

## Tips for Preparation for an MUN

Broadly, preparation can be categorized into:

- Topic Research
- Country Research
- Learning the Rules of Procedure
- Learning the Mandate of the Committee
- Working Papers/Resolutions
- Miscellaneous

### **TOPIC RESEARCH:**

To gain a general knowledge of the topic:

Read up about the agenda of your committee. That may involve scouring the web for articles pertaining to the topic. Find out about the status quo in the world regarding the given agenda. This is essential, as all facets of the topic should be known by you to avoid being lost in committee. Remember though, that only articles by websites having a .org or .gov domain can be quoted in committee. Regional news agencies cannot, so be careful about which of these articles you quote.

The worldwide opinion on it:

If you have the time, try to find out other countries' stance with respect to the agenda in question. This will help you know which country's delegates you should approach to form diplomatic alliances. Chairs seem to pay special attention to these kinds of things, and it is better for you to start off with a few alliances.

Previous UN Resolutions:

These go a long way in helping you understand the kind of outcome document you can aim for, as well as helping you quote facts in committee, which shows you have done your research. This overlaps with status quo on the agenda too, so it is an important aspect of topic research.

### **COUNTRY RESEARCH:**

Find out your country's foreign policy. This should not be limited to foreign policy pertaining to the current agenda, as many delegates commonly do. Discussions in a committee often lead to areas not directly related to the agenda, and as such you should know your country thoroughly. Also, your country's economic status almost always comes in handy, so do check that out.

### **LEARNING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE:**

RoPs, as Rules of Procedure are commonly known, are extremely important to the functioning of a committee. They lay out how a committee will function. All formal terms are mentioned in the RoPs. Know your RoPs, as a mistake here can be very embarrassing.

UNA-USA: <http://munual.org/guide-to-una-usa-rops/>

UN4MUN : <http://munforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/UN4MUN.pdf>

THIMUN : <http://munual.org/guide-to-thimun-rops/>

### **COMMITTEE MANDATE:**

All discussion is pointless if you do not know your committee's mandate. Mandate specifies what your committee can do in terms of constructive action. Most committees are advisory bodies, whose outcome documents are reviewed by the UNGA. So before making a suggestion about an action that your committee may or may not have the power to implement, be sure to check the mandate of the committee.

### **WORKING PAPERS/RESOLUTIONS:**

Another important aspect, this is the outcome of the committee. Know how to draft a working paper or a resolution, and DO NOT make any errors here. It looks really bad, and can destroy all the good work you've done up until then.

Resolution: <http://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/>

Working paper: <http://bestdelegate.com/making-the-most-of-working-papers-in-model-un/>

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Prepare a position paper and a GSL speech for the committee. It goes a long way to document your research, and a good opening speech gets you noticed by everyone in the committee.

Be confident every time you speak, and don't be afraid to speak. It's not a classroom, getting recognized by the chair should be your primary goal here.

Interaction via chits is also critical. You won't be able to speak all the time, so use those chits to voice your opinion to other delegates. Critical chits should be sent via EB, so that they note your interaction as a plus point.

Even during breaks, do not sit idle and watch everyone else interact. Use your time wisely, inside and outside of committee. Informal interactions go a long way in helping you out in the formal part of the MUN.

Last but not the least, remember to enjoy!!! It's an educational experience, but that need not stop you from having fun. 'You're Cute!' chits are common you know! :p