

Resource Guide for Organizing Model United Nations Conferences that Address Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and Other Aspects of the Rule of Law

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This Resource Guide is an aid for organizers of and students taking part in Model United Nations conferences that address crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law.

It has been prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as part of the [Education for Justice](#) initiative to further knowledge of crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law in schools and universities.

The Resource Guide comprises seven sections relating to core topics, an introduction and information on useful resources. All of the sections can be accessed using the menu below.

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What this Guide can help students and organizers achieve

This Resource Guide for Model United Nations conferences comprises seven main sections, the issues contained in which speak directly to some of the most pressing challenges people face on a daily basis, such as corruption, organized crime and terrorism.

By including these topics in a Model United Nations simulation, organizers and students can deepen their knowledge of these issues and the intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations that regularly address these topics.

Furthermore, the Guide can help organizers to:

- Come up with new and interesting topics for Model United Nations conferences that cover crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law;
- Pick and choose the most appropriate intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations to simulate given a certain topic, bringing variety to the Model United Nations;
- Draft their own rules of procedures for these bodies, adapted from the rules used in the United Nations context;
- Find resources to deepen their knowledge of issues relating to the rule of law.

Crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law for Model United Nations

Organizers of Model United Nations conferences will find on this page a wide range of topics relating to crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law that can be used in simulations.

The topics are listed according to the mandates of the main intergovernmental bodies and the frequency with which they are discussed in connection to these mandates. The topics are:

- Corruption
- Organized crime
- Firearms
- Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

Corruption

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. It undermines democratic institutions, erodes economies and contributes to political instability. Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes and hindering the rule of law.

There is a near-universal understanding that States should endeavour to counter corruption so that stable conditions and good governance can prevail. This is evident through the adoption of the [United Nations Convention against Corruption](#), to which almost all States Members of the United Nations are parties.

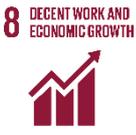
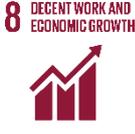
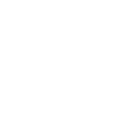
Another example of the importance attached to corruption lies in the existence of specific targets within [Sustainable Development Goal 16](#). Target 16.5 calls on States to “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”, while Target 16.4 addresses illicit financial flows and 16.6 focuses on developing “effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

Benefits of bringing corruption-related topics to a Model United Nations conference

- Participants can learn more about different national approaches to the issue of corruption, including different negotiation strategies used by Member States.

- Participants can gain an insight into how corruption affects different areas of social and economic development.
- Discussions can focus on preventive measures and successful experiences in addressing corruption.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals

		 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	✓ Corruption and sustainable development
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	✓ The impact of corruption on human rights
		 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	✓ The role of the media in the fight against corruption
			 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	✓ Bribery in law enforcement agencies
			 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	✓ The role of civil society (or the participation of society) in countering corruption
				✓ Corruption in sporting events
				✓ Protection of whistle-blowers
				✓ Access to information and corruption
				✓ Corruption in the private sector
				✓ Corruption and gender
				✓ Corruption and poverty

Resources on corruption

Please see page 51.

Organized crime

Organized crime is one of the most interesting forms of criminal behaviour. Amped by popular fictional portrayals in *The Godfather*, *Sopranos* and other books, television programmes and movies, it can be difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.

Organized crime is worthy of close scrutiny and careful analysis, because there is something inherently more dangerous about crimes committed by groups of people, in terms of the organization and scope of the criminal activity and the potential for serious harm.

What is organized crime?

Organized crime is defined by the nature and motivation of the group that commits the act, rather than by the specific types of crimes committed. In other words, organized crime functions as a criminal enterprise that rationally works to profit from illicit activities that are often in great public demand, such as trafficking in drugs, firearms and even persons.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provides a definition of an organized criminal group according to the following criteria: a structured group of three or more persons; that exists for a period of time; and acts in concert with the aim of committing at least one serious crime; to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

Organized crime and its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals

Organized crime affects the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in a number of direct ways:

- It hampers the promotion of well-being for all and insurance of healthy lives (Goal 3) through increased narcotic drug usage as a consequence of drug trafficking as well as the production and trafficking of falsified medical products.
- Criminal practices in the fishing industry are among the greatest threat to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment, and thus represent a significant obstacle to achieving Goal 14.
- Criminal syndicates have become one of the greatest threats to the environment today, as wildlife and forest crime has escalated significantly. Tackling wildlife and forest crime is fundamental to effectively achieve Goal 15.
- It increases violence, insecurity and harm to civilian populations. Its infiltration of states and political processes threatens the legitimacy of institutions and undermines the rule of law. In this way, organised crime practically inhibits the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development thus posing serious obstacles to the achievement of Goal 16.

Benefits of an organized crime-related simulation

An organized crime-related simulation would teach students about the elements and characteristics of organized crime in its various forms and manifestations. The simulation could reproduce the deliberations in the context of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention and/or its Working Groups. Students would have to use the appropriate rules and procedures while defending policy positions that will be previously distributed to them.

For example, discussion could focus on the following:

- Organized crime and gender;
- The nexus between organized crime and terrorism or organized crime and corruption;
- The use of cyberspace in organized crime;
- Emerging crimes such as wildlife crime, trafficking in cultural property or falsified medical products.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals



- ✓ New and emerging forms of organized crime
- ✓ Assistance to victims and protection of witnesses of organized crime
- ✓ Organized crime and terrorism
- ✓ International cooperation in the fight against organized crime
- ✓ Trafficking in cultural property
- ✓ Money-laundering and organized crime
- ✓ Wildlife and forestry crime



Resources on organized crime

Please see page 52.

Firearms

Trafficking in firearms and ammunition has been for long been a major concern for the international community and was fully recognized by the United Nations Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms in 2001.

The Firearms Protocol provides the legal definition for trafficking in Art 3 (e) as the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition from or across the territory of one State to that of another State if any one of the States concerned does not authorize it in accordance with the terms of Protocol or if the firearms are not marked in accordance with article 8 of this Protocol.

Combating trafficking in firearms is a major goal of the international community as such trafficking has a profound impact on peace and security. It undermines good governance and disrupts trade, tourism and investment. It jeopardizes economic development and generally puts democracy and development at risk.

The Sustainable Development Goals and combating trafficking in firearms

The United Nations General Assembly recognized the need to enlarge the scope of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and included next to the traditional development goals reference to issues, which influence underdevelopment, including violence and insecurity.

Member States strive to achieve it by focusing on one SDG target (16.4) that commits States to significantly reducing illicit arms flows by 2030. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the custodian of the achievement of that target. To achieve this target, countries need to put in place a comprehensive firearms control regime to prevent diversion and trafficking from happening, and effective criminal justice systems to detect, investigate and prosecute those crimes and their links to organized crime.

By addressing firearms trafficking, students will be able to comprehend the challenges in establishing the trafficking offence and gain understanding about the skills, knowledge and resources required to combat trafficking in firearms. In addition, the various positions of Member States will provide them with challenging opportunities to seek consensus in the midst of competing positions.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goal



- ✓ Armed conflict and small arms proliferation
- ✓ Armed violence and security
- ✓ Arms embargoes
- ✓ Corruption and firearms flows
- ✓ Diversion of arms
- ✓ Civil society participation and oversight of firearms control
- ✓ Destruction of confiscated and seized firearms
- ✓ Investigation and prosecution of firearms-related crimes

Resources on firearms

Please see page 52.

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people by improper means such as force, fraud, deception, abuse of power or abuse of a position of vulnerability, with the aim of exploiting them.

Smuggling of migrants involves the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national or resident.

Virtually every country in the world is affected by these crimes. The challenge for all countries, richer and poorer, is to target the criminals who exploit vulnerable people, including through effective international cooperation, and to protect and assist victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, many of whom endure unimaginable hardships in their bid for a better life.

How the Sustainable Development Goals are targeting trafficking in persons

Through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 (A/RES/70/1), the international community has committed itself to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to the provision of access to justice for all and to the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16).

In doing so, we have collectively committed to combat all forms of organized crime (16.4), including trafficking in persons. We have further to this, specifically promised to take immediate and effective measures to:

- Eradicate trafficking in persons (8.7) and end the abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (16.2);
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (5.2);
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (10.7).

Targets 5.2, 8.7, 10.7 and 16.2 specifically address the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants within the context of violence against women, safe and orderly migration and violence against children.

However, many of the SDG targets and goals are relevant to addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, crimes that are deeply rooted in development issues including poverty, education, gender and the effects of climate change.

Benefits of bringing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants into a MUN conference

- Participants can learn more about different approaches and policies by Member States, including regional variations;
- Participants can learn about these complex issues, how they relate to organized crime, migration, refuge and the challenges of protecting victims' rights;
- Participants can learn about the difference between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, which are too often confused by the media as well as by the general public
- Participants can learn about the different categories of vulnerable migrants in the context of large movement of migrants and refugees, including victims of trafficking and their specific protection needs
- Participants can learn about the different types of responses to counter these crimes and the strength related to the use of a criminal justice response in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals



- ✓ The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking



- ✓ Violence against smuggled migrants
- ✓ Measures to criminalize smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

- ✓ The role of organized criminal groups in the smuggling of migrants

Resources on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

Please see page 53

Cybercrime

Cybercrime is an evolving form of transnational crime.

The complex nature of the crime as one that takes place in the border-less realm of cyberspace is compounded by the increasing involvement of organized crime groups. Perpetrators of cybercrime and their victims can be located in different regions, and its effects can ripple through societies around the world, highlighting the need to mount an urgent, dynamic and international response.

What is cybercrime?

There is no international definition of cybercrime or cyberattacks. Offences typically cluster around the following categories:

- Offences against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems;
- Computer-related offences;
- Content-related offences;
- Offences related to infringements of copyright and related rights.

Broadly, cybercrime can be described as having cyber-dependent offences, cyber-enabled offences and, as a specific crime-type, online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

- Cyber-dependent crime requires an information and communications technology infrastructure and is often typified as the creation, dissemination and deployment of malware, ransomware, attacks on critical national infrastructure (e.g. the cyber-takeover of a power-plant by an organised crime group) and taking a website offline by overloading it with data (a DDOS attack).
- Cyber-enabled crime is that which can occur in the offline world but can also be facilitated by information and communications technology. This typically includes online frauds, purchases of drugs online and online money laundering.
- Child sexual exploitation and abuse includes abuse on the clear internet, darknet forums and, increasingly, the exploitation of self-created imagery via extortion - known as "sextortion". We do not use the term "child pornography" as this creates a

value judgment upon innocent children. You can read more about why language is important in the Luxembourg Guidelines [here](#).

Combating cybercrime and the Sustainable Development Goals

While there is no specific Sustainable Development Goal to address cybercrime, it can be seen as an obstacle to achieving a number of targets, such as those under Goal 16, which relate to violence and other forms of crime, such as corruption and arms trafficking (Targets 16.1, 16.4, 16.5).

In addition, certain criminal activities can be facilitated by information and communications technology, such as the recruitment of victims of trafficking in persons (target 10.8) or sexual exploitation of women, which would characterize a form of violence against women (target 5.2).

By choosing to have cybercrime as a Model United Nations issue, participants can:

- Obtain more knowledge about the different phenomena relating to cybercrime, such as cyber-dependent, enabled and specific crime types;
- Increase their understanding of Member States' efforts to address cybercrime in intergovernmental fora;
- Increase their knowledge of best practices and ways in which Member States and society can cooperate to address cybercrime.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals



- ✓ The question of cyberbullying
- ✓ Online sexual exploitation of children
- ✓ Use of the Internet for terrorist purposes
- ✓ Prevention of cybercrime and other illicit uses of the Internet
- ✓ Cyber-enabled financial crimes
- ✓ Hacking and national security

Resources on cybercrime

Please see page 53

Terrorism

Terrorism continues to pose a major threat to international peace and security and undermines the core values of the United Nations. In addition to the devastating human cost of terrorism, in terms of lives lost or permanently altered, terrorist acts aim to destabilize governments and undermine economic and social development.

Addressing this threat is that much more difficult given the complex and constantly evolving nature of terrorist activity. Its motivations, financing, methods of attack and choice of target are constantly changing. Terrorist acts often defy national borders; one act of terrorism can involve activities and actors from numerous countries.

Given this complexity, strong coordination and cooperation within national governments and between states and organizations at the regional and international level is essential to effectively combat terrorism, to share best practices and lessons learned and to assist with the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases.

Combating terrorism and the Sustainable Development Goals

The causes and consequences of terrorism are related to many of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the one with the most direct relationship is Goal 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

Indeed, Target 16.A specifically mentions terrorism in the following manner: "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime".

A simulation would introduce students to the complexity of the issue and the number of cross-cutting issues that arise when approaching specific case facts, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the importance of gender mainstreaming and the evolving nature of technology.

It is also likely that a simulation would demonstrate the importance of cooperation and coordination, which is a fundamental tenet of the United Nations approach to terrorism prevention.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals



- ✓ Human rights and counter-terrorism



- ✓ Protection of nuclear materials
- ✓ Hate speech and terrorism
- ✓ Online recruitment of terrorist fighters
- ✓ The right to privacy and counter-terrorism
- ✓ Financing of terrorism
- ✓ Protection of victims of terrorism
- ✓ Prosecution of terrorism-related cases
- ✓ Countering violent extremism

Resources on terrorism

Please see page 53.

Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

Strengthening the rule of law relies on the prevention of crime and the promotion of fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems.

Crime prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.

The criminal justice system encompasses the work of the police, prosecution and judiciary with regard to criminal matters, as well as the access to legal aid, prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment and restorative justice. It also includes cross-cutting issues, such as gender, human rights and the considerations for victims and children within the criminal justice system.

How crime prevention and criminal justice reform is linked to the SDGs

This area is directly linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which unequivocally establishes the link between rule of law, justice, and sustainable development.

Specifically, criminal justice and the rule of law are at the core of SDG 16, though other Goals also address these issues, such as SDG 5 and its specific target on violence against women (target 5.2).

Model United Nations help students learn about the criminal justice systems, especially the difference in their principles in different countries and how United Nations standards and rules for criminal justice and crime prevention can be applied by Member States.

Suggested topics for a Model United Nations conference and related Sustainable Development Goals



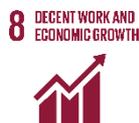
✓ Violence and poverty



✓ Access to health care in prisons



✓ Access to education in prisons



✓ Rehabilitation of prisoners



✓ Gender and the criminal justice system



✓ Measures to prevent violence against women



✓ Violence against children

✓ Discrimination in the criminal justice system

✓ Relations between police and young people

✓ Alternatives to imprisonment

✓ Access to legal aid and pretrial detention

Resources on crime prevention and criminal justice

Please see page 51.

Crime prevention, criminal justice, the rule of law and the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, States Members of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Since the work of the United Nations is driven by these Goals, Model United Nations conferences should proactively address and link to them. Most, if not all, of the topics discussed in conferences are directly or indirectly related to at least one of the Goals.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly affirms that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. It draws together the strands of peace, the rule of law, human rights, development and equality into a comprehensive and forward-looking framework.

Reducing conflict, crime, violence and discrimination, and ensuring inclusion, stable conditions and good governance are key elements of peoples' well-being and essential for securing sustainable development.

Security and justice are a means to achieving improvements in poverty reduction, reversing inequality and enhancing effective governance. Both must be a core part of any global development agenda. Given the links between major global risks such as corruption, fragile States and economic disparities, a systematic approach is required. Through the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Member States recognized the importance of justice and the rule of law within the wider social sustainable development framework.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Model United Nations conferences

Below you will find information on how each of the Sustainable Development Goals is linked to possible topics for discussion at Model United Nations conferences within the framework of crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law.

1 NO POVERTY



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Corruption and poverty
- Violence and poverty

2 ZERO HUNGER



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Access to health care in prisons

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Access to education in prisons

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Corruption and gender
- Gender and the criminal justice system
- Measures to prevent violence against women
- Human rights and counter-terrorism
- The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking
- The question of cyberbullying

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Impact of corruption on human rights

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Corruption and sustainable development
- The impact of corruption on human rights
- Rehabilitation of prisoners

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- The role of the media in the fight against corruption

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- The impact of corruption on human rights
- Human rights and counter-terrorism

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- Protection of nuclear materials

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Protection of nuclear materials



Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- Wildlife and forestry crime
- Protection of nuclear materials



Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Bribery in law enforcement agencies
- The role of civil society (or the participation of society) in countering corruption
- Corruption and sustainable development
- The impact of corruption on human rights
- Corruption in sporting events
- Protection of whistle-blowers
- Access to information and corruption
- Corruption in the private sector
- Corruption and gender
- Corruption and poverty
- Violence against children
- Violence and poverty
- Discrimination in the criminal justice system
- Relations between police and young people
- Access to health care in prisons
- Access to education in prisons
- Rehabilitation of prisoners
- Alternatives to imprisonment
- Gender and the criminal justice system
- Measures to prevent violence against women
- Access to legal aid and pretrial detention

- New and emerging forms of organized crime
- Assistance to victims and protection of witnesses of organized crime
- Organized crime and terrorism
- International cooperation in the fight against organized crime
- Trafficking in cultural property
- Wildlife and forestry crime
- Money-laundering and organized crime
- Armed conflict and small arms proliferation
- Armed violence and security
- Arms embargoes
- Corruption and firearms flows
- The role of the media in the fight against corruption
- Diversion of arms
- Civil society participation and oversight of firearms control
- Destruction of confiscated and seized firearms
- Investigation and prosecution of firearms-related crimes
- The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking
- Violence against smuggled migrants
- Measures to criminalize smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons
- The role of organized criminal groups in the smuggling of migrants
- Online sexual exploitation of children
- The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes
- Prevention of cybercrime and other illicit uses of the Internet
- The question of cyberbullying
- Cyber-enabled financial crimes
- Hacking and national security
- Hate speech and terrorism
- Human rights and counter-terrorism
- Protection of nuclear materials

- Online recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters
- Countering violent extremism
- The right to privacy and counter-terrorism
- Financing of terrorism
- Protection of victims of terrorism
- Prosecution of terrorism-related cases



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice

The United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice present an interesting opportunity for Model United Nations to concentrate simulations on crime prevention and criminal justice topics within a single body.

The crime congresses have contributed to shaping international and domestic policies, and promoted novel thinking and approaches to complex issues at the heart of one of the key areas of the modern State: the criminal justice system. They have made a considerable impact on the field of international crime prevention and criminal justice, and influenced national policies and professional practices.

The history and purpose of United Nations crime congresses

The crime congress was established by the General Assembly in 1950 as the result of a resolution that transferred the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission to the United Nations, on the condition that a congress on penitentiary matters should be convened by the United Nations every five years. The first Crime Congress was held in Geneva in 1955, when the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners were adopted. Since then, crime congresses have been held every five years in different parts of the world, dealing with a vast array of topics.

The crime congresses provide a truly global forum for countries, international organizations, academia, civil society and the media to collaborate and discuss how crime prevention and criminal justice are integral to sustainable development and promoting the rule of law, as well as the successes and challenges that have been experienced in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies. Moreover, one of the

strengths of the crime congresses is their ability to address emerging trends, in terms of both emerging crime manifestations and best practices.

The Thirteenth Crime Congress and the Doha Declaration

The Thirteenth Crime Congress, held in Doha in 2015, marked the sixtieth anniversary of the crime congresses. The Thirteenth Crime Congress took place at an important historical juncture at which issues such as the rule of law and the finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals were taking centre stage globally.

Its outcome, the *Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation*, set the tone for future work and gave direction not only to the work in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice for the next five years and beyond, but also to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Functions

According to General Assembly resolution 46/152, the crime congresses, as a consultative body of the programme on crime prevention and criminal justice, provide a forum for:

- The exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines;
- The exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development;
- The identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice;
- The provision of advice and comments to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on selected matters submitted to it by the Commission;
- The submission of suggestions for the consideration of the Commission, regarding possible subjects for the programme of work.

Unique characteristics

The United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice are global forums that bring together the largest and most diverse gathering of policymakers, practitioners and experts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. They are held only once every five years and a declaration is adopted at the end of each congress.

Participation

A distinct feature of the crime congresses is the fact that participation is diverse because representatives of all States Members of the United Nations are invited to take part, along with individual experts from academia and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, United Nations entities, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, and the media.

Participation in the crime congresses is governed by the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

The [centres and institutes](#) that are part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network also take part, as do other entities such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This diversity ensures a broad range of perspectives and views on crime prevention and criminal justice, which are taken into consideration in the outcome document.

Observer States and intergovernmental organizations

Crime congresses are also open to the participation of States that are not Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations with observer status (information on permanent observers is available [here](#) and details on intergovernmental organizations are available [here](#)). These participants have the following rights:

- To participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the congresses, their committees, subcommittees and working groups and, as appropriate, in their other subsidiary organs (rule 54 of the rules of procedure).

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations may participate in crime congresses according to the stipulations of rule 58 of the rules of procedure:

“Non-governmental organizations invited to the Congress may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Congress, its committees, subcommittees and working groups”.

For instance, this right entails the possibility of submitting background documents and written statements.

Participation is restricted to those organizations having [consultative status with the Economic and Social Council](#).

Individual experts

Individual experts and consultants in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders may be invited to crime congresses in their individual capacity and may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations, according to rule 59 of the rules of procedure. This rule also states that, in inviting such experts, the principle of equitable geographical representation should be taken into consideration.

Experts include human rights advocates, lawyers, university professors and researchers. They can prepare documentation of their own, which is presented as background documents for crime congresses.

Outcome document: the congress declaration

Crime congresses adopt a single political declaration, which contains recommendations based on discussions at the various segments of the congress. The name of the Declaration includes the name of the city where the Congress took place (for example, the Doha Declaration). Declarations are not considered treaties or resolutions. They are not legally binding.

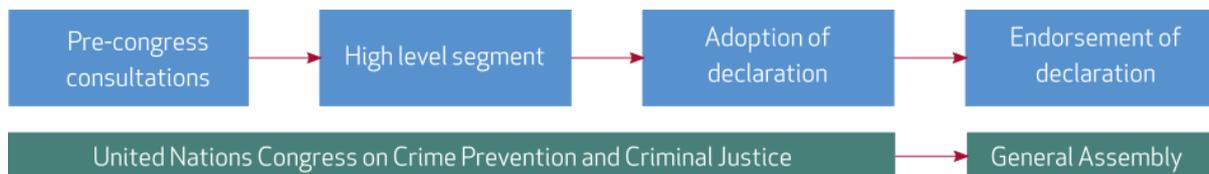
Structure

With the support of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the theme, agenda items and workshop topics of each crime congress are determined by the General Assembly, while the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice deals with a number of organizational and substantive matters.

In its resolution 56/119, the General Assembly defined some details regarding crime congresses, including duration, periodicity and the different modalities in place for participation. The structure of the work of the crime congresses is outlined as follows:

- Preparatory meetings are held at the regional level a year in advance of the congress. At these meetings, issues for discussion are examined and recommendations are adopted for consideration during the congress.
- Pre-congress consultations occur on the days before the actual congress, in conformity with established practice. These consultations allow for the election of the President and other officers, the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the allocation of items and the organization of work.
- Each congress should include a high-level segment during which States should be represented at the highest possible level and should be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the congress. In the case of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, this segment was divided into six meetings, in which around 100 high-level officials (usually at the ministerial or ambassadorial level) made statements.

- After the high-level segment, there are plenary meetings on agenda items and workshops on specific issues. The workshops begin before the plenary, which allows a flow of information from the workshops to the agenda items.
 - Workshops deal with the topics of the congress, maintaining an open dialogue with the participants and avoiding the reading of statements. In the workshops, panels of experts are assembled to support the discussions among those present.
 - At the high-level plenary, heads of delegations or their representatives participate in a number of thematic interactive round tables in order to further the discussion on the topics of the congress through an open dialogue.
- Upon the invitation of the President of the congress, the declaration is formally adopted by consensus.
- The declaration is subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly.



Topics for discussion

- Corruption
- Organized crime
- Firearms
- Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. It sets up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights, and such other commissions as may be required for the performance of its functions (article 68 of the Charter).

Thus, in its resolution 1992/1, upon the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 46/152, the Economic and Social Council established the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as one of its functional commissions, which also acts as a subsidiary body.

Functions

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice meets every year in Vienna. It is the principal policymaking body within the United Nations system on crime prevention and criminal justice issues.

In accordance with the “Statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme”, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/152, the Commission has the following functions:

- To provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
- To develop, monitor and review the implementation of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme.
- To facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the institutes for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, affiliated to the United Nations.
- To mobilize the support of Member States for the programme.
- To prepare for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.
- To consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work.

In addition to strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions, during its regular session, the Commission considers a number of standing items, including:

- The integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as United Nations standards and norms;
- Global crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

- Matters relating to previous United Nations congresses and upcoming ones.

In its resolution 46/152, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme would provide States with practical assistance, such as data collection, information- and experience-sharing and training, to prevent crime within and among States and to improve responses to it.

Moreover, in its resolution 61/252, the General Assembly enabled the Commission to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

Unique characteristics

One of the distinctive features of the work of the Vienna-based commissions, namely the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, is the application of the Vienna consensus, an informal practice used in negotiations on draft resolutions.

The Vienna consensus promotes extensive negotiations on each resolution and encourages commitment from all parties involved to achieve the support of all States and to adopt resolutions on the basis of consensus.

A voting procedure is, in principle, possible, as provided for in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. It is, however, not regularly used, in the light of the Vienna consensus and the spirit of cooperation among Member States.

Participation

Participation is governed by the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, which apply to all the subsidiary bodies established by the Council.

Aside from Commission members, non-Member States and non-governmental organizations can attend. Other participants include the centres and institutes that are part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, and special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on issues of relevance to the work of the Commission.

States members of the Commission

The Commission is composed of 40 States members. The distribution of seats follows common and usual practice within United Nations bodies, and is done on a regional basis (12 for Africa, 9 for Asia, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 for Eastern Europe and 7 for Western Europe and other States). According to General Assembly resolution 46/152 and

Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1, half of the membership is elected for a term of three years.

A list of current members of the Commission can be found [here](#).

Non-member States

Member States that are not members of the Commission can take part in the proceedings. While there are a number of restrictions for non-members, a large number of Member States that are not members of the Commission usually participate in its sessions.

Member States that are not members of the Commission do not have the right to vote. They are, however, able to submit proposals that may be put to the vote on request of any member of the Commission or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Non-members also engage in informal negotiations on resolutions that are adopted by way of the Vienna consensus. The seating arrangements reflect the composition of the Commission: its members are seated at the front of the conference room, in alphabetical order, followed by non-members and other observers at the back of the room.

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations having [consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations](#) are also present at the Commission.

They may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs. Moreover, the Commission may consult with such organizations, and they are usually heard by the Commission after Members have spoken.

Outcome documents

The main outcomes of the Commission are the [resolutions](#), as is the case for the majority of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. Virtually all the resolutions are adopted by consensus. If no consensus is reached, the proposed text is usually subject to negotiations until agreement is reached or the text is withdrawn.

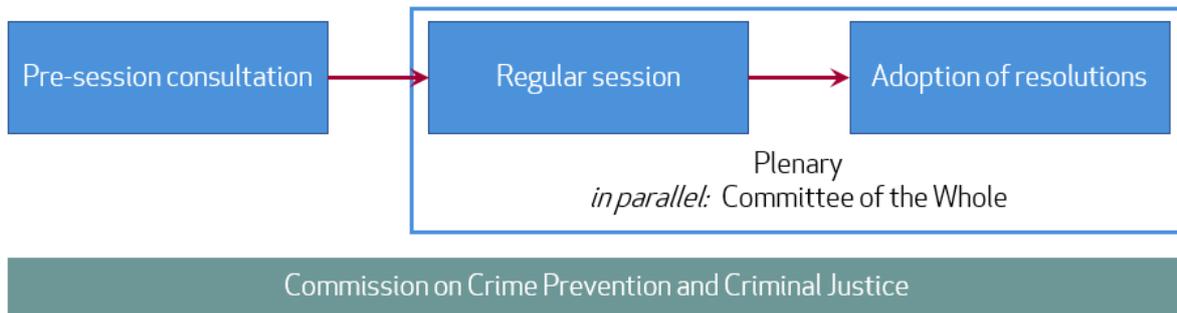
The Commission may also recommend draft resolutions either for adoption by the Economic and Social Council or for approval by the Council and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly.

All the resolutions and decisions adopted or recommended by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council through reports adopted by the Commission at the end of each session. The reports also include summaries of the deliberations that took place.

Structure and conduct of work

The work of the Commission is governed by the *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council*. The structure of the work of the Commission is outlined as follows:

- The reconvened session of the Commission is usually held in December to consider strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions. At the end of the reconvened session, the following session is opened for the purpose of electing its Bureau.
- The Bureau of the Commission is composed of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. These officers of the Bureau are elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
- A group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and a representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union assists the Chair of the Commission.
- Pre-session consultations usually take place on the last working day before the start of the regular session of the Commission.
- The regular session of the Commission takes place in Vienna over five days towards the end of the first part of the year (usually in May).
- At the beginning of the regular session, the Commission adopts its agenda and programme of work.
- The Commission also holds a discussion on a theme, with introductory statements and statements from representatives of Member States, observers and expert panellists.
- Action on agenda items involves the adoption of resolutions, which are the main outcomes of each session, and of decisions, which for the most part deal with procedural matters.
- As in other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and in accordance with established practice, the Commission first considers draft resolutions in the Committee of the Whole. This Committee meets in parallel with the plenary before such proposals are submitted to the plenary for adoption in the last day of the session. No debate or discussion on any proposal can take place before copies of such a document are circulated among Member States, although informal consultations normally take place before that.



Topics for discussion

- Corruption
- Organized crime
- Firearms
- Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the leading international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.

The Convention was created to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively. It does not define “transnational organized crime”, but it does define the term “organized criminal group” and obliges parties to criminalize specific types of conduct.

What is an organized crime group?

Article 2 (a) of the Convention defines an organized criminal group as a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with the Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

What is serious crime?

The Convention also defines a “serious crime”, which is a conduct constituting an offence with a possible maximum punishment of at least four years of imprisonment, or a more serious penalty.

The word “transnational” is used because criminal activities are not restricted to national borders. According to the Organized Crime Convention, transnational means any of the following:

- The crime is committed in more than one State.
- A substantial part of the crime’s preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State.
- The crime involves an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State.
- The crime has substantial effects in another State.

Parties to the Organized Crime Convention are obliged to establish domestic criminal offences for participation in an organized criminal group, laundering of proceeds of crime, corruption and obstruction of justice. Parties are to adopt measures to enable the confiscation of proceeds of crime and property related to these offences. Parties also commit themselves to adopting new and comprehensive frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation, and to promote training and technical assistance.

Supplemental protocols of the Organized Crime Convention

The Organized Crime Convention has three supplemental protocols that include additional provisions that are relevant for these types of crimes:

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Functions of the Conference

The objective of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

Article 32 (3) of the Convention provides examples of mechanisms that can be used by the Conference to reach its objectives, including:

- Facilitate activities by States parties for training and technical assistance, implementation of the Convention, and prevention, including by encouraging the mobilization of voluntary contributions.
- Facilitate the exchange of information among States parties on patterns and trends in transnational organized crime and on successful practices for combating it.
- Cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations.
- Review periodically the implementation of the Convention.
- Make recommendations to improve the Convention and its implementation.

Unique characteristics

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the most comprehensive body dealing with transnational organized crime within the United Nations.

One of the most distinct features of the Conference is the existence of the working groups that have been established to deal with specific issues relating to the Convention or its protocols. For instance, the working groups dedicated to the protocols of the Convention have been very active in promoting the ratification and implementation of those instruments.

Attendance

Attendees at the Conference are made up of participants and observers. Their status is governed by the *Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*.

Aside from the States parties, which are the actual participants, a number of observers attend the conference including:

- The signatories and non-signatories;
- The United Nations Secretariat (along with programmes and funds of the United Nations, and the centres and institutes that are part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network);
- International organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime acts as the secretariat of the Conference.

States parties

The States parties are those that have ratified or acceded to the Organized Crime Convention, which includes most Member States.

Rule 12 of the rules of procedure for the Conference states that “each State Party participating in a session shall be represented by one representative, who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers as the State Party may require”.

A full list of States parties to the Convention and its Protocols can be found [here](#).

Observer States

The Conference of the Parties may be attended by States that are not States parties to the Organized Crime Convention. However, these States do not have the same rights as the States parties.

States that have signed the Organized Crime Convention but have not ratified it have the following rights, under rule 14 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*:

- To attend meetings of the Conference.
- To deliver statements.
- To receive documentation.
- To submit their views in writing.

- To participate in the deliberative process.

States that have neither signed nor ratified or acceded to the Organized Crime Convention may also take part, but with limited rights. According to rule 15 of the rules of procedure, they can do the following:

- Attend plenary meetings of the Conference.
- Deliver statements (if invited by the President).
- Receive documentation.
- Submit their views.

A list of possible observer States can be found [here](#).

Observer non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations with [consultative status with the Economic and Social Council](#) and those without such status can apply to be observers, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure for the Conference.

They cannot take part in the adoption of decisions on substantive and procedural matters, but can attend the plenary meetings, make oral statements, provide written reports and receive documentation.

Outcome documents

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has the following [outcome documents](#):

- Decisions: these decisions deal with procedural matters.
- Resolutions: these resolutions address technical matters within the scope of the Convention. The rules of procedure state that States parties should make every effort to adopt resolutions by consensus. To date, all resolutions have been adopted by consensus at the Conference, despite the existence of rules for voting procedures. When no consensus is reached, the text is either amended or withdrawn.
- Report: these [reports](#) contain summaries of the deliberations.

Structure and flow of debate

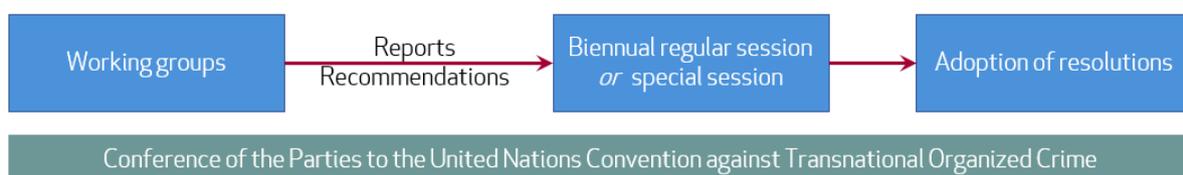
The work of the Conference is also governed by the [rules of procedure for the Conference](#).

At the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Conference Support Section of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch is the secretariat and the focal point for the Conference. Coordinating with other parts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

the Section provides substantive and technical support to the Conference prior to, during and after its sessions.

The structure of the work of the Conference is outlined as follows:

- All parties to the Convention are invited to participate in the Conference, which holds a session every two years in Vienna. As explained, States signatories and non-signatories can attend as observers.
- The provisional agenda, which includes organizational and substantive matters, is approved at the previous session.
- The first activity of the Conference at its session is to adopt the agenda, after the election of officers, who are nominated in accordance with the principle of geographical rotation.
- There is a general discussion, during which time is allowed for States to make statements on matters of a general nature that are related to the implementation of the Convention and that may be of interest to the Conference.
- Deliberations afterwards include the review of the implementation of the Convention and its protocols.
- Deliberations are also held on issues such as international cooperation, new and emerging crimes, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters.
- Over the years, the Conference has established working groups as consultative bodies to focus on specific areas, hold substantive discussions on practical issues, make recommendations that are submitted to the Conference for further decision-making and assist in the implementation of the mandates with regard to the Convention itself and its protocols. These working groups meet at various times during the year and can meet concurrently with the regular sessions of the Conference. They forward their reports and recommendations to the Conference. The concurrent working groups submit the recommendations that they adopt to the Conference for endorsement by means of a draft resolution.



Topics for discussion

- Organized crime
- Firearms
- Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- Cybercrime

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding global instrument on countering corruption. The Convention against Corruption's far-reaching approach and geographical coverage make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem.

Its purpose is to:

- Promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively.
- Promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery.
- Promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.

The vast majority of Member States are States parties to the Convention against Corruption. States parties must prevent and combat corruption through a range of policies and practices, including legislative ones.

The main areas of the Convention against Corruption

- Prevention: an entire chapter of the Convention is dedicated to prevention, with measures directed at both the public and private sectors.
- Criminalization and law enforcement: countries are required to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption, if these are not already crimes under domestic law.
- International cooperation: countries are bound to render specific forms of mutual legal assistance in gathering and transferring evidence for use in court to extradite offenders.

- Asset recovery: there is a specific chapter on asset recovery, aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners, including countries from which they had been taken illicitly.
- Technical assistance and information exchange: there are measures to promote technical assistance and the exchange of data and other relevant information between States parties.

Functions of the Conference

The objective of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption is to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States parties to achieve the objectives set forth in the Convention.

Among the activities, procedures and methods of the Conference, the following are established in the Convention (article 63(4)):

- Facilitating activities by States parties, including encouraging the mobilization of voluntary contributions.
- Facilitating the exchange of information among States parties on patterns and trends in corruption and on successful practices for preventing and combating it, and for the return of proceeds of crime through, inter alia, the publication of relevant information.
- Cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations, and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations.
- Making appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.
- Reviewing periodically the implementation of the Convention by its States parties.
- Making recommendations to improve the Convention and its implementation.
- Taking note of the technical assistance requirements of States parties with regard to the implementation of the Convention and recommending any action it may deem necessary in this respect.

Unique characteristics

The Conference is the largest and most widely represented discussion forum on corruption within the United Nations. It is the ideal format for anyone who would like to carry out a Model United Nations entirely focused on corruption issues.

One distinct feature of the Conference is the mandate to create intergovernmental working groups to deal with specific issues under the Convention against Corruption. Agenda items

considered in these groups and in the Conference are technical in nature, which leads to quite substantive discussions and recommendations.

Attendance

Conference attendees comprise participants and observers. Their status is governed by the rules of procedure for the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Aside from the States parties, a number of observers attend the conference including:

- The signatories and non-signatories;
- The United Nations Secretariat (along with programmes and funds of the United Nations, and the centres and institutes that are part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network);
- International organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime acts as the secretariat of the Conference.

States parties

States parties are those that have ratified or acceded to the Convention.

Rule 12 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption says that each State party participating in a session may be represented by one representative, who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers as the State party may require.

As of 15 July 2017, the Convention against Corruption had 182 parties. The list of States parties to the Convention can be found [here](#).

Observer States

The Conference may be attended by States that are not States parties to Convention against Corruption. However, these States do not have the same rights as the States parties.

States that have signed the Convention against Corruption but have not ratified it have the following rights (according to rule 14 of the rules of procedure for the Conference):

- To attend meetings of the Conference.
- To deliver statements.
- To receive documentation.

- To submit their views in writing.
- To participate in the deliberative process.

States that have neither signed nor ratified the Convention may also take part, but with limited rights. According to rule 15 of the rules of procedure, they can:

- Attend plenary meetings of the Conference.
- Deliver statements.
- Receive documentation.
- Submit their views.

A list of possible observer States can be found [here](#).

Observer non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations having [consultative status with the Economic and Social Council](#) and those that do not have such status can apply to be observers, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure for the Conference.

They cannot take part in the adoption of decisions on substantive and procedural matters, but can attend the plenary meetings, make oral statements, provide written reports and receive the documentation.

Outcome documents

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption has the following outcome documents:

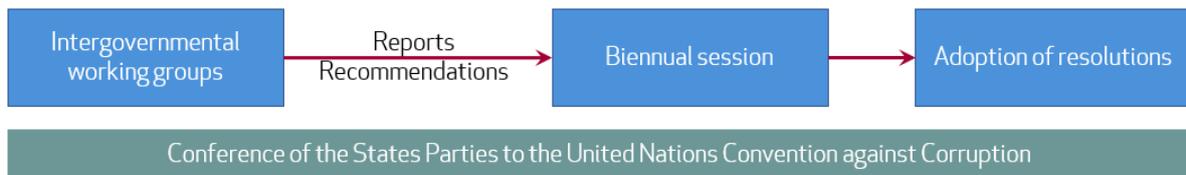
- Decisions: conference decisions deal with procedural matters.
- Resolutions: resolutions address technical matters within the scope of Convention against Corruption. The rules of procedure express that States parties must make every effort to adopt resolutions by consensus. To date, all resolutions have been adopted by consensus at the Conference, despite rules for voting procedures also existing. When no consensus is reached, the text is either amended or withdrawn.
- Report: conference reports contain summaries of the deliberations.

The outcome documents from previous conferences can be found [here](#).

Structure and flow of debate

The work of the Conference is governed by the [rules of procedure for the Conference](#). The structure of the work of the Conference is outlined as follows:

- All States parties to the Convention against Corruption are invited to participate in the Conference, which holds a session every two years in a city chosen by the host country.
- The provisional agenda, which includes organizational and substantive matters, is usually approved at the previous session.
- The first activity of the Conference at one of its sessions is to adopt the agenda, after the election of officers, in line with the principle of geographical rotation.
- There is a general discussion, during which time is allowed for States to make statements on matters of a general nature that are related to the implementation of the Convention against Corruption and that may be of interest to the Conference.
- Deliberations afterwards include the review of the implementation of the Convention and other substantive issues.
- Action by the Conference includes the consideration and adoption of resolutions after a statement on the financial implications of such adoption.
- Informal consultations on the resolutions are usually held in parallel throughout the event, without interpretation.



Topics for discussion

- Corruption

Rules for simulating the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice bodies

To make it easier for Model United Nations organizers to simulate one of the intergovernmental bodies highlighted in this Resource Guide, Education for Justice has drafted suggested rules for adaptation and inspiration.

These rules provide for a simplified version of how these bodies work. They can be used in simulations of any size and were created to allow for adaptation by the various formats used by Model United Nations conferences.

Some rules might not be applicable given the particular characteristics of Model United Nations events and because of timing and other variables that must be taken into consideration at the planning stage. With these factors in mind, the following rules are suggested to allow for a more accurate simulation, reflecting the actual proceedings at the United Nations.

Rule 1: Provisional agenda

The organizing committee or secretariat of the simulation shall draw up the provisional agenda for the session and submit it with related documentation. Such communication and transmission should take place well in advance, before the simulation begins.



The provisional agenda contains a list of issues or topics, general and/or particular, in the order in which they are going to be discussed, as well as the order of the session as a whole, including organizational matters that are not to be considered when simulating these bodies but are relevant in the actual meetings of the United Nations.

Rule 2: Bureau

Before the beginning of the simulation, the organizing committee or secretariat will choose members of the Bureau that will be in charge of the conduct of business and the application of these rules. The Bureau will be composed of a Chair (or President), a Vice-Chair (or Vice-President) and a Rapporteur.

The Chair (or President) is responsible for the procedural functions of the simulation and for ensuring that these functions are carried out in an efficient and smooth manner. The Vice-Chairs (or Vice-Presidents) assists in this regard. The Rapporteur maintains the list of speakers and the order of draft resolutions and amendments, verifies vote counts, takes the roll-call and performs and keeps track of other administrative duties as required.



The Bureau is usually called the “dais” in traditional Model United Nations conferences. It is usually composed of the more experienced students in such conferences. In the United Nations, the selection of the members of the Bureau is not made by the Secretariat. Moreover, in the congresses and the conferences, the head of the Bureau is called a President and, accordingly, Vice-Chairs are called Vice-Presidents. Organizers may choose to, and are encouraged to, use the denominations related to each particular body.

Rule 3: Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of the simulation, the agenda for the session must be adopted, on the basis of the provisional agenda referred to in rule 1. During the session, the agenda may be revised by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during the session.



In traditional Model United Nations conferences, the first part of the simulation usually involves a “motion to set the agenda”, after which a debate occurs to propose and place agenda items.

Rule 4: Representation of States

Each State shall be represented by a delegation that consists of not more than two delegates who will speak and/or act on behalf of their country, reflecting their foreign policy. Members of the Bureau will not act as delegates of any State.

In the case of the Conference, States signatories of a Convention that are not yet parties (in the case of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) or States parties (in the case of the United Nations Convention against Corruption), can participate in the Conference as observers, without the right to vote or to take part in the adoption of resolutions. They can also not draft or sponsor them. Seating arrangements should consider the nature of observer States and reflect the difference vis-à-vis other States.



In most conferences or simulations, observers are granted the same privileges of other States but do not have voting rights. In the actual meetings of the United Nations, observer States usually sit in the back of the room, in an area that is specifically for that purpose.

Rule 5: Other participants

Here, organizers may describe the rules applicable to other types of participants.

Representatives of organs or specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations holding consultative status with the Economic and Social Council can participate in the simulation as observers,

without the right to vote or to take part in the adoption of resolutions. They can also not draft or sponsor them. Seating arrangements should consider the nature of this category of participants and the difference vis-a-vis other States such as observer States.



For the purpose of the simulation, this list of non-governmental organizations with consultative status might be useful for the organizing committee or secretariat. In the actual meetings of the United Nations, these participants usually sit at the back of the room, in an area specifically designated for that purpose.

Rule 6: Role of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat

The Secretary-General of the simulation shall act in this capacity in all meetings. She or he may designate a member of the Secretariat to act as his or her representative, will lead the conference staff and will be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for the meetings.

The Secretary-General may make written or oral statements concerning any question and may call the attention of the delegates and meet privately with the Bureau to revise the proper application of these rules and/or to review the course of the debate. The Secretariat will distribute, publish and circulate as appropriate, preferably using electronic tools, every document required. It may perform other duties that may be required before and during the meetings.



The Secretary-General shall not directly guide the discussions but is entitled to provide some direction and guidance to participant delegates, whenever needed.

Rule 7: Public meetings

Unless it is decided otherwise and except in the case of consultations, the meetings of the simulation shall be held in public, which means anyone is able to observe the proceedings, depending on the seating capacity of the location or room where such meetings take place.



The public nature of the meetings implies that any member of the organizing committee or secretariat can be present, as well as members of the media and the general public. Recordings of the proceedings are also allowed during public meetings.

Rule 8: Quorum

A simple majority of the delegates shall constitute a quorum or the minimum number of delegates that need to be present to begin the session.



In some traditional Model United Nations conferences, in order to at least proceed with the debate, only a quarter of the delegates is needed to have a quorum.

Rule 9: General powers of the Chair (or President)

The Chair (or President) shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, grant the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions.

The Chair (or President), subject to these rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings and over the maintenance of order at the meetings. She or he shall rule on points of order. She or he may propose the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the delegate of each State may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.



This is not an exhaustive list of powers since others might be applicable given the nature of the meetings, at the discretion of the organizing committee or secretariat.

Rule 10: Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may at any time raise a point of order to indicate an improper procedure or the incorrect application of these rules. It cannot be used for factual errors or for any other purpose. This point shall be decided immediately by the Chair (or President) in accordance with these rules. A delegate may appeal against the ruling of the Chair (or President). A delegate may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.



For instance, a point of order could be raised if a delegate is speaking about an issue or topic not currently under discussion. As one of the main differences vis-a-vis traditional Model United Nations conferences, in the actual meetings of the United Nations there are no “points of personal privilege” or “points of parliamentary inquiry”.

Rule 11: Speeches

No one may address the Congress, Commission or Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the Chair (or President).

List of speakers

A list of speakers shall be made with the order of speakers. The Chair (or President) shall prepare this list and call upon speakers in the order in which they signal their desire to speak

by raising their country name plates or placing them vertically, or submitting a proper request in writing to the Bureau.

Purpose of the speeches

The debate shall be confined to the issue or question before the Congress, Commission or Conference, and the Chair (or President) must call a speaker to order if the remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Delivering the speeches

Speeches can be made either seated or standing, depending on the preference of the Chair (or President). Speeches cannot reflect personal or private ideas, views or opinions but need to be in line with the position of the State in question.

Speaking time

The time allocated to speakers (and the number of times a delegate of each State may speak on any question) may be limited. Interventions on procedural questions shall not exceed one minute or, ideally, 30 seconds. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Chair (or President) shall call the delegate to order without delay.



In many of the meetings of the United Nations and in some traditional Model United Nations conferences, the list of speakers is shown on a screen along with a timer. Usually there is a default speaking time but this is at the discretion of the organizing committee or secretariat, depending on the nature, length and complexity of the simulation. Delegates may also be entitled to propose a limit to the length of speeches.

Rule 12: Closing of the list of speakers

During the course of a debate the Chair (or President) may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Congress, Commission or Conference, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the Chair (or President) shall encourage further debate or declare the deliberations closed.



It is the responsibility of the Chair (or President) to encourage participation by all delegates. Accordingly, all delegates should speak at least once.

Rule 13: Right of reply

The right of reply shall be accorded by the Chair (or President) to the delegate of any State who requests it either in writing or with his or her country name plate, when his or her personal or national integrity has been affected or was insulted by another delegate.

Delegates should attempt, in exercising this right, to be as brief as possible and preferably to deliver their statements at the end of the meeting at which this right is requested.



Usually the use of this right of reply is restricted to very serious offences or inappropriate comments made by a delegate regarding another one or his or her country or political leadership of it.

Rule 14: Motions

Motions are specific actions requested by delegates to direct the debate in a certain direction or, more broadly, for the Congress, Commission or Conference to do something. The motions shall have precedence in the following order: (a) to suspend the meeting; (b) to adjourn the meeting; (c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion; and (d) to close the debate on the item under discussion.

Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of an agenda item, a delegate may at any time request the suspension of the debate to proceed to consultations as per rule 16. The request shall include the purpose for and the length of the suspension. The request is not debatable and must be put immediately for consideration to the delegates.



In some of the traditional Model United Nations conferences, this implies a call for a “moderated caucus” or an “unmoderated caucus”, both of which do not exist in the meetings of the United Nations.

Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of an agenda item, a delegate may at any time request the adjournment of the meeting for the purpose of resuming such meeting at the time proposed by the Chair (or President) or arranged by the organizing committee or secretariat of the simulation. It can also be used at the end of the simulation when the proceedings are over.



This could be used, for instance, to proceed to lunch or for any other activity proposed by the organizing committee or secretariat.

Adjournment of the debate

A delegate may also at any time request the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. If granted, deliberations on that item cannot take place during a specified period of time. The request is not debatable and must be put immediately for consideration to the delegates.



In this case, it is understood that the debate on the item under discussion is not exhausted but, instead, can later be resumed, for instance after the consideration of another item.

Closure of the debate

The closure of debate on the item under discussion means that no further deliberation can be made on this item at any time. A delegate may at any time request this closure, whether or not another delegate has signalled her or his wish to speak. The request is not debatable and must be put immediately to the delegates for consideration.



In this case, it is understood that the debate on the item has been exhausted and cannot be resumed.

Rule 15: Consultations

If the debate has been suspended as per rule 14.1, consultations among States can take place. During consultations, the application of these rules of procedure shall be suspended but proper decorum must be present at all times.

Decorum implies the use of diplomatic language and an adequate tone, respect among delegates and the order of the session. If such decorum is missing, the Chair (or President) may call the delegates to order. Consultations must be held in private as per rule 7 and can be either formal or informal, the latter being used mostly for line-by-line review, as per rule 18.1.



One of the purposes of consultations could be the drafting of a resolution or a substantive discussion that cannot take place during the formal debate. Whenever possible during the simulation, these consultations should take place first and foremost within regional, political and collaborative blocs or groups of countries that already exist in the United Nations (such as the G77 and China).

Following common practice and to ensure proper negotiation, consultations must be held away from public attention, and delegates, if they wish to do so, may appoint among them someone to chair the discussions. Consultations are similar to the concept of caucuses, which are prominently used in most of

the traditional Model United Nations conferences, when they are considered as a brief recess from formal proceedings so that delegates can work, in the case of an unmoderated caucus, together in small groups.

Rule 16: Draft resolutions

Draft resolutions shall normally be submitted in writing to the Chair (or President) and should be the result of the discussions during the simulations. Pre-drafted resolutions can be prohibited. The submission will take place once the debate and the consultations have been exhausted.

Format

Draft resolutions must contain the formal standard structure of these documents, which takes the form of preambulatory and operative clauses or paragraphs.

Sponsorship

A draft resolution must be sponsored by at least one State and may be co-sponsored by up to three States. A proposal may be withdrawn by its sponsor(s) at any time before action on such proposal has commenced.

Circulation

Proposals will be circulated among members of the Congress, Commission or Conference in the form of printed copies or using other methods as appropriate. After submission and circulation, proposals will be put to discussion and consideration.

Consideration

If two or more draft resolutions relate to the same question, they shall be considered or voted on in the order in which they were submitted. However, the Bureau will encourage delegates to present only one draft resolution. The Congress, Commission or Conference may, after the consideration of a draft resolution, decide whether to consider or vote on the next proposal.



In some intergovernmental bodies, draft resolutions are submitted some months prior to the session. This is the case for instance in the case of the Congress, for which such drafts must be submitted four months in advance.

Rule 17: Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, change, delete from or revise part of a draft resolution. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original draft resolution shall be

considered or voted on first and so on, until all the amendments have been considered or voted on.

Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to consideration or voted on. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended draft resolution shall then be considered or voted on.



The proposed amendments should specify in detail which part of the draft resolution is being modified. In traditional Model United Nations conferences, the terms “friendly amendment” and “unfriendly amendment” are used.

Rule 18: Consensus

Consensus should be the first option to adopt a motion or resolution and States shall make every effort to reach consensus when adopting resolutions or decisions. When no State requests a vote, the Congress, Commission or Conference may adopt proposals or motions without a vote, if no objection is heard or seen on the proposals or motions.

Line-by-line review

An important element of reaching consensus is the process in which draft resolutions are edited in a line-by-line review. The individual chairing consultations will ask for objections and specific changes from the delegates.

This implies that when every line or paragraph in the draft resolution is read aloud, delegates are asked if there are any reactions or recommendations to be made. Suggestions are written down and, if needed, later discussed in the “informal” consultations as per rule 15. This takes place as many times as required to reach consensus.



Most resolutions in the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations are adopted by consensus. This is a recommendation made by the General Assembly. In the Vienna-based bodies, the process is called the “Vienna consensus”.

Line-by-line review takes place in informal consultations (such as the Committee of the Whole in the Conference of the States Parties) and not in the plenary. In the final plenary, the Chair (or President) could use this formula or a variant of it:

“I understand/shall take it that the States have agreed to adopt this draft resolution. Are there any objections? Seeing none, it is so decided”.

More information on line-by-line review can be found in the drafting section of the Guide to the Model United Nations produced by the United Nations Secretariat.

Rule 19: Voting process

If consensus cannot be reached, a voting process takes place. Each State in the simulation shall have one vote.

Procedure

Voting will take place by show of hands or country name plates, as instructed by the Chair (or President). After the commencement of voting has been announced, no delegate may interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual voting procedure.

Roll-call vote

A delegate may request a roll-call, which if granted by the Chair (or President), shall be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of States represented, in the working language of the simulation. If this is the case, the Rapporteur will read aloud the names of each State. When a delegate's State is named, she or he will respond yes, no or abstain.

Division of proposals

Parts of a draft resolution shall be voted on separately if a delegate requests it. The parts that have been approved shall be put to the consideration of States as a whole.

Required majority

When voting on procedural questions, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the delegates present and voting. When voting on substantive questions such as on draft resolutions, decisions shall be made by a simple or qualified majority of the delegates present and voting, as accorded by the organizing committee or secretariat of the simulation.

Explanation of votes

If there is a voting procedure, up to two delegations may make brief statements consisting solely of an explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed.



In most of the meetings of the United Nations in which there is a voting procedure, except in the case of the Security Council, every State has access to an electronic voting system with coloured buttons (green, red and yellow)

that is used to record and show the vote of every State present, whether it is a “yes”, “no” or “abstain”.

The system is activated at the precise time of the voting procedure and is locked after a short period. At that time, a screen shows the outcome of the voting procedure.

Resources

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime mandate areas

Successful simulations of United Nations meetings, whether at the local, national or international level, require a great deal of preparation.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime website offers resources that can be accessed prior to and during a Model United Nations conference.

These resources are valuable for the organizers of these conferences and are especially useful when preparing study guides and reviewing position papers. They are also relevant for delegates representing the different Member States and for the teachers who are responsible for training the Model United Nations delegates.

Corruption

United Nations Convention against Corruption

Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Technical Guide to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation

Civil Society Guide: UNCAC and the Private Sector

Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)

Convention against Corruption country profile pages

Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Independence, Impartiality and Integrity of the Judiciary: A Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit

Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of Offenders

Handbook on Strategies to Reduce Overcrowding in Prisons

Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity

Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children

Organized crime

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime

The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment

Digest of Organized Crime Cases

Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC)

Firearms

Comparative Analysis of Global Instruments on Firearms and other Conventional Arms

The Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty: Divergence or Complementarity?

UNODC Study on Firearms 2015

Model Law against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

Technical Guide to the Implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Country Fact Sheets: Summary Data from Country Responses on Firearms Seizures and Trafficking

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling

[Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal](#)

[Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016](#)

[Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons: Addressing the Root Causes of Trafficking](#)

[Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases – Case Digest](#)

[Providing Effective Remedies for Victims of Trafficking in Persons](#)

[Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal](#)

[Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants: Understanding the Smuggling of Migrants](#)

Cybercrime

[Cybercrime Repository](#)

[Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime](#)

[Comments on the Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime](#)

[Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children](#)

[The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes](#)

Terrorism

[International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism](#)

[Preventing Terrorist Acts: A Criminal Justice Strategy Integrating Rule of Law Standards in Implementation of United Nations Anti-Terrorism Instruments](#)

[Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism](#)

[The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism](#)

General information

The United Nations offers a variety of other sources, such as [UN4MUN](#), developed by the Department of Public Information.

UN4MUN provides guidance on simulating the Security Council and the General Assembly. In the case of the General Assembly, it provides rules of procedure similar to those used in actual meetings, with a focus on consensus.

If you are looking for tips on preparing for a Model United Nations conference, [Best Delegate](#) has useful resources.

[Editing of resolutions at the United Nations](#)

[Dag Hammarskjöld Library](#)

[Official Document System of the United Nations](#)

[United Nations Bibliographic Information System \(UNBISNET\)](#)

[United Nations Info Quest \(UNIQUE\)](#)

[United Nations Terminology Database \(UNTERM\)](#)

[United Nations meetings coverage and press releases](#)

[United Nations News Centre](#)

[United Nations PaperSmart](#)

[United Nations Treaty Collection](#)

[United Nations Web TV](#)