

TOMORROW



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

VOCABULARY HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Tomorrow MUN Handbook: Key Vocabulary for Model United Nations! Whether you're a first-time delegate or an experienced participant, this handbook is designed to equip you with the essential terminology and concepts that will make your MUN experience more enriching, effective, and enjoyable.

Mastering the language of MUN not only helps you communicate confidently but also ensures that you can actively contribute to debates, resolutions, and collaborative discussions. This handbook is your guide to understanding and applying MUN-specific vocabulary, enabling you to engage in meaningful diplomacy and negotiation.

For those of you who don't know, Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations, where students take on the roles of delegates representing countries. Through structured debates, resolution writing, and collaborative problem-solving, MUN participants address global issues and develop critical skills such as:

- **Public Speaking:** Delivering clear, persuasive speeches in front of an audience.
- **Diplomacy:** Building consensus and negotiating agreements with other delegates.
- **Critical Thinking:** Analyzing global challenges and proposing innovative solutions.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborating with others to draft resolutions and find common ground.
- **Research and Policy Analysis:** Understanding a country's policies and applying them to international issues.

Participating in MUN provides a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of a global leader, learn about international relations, and make your voice heard on matters that shape the world.

But why a Vocabulary Handbook? The answer is quite simple: the specialized terminology used in MUN can be overwhelming at first, but it is the key to navigating the sessions effectively. From procedural motions to resolution writing, knowing the vocabulary ensures you can follow debates, express ideas, collaborate effectively and enhance professionalism. This handbook serves as your companion, breaking down complex terms into simple, digestible explanations with examples to help you learn and practice.

At Tomorrow MUN, we strive to create an inclusive, educational, and empowering platform where students from around the world can learn about diplomacy, global issues, and leadership. This handbook is part of our commitment to ensuring every participant feels prepared and confident, regardless of their prior experience.

Remember: MUN is not just about competition—it's about growth, collaboration, and the shared goal of making the world a better place.

Let this handbook be your first step in the journey to becoming a skilled MUN delegate. Dive in, and let the world of diplomacy and global problem-solving come to life!

GENERAL VOCABULARY

#1 Delegate

A delegate is an individual who represents a country in a MUN conference. Delegates are responsible for presenting their assigned country's policies, engaging in debates, negotiating with other representatives, and collaborating to develop solutions to global issues. Their role involves balancing their assigned country's interests with the need for international cooperation.

#2 Observer

An observer in a MUN conference is an individual who attends committee sessions to observe the proceedings without actively participating. Observers do not represent a country, nor do they engage in debates, make speeches, or vote. Observers are often participants who may feel shy about speaking but still wish to learn about the process, structure, and dynamics of MUN conferences. Their presence allows them to gain confidence and prepare for future active participation as delegates.

#3 Chair

A Chair in a Model United Nations (MUN) conference is the individual responsible for moderating the debate, maintaining order, and ensuring that the rules of procedure are followed within a committee. The Chair facilitates discussions by recognizing points and motions and guiding delegates through the different stages of debate and resolution writing. Their role is to create a structured and inclusive environment where all participants can express their views effectively. The Chair ensures that the conference runs smoothly and helps resolve procedural or logistical issues during sessions.

#4 Committee

A committee in a Model United Nations (MUN) conference is a structured group of delegates assigned to discuss a specific global issue. Each committee simulates a real-world United Nations body, and provide a platform for debate, negotiation, and collaboration, where delegates represent their assigned countries or organizations, propose solutions, and work toward drafting resolutions. The focus and dynamics of each committee vary depending on its mandate and the topics under discussion:

- SOCHUM: deals with issues related to human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social matters
- ECOFIN: deals with issues related to global finance and economic matters
- ECOSOC: responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields of the United Nations
- WHO: responsible for international public health
- UN Women: charged with working for gender equality, as well as the empowerment of women
- UNICEF: responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide
- UNHRC: responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide
- Security Council: responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security
- G20: responsible for steering the global economy through the significant challenges it faces
- DISEC: deals with issues related to disarmament and international security matters
- UNODC: responsible for strengthening international action against illicit drug production and trafficking, as well as drug-related crime
- Legal Committee: deals with legal matters and international law
- Historical Crisis Committee: simulates a topic that takes place in the past; is not an actual committee of the United Nations

#5 Bloc

A bloc in a Model United Nations (MUN) conference refers to a group of delegates who share similar interests, perspectives, or goals on a specific topic. Blocs are typically formed based on regional, political, economic, or ideological alignments, such as geographical regions (e.g., African Union) or alliances (e.g., NATO). Delegates within a bloc collaborate to draft resolutions, negotiate with other blocs, and advocate for policies that align with their shared objectives.

#6 Moderated Caucus

A moderated caucus in a MUN conference is a structured and formal discussion where the Chair moderates the flow of debate. Delegates are recognized one at a time to speak, must use Points and Motions before speaking and must use formal language at all times.

#7 Unmoderated Caucus

An unmoderated caucus is a temporary suspension of formal debate, allowing delegates to freely interact and discuss ideas informally. They are often used for drafting resolutions, negotiating with other blocs, or clarifying positions on specific issues.

POINTS AND MOTIONS

In a MUN conference, Points and Motions are essential tools that delegates use to navigate the debate, address procedural matters, and shape the flow of discussion. Points allow delegates to raise concerns, ask questions, or clarify issues during the session, while motions are formal proposals to make changes to the committee's proceedings, such as opening a caucus or moving to a vote. Understanding and effectively using these tools is crucial for ensuring that the committee operates smoothly and that every delegate has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the debate:

- Point of Information: Allows a delegate to ask a question to another delegate
- Right of Reply: Grants a delegate the opportunity to respond to a statement or question directed at them
- Point of Inquiry: Enables a delegate to ask the Chair a question about the MUN rules or procedures
- Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: Proposes an informal discussion period where delegates can freely interact and collaborate with their blocs to address specific issues
- Motion to Move into Voting Procedure: Used when a delegate believes the topic has been sufficiently debated, proposing that the committee proceed to vote on the matter under discussion

NO PERSONAL PRONOUNS

In Model United Nations, delegates should avoid using personal pronouns such as "I" or "me" to maintain formality and emphasize their role as representatives of their assigned countries or entities. Instead, use "we", "the delegation of [country]" or "[country's official name]" when speaking on behalf of your nation.

For example, instead of saying "I believe this solution will work," you should say "We believe this solution will work." Similarly, instead of "I support this resolution," say "The Russian Federation supports this resolution." This practice ensures professionalism, highlights your role as a diplomat, and keeps the focus on your country's stance rather than personal opinions.

COMMON PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS

#1 Addressing The Committee

- "Honorable Chair and distinguished delegates..."
- "The delegation of [country] firmly believes that..."
- "On behalf of [country], we propose..."
- "We would like to bring attention to..."

#2 Agreeing / Supporting

- "This delegate concurs with the points made by [country]."
- "We fully support the resolution presented by [country]."
- "This aligns with the values and policies of [country]."
- "We believe this is a step in the right direction."

#3 Disagreeing / Raising Concerns

- "While we respect the views of [country], we must disagree on..."
- "We believe this proposal could be further improved by..."
- "This delegate urges the committee to reconsider..."
- "Although the intention is clear, the practicality of this measure is questionable."

#4 Proposing Ideas

- "We would like to suggest..."
- "We propose that the committee consider..."
- "An alternative approach could be..."
- "To address this issue, we recommend..."

#5 Asking Questions

- "Could the delegation currently representing [country] clarify their stance on...?"
- "What measures does [country] propose to address...?"
- "This delegation of [country] seeks further explanation from [country] regarding..."

#6 Negotiating

- "We are willing to support this resolution if the following amendments are made."
- "To reach a consensus, we propose the following compromise."
- "This delegate encourages collaboration between [countries]..."
- "Let us work together to refine this resolution and achieve a solution."

SPEECHES

In Model United Nations, speeches are the primary way delegates communicate their country's stance, propose solutions, and contribute to the debate. Each type of speech serves a distinct purpose, helping delegates structure their participation effectively. Whether you're presenting your initial thoughts, defending your position, or summarizing your stance, delivering a clear and impactful speech is essential. Let's explore the key types of speeches you'll deliver during the conference and their specific roles in shaping the discussion:

- **OPENING SPEECH:** Delegates outline their main priorities and show other delegations that they are willing to work with them. For more information on how to write an Opening Speech: https://youtu.be/R-t8qqi_vO8?si=EPVGsXZDnwrHS_b
- **POSITION SPEECH:** Delegates position themselves in favor or against the chosen Resolution, and present arguments in favor or against specific clauses
- **RECONSIDERATION SPEECH:** Delegates urge other delegations to vote in favor or against the Resolution, right before the final vote

POSITION PAPERS

Before the conference, each delegate has the opportunity to submit a position paper. A position paper is an essay, written by delegates, that presents their assessment of the situation and how to fix it.

A position paper should highlight how the topic is relevant to the delegation, their proposed solutions and why they're best. In every paper should be included ideas on how to solve the committee's issue. These solutions have to align with the state's internal policy, and should be realistic and make sense.

We recommend you watch the following video to better understand what a position paper is and how to write it: <https://youtu.be/laPTnv98NpY?si=szUzXl4BkPwK273W>

RESOLUTIONS

A resolution in Model United Nations (MUN) is a formal document that outlines the actions, solutions, or recommendations proposed to address a specific global issue. Resolutions are drafted collaboratively by delegates within their blocs, debated, and voted upon, serving as a representation of the committee's collective efforts to propose solutions within the framework of the United Nations.

The sponsor is responsible for presenting the resolution to the rest of the committee, explaining its clauses, and advocating for its adoption. Collaborators are delegates who contribute to the development of the resolution.

Preambulatory clauses are the opening statements of a resolution that provide the context and justification for the issue being addressed. These clauses outline the background, recognize past efforts, highlight the importance of the problem, and set the stage for the proposed solutions. They do not include any actionable steps but rather serve to explain why the issue matters and establish a foundation for the operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses often reference existing treaties, UN resolutions, or relevant international frameworks, and they begin with Preambulatory Phrases (participles or adjectives such as "Acknowledging," "Recalling," or "Alarmed by").

Action clauses, also known as operative clauses, are the part of a resolution that outlines the specific actions, solutions, or recommendations proposed by the committee to address the issue. These clauses detail what the committee aims to achieve and how these goals will be implemented. Action clauses are the actionable steps that follow the context set by the preambulatory clauses. They are numbered, begin with strong, directive verbs such as "Urges," "Calls upon," "Recommends," or "Decides," and are followed by precise and practical details. Action clauses must be clear, feasible, and in line with the mandate of the committee.

We recommend you watch the following video so as to better understand how a Resolution is written: https://youtu.be/KLoktLNfXR0?si=_Na7r_ukq-dJLaRcThis

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Preventing the recruitment and exploitation of youth by terrorist and extremist groups in Cameroon

Sponsor: Federal Republic Of Germany

Collaborators: Kingdom Of Spain, Kingdom of Norway, French Republic, State Of Japan

The United Nations Security Council,

Showcasing the number of grave violations against children in West and Central Africa in 2020, exceeding 8,000 incidents,

Acknowledging previous resolutions of the Security Council, including Resolution 2396 (2017), which emphasizes the need for comprehensive measures to combat terrorism, including addressing the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters through strengthened border security and rehabilitation programs,

Expressing its commitment to supporting sustainable development, education, and peacebuilding initiatives in regions affected by terrorism, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1) Urges the government of Cameroon to enhance its efforts in identifying and dismantling recruitment networks operated by terrorist organizations by:

1. Deepening collaboration with neighboring countries and organizations, such as the African Union (OAU), or the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to conduct joint operations targeting cross-border recruitment networks,
2. Enforcing stringent legislation to criminalize and penalize recruitment activities and those providing material or ideological support to terrorist organizations,
3. Seeking technical assistance and capacity-building programs from the United Nations and other international organisations to enhance counter-recruitment measures;

2) Calls upon member states, regional organizations, and international institutions, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building programs for Cameroon's law enforcement and judiciary, focusing on enhancing counter-terrorism investigations, improving legal frameworks, and ensuring that all measures align with international human rights standards;

3) Stresses the importance of monitoring and regulating online platforms to prevent the dissemination of extremist content aimed at recruiting and radicalizing youth, while encouraging partnerships between governments, technology companies, and international organizations to identify and remove such content efficiently;

4) Invites the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report to the Security Council within six months on the progress made in preventing youth recruitment and exploitation in Cameroon, including:

1. An evaluation of the effectiveness of current programs, such as community-led initiatives, educational campaigns, and regional cooperation efforts,
2. An assessment of the challenges encountered in implementing these measures, such as resource limitations, security concerns, or local resistance,
3. Recommendations for further action, prioritizing the addressing of identified gaps, the scaling up of successful programs, and the fostering of greater international and regional cooperation to ensure long-term impact.