**Glossary Terms—Guide to MUN**

**Highlighted terms are “need to know” terms. All other terms are not required to know but will be helpful for future conferences.**

**Bloc:** A group of countries that form a logical combination because of geographical, economic, or cultural similarities (e.g. G8, African bloc, Arab League).

**Caucus:** A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus. Usually some of a committee's most productive work is accomplished during caucuses.

**Clause:** a paragraph in a resolution describing one specific guiding principle (perambulatory) or action to be taken (operative).

**Chair:** Also known as a moderator, this is a member of the dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions and enforces the rules of procedure.

**Dais:** The group of people in charge of a Model UN committee, which generally consists of a Chair, a Director and an Assistant Director.

**Decorum**: order in committee. The chair may call decorum if delegates are loud or disrespectful, in order to ask for their attention during committee.

**Delegate:** A participant acting as a representative of a member state or observer in a Model UN committee.

**Delegation**: The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a Model UN conference.

**Dilatory:** see ruling something out of order

**Draft Resolution**: A Working Paper which has been signed by sponsor countries and approved for debate by the chair. A draft resolution seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee and must be submitted in the correct format. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become a resolution.

**Flow of debate:** The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference.

**Foreign aid:** Money given by one country to another for humanitarian or developmental purposes. It plays a key role in shaping foreign policy.

**Formal debate:** The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list. They must also formally yield the floor to questions, the chair, or another delegate.

**G8 (Group of Eight):** A body comprised of eight of the world's most powerful nations: Canada, the U.S., U.K., France, Italy, Japan, Germany, and Russia.

**Head Delegate:** The leader of a Model UN team attending a conference as a delegation.

**Moderated caucus**: A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinion than would be possible in formal debate.

**Motion**: A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole, does something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, to enact a right of reply, or to move into voting bloc.

**NGOs (Non-governmental Organisations)** : Organisations or associations that are not associated with a specific country or international political organisation. Their aims can be broad (World Vision International, Amnesty International, Greenpeace) or quite specific (Doctors Without Borders). The United Nations has a history of working closely with NGOs on various issues, especially relating to humanitarian projects.

**Placard:** A piece of card with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

**Resolution**: A document that has been passed by a UN body aiming to address a particular problem or issue. The UN equivalent of a law.

**Right of Reply:** A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels that their personal or national integrity has been insulted or slandered by another's speech. It is easily the most over attempted and misused motion in Model UN debating delegates often fail to understand that asking for a ‘Right of Reply’ is making a very serious accusation and must not be abused. The Director decides whether to grant the Right of Reply and their decision is not open to appeal. If granted the Chair will normally ask the offending party if they wish to apologize.

**Roll call:** The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Chair reads aloud the names of each member state in the committee. When a delegate's country's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding, "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

**Second:** To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

**Secretariat**: The most senior staff of a Model UN conference. Secretary General- The leader of a Model UN conference.

**Signatory**: A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed. Usually, Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

**Speakers list**: A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the dais. Your country's name cannot be on the speakers’ list more than once at a time.

**Sponsor/Co-sponsor**: Working papers and resolutions require sponsors (the main authors) and in some cases co-sponsors. Being a co-sponsor does not necessarily mean being in support of the ideas presented, you may just want to see them debated in front of the rest of the committee. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

**Unmoderated caucus:** A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort countries into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

**Vote:** A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. There are two types: procedural and substantive.

**Voting bloc/Voting procedure**: The period at the end of a committee session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. Nobody may enter or leave the room during voting bloc.

**Working paper:** These are documents in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. Working papers are one step below a draft resolution, and many are often combined into one. Their overall purpose is to set out specific solutions or policy stances on an issue that can be debated within the committee.

**Yield:** In formal debate the delegate must yield his/her time at the beginning of their speech in one of three ways:

1. **to the chair**: once a speech is over the chair takes the floor and moves on with the speaker's list
2. **to questions:** delegates can ask questions to the speaker for his/her remaining time
3. **to another delegate:** another speaker uses up the remaining time to give a speech, but cannot yield themselves.