

Important Vocabulary

Vocabulary Word	Definition
Abstain	To decline the ability to vote for or against a proposal.
Adjourn	To end a meeting with the intention of resuming later.
Agenda	The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually set to the agenda.
Amendment	A change to a draft resolution that will be voted. It must be submitted to the Chair in writing.
Binding	Having legal force in UN member states. The ICJ and Security Council decisions are binding.
Bloc	A group of delegates that work together to write a working paper and/or amendments, usually having the same opinions on the topic.
Caucus	A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and regular caucus.
Chair	Facilitate debate according to the Rules of Procedure. They are seated in the front of the committee room and can call on delegates to speak, time speeches, open the floor to motions and facilitate votes on motions offered by the delegates. At the end of the conference, they choose the delegates to receive diplomacy awards. They also often give feedback to the delegates.
Clause	A MUN clause is a written instruction detailing the practical policy you want to be implemented if the resolution passes.
Committee	A group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group.
Crisis Committees	Fast-paced MUN committees that often emulate small organizations and boards. Rather than representing a country, delegates take on the role of a character that can range from an ambassador to a news reporter to a fictional character, depending on the committee.
Decorum	Order in a committee. The chair may call decorum if delegates are loud or disrespectful, in order to ask for their attention during

	committee.
Delegate	A participant at a MUN conference who represents a country in a specific MUN committee. They can operate individually or in pairs. The goal of the delegate is to get their policy ideas and countries' interest on a draft resolution, hopefully, to pass with a majority.
Dias	The collective name of the chairs or the group of people leading the committee.
Divide the House	A motion which would result in countries losing their option to abstain. If this motion passes, everyone in the committee can only vote in favor or against.
Divide the Question	A motion to vote separately on a set of specifically chosen operative clauses. These clauses can come from anywhere on the document. For example, you can take a 12 clause resolution and divide the question so as to vote on clause 3, 6 and 11 separately, leaving the remaining clauses to be voted on together.
Flow of Debate	The notetaking, or shorthand, MUNers use to keep track of all the ideas, policies and arguments said in other delegates speeches. Flow can be taken on paper or computer. Flow is used by both chairs and delegates.
Follow-ups	A request to ask a second question after having already asked one as a point of information.
Foreign Policy	The vision and proposals of a country towards all the topics in the international community. It's the way in which a country responds to different international topics.
Formal Debate	The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.
Friendly Amendment	A change to a clause approved by all the sponsors. These get automatically added to the resolution.
General Assembly	A collection of representatives from each of the 193 member states of the UN.
Member State	A country that has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and whose application to join has been accepted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Currently there are 193 member states.

Merging	When two or more draft resolutions are combined. This usually results in the blocs merging as well to give themselves more voting power.
Motion	You can motion for many different actions to guide the debate forward in a specific way. Ex: different types of caucuses (discussion), to move to vote or end the committee session altogether.
Objection	After a motion gets a second, the dias asks if there are objections. At least one delegate needs to object for the motion to proceed to a vote by the entire committee. If there is no objection the motion automatically passes.
Observer	A delegate who is not a natural member of the committee. They can be a country who isn't part of the organization (Portugal in the Africa Union), an international organization, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), national organization or even an individual.
On the Floor	When a motion, working paper or draft resolution is open to discussion and voting.
Operative Clauses	Clauses that detail the policies / explain what the draft resolution is going to do. Operative clauses can go into detailed sub-clauses to properly convey the idea. The first words are italicized and each clause is numbered.
Operative Phrases	A word drawing attention to a specific operative clause.
Out of Order	Actions that are not allowed according to the Rules of Procedure.
Parliamentary Procedure	The most efficient system to present arguments and reach resolutions that is used throughout the conference.
Placard	The cardboard or paper sign with the country name written on it. Placards are used to identify presence, vote, and signal to the chair.
Point	Tools used in Model United Nations delegates use to communicate with their chairs and fellow delegates. It is the formal language to ask for things, clarify things and, when necessary, appeal them.
Point of order	Called by a delegate on another delegate, or on the chair, when the Rules of Procedure are not being followed. The specifics of a Point of Order varies between conferences and the specific RoP should be Consulted.
Preambulatory Clauses	Clauses that explain why you are implementing the policies described in the Operative Clauses. They can provide a background

	to the problem, legal precedent, and other supporting data. Preambulatory Clauses are usually italicized and not numbered.
Present	What a delegate says when they are present in the committee and want to reserve the right to abstain on the final vote.
Present and Voting	What a delegate stays during roll call when they forgo their right to abstain. This means they can only vote for or against the draft resolution. This is usually done when they feel strongly about the topic.
Procedural	Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.
P5 (Permanent five)	The permanent five members of the Security Council who never rotate their seat. These are China, France, Russia, The United Kingdom and the United States.
Procedural Voting	Voting on something that does not impact the world outside. A motion for a moderated caucus is an example of a procedural vote.
Quorum	The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for the debate to take place.
Resolution	A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue.
Right of Reply	A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech.
Second	To agree with a motion being proposed. Some motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.
Secretariat	The staff of a Model UN conference.
Signatores	Delegates who support a draft resolution, or at least want to see it discussed. There is no limit on the number of signatories.
Simply majority	Half plus one of the numbers of delegates in a committee. The amount of votes needed to pass most motions.
Sponsors	Delegates who were major contributors to the draft resolution. They are usually the ones who wrote the majority of the document but not always. The number of sponsors is usually limited.

Submitter	The main delegate that submits a clause or resolution.
Substantive Voting	This Motion is automatically accepted unless the Chair rules it out of order; the decision is not subject to appeal. During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The Chair will place the Delegate at the bottom of the voting list. A Delegate who has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again but must vote definitively.
Table	Temporarily suspends any discussions regarding the Topic being currently on agenda.
Unfriendly Amendment	A change to a clause that at least one sponsor does not agree to. These go to vote and are only added to the draft resolution passed with a majority in favor of the amendment.
Vote by Roll Call	A Motion to have each country declare verbally if they are “Yay”, “Nay”, or “Abstain.”
Vote Clause by Clause	A motion to vote on each clause individually instead of all together. This is commonly done to get some of the clauses to fail.
Yield	Used in MUN for when a delegate finishes their speech with the extra time that needs to choose what to do with it. The delegate can yield, or give up, their time to: