



WCDMUN08

Official Handbook



“to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”

UN Charter

Introduction

Model United Nations is a unique extra curricular activity. It is student led and student-run activity engaging young people in the quest to find resolutions to the most intractable of world problems. MUN is about meeting people, public speaking, working as a team to solve problems and learning about other countries. Model United Nations is also about listening to others, convincing others to change their views and cooperating to achieve consensus..

Wesley College Dublin Model United Nations 08

This is the first time Wesley College will host an MUN conference, although Wesley students have been attending conferences in Ireland and the UK for many years. This will be an intimate conference affording the participating delegates an opportunity to look at a few selected world issues in depth. As a one-day conference it offers a valuable introduction to MUN for first-time delegates as well as allowing those with experience the opportunity and forum to demonstrate their negotiation and political skills. Above all, WCDMUN is a friendly conference with an emphasis on building relationships and striving for consensus. All delegates are encouraged to make it a priority to sort out the world's problems (rather than add to them) in the spirit of cooperation and team building. After all, it is the United Nations that we are modelling. In terms of competition, delegates who demonstrate their ability to work with others and pose realistic and reasoned solutions (and who avoid the temptation to be controversial for notoriety's sake) will find MUN rewarding.



Timetable (finalised January 2008)

Saturday 23rd February 2008

8.45am	Registration	Reception/ Concourse
9.15am	Opening Ceremony	Myles Hall
9.45am	Committees in Session	Various Committee Rooms
12.00pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
1.00pm	Committees in Session	Various Committee Rooms
2.45pm	Break	
3.00pm	General Assembly in Session	Myles Hall
5.30pm	Awards/ Closing Ceremony	Myles Hall
6.00pm	Close	

Agenda (finalised January 2008)

Political Committee

The Question of Pakistan
The Question of the Middle East Peace Process
The Question of Venezuela

Health Committee

The Question of Disaster Response Management
The Question of Pandemics
The Question of Women's Health

Environment Committee

The Question of Global Warming
The Question of Endangered Species
The Question of Environmental Degradation

Human Rights Committee

The Question of China
The Question of Access to Justice
The Question of the Rights of the Child

Economic and Social Committee

The Question of Globalisation
The Question of Urbanisation
The Question of the Role of Men in Society

WCDMUN08 Where to begin...

MUN can appear daunting at first, but all delegates are encouraged to get involved as soon as possible. By participating they will learn faster than by observing.

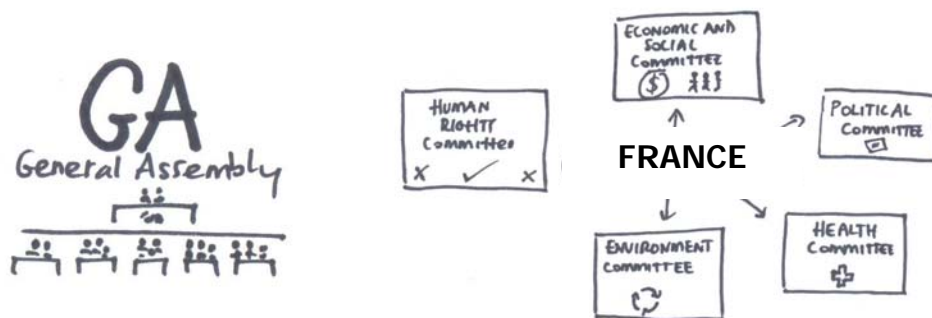
When you attend the conference you will be part of a delegation of 5 delegates representing one of the member countries of the United Nations. The head of your delegation is known as the Ambassador. The Ambassadors of each country are invited to a brief reception (more information to follow). They are responsible for ensuring that their country has a coherent line on the issues across the board.

Each individual delegate serves on one of 5 committees:

- Health
- Human Rights
- Political
- Ecology and Environment
- Economic and Social

When the Committees are in session it will be the job of each delegate to represent their country during debate on various issues. To do this effectively delegates will need to have researched their topics carefully (see the research section on the following page).

When the General Assembly is in session, you will sit with your delegation and attempt to pass resolutions that were passed in the various committees.



Research and Resolutions

Once you have been allocated your country, the first thing you need to do is find out as much about it as possible:

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Is it a democracy or dictatorship?
Who is the leader?
Are you a former colony?
Which countries do you have friendly relations/ agreements with?

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Do you have natural resources?
Trade agreements with any other countries?
Energy requirements?
Human capital?

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What ethnic groups live in your country?
What about religions?
Has there been a history of internal disputes between groups?

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Are you a LEDC or a MEDC?
Are you in debt? To whom? Why?
What are the biggest economic concerns for your leaders?
How is your country affected by Trade and Globalisation?

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Have you alliances with other countries in your region of the world?
Are you noted for views on any world issue?
When did you join the UN and what is your record there?

After you have decided which committee you are your fellow delegates will sit on you should focus your research on your country's views/ ideas and interests in the issues that will be debated at the conference. For example, if you are Kenya's economic delegate discussing the issue of Global trade you will have a lot to say about coffee and fair trade. **Delegates who have researched their country well and who have thought about their likely position on various issues will do well during the debate.**

Where to find information

The most obvious (but by no means the only) resource is the World Wide Web. A useful starting point is the BBC's country profile section:

BBC: www.bbc.co.uk

The United Nations: <http://www.un.org>

other websites:

www.guardian.co.uk

www.countryreports.org

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html

Don't forget to keep an eye in the newspapers and on the Television news for anything that might help you piece together the view of the world from your country's perspective. You may need to trawl through a lot of information on the internet to find anything relevant, particularly if you have a less high profile country. However this is important groundwork if you are to make the most of your MUN experience. Libraries and the embassy of the country you are representing may also be useful.

Resolutions

A Resolution is, quite simply, an **answer to a problem**. Delegates at MUN conferences attempt to find answers to world problems by putting forward and amending (changing) resolutions which set out a logical and coherent set of ideas of how to tackle complicated problems. Not every country will support every clause (a numbered part of a resolution) in a resolution so they must attempt, through skilful negotiation and debate, to convince the committee to change (or amend) clauses in order to make it better or more in line with their country's viewpoint.

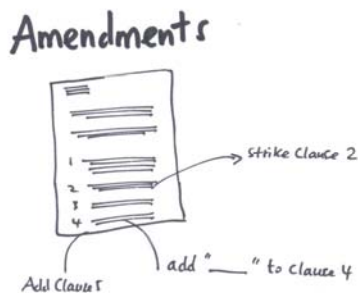


At WCDMUN 08 you will be debating **skeleton resolutions**. This means the resolutions have been given to you before hand in skeleton (i.e. unfinished, unelaborated) form. By suggesting the addition of clauses you can, with the approval of a majority of your committee in a vote, add to the resolution. A good way to get an amendment passed is to lobby other countries to support your amendment. You can do this during lobbying time or by sending notes to other countries to ask them for their support during the debate.

Amendments

An amendment is a change to the resolution. There are 3 ways to amend a resolution:

1. You can suggest the removal of an entire operative clause (you can't amend the preambulatory clauses);
2. You can suggest the removal or addition of a word/ words/ punctuation in a clause that already exists on the resolution;
3. You can suggest the wording for an entirely new clause.



If you would like to suggest an amendment to a resolution you should write it clearly on the official amendment paper and submit it to the Chair of your committee via the secretaries. Because you will have seen the skeleton resolutions before the conference you can easily have prepared some suggestions for amendments which you can then tailor to get support from other countries at the conference. During official and unofficial

lobbying time you will have an opportunity to get to know the other delegates and try and win support for your amendment when the debate starts. Remember, MUN is all about making contacts and meeting new people. It is vital that you use every opportunity to strike up new friendships and alliances which could come in handy when it comes to the debate.

During the Debate

Formal debate begins when your Committee opens in the morning. The meeting will be facilitated by the Chair or a Deputy Chair. Your goals in committee are simple: You must seek to represent your country by speaking, asking questions, asking for clarifications and voting as you decide you should. You can gain permission to speak by raising your placard... remember the Chair can't read an upside down or lob sided placard, so hold it up confidently and so that it can be read easily.

There are a number of ways you can speak (i.e. "be recognised") in the debate:

1. You can speak as soon as you "have the floor." This means that you have been given permission to speak by the Chair. In this case you come to the front of the room to address the committee.
2. You can raise a point of information, i.e. you can ask the speaker a question or to clarify some point he/ she has made during a speech.

Parliamentary Procedure @ WCDMUN08

The following procedures are set out in order to facilitate debate and ensure that sessions are productive and ordered. Delegates should read through these and familiarise themselves with the procedures. Having a copy of these at the conference will be useful for reference purposes.

Delegates

Delegates are required to listen to and respect the decision of the Chair at all times. They are required to stand when speaking, yield the floor when asked to do so by the Chair and to be courteous at all times and speak at all times in a manner which reflects the spirit of the United Nations. Abusive or insulting language will not be tolerated and delegates can be asked via their advisors to leave the Conference.

Amendments to the Agenda

Proposed amendments to the agenda may be submitted in each meeting at the start of business. Only amendments which propose to add an issue to the agenda will be in order. If such an amendment passes, the new issue will normally be debated after the previously published issues, provided that a resolution on the issue has been approved. Amendments to the agenda must be proposed in the form of a motion to be debated and should be submitted in writing to the President or Chair on an Amendment sheet.

Amendments to Resolutions

Amendments can only be submitted by a speaker who has been given the floor at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair must have a copy. The intention of proposed amendments to resolutions should normally be to improve the resolution with the object of achieving a wider consensus and thus helping the resolution to pass.

In closed debate, amendments will normally be moved in debate time for the resolution. The intention should always be constructive not destructive. If the amendment passes the floor it is yielded to the Chair.

Power of the Chair in limiting/extending debate

The Chair will propose the limitation of debate time for each motion. This will normally be:

Main motions: Closed debate of ten minutes for and ten minutes against
Amendments: Closed debate of five minutes for and five minutes against
When debate time has been exhausted, the Chair will propose either the extension of debate time (e.g. five minutes for, five minutes against), or the closure of debate and subsequent vote on the question being considered (the previous question). The Chair may, in the interests of debate, or in order to work

towards consensus, call upon a particular delegation to speak if they have an amendment which in the opinion of the Chair adds to the quality of the resolution being debated. The Chair may also restrict the speaking time of an individual delegate to allow more delegates the opportunity to speak or to move the debate on. Equally the Chair will encourage delegates to open to points of information.

The limitations of debate time will include the time taken for replies to points of information but will not include the time taken for questions to the speaker or for other interruptions. **There will be an absolute maximum debate time for one resolution of 60 minutes in both Committee and General Assembly.**

Yielding the floor

The floor may be yielded by one delegation to another twice consecutively; it then passes to the Chair. Where delegations consist of more than one member, delegates from the same delegation may not yield the floor to each other.

Delegates are strongly encouraged not to yield to other delegations from the same school.

Interruption of Speeches and Rising to Points

A speech may only be interrupted by a point of personal privilege referring to audibility. All other points e.g. order, information to the Chair or speaker, will be dealt with only when the speaker yields the floor either to points of information to another delegate, or to the Chair.

A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to the comfort and well being of the delegate. It may not refer to the content of any speech and may only interrupt a speaker if the speech is inaudible.

A Point of Order may relate to procedural matters only.

A Point of Information may be directed to the Chair OR to the speaker who has the floor if he has indicated that he is willing to yield to points of information. A point of information must be formulated as a question, e.g. "Is the speaker aware that..." or "Does the speaker (not) realise that..." etc. A short introductory statement of reference may precede the question e.g. "The speaker stated in his speech that.... Is he not aware...?" A series of questions from the same questioner will not be in order.

A Call for the Orders of the Day is a call for the return to the main agenda of the committee, council or assembly. It may not interrupt a speech and must not refer to the content of a speech.

The Previous Question

Moving the Previous Question calls for the closure of debate and for a vote to be taken on the motion pending. It may be moved by the Chair or a speaker who has the floor.

Right of Reply

Generally speaking there is no right of reply at **WCDMUN08**, however this is at the discretion of the Chair.

Voting

Amendments - When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. Should a second amendment be moved to a proposal, this will be voted on before the vote is taken on the first amendment. There is a maximum of one amendment to an amendment. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of the other, the first amendment shall not be put to the vote.

Conduct during Voting - After the Chair has announced the start of voting procedures, no interruptions will be allowed except for points of order connected with the actual conduct of the voting.

Explanation of vote - After the completion of voting, one speaker of each side will be allowed one minute to explain his vote.

Abstentions - The number of delegations actively abstaining (as opposed to simply failing to vote) will be recorded and the right to explain its vote may be allowed to a delegation which abstains. However, abstentions will not count either for or against the adoption of a motion, i.e. a resolution will pass if the number for exceeds the number against regardless of the number of abstentions.

Amendments

All amendments must be submitted to the Chair at the appropriate time on an Amendment Sheet of the approved format
A separate Amendment Sheet must be used for each amendment or amendment to an amendment.

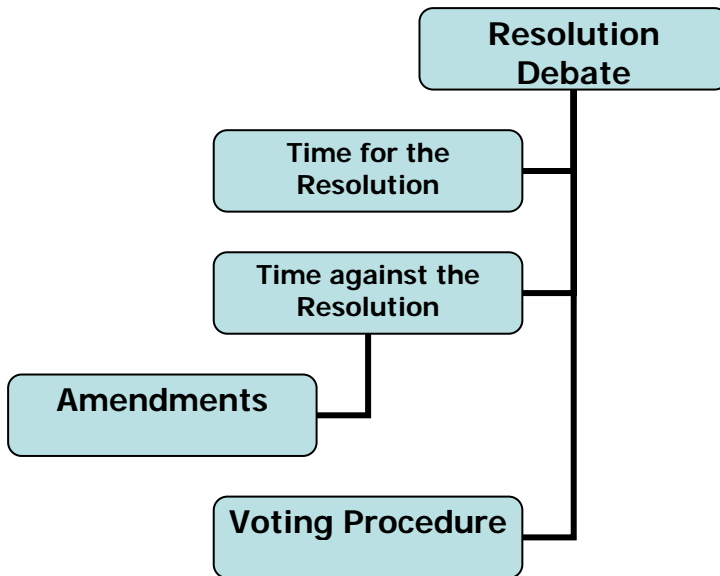
All amendments must state clearly:

the line or lines in which the amendment is to be made;

the clauses which are affected by the amendment;

the kind of amendment e.g. strike, insert, strike and insert, add.

Amendments may be hand-written but must be LEGIBLE. Illegible or untidy amendments will be ruled out of order.



Point of (non-voted)	May interrupt speaker	Must be recognised
Personal Privilege	Yes	No
Order	No	Yes
Information to the Chair	No	Yes
Information to the Speaker	No	Yes

Motion to	May Interrupt the Speaker?	Must be recognised by the Chair	Requires a Second?	Can be objected to?	Vote required?	Debatable? Time Length?
Extended Debate Time	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	No
To move to the previous question	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 majority	No
Table a Resolution	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	No
Adjourn the meeting	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	No
Divide the House	No	No	Yes	Yes	Chair's decision	No
Refer the main motion to another Committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	Three mins for & against
Postpone Indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	Three mins for & against

Written communication between Delegations

All written communication transmitted through the Secretaries must be written on identifiable notepaper, with a distinctive (country) heading. Messages must be clear From and To delegates/delegations at the top of the paper. Messages not fulfilling the above requirements will not be transmitted. Delegations are expected to provide their own (appropriate) notepaper and this is the responsibility of the Ambassador. Notepaper must not be offensive, racist or derogatory toward the country in question or other countries. A5 is suggested as an appropriate size. All wastepaper will be recycled.

The Question of funding

At **WCDMUN08** all Committees and the General Assembly must assume that the UN has infinite resources. It is therefore out of order to question the integrity of a resolution based on funding. However, this is not the case with the funding of individual member countries.

Dress Code

Delegates are expected to dress in appropriate formal conference attire. Delegates will not be allowed to take the floor in military costume, national dress or inappropriately revealing outfits.

Ladies

- Skirts
- Dresses
- Suits
- Smart blouses or shirts
- Smart shoes

Gentlemen

- Suits
- Smart trousers
- Shirt and tie
- Smart shoes

Items not permitted:

- Denim or leather trousers
- Cords
- Trainers
- Casual jumpers
- Sports wear
- Military dress
- National costumes

Awards

There will be awards for the following:

Best Delegation
Highly Commended Delegation
Commended Delegations

Best Delegate
Best Junior Delegate (Under 16)
Commended Delegates

Delegations and Delegates will be judges on the following Criteria:

Evidence of extensive research
Accurate representation of country's policies during the Conference
Constructive contribution towards debate
Knowledge of and adherence to Parliamentary Procedure
Evidence of consensus-building and working with other delegations