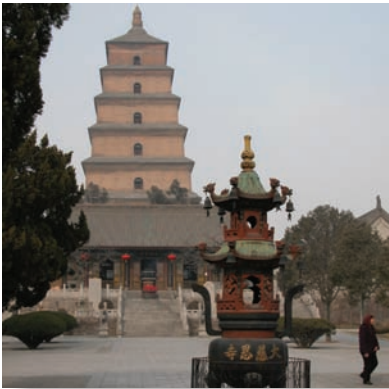


NMUN · CHINA

XI'AN 2008 西安

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY



NATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS

22-29 November 2008

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2008





NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS - CHINA

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION &
NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, XI'AN

Administration

Michael Eaton
Executive Director

Gayane Manukyan
Outreach Coordinator

Conference Staff

Li Ni
Secretary-General

Kevin Grisham
Director-General

Ruan Hongmei
Amierah Ismail
Chiefs of Staff

Jill Dawson
Lin Pengcheng
Chen Jie

Committee Staff
General Assembly Plenary

Kristy Mordhurst
Yuan Junwei
Committee Staff
Security Council

Stacy Jer
Zhang Yang
Committee Staff
ECOSOC Plenary

Jennifer Contreras
Chen Fei

Guo Wenbo
Committee Staff
Special Session on
Global Warming

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2008 National Model United Nations – China Conference! It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your Director for the General Assembly Plenary. My name is Jill Dawson and this will be my fifth NMUN as a staff member. Most recently, I served as the Under-Secretary General of the General Assembly and Security Council for NMUN-New York. I received Bachelor's Degrees in Political Science and International Studies from Berry College in 2001, a Juris Doctor in International and Comparative Law in 2005 from Seton Hall University and will begin my Ph.D. in Political Science next year. I am also a lawyer and political science professor in the United States. Your Assistant Directors for the General Assembly Plenary will be Lin Pengcheng and Chen Jie.

In GA Plenary, we will be discussing two exciting topics of great importance to the global community:

- I. Economic Development and Regional Cooperation
- II. Preventing Armed Conflict in the International Community

We have prepared a background guide as resource to begin your research. Please read it carefully and make special use of the Annotated Bibliography as a list of useful sources for additional research. I encourage all delegates to research the topics and their respective country's position in as much depth as possible. Please remember this background guide is meant to be a starting point for your research. It should not be the sole source of information you use in your preparation. The better prepared you are, the more fun you will have!

I look forward to meeting all of you in November for what is sure to be an exciting conference! If I can provide any assistance to you during your preparation for the conference, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Director-General for the 2008 NMUN-China Conference, Kevin Grisham. Best of luck as you continue to prepare for the conference!

Sincerely,

Jill Dawson
Director, General Assembly Plenary
NMUN – China
22-29 November 2008
gaplenary.china@nmun.org
+1 770.910.5595
www.nmun.org

Kevin Grisham
Director-General
NMUN – China
22-29 November 2008
dirgen.china@nmun.org
+1.909.991.5506
www.nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2008 NMUN-China Conference

At the NMUN-China Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to at the conference. These papers demonstrate and assist in preparation. Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations concerning the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed in the position paper. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. The NMUN-China Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim recreation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be given awards as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the example paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single-sided pages. (All position papers need to be submitted in electronic format.) If you cannot submit the position in electronic format, please consult with the Committee Director and the Director-General. In cases where electronic submission is not possible, the position paper cannot exceed one double-sided page.
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Countryname, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf format only) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after August 1, 2008. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the Director-General e-mail address: dirgen.china@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available for the NMUN-China Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than
November 1, 2008

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT, AND SCHOOL NAME (Example: ECOSOC_Belgium_New State University)

If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Director-General for NMUN-China at dirgen.china@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff uses the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Finally, please consider that many papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin E. Grisham
Director-General
NMUN-China
22-29 November 2008

SUMMARY OF POSITION PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

- **DEADLINE:** Submit by 1 November for each committee your assigned country is a member of. Consult the matrix at www.nmun.org if uncertain of committees. Do not write papers for committees your country is not assigned to be a member of. For example, a university representing a country not on the Security Council would not write a paper about the Security Council topics.
- **LENGTH:** No more than two single-spaced pages following the format of the example. Note: NMUN-China only has two topics (unlike the example from New York with three topics).*
- **EXAMPLE FORMAT FOR SAVING:** State University's papers for Belgium should be saved as:

gaplenary_Belgium_New State University	ecosoc_Belgium_New State University
sc_Belgium_New State University	specialsession_Belgium_New State University
- **TWO SUBMISSIONS**
 - **TO COMMITTEE DIRECTORS:** Delegates should send individual papers to the e-mail address of the committee director for that committee. These e-mails are listed on the cover letter of this guide. Delegates should cc: themselves as confirmation it was sent.
 - **FULL SET TO DIRECTOR GENERAL** The faculty advisor or head delegate should send an e-mail with all the position papers to dirgen.china@nmun.org by 1 November. This complete set will be made available to other delegations at the conference.

* The sample position paper on the following pages is an actual paper submitted to General Assembly Plenary for the 2008 NMUN-New York Conference. Unlike New York, NMUN-China will only have two topics. This paper is included with the permission of the authors and their university. We hope this example is helpful as you prepare.

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. We recommend Member States implement the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and, in cooperation with established diamond industries, increase controls for record keeping, spot checks of trading companies, physical inspections of imports and exports, and maintenance of verifiable records of rough diamond inventories. Pursuant to Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations and in conjunction with S/RES/1346, we support renewed targeted sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire, initiated under Paragraph 1 of S/RES/1782, and recommend the Security Council use targeted sanctions and embargos to offset illicit exploitation of diamond trading. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide

knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada emphasizes the need for States to establish domestic regulatory bodies similar to the Use, Development, Deployment, and Transfer of Technology Program to work in cooperation with the private sector to increase the transfer of alternative energy technologies. Highlighting the contributions of the Canadian Initiative for International Technology Transfer and the International Initiative for Technology Development Program, we urge Member States to facilitate the development and implementation of climate change technology transfer projects. Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits. We support the Initiative to Save a Million Lives Now 2007 Campaign to improve healthcare for impoverished mothers and children and reaffirm the need for standardization of healthcare systems to ensure adequate training of healthcare officials. We call upon Member States to assist in the capacity building of developing States' healthcare frameworks to provide adequate training, equipment, and deployment to new and existing African healthcare personnel. Canada places strong emphasis on ensuring increased accessibility to health services, improved standards of living, and reduction in mortality rates through our \$450 million contribution to the African Health Systems Initiative. Pursuant to Article VII of the A/55/2, we will continue to exhibit leadership in the implementation of A/RES/61/228 to mitigate the effects of malaria in developing States, particularly in Africa, and remain dedicated to the strengthening of healthcare systems to improve malaria prevention and treatment.

History of the General Assembly Plenary

The General Assembly (GA) is one of the six principle organs of the United Nations (UN) and each of the Member States of the United Nations is represented in the GA with one vote per state.¹ The GA is the main “deliberative organ” of the United Nations and can debate “any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter”.² This includes exercising control and oversight over other UN organs, and all other UN bodies must report their activities to the GA.³ In addition, the GA may establish subsidiary bodies to perform such functions as it sees fit to carry out necessary activities.⁴ The recently established Human Rights Council was created using this power.⁵

The General Assembly meets regularly from September to December of each year, and also retains the right to meet to discuss urgent or special matters if necessary.⁶ The GA’s agenda greatly varies from year to year. In the last session, the GA discussed conflict diamonds, the situation in Palestine, the effects of atomic radiation, malaria, the external-debt crisis, and the advancement of women and racial discrimination.⁷

The issue of UN reform is also frequently addressed within the GA. An ad-hoc working group was created to research and address how the General Assembly itself could be reformed to better address the needs of the UN and the global community as a whole by becoming more effective and efficient.⁸

It is sometimes stated that due to the non-binding nature of some of the work of the General Assembly, it carries no weight. Critics of the General Assembly’s decision-making process should be reminded of the purpose behind the creation of the GA. Those who had just survived the most devastating war of our time wanted to create a body with legitimacy that derives from global membership and from the principle of “one nation, one vote”. The moral impact that this membership and these decisions have are seen on a global scale each day through the decisions that the General Assembly made and continues to make.

I. Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

Many developing states are endowed with plentiful natural resources, a pleasant climate that should attract tourism, cultural diversity, and a rich historical past, yet they remain marginalized in the economic development process and global political scene. This presents a great paradox. Recent positive changes in many of these states have brought hope for a renaissance across Africa and Central and Eastern Europe, evidenced by impressive real growth rates in some countries. On the other hand, there are still major issues threatening this renaissance. Internal and border conflicts in several countries and regions, heavy debt burdens, and low levels of private investment are still issues of major concern. What must be done to unlock potential and put it on a path of economic development? Perhaps regional cooperation can assist with the stabilization and development of those states that are still struggling economically.

Regional Cooperation Assistance with Economic Development

United Nations Member States have utilized regional cooperation initiatives via the establishment of economic development organizations. In few areas have these initiatives seen as much effect as in Africa. The East African Community (EAC) is a perfect example to explore when looking for an example of a successful regional cooperative.

¹ United Nations. *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2008.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ United Nations. General Assembly. 62nd Session. *Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly (A/62/100)*, 2007.

⁸ United Nations. General Assembly. 61st Session. *Resolution on Revitalizing the Role and Authority of the General Assembly and Strengthening its Performance. (A/61/292)*, 2006.

The Treaty establishing the EAC was signed in 1994.⁹ The East African Community includes a region of over 79 million people, a GNP of \$ 15.1 billion (1995), and a Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.¹⁰ Its "principal goals are to strengthen and consolidate co-operation in agreed fields with a view to uplifting the standards of living and quality of life of the people of the region . . . and, ultimately, to establish an internationally competitive single market and investment area in the region."¹¹

The significance of regional cooperation in the East African context is exemplified by several factors. First and foremost, it promotes peace and facilitates freedom of movement.¹² Border communities in the three East African countries are basically one and the same.¹³ For example, the Maasai, a traditionally pastoral and nomadic tribe, cross the Kenya/Tanzania border very freely, oblivious of national boundaries.¹⁴ Similarly, many Kenyans in the Western province have family across the border in neighboring Uganda.¹⁵ Second, regional cooperation encourages trade between neighboring countries.¹⁶ Since the formation of the Preferential Trade of Eastern and Southern States, Kenya's exports to the PTA area have been steadily increasing.¹⁷ Uganda is now Kenya's most important trading partner.¹⁸ This development is consistent with international trade patterns, which show that neighboring countries tend to be each other's main trading partners.¹⁹

Facilitating Regional Cooperation Amongst States

The Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is another regional economic group that developed out of mutual benefit to its members. Its history and reason for creation can perhaps be applied to other states that are seeking regional partners for economic trade and stability.

APEC is unlike any other regional grouping. It has no formal agreement or treaty binding upon its members; it has no rule-making, interpretative, enforcement or adjudicative powers; and it has no "unambiguous source of leadership."²⁰ APEC members are diverse in almost all aspects of economic development, political system, religious belief, ethnic background, and language.²¹ This diversity keeps APEC from developing into a more structured or formalized grouping. While the members agree upon a common goal -- of promoting open regionalism -- they disagree on the means of achieving that goal.²²

The EAC and APEC are only two examples of regional organizations that have been developed to assist states with economic development. Delegates should consider the following: what other types of regional organizations exist to assist with economic development? How do these organizations differ when dealing with developing versus developed nations? How can leadership and organizational methods assist with regional cooperation? Are cohesive organizations the only regional method for assisting with regional economic cooperation or are there other viable methods?

⁹ East African Community. *Overview*, 2008.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² East African Community. *Achievements*, 2008.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation, *How APEC Operates*. 2008.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

The General Assembly, Economic Development, and Regional Cooperation

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were created in 2000 have guided much of the work of the General Assembly since their inception. It should be noted that numerous international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, played key roles in finalizing the Goals, which could explain the focus on stabilizing developing economies.²³

Member States have made repeated public pledges to provide levels of assistance required to eliminate extreme poverty. This is demonstrated by several General Assembly declarations, including the Millennium Declaration.²⁴ States struggling towards economic stabilization can build upon these pledges to create regional coordination plans to increase cooperation. Delegates should utilize the pledges made via the Millennium Declaration, as well as other General Assembly reports and resolutions regarding regional cooperation. Furthermore, regional organizations throughout the global community are already thriving. These examples should be researched and utilized when seeking ideas for additional regional cooperation. In a world that is increasingly becoming global, the proliferation of regional and subregional groupings to foster trade and cooperation is both inevitable and necessary.

While the MDGs have certainly been a guiding force for the GA since their conception, they are not the only way in which the GA has dealt with regional cooperation for economic development. In what other ways has the GA discussed regional cooperation? How can the GA further assist Member States with economic development through the coordination or promotion of regional cooperation?

II. Preventing Armed Conflict in the International Community

Throughout history, civilizations have destroyed other groups in a struggle to obtain more power. Mass killings occurred around the world as colonizers clashed with native populations. Nearby nations witnessed the killing, but the lack of a unified international community and settled international laws prevented concerned nations from taking an effective stance. This experience prompted countries to attempt to establish an organization able to promote international cooperation, peace, and security. After World War II, the international community created the United Nations in an effort to deter future wars.

However, by all accounts, the goal of the United Nations to prevent continuing armed conflict has fallen short. Between 1989 and 2000, there were 111 armed conflicts in 74 countries.²⁵ By 2000, 33 of these were active within 27 countries, the majority of these "major armed conflicts" in which more than 1000 people died over the course of the year.²⁶ The human costs have been enormous. Current armed conflicts alone are responsible for several million people killed, 80-90 percent of them civilians, with close to 100,000 more deaths each year.²⁷ They have generated over twenty-five million refugees and displaced people and destroyed valuable natural and social environments.²⁸ They also have drawn financial resources away from other urgent tasks. In 2000, for example, the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance ("OFDA") spent close to 80% of its budget on man-made disasters, up from 20% in the early 1990s.²⁹ Likewise, in 1989, the World Bank's expenditures on post-conflict recovery increased by 800%.³⁰

The Changing Nature of Armed Conflict in the International Community

Although both the number of states experiencing armed conflict and the intensity of that conflict, as measured by deaths, dislocations, and other destruction, have dropped since the end of the Cold War³¹,

²³ International Monetary Fund, *The IMF and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2008.

²⁴ United Nations. General Assembly. 55th Session. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. (A/55/L.2), 2000.

²⁵ Uppsala University. *Conflict Data Project*, 2000.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *Conflict and Peace Enforcement Project*. 2008.

important changes in the nature of armed conflict make the situation particularly challenging. First, there has been a trend away from interstate conflicts and toward intrastate conflicts.³² Between 1989 and 1996, 95 of the 101 armed conflicts around the world were intrastate.³³ This contrasts with the rest of the twentieth century, in which the majority of conflicts were interstate. However, it does not diminish the impact on states, as conflicts generally spread across geographic and political boundaries, drawing in a range of other state and international actors.³⁴ Second, there has been a trend toward identity-based conflicts, in which groups are mobilized along racial, ethnic, religious or other lines.³⁵ In 1996, for example, 22 of the 27 major armed conflicts had a "strong identity component."³⁶

Delegates should consider how is the changing nature of armed conflict contributing to the inability of the global community, and the UN in particular, to prevent conflict.

Diplomacy and the Prevention of Armed Conflict

Given the intensity, complexity, and costs of current armed conflicts, there is consensus within the global community that prevention is essential. In 1997, the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, comprised of international leaders and scholars from around the world, published a final report in which it highlighted the following three conclusions: First, deadly conflict is not inevitable.³⁷ Violence on the scale of what we have seen in Bosnia, Rwanda, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and elsewhere does not emerge inexorably from human interaction.³⁸ Second, the need to prevent deadly conflict is increasingly urgent.³⁹ Third, preventing deadly conflict is possible.⁴⁰ The problem is not that we do not know about incipient and large-scale violence; it is that we often do not act.⁴¹

The report focused international attention on preventive diplomacy. Preventive diplomacy is defined as "action taken in vulnerable places and times to avoid the threat or use of armed force and related forms of coercion by states or groups to settle the political disputes that can arise from destabilizing effects of economic, social, political, and international change."⁴² Joseph Montville, a former foreign service officer who heads the Preventive Diplomacy Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies ("CSIS"), also emphasizes the importance of preventive diplomacy as "an ethic or a moral principle, a policy commitment by the leading powers toward stewardship in the international community."⁴³

Preventive diplomacy has three major goals: to prevent the emergence of violent conflict; to prevent the spread of existing conflicts; and to prevent the reemergence of violence.⁴⁴ Each implies a different set of activities at different stages in a conflict's evolution.⁴⁵ These include operational prevention, which focuses on dealing with incipient crises, and structural prevention, which seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict in ways "conducive to peace and equitable development (linking security, well-being, and justice.)"⁴⁶ As indicated above, democracy building is a central component of prevention.

What role does preventative diplomacy play in preventing armed conflict? How can the GA incorporate the idea of preventative diplomacy and its goals, especially the goal of promoting democratization, into its

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Carnegie Commission On Preventing Deadly Conflict, *Preventing Deadly Conflict*. 1997.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

agenda?

The General Assembly and the Prevention of Armed Conflict

During its 57th Session, the General Assembly passed, by consensus, what many considered to be a landmark resolution on the prevention of armed conflict, Resolution A/57/L/79.⁴⁷ The resolution “set out the roles of Member States, the Assembly itself, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, as well as of regional organizations, civil society and the private sector, in preventing armed conflict.”⁴⁸ However, a number of provisions of the resolution raised objections by Member States, most notably that language in the resolution could serve as a precedent for future negotiations.⁴⁹

Like much of the GA’s work in recent years, this resolution was influenced by the Millennium Development Goals. The resolution emphasizes the need to reduce poverty and increase development measures in order to prevent conflict.⁵⁰ Furthermore, all Member States were called upon to comply with international legal instruments in order to reduce arms proliferation and increase the rate of disarmament.⁵¹

While this resolution is certainly a landmark that should be noted by delegates and its goals are ones that all Member States should continue to work towards, this is not the only notable work of the GA on armed conflict. What other resolutions and reports has the GA passed related to armed conflict? How does the Security Council’s role fit into this topic? How can the GA better respond to possible conflicts to prevent them from escalating?

Suggestions for Further Research

The annotated bibliography below may help with additional general information, but this guide is meant only to introduce the topic and invite your further research. The majority of your research will focus on gaining the perspective of your assigned member state. This is the viewpoint you will represent with your advocacy and creative ideas. If you are uncertain of the next steps in your research, we suggest trying to answer the following questions:

What solutions has your State or NGO introduced in regards to regional cooperation and economic development? Is your State or NGO a participant in a regional organization that focuses specifically on economic development? How has your State or NGO been involved in developing greater regional efforts to assist developing States?

What solutions would your State or NGO propose in the General Assembly to further regional cooperation on the issue of economic development? Are there additional efforts the General Assembly could support that would further regional efforts to promote economic development? What potential barriers could exist that would prevent these prescriptions and how would your State or NGO address these potential problems?

How does your State or NGO see the issue of armed conflict in the international community? What positions does your State or NGO take on the issue of armed conflict in the global community? What solutions has your State or NGO proposed to address this issue? What future solutions would your State or NGO propose to address armed conflict in the international community?

What role does your State or NGO take in the United Nations to help to prevent armed conflict in the international community? What is the position of your State or NGO as it relates to the use of preventative diplomacy? Is there alternative solutions your State or NGO has or would suggest to address armed

⁴⁷ United Nations, *General Assembly, By Consensus, Adopts ‘Landmark’ Resolution on Prevention of Armed Conflict*, 2003.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

conflict in the international environment? Are there barriers Members States of the UN would face in attempting to limit armed conflict in the international community? What are potential solutions to these barriers?

Annotated Bibliography

History of the General Assembly Plenary

United Nations. (n.d.). Functions and Powers of the General Assembly. Retrieved June 15, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml>

In order for delegates to fully debate and work on the topics at hand, they must first understand the fundamentals of how the GA functions. This website will introduce the background, history, and mandate of the General Assembly and will guide delegates towards researching the key documentation of the committee.

United Nations. General Assembly Plenary. 62nd Session. (21 September 2007) *Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, (A/62/100)*. Retrieved June 15, 2008, from

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/62/251&Lang=E

As delegates can see from this list, the work of the GA varies dramatically. Delegates can consult the agendas for recent sessions to determine when the topics we will be debating have been discussed. Delegates should then find any relevant work from those sessions related to the topics before the committee that may assist with the work of the body.

United Nations. General Assembly Plenary. 61st Session. (2007, August 14) *Resolution on Revitalizing the Role and Authority of the General Assembly and Strengthening its Performance. (A/61/292)*.

Retrieved June 21, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/issues/resolutions/a-res-61-292.pdf>

One of the topics that have remained on the UN agenda in recent years is reform of the world body. The GA is not an exception to the calls for reform. This resolution is an effort by the GA to make its work more effective and efficient. The contents of the resolution can be applied to any topic to ensure that any work created by delegates could be implemented effectively.

I. Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation. (n.d.). How APEC Operates. Retrieved June 15 2008, from http://www.apec.org/apec/about_apec/how_apec_operates.html

APEC's unique leadership structure and history are explored in depth on their website, and can serve as a good example for delegates. In addition, delegates should explore additional information about APEC and their work in economic development. Additional regional organizations should also be explored for their examples.

East African Community. (n.d.). Overview. Retrieved June 18, 2008, from <http://www.eac.int/>

Many African states have struggled to grasp or maintain economic stability. The states in the EAC have found some lasting solutions to their economic woes with provisions within the EAC. As discussed in the topic guide, the EAC is a unique community with examples that may work for other struggling regions. The website provides background information and working documents, treaties and resolutions that will prove useful to delegates in their research.

International Monetary Fund. (n.d.). The IMF and the Millennium Development Goals. Retrieved June 25, 2008, from <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/mdg.htm>

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have assisted developing states with stabilizing their economies since the end of the Second World War. Both institutes took leading roles with the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, they insured that economic development was a high priority in the creation of the goals. This website discusses the role of the IMF in the creation of the MDGs.

United Nations. General Assembly Plenary. 55th Session. (8 September, 2000) *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. (A/55/L.2), Retrieved June 30, 2008, from <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

The Millennium Declaration is a resolution adopted at the Millennium Summit meeting on September 8, 2000. A follow-up outcome of the resolution was passed by the General Assembly on December 14, 2000 to guide its implementation. The implementation of the Declaration was reviewed at the September 2005 World Summit. As the Millennium Declaration has guided a great deal of the work of the GA since its passage, delegates should be aware of its contents.

II. Preventing Armed Conflict in the International Community

Carnegie Commission On Preventing Deadly Conflict. (1997). Preventing Deadly Conflict. Retrieved June 27, 2008, from <http://wwics.si.edu/subsites/ccpdc/pubs/rept97/finfr.htm>

The Commission was established in 1994 to address “the looming threats to world peace of intergroup violence and to advance new ideas for the prevention and resolution of deadly conflict”. This report is the culmination of their work. It is an excellent resource for looking at some of the historical causes of conflict and contains numerous suggestions for the continuing prevention of conflict.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (n.d.). Conflict and Peace Enforcement Project. Retrieved June 17, 2008, from <http://projects.sipri.se>

The SIPRI project continuously analyzes “violent conflict around the world, its impact on the human security of local populations and wider political consequences”. The Project’s reports and analyses provide excellent resources for delegates related to the history of armed conflict and continued ideas for prevention in regions around the world.

United Nations. (2003) General Assembly, By Consensus, Adopts ‘Landmark’ Resolution on Prevention of Armed Conflict. Retrieved July 1, 2008 from

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2003/ga10145.doc.htm>

This Resolution is considered to be the General Assembly’s landmark work on armed conflict prevention. Since its passage in 2003, the GA and its Member States have continued to strive to meet its goals. Delegates should be aware of its contents and requirements.

Uppsala University. (2000). Conflict Data Project. Retrieved June 17, 2008, from

<http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/>

This is an additional conflict research project that will provide delegates with historical information, background information, and analysis. These research projects are exceptional resources for providing delegates with ideas for conflict prevention within high-risk regions.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO DELEGATES AND FACULTY ADVISORS

NMUN rules of procedure strive to follow the spirit of the actual world bodies simulated. The intent of these rules is to facilitate meetings. In consultation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and member state representatives, we have made small amendments to some of the rules of the United Nations in order to recognize that our simulation tries to achieve in days what real-life diplomats work on over weeks and months.

For those who have also attended our New York conference, you will find two major differences at NMUN-China:

1. There is no motion to change the speaker's time. It will be set by the Secretariat at the beginning of the committee sessions. This time will be used for the majority of the committee session and only will be modified by the Secretariat as needed to facilitate the committee proceedings. This adds realism to the session, since it is a motion rarely used in the United Nations, yet is often used in simulations. Rather than taking many minutes to discuss the length of speeches, the Secretariat would rather see this time used in additional substantive speeches on the topic. This should also facilitate a larger number of delegates being able to speak during the committee sessions. (See Rules 13 and 17)

2. The committee staff has been particularly empowered to deny consideration of motions for a caucus if they believe hearing additional substantive speeches would further the substantive work of the committee. While caucuses will still take place and serve their important role, the Secretariat seeks to limit the repeated consecutive caucuses that can result in hours passing without hearing a substantive speech. (See Rule 20)

We are aware that various sister simulations often use slightly different rules. The largest difference with NMUN seems to be:

1. NMUN does not allow a speaker to yield remaining time to another speaker nor do we have a pre-set time allotted for asking questions of each speaker.

2. Should the body wish to moderate a caucus session, that can be done by a member of the body serving as moderator, but not moderated by the Secretariat.

Included in this information is a brief listing of the most frequently utilized motions as well as the full rules.

Any further questions concerning the NMUN-China Rules of Procedure should be directed to a member of the Secretariat.

NMUN-CHINA RULES OF PROCEDURE SHORT FORM

Motion	Purpose	Debate	Vote
Point of Order	Correct an error in procedure	None	None
Appeal of the Chair	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority
Suspension of the Meeting	Recess meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of the Meeting	End meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of Debate	End debate without a substantive vote	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Closure of Debate	Move to immediate vote	2 con	2/3
Declare an Important Question (applicable in GA Plenary only)	Require all substantive actions to obtain a 2/3 majority to pass	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Amendments and 1st Vote on Divisions of the Question	Vote on sections separately, prior to voting on the entire resolution	2 pro / 2 con	Majority
Roll Call Vote	Vote by roll call, rather than show of placards	None	None
Reconsideration	Re-open debate on an issue	2 con	2/3
Close the Speakers list (also applies to re-opening list)	No additional speakers added to speakers list on topic	None	Majority
Adoption of the Agenda	Approval of agenda order	None	Majority

NMUN-China
Rules of Procedure
General Assembly Plenary

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the General Assembly Plenary (hereinafter referred to as “the Assembly”) and shall be considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations-China and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Assembly.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 -Dates of convening and adjournment

The Assembly shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 -Place of sessions

The Assembly shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 -Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting” means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Assembly may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Assembly so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an “important and urgent character” is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Assembly until a committee has reported on the question, or a second two-thirds vote is successful to keep the Plenary body seized of the matter. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, “the members present and voting” means those

members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Assembly.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Assembly and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Assembly, and shall distribute documents of the Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and generally perform all other work that the Assembly may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Assembly concerning any question under consideration.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 10 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Assembly.

Rule 11 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any United Nations organ or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12 - Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Assembly are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Assembly shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, "members of the Assembly" means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting. For purposes of the Conference, the President refers to the Director of the committee, the Assistant Directors, or his/her designee (including the chair of the committee).

Rule 13 - General Powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Assembly, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Assembly and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Assembly the closure of the list of speakers, the adjournment, or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting. The President will determine a speaker's time limit for all substantive and procedural speeches and announce this at the beginning of committee session. This time limit cannot be altered by the committee and can only be revised by the President or a member of the Secretariat.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches. Therefore, unlike NMUN-NY, this rule eliminates the motion for changing the speaker's time. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN-China. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to "propose to the Assembly" entails her/his power to "entertain" motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 14

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Assembly.

Rule 15 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, *sua sponte*, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, "the members present and voting" mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 16

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 17 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Assembly, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The President will limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Only the President will have discretion to alter this speaking time for all speeches on any questions before the body. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for facilitating debate, the President will establish a speaking time for all items at the beginning of the committee sessions. Only the President will have the discretion to change these speaking times and these changes will only be changed when it will facilitate the proceedings of the committee. Different speaking times will be announced for procedural and substantive speeches by the President.

Rule 18 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Assembly.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Assembly. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Assembly and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 19 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that "impugns the integrity of a representative's State" is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Assembly by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 20 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

In furtherance with the educational mission of the NMUN-China conference, it is the discretion of the President to entertain motions for suspension of the meeting. If multiple motions for suspension have failed previously, President can choose to not entertain the repetitive motions.

Rule 21 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Assembly shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Assembly's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Assembly.

Rule 22 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may move at any time the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 23 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Assembly favors the closure of debate, the Assembly shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 24 - Order of motions

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting: a) To suspend the meeting; b) To adjourn the meeting; c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion; d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 25 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Assembly would like the Assembly to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Assembly unless copies of it have been

circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Assembly for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all “proposals” shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Assembly by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Assembly. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Assembly and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 26 - Withdrawal of motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 27 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting” means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 28 - Voting rights

Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to “member(s)” do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 29 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Assembly for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Assembly may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, “proposal” means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 30 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 31 - Important questions

1. The Assembly may declare a question as important. Motions to declare a topic an important question must be made at the outset of the voting procedure for that topic; such motions may only be made by the Assembly. On such a motion, two members may speak in favor of the motion and two may speak against it. The motion shall then be immediately put to the vote, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

These questions shall include: recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of the members of the Trusteeship Council, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions.

2. Decisions of the Assembly on amendments to proposals relating to important questions, and on parts of such proposals put to the vote separately, shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 32 - Method of voting

1. The Assembly shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

Only those members who designate themselves as “present” or “present and voting” during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying “pass,” must, on the second time through, respond with either “yes” or “no.” A “pass” cannot be followed by a second “pass” for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Assembly votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Assembly shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 33 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 34 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 35 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, "most radical division" means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is "most radical" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 36 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 37 - Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, "furthest removed in substance" means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is "furthest removed in substance" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Assembly decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 39 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 40 - Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 41 - Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee, consisting of nine members, shall be appointed by the Secretary-General at the beginning of each session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay. The Main Committees shall be bound by the actions of the Plenary in all matters relating to credentials and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any Member State.

Rule 42 - Provisional admission to a session

Any representative to whose admission a member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives until the Credentials Committee has reported and the Assembly has given its decision.

VIII. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Rule 43 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting of the Assembly, representatives may request to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation. This is the only time this motion will be entertained and its approval is at the discretion of the Secretariat.

IX. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rule 44 - Applications

Any State which desires to become a Member of the United Nations shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. Such application shall contain a declaration, made in formal instrument that the State in question accepts the obligations contained in the Charter.

Rule 45 - Notification of applications

The Secretary-General shall, for information, send a copy of the application to the General Assembly, or to the Members of the United Nations if the Assembly is not in session.

Rule 46 - Consideration of applications and decisions thereon

If the Security Council recommends the applicant State for membership, the Assembly shall consider whether the applicant is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter and shall decide, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, upon its application for membership.

Rule 47

If the Security Council does not recommend the applicant State for membership or postpones the consideration of the application, the General Assembly may, after full consideration of a special report of the Security Council, send the application back to the Council, together with a full record of the discussion in the Assembly, for further consideration and recommendation or report.

Rule 48 - Notification of decision and effective date of membership

The Secretary-General shall inform the applicant State of the decision of the Assembly. If the applicant is approved, membership shall become effective on the date on which the Assembly takes its decision on the application.