Model United Nations –MUN- is a popular extra-curricular activity in which students, simulate United Nations committees, and learn about diplomacy, international relations, current world issues, and the UN itself. Most MUN committees follow a flow of debate.

There are some important steps that need to be taken into account:

1. Choosing committees and agendas

2. Rules and study guides

3. Training & workshops

4. Conference

5. Post-conference wrap-up

1. Choosing committees and agendas

The most important part is to select the committee you are interested in

<u>Main UN Committees</u>

1. General Assembly (GA) Committees

- First Committee (DISEC) – Disarmament & International Security
- Second Committee (ECOFIN) – Economic & Financial
- Third Committee (SOCHUM) – Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
- Fourth Committee (SPECPOL) – Special Political & Decolonization
- Fifth Committee (ACABQ) – Administrative & Budgetary
- Sixth Committee (LEGAL) – Legal Affairs

2. Security Council (UNSC)

- international peace and security

3. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Handles global economic, social, and development issues

4. Specialized UN Agencies & Programs

- WHO (World Health Organization) – Public health & pandemics
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) – Refugee crisis
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) – Child welfare
- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization) – Education & culture
- UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) – Climate change & environment

5. Human Rights Bodies

- UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) – Human rights violations
- CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) – Women's rights
- CRPD (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

6. Crisis Committees (MUN Only)

- Historical UN (e.g., Cold War UNSC)
- Futuristic UN (e.g., Post-2050 world governance)
- Regional Bodies (e.g., NATO, EU, OAS, African Union)

2. Rules and study guides

To ensure a well-organized and professional Model United Nations (MUN) conference, you need to prepare detailed Rules of Procedure (ROP) and Study Guides (Background Guides) for delegates.

Rules of Procedure (ROP)

1. **General Structure**
- Roll Call – Delegates confirm their presence at the start of each session
- Speakers' List – Controls who speaks and in what order
- Motions & Points – Used to guide the debate, raise concerns, or suggest actions
- Yielding Time – Allows delegates to give remaining speaking time to another delegate, questions, or the chair

2. **Types of Debate**
- Formal Debate – Delegates speak in an ordered manner, following the Speakers' List
- Moderated – Short speeches on a specific topic, with the chair selecting speakers
- Unmoderated – Informal discussion where delegates move around to negotiate

3. Voting procedures
- Simple Majority (50%+1)
- Two-thirds Majority – Needed for major decisions, such as amendments
- Veto Power– P5 nations (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) can block resolutions

4. Points & motions (Delegate Tools for Debate)
- Point of Personal Privilege – When a delegate cannot hear the speaker
- Point of Inquiry – To ask questions about rules or topics
- Point of Order – To correct a mistake in procedure
- Motion to Extend Debate – If more time is needed

Study Guides (Background Guides)

- Introduction to the Committee
- Topic Overview
- Questions to Consider (To Guide Delegate Research)

3. Training & Workshops

1. Understanding MUN Basics

2. Research Skills

3. Public Speaking & Debate

4. Drafting Resolutions

- Writing Effective Resolutions – Clear, actionable, and aligned with international law
- Amendment Process – How to modify and negotiate clauses

5. Rules of Procedure (ROP) Training

- How to raise motions, points, and yield time in debate
- Understanding voting procedures and moderated/unmoderated

6. Training for Chairs & Committee Directors

4. Conference

- You present all the work you have done.

- Follow the MUN procedures: debates, lobbying, draft resolutions, and voting.

- You read the Position Paper of the country you represent

Structure of a Position Paper

1. **Introduction (Background on the Issue)**
- Briefly explain the issue being discussed in the committee
- Provide historical context and key developments

2. **Country's Position**
- Explain your country's stance on the issue
- Support your position with policies, laws, and past actions
- Mention any alliances or organizations your country is part of

3. **Proposed Solutions**
- Present diplomatic and practical solutions to the issue
- Suggest new UN resolutions, policies, or collaborations

An example of the guide book

10.4 Πρόταση για Μη-Συντονισμένη Συζήτηση

Κάθε εμπειρογνώμονας μπορεί να υποβάλει πρόταση για Μη-Συντονισμένη Συζήτηση οποιαδήποτε στιγμή κατά τη διάρκεια του διαλόγου. Ο σκοπός αυτού του είδους συζήτησης είναι η διευκόλυνση των εργασιών των εμπειρογνωμόνων. Κατά τη διάρκεια της Μη-Συντονισμένης Συζήτησης η Τυπική Συζήτηση σταματάει. Ο εκπρόσωπος που υποβάλει την Πρόταση οφείλει να προσδιορίσει τη συνολική διάρκεια της συζήτησης, η οποία δεν γίνεται να ξεπερνάει τα είκοσι (20) λεπτά, καθώς και τον σκοπό της. Ο/Η Πρόεδρος μπορεί να προτείνει διαφορετική διάρκεια ή σκοπό της συζήτησης και να θέσει την πρόταση σε ψηφοφορία ή ακόμη και να απορρίψει την Πρόταση. Εφόσον η Πρόταση εγκριθεί, η Επιτροπή εισέρχεται σε Μη-Συντονισμένη Συζήτηση, κατά τη διάρκεια της οποίας τα μέλη μπορούν να χωριστούν σε επιμέρους δωμάτια τηλεργασίας προκειμένου να συζητήσουν κατ' ιδίαν με τους ομολόγους τους και ανάλογα με τις συμμαχίες όπως τις έχουν διαμορφώσει (βλ. κανόνα 8.3.2 ανωτέρω).

Schools that MUN conferences take place

1. Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki Model United Nations - DSTMUN
2. Athens Model United Nations - AMUN
3. Deutsche Schule Athen Model United Nations - DSAMUN
4. Thessaloniki Model United Nations - ThessisMUN
5. Anatolia College Model United Nations - ACMUN
6. Platon School Model United Nations - PS-MUN
7. American College of Greece Model United Nations - ACGMUN
8. Costeas-Geitonas School Model United Nations - CGSMUN
9. Arsakeio Tositseio School Model United Nations – ATSMUN

Thank you

Sources

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