

## MUN Vocabulary List

### Essential MUN Terms

- **Background guide** - Written by conference organizers, it is a summary of important information for your committee topic and is the starting point for any Model UN Delegate.
- **Bloc** - A group of countries with either a similar geographic location or opinion on a certain topic.
- **Council** - An advisory body that meets regularly and serves in an administrative capacity.
- **Committee** - A body that is tasked with investigating, reporting, and acting on a particular issue.
- **Committee Session** - A meeting by a committee or Council that includes debate on the committee topic.
- **Debate** - Formal discussion on a particular topic where various opinions are expressed.
- **Delegate** - A student who is the representative for a particular state or person in a Model UN committee.
- **Delegation** - A team of students who are attending a conference from the same school.
  - **Head Delegate** - The lead student for a Model UN team.
- **Placard** - Signboard that shows who the delegate is representing, a delegate can raise it when they would like to speak.
- **Position Paper** - An essay that presents your delegation's assessment of a situation and how to fix it.
- **Vote** - The formal process by which delegates express their stance on a draft resolution, amendment, or motion.
- **Resolution** - A formal document that expresses the opinions or decisions of a committee on a specific issue.

## Conference Staff

- **Chair** - A member of the dais who moderates debate and enforces rules of procedure.
- **Dais** - The staff who administer a Model UN committee.
- **Secretariat** - The staff who organize a Model UN conference.
- **Secretary-General** - The head of the Secretariat and of the entire conference.

## Resolutions

- **Amendment** - A change or addition made to a draft resolution before it is voted on.
  - **Friendly Amendment** - Amendment that is accepted by all sponsors.
  - **Unfriendly Amendment** - Amendment that is not accepted by all sponsors and requires a vote to be included.
- **Clause** – Statements that make up a resolution.
  - **Preambulatory Clauses** - The sections of a resolution that outline the background and reasons for the action.
  - **Operative Clauses** - The sections of a resolution that outline the specific actions to be taken in response to the issue.
- **Division of the Question** – A clause-by-clause vote on a resolution.
- **Draft Resolution** - A proposed resolution that is being discussed but has not yet been adopted by the committee.
- **Sponsor** - A delegate or group of delegates that is the principal author of a draft resolution or amendment and supports it.
- **Signatory** - A delegate who signs a draft resolution to bring it to the floor for debate, but may not necessarily agree with the content of the resolution.

## Procedural Terms

- **Abstain** - Deciding to not vote on a particular matter. This is generally understood as not supporting a resolution enough to vote for it, but not being opposed enough to vote against it either.
- **Adjourn** - Suspending the debate for a particular committee session; discussion can be resumed in the next scheduled session.
- **Agenda** - The order in which issues will be discussed; delegates can suggest topics for the agenda through motions.
- **Caucus** - An opportunity to discuss policy ideas.
  - **Moderated Caucus** - Discussion that is moderated by the committee chair on a particular sub-topic.
  - **Unmoderated Caucus** - Discussion where delegates can move around the committee room and have more informal discussions on their committee topic.
- **Decorum** - The standard of respectful behavior, professionalism, and orderly conduct expected from delegates in a committee. It includes following rules of procedure and staying constructive and diplomacy in discussions. The chair is responsible for upholding decorum throughout the sessions.
- **Flow of Debate** - The term used to break down the stages of a MUN conference. A committee session moves along a 4-step process (Opening Debate, Organizing Priorities, Debating the topic, Solving the problem).
- **Motion** - Raised by delegates, used to discuss procedural matters and help to further the discussion of the committee topic. The appropriate Motions change depending on the stage in the Flow of Debate.
  - **Dilatory Motion** - A motion that seeks to delay or disrupt the flow of debate and is typically ruled out of order by the chair.
- **Point** - Raised by delegates, used to discuss issues outside of substantive debate.
- **Quorum** - The minimum number of delegates required for votes to pass in a Model UN committee.

- **Right of Reply** - A delegate's ability to respond to a direct attack on their country's policy made during debate.
- **Roll Call** - Takes place at the start of a Committee session; the Chair counts the number of delegations in the Committee room to determine the Quorum.
- **Rules of Procedure** - The rules that govern how a Model UN committee is run.
- **Right of Reply** - A delegate's ability to respond to a direct attack on their country's policy made during debate.
- **Speakers' list** - A list that determines the order for Delegates to speak; when the Chair calls for new speakers, Delegates can raise their placard to be added.
- **Tabling** - A motion to postpone debate on a resolution or topic, effectively removing it from consideration at that time.
- **Veto** - The special ability held by the 5 Permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) to block any substantive resolution.
- **Yield** - A rule that allows a delegate to give up the remainder of their speaking time to another delegate, the chair, or questions.