



APSACS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (AMUN)

1. **Introduction** Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an educational simulation or academic competition that provides students with a platform to brush up their skills and learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. MUN is a stimulating event that involves a number of activities that prepare students for the 21st Century competitive job market. The activities aim at building research and leadership skills, enhancing communication and critical thinking skills, in addition to promoting teamwork and creativity.

2. **Procedure**

a. MUNs are usually organized by senior school students. Nearly all Model UN conferences require delegates to wear formal attire, as dressing professionally is an important way to show respect to the nation, organization, or individual one is representing. Participants in Model UN conferences, known as delegates, are placed in committees and assigned countries or, occasionally organizations or political figures, where they represent members of that body. They are presented with their assignments in advance, along with a topic or topics that their respective committee will discuss. Delegates conduct research before conferences and formulate positions that they will then debate with their fellow delegates in the committee, staying true to the actual position of the member they represent. At the end of a conference, the best-performing delegates in each committee, as well as delegations, are recognized with awards. Following are a few examples of the committees that may be included :

- (1) Economic and Finance Committee (ECOFIN)
- (2) Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)
- (3) Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)
- (4) Special, Political, and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)
- (5) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- (6) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- (7) United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

(8) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(9) Commonwealth of Nations (CON)

b. Crisis Committee :

This committee comprises the winners (Best Delegate and, sometimes, Outstanding Diplomacy award holders) of the Conference committees. A fictitious topic is chosen by the chairpersons of all the committees to challenge the delegates' diplomacy skills to the maximum. The scenario can be set in the past, present and future and is up to the discretion of the chairpersons. Delegates are constantly provided with random crisis updates that can completely change the direction of the debate forcing the delegates to adapt and respond logically but quickly. A logical debate must ensue and lead to a unanimous resolution. A winner is chosen at the end.

3. APSACS Model United Nations (AMUN) In this era of globalization, learning about the world is more important than ever. No matter what field or profession students enter, they will interact with people from different countries and diverse backgrounds. Problems taking place halfway around the globe impact our lives, our country, and our communities. Students learn about the world as they prepare for Model UN conferences, represent countries other than their own, and present possible solutions to global problems in committees. Students also learn by meeting people from other countries and travel to places they have never been before. Keeping in view the immense benefits of MUN, APSACS Sectt introduced MUN in APSACS. Brief procedure regarding preparation for MUN is given below:-

a. **Preparing as a Delegate**: While preparing for MUN, intensive research is required that will lead to a very rewarding MUN experience. It is of vital importance to keep the following three things in mind when doing research:

(1) Country and its position

(2) The Issue to be deliberated at the Conference

(3) UN System

b. **Country**. Answering the questions below will be a good starting point for participants researching on a country and its position:

(1) What sort of government does the participant's country have?

(2) What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence a country's government?

(3) What are the domestic issues that might influence a country's foreign policy?

(4) What are some major events in a country's history? Why are they important?

(5) Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in a country?

- (6) Where is the participant's country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- (7) Which countries share a border with the participant's country?
- (8) Which countries are considered allies of the participant's country?
- (9) Which countries are considered enemies of the participant's country?
- (10) What are the characteristics of the economy of the participant's country?
- (11) What is gross domestic product (GDP) of the participant's country? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- (12) When did the participant's country become a member of the UN?
- (13) Does the participant's country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- (14) Does the participant's country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- (15) Does the participant's country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?

c. **Issue:** Developing a full understanding of the issue will put the participants in a position to fully defend their country's position and debate confidently at the conference. Below are a few questions that could help the participants in their research:

- (1) What is the problem? How does it affect the participant's country?
- (2) What has the participant's country done to combat the problem?
- (3) What are the various "sides" in the debate?
- (4) Which aspects of the issue are most important to the participant's country?
- (5) If the participant's country is not involved with the issue, how can it become involved?
- (6) How will the participant's country shape the debate at the conference?
- (7) What arguments will other countries make?
- (8) How do the positions of other countries affect position of the participant's country?
- (9) Is there evidence or statistics that might help to back up position of the participant's country?

d. **The UN System.** Understanding the UN System and its sister Organs is of immense importance to being a successful MUN participant. Having an idea of the UN mandate and its boundaries when it comes to international mediation and negotiations will enable participants to know what the UN can do and what the UN cannot do. Below are a few questions to get started with:

- (1) What are the important elements of the UN Charter?
- (2) What are the main bodies of the UN?
- (3) How are the UN's bodies and agencies organized?
- (4) Which countries serve on the body or agency you are simulating?
- (5) How does the body or agency you are simulating operate?
- (6) What are the most recent UN actions on your issue?
- (7) Why did past UN actions succeed or fail?
- (8) What conferences and meetings have been held with regard to your issue?
- (9) What have UN officials said about your issue?

e. **Chairs.** The Chairs 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 Floor to the Points and Motions and ensure observance of decorum during the sessions. The Chairs 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 or appropriate. They shall keep the Committee in order and direct them towards consensus.

f. **Position Papers.** MUNs require participants to forward a position paper before the conference. It describes the detailed position of a certain country on a topic or issue that the participant will debate in his /her committee. The position paper should explain an issue from a country's point of view and NOT the participant's point of view. It typically contains four sections: Background of Topic, Past International Actions, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions. Position Papers are usually due before the conference.

The key starting points for researching each section are listed below;

- (1) **Background of Topic:** A detailed background of the topic forms the beginning of the position paper, highlighting the issue and its impact globally as well as on the country concerned.
- (2) **Past International Actions:** The position paper must include any actions that the country has taken to influence the issue to be debated upon. This is an

opportunity to highlight any positive actions taken by the country to counteract the issue at hand; for example, providing financial aid for refugee crisis. Only accurate information must be included and reliable sources used to extract such information for instance the official UN website, the respective committee's website, key treaties or resolutions mentioned in the background guide, UN or NGO reports.

- (3) **Country's Policy:** The country's stance should be clarified in the position paper. A delegate must not digress from his/her country's political position in the position paper or during the entirety of the conference. This can be verified from sources such as CIA World Factbook, the delegate country's foreign ministry website, domestic programs within that country, and the country's voting record on key treaties or resolutions.
- (4) **Possible Solutions:** The delegate must propose a few solutions to the issue in this document. The solutions do not need to be detailed but must enlighten the chairpersons on potential avenues for solutions that the delegate might strive to explore during the course of the committee sessions. Help can be sought from past UN resolutions. New creative solutions are highly admired and appreciated.

g. **The Phases of Committee**

Each committee is usually split up into four main phases, they are:

- (1) **Speakers' List:** The speakers' list is where delegates usually begin and is used to discuss opinions rather than foster debate. During these, the delegates define their countries' opinion on the topics discussed in the background guide.
- (2) **Moderated Caucuses:** A moderated caucus is a formal debating session where the delegates discuss a certain aspect of the issue after the motion for the said aspect has been voted upon and approved by a majority. Moderated caucuses usually immediately follow Speakers' List, and encourage more back and forth debate. The "Moderators" are the chairpersons who ensure delegates conduct fruitful and constructive debate that will eventually yield solutions and do not digress from the topic. During these, the delegates may propose certain solutions to the specific problem under discussion and try to convince other delegates why their countries' policy/ solutions should be carried forward with.
- (3) **Un-moderated Caucuses (Unmods):** Unmods are informal debating sessions which do not need to be moderated by chairpersons. After a few moderated

caucuses the delegates may wish to discuss the propositions made and issues created thus far in a less formal and restricted environment. These informal sessions are often used to form “diplomatic blocks” with like-minded countries. These sessions are crucial for various blocks to work with together, negotiate mergers, or write working papers in order to produce a unanimous resolution at the end.

(4) **Voting:** Voting is necessary to approve a moderated or an unmoderated caucus; approve Working Papers to become Draft Resolutions when introduced, and then, if passed, become resolutions.

h. **Working Paper** Working Papers consist of signatories, sponsors, pre-ambulatory clauses (preamble), and operative clauses. Sponsors are the authors who write the working paper and signatories are the delegates who agree with its content. The preamble comprises reasons for which the topic is being addressed and sheds light on any previous international action taken for them. The operative clauses contain solutions addressing the problems highlighted in the preamble. A Working Paper is commonly a precursor to a Draft Resolution. Several working papers may be produced during committee sessions and they can be merged to form a single Draft Resolution.

i. **Resolution.** Usually in the last committee session the delegates will produce a unanimous Resolution that addresses various aspects of the issue and is often the cumulative of several working papers. The Resolution is preceded by a Draft Resolution which is further debated upon and amended to produce the Resolution that is accepted by all countries.

Basics of a Resolution

Who: Who writes a Resolution? Any delegate in the committee can write a Resolution. The author of a Resolution is called a **Sponsor**. Most Resolutions have multiple sponsors because it takes a group of countries to share important ideas and to come to a consensus.

What: What is a Resolution? A Resolution is a document that contains all the issues that the committee wants to solve and the proposed solutions to that issue. Technically, the Resolution should be called a Draft Resolution before it is voted upon and then called a Resolution after it is successfully passed during voting bloc.

When/Where: When and where are the Resolutions written? Most conferences require students to write Resolutions during the conference. Specifically, Resolutions are usually written during **Unmoderated Caucus** (sometimes called Informal Caucus) where delegates are free to roam around the committee to collaborate on ideas with each other. The delegates may be facilitated by resources such as library or computer lab during Unmoderated Caucus to help them during this process. Resolution-writing becomes more focused during the later sessions of committee when different country policies are clear and different ideas have been mentioned already. Pre-written Resolutions are considered fraudulent and are not accepted.

Why: The ultimate purpose of a committee session is to pass a Resolution. All the speeches, debate, negotiation, and teamwork are supposed to lead up to a Resolution which contains all the proposed solutions to the issue. The Resolution(s) that the majority of the committee agrees upon will be passed after acquiring a majority vote; the sponsors are lauded for their efforts and this is reflected in their overall scoring.

j. **Global Village.** Participants represent different countries in Global Village where they portray the culture and values of that specific country. The Global Village is an exposition of diversity and a celebration of cultures. Its aim is to create a ground for cultural understanding, to enjoy differences and to celebrate differences. Usually, a prize is given to the Best Team for organising the best stall at the Global Village.

k. **Awards**

Participants are given different awards for their efforts and hard work. Some common awards are the following:

(1) **Best Delegate:** Usually one award per committee. The highest individual honour, represented by a trophy.

(2) **Outstanding Delegate:** Usually two awards per committee. Known simply as “Second Place”, it is honoured with a certificate.

(3) **Honourable Mention:** More than two or three per committee (again, dependent on committee size). Certificate is awarded for the “Third Place.”

(4) **Best Delegation:** Symbolised by a trophy usually.

i. **Chairperson’s Speech.** At the end of the event, the Chairpersons are urged to give a brief description of the events of the committee sessions, highlighting important

matters and salient features of the resolution as well for a general understanding of the audience before announcing the awards in the final ceremony.

- I. The Principal of the host school should address the participants and guests on the award giving ceremony and share with the audience what went well during the three days and how the event can be further improved to make it more productive in future. A concise report covering significant aspects of the event along with a few selected photographs need to be sent to APSACS Sectt through respective Regional Director.