



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
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What Is
UN Model?

MUNCH

CHAPEL HILL

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The Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this guide is to inform you on the expectations of MUNCH in regards to the basics of what Model United Nations is, and how to conduct yourself at a Model United Nations conference.

What is Model United Nations?

Best Delegate defines Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, as “an extra-curricular activity in which students typically roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees”. (<https://bestdelegate.com/what-is-model-united-nations/>) However, MUN can be much more than that. Conference such as MUNCH allow students to debate as countries, as well as historical figures or modern visionaries in mock crisis scenarios to test a delegates ability to think quickly on their feet. Model United Nations ultimately boils down to the art of persuasion and negotiation, or, in other words, diplomacy!

Five Stages of MUN

You can breakdown the Model UN process down into **five main stages**:

RESEARCH --> DEBATE --> NEGOTIATE --> RESOLUTION --> ACTION

Model UN Etiquette

Let's talk formalities. When debating at a MUN conference, it is common procedure to speak in the 3rd person. MUNCH actually encourages delegates to conform to this practice, so refrain from using “I” when speaking. Take the time to immerse yourself into the role you have been assigned. It is important that when you debate, you are not reflecting any personal beliefs; it is important to represent your country. It is common to

begin speaking with the phrases “the delegation/delegate of [insert country] argues...” or even a simple “we believe...” However, this rule can change for crisis committees. When the role you have been assigned for a committee is indeed a person, and not a country, please refer to yourself with “I,” as you essentially becoming that person for the purposes of the conference.

At a Model UN conference, delegates are given the opportunity to address an assembly of 20 to 100 individuals, allowing you to develop your public speaking skills. Public speaking can seem daunting at first; however, we encourage you to take the first step to make motions and points and in committee to get comfortable. When speaking, ask delegates to come talk to you during an unmod if they share your country’s values, or to send you a note so you can find each other during an unmoderated caucus. Remember that everyone in committee is there for the same reason: to learn! A great idea for getting comfortable with public speaking would be to prepare an **opening speech**. Regardless of when in it happens in the start of committee, every delegate’s first time speaking in front of committee is called their opening speech. Many times (especially in General Assemblies or in General Assemblies PLUS) your opening speech will occur during the Speakers List. The Speakers List is basically a list that a country can motion to be added on to and allows delegates to speak for an allocated time. The list goes on until there is a motion for formal debate in the form of a moderated caucus or other motion. There will be more on points and motions in our **Parli Pro Guide**. But going back to opening speeches: feel free to write it down and read it from the paper if it helps you! A good opening speech should have an interesting hook that attracts the attention of the delegates in the room, should establish your point clearly and concisely, and should end with some call to action that will leave the room thinking about your speech. This format is often called “hook-point-action.”

A common hook used by Model UN delegates includes beginning a speech with “Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,” or some variation. Make sure to grab the room’s attention by projecting your voice and maybe employing the use of a thoughtful quote/provocative question/statistic/short story. When establishing an important point, you want to make sure you are clearly communicating one main point where you share your country policy. Depending on your speaking time, you may choose to include 2 or 3 supporting points, however remember that quality is always better than quantity. In regards to action, tell the audience exactly what they should do. This can be a physical action/way to show support for a policy or a directive that someone is writing. Finally, it

is courteous to end with a thank you.

When you have the time before committee starts, speak to other delegates and take the time to introduce yourself and your country. Speaking in front of people is always easier and more comfortable if you see familiar faces. Additionally, this helps with building blocs later. As committee progresses, take note of countries or positions that share a similar stance to you. Consider geographic (regions/neighbors), economic (MDCS/LDCS), political, security allies (NATO), and religious (Islamic Arab States) similarities. Making these connections can help you form a group of delegates that may vote in favor of directives you write or support (called a voting bloc).

Public Speaking Style Notes

There are always several adjustments you can make to your body language to help be a more convincing public speaker. Remember to be yourself above all else, but feel free to take some of the following points under consideration the next time you speak:

- Make eye contact! Try to not look at the floor. Hold papers low, and maybe pick 2 people on opposite sides of the room and alternate looking at them, or in their direction so it appears that you are addressing the entire room
- Your hands should not be a distraction. Hold hands at sides, clasped, or hold papers against body. If you tend to move your hands around too much, look up the “hand diamond” and try to do that to see if it helps. Additionally, your palms have power. Open palms can be welcoming, but palms facing down help with keeping control.
- Please pause! Pausing does not make you come across as inarticulate. Take a second in between your sentences if you need to think instead of using filler words such as “um.” Don’t underestimate the power of dramatic pauses!
- Stand up straight! Try not to move your feet around too much and try to keep your legs shoulder-width apart or v-shaped- don’t shift your weight to either side.
- BREATHE.
- Maybe try alternating between speaking in higher pitch tone when needing to speak quickly with details, and lower when emphasizing key points and see if it works for you.
- Most importantly: speak passionately!

Bloc Diplomacy

You may find a form of “shuttle diplomacy” common at MUN conferences, especially in General Assemblies and GAPs at MUNCH. This basically means that as delegates are focusing on writing their resolutions, you have other delegates going between different blocs and comparing ideas to find a middle ground.

Once you have created a voting bloc of countries that share similar positions, you'll have several delegates focusing on writing the clauses. To learn more about the specifics of how to write a working paper or a directive, refer to our **Directives and Resolutions** guide. However, there are several roles that delegates who are not writing the clauses can take to help their working paper or directive get passed in the future. You may find yourself taking the role of the recruiter, “selling” the ideas of the resolution you support to others in the room to help secure votes. If developing talking points and explaining ideas in persuasive manners is your strength, this role may suit you. It is also important to visit other voting blocs and bring back information to your bloc. Do the other blocs have working papers that go against your ideas? Are the ideas similar? Is there something that you can do to address a concern another delegate has that will help make your paper pass? These are all questions to consider. **REMEMBER THE ART OF DIPLOMACY! YOU SHOULD BE LISTENING AS MUCH AS YOU ARE TALKING!** Keep in mind that other blocs will be coming to visit your bloc as well, while your writers are busy writing the clauses. You may find yourself serving as a “defender,” or explainer of the working papers ideas to others so the writer doesn't get distracted by having to answer questions. There is a role for everyone in MUN; play to your strengths, but take some opportunities to grow as a diplomat and step outside of your comfort zone.

Another key idea to remember that in most committees, the delegates are meant to work together to reach resolutions. While this may not be possible at all times, there are some steps you can take to ensure that working papers get passed and become resolutions! For example, if there are multiple voting blocs that share similar values, it would be in the favor of those blocs to create a voting alliance and vote to pass each other's working papers. You may even find it a better use of time to merge papers. If several different working papers have ideas in them that are overlapping, you can motion for an amendment to working papers. And finally, if there is a paper that simply goes against your country's values, the best you can do is to motion for an amendment or

simply vote against the paper. Ultimately, just remember this: the BEST delegate brings out the best in other delegates.

Preparation Checklist before MUNCH XX

1. Read the Background Guide. This seems obvious, but it is super important! Your committee's BG is essentially the barebones of what you need to know for your committee and it should establish an invaluable foundation of knowledge for you. Your committee's Chair, co-Chair, and Crisis Director worked hard on providing you with this asset.
2. Research your country/topic. If you are in a GA or GAP, look into actions that committee has taken in the past, and even the domain/sphere of influence that committee has on the world stage. If you are in a crisis committee, try to do more research on the time period or other people that will be in the committee. Background Guides will have a list of committee participants in the form of a roster so you know who to expect in committee.
3. Create a research binder!
4. Write a position paper! **NOTE: This is the only item on this checklist that is actually required by MUNCH XX in order to qualify for awards at the Closing Ceremony.** Please refer to the **Parli Pro Guide** for more details on how to write a position paper. Reminder: Ad-hoc committee delegates do not need to write a position paper, because they will have very limited time to prepare for their committee.
5. Write an Opening Speech! This helps you get rid of any butterflies if you are nervous about speaking in front of a room. Feel free to write something on a piece of paper or notecard to read from if that is how you convey messages better. Keep in mind that this is not the same as "pre-writing." When we say "pre-writing" is not allowed at MUNCH, we mean to say that you are not allowed to draft up directives, working papers, or crisis notes before you arrive to your committee room on the first day of the conference.