

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL PUNE

MODEL UNITED NATIONS IX



All India Political Parties Meet



Niti Aayog



World Trade Organization



United Nations Security Council



United Nations General Assembly



Indian War Cabinet



International Press



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



United Nations Environment Programme

AUDERE EST FACERE: TO DARE IS TO DO

FOREWORD

Dear Delegates,

The Secretariat welcomes you to the 9th annual edition of the Symbiosis Law School Pune Model United Nations conference. Over the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to prepare all the necessary components — from our refreshed committees programme, featuring pertinent issues in the General Assembly to truly exhilarating crisis simulations — to make the MUN a truly unforgettable experience for every attendee.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to foster debate, diplomacy, and collaboration between students from all around India. Whether this is your first year attending SLSPMUN or you're returning as a seasoned MUN veteran, we encourage you to make the most of your weekend and to immerse yourself in the contention of the global issues that we are all facing. Undoubtedly, you will make new friends, gain new insights, and inspire many others to do the same. This is your chance as future leaders to lead today.

In continuance of our pursuit to make this conference memorable for all, we have come up with this Delegate Handbook. It will serve as a guide for the strenuous preparation that you as Delegates will undertake. It will touch upon and bring to your consideration all the important ingredients that constitute a well prepared and MUN-ready Delegate. We hope you shall utilise this handbook fully.

On behalf of all of us at Symbiosis Law School Pune Model United Nations, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to create something as special as SLSPMUN, and we look forward to sharing an amazing weekend with you.

The Secretariat

Symbiosis Law School Pune Model United Nations Conference 2020

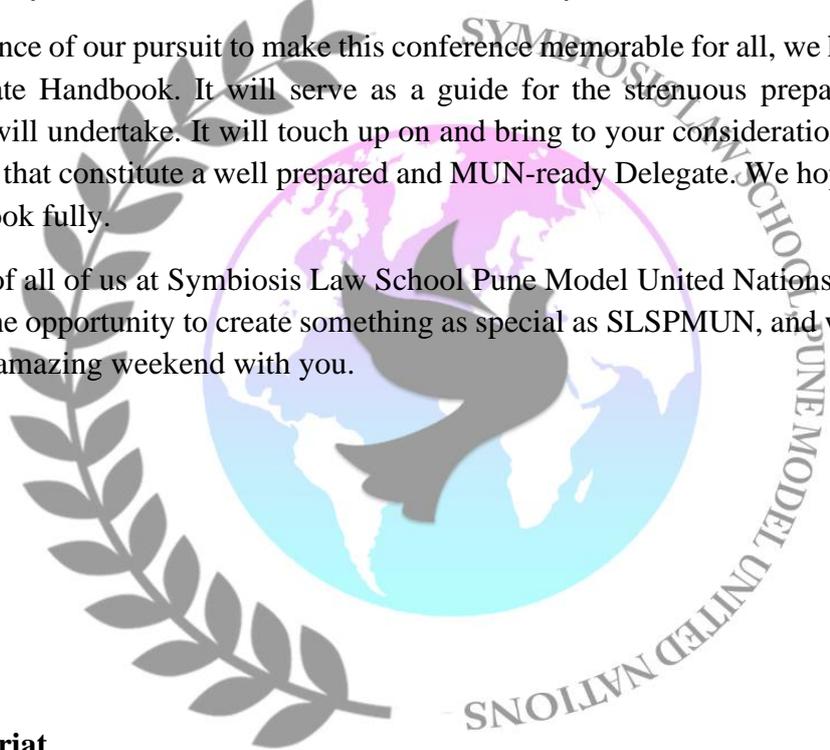


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HOW TO RESEARCH

The first step in preparing for any successful Model UN conference is to gather information. There should be 3 areas a Delegate should focus on during research: Committee Research, Country Research and Agenda Research.

Committee – Committee specific research should cover the history of the Committee, its Membership, Structure and Mandate. The Charter of the Organisation or Resolutions which define the Mandate of the Committee are a great source for committee research.

Country – Country Research should cover the History, Geography, Politics, Economy, Demography and Foreign Policy of the Country you're representing as a Delegate. Wikipedia and the CIA World Fact book are a good start for country research although may not always present an accurate picture. Government Websites are an excellent and reliable source to learn more about a Country. It is also important for a Delegate to be in touch with the relevant happenings around the world and the Country's stance on those issues.

Agenda – Research on the agenda requires having an overview of the Agenda. Some aspects to be taken into consideration while researching on the Agenda are the History of the Issue; Contemporary Issues; Causes and Solutions to the Issue; Previous Action undertaken by States/International Organisations regarding the Agenda; International Law applicable to the situation; Recent Developments and your Country's stance/action undertaken on the Agenda.

Wikipedia is a good primer for researching. However, it should not be quoted or cited, especially in academic writing, but for Model UN, and for introductory-level research, Wikipedia often provides a good overview of a topic, and more importantly, it can lead to more robust sources of research, e.g. primary sources. The references section below can direct you to more authentic websites.

Research Papers, News Articles, Editorials, International Reports by UN, NGOs or Governments may also be used to guide your research and formulate a more holistic understanding of the Agenda.

Op-eds in prominent news websites (like Reuters), among other things such as blogs by noted academicians can also be relied upon in your research. These writers are coming from a personal or journalistic perspective, but they can still provide ideas that you can propose in committee and use in resolutions. It is pertinent to be aware of their biases, and make sure their ideas conform to your country's policies. You may also want to look up the following UN databases:

[Official Document System of the UN](#)

[UN Digital Library](#)

Often you can find useful information reflecting a country's viewpoint on a specific issue by searching in news media originating in that country. Additionally, many countries maintain and regularly update the website of their official mission to the United Nations.

PURPOSE AND PRACTICE OF BEING A DELEGATE

Diplomacy and Decorum

The most important aspect of participating as a delegate at SLSPMUN is assuming the role of a foreign diplomat and/or expert. In this role, delegates act as representatives of the Member State or Observer to which they have been assigned. The goal of every delegate therefore, is to provide for solutions to the problems being discussed in a manner which will allow for its state interest to also be represented.

During preparation and at the conference, delegates may disagree personally with the policy of the Member State or Observer they are representing, but delegates' personal opinions are entirely inapplicable during the course of the simulation. It is of utmost importance for all delegates to be well versed in the dynamics of the position for their assigned role. The simulation's quality depends on accurate preparation and participation, and the direction they provide to the committee.

Delegates should also exhibit the ability to negotiate and compromise, demonstrate leadership, and to influence by gaining the professional respect of fellow delegates. Delegates should use these skills to create an engaging debate by working with delegates of all backgrounds.

Decorum is the de facto rule throughout the simulation. In both large and small committees, the ability to conduct normal business while in formal session is arduous when decorum is not maintained. Delegates are reminded that professional diplomats conduct themselves, and regard one another, with the utmost dignity and respect, regardless of foreign policy affiliation or personal feelings. Even those who observe severely conflicting ideological perspectives will work closely together within the UN on diplomatic matters of mutual concern.

Strategies for Negotiating and Building Consensus

Informal debate is an important and logistically difficult component of the UN simulation. Delegates have a few days to address issues that, in many cases, the international community has failed to resolve after years of debate and negotiation. In addition, the informal meetings between working groups generally include Member States with positions that are diametrically opposed. Despite these challenges, there are strategies that will assist delegates as they attempt to reach compromises acceptable to all parties within a bloc.

Member States often organize in formal and informal groups with a variety of different purposes and memberships. These groups represent a basic starting point for informal discussions amongst delegates. Member States can belong to multiple groups based on regional relationships, as well as common positions on specific issues. It is beneficial for delegates to take part in groups during the conference as it is an effective tool in negotiating and building consensus.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Debate

There are two types of Debate during an MUN Conference:

Formal Debate – This consists of the General Speaker’s List. The debate during an MUN starts with the introduction of the General Speakers List and ends when the same is exhausted. The two forms of Informal Debate may be introduced by the Delegates while the General Speakers List continues.

Informal Debate – This consists of the following forms of debate:

- a. Moderated Caucus
- b. Un-Moderated Caucus

Attendance

At the beginning of each Session, EB/Rapporteur shall call in an alphabetical order on all Member States in order to state their status of attendance. Member States may reply “present” or “present and voting”. Representatives stating just “present and voting” shall have no right to abstain during substantive voting.

Setting the Agenda

- Setting the agenda is the first step to be considered by the committee.
- The motion in order to put a topic area on the agenda should be made first.
- Delegates can propose the topics which were set by the Secretariat prior to the conference.
- Upon setting the agenda, the Speaker’s List is open by delegates proposing a Motion to Open Speaker’s List

Speakers List

- The General Speaker’s List shows the order of speakers for the topic being on agenda and is open for the whole duration of the discussion.
- Once the Speaker’s List is open, any delegate can be added to the Speaker’s List
- Speaking time for the General Speaker’s List is set to 90 seconds.
- The time limit can be altered by a Motion to Change the Speaker’s Time.
- Once the Speaker’s List is exhausted, the debate is considered closed and the Committee automatically moves into the voting procedure on the document which is currently being discussed within the set topic.

Yields

A delegate who was granted the permission to speak by the Executive Board shall have the right to yield his time, if remaining, to:

1. Yield to another delegate – The remaining time will be offered to another delegate as allotted by the former speaker.
2. Yield to Points of Information – If the delegate is open to questions, it is at the discretion of the executive board, to grant this right to any delegate willing to pose a Point of Information to the delegate within the remaining time allocated to the delegate.
3. Yield back to the Executive Board – The remaining time will be offered to the Executive Board.

Points

1. Point of Personal Privilege – A delegate may raise this Point in case of any kind of personal discomfort which prevents him from full participation in the debate.
2. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry – A delegate may raise this Point in order to gain clarity on certain aspects of the Rules of Procedure by the Executive Board. Such Point may not interrupt speakers and can be introduced only when the Floor is open for Points and Motions.
3. Point of Order – A delegate may raise this Point if there is a discrepancy or any impropriety in the application of the Rules of Procedure or factual inaccuracy in statements made by the delegates or the Executive Board. It is in the discretion of Executive Board to decide whether their Point is valid and to clarify any irregularities.
4. Plea to follow up – This is a plea pertaining to the situation where in upon asking a Point of information by one delegate to other and the answer is not satisfactory or the answer did not provide any clarity on the matter in which regards the question was posed; upon the discretion of the Executive Board this plea can be granted to the delegate to ask the follow up question again.
5. Right to reply – A Delegate may raise a right to reply when their country's national integrity or sovereignty has been contested. The Executive Board may decide to give a certain time limit to the Delegate to respond and to rule whether the Right of Reply is in order. The decision of the Executive Board is not subject to appeal.

Moderated Caucus

1. The moderated caucus is aimed to facilitate and accelerate the discussion on the issues deemed as essential and critical for the topic on agenda. Instead of being added to the General Speaker's List, delegates wishing to speak shall raise their placards.
2. The Motion for the moderated caucus can be introduced by any of the delegates once the Floor is open for Points and Motions.
3. During Moderated Caucus delegate cannot yield his time to other delegations or inquiries.

4. A Moderated Caucus can be extended twice as long as the total time of the Caucus does not exceed the timeframe of the previous one.

Unmoderated Caucus

1. Un-moderated Caucus is the most informal out of all forms of debate, during which delegates are able to discuss freely all issues with other delegations, lobby for their interests, resolve difficult questions about the topic on the agenda and create working papers and resolutions.
2. The Motion for Un-moderated caucus can be introduced by any of the delegates once the Floor is open for Points and Motions.

Closure of Debate

A delegate may at any time move for the closure of debate on the item under discussion, after which debate will end and all draft resolutions and amendments will be put to an immediate vote. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the Motion shall be immediately put to a vote. This Motion requires a two-thirds majority decision. Upon passage of this Motion the Chair shall declare the closure of debate and immediately move into voting procedure on the substantive proposals introduced and pending before the committee. The committee shall also close debate and move into voting procedure when the speakers list has been exhausted.

Motion To Table The Debate

Any delegate may at any time when the Floor is open introduce the Motion to Table the Debate which temporarily suspends any discussions regarding the Topic being currently on agenda. Ideally, this should be raised before discussing the Draft Resolutions.

Suspension And Adjournment Of The Meeting

1. The Suspension of the Meeting is the postponement of all functions of the Committee till the next session.
2. The Adjournment of the Meeting is the postponement of all functions of the Committee till the next edition of MUN. Such Motion postpones all its work for the rest of the Sessions and conference overall.

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROCESS

Working Papers

1. Working papers are intended to aid with the work of the Committee and especially the Draft Resolution, as well as to present the viewpoints of the delegates and the potential solutions to the topic.
2. Any delegate can introduce Working Paper for the consideration of the Committee.
3. Working paper does not require any Signatories or Sponsors. However, it should bear the name of the delegate or delegates who proposed it.
4. There is no set format for the Working Paper, i.e. the working paper does not have to be introduced in the Resolution format.

Draft Resolutions

1. Draft Resolution means a document drafted in the official format of the Resolution.
2. No Draft Resolution shall be circulated without the prior approval of its required format and number of Sponsors and Signatories by the Executive Board.

Delegates who fully endorse the content of the Draft Resolution may become the “Sponsors”. Executive Board will set the required minimum number of Sponsors according to each Committee.

3. “Signatories” are the ones supporting the discussion regarding the Draft Resolution on the Floor and bear no further obligation. The Executive Board will set the required minimum number of Signatories according to each Committee. One Member State cannot be “Sponsor” and “Signatory” at the same time.
4. Once the Draft Resolution has been introduced delegates cannot add themselves to the list of Sponsors anymore. However, they can be removed from the list by passing a request in written form to the Executive Board. If the Draft Resolution does not have the number of Sponsors required, the document will be removed from the Floor immediately.
5. Delegates wishing to be added or removed from the list of Signatories can do so at any time. The request to do so should be passed to the Executive Board in written form.
More than one Draft Resolution can be on the Floor at once.

Delegates may refer to Official UN Resolutions to understand the formatting and drafting style of a Draft Resolution.

Amendments

1. An amendment is a document which modifies, deletes, adds or revises one or more parts of a Draft Resolution
2. Amendment can be proposed by any delegate on any part or Clause of the Draft Resolution. All amendments shall be submitted in the written form to the Executive Board.
3. Amendments to Preambulatory Clauses are out of order.
4. Any grammatical, spelling or formatting mistakes in the Draft Resolution shall be corrected without a vote.
5. There are two types of Amendments:
 - a. Friendly Amendment- Amendments accepted and approved by all Sponsors of the Draft Resolution shall be considered Friendly. They shall be implemented in the Draft Resolution without the need to be voted upon.
 - b. Unfriendly Amendment- Amendments not approved by all the Sponsors shall be considered Unfriendly. They are implemented upon voting. Unfriendly Amendment can be withdrawn from the Floor by all its Sponsors before being voted upon; such withdrawal shall be submitted in the written form to the Executive Board.
 - Voting on Amendments to the Draft Resolutions on the Floor shall have precedence to Draft Resolutions.
 - In case of two or more Amendments being proposed on the Floor, the Executive Board shall determine the order in which they shall be voted upon.
 - Amendments that pass shall be incorporated into the Draft Resolution immediately.

Voting Procedure

1. If the Speaker's List is exhausted or the Motion for the Closure of the Debate and Moving into Voting Procedure shall be accepted, all the Draft Resolutions and Amendments on the Floor shall be put to vote.
2. Each Representative has one vote. Voting shall be done by Delegates raising their placards, unless stated otherwise. Each Delegate may vote "In Favour", "Against" or "Abstain" (if they marked their attendance as "present").
3. The Representative may decide to vote "In favour with rights" or "Against with rights" in order to be granted the right to explain the vote during the Roll Call Vote. The Executive Board shall set the speaking time for the explanation of the vote.

SLSPMUN POLICY

Secretariat

1. The Secretary-General has the ultimate authority in regards to the Rules of Procedure. The interpretation of the RoP shall be at his/her discretion and his/her final decision on the matters not specified in the RoP shall prevail over all other.
2. The Secretary-General may at any time make oral and written statements to the Committee concerning any topic. Any deviation from the agenda shall be at the approval of the Secretary-General.
3. The Secretary-General shall assist the Executive Board if necessary, receive and correct documents as proposed by the Committees and in general shall supervise over the good functioning of the MUN conference.
4. The Secretary-General may delegate his authority to other Members of the Secretariat.

Executive Board

The Executive Board shall act as the directors of the Committee and shall preside over its sessions. They shall declare the opening and closure of each session, open and close the Floor to the Points and Motions and ensure the observance of the RoP. The Executive Board shall have the authority in regards to the proceedings of the Committee; they shall have the right to rule out the Points and Motions they deem to be not constructive. They shall keep the Committee in order and direct them towards consensus, which may be done by their advice on both Substantial and Procedural Matters of the Committee. The Executive Board is at all times responsible to the Secretary-General.

Courtesy

At all times, delegates shall show respect and courtesy towards other delegates, the Secretariat and honourable guests of MUN – failing to do so will result in admonition by the Secretariat or Executive Board of the Committee.

Dress Code

All delegates are required to comply with the formal western attire for the MUN Sessions and lectures. The delegates may also wear the traditional attire of the country represented if they wish to do so.

Use Of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are allowed till the time they are not violating the decorum of the committee. The use of internet is prohibited during committee. If found doing so, appropriate action will be taken by the Sec-Gen or EB.

CONCLUSION

Since its inception in 2011, we have committed ourselves to providing only the best MUN experience to all the participants. Student founded and led, SLSPMUN provides delegates with a unique opportunity to experience first-hand how the UN operates. We are confident that all the committees will dispense a plethora of opportunities for participants to enrich and showcase their talents as delegates and parliamentarians. We are positive that each of our committees will allow both novice and experienced debaters to put their skills to good use in an accurate simulation of 21st century international politics.

We sincerely hope, this handbook has been a guiding tool to new delegates and hope it serves as a memory refresher as well. However, in order to get the full experience, it is only a real simulation that does the trick.

Situated in the vibrant and happening city of Pune, Symbiosis Law School aims at making SLSPMUN IX, the best MUN experience for every delegate that will arrive. We extend our best wishes for a productive and memorable session of deliberations. Looking forward to seeing you from 28th Feb to 1st March.



9 Committees.

3 Days.

1 Conference.

Audire Est Facere – To Dare is To Do.

It's the End Game of World Politics - Let's Play.