



MUNLAWS 2025

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

HOW TO MUN



BEGINNER'S GUIDE ON MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



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FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

HOW TO MUN

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About MUN

Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation of the diplomatic processes of the bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other international organizations. It gives students and young professionals a chance to experience the challenges of global diplomacy — drafting solutions, building consensus, and defending policy positions in a structured, respectful setting. More than just a debate, MUN fosters deepened analytical knowledge on the relevant topics of the day, critical thinking, collaboration, and empathy, thus promoting skills that extend far beyond the conference hall.

At MUNs, delegates are expected to embody the professionalism and decorum of real-world diplomats. Each participant represents a Member State or other member of a specific organization, an observer, or international organization, and is responsible for promoting their assigned entity's views as accurately as possible. The conference follows the MUNLawS Rules of Procedure, which closely mirror those used in UN and other international organisations, respectively.

MUN is as much about listening and adapting as it is about speaking. Success depends on understanding not only your stance but also the motivations of others in the room. Preparation, teamwork, and respectful engagement are what transform an average delegate into an outstanding one. Those who embrace the experience with curiosity and professionalism often find that MUN builds both confidence and perspective.

What to Do in Each Stage of the Simulation

Model United Nations conferences unfold in several stages, each requiring a slightly different focus and skill set. Knowing what to expect — and how to adapt — allows delegates to remain confident and effective throughout the event. MUNLawS 2025 values professionalism, preparation, and diplomacy at every step.

1. Before the Conference

Preparation begins well before you enter the committee room. Read your background guide thoroughly and research your country's position in detail. Draft your position paper early, and review it against the MUNLawS Rules of Procedure to ensure it meets formatting and submission standards.

Practice public speaking and review common motions so that you feel comfortable using them. Reach out to your assigned partner delegate, if applicable, to coordinate research and divide topics efficiently. Organize your notes into quick-reference sheets — background facts, allies, opponents, and key treaties.

2. Introductory session

Before the first official session, an introductory session will be held to help delegates feel more comfortable in the committee. The session will be very relaxed and will feature ice breaker activities to help delegates and chairs get to know each other at least somewhat before serious sessions begin.

3. First Session

Arrive early and prepared. The first impression you make — during roll call and the general speakers' list — will shape how others view your credibility and leadership. Be alert during the agenda-setting debate: know which topic benefits your delegation most, and vote strategically. Speak clearly and respectfully when presenting your position; avoid confrontation and focus on shared goals.

4. During Debate

Once formal debate begins, balance assertiveness with diplomacy. Listen carefully, take notes, and identify which countries might become reliable partners. Use moderated caucuses to push your bloc's priorities forward — propose clear sub-topics that help steer discussion toward your solutions.

In unmoderated caucuses, cooperate efficiently. Volunteer to write or edit clauses; it shows initiative and often gives you influence over the final text. Keep in mind that negotiation is about persuasion, not domination. Make space for quieter delegates — they can become valuable allies later.

5. Drafting and Negotiation

When drafting working papers, focus on clarity and practicality. Avoid repetitive or vague clauses; instead, propose actions that can realistically be implemented by the UN or Member States.

Be tactful in negotiating language. Replacing a single verb — for instance, “requests” instead of “demands” — can turn opposition into support. Show flexibility where possible while defending your country’s core interests. Remember, resolutions pass by consensus and majority, not by force.

6. Voting Procedure

When the Chair moves the committee into voting procedure, remain calm and attentive. Only official motions are permitted at this stage, and the room will be sealed until votes are complete. Follow the Chair’s instructions carefully. Even if your draft does not pass, congratulate other delegates and maintain professionalism — diplomacy extends beyond success or defeat.

7. After Sessions and Between Days

MUNLawS conferences often span several days, with social events or workshops between sessions. Use these opportunities to build friendships and alliances informally. Conversations outside the committee can help resolve tensions or open new paths for cooperation once debate resumes.

Reflect on your performance after each day: What worked? What could improve? Small adjustments in tone or phrasing often make a big difference the next morning.

8. At the End of the Conference

As proceedings close, remain professional through the final gavel. Thank the dais and other delegates sincerely, regardless of outcome. The skills you develop — research, communication, compromise — are valuable far beyond this event.

MUNLawS emphasizes that every delegate contributes to the collective learning experience. Winning awards is rewarding, but the true achievement is growth as a thoughtful, articulate global citizen.

Dress Code

Professional presentation is an essential part of the MUNLawS 2025 experience. How delegates dress reflects the respect they hold for the institution they are simulating and for the seriousness of diplomatic work. While attire should always be neat and conservative, it is also a matter of attitude — professionalism begins with how you present yourself before you even speak.

Delegates are required to wear **business formal clothing** during all sessions. For men, this generally means a suit, dress shirt, tie, and formal shoes. Jackets should be worn inside the committee room unless the Presidency explicitly permits otherwise. For women, appropriate options include business suits, blouses with knee-length skirts or tailored trousers, or modest dresses. Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

National or traditional attire may be worn if it is respectful and formal in nature.

A professional appearance combined with courteous behavior demonstrates that you take your role seriously. When delegates treat the simulation as a true diplomatic setting, the quality of debate and collaboration rises accordingly.

How to Prepare

Preparation is the foundation of every successful Model United Nations experience. The most effective delegates begin their research weeks before the conference to ensure they understand both the content of the agenda and the procedural framework of debate. MUNLawS 2025 emphasizes substance and diplomacy equally, so delegates should arrive confident in their knowledge and ready to apply it under pressure.

Start by **studying your assigned entity thoroughly**. Research your assigned State's Profile. Learn about its physical geography, culture, economy, politics and governance. Learn about its political structure, economic situation, foreign policy priorities, and voting record in the UN or assigned organization. Identify its allies, regional affiliations, and existing (international) agreements related to the topic at hand.

After researching your assigned State, you should start looking into the **topic of the committee**. A good start is the Study Guide the Chairpersons of your assigned committee prepared. There is a Further Reading section at the end of each study guide - it includes articles and other sources Chairpersons deem important for a further understanding of the topic. Read those and explore further - there are numerous resources on UN websites, governmental sites, sites of different nonprofit organizations, etc.

Once you have a good understanding of the topic at hand, **research your assigned entity's stance on the topic**. Has it adopted any actions on national, regional or international level? Has it supported research or made any commitments related to the topic? If you struggle with this step, no worries - you can always rely on your assigned entity's profile you have researched thoroughly and determine what stance your entity would likely take.

Next, **analyze the committee** to which you've been assigned. Every committee at MUNLawS has a distinct mandate and scope of authority, so understanding its role is essential. A delegate in the Security Council, for instance, must consider questions of sovereignty and enforcement, while one in the Human Rights Council will focus on obligations regarding human rights. Reviewing past resolutions and identifying patterns in the committee's approach can help you anticipate how debate may unfold.

This is also helpful when thinking of **possible solutions to the problem**. The best delegate does not only have a perfect understanding of the problem at hand, but is also able to recommend different solutions. Research actions taken by different governments, regional and international organizations, as well as solutions proposed by Think Tanks, University Researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations. Always consider whether possible solutions will be backed by other members of your assigned committee.

Delegates should also **familiarize themselves with the Rules of Procedure**. These rules determine everything from how to make motions to how resolutions are amended and voted upon. Knowing them not only prevents mistakes but also empowers you to take initiative during debate. Practice introducing motions, timing your speeches, and understanding when to yield or raise a point. A well-prepared delegate can guide discussion effectively simply by knowing procedure better than others.

Finally, **prepare your materials**: a well-organized binder or digital folder with research notes, relevant statistics, and brief position summaries. Draft potential opening lines and anticipate questions or objections you might face. Remember, preparation is not just about memorizing facts, it's about building confidence, strategy, and flexibility. The more prepared you are, the more naturally diplomacy will come to you once debate begins.

Sources for Research

High-quality research is the cornerstone of strong participation at MUNLawS 2025. The credibility of your arguments, the accuracy of your data, and the realism of your proposed solutions all depend on the sources you consult. Delegates are encouraged to use official, reputable, and verifiable materials when preparing for committee work.

1. United Nations Databases and Documents

The United Nations offers a wide range of primary materials that provide insight into how real diplomacy functions. The **UN Digital Library (digitallibrary.un.org)** is an essential resource for accessing past resolutions, Secretary-General reports, and meeting records. The **Official Document System (ODS)** provides searchable access to all UN publications, including Security Council and General Assembly records.

In addition, specialized UN agencies maintain their own databases. For instance, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** provides global health data, while the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** publishes humanitarian response updates. These official sources ensure that your statements in debate are consistent with current UN practice.

2. Government and Intergovernmental Resources

Most countries maintain foreign ministry websites that release policy statements, treaties, and press briefings. Reviewing your assigned nation's foreign policy pages can reveal its real-world priorities and tone of diplomacy. For European topics, the **European Union External Action Service (EEAS)** is an invaluable resource. For broader global issues, intergovernmental organizations such as the **World Bank**, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, and **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** provide statistics, policy briefs, and annual reports.

3. Academic and Analytical Sources

When additional context or analysis is needed, turn to peer-reviewed journals and policy think tanks. Publications like *Foreign Affairs*, *The Lancet*, *Brookings Institution Reports*, or *Chatham House Briefings* offer informed perspectives that can help you interpret complex issues. Always evaluate bias and cross-check facts — no analytical source should be treated as absolute truth.

University libraries often provide access to databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, or HeinOnline, where you can find academic articles on international law, security, and development. MUNLawS encourages delegates to cite at least one or two academic sources in their position papers to show depth of research.

4. Reliable News Outlets and Data Platforms

For recent developments and country-specific updates, rely on globally recognized news agencies such as **Reuters**, **Associated Press (AP)**, **BBC**, or **Al Jazeera English**. These outlets maintain rigorous editorial standards and offer balanced coverage of international affairs. Always verify facts by checking multiple reports.

When citing data, prefer neutral platforms such as **World Bank Open Data**, **UNData**, and the **OECD Statistics Portal**. Avoid using social media or unverified blogs for factual evidence. Even when using verified news, prioritize direct sources such as official press releases or statements whenever possible.

5. Organizing and Using Research Effectively

Collecting sources is only the first step, understanding and using them strategically is what separates average delegates from excellent ones. Create a research log or digital notebook, dividing your findings into categories like *Background Information*, *National Policy*, *Allies and Opponents*, and *Possible Solutions*. Summarize key points in your own words to ensure comprehension.

During debate, cite sources naturally to strengthen your credibility: “According to a 2023 World Bank report...” or “The delegate of Peru recalls the commitments outlined in Resolution 75/233.” This demonstrates both preparation and professionalism.

Position Paper

The position paper is one of the most important parts of your preparation. It demonstrates to the Presidency and fellow delegates that you understand your topic, your entity's policy, and the practical solutions you wish to promote. At MUNLawS 2025, every delegate is required to submit a position paper before the start of the conference. It should be concise, well-structured, and written in formal academic language and generally no longer than one page per topic.

More information on the form and content of position papers can be found in the MUNLawS 2025 [Position Paper Guidelines](#).

Citations

Strong research is the foundation of credible diplomacy. At MUNLawS 2025, delegates are expected to base all written and spoken contributions on verifiable, authoritative sources. Proper citation demonstrates respect for intellectual property, transparency in argumentation, and academic integrity.

When writing your position paper or draft resolution, support every claim with evidence. Use **primary sources** whenever possible: official UN resolutions, government publications, treaties, and reports from reputable intergovernmental organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, or IAEA. Secondary sources, such as think-tank papers or peer-reviewed journals, can be used to provide analysis or interpretation, but avoid relying solely on them.

MUNLawS recommends following the **APA 7 referencing style** (more information on it can be found here: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>) for all written work. Include footnotes for direct quotations or data points and a complete bibliography at the end of your position paper. Each citation should contain the author, title, publication, and date. For online materials, add the full URL and access date. A well-referenced paper signals professionalism and allows others to verify your information easily.

When citing statistics or sensitive information, double-check the credibility of the source. Figures should ideally come from official UN or national data sets. Delegates found using unreliable or fabricated sources risk damaging their credibility during debate. Remember that diplomacy is as much about trust as it is about persuasion.

Position paper sample

Position Paper | London International Model United Nations (LIMUN)

Committee: *Futuristic Security Council*

Country: *United States of America*

Delegate: *Taj Kai Golob, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana*

Topic A: *Emergency Session of the United Nations Security Council – 21st Feb 2055: Waters of Conflict: The Question of the Nile Basin tensions*



The Nile River Basin has been at the forefront of tensions in Africa for almost four decades. Due to the unilateral construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the region has been exposed to all kinds of factors which hinder development and peace. After numerous droughts and even armed skirmishes, it can safely be said that the lack of a modern and comprehensive legally binding document has exacerbated tensions in the region. This has allowed Ethiopia to make unilateral decisions about a shared water source, that cause significant cross-border harm which is prohibited according to customary international law. According to the International Court of Justice (2010) “the principle of prevention, as a customary rule, has its origins in the due diligence that is required of a State and its territory.” After decades of negotiations which failed to produce any viable solutions, it is time for order in the region to be established through firm international cooperation. The African Union has tried to mediate the conflict, however, it has been proven that the local powers alone are unable to produce sustainable prosperity in the region (United Nations Security Council, 2021).

The United States of America (US) have always strived towards global stability through economic support. Along with the World Bank, the United States Treasury has facilitated negotiations with the Ethiopian and Egyptian governments in pursuit of a mutually beneficial water-sharing treaty, that would make any future disagreement less prone to armed conflict (United States Department of the Treasury, 2020). This fact further proves that the US has always reiterated that economic development can be beneficial way to ensure stability in many different regions, going back all the way to the Marshall Plan on the European continent, which had tremendous consequences. In 2020 negotiations came close to the intended result of a bilateral agreement, however, the negotiations did not yield a practical result (International Crisis group, 2020).

After decades of attempting to establish peace in the region, Ethiopia continues breaching its obligations under customary international law, including the prohibition of causing significant harm, as codified in the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (United Nations, 1997). The convention also established the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of watercourses for all riparian states, binding upon Ethiopia as customary international law. Ethiopia's unilateral actions have resulted in widespread famines in both Egypt and Sudan, which can safely be classified as a breach of international customary norm of the right to life, accepted in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Nations, 1966). The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) monopolized the Nile by limiting the amount of water available to downstream States significantly. The irrigation-dependent economies of Egypt and Sudan have been significantly economically and environmentally harmed. Furthermore, the downstream States have also not been notified on the operation cycle of the GERD, therefore significantly hindering predictability of the already reduced drought cycles of the Nile (Novario & Abeysuriya, 2025).

The United States opines that a binding international framework is the only viable solution to prevent a further escalation of the crisis. Regional powers have made numerous attempts to mediate, yet the absence of legally binding commitments renders the effort ineffective. Given the threats to international peace and security emanating from this situation, the US calls for the United Nations Security Council to act under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to adopt a legally binding resolution that establishes a formal negotiations procedure that ensures Ethiopia's compliance with internationally binding legal norms (United Nations, 1945). The 2020 negotiations have already laid the groundwork for such a process; therefore, it must be continued under international monitoring to produce a multilateral treaty, approved and ratified also by global powers such as the seven permanent members of the Security Council, who would guarantee its fulfilment, with effective disagreement resolution mechanisms, ensuring regional security, economic stability, and fundamental rights to all riparian States. The US remains committed to working with Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan, and all other international partners to uphold international law and prevent future unilateral harmful actions in the region.

Committee Work (Phases)

Committee sessions at MUNLawS 2025 follow a structured flow that mirrors real United Nations practice. Understanding the rhythm of these phases allows delegates to use their time strategically, participate confidently, and guide discussion toward meaningful results.

1. Opening of Session and Agenda Setting

Every session of the committee begins with a **roll call**. The Chairperson will, usually in the alphabetical order, call every assigned member of the committee. When called, delegates can render themselves *present* or *present and voting*. A *present* delegate may abstain from voting on the substantive matters whereas delegates rendered *present and voting* cannot.

The committee will proceed with its sessions only after the **verification of quorum**; at least 50 % + 1 of assigned members must be present for a quorum to be met. Once a quorum is verified, any Delegate or the Presidency should raise a ***motion to set the agenda*** if more than one topic has been provided. During this phase, speakers argue in favor of addressing one issue before the other, and the committee votes by simple majority. A well-prepared delegate will already know which topic better serves their entity's interests and will coordinate informally with allies before this debate begins.

2. General Speakers' List

After the agenda is set, the Presidency opens a general speakers' list. This is the formal backbone of debate, where each delegate makes a structured statement presenting their country's policy, priorities, and potential approaches. To be added to the list, raise your placard. The first few rounds of speeches establish the direction of discussion and reveal emerging blocs — groups of countries that share similar positions. Listen carefully during this phase as the alliances you identify here will guide your caucus work later.

3. Moderated Caucuses

Moderated caucuses introduce flexibility into debate. The Presidency recognizes delegates for short, spontaneous remarks focused on a specific sub-topic. The delegate proposing a moderated caucus must state its purpose, total time, and individual speaking time (for example, "*A 10-minute moderated caucus with 30-second speaking time on the topic of Assessing implications of armed conflicts for the mental health of children*"). These fast-paced exchanges are ideal for clarifying positions, testing new ideas, and identifying possible partners for collaboration.

During moderated caucuses, speak succinctly, respond directly to previous statements, and maintain a diplomatic tone. This is your chance to be noticed by the Presidency and by potential co-sponsors and co-signatories of a draft resolution¹.

4. Unmoderated Caucuses

Once enough common ground has emerged, delegates often motion for an unmoderated caucus which is a suspension of formal debate that allows free movement and open

¹ For more on the resolution, its sponsors and signatories, see pages 19-20.

negotiation. This is where the real drafting begins. Delegates group themselves by shared interests to write working papers that may later become official draft resolutions. Success in this phase depends on teamwork and tact. Respect each voice within your bloc, distribute writing tasks efficiently, and make sure every clause accurately reflects consensus. Keep one eye on the time; unmoderated caucuses are usually limited and can end abruptly if not extended by motion.

5. Draft Resolutions and Amendments

Once a working paper gains enough sponsors and signatories, it is submitted to the Presidency for review. After approval, it becomes a draft resolution and may be formally introduced to the committee. Debate resumes in formal session, alternating between speeches for and against the draft.

Delegates may propose amendments to modify specific operative clauses. Amendments are classified as *friendly* (accepted automatically with all sponsors' consent) or *unfriendly* (debated and voted upon separately). Strategic delegates often use amendments to refine language or broaden support rather than to undermine others' work.

6. Voting Procedure and Closure

When debate concludes, the Presidency moves the committee into voting procedure. The Presidency reads each amendment and the draft resolution itself, and delegates vote as required (for most committees, a simple majority is sufficient). After voting, results are announced and the committee proceeds to any remaining business before adjournment².

7. Between Sessions

Effective delegates continue diplomacy even outside formal hours. Informal conversations, social events, and lunches and coffee breaks provide opportunities to strengthen alliances, clarify misunderstandings, and prepare for the next phase; but more importantly allow for getting to know the other delegates and just relax in general.

² On the difference between suspension and adjournment of a meeting, see next page.

Motions and Points

Understanding motions and points is what separates confident, proactive delegates from those who simply follow along. Procedure is the language of Model UN: once you speak it fluently, you can shape debate, guide timing, and keep discussion focused. At MUNLawS 2025, all motions and points must be raised in order, clearly phrased, and directed to the Presidency.

1. Motions

A *motion* is a formal request made by a delegate to alter the flow of debate. Every motion must specify its purpose and, when required, its duration or parameters. The Chair decides whether it is in order, then calls for *seconds* (expressions of support) or *objections* before proceeding to a vote.

Common motions include:

- **Motion to Set the Agenda:** Used at the beginning when multiple topics are available. Delegates speak in favour and against each proposed order before voting.
- **Motion to Open a Moderated Caucus:** Allows more flexible discussion under the Chair's direction. Always specify total time and individual speaking time (e.g., "*ten minutes total, thirty seconds per speaker*").
- **Motion to Open an Unmoderated Caucus:** Suspends formal debate for informal negotiation and drafting. State the total duration requested.
- **Motion to Extend an Unmoderated Caucus:** If time is nearly up but discussion remains active, you may request an extension. Whether this passes depends on the Chair's discretion and committee mood.
- **Motion to Close Debate:** Ends discussion on the current topic or draft resolution and moves to immediate voting. Use it when the issue has been fully discussed and the required number of votes in favour of the draft resolution is ensured.
- **Motion to Suspend the meeting:** Closes the session for a certain amount of time with the knowledge it will be reopened in the future.
- **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:** Closes the session in its entirety with the knowledge it will not be reopened. Used at the very end of the final session during the conference.

2. Points

A *point* allows delegates to address procedure, request information, or ensure personal comfort during sessions. Points never require a second, though some cannot interrupt a speaker unless explicitly stated by the rules of procedure.

The principal points recognized at MUNLawS are:

- **Point of Personal Privilege:** Concerns physical comfort or audibility (“The delegate cannot hear the speaker”). May interrupt only when the issue prevents comprehension.
- **Point of Order:** Raised when a delegate believes the Rules of Procedure are being misapplied. It must refer specifically to a rule and cannot question the Chair’s substantive decisions.
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** Used to ask the Chair for clarification on procedural matters (“Does the Chair accept motions for a moderated caucus at this time?”).
- **Point of Information:** May be used during Q&A segments, allowing delegates to ask a brief, relevant question following another’s speech if permitted by the Chair.
- **Right to Reply:** If another member of the committee

Always address points respectfully. The Chair’s ruling on any point is final unless it is appealed due to a grave breach of procedural rules.

3. Practical Use of Procedure

Effective delegates master *timing*. For example, if discussion stalls, propose a short moderated caucus to refocus debate. If consensus is near, close discussion early and move to voting before positions shift. Experienced MUN participants also prepare short, polite phrasing for motions.

Using motions and points properly demonstrates both competence and diplomacy. It ensures the committee remains orderly and productive while highlighting your leadership skills. Remember: procedure is not bureaucracy, it’s the framework that makes meaningful debate possible.

Public Speaking

Public speaking is one of the most visible and intimidating aspects of Model United Nations. At MUNLawS 2025, effective speakers are not those who shout the loudest but those who communicate clearly, confidently, and diplomatically. Every word you say represents your country and shapes how other delegates perceive you.

1. Crafting Your Message

A good speech has three parts: a clear opening, a logical argument, and a memorable conclusion. Begin by stating your country's overall stance on the issue. Then present two or three key points supported by evidence or reference to international law. End with a cooperative appeal. This structure gives your remarks purpose and keeps the audience engaged.

Speeches in committee are short, so every sentence counts. Avoid general statements such as "We must work together" unless they lead to specific actions. Replace filler with facts or constructive ideas. The strongest delegates are those who can express policy in one minute while still sounding composed and sincere.

2. Tone and Diplomacy

Diplomatic language sets MUN apart from regular debate. Always refer to yourself as "*the delegate of [Country]*" and to others in the third person. Use courteous phrasing even in disagreement: say "The delegate respectfully disagrees" instead of "That is incorrect." This professionalism builds credibility and encourages cooperation.

Avoid sarcasm, humor at another's expense, or emotional outbursts. The Presidency may reprimand delegates who breach decorum. If you need to correct misinformation, do so calmly and cite reliable evidence.

3. Delivery and Body Language

Your body language should reinforce your message. Stand straight, maintain eye contact, and use gestures naturally but sparingly. A steady posture conveys confidence, while fidgeting or reading word-for-word suggests uncertainty. Speak slowly enough for others to follow, especially when English is not everyone's first language.

Practice speaking aloud before the conference, not only to memorize lines but to control pacing and tone. Many experienced delegates rehearse short "building block" speeches on topics such as funding, sovereignty, or enforcement, so they can adapt quickly during caucuses.

4. Speaking time

Finally, respect speaking times. The dais will cut you off once your allotted time expires, so finish strong rather than rushing at the end. A short, powerful statement leaves a better impression than a long, unfocused one.

Public speaking is an art developed through preparation and empathy. With practice, you will learn not only how to deliver your message but also how to inspire others to act on it. At MUNLawS, eloquence balanced with diplomacy is the mark of a truly distinguished delegate.

Opening Speech

Your opening speech is your first opportunity to define your country's identity in the committee. It sets the tone for how others will perceive you — as prepared and cooperative, or uncertain and unengaged. At MUNLawS 2025, opening speeches are expected to be concise, structured, and delivered with diplomatic confidence.

1. Purpose and Structure

An opening speech typically lasts between 60 and 120 seconds. Its purpose is to summarize your country's view on the agenda topic, highlight a few national priorities, and introduce ideas for potential collaboration. The ideal speech follows this simple format:

- **Introduction:** Address the Presidency and committee formally ("Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates..."). Briefly restate the importance of the issue.
- **National Position:** Present your country's key interests or challenges related to the topic, supported by one or two factual references.
- **Proposed Direction:** Outline constructive actions your country would support. These should be realistic and align with the UN's principles of cooperation, peace, and respect for sovereignty.
- **Closing Line:** End with an invitation for partnership ("The delegate of Spain looks forward to working with all nations to craft an inclusive and effective solution").

2. Tone and Delivery

Opening speeches are formal but should still sound human and engaging. Avoid reading monotonously from your notes; instead, memorize key phrases and practice them until you can deliver them naturally. Stand straight, smile slightly, and project your voice clearly. Speak to the entire room, not just the Presidency.

Remember that the goal is not to overwhelm others with information but to make them *want* to work with you. A calm, assured tone conveys authority far better than speed or volume. When in doubt, speak more slowly and clearly than you think necessary.

3. Strategic Use of Your Speech

Beyond introducing your position, your speech is an early diplomatic signal. Mentioning themes like "*regional cooperation*," "*capacity building*," or "*shared responsibility*" can attract delegates looking for allies. Subtle word choices can also communicate red lines — for instance, emphasizing "*respect for sovereignty*" signals caution toward intervention.

If your country has a controversial stance, use your speech to frame it positively and show openness to discussion. Even difficult policies can be presented as constructive contributions.

4. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Avoid informal phrases or humor. Refrain from criticizing other nations directly; MUNLawS expects professionalism from all delegates. Finally, never exceed your time limit. The dais will cut you off, and overrunning suggests a lack of preparation.

A common mistake is the use of singular personal pronouns. Instead of I delegates should say we or even better “the delegate of (insert country)”. Usually humorous penalties apply for the use of said pronouns.

An effective opening speech balances precision and diplomacy. It should leave others with a clear impression of your priorities and a sense that you are a serious, cooperative partner.

Resolution

The resolution is the final product of committee work. It is the document that embodies your collective effort to address the agenda topic. At MUNLawS 2025, drafting and negotiating resolutions test not only your research and writing skills but also your diplomacy and teamwork. A well-written resolution reflects compromise, creativity, and respect for international law.

1. Structure of a Resolution

All resolutions should contain a header, which includes crucial pieces of information: the name of the committee, topic at hand, sponsors (main authors that wrote the clauses of the resolution) and signatories.

Every resolution then follows a standard format modeled on official UN documents. It begins with **preambulatory clauses**, which outline the context, recall relevant treaties or resolutions, and justify why the issue deserves attention. These clauses set the stage for your proposed action. Phrases typically used in preambulatory clauses are acknowledging, affirming, alarmed by, bearing in mind, emphasizing, expressing concern, expressing its appreciation, fully aware, guided by, having considered, mindful of, noting, reaffirming, recalling, recognizing, regretting, taking into consideration, ...

Next come the **operative clauses**, which detail what the committee intends to do. Each operative clause begins with a strong verb (*Encourages, Urges, Requests, Establishes, Calls upon, Instructs, Supports, ...*) followed by clear, actionable language. Operative clauses should be precise and realistic, describing mechanisms, responsibilities, and timelines that could feasibly be implemented.

A sample structure:

- *Preambulatory Clauses*: “Recognizing the importance of equitable vaccine distribution,” “Recalling Resolution 74/274 on international cooperation,” “Concerned by the impact of misinformation on public health...”
- *Operative Clauses*: “Encourages Member States to strengthen cooperation through regional health frameworks,” “Requests the WHO to develop capacity-building programs,” “Calls for periodic reviews to monitor implementation progress.”

Each clause ends with a semicolon, and the entire resolution concludes with a period. The text should be single-spaced, justified, and written in formal English.

2. Drafting and Sponsorship

Once delegates reach common ground during unmoderated caucuses, they combine their ideas into a **working paper**. After review and approval by the Presidency, this becomes a **draft resolution**. Each draft must have at least one *sponsor* (a country that helped write it and agrees with its provisions) and several *signatories* (delegates who wish to see it discussed but may not necessarily agree with all its content).

3. Debate and Amendment

Once introduced, the draft resolution is debated formally. Delegates may speak in favor or against, propose amendments, and suggest rewording for clarity or accuracy. At MUNLawS, amendments are categorized as:

- **Friendly Amendments:** Approved by all sponsors and automatically incorporated into the text.
- **Unfriendly Amendments:** Proposed changes not accepted by all sponsors; these are debated and voted on individually before the committee votes on the resolution as a whole.

Smart delegates treat the amendment process as an opportunity to refine language and broaden support, not as a battlefield. Polite negotiation and strategic compromise often win more votes than rigid insistence.

4. Voting and Adoption

When debate concludes, the Presidency moves the committee into **voting procedure**. The Chair reads each amendment in order, followed by the draft resolution. For most MUNLawS committees, a **simple majority** is sufficient to adopt a resolution, though specialized bodies such as the Security Council apply additional rules (including the right of veto by permanent members).

5. Style and Substance

Good resolutions balance ambition with realism. Avoid vague or unenforceable statements like “hopes to improve global peace.” Instead, propose mechanisms that can actually be implemented such as frameworks, working groups, reporting systems, and partnerships. The strongest documents are collaborative, evidence-based, and clear in both intent and tone.

Writing and negotiating resolutions is where MUN truly comes alive. The process transforms research and rhetoric into action. Whether your draft passes or not, contributing meaningfully to a balanced, thoughtful resolution is a mark of a capable diplomat.

Final Recommendations

Model United Nations is more than a simulation — it is a living exercise in diplomacy, critical thinking, and respect for diversity. MUNLawS 2025 embodies these values by challenging delegates to think beyond their own perspectives and work collaboratively toward realistic, balanced solutions.

As you prepare to participate, remember that success in MUN is not defined solely by awards or the passage of resolutions. It is measured by how well you communicate, how thoughtfully you listen, and how respectfully you treat those around you. The most effective delegates are those who approach every interaction with curiosity, professionalism, and humility.

What you learn at MUNLawS extends far beyond the conference itself. You will sharpen your public speaking, negotiation, and analytical thinking skills which are all valuable in academic and professional life. More importantly, you will learn empathy: the ability to understand global issues through another nation's eyes.

Every delegate begins somewhere. Even if this is your first conference, take pride in your participation. Mistakes are part of the learning process, and growth comes from reflection and persistence. Approach the event with confidence, grace, and an open mind.