

A Summary of the Rules for MIMUN

Debate

Speakers List: At the beginning of debate, the director will make a list of countries that want to speak. This way, instead of taking the time to call on a new country every time someone finishes speaking, there is a list of countries prepared ahead of time. After the list is made at the beginning of committee, a country can always be added later.

Motions: The following 3 topics are motions, which are asked for by a delegate in between speakers. They are voted on by the committee. Setting the speaking time and having a caucus both require half the votes to pass; closure of debate needs a two-thirds vote to pass.

M1 - Speaking Time: The committee decides how long people can speak for. 1/2

M2 - Caucus: A caucus is a short period of time, usually five or ten minutes, when the delegates can talk amongst themselves without the director calling on people. It's a good time to learn what people think of your ideas and to write resolutions. 1/2

M3 – Closure of Debate: Closure of debate is the motion one makes when they want to vote on the resolutions that the committee has. 2/3

Resolutions

What are they? A resolution is the committee's solution to the issue. The committee can ask countries to do something, or make a group to study the issue further, or point out its opinion about something. There are specific rules on how to write a resolution pointed out in the example resolution given.

Sponsors: Sponsors are the people who wrote the resolution.

Amendments: After a resolution has been introduced to the committee, it can be changed using amendments. There are two kinds: friendly and unfriendly.

A1 – Friendly: A friendly amendment is a change that has the support of all of a resolution's sponsors. These changes are automatically made to the resolution after the director approves them.

A2 – Unfriendly: An unfriendly amendment doesn't have the support of all of a resolution's sponsors. The unfriendly amendment will be voted on by the committee right before it votes on the resolutions.

Sample Resolution

Sponsor: Indonesia

Noting with regret the poor housing conditions in many capital cities in the developing world,

Recalling the health risks associated with crowded, unsanitary conditions;

The United Nations Commission on Population and Development:

Calls for the establishment of a body to study urban growth in the developing world to be called the Urban Developing World Association (UDWA);

Requests that the World Health Organization lend special assistance to UDWA in analyzing and solving health issues unique to rapidly growing cities in the developing world.

Things to note: There is a special grammar to resolutions. The first thing is to look at the order it takes:

Title, Sponsor, Background Information, Committee Name, Solution.

Preambulatory Clauses: The first two clauses are called preambulatory clauses. They're a statement of background information related to the solution that the resolution is going to propose. They end with a comma, except for the last one which ends with a semicolon.

Operative Clauses: The last two clauses are operative clauses. They are the heart of the resolution, the action the committee wants to see taken, or the statement it wishes to make. They end with a semicolon, except for the last one, which ends with a period.

The last thing to remember is that the first word or phrase of each clause is underlined.