the situation, where you stand, and who your allies and opponents are.

### **(3) PRACTICE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Debate in MUN is structured through the use of parliamentary procedure, a stylized speaking manner through which the UN ensures that delegates act in accordance with specific rules to ensure orderly debate. In this delegate's guide, you will find a section on parliamentary procedures that explains what rules you need to be familiar with as well as a stylized script so that you can practice how and when to use the many phrases. Delegates who are familiar with this practice will find that rather than being constricted by parliamentary procedure, they can skillfully use these rules of speech to better bring their point across. At ECUMUN X we will have a general session on parliamentary procedure to ensure that everyone is familiar with the basics but you will give yourself a great advantage by practicing this with your fellow students before coming to ECU.

### **(4) RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY ASSIGNED, ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND ITS CULTURE**

This is never an easy task. Unless your country assignment is a major player, it may be difficult to obtain information. However, information as to what social, economic, political and cultural factors influence your country's positions is a very useful tool in understanding how you should portray your role as well as in finding useful tactics to use persuasive powers to get other countries on board (especially relevant for countries with less traditional power than e.g. the P-5). The delegate's guide provides some useful web links (under topics information) that should help you find all the necessary information on your country. You should also use country research in order to find out information about potential allies. This will help you with your caucusing strategies. You might also contact U.N. missions for your country as these are increasingly making available all kinds of information which may be helpful. If there is no concrete data on how your country currently stands on a particular issue, research situations that are similar so that you may be able to make an educated decision on which way your country may want to go.

### **RESEARCH ON THE ASSIGNED NATION'S POSITION ON THE ISSUES**

- a. Write to the UN mission of your assigned nation as soon as possible, Call the main UN number in New York for your mission address and telephone number. 212-963-1234). Ask the Mission for anything they have on the topics before each of the committees. Also ask for a statement by the foreign minister or prime minister or Chair at the GA session the previous fall, Telephone calls to 4 UN missions rarely work, but try, knowing that you will have to follow-up with a letter or letters. We understand there is not much time to contact your mission in reference to topics addressed by this conference, but note this is a good tool for future reference.
- b. There are standard reference tools for use by students. UN publications are very good and voting records are useful. Sponsorship of resolutions may help as well.
- c. Organize a session early on where you, your fellow students and your MUN faculty advisor put together the basic elements of your nation's foreign policy. Discuss alliances, problems, and potential adversaries and allies. Write down what you come up with so that there is a common base of information. If you cannot find specific reference to the nation's position on a topic, use the common base and figure it out. Remember that you can be flexible, but you cannot repudiate or distort your country's position at the ECUMUN X.

### **(5) WRITING POSITION PAPERS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Position papers are very important. We are requiring that a position paper be written on every issue addressed in your committee. The position paper must be a minimum typed page in length and

maximum two pages. There is a maximum of three issues in each committee. So you are expected to have at least three typed pages turned into ECUMUN X no later than opening session of ECUMUN X. We prefer they be mailed into us ahead of time. The purpose of a required position paper is to make sure the student knows his or her agenda when coming into the conference. The position paper needs just to be a concise overview of your country's "position". A sample guide for both position papers and resolution writing is provided at the end of this guide. Writing of a resolution is key to the success of your country you MUST be able to write a resolution. Resolutions are how the work at the UN gets done. (You will also find a sample resolution and useful phrases in this delegate's guide.)

## **(6) PRACTICE IN SPEECH-MAKING AND CAUCUSING,**

Students should speak frequently in preparing for the ECUMUN X. They can do this in a class environment, and they can do it with their peers outside of class. Public speaking is your best strategy at any MUN.

### **General Speaking Tips**

- Be first on the Speaker's List. A good way to ensure this is to sit close to the front and in the middle of the room.
- Don't read. Use your position paper as a reference not as a shield.
- Bring up a notepad or a piece of paper with the major points of your speech listed.
- Speak in a loud confident tone, so that the whole committee can listen to what you are saying.
- Your speech should be clear and to the point in order for everyone to understand it.
- Speak as often as you can. The more practice the better you shall be.
- Observe other speakers. Note what is effective and ineffective in presenting their speech.
- Learn to think on your feet. What you don't know, ad lib.
- Make eye contact with other delegates and relax when you speak.
- Avoid saying "Um", "Uh", "Like", or "You know".
- Frame your points, for example, "I support this resolution for three reasons, First..."
- Try to be original in presenting your information. (e.g. Diagrams, photos, etc.)
- Be assertive
- Introduce yourself to nations in your committee before committee session starts.
- Have good breath
- If you have a problem getting speaking time, write a note to the chair asking to be called upon more often.
- Repeat your country's name as often as possible while speaking.
- Put your proposals into short and simple messages that can be easily expressed and understood.

## **(7) DEVELOPING CAUCUSING SKILLS**

There are some do's and don'ts about caucusing for delegates caucusing at the Model UN:

- Do be flexible, but be careful not to be out of character.
- Do listen to other delegates,
- Do pay attention.
- Do ask the chair and/or the assistant chair for assistance if needed,
- Don't be rigid, argumentative and unyielding, delegates do have to compromise,
- Don't get involved in the game of having to sponsor every resolution. It may be inappropriate for the delegate's nation to be a co-sponsor,
- Don't ever be out of character, e.g. "I don't really believe this stuff, but ..." that attitude will destroy the delegate's credibility forever,

(Some of the above are excerpts from "A Faculty Guide to the National Model United Nations" by Richard Reitano)