

ALMUN XIV

February 4th-6th, 2022



DELEGATE RESOURCE GUIDE

THE FOURTEENTH ALABAMA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ALABAMA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB

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LETTER FROM THE **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Alabama Model United Nations! We are entering our fourteenth year as a conference, and we have worked hard to ensure that this is our most streamlined, organized, and riveting conference to date.

My name is Catharine del Carmen, and I am so excited to be serving as your Director-General for ALMUN XIV. This is my 8th year of attending ALMUN, and I could not think of a better way to end my time in the program. Outside of my academic coursework at UA, I am perhaps a bit over-involved. I am the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association, a Resident Advisor in the residence halls, as well as serving in a variety of different positions for campus committees.

My MUN experience was truly transformative in my development as a global citizen. MUN helped me find my voice as a leader and my passion for advocacy. With the power I have found in MUN, I hold high expectations for delegate engagement and education. Conferences are meant to be fun and competitive but delegates should strive to end the conference as a better leader and global citizen than before they came to Tuscaloosa.

We have composed this substantive guide to prepare students for the world of MUN, especially if ALMUN XIV is your first conference. We include an outline of staff positions and their roles, different committees and their structures, and so much more. We encourage you to take a look over this guide to enhance your preparation for a successful conference performance.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

Best,

Catharine del Carmen
Director-General, ALMUN XIV
Alabama International Relations Club
almun.dg@gmail.com

SUBSTANTIVE SECRETARIAT

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (DG)

The Director General is in command of all substantive aspects of ALMUN, especially in regards to committees and how they are organized and executed. The DG also helps with the recruitment and management of all ALMUN Staff and is the authority on ALMUN Parliamentary Procedure. The DG helps to conduct feedback sessions and fills in for the SG whenever they are absent.

Catharine del Carmen (DG): almun.dg@gmail.com

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES (USG-GA)

The Under-Secretary-General of General Assemblies will work with the DG to coordinate GA committee chairs before the conference and will be responsible for the committee Chairs and Co-chairs during the conference. This USG-GA will also be knowledgeable on all GA committee topics and will serve as a resource for delegates during the conference.

Roshan Malladi (USG-GA): almun.usg.ga@gmail.com

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (USG-SA)

The Under-Secretary-General of Specialized Agencies will work with the DG to coordinate SA committee chairs before the conference and will be responsible for the committee Chairs and Co-chairs during the conference. This USG-SA will also be knowledgeable on all SA committee topics and will serve as a resource for delegates during the conference.

Madeeha Aziz (USG-GA): almun.usg.sa@gmail.com

UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF CRISIS COMMITTEES (USG-Crisis)

The USGs of Crisis Committees strategically plan and execute all aspects of the Crisis committees at ALMUN. They help select all Crisis Directors and Staff who then work together with the USGs to create committee topics and develop crisis arches and to construct background guides. USGs of Crisis also ensure that Crisis committees run smoothly during the conference and plan accordingly.

Colleen Rhein (USG-Crisis): almun.usg.crisis@gmail.com

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESS CORPS (USG-Press)

The USG of Press Corps plans the Press corps Committee for delegates interested in the journalistic side of Model UN. The USG-Press works alongside the SG and DG to make the Press Corps committee as integrated with the rest of the committee as possible.

Shrishti Dubey (USG-Press): almun.usg.press@gmail.com

COMMITTEE STAFF

General Assembly/Specialized Agencies Staff

CHAIR

The Chair's main responsibility is to facilitate debate during the conference by maintaining decorum within the committee room. This responsibility involves developing topics for debate for the committee prior to the conference, and being fully educated on those topics; ensuring that the committee stays within its scope of authority and the directive of the topic at hand during committee sessions; and understanding and implementing correct and proper Parliamentary Procedure within committee and respecting delegates.

CO-CHAIR(S)

The Co-Chair's main responsibility is to assist the Chair in facilitating debate during the conference. This requires an extensive understanding of and high level of comfort with parliamentary procedure. The Co-Chair's role in committee includes assisting in maintaining decorum and assisting delegates throughout the session. To assist delegates, the Co-Chair will be well-versed in resolution-writing. The Co-Chair will also be responsible for helping the Chair with the development of committee topics and the creation of background guides.

***a note on specialized agencies**

The formal naming of Chair and Co-Chair might differ in each Specialized Agency but the roles still remain the same. For example, in the International Court of Justice the Chair would be called the President of the Court and the Co-chairs would be called the Vice-Presidents of the Court.

Crisis Staff

CRISIS DIRECTOR (CD)

The Crisis Director creates an idea for a crisis that is based on history, current events, or a fictional/hypothetical setting. The CD works with the Under-Secretary-General of Crisis Committees and a staff to create and develop a crisis tree that shows multiple courses of action to provide an interactive debate for delegates. The CD will not actually be in the room of debate, the committee room, nor will be the debate monitor. Instead they will be in the Crisis committee room, creating and implementing personal crises for individual delegates and pushing forth the committee as a whole.

ASSISTANT CRISIS DIRECTOR (ACD)

The Assistant Crisis Director (ACD) is the second-in-command in the Crisis room, and takes on the same role and duties as a Crisis Staffer, with the added responsibility of being the point person for the Crisis Director both prior to and during the conference.

CRISIS STAFFER

Crisis Staff spends the majority of their time during ALMUN inside the Crisis room creating and executing crises as the committee progresses. They have creative authority and flexibility to create crises and respond to delegates actions, but are working to further the vision and under the management of the Crisis Director. Crisis Staff will interact with delegates on an individual level, including speaking with delegates as they have questions for crisis, and through written communication when delegates attempt to take action via individual directives and the Crisis room. Crisis Staff gives crisis updates to the committee through role-playing during speeches, skits, and videos created by Crisis Staff and the Crisis Director. Crisis Staff will help set up all Crisis Updates by working together with the Co-Chair and the Crisis Director.

COURSE OF DEBATE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

This section provides a brief summary of events that occur in General Assembly and Specialized Agency committees for ALMUN XIV. Much of the information involving procedure can be found in the Rules and Procedures document on our website, so this section will reference those rules and terms as appropriate and serves to provide a concise summary of how the conference will unfold. Please refer to the Rules and Procedure document for specific details regarding terminology and rules for each section of the course of debate.

NOTE: *International Court of Justice is a Specialized Agency, but ICJ's Course of Debate does NOT fall under these rules and regulations. Refer to page 16 for ICJ Course of Debate*

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the very first committee session, the Chair and rest of the dais will introduce themselves. At the beginning of each session, the dais will take a roll call for each member state represented in the committee. Please take care to be present for each roll call, as it will impact how the dais considers awards (with the exception of travel delays and illness).

TOPIC SELECTION

After the dais takes roll, the Chair will entertain points or motions; at this time, a delegate is encouraged to motion to open the **speaker's list**¹ to discuss topic selection.

INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

After one of the topics is selected, delegates will make a speech introducing their position on the topic and some brief ideas. After introductory speeches, delegates may motion for a **moderated caucus**² to discuss specific subtopics and formulate more ideas about resolution ideas.

BLOC FORMATION

As more and more ideas and perspectives are introduced, delegates will begin to see with whom they agree and with whom one would like to work with. A delegate may motion for an **unmoderated caucus**³ to begin working with other delegates on a working paper. At this point, the course of debate will alternate between moderated and unmoderated caucuses, as well as employ the speaker's list.

¹ The **speaker's list** is the default list of delegates wishing to speak. The list opens at the beginning of committee and must be formally closed via a 2/3 majority vote. If the list is exhausted, the committee moves into voting procedures, regardless of whether the committee is prepared to vote on a draft resolution.

² A **moderated caucus** or "**mod**" is an alternative to the speakers' list, in which delegates specify a scope of the topic to discuss, and must not stray from that scope until the moderated caucus elapses. No motions are accepted between speeches.

³ An **unmoderated caucus** or "**unmod**" is a period in which formal proceedings will be suspended to allow for delegates to discuss the topic at hand freely. Each motion must specify only the length.

WRITING WORKING PAPERS

Delegates, once in a **bloc**⁴, will write **working papers**⁵ employing the proper formatting and use of preambulatory and operative clauses. Once the working paper has enough sponsors and signatories, they may present it to the dais, which may accept it or instead suggest edits before accepting it.

RESOLUTION DEBATE

Once working papers are accepted by the dais as a **draft resolution**⁶, a delegate may motion to introduce draft resolutions. During this time, delegates may motion to read draft resolutions, motion for a **Q&A session**⁷, or motion for a moderated caucus to discuss draft resolutions. Delegates sponsoring a draft resolution will need to be able to understand and defend their paper.

CONSOLIDATION

Often, especially when a large number of draft resolutions exist in a committee, the Chair will request delegates to consolidate their papers and merge with other blocs. During unmoderated caucuses, blocs can work together to merge papers. Delegates may also submit amendments to consider adding to draft resolutions.

VOTING

Once draft resolutions have been consolidated to the Chair's liking, delegates may motion to enter voting procedure. During voting procedure, the doors are barred, and no one may enter or exit the committee. Voting procedure does not end until all draft resolutions have been brought to a vote. After voting procedure, the course of debate begins again for the next topic.

This section is not a completely accurate description of the General Assembly & Specialize Agency processes; often the flow of committee is determined either by the Chair or the progress of the delegates in their work on working papers/draft resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

A detailed description of rules regarding resolutions can be found in the previous section; however, here we will provide some preambulatory and operative clauses, followed by a sample resolution.

[From the UNA-USA website; [link](#)]

⁴ A **bloc** is a group of countries that work together based on a common purpose. Blocs can be formed based on geographic location, ideology, religion, etc.

⁵ A **working paper** consists of Preambulatory and Operative clauses that addresses the given topic at hand. This document is considered a "working paper" until it is submitted and accepted by the dais, in which it becomes known as a "draft resolution."

⁶ A **draft resolution** is the final submitted version of a working paper. After a working paper becomes a draft resolution, it can then be voted on.

⁷ A **Q&A Session** can be motioned for, in which sponsors of a draft resolution can take questions from fellow delegates.

Preambulatory Clauses:

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a preambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Preambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

Sample Preambulatory Phrases:

Affirming	Emphasizing	Keeping in mind
Alarmed by	Expecting	Noting with deep concern
Approving	Expressing its appreciation	Nothing with satisfaction
Bearing in mind	Fulfilling	Noting further
Believing	Fully aware	Observing
Confident	Emphasizing	Reaffirming
Contemplating	Expecting	Realizing
Convinced	Expressing its appreciation	Recalling
Declaring	Fulfilling	Recognizing
Deeply concerned	Fully aware	Referring
Deeply conscious	Further deploring	Seeking
Deeply convinced	Further recalling	Taking into consideration
Deeply Disturbed	Guided by	Taking note
Deeply Regretting	Having adopted	Viewing with appreciation
Desiring	Having considered	Welcoming
Emphasizing	Having examined	
Expecting	Having received	

Operative Clauses:

Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principles:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Expresses its appreciation	Has resolved
Affirms	Expresses its hope	Notes
Approves	Further invites	Proclaims
Authorizes	Deplores	Reaffirms
Calls	Designates	Recommends
Calls upon	Draws the attention	Regrets
Condemns	Emphasizes	Reminds
Confirms	Encourages	Requests
Congratulates	Endorses	Solemnly affirms
Considers	Expresses its appreciation	Strongly condemns
Declares accordingly	Expresses its hope	Supports
Deplores	Further invites	Takes note of
Designates	Further proclaims	Transmits
Draws the attention	Further reminds	Trust
Emphasizes	Further recommends	
Encourages	Further requests	
Endorses	Further resolves	

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

[From the UNA-USA website ([link](#))]

Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens,

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts;
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and
7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development.

COURSE OF DEBATE

CRISIS

Crisis committees operate using much less formal parliamentary procedure. These committees use less formal resolutions, known as directives, to facilitate a more fluid debate in response to impending crises delivered from the Crisis Staff. This section provides a brief summary of events that occur in Crisis committees. Much of the information involving procedure is covered in the “Rules to Know” section, so this section will reference those rules and terms as appropriate and serves to provide a concise summary of how Crisis committees unfold over the course of the conference.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the first committee session, the dais, the Crisis Director and their staff will introduce themselves to the committee and take any procedural questions. At the beginning of each session, the dais will take a roll call for each member state represented in the committee. Please take care to be present for each roll call, as it will impact how the dais considers awards (with the exception of travel delays and illness).

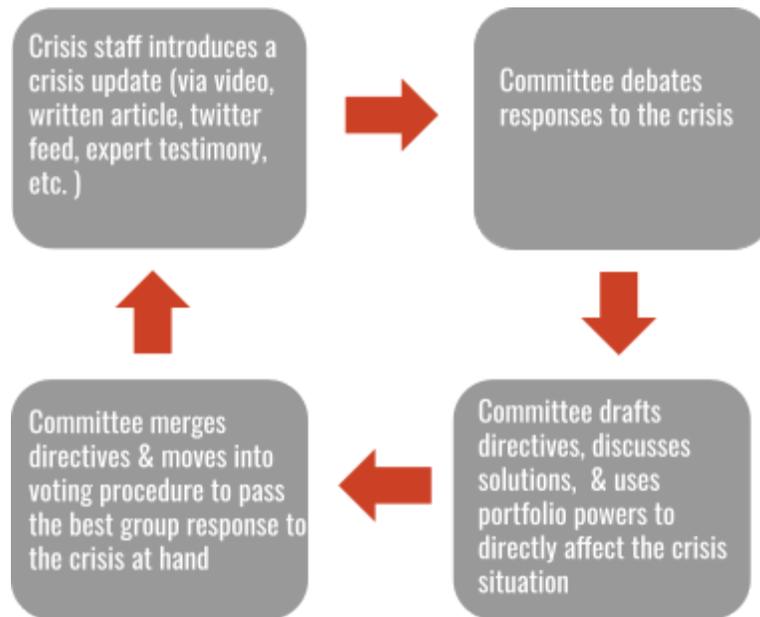
INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

After the dais takes roll, the Chair will entertain points or motions; at this time, a delegate must first motion to open debate. Then delegates are encouraged to motion for a round robin of 1 minute speaking time to allow for introduction speeches. During this time, each delegate will give a speech that typically casts their overarching vision for committee, sets goals, and introduces their character to the committee and dais. These speeches are an opportunity for delegates to demonstrate their knowledge of the topic, convey their speaking ability, and to establish their leadership presence to the committee.

CRISIS UPDATES

The Crisis Staff conveys new information relevant to the committee via crisis updates. Crisis updates are a creative way for the Crisis Staff to engage the delegates in pressing matters and facilitate debate throughout a committee session. Some examples of crisis updates include a news article for delegates to read, a twitter feed, or an expert witness testimony given to the committee in person. After an update delivery, the Crisis Staff will allow questions to be asked from the delegates: depending on the update, Crisis Staff has the right to deny a question and answer period from the delegates. Crisis updates are given in response to the individual actions taken by delegates using their portfolio powers, in response to the action taken by the committee as a whole, and also due to other circumstances happening in the “world” of the Crisis committee.

CYCLE OF AN ALMUN CRISIS COMMITTEE



DIRECTIVES

Directives are the primary means through which the committee takes action in a Crisis committee. A directive is a short handwritten document containing solely operative clauses where the committee is directing specific action on behalf of the entire committee as a collective body. They are less formal than a General Assembly resolution as they are intended to be a quick yet productive response to the varying crises at hand. The Chairperson may decide to cap the number of directives they will accept to be introduced, at which time directives may have to be merged by the committee members. There must be $\frac{1}{2}$ quorum acting as signatories on the directive, which merely indicates they wish to hear the directive debated, not that they will necessarily vote for it to pass. The Chairperson may set either a minimum or a limit on the total number of sponsors (who wrote the directive) or signatories for directives in order to limit the number handed in. An example directive can be found on the following page.

EXAMPLE:

Directive: Seoul Food

In light of the alarming humanitarian situation mounting in the Northern end of the country, the cabinet will:

- 1. Release emergency food stores to the Korean public, to be distributed by police forces over the next two weeks, to reduce rates of malnutrition and starvation from this conflict;*
- 2. Request assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross is providing clean water to residents of Seoul, Incheon, Uijeongbu, and Ansan as needed;*

- 3 *Establish emergency lodging centers in non-essential government buildings for individuals that have been displaced due to recent violence;*
- 4 *Temporarily cease exports of agricultural products and order mandatory sale of all foods to the Ministry of Agriculture for 50% below market value to help mitigate the current food crisis.*

Through these steps, we hope to stem the humanitarian crisis in our country and regain the trust of the public.

Sponsors: Minister of Commerce, Minister of Culture, Minister of Foreign Affairs

“How to Write a Crisis Directive” *Best Delegate*. 2016. Web. Dec. 26. 2016.

<http://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-crisis-directive/>

CRISIS NOTES

A Crisis Note is the means through which an individual in a Crisis committee can take action using their portfolio powers. Crisis notes are used by individuals to affect the ongoing crisis situations in the committee as they arise and even to create new crises that affect the committee direction as a whole, or to increase one’s leverage in the committee room. Crisis notes are the best opportunity for delegates to demonstrate their creativity as well as utilize the knowledge they obtained during their research to create effective **crisis arc**⁸ over the course of the conference. Crisis notes can be written in a variety of creative forms; including in a “personal directive” format or a letter to another individual. Crisis staff facilitates crisis notes through the “notepad system” at ALMUN, where all crisis notes will be written on two alternating notepads passed back and forth between the Crisis room and committee room. Delegates should be extremely cautious to only use the powers within their character’s personal portfolio, which they know through the Background Guide and the Dossier they will receive in the first committee session. For instance, the Secretary of Agriculture cannot unilaterally move troops. They can, however, suggest the movement of troops to the committee at large, or unilaterally cut farming subsidies, which is within their purview. A crisis note example can be found on the next page.

EXAMPLE:

*Committee: Korean Literati Purges Joseon Korea 1498
To My Deputy Headmistress Minerva Soh Young,*

I would love an update on my most star students, especially ones fit for government in the State Magistrate, or otherwise, those who scored well on those sections regarding that ministry.

Then, let’s proceed with the following...

⁸ A crisis arc is a way for a delegate to achieve their character’s personal goals through the use of their portfolio powers as well as interactions with the outside world.

1. *Submit our top students' names as a candidate and push for them to replace the State Magistrate with the section chief of appointments in the Ministry of Personnel.*
2. *Reinvigorate the curriculum within the Royal Academy to de-emphasize Confucian thought on monarchical loyalty and instead strengthen allegiance to merit-based central government.*
3. *Lower our professor retirement age by 10 years in order to slowly phase out older professors...*

Please let me know as these educational reforms are promptly carried out.

*My best,
Headmaster Kim
"Dumbledore"*

This crisis note has its own strengths and weaknesses. It is a letter to a deputy, which is a convenient way to take action. It is creative and has concrete action it attempts to take. However, it may be too direct of action that is subject to sabotage and lacks detail in case things do not go as planned. Does lowering the retirement age guarantee the professors retire, especially knowing that a Headmaster with different ideology is consolidating power? What if the monarchy hears about the changes in curriculum? Delegates should consider if their notes will have an impact on pushing the committee in a new direction and what the consequences of their notes could be on their character personally before they send them.

PRESS RELEASES AND COMMUNIQUES

Press releases are the means through which individual delegates or the committee at large can tell the world what they are accomplishing in committee. While these often do not have a major impact on the direction of the committee, they can be smart to take when the committee needs to let the public know what action they are taking or plan to take, or when they plan to condemn an action taken by an individual, organization, or country. Press releases should be voted on by moving into substantive voting procedure and must be passed with a simple majority (50% of quorum + 1).

Communiques are the means through which the committee can communicate with another person, body, or organization not represented in the committee itself. For instance, the U.S. State Department in a Cold War committee would pass a communique to communicate with the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Communiques should be voted on by moving into substantive voting procedure and must be passed with a simple majority (50% of quorum + 1).

COURSE OF DEBATE

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICES (ICJ)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) operates in partially-suspended parliamentary procedures. All delegates will represent themselves as Associate Justices during the conference. As there is no formal research into who a character is, all opinions during the conference are supposed to represent free, judicious mindsets. The information below will outline the flow of debate and guide delegates throughout the weekend of the conference.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the first committee session, the dais will introduce themselves to the committee and take any procedural questions. At the beginning of each session, the dais will take a roll call for each delegate to be represented in the committee. Please take care to be present for each roll call, as it will impact how the dais considers awards (with the exception of travel delays and illness).

INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

After the dais takes roll, the Chair will entertain points or motions; at this time, a delegate must first motion to open debate. Then delegates are encouraged to motion for a round robin of 1 minute speaking time to allow for introduction speeches. During this time, each delegate will give a speech that typically casts their overarching vision for the committee, sets goals, and introduces their viewpoints on Case A to the committee and dais. These speeches are an opportunity for delegates to demonstrate their knowledge of the case, convey their speaking ability, and to establish their leadership presence to the committee.

DRAFTING OF JURISDICTION

Once introductory speeches finish, the President of the Court would then entertain discussion on the Court's jurisdiction of the case. This will happen through a series of moderated caucuses where delegates will address whatever concerns they may have in regards to the jurisdiction of the Court. Delegates will draft and vote on a resolution that names the Court's jurisdiction on the subject matter.

CASE PRESENTATION

Following the passage of the Court's jurisdiction in the matter, both parties to the case will present their Oral Arguments. This would be the normal trial section of a case so delegates should pay special attention to the arguments made, appropriate documents presented, and potential remedies put forth. Delegates are encouraged to take notes during the presentation as to use in the deliberation phase. Associate Justices will be forwarded the opportunity to ask questions of each party.

DELIBERATION

Justices will then debate the merits of the case in true Model United Nations fashion. Per the rules of parliamentary procedure, a system of moderated and unmoderated caucuses will be used to debate each argument made during the Case Presentation. Delegates should imagine this area as if it were a General Assembly, including traditional bloc formation.

DRAFTING OF OPINION

As blocs form, delegates should group together and form working groups to draft opinions with each other. If there are more than two groups, the President of the Court will work to mediate differences between groups to alleviate the amount of dissent. As opinions are finalized, they will be submitted to the Vice-Presidents of the Court for presentation. All opinions must be submitted and presented at the same time. After the presentation of all opinions, the President will conduct a roll call vote where each Associate Justice must place their support behind one opinion. The opinion that reaches a majority of votes will be considered the official opinion of the Court. Other opinions that receive votes will be considered dissenting opinions, either as an individual or groups of Justices. If after the first roll call vote, no opinion reaches a majority, the opinions that received zero votes will be struck from the record and out of contention. The President will conduct a revote with the remaining opinions. If after the revote, there is not a majority opinion, the opinion with the fewest number of votes will be struck from the record and out of contention. This process will continue until there is a majority opinion.*

*Note: This process will only be necessary if multiple opinions are received by the Dais. If there are only one or two opinions presented, the first vote will be the only vote.

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Your experience as a delegate doesn't begin on the first day of the conference. Rather, the time you spend leading up to the conference is just as important as the debate and discussion that occurs therein. Proper research and preparation are key to a successful performance, but for new delegates, or those without much experience, the idea of a MUN conference and the preparation behind it can seem like an overwhelming task. The best place to start is this Background Guide written and prepared for you by your committee staff. This document is the perfect jumping off point for all of your research, and it will also help you understand the innerworkings, schematics, and purpose of your character/country assignment and role as a delegate during the conference.

The position paper is a delegate's first impression to the dais and is the final product of a student's preparation and research for any Model United Nations conference. It contains informed perspectives and histories of the state a delegate represents and is crucial to creating an authentic MUN experience.

All delegates are strongly encouraged to submit a position paper. Each country/character represented at ALMUN XIV must submit a position paper in order to be considered for awards. The best position paper within each committee will be awarded the Outstanding Position Paper award by the committee staff.

TIPS & NOTES

- Do not write in first person; write as the character represented (e.g. "The New York Times leans...")
- Avoid the passive voice
- Write matter-of-factly rather than with embellished language
- Remember to cite your sources in-text if necessary

GA AND SA POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

FORMAT

- The position paper will be two pages, so that each topic takes up space on one page. When finished writing positions for the first topic, add a page break and begin the second topic on the second page. Do not exceed two pages.
- The document will be single spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman
- The document will begin with a three line header on the left side consisting of the following:
 - Name(s) of the delegate(s)
 - State represented by the delegate(s)
 - Committee in which the delegate(s) will participate
- After the header, center and identify the title of the first topic, such as in the following example:

Topic A: [Insert Title of Topic]
- References will be cited using footnotes in MLA format. Include the URL for electronic sources. We strongly encourage using solely electronic sources for ease of reference.
- **Position papers should be saved as a word document or PDF file with the title "ALMUNXIV_[committee]_[country]"**.

CONTENT

Position papers will have three paragraphs for each topic outlined as follows:

The first paragraph introduces the topic from the point of view of the nation represented. It discusses the history of the topic, specifically in relation to the country.

The second paragraph analyses the topic's context in the nation and expresses most of the research done on the topic. It discusses past action or inaction, success or failure, and the nation's current thoughts and feelings towards the issue.

The third paragraph consists of an informed discussion of solutions to be proposed by the delegate(s) at the conference. It uses the research done on the topic and synthesizes it into new and creative ideas based on the nation represented by the student.

CRISIS POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

The Crisis position paper will be one page in length. It will consist of general background information on the topic and character which can include information found from outside sources if needed. Ad Hoc delegates will not submit a position paper.

FORMAT

- The position paper will be one page. Content for the paper will be broken into paragraphs instead of additional pages. Do not exceed one page.
- The document will be single spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman
- The document will begin with a three line header on the left side consisting of the following:
 - Name(s) of the delegate(s)
 - Character represented by the delegate(s)
 - Committee in which the delegate(s) will participate
- Additional research outside of the background guide is discouraged, but if you do use outside sources, citations are required. References will be cited using footnotes in MLA format. Include the URL for electronic sources. We strongly encourage using solely electronic sources for ease of reference.

CONTENT

Position papers will have three paragraphs outlined as follows:

The first paragraph introduces the character assigned to the delegate. It should include a summary of who the character is and the character's powers. This summary reinforces that the delegate understands the position of the character. Powers can include those which are not necessarily expressly permitted according to the background guide but are synthesized from what the background guide describes.

The second paragraph analyses the character's role in the crisis at hand. The delegate should give a brief explanation of the crisis from the perspective of the character. More importantly, the paper should describe the character's role in the overarching story of the crisis.

The third paragraph consists of an informed discussion of solutions to be proposed by the delegate(s) at the conference. It uses the research done on the crisis and synthesizes it into new and creative ideas based on the character represented by the student.

EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

John Doe
The Italian Republic
Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic A: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

Since 1849 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have become the trademark technology of the 21st century. They are quickly gaining prominence and are flying themselves into every aspect of our lives: militarily, economically, socially and environmentally. Regardless of the many benefits that are associated with UAVs Italy feels the disadvantages outweigh the benefits. The glaring problem with this technology is the blatant risk for non-combatant lives and the simple fact that there is no regulation of this new and advancing technology.

UAVs were seen on the broad scale in World War II used by the Allied forces to attack German rocket sites. After this, the development of UAV combatant technology skyrocketed. Advancements by Israeli and American sectors for drone technology enabled UAVs to be used for reconnaissance and combat, capable of firing guided missiles and equipped with GPS¹. Notably, Israel and the United States' UAV programs have swelled in size and capacity, with the United States adopting a policy of widespread drone use to hinder the efficiency of militant groups around the world. It has been seen that these efforts in Pakistan and Yemen have both been effective at taking out militant leaders and destructive in terms of civilian casualties. Italy feels as though these attacks are violations of national sovereignty of the affected countries, but worries that regulation of such attacks could hinder counterterrorism efforts. In the most recent decades, the range of UAV functions has exploded and these vehicles have become much more useful in non-combat, surveillance and information gathering settings. As the technologies for UAVs develop around the world, the benefits of the new research provide for more efficient and effective means of security, scientific advancement, and an overall greater comprehension of the world around us. Proliferation of these technologies in all sectors globally has reached an unparalleled rate, as most nations begin to pursue to develop UAV technologies of their own. Italy feels that it is clear that technology is surpassing human limitations. UAVs are the future of combatant missions and reconnaissance. However as they maintain momentum and continue to develop, they will become more powerful and will amass a potential threat to civilians across the globe.

Italy would lay out a foundational map of guidelines for the production and proliferation of UAV technology. These regulations will be applicable to all countries across the globe regardless of the number of UAVs in their possession. However Italy notes that technological development is imperative for advancement in our technological age and does not want to limit this technological progress. Italy proposes that the use of drones must be monitored but open channels of communication be explored in order to stimulate UAV development. Italy understands that this is easier said than done; hence Italy proposes the following steps to achieve its goal. First it is imperative that the global community promotes an environment open to the collective development of UAVs. By creating the atmosphere of sharing Italy firmly believes that a certain air of trust will be established. However, this is an idealistic plan so Italy proposes countries must adhere to guidelines that state that their UAV technology not be used for militaristic purposes and that an institution similar to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty² be created and enforced. Although this is not a perfect plan, Italy feels it is important to start somewhere to address the problems with UAVs and a piece of regulation that is already enforced and is working could potentially be the start of the answers to our problems.

¹"Unmanned Aerial Vehicles." *Purpose*. N.p.. Web. 7 Jan 2013. <<http://www.uavs.org/purpose>>.

²"THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION ." . The United Nations. Web. 3 Jan 2013. <<http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2005/npttreaty.html>>.

Please Note: This position paper's font size was decreased to fit the contents on one page without editing the header or footer. To see this paper properly formatted on one page, [click here](#).

ICJ POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

ICJ delegates will write a preliminary research document surrounding each of the cases presented before them. Each topic will be one page in length and formatted to the following guidelines.

FORMAT

- The position paper will be two pages. Content for the paper will be one page per case. Do not exceed one page per case.
- The document will be single spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman
- The document will begin with a three line header on the left side consisting of the following:
 - Name of the delegate
 - School of the Delegate
 - Committee in which the delegate will participate
- Additional research outside of the background guide is encouraged, but if you do use outside sources, citations are required. References will be cited using footnotes in MLA format. Include the URL for electronic sources. We strongly encourage using solely electronic sources for ease of reference. The most encouraged resource is the ICJ website

CONTENT

Position papers will have three paragraphs outlined as follows:

The first paragraph introduces the delegate's perception of the case at hand. It should include a summary of the parties' general arguments for remedy.

The second paragraph analyses potential documents (treaties, resolutions, laws) that may be used as a precedence in the case or have merit to be discussed before the Court.

The third paragraph consists of an informed discussion of solutions to be proposed by the delegate(s) at the conference. It uses the research done on the case and synthesizes it into new and creative solutions based on the delegate's initial research.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE SPECIFIC NOTES

- **Fifth-Pan African National Congress** and **WHO Travels Back in Time** will follow General Assemblies Parliamentary Procedure.
- **Clinton's Cabinet** will follow a simplified Crisis Parliamentary Procedure.

We will provide all delegates with training during the first committee session. For any questions or concerns, please contact the appropriate Secretariat or Staff member found in this handbook or in your Background Guide.