Rules of Procedure

The EB would like to take this opportunity to share some important points with the delegates:

1. **The Marking Scheme** will be based on **Verbatim** (i.e, the speeches made during the General Speaker's List and the Moderated caucuses), **Individual Documentation** (Position Papers and Working Papers), **Committee Documentation** (Draft Resolution and Communique), **Lobbying** (before the Committee and during unmoderated caucuses), Points (raised or answered), **Substantive Chits**, **Diplomatic Professionalism, and Foreign Policy Compliance**. The division of marking will be shared by the EB on the day of the conference.

2. **A Training Session** will be conducted sometime before the date of the conference, for all delegates of the committee to better understand what we expect from the delegates, how the **UNA-USA Rules of Procedure** are to be followed in the committee, what the flow of the committee will be, and to address any doubts that you may have.

3. The EB encourages you to read and research with passion and commitment; Providing analysis to your research is equally important.

4. The EB pays great heed to your diplomatic courtesy and professionalism. No form of abusive language, bullying, or violation of decorum will be tolerated before or during the committee.

5. The purpose of this Background is solely for you to gain a deeper insight into the agenda at hand, and to understand the expectations of the Executive Board. We encourage you to **not** quote statements from the substantive sections of this guide in the formal session of the Committee, until and unless they have been derived from reliable sources of information.

6. The documents that will be entertained for discussion towards the end of the committee, include :

a. Draft Resolutions;
b. Press Releases;

c. Working Papers;
d. Presidential Statements;
e. Joint Statements, etc.
7. The Format for each of these documents will be shared and discussed by the Executive Board during and after the training session (refer to point 2). With this, the EB wishes you all the luck for your participation in the committee and will be available at all points of time before, and on the days of the conference, to help you out.

Wishing you all a very warm good luck and looking forward to a constructive debate at the
conference! In case of any doubts, feel free to reach us via email or social media.

Regards,
Executive board of UNHRC

Jigyassa Bagga / Chairperson
Gauri Wadehra / Vice- Chairperson

How to Read the Document

Documents are, contradictory to popular belief, not supposed to contain all the information on a certain topic. A good document consists of information that a delegate can use to gain basic information on the issue at hand and the links for further research that they must use to prepare for the final conference. All the information given in this document is from an unbiased perspective. The research can be done from any source as such, but make sure you cross-check your statements and speeches with these sources to be on the safe side. We encourage delegates to refer to credible sources to ensure that the information provided in the committee is genuine. Delegates are also strongly recommended to go through the entire articles cited and not just read the titles as it will help in your wholesome understanding and ensure that misquotations do not occur in statements.

Proofs and Evidence in the Council

While researching for the committee, keep in mind the credibility of the source you are using.

You can use all the sources for gaining information and studying different angles/ viewpoints,
but non-credible sources, won't be accepted by the Executive Board as proof and supporting
documents to your argument/ statement.
Evidence/proof is acceptable from the following sources:

➔ **News Sources**
◆ **REUTERS** - Any Reuters article which makes mention of the fact, or is in contradiction of the
fact being stated by a delegate in council.

(http://www.reuters.com/)

◆ **STATE OPERATED NEWS AGENCIE**S

These reports can be used in support
of or against the state that owns that news agency. These reports, if credible or
substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in
that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are :

● RIA Novosti (Russia) http://en.rian.ru/

● IRNA (Iran) http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm

● Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) http://cctvnews.cntv

➔ **Government Reports:** These reports can be used similarly as the state-operated news agencies' reports can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are -

◆ i. **Government Websites like the State Department of the USA**
(http://www.state.gov/index.htm) or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm)

◆ ii. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations** like India
(http://www.mea.gov.in/), PRC (http://fmprc.gov.cn/eng/), France (http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/), Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)

◆ iii.**Permanent Representative to the United Nations Reports** (http://www.un.org/en/members/); Click on any country to get to the aims Office of its Permanent Representative website.

◆ iv. **Multilateral Organisations** like the NATO (http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm), ASEAN (http://www.aseansec.org/), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc..

➜ **UN Reports:** All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

◆ UN Bodies: Like the SC (http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/), GA (http://www.un.org/en/ga/),HRC (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx), etc...

◆ **UN Affiliated Bodies** like the International Atomic Energy Agency (http://www.iaea.org/), World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org/), International Monetary Fund (http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm), International Committee of the Red Cross (http://www.icrc.org/eng.index.jsp), etc...

◆ iii. **Treaty Based Bodies** like the Antarctic Treaty System(http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm),
The International Criminal Court (http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC)
Under no Circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (http://www.wikipedia.org/), Amnesty International (http://www.amnesty.org/), Human Rights Watch (http://www.hrw.org/) or Newspapers like The Guardian (https://www.guardian.co.uk/), Time of India (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/), etc. be accepted as PROOF but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a Government.

Research Guide For Beginners

Research is possibly the most intimidating yet most important part of preparing for any Model
United Nations conference. Without proper preparation, not only are representatives unable to accurately represent their country's position in a global scenario but they also restrict themselves from gaining the most out of the memorable MUN learning experience. A delegate's aim at a MUN conference is to most faithfully represent their country's stand on a certain issue being debated, and to do this, thorough research is needed. It goes beyond retelling speeches of national leaders and requires a genuine understanding of national policy, as only this can provide the basic foundation of role-playing at the MUN. Here you will learn methods and tips for researching, understanding your country's perspective and policies, and writing your position paper using critical information. Three Levels of Research For any Model United Nations conference, your

research should focus on a top-down approach on three levels which goes from the general to the specific, although the areas will naturally overlap on several occasions. The idea is to research each area thoroughly to develop a proper understanding of your country and the issues that will be discussed. The three levels are :

1. The UN system;

2. Country Information and;

3. The Assisted Agenda.

A. THE UN SYSTEM

Interestingly, this is an area that is often overlooked when researching for a MUN conference. MUNs aims to recreate the United Nations and so it is imperative that to do so, you know what the UN is, what it does and how it functions. Successful and proactive participation in the simulation requires a level of understanding of the United Nations organization itself, regarding structures, functions, and protocols. The more conferences you attend, the less time you will find yourself spending on this aspect since the only new research required is if you are going to a committee you've never been in before. Delegates need to familiarise themselves with:

● The UN Charter: https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html
● The history of United Nations;
● The main bodies and committees of UN;
● The functioning of your committee;
● The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/;
● Your country's history within the UN, its role, and reputation. Information on this can be found on the websites of the permanent mission of the UN to your country;
● Recent UN actions about your country or the agenda – including statements, press releases, publications, resolutions, etc... Although there are countless publications and documents on the United Nations, the best source to study about the United Nations is the UN itself.

Below are a further collection of useful links:
● www.un.org
● http://www.un.org/en/members/index.shtml
● www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/online.html
● http://www.icj-cij.org/
● http://treaties.un.org/Home.asp

B. COUNTRY INFORMATION
Build a knowledge base of your country - delegates must be aware of their assigned country's historical, geographical, political, economic, social, and environmental aspects.

Build a country profile on your government – what systems, ideologies, political parties, and leaders represent your country? What is your country's foreign policy and how is this affected by important historical and domestic aspects? Who are your allies and your adversaries? What other bilateral, regional, and international organizations is your country a part of?

After building a basic profile, you must study your country's broad stand on global issues,

particularly at the UN. Develop a basic understanding of your country's voting pattern, its involvement in the UN – speeches given by leaders and delegates of your country at the UN, and resolutions/treaties it has been a part of.

- http://www.countryreports.org/
- http://www.un.org/esa/national.htm
- http://countrystudies.us/
- www.un.org/popin/data.html

You may also wish to visit the national embassy of your country as it is the best source of information and research for sources that are not as readily available. It is the best way to get first-hand information on your country and where it stands on various issues. It could also allow you to interact with a real diplomat from the country you're representing, and pick up tips on how they carry themselves and respond to questions.

C. ASSISTED AGENDA

This will form the bulk of your research – it will be what is used directly in committee sessions. You will be informed of the agenda of issues to be discussed at the MUN by your organizers before the conference A thorough study of the tabled topic for debate and discussion concerning your country, the UN, and the world as a whole will aid you to properly represent your country and actively participate in the simulation. You will be provided a study guide for your assigned agenda by your MUN committee, which you should use as your starting point. Within your agenda topic, the three areas that must be covered are:

A. Background

After the background guide, news articles relating to your topic can be a good place to find a brief overview of the most recent developments. While only verified news agencies such as Reuters and Al Jazeera are accepted in committee, news and op-ed articles can provide an entry point into deeper issues. However, you must be careful to look for writers' biases on the Internet in particular.

The next step is to look for resolutions and treaties that are relevant to the topic – the most recent resolution from the UN Documentation Centre should refer to the documents most central to your agenda. You must then look into your country's voting history on the matter, for indications on action, inaction, presence, and absence, looking for changing

policies and exploring their causal factors. Statements explaining votes can be found in records on the UN website.

B. DETAILS

Once your background research is done, you need to dive deep into the topic to understand the primary aspects and try to logically 'frame' the agenda into main sub-headings of sorts, under which all the important points can be organized. This can help you break down complex agendas into neatly manageable chunks, and score brownie points if your frame is accepted by the committee. It's important to make a clear distinction between facts, arguments based on those facts, and opinions, particularly when reading on the Internet. At this stage, sometimes as you're framing the problems, you're also coming up with innovative solutions to put in the proposal. Looking up the implementation of past resolutions is a helpful starting point, but op-eds, blog posts, local and international NGO reports, think tank papers, and academic papers will likely be more useful in shaping your ideas. Remember to focus on solutions that are politically, economically, and sustainably feasible.

C. Other Arguments

One of the most important lessons from MUNs is learning to accommodate differences – it is important to be aware of the arguments and facts used by those holding the opposite stand to yours. While as a delegate you are bound to espouse the views of your country, individually your opinions can be shaped through the push and pull of opposing ideas. Also, this research will help you logically counter the arguments put forth by radically opposed delegations, and bring the committee around to your point of view. In some conferences, delegates research countries other than their own to surprise other delegates with allegations and throw them on the back foot. Needless to say, this is not only undiplomatic but also entirely counter-productive to the cooperative purpose of the conference. While it is important to be aware of the policies of other countries, antagonistic behaviour can only harm the atmosphere of the committee and hamper consensus-building, and thus is discouraged. The most important part of research is being able to synthesize the data you've found in an organized way and identify the key pieces of information, including facts and figures, which you can use to illustrate and defend your position. If your country plays a central role in the agenda topic, it becomes all the more important to be able to explain your actions. Finally, all your research comes down to being able to justify your position, explain your ideas and convince the other delegates that these are the most valuable approaches to solving the problem.

The Mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations1, through which States discuss human rights conditions in the UN Member States2. The Human Rights Council was established in 2006 by Resolution 60/2513 as a subsidiary body to

the UN General Assembly. It replaced the former Commission on Human Rights, which operated from 1946 to 2006. The Council's mandate is to promote "universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all" and "address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon." The Human Rights Council has created or renewed the mandates of various "special procedures." The special procedures are experts appointed to monitor human rights around priority themes or in specific countries with serious human rights problems. The special procedures may be individual experts ("special rapporteurs" or "independent experts") orworking groups. General Assembly Resolution 60/251 explicitly acknowledges that "non-governmental organizations play an important role at the national, regional and international levels, in the promotion and protection of human rights" and further determines that the Council should work "in close cooperation in the field of human rights with Governments, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society."

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS4
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A5) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages. It extends to a length of 30 Articles. The Universal Declaration begins by recognizing that 'the inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace of the world.' It declares that human rights are universal- to be enjoyed by all people, no matter who they are or where they live. The Universal Declaration includes civil and political rights, like the right to life, free speech and privacy. It also includes economic, social and cultural rights, like the right of social security, health and education. It is an expression of the fundamental values shared by all member of the international community. And it has profound influence on the development of international human rights laws. It provides a guide to present action and an evolving set of ideas for future implementation at the national level. Increasingly, the UDHR's principles have been embodied in what states do and it

5https://undocs.org/A/RES/217(III).
4 https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/