

MUNA 2019 PROCEDURES

Principles

The Model United Nations Assembly aims to involve senior secondary students in a hands-on experience of a UN-style conference, with the aim of increasing international understanding and goodwill, which is one of the objects of Rotary. The format is modelled on a session of the main deliberative organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly. However, the need to provide a satisfying experience for participants within the time available demands significant simplification and adaptation of the procedures and scope of the General Assembly. Likewise, the specific considerations applying to holding MUNA at the Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House over 1 ½ days, whilst maximising participation amongst 25-30 teams make it likely that procedures will differ from those that may have applied in preliminary events in the run-up to MUNA.

The principles that are applied in making the necessary adaptations are:

1. That the Assembly should address only a limited number of the charter functions of the General Assembly¹, viz.,
 - to consider and make recommendations on the principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms regulation;
 - to discuss any question relating to international peace and security and to make recommendations on it; ²
 - to initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;
 - to make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation, regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations.

Topics and scope of debate will be limited accordingly.

2. That all delegates to the Assembly should faithfully represent the views and interests of their chosen country, rather than their own opinions;
3. That the rules of debate should, to the extent possible, ensure the maximum number of delegates participate;

¹ As detailed on http://www.un.org/ga/58/ga_background.html

² It is assumed that no debate is already the subject of a Security Council discussion, and may therefore properly be debated by the Assembly.

4. That, in the interests of ensuring the maximum possible time for substantive debate, opportunities to influence the debate by procedural motions should be strictly limited;
5. That, in an attempt to simulate the importance of real world alliances, the rules of procedure should specifically promote the active involvement of blocs in the business of the Assembly.

The Rules

1. The Assembly shall consist of six debating sessions, each lasting for the period shown below.
2. In principle, one resolution is to be debated in each session. Draft resolutions are made available on the MUNA website. Proposals for supplementary resolutions may be submitted to the Registrar (munaregistrar@gmail.com) up to 4 weeks before MUNA commences and, subject to the approval of the Secretary-General, will be posted on the website when received.
3. Resolutions for debate, and the order in which they are to be debated, will be determined by a Special Administrative Session of the Assembly, to be held on the Friday night.
4. It is not possible to amend resolutions. Delegations are encouraged to negotiate with each other to identify measures that could be adopted in the implementation of a resolution, or other inducements relevant to the resolution, that might encourage the support of other delegations for a particular position.
5. Each bloc must sponsor one resolution. Blocs may sponsor the affirmative or the negative case for a resolution. A sponsoring bloc will be responsible for:
 - determining which of its member delegations speak first and second to the resolution;
 - ensuring that each member of their bloc is scheduled to speak to the resolution during the debating session;
 - negotiating with members of other blocs to build support for their case. This may involve exchanging speaking slots with other blocs. Where this occurs, the Secretary General is to be informed by diplomatic note, so that he or she is able to correctly determine priority in the speaking order.

Although one would normally expect members of a sponsoring Bloc to support their Bloc position, any delegation retains the right to speak for or against any resolution, regardless of the case that their Bloc may have agreed to sponsor.³

The Debating Sessions

³ Of course, the Secretary General will assume in such cases that due consideration has been given to the broader effects of such a move on the peaceful conduct of world affairs and the coherence and stability of the Bloc of which they are a member.

6. Blocs shall be seated together and may meet during breaks or communicate by diplomatic note in order to coordinate their approach to the Assembly. Blocs may request a suspension of proceedings prior to the start of debate in order to hold a maximum 5-minute Bloc meeting. The Secretary-General will determine whether to accede to such requests based on the time available, and her or his decision will be final.
7. Warnings are to be given 30 seconds before expiry of speaking time for a two- or three-minute speech, and 15 seconds for a one-minute speech.
8. Speakers are to stand in their place to address the Assembly and are to address their remarks to the Secretary-General – for example “Secretary-General, the United States wishes etc.”

Designated Speakers

9. At the commencement of each debating session, the Secretary General will remind the Assembly of the substance of the resolution for debate. She or he will then open the debating session by calling for maximum three-minute speeches from the speakers designated for that resolution, with speaking order passing from proposer to first against, seconder, then second against.

General Debate

10. The floor is then opened for general debate. Any delegation which has not yet spoken to the resolution may request that the Secretary-General's place them in the speaking order. The Secretary-General will start to accept requests to this effect after the commencement of the debating session (that is, when the Secretary General declares the session open and calls for the first Designated Speaker).
11. The Secretary-General has absolute discretion to determine the speaking order.
 - He or she will first ensure that all members of a sponsoring bloc are called to speak to the resolution as requested;
 - Where the case for or against a resolution is not being sponsored by a bloc, speakers will be selected in the order in which their request is received by the Secretary General, except where the Secretary General, in her or his absolute discretion, determines that a different speaking order is required in order to ensure that opportunities to participate are equitably allocated across the weekend.
 - As far as possible, the speaking order will alternate between speakers for and speakers against the resolution.
 - Where insufficient time remains to accommodate all requests to speak, the Secretary-General will determine how many speakers will be permitted to speak from both sides according to the time available and will advise the Assembly.

12. Each speech will be limited to three minutes. In addition to their speech, each delegation participating in general debate, **as well as the seconder and second speaker against**, has the right to a single reply of maximum 1-minute duration, which may be exercised by the delegate rising in their place and being recognised by the Secretary General. **Sponsoring bloc priority does not attach to rights of reply.**
13. General debate ceases when a time limit is reached, according to the following schedule ⁴ (and always subject to the Secretary-General's absolute right to vary the limit for whatever reason):
- Saturday morning session 1: 1 hour 10 minutes
 - Saturday morning session 2: 55 minutes
 - Saturday afternoon session 1: 1 hour 10 minutes
 - Saturday afternoon session 2: 1 hour 10 minutes
 - Sunday morning session 1: 1 hour 10 minutes
 - Sunday morning session 2: 1 hour 10 minutes.

Summation

14. Following the end of general debate, the first speaker against and the proposer in order then have the right to a three-minute summation⁵. When completed, the motion is automatically put to the vote, and the Secretary-General will announce the result, which shall be determined by simple majority. It is permissible for delegations to abstain from voting.

Points of information and Points of Order

15. Points of information are allowed in general debate at any time the Secretary General considers them appropriate, but not during either opening statements, or summation. Points of Information are to be used solely to clarify points of fact or omission. The Secretary-General will rule strictly against any attempt to use Points of information to open points of debate and may suspend the speaking rights in a session of any delegation that does this repeatedly.
16. No points of order are allowed, except to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General any language, either spoken or contained in diplomatic notes, which is considered inappropriate for the assembly (specifically denigration or anything that might be considered an affront to the religion or traditions of another delegate), or any matter contrary to these procedures.

⁴ NB **These times are indicative only and may be changed at any time depending on the final schedule of the Assembly**

⁵ This means any delegation may speak a maximum of two times in each Debating Session (the Proposer and the First Speaker Against through their opening speeches and summations, and other speakers in general debate through their speeches and right of reply). For this reason, **the Proposer and the First Speaker Against do not have the right to speak during the general debate.**

The Secretary-General has the right to rule against any such language or adjudicate on any procedural issue, whether the object of a point of order or not, and to impose the loss of speaking privileges in general debate for the current resolution, or make a ruling on a procedural point, at the Secretary-General's discretion. In the interests of time, these rulings are absolute, and not subject to challenge.

17. In the interests of maintaining focus on substance and avoiding situations where a debate may not extend to fill the session, we do not allow motions that the motion be put.
18. The Secretary-General will maintain a record of who has spoken and how often, across the weekend, and will attempt to give priority to teams who have done so less often. However, beyond the participation of each delegation in debating the resolution sponsored by their Bloc, it is up to the delegation to put itself forward to speak.

The Special Administrative Session of the Assembly

19. The resolutions for debate will be determined by a Special Administrative Session of the Assembly, held on the Friday night preceding the Assembly. The procedure for this session will be as follows:
 - Following a 10-minute Bloc Meeting, the Secretary General will conduct a poll to determine the ranked order of delegations' preferences to speak for and against all the proposed resolutions. Based on the average of rankings of for and against preferences for each resolution, the six highest scoring resolutions will be selected for debate⁶. In case there is a tied score for the sixth resolution, the resolution with the highest affirmative ranking out of the tied scores will be chosen.
 - Following a further 10-minute bloc meeting, each bloc will be asked to nominate one of the selected resolutions for which it wishes to sponsor the affirmative case, and one for which it wishes to sponsor the negative case. If a preference is uncontested, that preference will be granted.
 - In case more than one bloc is seeking to sponsor the same cases for the same resolution, those blocs will be allowed 10 minutes to select another preference from the remaining possible sponsorships. This may be determined in negotiation with other blocs. This process continues until all blocs are sponsoring a resolution.
 - Blocs have 5 minutes from the announcement of a successful sponsorship to provide a list to the Secretary General confirming which delegations are to speak first and second (these will be Designated Speakers in the debating session).

⁶ For example, A resolution which ranks second in the affirmative preferences of the assembly, and 4th in the negative will score 3; another ranking 5th in the affirmative and 3rd in the negative will score 4.

- Following determination of 5 successful sponsorships, the Secretary General will request nominations for unfilled Designated Speaker slots, first from delegations that have not yet been allocated a designated speaker role, then from the other members of the Assembly. Nominations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. It is possible for Designated speaker slots to remain unfilled at the end of the Special Administrative Session.
20. Following the completion of these procedures, the Secretary General will inform the Assembly of the order of debate, in the setting of which she or he will take into account the interest apparent in debating the resolution, as revealed in the poll to select the resolutions, and in the expression of preferences for sponsoring the resolutions. After informing the Assembly of this information, the Special Administrative Session of the Assembly will close. The results will be made available on-line shortly thereafter.
21. **In this way, at the end of Friday evening all teams will be guaranteed to speak at least once over the weekend.** Delegates will also know which resolution is to be debated in each session, and which delegations are designated speakers.

Teams may negotiate between themselves to swap designated speaking positions, provided always that the Secretary-General is informed of such changes in writing prior to the opening of the debating session concerned.

Appropriate Conduct

22. Coaching of students on the floor or in their interaction in bloc meetings is not allowed, not only because it is not fair to those who may not be able to benefit from coaching, but also because it overemphasises the 'winning' of the competition at the expense of the learning to be gained by students from their experience of engaging independently in an event such as this.

We recognise, however, that increased use of mobile devices of all sorts has made this very difficult to enforce, particularly for a volunteer organisation with limited resources, and have to rely on the honesty of both students and counsellors in supporting this rule.

We would also point out to delegates and counsellors that a delegation that is being coached will not be as involved in what other delegations are saying and so is not likely to be as able to show that they are capable of thinking on their feet as one that is fully engaged in the debate. This is likely to have a negative effect on their debating performance.

23. **Please also note that the regulations at the Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House allow only one laptop or tablet per team to be brought into the chamber,** and that all rules relating to the preservation of the unique heritage value of the House of Representatives chamber must be obeyed.