

OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA STATE YMCA

Model United Nations Student Manual

Quick Facts – Model UN

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Model United Nations

The official purpose and goal of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security.

Quick Facts

The United Nations was established in 1945.

The principles of the United Nations Charter call for the peaceful settlements of disputes.

Nations who are members of the United Nations advance their own interests.

As an ambassador I must – and my nation must – vote on resolutions as my nation would vote.

Resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly have only the backing of world opinion.

All UN member nations are members of the General Assembly.

The United Nations seeks consensus.

The United Nations pays its bills by collecting dues from its members.

The United Nations cannot pass laws that nations must obey.

The permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, USA.

Each member nation of the United Nations has one vote.

Represent your Nation

- Know your nation.
- Make it interesting!
- Show everyone where it is on a world map.
- Speak & vote as your nation would.

- Every nation is unique - present your culture, your world interests, who are you as a people, what are you as a nation.

For a successful UN experience

- Be prepared, Know your nation
- Know the position of the nation you represent on all Resolutions and assert your nation's interests – vote as your nation would vote!
- Nations work as a team!
- Know who your nation's allies are on each Resolution and work with your allies
- Forget your school, represent your nation
- Speak up – everyone participate in Council and General Assembly – Speak as your nation, not "I."

Share your personality – be you

- Meet others
- Be friendly
- Go beyond your school group and make friends from other schools
- Help others
- Be polite and friendly to hotel staff
- Help keep your room & meeting rooms clean
- Represent your nation – speak up in Councils and General Assembly – be serious in Councils and General Assembly – outside those enjoy friends and all the new friends you're making!

Purpose of the United Nations

Established in 1945, the purposes of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to achieve international cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.

The Principles of the United Nations Chapter

- 1. The equality and sovereignty of all member states,**
- 2. The fulfillment "in good faith" by all members of obligations assumed under the Charter,**
- 3. Peaceful settlements of disputes,**
- 4. Renunciation of the threat or use of force,**
- 5. Cooperation with the United Nations in any actions it takes,**
- 6. Encouragement of non-member states to abide by its principles,**
- 7. Non-intervention by the United Nations in the internal affairs of any nation,**
- 8. Freedom of religion.**

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the central body of the United Nations and the only one where all member nations are represented. It is the main forum for discussion. It formulates policy and it coordinates the work of other United Nations organizations. The GA has no power to pass laws. Its resolutions are recommendations backed only by the force of world opinion.

Ambassadors (all delegates) to the Model UN GA must represent the views of their nation and cast their nation's one (1) vote as their nation would vote.

Councils

United Nations Councils include Security, Economic and Social, Trusteeship, and International Court of Justice. For the Model United Nations there is a Security Council and 3 - 5 other Councils. Councils first discuss, amend and act on proposals submitted to the Model UN.

The Security Council is the main political arm of the UN and has the "primary responsibility" for the maintenance of international peace and security. The five permanent Security Council Members (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States) may veto passage of a resolution.

NOTE

Because the United Nations is an organization of sovereign nations, the art of persuasion and compromise is essential to achieve national goals. Those delegations prepared on the issues and prepared to deal diplomatically with other delegates will be more successful.

The United Nations is not a world government. It cannot pass laws that bind other nations to obey. UN resolutions only carry the weight of international moral force. The United Nations seeks consensus.

Student Ambassadors are to act professionally and participate on an intellectual and productive level. Student Ambassadors *vote as the nation they represent would vote.*