



DELEGATE PREPARATION GUIDE

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Research and Preparation

Prior to the DIMUN conference, delegates must have comprehensive knowledge of all four issues that will be debated in their respective committees. The research reports, written by DIMUN Chairs and available on the website (www.dimun.info), are excellent introductions to each issue. Delegates are encouraged to use this resource, but this should not be the only research delegates do.

Aside from researching topics, delegates also need to have comprehensive understanding of the nations they are representing. During debate, delegates are expected to debate as a representative of their country, and not as themselves. Therefore, delegates also need to know what their country's position is on their topics. Some excellent online resources for country research include: The CIA World Factbook (www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/) and the BBC Country Profiles (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)

In Model United Nations, delegates try to find solutions to world issues. These solutions are written in documents called *resolutions*. When delegates come to a conference, they should have draft resolutions prepared to merge with other delegates' drafts (see [Lobbying](#)) so that they can be debated. During debate, the resolution is improved and eventually passes or fails in a vote (see [Debate Procedure](#)). It is highly recommended that all delegates write one draft resolution per topic, although this is not mandatory. Generally, draft resolutions need not be over one page in length. Policy papers are not required at DIMUN.

Resolution Formatting

Please refer to the document "How to Write a Resolution" available at our website, www.dimun.info.

Materials to bring

Delegates are expected to come to the conference fully prepared. Computers will be available at the conference, so delegates do not need to bring personal laptops, but they may do so if they wish. It is strongly suggested that delegates bring:

- At least 4 printed copies of each draft resolution;
- printed opening speech;

clauses to make the resolution even better. Chairs will be looking for resolutions that are practical, innovative, and detailed. Thus, thorough research and preparation is necessary.

Delegates do not need to discuss all four topics during lobbying time, but knowledge of all issues is required, especially for debate. During lobbying, delegates must obtain at least five co-submitters (delegates who agree to sign onto your resolution who want it debated) to support the resolution, or else the resolution cannot be debated.

Opening Speeches

All delegates are required to give a maximum 60-second long opening speech before their committee before lobbying starts. The opening speech should outline the delegate's country and a brief summary of their position on their topics. Opening speeches may not be read off computers. These speeches are to help delegates find out which countries have similar positions and interests, so as to help the lobbying process.

Debate Procedure

The purpose of debate in MUN, unlike competitive debate, is to promote collaboration between member nations and ultimately find solutions to the problems at hand. We aim for solutions to be as effective, practical, and detailed as possible. Delegates are strongly encouraged to act constructively during debate and not destructively, and to maintain their country positions.

DIMUN procedures will mainly follow those of The Hague International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN). Before the conference, delegates are required to familiarise themselves with the key points of debate procedure outlined below, and all committee Chairs will explain everything in greater detail at the start of the conference. Delegates should feel free to ask for clarification at any time by addressing a Point of Information to the Chair. Both MUN Directors and delegates may also email dimun@dulwich-beijing.cn if they have further questions before the conference.

Chairs

These are the students who will be in charge of debate. They have the right to decide who holds the floor (the right to speak at the podium). They will also be checking resolutions during lobbying. Once lobbying is complete and both a Chair and the Approval Panel have checked your resolution, it is ready for debate.

Delegate Responsibilities

During all debate, delegates must refer to themselves and others in the third person, never using “you” or “I”. When raising a point or asking a question, delegates must stand up and remain standing until the question has been answered. Delegates must always remain respectful and diplomatic during debate, and listen to the Chairs’ direction.

Open Debate

Debate on a resolution, called open debate, may take from 60 to 90 minutes at the Chairs’ discretion. In open debate, delegates can raise their placards if they wish to speak either for or against the resolution and are chosen by the Chairs to take the floor. During their speech, delegates can try to convince the committee to vote for or against the resolution. After their speech, delegates can decide to open themselves to Points of Information (see below). Once they finish answering points or if they choose not take questions at all, delegates can choose to either yield the floor to the Chair or to another delegate. If a delegate is yielded to by another delegate, he/she must yield the floor back to Chair. Once the floor is yielded back to the Chair, the floor becomes open for debate again.

Amendments and Closed Debate

To improve a resolution, delegates may submit an amendment to change, strike, or add a clause in the resolution. Amendments will be written on official amendment paper, to be provided at the conference. If a delegate submits an amendment, the Chairs will recognise the submitter to take the floor. Then, they will set a fixed time to speak in favour the amendment and a separate time to speak in opposition; once time in favour of the amendment elapses, there will be time to speak against the amendment, to convince other delegates not to vote for this resolution. Amendments to the second degree (proposed changes to an amendment) are allowed in DIMUN, and can only be entertained during time against the original amendment.

Note Passing

In order to aid the flow of debate, delegates are allowed to pass notes to other delegations using notepaper prepared by the delegates themselves. All notes should pertain to the debate and be kept appropriate. Delegates can also send notes to Chair clarifying regarding debate or the DIMUN conference as a whole. Admin staff in the room will help pass notes between delegates and also scan notes; any inappropriate notes will be sent to the Chairs.

Voting

Once the set time elapses for a resolution, an amendment, or an amendment to the second degree, the committee will vote to either pass or fail it. During voting, note passing will be suspended and delegates must remain silent. Delegates are allowed to vote for, against, or abstain from voting. A simple majority is required for a pass – tied votes fail.

Points and Motions

Points are questions asked by delegates, ranging from points directed to the Chairs to questions regarding debate procedure. Motions are raised to propose an action the committee should take (for example, to move to voting procedure). The different points and motions are outlined below.

Point of Personal Privilege: This refers to the well-being of delegates during debate. This is the only point or motion that can interrupt the speaker, when delegates cannot hear debate. Example: “Point of personal privilege: could the delegate please speak up?”

Point of Information to the Speaker: This is a question directed at the delegate who has just finished speaking and will only be entertained if the speaker has opened him/herself to Points of Information. These should pertain to the resolution or topic being debated and must be in the form of questions. Delegates must be recognised by the Chairs to ask Points of Information.

Follow-up: A delegate can request a follow-up if he/she feels her point of information has not been answered adequately, and wishes to ask another question. These are allowed in DIMUN but can be denied at the Chairs’ discretion.

Point of Information to the Chair: These are questions directed to the Chairs, and may not interrupt the speaker. These should be raised whenever delegates are unsure about anything regarding debate and the DIMUN conference. These can range from “could the Chair please inform the house if Taiwan is represented in the United Nations?” to “how much time is there left to debate this resolution?”

Point of Order: This point refers to procedural issues only and cannot interrupt the speaker. For example: “Is it in order for this delegate to ask her question now, as she was previously recognised by the Chairs?”

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: This point specifically refers to the clarification of debate rules. For example: “Could the Chairs please explain what is meant by an amendment to the second degree?”

Motion to Move to the Previous Question: Delegates propose this motion if they wish to cut off debate and move directly into voting procedure. This motion must be “seconded” by at least one other delegate and can be stopped by at least one “objection”. Delegates are highly discouraged from proposing this motion if there are still areas of the resolution yet to be debated and improved. Chairs may overrule this motion.

Motion to Extend the Debate Time: This motion is raised so that the committee is granted more time to debate the resolution at hand. Requires a “seconded” by one other delegate and can be stopped by at least one “objection”. Chairs may overrule this motion.