



# **SPSMUN20**

## **Information Booklet**

## **Timetable**

### **Friday January 10th**

Delegates must submit their resolutions to their committee chairs by 4.15.pm

### **Friday January 17th**

16:00 – 17:00 – Registration

17:00 – 17:45 – Opening Ceremony

17:45 – 18:00 – Break (drinks and light snacks)

18:00 – 19:00 – Committee Session: Introduction, Icebreaking and Opening Statements  
*An introduction to committee work, followed by opening statements from each delegate*

19:00 – 20:00 – Committee Session: Informal Lobbying and Resolution Drafting

### **Saturday January 18th**

09:00 – 09:15 – Registration

09:30 – 11:00 – Committee Session: Resolution 1

Break (drinks and light snacks)

11:20 – 12:50 – Committee Session: Resolution 2

12:50 – 13:50 – Lunch break

13:50 – 15:20 – Committee Session: Resolution 3

Break (drinks and light snacks)

15:40 – 17:10 – Committee Session: Resolution 4

*At the end of the day, the resolutions for debate in the General Assembly will be selected.*

### **Sunday January 19th**

#### **General Assembly**

09:00 – 09:15 – Registration

9:30 – 10:00 – Delegation lobbying and discussion

*Delegations are encouraged to lobby and discuss within general voting blocs to gather support for or against the resolutions to be debated in GA. Each delegation will be given a*

*copy of the four resolutions.*

10:10 – 11:30 – GA Resolution 1

Break (drinks and light snacks)

11:40 – 13:00 – GA Resolution 2

Short break

13.10 – Closing ceremony and prize giving

13.30 – Conference ends

## **Preparation for the Conference**

During Committee Work, each delegate sits on a committee which will be discussing two or three topics, based around global issues. Details of these topics are available on the SPSMUN website here: [spsmun.co.uk](http://spsmun.co.uk).

The first step in conference preparation is to research your country's views on these topics and consider why they are justified. You can research your country's policy by looking at government websites, news articles, interviews, documentaries, reports or extracts from Google Books. Try to use as wide a variety of sources as possible.

## **Resolutions**

SPSMUN will run much like the actual United Nations, in that debate will be structured around resolutions. Before the conference, each delegate will be asked to submit a resolution on one of their committee topics: see end of this section for guidelines on how to submit your resolution.

### **What is a resolution?**

A resolution is a statement of intent which calls upon the UN to address a specific issue by implementing particular measures. The resolutions discussed in MUN tend to cover 1-2 pages of A4, although resolutions of any length will be considered as long as their format conforms to the structure shown here. They consist of independent extended sentences, each of which is called a clause.

The first group of clauses are **pre-ambulatory clauses**. The pre-ambulatory clauses outline the problem the resolution is going to address. They are intended to provide background facts and information about a topic, and explain why there is a need for your resolution, often with reference to existing (real) UN procedure.

The second group of clauses are **operative clauses**. The operative clauses offer solutions to the problem, and detail the actions which should be taken to address it. They form the main subject of debate, and can be identified easily because they each begin with a number.

The language used in resolution writing should be clear and formal. When writing your resolution, it is advisable to refer to the phraseology and tone used in real UN resolutions.

Here is an example of a resolution from last year's conference, which shows you the structure and format you should follow for your own resolution:

## **On the Question of Military Intervention in Response to Global Terrorism**

Committee: Legal

Question of: Military Intervention in Response to Global Terrorism

Submitted by: India

*Deeply concerned* at the lack of unity within South Asia over the issue of tackling terrorism which allows its manifestation and devastating threat to safety and security to persist, leading to multiple terror attacks in India and Pakistan, and the Taliban's terror campaigns continuation in Afghanistan,

*Recognizing* the lack of effectiveness and need to improve other methods of intervening in acts of terrorism, for example the limitation of terrorist organisations access to a flow of weapons, and therefore encouraging Member States to prevent and disrupt supply networks for weapons, between for example ISIL and connected individuals and groups,

*Noting with deep concern* the fact that the Taliban controls of over forty percent of Afghanistan and stressing the need for cooperation from Pakistan to support The United States military intervention,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 1373 (2001) that all member States must aim to halt and prevent any financing of terrorism and abstain from supplying any kind of support to those participating in terrorist acts (particularly countries such as Pakistan who border Afghanistan, a place of terrorist conflict, resulting in terrorists extremely likely to be taking shelter there),

1. Expresses its hope that the communication and transparency between relevant member states in relation to terrorism will improve the intelligence available to eliminate the threat of terrorist organisations;
2. Urges member states, especially those in heavily affected by terrorism, to limit the accessibility of weapons and devices used in acts of terrorism by ensuring the following: a) ensure there is the relevant legal capacity in statute within the member state to prosecute those found to be aiding the supply of weapons; b) strengthen the efficiency of the control of borders to prevent these weapons being trafficked; c) increase, where appropriate, the punishment for the supply and aid in supplying weapons to increase the deterrence from doing so;
3. Calls for all borders to be tightly monitored in order to prevent the entrance of individuals affiliated with terrorist efforts;
4. Suggests harsh trade embargoes and other sanctions on member states found to supply any form of aid to terrorist organisations;

5. Supports a firm approach to terrorism, including military intervention, but also demands that all member states methods of combating terrorism must also align with international, human rights and humanitarian law, any approach that does not align must be scrutinised accordingly by The UN;
6. Suggests that no member state should declare war against terrorism without first consulting other member states and gaining an appropriate consensus to do so, this being in the best interest of international unity and affairs;
7. Urges the UN to put measures in place that, with the collapse of IS in the Middle East, militants fleeing Iraq and Syria are prevented from infiltrating many vulnerable, neighbouring countries, particularly those in Africa;
8. Supports the pursuit of alternative strategies in conjunction with military intervention, especially in securing the cooperation and support from local leaders for UN operations and the provision of military and financial aid to countries suffering from terrorism in conjunction with intervention.

### **How to Write a Resolution: Pre-ambulatory Clauses**

In the **pre-ambulatory clauses**, you should:

1. Indicate the reasons why this topic should be addressed by the committee. For example, you may highlight the urgency of the issue due to its imminent consequences, stress the necessity of international cooperation or recognize how the escalation of the current issue could lead to further uncertainties.
2. Acknowledge/recognise the efforts/absence of efforts of certain governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and other similar bodies in dealing with the issue. For example, you may appreciate the contributions an organisation has made to alleviating the current tension.
3. Cite UN-related materials that are relevant to your resolution, for example past resolutions and treaties, the UN charter, speeches from UN officials etc.

Each pre-ambulatory clause begins with a phrase that leads on to the main content of the clause. For example, if the clause wants to acknowledge the efforts of an NGO, it could start with:

*‘Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the NGO ...’*

Or if it wanted to show awareness, it could start with:

*Recognizing* the need for military intervention by member states to tackle terrorism at times, for example the United States intervention in Afghanistan,

Note that the preambulatory phrase should be *italicised* and each preambulatory clause should end with a comma, including the final preambulatory clause. You do not need to number your resolution's pre-ambulatory clauses.

### Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Emphasizing	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Expecting	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expressing its	Observing
Bearing in mind	appreciation	Reaffirming
Believing	Fulfilling	Realizing
Confident	Fully aware	Recalling
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recognizing
Convinced	Further recalling	Referring
Declaring	Guided by	Seeking
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Taking into consideration
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking note
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Viewing with
Deeply Disturbed	Having received	appreciation
Deeply Regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming
Desiring	Noting further	

### Operative Clauses

The **operative clauses** of the resolution offer solutions to the issues outlined in the pre-ambulatory clauses. This is the most important section of your resolution and where you really have a chance to show your imagination in finding solutions and offering new ideas.

These clauses are action oriented and should start with a verb known as an operative phrase. For example:

3. Calls for all borders to be tightly monitored in order to prevent the entrance of individuals affiliated with terrorist efforts;

Operative clauses should support one another: each should constitute a part of your overall solution. The operative phrase should be underlined and all operative clauses should be numbered. All operative clauses should end with a semicolon apart from the final one, which should end with a full stop.

## Sample Operative Clause Phrases

Accepts	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Affirms	Encourages	Recommends
Approves	Endorses	Regrets
Authorizes	Expresses its appreciation	Reminds
Calls	Implores	Requests
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Solemnly affirms
Condemns (SC Only)	Further invites	Strongly condemns (SC only)
Confirms	Further proclaims	Suggests
Congratulates	Further recommends	Supports
Considers	Further reminds	Takes note of
Declares accordingly	Further requests	Transmits
Demands	Further resolves	Trusts
Deplores (SC only)	Has resolved	Urges
Designates	Notes	Wills
Draws the attention	Proclaims	

You can find more information on what you might include in the different sections of the resolution by following the link below:

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions/preambulatory-and-operative-clauses>

### How to submit your resolution

Once you have chosen which of your committee's topics you want to write a resolution on - delegates may only submit one resolution each - and researched and written your resolution, you should submit your resolution to your committee chairs. The deadline for doing this is 4.15pm on 10th January. This gives time for the chairs to read your resolutions and send you any feedback they think will be helpful (for instance, if something in your resolution is unclear).

Delegates should submit their resolutions to their committee's folder on Google Drive by 4.15 on Friday January 11th, via this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gaf1Vx2xpzBTIMI6RTDRKcQBSVUlc4D-?usp=sharing>

All submissions should be clearly identified using the format of: Delegate Name, School, Committee, Country, topic number. For instance: Alex Smith, St Paul's, Syria 2020, Pakistan, Topic 1.

## **Committee Sessions**

Committees bring together a group of 25-30 individual delegates, who represent different UN countries, and focus on a particular set of issues: the exception is the Security Council, which is smaller (only 15 delegates).

Each committee is run by three chairs - students who are here to supervise and help delegates over the course of the weekend.

### **What happens in a committee?**

Committee work involves a mixture of activities, including formal debate, informal lobbying, resolution tabling and amending, and giving policy statements. Every delegate on the committee has submitted a resolution, but within the time-frame of an MUN conference, not all resolutions can be debated: so a key element of committee work is convincing your fellow delegates that your resolution is the one they should be debating. During formal committee work, all comments are made through the chair.

Committee work on the first day of the conference will break down into opening statements and informal lobbying.

### **Opening Statements**

At the first session of your committee on Friday evening, after informal ice-breaking activities, you will be asked to give a one-minute opening statement about your country (e.g. a brief outline of its ideologies and beliefs) and stating its position on the topic on which you have submitted a resolution. Opening statements should be planned in advance. They are a good opportunity to defend your country's opinions in a convincing manner and show the other delegates which issues you find most important.

### **Informal lobbying**

Following opening statements, delegates will be given one hour of informal lobbying to combine resolutions, make last minute amendments, and decide on which four resolutions will be presented to the chair for debate in committee the following day. Delegates should bring paper copies of their resolution.

In informal lobbying delegates are free to move around the room and the chairs do not mediate the debate. You may discuss your views privately with any delegate; usually, discussion breaks down into small groups of two to four delegates. Your aim is to find as much support as possible for your resolution - this is 'lobbying'.

If more than four resolutions are put forward after the informal lobbying session, the choice of which resolutions are to be debated will be made by the chairs or put to a committee vote.

The chairs will factor in the number, quality and the popularity of the submissions. All delegates will be informed later on Friday evening which resolutions will be debated during committee sessions.

In committees where there are two proposed topics, two resolutions will be debated for each of the two topics. In committees where there are three topics, one resolution will be debated for two of the three topics, and two resolutions will be debated for the remaining topic.

### **General Rules for Committee Debate**

The rules and procedures outlined below will be applied across all the committees throughout the committee sessions, and will not change. However, please note that the chairs reserve the right to modify, add or remove rules under special circumstances and the application of these rules are ultimately at the chairs' discretion (e.g. when facing serious time constraints).

### **Formal debate**

Formal debate means that delegates speak in turn, in front of the entire committee. The discussion is mediated and structured by the chairs of your committee. The four chosen resolutions are discussed in sequence, one per session, and up to six slots for speeches in favour (time for) or against (time against) the resolution are allocated. Each speech is usually two minutes long, although the exact length of time is decided by the chair.

The speaker cannot be interrupted during their speech, but may open themselves up to 'Points of Information' afterwards. The purpose of a Point of Information is to ask the speaker to clarify their argument, or respond to a certain point which has not been properly covered. If you would like to pose a Point of Information, you must raise your hand after the end of the speech. Points of Information are made from the floor, meaning that you stand up from your chair but don't make your way to the front of the room, Points of Information may only be raised with the chairs' permission. They must be phrased in question form, but may be preceded by a short introductory statement. Only one question may be asked at a time: follow-up questions are permitted only at the discretion of the chairs.

After the points of information are over, the chair will ask the speaker 'How does the delegate yield?' . The speaker has the option to return to their seat ('I yield to the chair'), or invite another delegate to speak in their support ('I yield to the delegate of [INSERT COUNTRY HERE]'). No more than two delegates can speak consecutively before there is a yield to the chair and whether yielding to another delegate will be allowed is ultimately down to the chairs' discretion.

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

A Point of Personal Privilege is a question raised regarding the delegate's personal needs - such as, for instance, the audibility of a delegate speaking.

## **Point of Order**

A Point of Order is a question raised if the delegate believes the chair has made an error in procedural matters such as keeping time, the order of debate, etc. The delegate may not interrupt a speaker with a Point of Order. Points of Order are only designed to draw attention to procedural mistakes and thus are rarely used.

## **Amendments**

An amendment is a proposed modification to an existing resolution: when proposing amendments, delegates should make it clear which section of the resolution they would like to change, and propose an alternative. A **friendly amendment** agrees with the general direction of the altered resolution, but is designed to make it more practical, more agreeable, or clearer. It is for this reason that amendments should be short; around 50 words. However, delegates who are so minded may find it in their interests to propose an amendment that either fundamentally or subtly changes a resolution to bring it more in line with the interests of their country, which is known as a **hostile amendment**.

Amendments should be hand-written and submitted directly to the chair when the chairs open the resolution to amendments. Sometimes due to the large number of amendments, not all of them will be debated and the chairs will decide which ones are to be debated and in what order, factoring in the order of submissions, and the quality of the amendments. If amendments are very similar, the Chairs will encourage merging of amendments. *NB Please note that amendment to the second degree (an amendment to an amendment) will not be permitted due to time constraints unless otherwise stated by the chairs.*

Once a delegate's amendment is recognized, the chairs will open the debate on the amendment. When an amendment is being debated, the procedure is the same, with speeches for and against and Points of Information together comprising the medium of debate. Please note that the debate will only be open to that amendment – speeches/points on the general resolution as a whole are not permitted. The submitter of the amendment will make a speech on the amendment, and will then answer Points of Information if they wish. The chairs will then open the floor up to any other delegates wishing to speak for/against the amendment. After the amendment has been debated, the house will vote on it – delegates may vote for, against or abstain.

## **Voting Procedure**

Once a resolution has been entirely discussed, there is a move to voting procedure. A resolution is passed if the number of votes in favour is greater than the number of votes against, regardless of the number of abstentions.

The only exception to this rule is in the Security Council (see below).

In any vote, delegates may vote for, against, or abstain from voting, except for when a **Motion to Divide the House** is in effect, in which case abstentions are not permitted. A simple majority (50% + 1) will be required for a resolution or an amendment to pass.

### **Motion to Divide the House**

This motion can be raised following a vote where there were a large number of abstentions (larger than the number for or against). Essentially, it asks for another vote where abstentions are no longer permitted. Objections are not permitted, but whether or not a motion to divide the house is granted is ultimately up to the chairs' discretion.

### **Extra Procedures in the Security Council only**

In the Security Council, the five permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, USA) each have a veto power. For this conference, veto power may only be used once per resolution. It can only be utilised regarding an amendment, not the resolution as a whole. This is to prevent abuse of power by any P5 nation but also to promote a more inclusive and equal atmosphere during committee sessions.

### **General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the final day forum of the conference at which every delegate at the conference is present. Delegates sit by country, with all the fellow members of their delegation from different committees. Your task is to come to a consensus within your delegation on your stance in favour or against each resolution, and then to support or oppose it in formal debate.

At our conference, two resolutions will be debated formally at GA. Chairs of all committees will collectively decide which resolutions these will be, choosing two resolutions from those debated by each committee with the exception of SPECPOL (which is a historical committee). Resolutions that have passed will be prioritized and the chairs will factor in the quality and the popularity of the resolutions. All delegates will be informed on Saturday evening about which resolutions will be debated during the GA, so that they can prepare, and a booklet including the two resolutions will be issued to delegates on Sunday morning, so that they can follow and contribute to the debate.

The GA will be preceded by 30 minutes of formal lobbying, where delegates will be able to familiarize themselves with the debated resolutions, identify potential allies or gather support for a resolution; convince other delegations why they should vote in a particular way on a resolution; negotiate possible off-the-table compromises between nations for mutual support etc. Delegates should feel confident about and prepared for the GA after the lobbying session, which is essentially an opportunity to demonstrate the delegates' diplomatic wisdom under a limited amount of time.

## **GA Debate**

The same rules on *voting and amending procedures*, on *points*, *yielding* and *motions* will apply.

During GA debates, delegates may wish to pass notes between countries. Note passing will be permitted at the discretion of the chairs, meaning the privilege will be removed if misused. Note passing must not disrupt a speaker and delegates must pass the notes by giving them to one of the chairs or a member of the organising team.

## **Closing Ceremony**

The closing ceremony will consist of the presentation of delegate awards. There will be three delegate awards per committee: Best Overall Delegate, Best Speaker, and Most Accurate to Country. Three overall delegation awards will also be given: Best Overall Delegation; Most Diplomatic Delegation (the delegation best at finding solutions); and Most Accurate to Country. Note that the delegates' performance during committee sessions will also be taken into account for the award of delegation prizes.

## **General Expectations**

### **Language**

Respectful language should be used at all times. Informal deal-making is encouraged; in fact it is an integral part of most conferences, but delegates should stick to any promises made. During debates, delegates should be referred to without using personal pronouns, namely 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', et cetera. So, for instance, instead of saying 'you mentioned that ...', you would say: 'the delegate from China mentioned that ...'; instead of saying 'we believe that ...', you would say: 'the delegates from Algeria and France believe that ...'. This can initially feel a little strange and disconcerting if this is your first MUN conference, but it will quickly become natural. It is a custom of MUN procedure which is designed to cause delegates to put aside any personal identity politics and accurately represent their country.

### **Preparation**

Come prepared - even a limited amount of research will greatly improve the quality and the variety of the points you can make. You will also find the debates more engaging and interesting. We also encourage you to submit a resolution.

### **Behaviour**

Respect the other delegates - you must remember that MUN is a cooperative activity with the involvement from a variety of individuals. This means that you must not only behave in a reasonable manner during committee sessions and GA, but also during break time and other social occasions. You need to realize the effect what you say and do can impose on the other delegates.

## **Get Involved**

Make sure that you have made a point during the conference - MUN is a great opportunity to demonstrate creativity, passion and the ability to reason.

**Dress Code:** Smart.

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Please feel free to contact your committee chairs, using the e-mail addresses provided, if you have any questions about your committee, its topics, or general conference procedure.