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ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA

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Introductory Guide for Model United Nations

This short introduction should be a help to understand the MUN Rules of Procedure.

c: UNYSA-AUSTRIA-AFA as of 02 June 2018

1. The Session:

- a. Please be advised, that the official language of every session will be **English**.
- b. It is very important, that you remember to speak as a Delegation (you speak for a whole country!!!), so you **never** use the pronoun "I" → you have to use the pronoun "**we**"!
- c. Every Session will start with a **role call** – that means that the chairs will call every Delegate by name and in alphabetic order and you have two options to answer:
 - a. The Delegation of ... is **present** (if you just say "present" you have the right to abstain from a voting procedure)
 - b. The Delegation of ... is **present and voting** (if you say "present and voting" you **do not** have the right to abstain from a voting procedure)
- d. If you have **more than one** issue to discuss, it is necessary to "set the agenda" → that means, that you will have different proposals with which topic a delegation would like to start (you have different speeches [in favor and against the proposals] and in the end you will vote – at a MUN conference you probably have a simply "majority vote" → needs less time) – if you have **just one** issue, it is not necessary to set the agenda.
- e. Then there will be the opening speeches from **every** delegate – the speech should not be longer than **3 minutes**. (an opening speech for each topic – during your opening speech you can talk about: background of the issue, past actions, that have been taken so far, your country-position/country policy, possible solutions,...) - if you finish earlier, it is very important that you "**yield**" your time (back to the chairs, to another delegation or to questions) → "We yield our time ..."
- f. Then the Chairs will go for a motion to open the **GENERAL SPEAKERS/SPEAKING LIST** – that means, that you can speak about everything (**relevant for the actual topic**) and collect ideas – if you want to be set on the GSL, you have to raise your placard, the Chairs will recognize that and will put you on the list. Usually you have **90 seconds** for your speech – if you finish earlier, it is very important that you "**yield**" your time (back to the chairs, to another delegation or to questions) → "We yield our time ..."
 - a. After a few speakers the Chairs will go for points or motions:
 - i. Two types of "Motions":
 1. *Moderated Caucus*: it's like the GSL, but specific for one topic; if you want to move to a MC the proposal should include three things → **name of the topic** you would like to discuss, **total duration** of the caucus and the **individual speaker's time**.
 2. *Unmoderated Caucus*: that's the informal discussion; you just have to **name the topic** you'd like to discuss and the **total duration** of the caucus → during this caucus you are allowed to stand up, talk in small groups,...
 - a. Please be advised that this type is very good to start writing → working paper, resolution paper.

ii. Different types of "Points":

1. Point of Personal Privilege: Is directed to the Chairs and is the only point that may interrupt a speaker; this point asks whoever has the floor to raise his/her volume.
2. Point of Order: Is directed to the Chairs and inquires if a certain action was in order and compliance with the session's rules and regulations. This point may not interrupt the speaker.
3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Is directed to the Chairs and inquires about the procedures of the session and the debate. This point may not interrupt the speaker.
4. Point of Information: A delegate may raise a point of information to make relevant inquiries or asking for clarification of statements made by other delegates in the committee. This point is, in effect, a follow-up to statements made by earlier delegate. A point of information cannot interrupt a speaker.
5. RIGHT of Reply: A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been egregiously impugned by another delegate may request a Right of Reply. A delegate is allowed a 1-minute speech to address his/her concerns. The Chairs may overrule the Right of Reply, if a delegate is repetitively and intentionally distrusting the course of the session. Right of Reply is not in order during moderated caucus.

g. Observers:

- a. They are allowed to: be part of the discussion (they can talk during the GSL, ...), vote for a moderated or unmoderated Caucus and they can be Signatory for a Resolution Paper.
- b. They are not allowed to: vote for a Resolution and they cannot be a Sponsor for a Resolution Paper.

2. **UNSC (United Nations Security Council):**

The Security Council is one of six main organs of the United Nations. There are four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security
- to develop friendly relations among nations
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights
- and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

The members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. The decisions from the Security Council are more powerful than recommendations from other organs of the United States, because the member states are obligated to implement them under the Charter.

The first meeting of the Security Council took place on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. In the meantime the meetings take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, but there were also reunions in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 1972, in Panama City (Panama) and in Geneva (Switzerland) in 1990. For the reason that the Security Council could come together at any time it is provided that a representative of each member state has to be present at the United Nations Headquarters.

Information and further research:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

3. **HRC (Human Rights Council):**

It is an inter-governmental body of the United Nations system made up of 47 states (elected by the United Nations General Assembly). The mission of the Human Rights Council is the promotion and protection of the human rights all over the world. The Council meets in Geneva.

HRC was created on 15 March 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly by the resolution 60/251. The first session took place from 19th to 30th June 2006. One year later the "Institution-building package" was adopted.

The Human Rights Council works with the United Nations Special Procedures (it was established by the former Commission on Human Rights). These procedures are created for special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that monitor, examine advice and publicly report on human rights in specific countries.

When the Council was created in 2006 the General Assembly decided to review the work after five years → the review of 2011:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCReview.aspx>

Information and further research:

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/hrcindex.aspx>

4. **IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency):**

On 23 October 1956 the statute of the IAEA was approved by the Conference on the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The conference was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations and came into force on 29 July 1957. The statute has been amended three times and laid down in paragraphs A and C of Article XVIII.

Usually the IAEA was generated in response to the deep fears and expectations by the discovery and use of nuclear technology. The genesis of the agency was Eisenhower (the former president of the United States). The ratification of the statute by Eisenhower marks the official birth of the IAEA.

The IAEA is strongly connected to nuclear technology and its controversial applications, either as a part of new weapons or as a tool, that could be useful.

In 1957, during the first conference, the delegates decided to establish the headquarters of IAEA in Vienna (Austria). The Vienna International Centre opened in 1979. Before that time the old Grand Hotel (next to the Vienna Opera House) served as a temporary headquarter. In 1979 the IAEA got a regional office in Toronto (Canada) and in 1984 a second office opened in Tokyo (Japan). There are also two liaison offices: one in New York (since 1957) and the other one in Geneva (since 1965).

Information and further research:

<https://www.iaea.org/>

5. **WTO (World Trade Organization):**

The World Trade Organization is the only global international institution engaged in rules concerning trade between nations. Agreements, negotiated and signed by the majority of the world trading nations and ratified in their parliaments, constitute the core of this organization. Trade should flow as well as possible – that is most essential point of WTO.

Agreements often need interpreting, because trade relations include conflicting potential – painstaking negotiations are very important for the system of the World Trade Organization. To settle upcoming differences some neutral procedures, based on an agreed, legal foundation, is needed. That is the goal behind the dispute settlement procedure written down in the WTO agreements.

The World Trade Organization has a list of points they stand for: Non-discrimination; predictable and transparent; more competitive; protect the environment; ...

Information and further research:

<https://www.wto.org/>