

2024

VičMUN

BEGINNER'S GUIDE

September 2024, Ljubljana



GimnazijaVič

Roles at MUN

Delegate

A delegate in a Model United Nations conference is a participant who represents a country other than their country of origin and discusses issues from the country's perspective, not from the delegate's perspective or point of view. In other words: During the conference, a delegate acts as an accredited diplomat of the nation or organisation they represent and debates on the topic of the committee/council to which they are assigned, always following the rules of procedure.

Delegates work together to draft resolutions aimed at achieving the best consensus not only for the interests of their country but also for the global community. They make speeches, contribute information, lobby, vote and write clauses and amendments to resolutions.

Each delegate is expected to study the issue they will be debating in their assigned committee before the debate. They can help you with the study guide that will be prepared and published before the event. Each delegate should write a Policy Statement. This is a brief but comprehensive statement of their country's policy on the issue. This can be called a Policy Statement or a Position Paper. The policy statement must be sent to the chair's email address by the due date. (For more information on writing a Policy Statement, see <https://sites.google.com/a/onlinemodelun.org/model-un/writing-a-policy-statement>)

For a more detailed description of the role of a delegate and the rules of MUN, see the Rules of Procedure.

For more information on how MUNs work, go to <https://www.un.org/en/mun> .

Chair

A chair is a designated member of staff responsible for the overall oversight of the council/committee to which they have been appointed. In the lead up to the conference, all chairs are responsible for preparing study guides, proofreading delegate position papers and general delegate preparation.

During the conference, chairs supervise all sessions of their committees and ensure that they run smoothly and in accordance with the rules of procedure. During the conference, chairs supervise all sessions of their committees and ensure that they run smoothly and in accordance with the rules of procedure. At VičMUN, each committee has a main chair and a co-chair.

Admin

All staff members play an important role in a MUN conference, as they are responsible for all errands during the sessions, such as passing diplomatic notes from delegate to delegate or dealing with technical issues.

An admin at a MUN conference is simply a helper. They have almost no responsibility, so this position is recommended for students who have not yet been delegates themselves and would like to see what a MUN conference is like. The main task of an admin varies as every conference is organised differently. It usually means delivering delegates' messages, distributing draft resolutions before they are discussed, and refilling delegates' empty cups. If someone from the organising team needs help, the admins are of course there to help.

How to prepare for an MUN

Take a few days before the Position Paper deadline to research the topic. First read the Study Guide you received along with your allocations. It should give you the basic insight into the situation. Some Study Guides also contain links to recommended articles or documents that you should read. However helpful, the Study Guide should not be your only source, so we strongly encourage you to do some research independently as well.

We advise you to make notes that will help you write your Position Paper and later participate in the committee.

How to write a Position Paper

Your position paper should be about 300 - 500 words long and provide the chairs with your country's understanding of the issue. Here is what it should include:

1. A brief outline of the issue
2. How is your country affected by the issue
3. Your country's relevant policies and actions taken by the government so far
4. References to relevant statistics, documents and quotes by government officials
5. References to previous resolutions and conventions that your nation has signed
6. What your country believes should be done about the issue

Submitting a Position Paper written by AI is strictly forbidden. This is why, this year, we will require delegates to state their sources at the end of the position paper.

An example of a Position Paper

Security Council

Topic: Global cybersecurity threats

Country: Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is concerned that the rapid developments in the field of ICT, while greatly beneficial for the development of societies, may result in an increase of criminal activities, which pose a threat to individuals, enterprises and even countries. This is why this delegation believes a new international legally binding treaty regarding cyber-security laws, that protects the countries from cybercrime is needed.

In a General Assembly in 2019 the Russian Federation, along many different countries passed a resolution to establish a new Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes (74/247). The committee strives to create a new international cybersecurity treaty, replacing the outdated and faulty Budapest Convention from 2001. The Russian Federation is, along with the People's Republic of China, one of the driving forces behind the development of the new convention and takes great pride in its proactiveness on the issue. On the 1st of September, the most recent draft of the convention, with amendments by Member States, which includes all areas of cybersecurity, that should be considered in a document of such importance.

As a country currently involved in a conflict, the Russian Federation would also like to note that cyberwarfare is becoming a significant aspect of warfare and even countries which are not engaged in any conflict could fall victim to advanced cyberterrorist attacks of similar nature. It believes that encouragement of innovation and investment in cybersecurity programmes is essential for a country.

The Russian Federation strongly believes that every Member State should contribute towards the goal of suppressing cybercrime and safeguarding cyberspace. It regrets the tendencies of certain Western countries to lay the majority of the blame on the larger Eastern countries, such as the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

Opening speech

Each delegate should prepare an opening speech for the first committee session. The purpose of the opening speech is to familiarise other delegates with the views of your country. For beginner delegates it is usually advised to just summarise their Position Paper to create an opening speech. Your opening speech should be a minute long and presented

interestingly enough, that it captures the other delegates' attention. It is important to create a good first impression.

How do I participate in the committee?

Please refer to the Rules of Procedure to learn how committee sessions work and how to participate in them.

What do I need for a VičMUN?

Most importantly, you need to research your topic well and submit your Position Paper in time. But what do you need to bring with you in your backpack? Here is a list that should help you pack.

- Laptop and charger (you are allowed to use your electronic devices and Internet during committee sessions, but please note that use of AI to write speeches is strictly forbidden)
- Notebook and pen (you will be provided with a pen and a smaller notebook when you arrive, however, if you tend to use a lot of paper during MUNs, we advise you also bring some paper on your own)

It is also important what you wear to an MUN. Formal or business attire is part of the MUN dresscode. This means that the most recommended outfit is a suit. Tracksuits, shorts, jeans and similar garments are not appropriate. Formal footwear is also encouraged, however, if you do not own a pair, please wear shoes that look most fitting and avoid running shoes, Crocs or hiking boots.

If you break the dress code, you will be penalised.