

## PREPARING FOR THE MODEL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### FORMING DELEGATIONS

On the registration form, schools are asked to give choices for the country or countries that they would like to represent at the Model UN. A delegation generally consists of at least 7 and no more than 14 students (1 or 2 students for each of 7 committees). Country assignments will be made as registration forms come in. Once students are assigned a country to represent, they should familiarize themselves with that country's national interests and policies, as well as the issues that are of importance to that country at the United Nations.

### WHERE TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION

The key to good performance at the Model UN is proper research and preparation. Of course, information can be found at local libraries; in newspapers, journals and magazines; and on the internet. It would also be a good idea to contact the embassy of the country you are representing for general information and information on a particular topic. Be sure to contact them as soon as possible in order to receive the materials in time for it to be useful in writing resolutions and preparing for the conference.

For country background notes provided by the U.S. State Department, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

For a list of website and email addresses for embassies in Washington, D.C., visit:

<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/>

Contact information for permanent missions to the UN in New York can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/Overview/missions.htm>

And the UN website, especially the Cyber School Bus, has great information about the United Nations and a convenient list of member countries:

<http://www.un.org/>

### WRITING RESOLUTIONS

Delegates should be familiar with three things before writing a resolution or coming to the conference: (1) the central issues of a given topic; (2) the position of one's own country and other countries; and (3) the mandate for that General Assembly committee.

The best resolutions are those that attempt to address the problem/issue with specific action. The perambulatory clauses (usually beginning "deeply concerned", "recalling", "drawing attention to", etc.) attempt to place in context the UN action requested in the operative clauses. They need not be lengthy nor cover all aspects of the issue. ***The operative clause should call for some United Nations' action that is realistic and within the jurisdiction of the UN and the committee to which it is submitted.*** It may require action by member states or by any of the bodies of the United Nations.

Sample resolutions from previous Model UN General Assembly conferences are available on the K-12 global education page of the International Institute's website: [www.iibuff.org](http://www.iibuff.org).

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

In order to be considered for the agenda, resolutions must be submitted by the deadline on the list of important dates that will be sent to you soon. The judging will take place the following

### Preparing for the General Assembly, p. 3

week. The selected resolutions will be sent back to the students for modification if needed. Modified resolutions should be resubmitted by the due date. We will then e-mail all resolutions to schools, and make resolutions available on our website ([www.iibuff.org](http://www.iibuff.org)) for students to access.

Amendments to resolutions may be submitted on the day of the conference.

### JUDGING RESOLUTIONS

In early January, the organizing committee and teacher advisors will meet to decide which resolutions to place on the agenda, as well as the best resolution. The judges will be looking for resolutions that are clearly written; show an awareness of the policies and interests of the submitting country; have a clear and realistic call for UN action; and are within the jurisdiction of the particular committee. The judges will also make recommendations on any modifications to the selected resolutions, if needed.

### THE COMMITTEES

This Model UN has seven committees, each of which has a separate agenda. A brief description of each committee is enclosed.

Political and Security	Economic and Financial
Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian	Special Political
Ad Hoc Political and Security	Ad Hoc Political
Ad Hoc Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian	

Each delegation is encouraged to have a representative on each committee, and may not have more than two representatives on a particular committee. Delegations that do well in the overall scoring generally have representation on each committee.

### PREPARING TO DEBATE

As a representative of an assigned country, you are responsible for accurately presenting that nation's perspectives and interests on various subjects. When presented with an issue or a finished resolution, you must decide whether your country would favor a given proposal. Research may indicate that your country has taken a strong stance on the particular issue in the past. If things are not self-evident, good background knowledge of your nation is necessary. Based on that knowledge, you must determine whether a proposal helps or hurts the interests of your country. It is also important to balance your country's stance with the goals of your committee and the United Nations in general.

Finally, you should have a general idea of what the other countries' positions will be. It is important to understand which nations are most affected by a given issue. In order to propose a solution to the problem by means of a resolution, delegations must search for solutions, which are not only effective but also acceptable to the other nations involved. Understanding others' perspectives can allow you to write effective resolutions, and amend and debate resolutions effectively at the conference.

To view a powerpoint presentation on writing good resolutions, click on the following link [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjGU\\_yT-6HI&fmt=22](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjGU_yT-6HI&fmt=22), which can also be accessed through our website [www.iibuff.org](http://www.iibuff.org) under Global Education- Model UN

Please feel free to contact May Shogan with any questions or concerns at (716) 883-1900 x321 / [mshogan@iibuff.org](mailto:mshogan@iibuff.org).