

Q-MUN

Summary of key terms and MUN jargon

Policy statement

Each delegate should write a **policy statement** for each of the two topics and bring these to the conference. A policy statement is a short paragraph that summarises the country's position on the issue. It shouldn't be very long – a couple of lines that will take between 30 seconds and 1 minute to read out.

Chairs will ask for volunteers to read out their policy statements at the start of the session. As policy statements are pre-prepared, this is a great way of overcoming nerves and making a first contribution to the session!

Here's an example of a policy statement:

The delegate of France is pleased to be taking part in today's debate on climate change. This is an important issue that affects all countries in the world, and therefore we need to tackle it as a global community. As a country, France has taken significant steps to do so, for example by planning to stop the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040. Our commitment to combatting climate change is underlined by the fact that it was in our country that the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change was signed. We hope that today a way forward will be found, and we look forward to a fruitful debate.

Skeleton resolutions

A resolution a plan of action that explains what the committee wants to do to resolve the issue at hand. A skeleton resolution is provided for each issue in order to provide a starting point for the debate. Delegate should study it in preparation and think about how they might want to **amend** it: they could **change** what it says, **add** to it, or **delete** something.

Ideally, delegates will bring their printed amendments to the conference, so that they can ask other delegates to sign it; but it could be written out by hand at the conference.

At certain points in each committee session (after lobbying), delegates will be asked to submit their amendments to the chairs. The chairs will select amendments for debate (as many as time allows). The delegate who submitted the amendment selected will then be asked to come to the front and explain their reasoning to the committee.

Lobbying

Lobbying involves informal conversation between delegates. It happens near the start of a committee session, after policy statements. Delegates should seek to talk to countries that they share similar views with, in order to get them to sign an amendment they plan to submit. Delegates also discuss how they can support each other – for example, by asking a supportive question during

the debate, or by “yielding” to each other during the debate (i.e. requesting that a particular country be allowed to speak next).

Crisis

“Crisis scenarios” are popular with delegates at MUN conferences. Led by our Secretaries General, before the conference the chairs will be developing crisis scenarios for each committee, which will be introduced into sessions as and when appropriate. When given this information, delegates will need to “think on their feet” to decide how to respond to it!

Notepaper

During committee sessions, delegates will be allowed to send notes, via runners, to other delegates in their own or other committees. Delegates enjoy the opportunities this provides for informal negotiation as well as for supporting and encouraging each other. Many delegations enjoy creating their own notepaper for this purpose that shows their country flag, often with a humorous twist, and bring their notepaper with them to use.

Here are some examples of notepaper that delegates have produced in the past:

