

III. Preparing for a Model UN

Attending a Model UN conference is something that requires planning, preparation by those who will participate and a dedicated team. In this chapter, we will be looking at details of participating in a Model UN, from finding conferences to creating a team and the different ways people can participate in them.

A: In what ways can you participate in the Model UN experience?

From club officers, to delegates to independent participants, there are many ways to participate in the Model UN Experience. Here are some examples.

Club Officers/Organizers

Depending on the size of your club you will want to have one or more members take on some leadership responsibility. Tasks include making travel arrangements, conference registration, delegate preparation and financing, which can be split in a variety of ways among club members. Some clubs hold elections to select members to executive positions. All clubs, however, need someone who will act as head delegate. This person will serve as the liaison between the club and the conference you are aiming at participating in and will act as leader of your group once the conference has begun.

If you are a registered club with your student union or school, you may be required to have a written constitution governing your electoral process. By identifying job roles and stating the club's goals in a constitution, the organization and stability of your Model UN club will be strengthened. A Faculty Advisor who provides guidance during this internal development stage can be very important.

Here's a Tip:

Having a constitution can also help you apply for non-profit status, which can make your club eligible for a federal sales tax rebate on the costs incurred in its operation.

At the high school level

In order to successfully create a Model UN club in your school, the assistance of one of the teachers or advisors is highly recommended. Before you try to create a club, make sure to find out that there isn't already one in operation at your school. It is very easy to start participating in Model UN activities if a club already exists.

If your school does not already have a model UN club, it is best to work with a teacher to create your own. Approach a teacher who has an interest in a related field (social studies, history, etc) and ask him/her to help you coordinate it and act as an advisor for the club. Model UN tends to attract aspiring leaders and self-starters, so the work load for the teacher is often minimal.

At the university level

Most Canadian Universities have UN or Model UN clubs. If yours doesn't, don't panic because starting your own can be relatively easy. A good start would be to approach a professor, usually of political science or

international relations, and ask for their help. By polling their classes and colleagues, professors can help you find other students interested in Model UN. At the same time, if you are able to find a professor with the time and/or interest, they can serve as advisors.

If finding members seems to be too much work, there is another route; work through related organizations. International relations clubs, political science student associations and the like can all be fertile ground for potential club members. In addition, these groups often have resources, such as a listserv, websites and academic contacts that can help you in organizing your club. Contact your student government for a list of clubs and groups that might want to affiliate with a new Model UN club.

Delegates

Once your club or association has a member base, you can create a delegation to participate as delegates in conferences. You can take your members to different conferences within your city, province or state, your country or internationally. It is important, however, to remember that being a Model UN delegate is about much more than traveling to different conferences. Key components to participating in Model UN activities is the work that you do prior to and after attending a conference, not to mention the effort required to genuinely participate in and learn from a conference. There are a number of conferences that take place at both the high school and post-secondary level throughout the country and internationally. These can be found by searching the internet. For conferences in Canada, you can consult UNA-Canada's Model UN Programme website. (www.unac.org/mun)

When you create a delegation, you are choosing members of your club that will represent it at a particular conference. Delegations can be as small as one and as big as 40+ delegates. Having a small delegation can be logistically easy to organize. It can also be relatively easy to organize transportation for a smaller group and ensure that desired positions at the conference are granted. The downside of having a small delegation is that you may not enjoy the opportunities of reduced pricing on things like transportation and accommodation. Often times, conference fees exist for each delegate to participate in the conference on top of an additional fee for the entire delegation. A smaller delegation will be dividing these fees between fewer people, resulting in a more expensive conference than for larger groups.

Aside from reduced pricing, larger delegations may enjoy higher profile positions during conferences. This is due to the fact that one delegation could fill the required seats of a country rather than having to split up those seats between delegates from different schools. It may be challenging to coordinate the transportation, accommodations and participation of larger delegations. It is, therefore, recommended that you have a well organized support system in your club (club officers that can organise different aspects of participating such as a Financial Officer, Members Officer, Logistical Officer, etc).

B: How to choose a conference?

There is a large variety of Model UN conferences across Canada and around the world. Most are geared specifically towards either high school or university students. As well, conferences can be oriented to specific topics or types of committees like crisis committees or specialized agencies.

Size

The size of the conference you attend is an important factor for consideration, as it may make or break the experience that your delegates have when they participate. Here is a breakdown of the positive and negative aspects of different sized conferences that you can participate in.

- Larger Model UN conferences can have more than a thousand participants. These conferences offer the largest range of committees and topics as well as the widest range of national and international participants. However, larger conferences often have larger committees of up to three hundred people. The chaotic experience of negotiating with that many interests and egos can be truly rewarding. But for some, especially newer participants, a massive committee can make it easy to get lost in the fury, denying them the full experience of both formal and informal debate.
- Medium size conferences usually have between 400 and 1000 delegates. Some medium size conferences offer the advantages of large ones by having an international component and a variety of committees.
- Small conferences of 400 participants or less can be perfect for newer groups and participants. Small committees force newer participants to interact with fellow delegates by becoming involved in the debate. However, with a smaller number of delegates it is less likely that all member countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be represented, which may detract from the reality of the simulation.

Topics

Conferences can offer a wide range of topics including human rights, disarmament and international security, international law, development, and the environment. The specific topics offered will vary according to the size and aim of the conference as well as the level of expertise of the conference staff or history of conference. You can find out what a conference is offering by looking at its website, calling the organizers, and reviewing topics and/or committees they have presented in the past.

Location

One of the most compelling aspects of Model UN is the opportunity to travel to conferences across the country and around the world. However, if your resources are limited, you can probably find a conference within bus or train range of your school. If not, consider all your fundraising options before giving up. Often local, provincial and federal government offices and organizations, as well as your school and local business can be enticed to serve as sponsors of your delegation or provide a grant for your traveling and participation.

Registration

Registration information can usually be found on conference websites. However, it is always a good idea to contact conferences directly for information or clarification. Timely and accurate completion of registration material is essential to receiving your preferred committee and country assignments.

Conferences often require deposits, most of which are non-refundable, so make sure your delegates are committed to going before registering. Conference organizers have set deadlines to ensure that those who register will participate. It is very important that you ensure your delegation stays on track in terms of paying their fees, as registration fees often increase in price as you get closer to the conference date.

Following a successful registration, your group will be assigned one or more countries or NGOs depending on the size of your delegation and the conference. Conferences allow either one or two delegates per delegation to serve on a single committee.

Here's a Tip:

UNA-Canada has a database of Canadian Model UN conferences on their Model UN website. To find a conference to participate in, visit www.unac.org/mun and follow the links to [Conferences](#).

Types of simulations

Model UN conferences have evolved over time to include the simulation of various international bodies both inside and outside the UN system, as well as simulations of national government structures and international tribunals. The following is a basic description of some of the committee types found at most conferences.

Traditional Model UN

Model UN committees traditionally simulate the structure of one of the main UN bodies, including the six different committees of the General Assembly (GA1: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), GA2: Economic and Financial (ECOFIN), GA3: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian (SOCHUM), GA4: Special, Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL), GA5: Budget, GA6: Legal), the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. Traditional committees are usually large and have most, if not all, member-countries of the UN Delegates assembled to debate and create resolutions that address specific topics.

Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc committees deal with specific events or topics in a format outside the established UN structure. Ad Hoc committees at the actual UN deal with events or disputes of a singular nature that require specific attention but do not merit the creation of a permanent body. An example would be the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. This was established to deal with a specific topic and once that topic has been exhausted the committee will cease to exist.

Format, participation and committee structure of Model UN ad hoc committees vary from conference to conference. They can be historical or contemporary, based on fiction or actual events and have countries or specific cabinet positions represented. Debate can take place under established Model UN rules and procedures or under special rules designed for that committee alone.

Crisis committees

Crisis committees are real time re-creations of actual or fictional international crises. They require very active participation, and usually, the most experienced delegates sit on these committees. A crisis can be historical or deal with current events, can be based on an actual crisis or be completely created by the conference staff. They are very flexible and can be shaped to fit any conference need.

Tribunal simulations

Mock tribunals can replicate the activities of the many judicial organs of the international system including: The International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court. Delegates usually play the role of judges and should research the basics of international law and the particular charter of their body.

C: How to do Research?

The research aspect of participation in a conference is the most important part of the delegate's preparation. This is because the level of preparation of the participants will determine how well they can debate and role play their positions accurately.

Things to know:

The United Nations:

A strong understanding of the UN and its systems is essential to a successful simulation. Besides a general knowledge of the UN, you should ask yourself three questions about your committee in particular:

- What issues can it consider?
- What actions can it take?
- What has it done in the past?

The Country:

You should have two related goals when researching your country: First, a detailed understanding of your country's foreign policy; and second, specific knowledge of the domestic circumstances that necessitate that policy. Some other questions to ask are:

- What are some basic facts about the country (e.g., Head of Government? population?)
- What are the foreign policy objectives of the country? (e.g., with economic goals?)
- Which organizations and nations does the country work with? (e.g., OPEC? GATT? Allies?)
- What role does the country play in the UN system? (e.g., observer? active member?)

The Topic:

- What is the issue or problem?
- What is the history of the issue?
- What countries are involved and/or most affected by the issue?
- What is your country's position on the issue? Under what conditions would the country change its position?
- How has the country handled the issue in the UN in the past?
- How will you approach this issue at the Model UN?

Here's a Tip:

Conference organizers may supply participants with a background guide, which outlines the topics and issues to be discussed in committee session. This is a good source of basic information, but for best results, it is always best to do some extra research.

Good sources of Information:

- *The United Nations Website* (www.un.org) – The UN website provides online copies of the UN Charter and most historical UN documents, including resolutions, reports, treaties and accords. Visiting the site and reviewing the recent work of your committee is a good way to brief yourself both on your issue and on the place of your committee within the UN. The site provides links to the homepages of most Permanent Missions to the UN, the equivalent of a national embassy to the UN. This is usually the best place to find past speeches and other examples of your country's activities at the UN.
- *Academic Journals* – There are a number of academic journals that often feature articles related to the UN, the international system and national foreign policies. Ask a professor in your political science or international relations department, or the librarian at your university or college, to help you with an article search on your country, committee and topics. Academic journals are generally not recommended for high school students.

- *Books* – There are a number of excellent books published on the structure and activities of the UN. Again, the best way to find the most up to date and relevant publications is to ask the librarian at your library.
- *Periodicals* – Several non-academic periodicals often feature content related to the UN and international relations. *The Economist*, *Harper's*, *The Walrus*, and the *New York Times Magazine* all report occasionally on relevant issues. The advantage of using so called “popular” media is that it is often shorter, clearer and easier to understand than academic material. That being said, many publications, both popular and academic, have editorial biases that colour their reporting. Always make sure to consult a variety of sources for your evidence.

Evidence - checking your Research:

It is always important to check your facts and sources. Before going to the conference make sure to consider these questions about your research:

- Did you use a variety of sources?
- Do you have documentation ready to prove the validity of your sources?
- Does this evidence prove what you claim?
- Have you researched the positions of potential adversaries and allies?
- Is your evidence accurate?
- Are your facts and statistics current?

D: Debating, the basis of your argument.

It is not enough to know the position that you are representing. It is also very important to be able to say what is on your mind and convince people of what you are saying. There are many aspects that you must consider when partaking in Model UN.

Staying in Character

The underlying purpose of Model UN is to learn and represent the foreign policies of a particular country or NGO. Considering an issue from a viewpoint completely foreign to yours can be challenging and it is important to remember that for the duration of the simulation you are not a Canadian, you are an agent of the government of the country you represent.

An inaccurate representation of the policies and positions of your country may ruin the simulation for others. For example, if you are representing Canada, you would base your research on the notion that the United States will side with you on certain issues. If the delegate representing the US then spends the entire conference sponsoring resolutions condemning or negating support on issues that they would usually support, your conference will have been ruined. It is important that at all times in the conference you remain in the character of the ambassador to your country and not allow your own biases to influence your arguments.

Influence

Your Model UN experience can differ greatly depending on the country you represent. The experiences, allies, influences and policies of a major industrialized nation will differ grossly from those of a small island or developing state. The strategies you use when representing them should represent these differences. Usually, the smaller the country is the harder you will have to work to make your influence felt. However, it is

important to remember that in most UN bodies every country has only one vote. So no matter if you are representing the small country of Antigua and Barbuda or the large country of China, when it comes time to vote, you are all the same.

Effective public speaking

Being able to accurately convey your ideas in both formal and informal debate is essential to your success at Model UN. And while there are no hard rules for effective public speaking, here are some tips you might find useful.

1) Demeanour:

- Use notes, not a fully prepared text: reading from a lengthy text makes it hard to appear natural;
- Write down key words or short key sentences for your main ideas;
- Trust yourself: your research will allow you to feel comfortable filling in the gaps;
- Pace yourself, talk slowly, take the time to breath;
- Don't worry about pausing during your speech;
- Don't stare at the audience, it is often intimidating to look at someone specific, rather set your eyes on the back of the room, just above the heads of the last row. The audience will still get the impression that you are looking at them but you won't actually see them.

2) Body language

- Keep your hands out of your pockets, feel free to emphasize your speech using your hands;
- You don't have to stand straight like an arrow, relax your shoulders, and stand with your feet slightly apart;
- Be confident, you have prepared yourself for the Model UN conference and so you are the expert, trust yourself.

3) Content

- Begin with a specific example of the problem. Focus on one concrete aspect and then build from there. In small-scale debates, you will have many more opportunities to speak. In large debates you might not enjoy the same luxury;
- Be aware of time limits on your speech and give yourself time for a strong finish before your time runs out;
- Demonstrate the extent of the problem. Use examples, statistics, and expert opinion;
- Demonstrate the effects of the problem. How does it affect the people? Use examples and facts;
- Demonstrate the causes of the problem;
- Demonstrate how the problem affects others, be vivid;
- Present your solution or, even better, a joint solution from several delegates. Be clear about time, costs, people and other resources required. Try to show where similar solutions have worked;
- Demonstrate how your solution will:
 - reduce or eliminate the cause(s) of the problem,
 - reduce or eliminate the symptoms,
 - help people,
 - result in advantages,
 - reduce costs; increase efficiency.

Diplomacy & Negotiating

Diplomacy

In a UN simulation it is important to act diplomatically at all times. The very idea that representatives from every country in the world can all gather together without violence depends on representatives treating each other with courtesy and respect at all times. It is no different in Model UN. Some decorum tips to keep in mind while at the conference:

- Use formal language when making public speeches
- Respect your fellow delegates even if you don't agree with them
- Never use threats or insults
- Be professional

Key Concepts in Negotiation

Interests

Your interests are the motives, fears, desires, needs, concerns and aspirations behind your stated public positions. To achieve agreements that begin to satisfy all sides, you need to begin by trying to determine each side's interests.

Here's a Tip:

- Your interests may be determined by asking WHY? For example, Why does Syria want the Golan Heights? Why is the U.S. friendly with Saudi Arabia? What problem are you trying to solve? Prioritize your interests to make trading off on the less essential ones easier.
- Their interests - put yourself in another country's shoes; forget your country's perception of the facts. What are they trying to achieve? What mutual goals do you have?

Once you know each side's interests, you can try to create options. Consider possible solutions for every facet of a problem, the more options you have, the more likely it is that you will find a solution.

Effective negotiators search for fair and mutually satisfying solutions so as to achieve a compromise between parties. Sometimes accepted standards like laws and UN Standing Resolutions are useful measuring sticks that help lead to fair solutions. The key is to achieve a medium point where both parties feel they will gain something positive from this deal.

The purpose of negotiation is to explore whether you can satisfy your interests better through an agreement or through your own best alternative to a negotiated agreement. The better your alternative, the more leverage and power you enjoy.

Try to select an option that satisfies your interest better than your best alternative.

- a) *Aspirations*: countries that begin with *realistically* high aspirations often enjoy better agreements.
- b) *Content with*: what agreement, far from perfect, would satisfy my basic interests to make me reasonably content?
- c) *Live with*: What agreement would satisfy my interests marginally better than my best alternative?

E: Position Papers?

Positions papers are concise summations of your country's position on the topics being addressed in your committee. Most conferences require position papers from all delegates and they usually follow a standard formula – which they will make available to you. These are a few general guidelines to follow when writing your position paper.

1. Papers should have a minimum length of 1 page and a maximum of 2 pages, single-spaced. The typing should be in "Times New Roman" 10 point.
2. The upper left corner should have the country you are representing and the upper right corner should have the name of your school.
3. The name of your committee should be underlined in the upper centre.
4. The first sentence of a position paper should state the committee you are in and the topics to be addressed at the conference. (The topics before the General Assembly Third Committee are A, B and C.)
5. The body of a good position paper should contain three things for each topic: A concise statement of your country's position; a brief summation of previous UN action on the topic and your stance on those actions; and what your country intends to accomplish at the conference.

See Appendix A for a good example of a Working Paper!!

F. Resolution writing

Resolutions are the formal recommendations of UN bodies and are thus the focal point of discussion in committee and plenary sessions. Resolutions can register an opinion or recommend action be taken by a UN organ or related agency. Keep the following points in mind when drafting a resolution:

- Once a resolution is passed it is the official policy of the body that passed it.
- While most resolutions are a statement of policy, some may include an entire treaty, declaration or convention.
- Resolutions can be either general statements or directives to specific organizations, UN bodies, or States.
- Resolutions can condemn actions of states, call for collective actions, or as is the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions.

Stages of a resolution

There are three steps to writing a resolution. The first is the Working Paper. A working paper is generally put together by a state or states that have a common interest in the debate in question. At least three of those states then become *Sponsors* of the paper. By sponsoring a paper a country is indicating its firm support for its provisions. Once the paper is written, a certain number of *Signatories* for the resolution must be sought out (the number of signatories required varies depending on the size of the committee. Usually a number in the 1/4 range is average.) Being a signatory to a working paper does not necessarily mean that you support it as is. Rather, it indicates that you feel the issues in the paper are worth considering. Once a working paper has the appropriate number of signatories, it enters the second stage and can be presented to the body as a draft resolution. The third step requires that the draft resolution be voted on within the committee. If the draft receives at least 2/3 of the committee's votes, it will be passed and referred to as a resolution.

Structure of a resolution

Resolutions are divided into three parts, *the heading, perambulatory clauses* and *operative clauses*.

Perambulatory clauses have two purposes. The first is to lay out the problem or reason for the resolution and to give a brief history of the previous UN action on the issue. The preamble often cites the UN Charter, past UN resolutions and precedents within international law. The clauses are separated with commas, with a period placed after the final clause. Each Perambulatory clause begins with a present tense continuous verb like the ones listed below.

Affirming	Determined	Noting with regret
Alarmed	Deeply concerned	Reaffirming
Anxious	Emphasizing	Realizing
Appreciating	Encouraging	Recalling
Aware	Endorsing	Referring
Bearing in mind	Grieved	Reiterating
Concerned	Having considered	Stressing
Conscious	Having received	Taking into account
Considering	Having regarded	Welcoming
Deploring		

Operative clauses present the solution or action proposed by the body. Ideally the clauses present a logical sequence of ideas. Operative clauses begin with an active, present tense verb, like the ones listed below, and are followed by a semi-colon, with a period placed after the final clause.

Acknowledges	Deplores	Notes with interest
Adopts	Designates	Notes with appreciation
Appeals	Directs	Notes with approval
Applauds	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Expresses its appreciation	Recognizes
Calls upon	Expresses the belief	Recommends
Commends	Expresses the hope	Requests
Confirms	Expresses its regrets	Regrets
Considers	Expresses its sympathy	Stresses
Decides	Expresses its thanks	Suggests
Declares	Instructs	Supports
Demands	Invites	Urges

Resolution research

Before going to a conference it is a good idea to study, print and bring with you relevant resolutions on your topic. This allows you to both become familiar with the tone and structure of resolution writing and to consider past precedents in your area.

Here's a Tip:

- Research, research, research!
- Do not judge your performance based on how many awards your delegation wins.
- Do mock trials with team members and neighbouring teams.
- Be aware of different political perspectives - East vs. West and North vs. South.
- Hold a debriefing session after each conference to discuss things that worked and things that didn't work.
- Keep a record of your feedback and plans for improvement.
- Have Fun!!!

G. Once at the conference

There are four major elements to a Model UN simulation: setting the agenda, formal debate, informal debate (caucusing) and the voting procedure. Although all conferences are different, most follow a pattern similar to the one outlined below.

Setting the Agenda:

For any particular session of a UN body, the first order of business is to set the agenda; to decide the order in which the topics will be debated. In the actual UN, before a meeting of a body, items are added to its agenda. In the Security Council, any member of the Council, or the Secretary General, can add items to the agenda. In General Assembly committees, any member state (those with voting rights, eg. not Palestine, or the Holy See, or representatives of civil society) can call for items to be added to the agenda. In Committees governed by the Economic and Social Council any member state or a recognized Non Governmental Organization (NGO) can add items.

Before debate can begin, the committee must decide the order in which the items on the agenda are going to be debated. Rules governing the setting of the agenda differ from conference to conference but are generally the same as those governing formal debate. It is very important that you push to have the agenda set so that the topic most important to your country is addressed first. Conversely, you should try to have topics that could cause embarrassment or censure to your country pushed as far down the agenda as possible. For example, if you are representing the United States in the General Assembly Plenary and the potential topics are “financial institutions and the fight against terrorism” and “censuring Israel for crimes in the occupied territories” you obviously have a vested interest in addressing the first topic and not the second.

Formal Debate:

After the agenda has been set, the committee moves into formal debate on the first topic on the agenda. The exact rules of procedure governing formal debate vary from conference to conference and can usually be obtained by contacting the organizers of the conference.

Formal debate consists of speeches given by committee members. Any member wishing to speak can ask the chair to be added to the speakers list. The time allotted for each speech is decided by the committee and usually hovers between one and two minutes.

Formal speeches are usually couched in highly diplomatic language, with only general positions on issues being outlined. There is no opportunity for asking questions or back and forth debating during formal

debate. It is because of this that very little of the actual deliberations around resolutions occurs during formal debate.

Informal Debate:

There are two types of informal debate: moderated caucusing and caucusing.

Moderated Caucus is a less structured form of formal debate. The key difference is that, rather than an established speakers list, the chair simply recognizes those who want to speak in turn. Also, direct questions can be asked of other countries and, unlike in formal debate, resolutions that have not yet been presented as drafts can be discussed.

Unmoderated Caucus is where the vast majority of United Nations business gets done. During unmoderated caucus, delegates meet to discuss their positions on the issue, to debate possible draft resolutions and to make deals. There are no formal rules for unmoderated caucus, and it can occur outside of meeting rooms while formal debate is going on, during a specifically called break (obtained by moving for a suspension for the purpose of a caucus) or outside of the time set aside for meeting.

Your key goals during a caucus session should be to:

- 1) Get together with countries or NGOs that you feel have similar beliefs. (Usually countries from common geographical or political regions work together in caucus, i.e. the European Union, African nations, or South American nations).
- 2) Establish priorities you, as a group, want to see addressed in any resolution.
- 3) Shop your priorities around to other caucusing groups.
- 4) When you feel as though you have some level of significant support, begin a working paper.
- 5) When you have a draft complete, begin showing them to other groups, you need to gauge the level of support you have for your priorities. Consensus decision making is considered very important at the United Nations. A resolution that has bare majority support will rarely be brought to the floor in the General Assembly or at ECOSOC.
- 6) When you feel your working paper has sufficient support and you are happy with its structure, you can present it to the committee as a draft resolution, where it will be debated formally.

Voting Procedure:

Once a draft resolution has been presented to the body and debate has been exhausted (either by the exhaustion of the speakers list or by the passage of a motion to close debate), the committee moves into voting procedure. In voting procedure, resolutions can be adopted as they are presented. But they can also be amended, either by having clauses struck out or by having friendly and unfriendly amendments proposed.

Amendments

All amendments to a draft resolution must be submitted prior to moving into voting procedure. An amendment can do any combination of three things: it can add a clause, delete a clause or alter a clause. An amendment is friendly if all the original sponsors of a resolution agree to the changes. An amendment is unfriendly if one or more of the sponsors do not agree to the changes. Amendments require the same number of sponsors and signatories as resolutions before they can be accepted.

Friendly amendments are adopted without a vote if the sponsors of a resolution agree to them and the changes they propose are immediately adopted into the resolution. Unfriendly amendments are those that the sponsors do not agree and are the first thing voted on when the committee moves into voting procedure. The committee chair will read out the unfriendly amendment and the committee will vote on whether to approve

the changes. Once the amendments have been dealt with, the committee will move to a vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

Dividing the Question

Any voting member of a committee can make a motion to divide a clause(s) from its resolution to vote on the clause separately. The motion requires a simple majority vote to pass. If the resolution passes and the separated clause fails, it is discarded. If both the resolution and the separated clause pass, the clause is attached to the resolution as an annex. If the resolution fails, the separated clause is not voted on. There are generally two reasons a delegate would move to divide a clause from its resolution. The first would be if you support a resolution but are opposed to a particular clause within it. You can motion to separate the offending clause from the resolution so that you can vote in favour of the part that supports your position and vote down the part that does not. You would only do that if you had tried and failed to present an amendment that struck the clause out. The other reason why a delegate would move to divide a clause from its resolution would be due to the fact that by annexing a clause to a resolution you can give it special emphasis. If there is a clause or clauses in a large resolution that you feel are buried, you can divide them out and have them stand on their own as annexes. Division of the question very rarely occurs at the United Nations.

Adoption by Acclamation:

If the entire committee is in favour of a resolution it can be adopted by acclamation. The motion only passes if there is no opposition. A high percentage of UN resolutions are adopted by acclamation.

Once all amendments and motions for division have been dealt with, the committee will vote on the draft resolution. If the resolution passes it becomes a United Nations Resolution. The committee then moves on to the next draft resolution. When there are no more amendments and motions for division before the committee, voting procedure is over and the committee moves automatically into debate on the next topic on the agenda.

