Committee guide

ECOFIN

Evaluating the Role of Development Aid and Trade Barriers in Debt Sustainability

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Navrachana International School, Vadodara

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Welcome to the Economic and Financial Committee!
I am Divyanshu Ray, chairperson of the Economic and Financial Committee, along with my co-chair Saarim Siddiquie. As we embark on this important journey together, I want to express my gratitude for your participation and commend your commitment to addressing global economic and financial challenges.

Having been part of the Model United Nations community since 2022, both as a delegate and in my previous role as co-chair of this committee during NIMU discussions and developing innovative solutions. Model United Nations provides us with a unique opportunity to simulate the workings of the United Nations and empowers us to take on the responsibility of shaping our world's future.

The Economic and Financial Committee, or ECOFIN, plays a pivotal role in examining the changes and complexities of the global economy. We recognize that economic growth and development are hindered by a myriad of structural issues, particularly in developing and underdeveloped economies. One pressing concern we will be focusing on this year is the growing challenge of aid dependency and restrictive trade barriers, which continue to push vulnerable economies deeper into cycles of debt distress. However, I assure you that there will be exhilarating debates throughout the entirety of NIMUN.

Over the two-day committee proceedings, as young leaders, you must showcase leadership skills, research acumen, and problem-solving abilities. Thoroughly research and understand the agenda, your country's stance, economic limitations, allies, and opportunities. This knowledge will help you hold countries accountable, engage effectively, and find sustainable solutions.

I am genuinely excited to guide and witness an enthusiastic committee throughout our deliberations. Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact me at nimun.ecofin@navrachana.ac.in. I am here to support you in any way I can.

Best regards,
Divyanshu Ray
Chairperson
Economic and Financial Committee

An Introduction to ECOFIN

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the United Nations is responsible for dealing with questions about economics, global finance, and growth and development around the world. It was created alongside the other major General Assembly bodies of the United Nations during its founding. It is considered a critical organ of the UN, without it the United Nations and the other organs attached to it would cease to function, as ECOFIN apportions funding among programs and committees. Within the purview of the committee are developing solution mechanisms to persistent economic inequity and dealing with emerging concerns within global finance. ECOFIN is composed of all 193 member states of the United Nations and each of them has equal voting power. It can essentially be described as the policy-making body for economics, global finance, and economic growth. As in other UN bodies, ECOFIN has the capacity to make policies and draft guidelines, but cannot enforce them. Accordingly, cooperation and support is essential in this committee, as well as thoroughly thought out incentive systems for nations to voluntarily agree to participate in the resolutions produced by this body.

Committee History

This committee was officially created in 1945 as one of the original general assemblies since ECOFIN is also known as the Second Committee. It first met in San Francisco on April 25th, 1945. ECOFIN is a unique committee that brings focus to the globalized economy and supports nations financially. Its membership is open to all member states of the United Nations as one of the General Assemblies and follows the same parliamentary procedures as any other main organ of the United Nations. Thus, a total of 193 nations are represented in ECOFIN.

Committee Mandate

The mandate of a committee is the expressed powers or topic areas that it has the jurisdiction to cover and discuss. According to the United Nations, ECOFIN functions to discuss issues relating to economic growth and development, including macroeconomics policies, operational activities and financing for development, globalization and interdependence, eradication of poverty, sustainable development, information and communication technologies for development, agriculture development, food security and nutrition as well as human settlements and sustainable urban development. Its mandate further explores groupings of nations such as Least Developed Countries to encourage regional growth and support for all nations, which is just one of the many subgroups formed under ECOFIN to substantively solve niche issues.

Agenda: Evaluating the Role of Development Aid and Trade Barriers in Debt Sustainability

Day 1 – Role of Development Aid and Trade Barriers in Debt Creation and Alleviation

Day 2 – Reforming Aid and Trade Structures to Support Debt Sustainability

Introduction to Agenda

The Economic and Financial Affairs Committee (ECOFIN) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly, mandated to deal with issues related to international financial systems, global economic governance, and trade. It plays a critical role in debating and shaping policy frameworks that affect both developed and developing nations, particularly in the context of international debt management and sustainable development.

This session focuses on the intersection of development aid, trade policies, and debt sustainability — a pressing challenge for many economies today. Debt sustainability refers not only to a state's ability to meet its debt obligations but also to its capacity to do so without compromising long-term growth and social stability. For developing and least developed countries (LDCs), achieving this balance is particularly difficult. Their economies often depend heavily on external financing, exports of primary commodities, and development assistance, leaving them vulnerable to global shocks.

Development aid, when well-structured, provides critical financial lifelines to states facing fiscal shortfalls, humanitarian crises, or structural weaknesses. It can fund essential infrastructure, strengthen institutions, and foster economic growth. However, history shows that aid is not without drawbacks. When tied to loans with high interest rates, restrictive conditionalities, or requirements to purchase goods from donor nations, aid can inadvertently worsen debt burdens. This has led to situations where countries become dependent on recurring financial inflows rather than building sustainable domestic capacity, creating what some economists describe as an "aid trap."

Trade policies, particularly barriers such as tariffs, quotas, and non-tariff restrictions, are another central piece of the puzzle. For many developing countries, international trade represents the most viable path to earning foreign exchange and reducing reliance on borrowing. Yet, protectionist measures by developed

nations frequently hinder access to global markets, especially in agriculture and manufacturing — sectors where developing economies often hold a comparative advantage. The resulting imbalance restricts revenue generation, exacerbating debt vulnerability. Moreover, global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions have further highlighted the fragility of trade-dependent economies.

In this committee, delegates will critically evaluate both the positive and negative impacts of development aid and trade barriers. They will be expected to assess how international financial institutions, donor nations, and recipient states can work together to design policies that prevent debt crises while fostering sustainable development. The debate must go beyond immediate debt relief to consider structural reforms, regional cooperation, and the creation of equitable trade frameworks.

Ultimately, this session challenges delegates to craft solutions that reconcile short-term financial assistance with long-term stability — ensuring that development aid and trade structures contribute to resilience, self-sufficiency, and fairness in the global economic order.

Background

Debt sustainability refers to a country's capacity to meet its current and future debt obligations without resorting to exceptional financing or default, while maintaining economic growth and social stability. In simpler terms, it measures whether a government can continue to service its external and domestic debts without undermining its long-term development prospects. This issue has become increasingly significant as debt levels in developing countries, particularly in Low-Income Countries (LICs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have risen sharply over the last two decades.

The roots of debt sustainability challenges can be traced back to the late 20th century, when many developing nations borrowed heavily to finance infrastructure and social programs. During the 1980s debt crises, particularly in Latin America and Africa, countries found themselves unable to repay loans due to rising interest rates, declining export revenues, and unfavorable global economic conditions. This period marked the beginning of widespread debt restructuring initiatives, spearheaded by international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Since then, debt relief programs like the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative (1996) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (2005) have attempted to ease the burden. While these programs provided significant relief, many countries have once again accumulated unsustainable debt levels. Factors contributing to this renewed cycle include rising global interest rates, dependency on commodity exports, the COVID-19 pandemic's fiscal shocks, and the increasing role of non-traditional lenders.

Debt sustainability is closely interlinked with **international aid** and **trade dynamics**:

- **Aid Dependence:** Many LDCs rely on concessional loans and development assistance. While aid can support growth, excessive reliance on loan-based aid increases debt vulnerabilities, especially if borrowed funds are not channeled into productive investments.
- **Trade Imbalances:** Tariff and non-tariff barriers often restrict LDC exports, limiting their capacity to generate foreign exchange earnings needed for debt repayment. Heavy dependence on a narrow set of commodities further exposes them to price volatility in global markets.
- **Global Governance:** Lack of transparency in lending, particularly from bilateral or private creditors, has led to "hidden debts" that complicate accurate assessments of debt sustainability.

Several factors drive the debate on debt sustainability:

- **Economic Growth vs. Debt Accumulation:** Borrowing can stimulate development when used productively, but excessive or mismanaged borrowing can stifle growth.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** Creditors often extend loans with strategic interests, raising concerns about sovereignty and "debt diplomacy."
- **Global Financial Instability:** Rising debt burdens in developing countries pose systemic risks to the global economy, as defaults can disrupt trade, investment, and financial flows.

The implications of debt sustainability are wide-ranging:

- **For Domestic Economies:** Unsustainable debt leads to reduced public spending on essential services like health and education, triggering social instability.
- **For International Trade:** Indebted economies struggle to diversify exports and integrate into global markets, perpetuating dependency cycles.
- **For Global Finance:** High default risks reduce investor confidence, increase borrowing costs, and heighten volatility in international capital markets.

Addressing debt sustainability requires a multifaceted approach involving transparent lending practices, fairer trade opportunities, innovative solutions like debt-for-nature and debt-for-development swaps, and strengthened regional integration to diversify economic bases. The question remains whether the international community can balance creditor interests with the developmental needs of debtor nations.

In this session, ECOFIN will deliberate on debt sustainability not merely as a financial matter but as a cornerstone of global development. Delegates will need to evaluate the balance between aid, trade, and debt, and explore reforms that ensure economic sovereignty, social stability, and sustainable growth for vulnerable economies.

Key Players

United States

The United States stands at the center of global financial governance, both as the largest aid donor and as a dominant influence in institutions like the IMF and World Bank. Its policies emphasize fiscal discipline, transparency, and conditional aid, shaping the frameworks of debt relief and development financing worldwide. At the same time, its protectionist stance—particularly agricultural subsidies and tariffs—creates significant challenges for developing economies seeking fairer access to U.S. and global markets.

China

China has become the largest bilateral lender to developing countries, primarily through the Belt and Road Initiative, which channels loans into large-scale infrastructure projects. Unlike Western aid, Chinese financing often comes without governance conditions, making it attractive to many governments. However, this approach has sparked concerns about hidden debt, long-term repayment difficulties, and Beijing's use of lending as a tool for geopolitical leverage, particularly across Africa and South Asia.

Developed Countries (G7 & OECD Members)
Countries such as Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom remain major donors and creditors, pushing for reforms that prioritize accountability, transparency, and market efficiency. Their leadership in international financial institutions reinforces these approaches. Yet, their protectionist trade practices, including subsidies and tariffs, often undermine the benefits of aid for developing nations that rely heavily on export access to advanced economies.

Developing Countries
Middle- and low-income nations struggle with recurring debt crises driven by volatile commodity prices, reliance on external borrowing, and limited export diversification. Through collective platforms like the G77, they push for united aid, debt relief, and structural reforms to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers that restrict their global trade participation.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and HIPCs
The world's most vulnerable economies, concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, face unsustainable debt burdens and are disproportionately exposed to climate and development shocks. For these nations, debt sustainability is not just a financial concern but a question of survival, directly affecting poverty alleviation, healthcare, and education. Their demands focus on grant-based aid, comprehensive debt cancellation, and expanded access to global markets.

Emerging Donors (India & Gulf States)
Beyond China, other emerging donors such as India and the Gulf States are becoming increasingly prominent through concessional loans, grants, and investments in trade and infrastructure. Their financing is often presented as an alternative to Western aid but, like China's, sometimes raises concerns regarding transparency and long-term sustainability.

Multilateral Institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO, UNCTAD)
Institutions like the IMF and World Bank remain central to debt restructuring and concessional lending, with the IMF's Debt Sustainability Framework guiding eligibility for low-income countries and the World Bank providing vital development finance and statistics. The WTO, through negotiations such as the Doha Development Agenda, attempts to reduce trade barriers but has made limited progress. Meanwhile, UNCTAD plays a crucial advocacy role, pushing for

fairer terms in aid, trade, and debt governance.

Challenges to Address

1. Risk of Aid Dependency and Governance Erosion

One of the most persistent challenges in the realm of international aid and debt sustainability is the risk of **aid dependency**. When countries become overly reliant on external assistance, domestic revenue collection and long-term economic planning often weaken. This dependency can undermine governance structures by reducing incentives for governments to implement fiscal reforms or strengthen institutions. Critics argue that excessive aid inflows may foster corruption, discourage self-reliance, and entrench cycles of political patronage.

2. Unequal Trade Terms Reinforcing Debt Cycles

Developing countries frequently face **disadvantageous trade terms** in the global economy. Reliance on primary commodity exports, combined with price volatility, often traps these nations in cycles of low revenue and high borrowing. Trade barriers, tariffs, and agricultural subsidies in developed economies further restrict developing states' access to lucrative markets. As a result, countries may be forced to finance deficits through external borrowing, perpetuating **debt cycles** and undermining long-term sustainability.

3. Private Creditor Participation in Debt Restructuring

While bilateral and multilateral institutions such as the Paris Club, IMF, and World Bank have mechanisms for debt restructuring, **private creditors** (such as hedge funds, commercial banks, and bondholders) remain less engaged. Their reluctance to participate in coordinated debt relief efforts complicates restructuring negotiations. In some cases, private creditors pursue aggressive legal action against debtor countries ("vulture funds"), exacerbating financial distress and undermining international cooperative frameworks.

Potential Solutions

1. **Shift from Loan-Based to Grant-Based Aid**

Many developing nations fall into debt traps due to high levels of concessional or non-concessional loans. Shifting toward grant-based assistance, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs), would reduce the long-term repayment burden and allow governments to allocate more resources toward social and economic development rather than debt servicing. This approach also minimizes the risk of accumulating hidden debt.

2. **Introduce Debt-for-Development or Debt-for-Nature Swaps**

Innovative financial mechanisms like debt-for-nature or debt-for-climate swaps allow debtor nations to cancel part of their external debt in exchange for commitments to invest in environmental protection, climate resilience, or sustainable development projects. For example, island nations vulnerable to climate change could reduce their debt obligations while simultaneously building resilience to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. 3. **Remove or Reduce Tariffs for LDC Exports**

Trade barriers often disadvantage developing countries by limiting their access to lucrative markets in developed nations. Removing tariffs and quotas on key exports — such as agricultural products, textiles, or raw materials — can significantly enhance export revenues, strengthen economic stability, and improve debt repayment capacity. WTO-led reforms under the Doha Development Agenda provide a framework for this solution.

4. **Establish Transparent Lending Frameworks**

Lack of transparency in bilateral and multilateral loans often leads to hidden debts and unsustainable repayment conditions. Establishing international standards for transparent lending — possibly through IMF, World Bank, or UN frameworks — would ensure that borrowing countries are fully aware of repayment obligations, interest structures, and risks. This would also enhance accountability among both lenders and borrowers.

5. **Increase Regional Trade Integration**

Strengthening regional cooperation and South-South trade can reduce dependency on Western donors and diversify markets for developing economies. Regional trade blocs (e.g., African Continental Free Trade Area, ASEAN) can help create stronger bargaining positions, encourage intra-regional trade, and reduce vulnerability to global market shocks. By diversifying trade partners, developing countries can improve resilience and reduce the risk of falling back into debt crises.

Guiding Questions

1. Is debt sustainability a problem in your country, neighboring countries, or continent? How has it affected economic growth, trade, and development?

2. If your country is not directly facing a debt crisis, how can it play a role as a creditor, trade partner, or policymaker in global forums?

3. Who are the key stakeholders in this issue (e.g., debtor nations, creditor nations, international financial institutions, private lenders, trading blocs)?

4. What are the positions of these stakeholders regarding debt restructuring, aid dependency, and trade reforms?

5. What policies has your country adopted to manage public debt and maintain sustainable trade balances?

6. What strategies or solutions have been attempted in your country or region to address debt crises or trade barriers?

7. Which of these approaches have worked? Why were they effective?

8. Which measures have not worked, and what factors limited their success?

9. What aspects of existing debt and trade management frameworks could be improved, and why? 10. What new policies or mechanisms should be introduced to ensure long-term debt sustainability and fairer trade systems?

11. What are some key facts, figures, and statistics about your country's debt-to-GDP ratio, aid dependence, and trade balances, at national, regional, and international levels?

12. How has the implementation of new debt management or trade policies impacted your country's citizens and overall development trajectory?

13. Has any other country or bloc (e.g., G20, China, EU, USA) influenced your country's debt sustainability or trade performance? If so, how and in what ways?

Key Terms

Debt Sustainability – Debt sustainability refers to a country's capacity to meet its present and future debt obligations in full, without resorting to exceptional financing measures such as repeated debt relief or accumulating arrears. It is not only about repayment but also about ensuring that debt servicing does not compromise essential development spending in areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. For many developing countries, sustainability is threatened when debt grows faster than GDP or when export earnings are insufficient to cover repayments. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank use the *Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF)* to assess risks of debt distress in low-income countries.

Development Aid – Development aid is the financial, technical, or material assistance provided by one country or international institution to another, typically with the aim of promoting long-term social and economic development. It can take the form of grants, concessional loans, or technical cooperation programs. When used effectively, aid supports poverty reduction, infrastructure building, and institutional strengthening. However, concerns remain about aid dependency, corruption, and inefficiencies in how aid is delivered. There is also debate between "untied aid," which allows the recipient to decide how funds are spent, and "tied aid," which comes with restrictions.

Trade Barriers – Trade barriers are obstacles to the free flow of goods and services between countries. They can be *tarif -based* (e.g., import taxes on goods) or *non-tarif -based* (e.g., quotas, licensing requirements, and product standards). While sometimes imposed to protect domestic industries or ensure safety standards, trade barriers often disadvantage developing countries by limiting their ability to export agricultural and manufactured goods. For example, subsidies in developed countries' agricultural sectors depress global prices, making it harder for farmers in poorer nations to compete. The presence of trade barriers directly affects a country's export revenues, reducing its capacity to service external debts.

Tied Aid – Tied aid is a form of assistance that requires the recipient country to spend the funds on goods and services from the donor country. While it may appear generous, tied aid often benefits the donor more than the recipient, as it channels resources back into the donor's economy and reduces flexibility for the recipient. For example, a donor may provide aid to build infrastructure but stipulate that only its own companies can carry out the project, sometimes at higher costs than international alternatives. Critics argue that tied aid inflates project costs by as much as 15–30% and limits the developmental impact of assistance.

Concessional Loans – Concessional loans are loans provided at below-market interest rates, often with longer repayment periods and grace periods before repayment begins. They are designed to make borrowing more affordable for developing countries that lack access to international capital markets on favourable terms. Concessional financing is a key component of aid provided by multilateral institutions such as the World Bank's *International Development Association (IDA)*. While these loans are less burdensome than commercial borrowing, they still increase external debt and must be managed carefully to avoid long-term repayment challenges.

Historical Context

- **Post-Colonial Period (1960s–1980s):**

  Following the wave of decolonisation in Africa, Asia, and parts of the Caribbean, newly independent states embarked on ambitious nation-building projects aimed at rapid industrialisation, infrastructure development, and modernization of economies. However, lacking sufficient domestic capital and industrial bases, these states turned heavily toward foreign borrowing—primarily from Western governments, commercial banks, and multilateral financial institutions. The loans were often promoted as a means to "catch up" with developed economies, but many were contracted under weak governance structures and without long-term repayment strategies. The 1970s oil crisis exacerbated this problem: as oil prices quadrupled, global inflation surged, and interest rates climbed, many developing countries saw their debt burdens swell dramatically. Export revenues, upon which these states relied for repayment, stagnated due to declining commodity prices, creating a mismatch between obligations and capacity to pay.

- **The 1980s Debt Crisis:**

  By the early 1980s, the combination of high borrowing, soaring interest rates, and falling commodity prices culminated in a full-blown debt crisis, particularly in Latin America. Countries like Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina found themselves unable to meet repayment obligations, declaring partial or outright defaults. This crisis not only destabilized domestic economies—causing widespread unemployment, inflation, and social unrest—but also sent shockwaves through the global financial system. In response, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank stepped in with Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs). These programs conditioned debt relief and new loans on austerity, trade liberalisation, deregulation, and privatisation. While SAPs restored short-term financial stability, they were widely criticised for reducing government spending on social services such as health and education, worsening inequality, and increasing dependency on external financing.

- **HIPC and MDRI Initiatives (1996–2005):**

  Recognising the failure of earlier strategies, the international community, led by the IMF and World Bank, launched the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in 1996. Its aim was to provide comprehensive debt relief to the poorest and most debt-burdened nations, contingent on adopting sound economic reforms. Later, in 2005, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) expanded these efforts by cancelling 100% of eligible debts owed to certain international institutions. These initiatives provided substantial fiscal breathing space to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, allowing governments to redirect resources toward poverty reduction and development goals. However, critics argued that conditions attached to relief still constrained policy autonomy and that the debt cycle risked repeating without structural changes to trade and financial systems.

- **21st Century Trends:**

  In the new millennium, global economic volatility continued to challenge debt sustainability. The 2008 global financial crisis triggered recessions worldwide, leading to reduced capital inflows and declining export revenues for developing economies. Although debt levels temporarily stabilised in the 2010s, new vulnerabilities emerged. The COVID-19 pandemic delivered a severe shock, forcing governments to increase borrowing to fund public health systems, provide stimulus, and support vulnerable populations, while revenues collapsed due to global lockdowns and declining trade. Simultaneously, rising global interest rates—especially after 2020—significantly increased the cost of servicing debt. Today, many low- and middle-income countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), face debt distress amid climate-related disasters, geopolitical conflicts, and tightening international credit markets. These crises highlight that despite decades of reforms, the international system still lacks resilient, long-term mechanisms to ensure debt sustainability while enabling genuine economic development.

Research Preparation for Delegates

Delegates should research:

1. **Country's Status as Donor or Recipient**

   Delegates must first establish whether their nation primarily functions as a donor of development aid (e.g., the United States, Japan, or EU members) or as a recipient (e.g., many African, South Asian, and Latin American countries). This distinction determines the country's priorities — donors usually emphasize accountability, efficiency, and conditionality in aid, whereas recipients focus on increasing access to untied aid, debt relief, and concessional financing. Emerging donors such as China, India, and Brazil may occupy a hybrid role, offering infrastructure-based aid while also engaging with Western donors.

2. **Existing Trade Barriers Affecting Their Economy**

   Delegates should identify the main trade restrictions impacting their country's economy, such as tariffs on agricultural exports, quotas on textiles, or subsidies that distort global markets. For developing and least developed countries, trade barriers in developed nations often restrict access to high-value markets. Conversely, donor states may impose these barriers to protect domestic industries. Understanding these dynamics will help delegates propose or contest measures such as tariff reductions, preferential trade agreements, or WTO reforms.

3. **Any Debt Crises Faced and Strategies for Resolution**

   Delegates need to examine whether their country has faced (or is currently facing) debt distress. This includes studying participation in past initiatives like the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) program, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), or bilateral debt renegotiations under the Paris and London Clubs. For donor states, research should cover their role in offering debt forgiveness or restructuring deals. For recipient states, it is crucial to assess whether reliance

   on loans has created aid dependency or whether alternative financing methods (such as debt-for-nature swaps or concessional loans) have been effective.

4. **Preferred International Reforms to Aid and Trade Systems**

   Finally, delegates should investigate their nation's position on reforming international aid and trade frameworks. This might include advocating for more grant-based aid, promoting regional trade integration, supporting debt transparency initiatives, or resisting conditionality linked to Western aid. Donor states may call for greater accountability and market liberalization, while recipient states often demand equitable trade terms, debt cancellation, and climate-linked financing. Understanding these preferences will allow delegates to push realistic, country-aligned proposals during negotiations.

Useful Resources

- World Bank – Making the Low-Income Country Debt Sustainability Framework Fit for Purpose
  Explores proposed reforms to better equip the IMF–World Bank framework for assessing debt sustainability in low-income countries. World Bank

- IMF & World Bank – LIC DSF Guidance Note
  Offers practical guidelines on applying the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF), tailored to the circumstances of low-income countries. World BankIMF

- UNCTAD – Debt and Debt Sustainability Resources
  Provides data, reports, and analysis on trends in external debt and evolving challenges for developing economies. UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)+1

- World Bank – Sustainable Development Finance Policy (SDFP)
  Details IDA's policy measures that incentivize transparent and sustainable debt through coordinated lending practices. International Development AssociationWorld Bank

- IMF – Enhanced HIPC Initiative
  Evaluates the impact of HIPC debt relief programs in enabling countries to redirect resources toward development and social spending. IMFWorld Bank

- World Bank – Debt Transparency in Developing Economies
  Highlights the importance of openness in borrowing and provides policy guidance for

improving public debt disclosure. World BankWorld Bank

- WTO – Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance
  Offers insight into the interconnected nature of trade policy and debt management through WTO discussions and documents. World Trade Organization+1

- Eurodad – Debt Justice
  A global NGO network advocating for fundamental reforms in debt resolution practices to prioritize human and developmental needs. Eurodad+1

- Reuters – World Bank Urges ‘Radical’ Debt Transparency
  Reports on the World Bank’s push for mandatory disclosure reforms to address hidden and off-budget borrowing in developing countries.

Committee Proceedings

Roll call

During roll call, delegates are required to respond with either "present" or "present and voting" when their country's name is announced by the Chair. By choosing the former, the delegate has the right to abstain from voting on proposed resolutions. By choosing the latter, the delegate must vote on proposed resolutions.

General Speakers' List (GSL)neral Speakers' List allows delegates to present their country's views and stance on the agenda at hand. The GSL is usually the first discourse of the conference. The GSL is established after the Chairperson approves, under their discretion, a motion raised by a recognised delegate to establish the GSL. Like any other Speakers' List, the GSL determines the order in which delegates will speak to present their opening remarks. The Chair will create the list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During the conference, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the GSL by sending a note to the Dais. The Chairperson may call a delegate to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The GSL can be interrupted by procedural points or motions, caucuses, discussion of amendments, and introduction of draft resolutions. GSL: Time limit

Delegates are given 1 minute to present their opening speeches. Exceeding the time limit is not permitted, and will result in an immediate call to order by the Chairperson.

GSL: Yielding

While adhering to the time limit is extremely important, effectively utilising the time to present substantive material is equally significant. Delegates are encouraged to make full use of the time allotted to them, expressing relevant claims. A short or haphazard completion of the GSL speech will result in a negative impression and low marking.

Yielding (time) is only applicable if the delegate has time remaining from the allotted time after the completion of his/her speech. The speaker must respond to the Chairperson when asked "delegate, how would you like to use your remaining time?", with "the delegate of (country) would like to yield the remaining time to (the Chair/ another delegate/ questions). Delegates must adhere to the remaining time.

Yield type	What is it?	Notes
Yield to the Chair	The delegate does not wish for his/her speech to be subject to comments.	Although this choice does not result in the marking-down of delegates, delegates are encouraged to choose either of the other two options to present more involvement in the conference and exude confidence in themselves and their work.
Yield to another delegate	The delegate chooses another delegate to make his/her remarks.	
Yield to points of information or questions	Delegates are selected by the Chairperson to state factual inaccuracies or ask one question on the speaker's (delegate's) speech.	The chairperson will call to order any delegate, whose question is irrelevant to the speaker's speech or is curated to elicit information.

Moderated caucus

The purpose of the moderated caucus is to facilitate substantive debate at critical junctures in the discussion. A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate raising the motion must specify the topic, followed by the time limit (total time, per speaker time). The motion will be on vote with a simple majority required for its passage. If the motion passes, delegates, wishing to speak on the motion, must raise their placards. The Chairperson will call on delegates to speak for the stipulated time. The only time yield allowed in a moderated caucus is "yield to points of information"; however, the Chair may decide to disallow it and this is not subject to appeal. Otherwise, each speech will be considered as taking up the full duration of the per speaker time. If no delegates wish to speak, the moderated caucus will immediately conclude, even if time remains in the caucus. The Chairperson may also decide, subject to appeal, to suspend the caucus early or prolong it.

Unmoderated caucus

An unmoderated caucus temporarily suspends formal debate and allows delegates to discuss ideas informally in the committee. A motion for an unmoderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate raising the motion must state the purpose of the unmoderated caucus and specify a time limit. The motion is voted upon and a simple majority allows its passage. The Chairperson may prematurely end an unmoderated caucus if they feel that the caucus has ceased to be productive. Contrarily, the Chairperson may extend the unmoderated caucus. These decisions are not subject to appeal.

Resolutions

Working Papers

A working paper is a document that contains the ideas of a group of delegates about how to resolve issues pertaining to the agenda. It is a precursor to a draft resolution. A working paper is used to communicate ideas to delegates in a less formal manner before it is converted to a formal draft resolution. It need not be written in the format of a draft resolution; however, to be presented to the committee, it requires the signature or approval of the Dais. Unlike draft resolutions, working papers do not have signatories.

Draft Resolutions

The discussion, writing and negotiation for a committee's agenda concludes with the presentation of a resolution. A resolution includes written suggestions for addressing a specific problem or issue, in relevance to the agenda. This document is drafted by one or more blocs formed over the course of the conference, and usually requires only a simple majority vote to pass (with the exception of the Security Council).

A draft resolution is one that has not yet been voted upon. Delegates draft these resolutions in a format including three main sections:

1. The heading
    a. Includes: the sponsors, signatories, agenda and the committee.
2. The preamble
    a. Includes: the current situation.
3. The operative section
    a. Includes: recommended actions.

Each draft resolution is one clear and decisive sentence separated by commas and semicolons. The subject of the sentence is the body making the statement (e.g. UNSC, DISEC, Economic and Social Council). A draft resolution must always gain the support of a certain number of member states in the committee before the sponsors may submit it to the committee's Dais. Many conferences require signatures from 20 percent of the countries present in order to submit a draft resolution. A member of the Dais will read the draft resolution to ensure that it is relevant and in the proper format. Only when the document is formally accepted and is assigned a number can it be referred to in formal debate. A delegate must bring forward a motion to introduce the draft resolution, once accepted, sponsors will be called upon to explain the operative clauses in the resolution.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Preambulatory clauses
Preambulatory clauses provide the context of a resolution
Format:
Must be the first word of the statement
Must be italicised
Must not be numbered
Must end with a comma</td></tr>
<tr><td>Alarmed by
Approving</td><td>Expressing its satisfaction
Fulfilling</td><td>Noting with regret
Noting with deep concern</td></tr>
</table>

Aware of Bearing in mind Believing Confident Contemplating Convinced Declaring Deeply concerned Deeply conscious Deeply convinced Deeply disturbed Deeply regretting Emphasising Expecting	Fully alarmed Fully aware Fully believing Further deploring Further recalling Guided by Having adopted Having considered Having considered further Having devoted attention Having examined Having heard Having received Keeping in mind	Noting with satisfaction Noting with approval Observing Reaffirming Realising Recalling Recognizing Reminding Seeking Taking note Taking into account Taking into consideration Viewing with appreciation Welcoming

Operative clauses

- Operative clauses
- Format:
    - Must be the first word of the statement
    - Must be italicised
    - Must be numbered
    - Must end with a semicolon
    - Only the last clause should end with period
    - Sub-clauses must be indicated with a lowercase alphabet and sub-sub-clauses must be indicated with a lowercase roman numeral
    - There are no italicised words in sub-clauses or sub-sub-clauses

Accepts Affirms Approves Authorises Calls Calls upon Condemns Confirms Congratulates Considers	Draws to attention Emphasises Encourages Endorses Expresses its appreciation Expresses its hope Further invites Further proclaims Further reminds Further requests	Proclaims Reaffirms Recommends Regrets Reminds Requests Solemnly affirms Strongly condemns Stresses Takes note of

Declares accordingly Deplores Designates	Further resolves Further recommends Notes	Transmits Trusts Urges

Only resolutions of the Security Council are binding. As resolutions of other committees are not binding, delegates must not use phrases such as "forces", "compels" and "obligates".

Sample Draft Resolution

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,
Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens,
Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,
Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and non-governmental Organisations,
Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. *Encourages* all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts;
2. *Urges* member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. *Requests* that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. *Calls* for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
    a. *Calls* upon States to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for

humanitarian assistance; and

b. *Requests* the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development.

Rules of Procedure

Language

English will be the working and official language of the conference (during formal and informal discussions).

Decorum

Student delegates must obey instructions given by the secretariat. Failure to obey instructions, misconduct or disrespect directed towards the secretariat or any student delegates will result in dismissal from the conference. Delegates must address the secretariat by their respective roles. Delegates must address the secretariat members by their positions at all times; a delegate must address the Dais as the “Dais”, “Chair” or “Chairperson”.

Agenda

This is the first order of business for the committee. Since there is only one agenda for the committee, it will automatically be adopted.

Voting

Voting is initiated on resolutions, motions and caucuses’ topics. Following either the closure of debate or exhaustion of the speakers list, the committee moves immediately into voting procedure. Absolute decorum is to be maintained in the committee room at all times; it is essential that there is no disturbance during voting procedure. Please be aware that the voting procedure is typically a long process and depends on the number of draft resolutions, amendments, and roll call votes. Votes will be counted electronically and the delegates will be informed about the procedure to vote prior to the conference.

Points

Point of Order

Points of order are used when delegates believe the Chairperson has made an error in the running of the committee. Delegates rising to points of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. They should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

When the floor is open (i.e. no other delegate is speaking), a delegate may rise to a point of inquiry in order to ask the Chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.

Point of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to inform the Chairperson of a physical discomfort a delegate is experiencing, such as the inability to hear another delegate's speech.

Point of Information

Points of information can be used to point out factual inaccuracies in a delegate's speech and ask the delegate questions pertaining to his/her speech.

Delegate Preparation

The following is the marking criteria for NIMUN:

Knowledge	10
Analysation	10
Confidence	10
Listener	10
Coherence	10

Position Paper

The Position Paper is a comprehensive document, which details your country's policies on the topic of discussion in your committee, and also outlines your perspective. Writing a position paper helps you to organise your ideas so that you can share your country's stance with the rest of the committee. The conduct of extensive research and analysis makes a position paper substantial. Moreover, a well written position paper can often be used as the opening speech on a general speaker's list. Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. However, the guidelines provided should scaffold your endeavour. Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half sides of an A4 paper in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topic being discussed by the committee. A sound position paper will not only provide facts but focus also on making proposals for resolutions.

Elements of a position paper

A substantive position paper will include the following:

- A brief introduction to the country and its history concerning the agenda
- How the country is affected by the agenda
- A justified account of the country's policies with respect to the agenda
- Statistics and/or other data to support the position adopted by the country
- Quotes from the country's leaders and government officials regarding the agenda
- Actions undertaken by the country towards the issue
- Conventions, treaties and resolutions that the country has signed or ratified
- UN actions that the country supported or opposed
- What the country believes should be done to address the issue
- What the country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution
- How the position of other countries or blocs affects the country's position

Format of a position paper

- A position paper is written from the perspective of the State or country and not of the delegate. As such, avoid using 'I' or 'The Delegate'; instead, use the country's name.

- A position paper is written in the present tense.
- The length of a good position paper is between one and two pages. This roughly corresponds to about 1000 words.
- The font used is Times New Roman, Size 12, line spacing 1.5 and adequate margins.
- If possible, include the country's official seal or emblem as a watermark or a signature.
- Organise the position paper into clear paragraphs and make use of bullet points when possible.
- Cite any factual data, quotes, statistics, etc, according to the referencing format.
- Include at least one quote from your country's leaders or government officials about the agenda.

Referencing

Delegates must use the Modern Language Association (MLA 8 or 9) referencing style within their position paper's body (using footnotes) and/ or in the bibliography.

Writing the position paper

- Begin by extensively researching the country, the committee and the agenda.
- Contextualise your research by identifying the country's stance on the agenda.
- Identify important treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. related to the agenda.
- Determine whether or not the country is a signatory or member to these treaties, conventions, etc.
- Read interviews and speeches given by the country's leaders in the recent past and identify the common thread in all the data – this common thread will be the position that the country adopts.
- Try and understand why the country has adopted such a position. This can be gauged by looking at the history of the country, the agenda, and its evolution.
- Identify possible solutions or the next steps that the country would like to see adopted in the committee resolution.
- Develop arguments for why these solutions are adequate and necessary for the country and for the issue at hand.
- Identify the counter-position – the opposite position or the opponent's position – and

develop arguments for why your position is better or why the counter-position is weak.
- Organise all the data and draft your position paper.

Organise your position paper into paragraphs, dedicating each paragraph to a new idea or topic of research. There is no hard and fast rule that governs the structure of a position paper. A good position paper is one that includes all elements, and is easy to read and understand.

- **Introduction:** Begin by introducing the committee, the country and the agenda.
- **History:** Trace the history of the country and the agenda.
- **Position:** Identify how the issue affects the country, and describe the position adopted by the country towards the issue.
- **Substantiate:** Elaborate on the position, and include the country's policies, legislations, actions, etc. towards the issue.
- **Support:** Support the claims with quotes, data and statistics.
- **Action Framework:** Treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. adopted by the country towards the issue, along with the justification of the country's position on them.
- **Way Forward:** Solutions that the county wishes to adopt and what the country hopes to achieve from the committee.
- **Counter Positions:** Identify counter positions and explain how they affect the country's stance.
- **Conclusion Statement:** Conclude with a statement about what the country hopes for, in the larger picture.

Position Paper Tips
- Do not use complex sentence structures, keep the language simple.
- Make sure the paper is well organised and contains all the key elements.
- Ensure that the paper is less than 2 pages (one side and back).
- Avoid using personal pronouns.
- Make it look official by using your country emblem or seal.
- Include recent quotes or statistics, but only where necessary.
- Maintain the flow of the paper – each paragraph should lead into the next.

- Write a draft to begin with, and keep improving upon the paper.
- Refer to the sample position paper provided and follow all the guidelines given.
- Remember to include the country, agenda and committee name before beginning the position paper.

Position Paper Criteria

Knowledge On Criteria	10
Topic / Background	10
Structured exposition of delegates stance	10
Considered recommendation for resolutions	10
Format	10

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper was the top scoring paper in the 13th iteration of the Navrachana Model United Nations:

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
Agenda: Addressing the protection and prevention of human rights in a situation of war
Country: USA

The United States of America has inculcated fundamental human rights from the very first day of its creation about 250 years ago. 10th December of 1948 marked just one such instance when the United States portrayed its ethical measures for humanity as it signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Being a democratic nation, the US has always kept the safety, stability and wellbeing of the American citizens as a priority to achieve prosperity.

Going hand in hand with the USA's motto, securing people's rights has been at the heart of UNHRC's mission ever since it was founded on 15th March 2006. Especially during warfare, international humanitarian law(IHL) is essential in limiting the consequences of disputes, ensuring the safety of civilians, women, children, severely injured, captives, etc. The US has worked according to the three constituents of this "law of war" - Distinction, Proportionality, and Precaution

After 1890, no war took place on American soil, protecting its population from the threat of human rights violation through armed conflicts. Nevertheless, the US has been involved in external wars over the years, but the IHL has governed the better part of it. Besides, the USA has introduced several policies to address pressing humanitarian issues such as those that follow:

- Human Trafficking
  - In the year 2000, the US government initiated the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act(VTVPA). Based on annual reports on assessments of different countries' anti-trafficking policies, the United States is in the Tier 1 of the list, making it amongst the most proactive countries.
  - The US Department of Home Security established the Blue Campaign in 1997 to spread awareness about the issue.
- Shelter to refugees
  - The US Admission Refugee Programme (USRAP) has always been welcoming to refugees, providing aid and shelter to those who truly need it. President Biden has declared the United States' target of having 125000 refugee admissions in FY2023, the highest in several decades.
- Treatment of victims
  - The US has signed the 4 Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol III of 2005.
  - Despite not being a federal organization, the American Red Cross helps nearly 20000 people every day, improving humanitarian aid for military members and their families.

In current times of armed conflicts around the world, basic human rights are being neglected, if not heightened. Solely in 2021, nearly 20000 innocent children were recruited as soldiers, prostitutes or trafficked. The US recognizes that most of these numbers keep countries like Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen responsible. Not to mention the Russia-Ukraine war where 14 million Ukrainians as of just May 2022 were forced to flee their homes.

Whether it is the $3.9 billion(5% of what the US' total aid) in Ukraine or the $1.1 billion in the Afghanistan crisis since August 2021, the USA is always in search of ways to fund humanitarian aid. In fact, about one-fourth of the peacekeeping budget comes from the United States.

As Martin Luther King once said, “A right delayed is a right denied”. Thus, the US wishes to take immediate action as a mindful committee, working towards rethinking present resolutions into stricter ones, such as having heavy sanctions, a greater budget, and rightful actions in the IJC against those violating the IHL.

In words of Jan Eliasson, former foreign affairs minister of Sweden:-

“There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

Note: The delegate had cited their sources.

Opening speech (GSL Speech)

A committee session commences with the establishment of the ‘General Speakers List’ (GSL), during which delegates provide a short, comprehensive opening speech, typically lasting no more than 60 seconds. This speech is a vital opportunity to present the country’s current situation, policies, and introduce a resolution initiative pertaining to the committee’s agenda.

Elements of an opening speech

An opening speech is often prepared prior to the conference, allowing delegates to form a concise and coherent statement on the subject matter, without compromising the formality and diplomacy. Although there is no particular format to this speech, a clear introduction, systematic body, and a definitive resolution is key.

A GSL speech must begin with the following: “Thank you for the recognition Honourable Chair/ President/ Dais”

Followed by:

1. A brief history on the issue outlined in the agenda from the perspective of the country allocated.
2. Highlight the impact of this issue in various aspects, for example: governmental/ political, economic, environment, foreign relations, etc.

3. Clearly establish, with an explanation, the stance of the country's stance on the issue.
    a. This must be supported by data from a valid source, covering concerns across aspects.
4. A delegate may choose to explain the international effect of their country's position; discussing correlations, trade, monetary aid, etc. This often incentivises other members of a committee to form an inclusive bloc during the drafting process for working papers and draft resolutions.
5. The delegate must outline past actions done by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the global issue, and, in brief, its efficacy.
6. Lastly, a 'Call for Action' is the decisive moment in establishing the country's presence in the committee, for the given agenda.
    a. Clearly mention the proposed resolution, the role of the stakeholders and the importance or need of collective global action.

Fact Checking

- All claims, facts and statements made in the speech must be supported by empirical data.
- The data should be no older than 2 years, and must be extracted from a valid and verified source.
- The Dais have the right to ask for evidence supporting the claims made or data presented at any point in time during the conference. Subsequently inaccuracies in data, false claims and inflammatory remarks would result in consequences including dismissal from the committee.

Policies

Dress code policy

In the simulation of the United Nations, delegates are expected to conform to formal and professional procedures. Delegates must follow a dress code during the conference. While national and religious attire is permitted, the prevailing dress code will be Western Business attire:

During the conference (25th and 26th September):

- Men must wear a suit or a formal jacket and dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants), with a dress shirt and tie. Socks and dress shoes must be worn. Hats and caps are not allowed.

- Women must wear a suit, dress slacks (no jeans) or skirt of appropriate length with a blouse, blazer or sweater. Dress shoes must be worn. Hats and caps are not allowed.

24th September (Wednesday) – Statue of Unity Trip (for SOU package students)
Dress Code: Comfortable Casuals
Polo shirts / T-shirts, jeans or track pants, sneakers.
Cap/hat and sunglasses recommended (outdoor activity).
Avoid overly formal or restrictive clothing.
Only available for school-registered teams.

26th September Evening (LVP Garba Night – school-registered teams only):
Dress Code: Traditional Garba/Indian Ethnic
Girls: Chaniya choli, lehenga, or other festive Indian wear.
Boys: Kurta-pyjama, or festive ethnic wear.
Only available for school-registered teams.

Pre-writing policy

Any documents written prior to the conference will not be accepted as part of working papers, draft resolution and amendments. Our philosophy is founded on the idea that the best solutions are generated through debate, collaboration, and compromise. All papers presented before a committee should reflect collaboration that occurred within that committee.

Writing is expected to take place after the start of the committee session and must comprise the work of more than one delegation. The secretariat will not accept documents that do not seem as though they could have been feasibly written during the conference, based on various criteria, including the content of the document and/or the time at which it is submitted. Any delegates suspected of submitting pre-written words will be subject to an investigation that may result in disciplinary action, including notification of Faculty Advisors, reduced consideration or ineligibility for individual awards, and/ or expulsion from the conference. Any suspicions regarding an infraction of the prewriting policy should be brought to the immediate attention of the Dais.

No-research policy

Delegates are not permitted to access the Internet during the committee session. Any delegates suspected of accessing the internet during the committee session will be subject to an investigation that may result in disciplinary action, including notification of Faculty Advisors, reduced consideration or ineligibility for individual awards, and/ or expulsion from the conference.

Plagiarism policy

It is mandatory for delegates to acknowledge the resources they have relied upon or incorporated in their own work. It is expected that all documents submitted prior and during the conference are the delegate's own work. All documents submitted will be vetted through a rigorous plagiarism checker, and any work submitted by the delegate, without acknowledgement of sources, will result in reduced consideration of the delegate for awards.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do delegates raise a motion?

Delegates will be provided with placards with their country's name. The Chair will ask for motions on the floor. To raise a motion, delegates must raise their placards to be recognised by the Chair. It should be noted that not all delegates will be selected.

How do delegates prepare for their first MUN?

An MUN is an interactive way of participating in the vital discussion of global issues. Preparing for an MUN will most importantly require adequate knowledge of the current global issues. Along with this, the delegate handbook will be the delegate's golden ticket as it covers every aspect of the MUN. The Core Team also recommends that delegates watch the mock simulation observantly along with sample MUN videos to attain practical knowledge. The training videos provided by Navrachana International School Vadodara (NISV) will assure the delegates are well prepared.

When multiple motions have been proposed, what will be the order in which they are considered?

1. Right of Reply
2. Unmoderated Caucus
3. Moderated Caucus
4. Introduction of a Draft Resolution
5. Introduction of an Amendment
6. Postponement (Tabling) of Debate
7. Opening/Reopening Debate
8. Closure of Debate
9. Suspension of Debate
10. Adjournment of Debate

All points take precedence over motions.

What is the Right of Reply and when should a delegate exercise it?

Right of Reply is a rule that is invoked when a delegate feels their country or integrity has been compromised in another delegate's speech. There are two ways to exercise the Right of Reply: via chit to the Chair, or raising your placard and waiting to be recognised. If and when the Chair grants the Right of Reply, the delegate is allowed to speak on behalf of their country, and they will not be interrupted.

Is a motion to reorder resolutions allowed?

Yes, it is allowed. However, it will require 2⁄3 majority to pass.

MUN Terminology

Abstain: During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a country does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

Adjourn: All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next year's conference).

Agenda: The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

Amendment: A change to a draft resolution on the floor. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

Background guide: A guide to a topic being discussed in a Model UN committee usually written by conference organisers and distributed to delegates before the conference. The starting point for any research before a Model UN conference.

Binding: Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice; resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council are not.

Bloc: A group of countries in a similar geographical region or with a similar opinion on a particular topic. Blocs typically vote together.

Caucus: A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus.

Chair: A member of the Dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure. Also known as a Moderator.

Dais: The group of people, usually high school or college students, in charge of a Model UN committee. It generally consists of a Chair, a Director, and a Rapporteur. The Dais is also the raised platform on which the chair traditionally sits.

Decorum: The order and respect for others that all delegates at a Model UN conference must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of a speaker, of the Dais, or of their roles as ambassadors.

Delegate: A student acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee.

Delegation: The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference. They are usually all from the same school.

Director: A member of the Dais that oversees the creation of working papers and draft resolutions acts as an expert on the topic, makes sure delegates accurately reflect the policy of their countries, and ensures that decorum is maintained during caucuses.

Division of the Question: During the voting bloc, delegates may motion to vote on certain clauses of a resolution separately, so that only the clauses that are passed become part of the final resolution. This is known as the division of the question.

Draft resolution: A document that seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become a resolution.

Faculty Advisor: The faculty member in charge of a Model UN team, class or club.

Flow of events: The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. This usually indicates the movement between formal and informal debate and the process of drafting, debating and voting on resolutions.

Formal debate: The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

Head Delegate: The student leader of a Model UN club or team.

Member State: A country that has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and whose application to join has been accepted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Currently, there are 193-member states.

Moderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be a possible informal debate.

Motion: A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into a voting procedure.

Observer: A state, national organisation, regional organisation, or non-governmental organisation that is not a member of the UN but participates in its debates. Observers can vote on procedural matters, but not substantive matters. An example is the Holy See.

On the floor: At a Model UN conference, when a working paper or draft resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in the debate. After it is approved by the Director and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

Operative clause: The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.).

Page: A delegate in a Model UN committee that has volunteered to pass notes from one delegate to another, or from a delegate to the Dais, for a short period of time.

Placard: A piece of cardstock with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

Point: A request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate. Examples include a point of order, a point of inquiry, and a point of personal privilege

Position paper: A summary of a country's position on a topic, written by a delegate before an MUN conference.

Preambulatory Clause: The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.).

Procedural: Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.

Quorum: The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one-third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution.

Rapporteur: A member of the dais whose duties include keeping the speakers' list and taking the roll call, as well as assisting in and keeping track of administrative duties in the committee room.

Resolution: A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue.

Right of Reply: A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. It generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

Roll Call: The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Rapporteur reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

Rules of Procedure: The rules by which a Model UN committee is run.

Second: To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

Secretariat: The staff of a Model UN conference.

Secretary-General: The leader of a Model UN conference.

Signatory: A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed. Usually, Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

Simple majority: 50% plus one vote of the number of delegates in a committee.

Speakers' List: A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During the debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the Dais.

Sponsor: One of the writers of a draft resolution. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

Substantive: Having to do with the topic being discussed. A substantive vote is a vote on a draft resolution or amendment already on the floor during a voting bloc. Only member states (not observer states or non-governmental organisations) may vote on substantive issues.

Unmoderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort countries into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

Working Paper: A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. It is known as the precursor to a draft resolution.

Veto: The ability, held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no.

Vote: A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. There are two types: procedural and substantive.

Voting procedure: The period at the end of a committee session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. Nobody may enter the committee room while voting on resolutions is underway.

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NIMUN XV

In Pursuit of a Humane World

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