

ECOSOC Delegate Handbook

The Economic and Social Council, otherwise known as ECOSOC, is one of the six main Organs of the UN. It is the main body for coordinating and reviewing recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

The League of Nations was planning to expand its economic and social functions when war broke out in 1939. Unfortunately the League never got a chance to implement this plan. Nonetheless, many of the ideas that were discussed in the League were later included in the UN Charter.

To increase the impact of ECOSOC, the UN Charter was amended to increase the members in the Council from 18 to 54.

Like the General Assembly, ECOSOC can only make recommendations. It has no way of enforcing its decisions.

ECOSOC coordinates and provides guidance to a wide range of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development that include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions (see list of subsidiary bodies in Annex) and specialized agencies, programmes and funds.

Reforms over the last decade, particularly General Assembly resolution 68/1, have strengthened ECOSOC's leading role on economic, social and environmental issues and achieving a balanced integration of these three pillars of sustainable development. ECOSOC is also charged with giving special attention to following up on major UN conferences and summits.

ECOSOC is responsible for:

- promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Simulation of Functional Commission

During WIMUN UNI 2020 we will be simulating the following Functional Commission:

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ): The Commission was established as a subsidiary body at a ministerial meeting held in Versailles in 1991. It was preceded by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, which was established in 1971 to replace an expert advisory committee on criminal justice policy.

Main Elements of Commission Meetings

The simulation of the CCPCJ is divided into three parts.

1. The Opening Plenary of the Commission

The simulation begins with an Opening Plenary of the CCPCJ where delegates will adopt their Organization of Work by consensus and engage in an interactive session with a UN expert on the smuggling of migrants. The Plenary is led by a Chair.

2. Informal Consultations

Once the Plenary meeting is adjourned, the Commission transitions into informal consultations where delegates will **draft resolutions** on the agenda item in four different political groupings and then **merge the different drafts into one resolution** that gets tabled for review by all of the delegates participating in the Commission. (For more detail on the Informal Consultations see “The Stages of Informal Consultations” below.) The majority of time at the conference will be spent working in Informal Consultations. The Informal Consultations are led by a Facilitator.

3. Closing Plenary of the Commission

The final phase of the simulation includes a Closing Plenary led by a Chair where delegates will to adopt their resolution by consensus and make statements explaining their position. If consensus is not reached on a resolution, it will be withdrawn by the Chair.

The Stages of Informal Consultations

Informal Consultations are divided into the following segments¹:

1. **Allow different political groups to each draft a resolution.** This replaces the use of working papers which is followed in some Model UN conferences. Before delegates will be split into different political groups, the delegates as a whole must agree on a common structure for the operative section of the resolution.
2. **Merge the different drafts.** The political groups must merge their different drafts into one resolution that is later reviewed paragraph by paragraph by all of the delegates.
3. **Submit the draft** along with a list of sponsors.
4. **Review the draft resolution line by line** in a Formal Informal to create a compilation text that contains a complete list of amendments proposed by delegations. These amendments are neither friendly or unfriendly and are never voted on during informal consultations. Every time the wording of an entire paragraph has been agreed to by the delegates it should be marked “Agreed ad ref” to indicate that the delegates have temporarily agreed to the text in that paragraph until the entire negotiation process has been completed. In the CCPCJ, the deliberations on each draft resolution are led by a Facilitator.

¹ For each segment, indications of whether it applies to the UNFF, CPD or CCPCJ is noted.

5. **Debate the amendments** proposed during the line by line review. This takes place in an Informal meeting where the sponsors of each amendment introduce it to the delegates and then discuss whether it should be adopted as is, revised through sub-amendments or withdrawn. The goal of the debate should be to reach consensus on the text.
6. Delegates will be given a choice at different points during the line by line to temporarily suspend the line by line review to debate the amendments that have been proposed so far or continue on.
7. Before commencing the debate, delegates will also be given a choice to either have the Facilitator moderate the informal consultations on the amendments, do it by themselves or have one of the sponsors moderate the negotiations. It is up to the delegates to decide.
8. If the delegates decide to review the entire resolution without suspending the line by line at any point to engage in a debate on the amendments, then informal consultations would not begin until after the line by line review is completed.
9. If there are any amendments that are contentious during informal consultations and the delegates are having difficulty reaching consensus, they should be “bracketed” or set aside for further discussion later on so that the delegates can first focus on those amendments that are easier to reach agreement on.
10. After going through all the amendments at least once, the delegates should return to those amendments that have been “bracketed”. The Facilitator is also there to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.
11. After all amendments have been resolved, the Facilitator should scroll through the entire resolution paragraph and paragraph and ask the delegates to carefully read the text to make sure there are no further objections.
12. **Repeat #4 and #5** if new objections are raised until agreement has been reached on all of the new amendments and every paragraph is marked “Agreed ad ref”.
13. If consensus has been reached early and time still remains, the delegates can go back and add more text or even another sub-topic. What new text is added must be reviewed and any amendments that proposed to the new text must be debated in the manner set forth in this handbook.

Formal meeting (run according to the rules of procedure) to:

1. **Formally Introduce the draft resolution.** In the CCPCJ, the Facilitator introduces the resolution to the Plenary.
2. **Adopt the draft resolution** by consensus. If consensus is not reached on the text of a resolution, it is withdrawn.
3. **Allow delegates to explain their position** before or after action is taken.

Things to Know about the Rules of Procedure

1. There are no moderated and unmoderated caucuses. That means that during the General Debate during the Opening Plenary and Committee Sessions, the speeches are never interrupted. The Speakers List is followed until all speakers have had an opportunity to speak.
2. Passing notes during Formal Meetings is not allowed.
3. The presiding officer during meetings will never ask, “Are any points or motions on the floor?”
4. Parliamentary points (e.g., Points of Personal Privilege, Points of Information, and Points of Inquiry) and motions (e.g., Motion for Moderated or Unmoderated Caucuses, Motion to Set Agenda, Motions to Set Speaking Time, Motion to Move to Voting Procedures, etc.) **are not**

allowed during the conference. These are parliamentary rules of procedure and they are not used at the United Nations because it is not a Parliament.

5. Delegates will not be allowed to yield their time to the Chair or another delegation.
6. The only point that is allowed is a Point of Order, which is only to be used if a delegate feels the rules of procedure are not being followed properly.
7. Delegates must raise a Point of Order without being prompted.
8. The Right of Reply is allowed during the General Debate if a delegation wishes to respond to a comment made during a speech that they find offensive. Any delegation wishing to exercise their right of reply must notify the secretary of their Commission of their request. If granted by the Chair they must wait until the end of the Speakers List to reply.
9. Signatories are not required in order for a resolution to be considered.
10. During informal consultations, there will be no rules of procedure. Delegates are encouraged to work together to achieve consensus on the wording of the resolution that is under consideration.
11. The line by line review offers an opportunity for delegates to propose changes to the draft resolution.
12. Sponsors are not allowed to propose amendments during the line by line review. Sponsors can get together during informal consultations and decide to modify the text, however, all the sponsors must agree to any changes that are proposed. If one sponsor objects to a proposed change in the text, then the text should not be changed until all the sponsors agree to it.
13. During the line by line review delegates can indicate if they agree or disagree with the amendments that are proposed and ask the sponsors to clarify the meaning of the text. Delegates must wait until the line by line review has been suspended or completed before they can begin discussing any of the amendments in detail.
14. Delegates can make a statement during the Closing Plenary to put on record any reservations they may have on the resolution before or after action is taken.

Terms used in WIMUN

1. **Bureau:** refers to the Chair and Vice-Chair who are officials elected by the Functional Commissions to preside over meetings.
2. **Facilitator:** The Facilitator is responsible for presiding over the informal consultations and has the responsibility of helping the delegates reach consensus on the text of the draft resolution.
3. **Tabling a resolution:** refers to the act of submitting a resolution to the Bureau for consideration. This action does not require signatories.
4. **Paragraphs:** Model UN conferences around the world are used to referring to the clauses or sub-clauses of a resolution. At the United Nations, these are referred to as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.
5. **Informal Informals:** This is an informal meeting that takes place to allow groups of delegates to draft resolutions or merge them once they have been drafted or to engage in negotiations on amendments that have been proposed. During an informal informal there are no rules of procedure.
6. **Formal Informal:** This is a type of informal meeting whose purpose is to allow delegates to review a draft resolution paragraph by paragraph to give delegates an opportunity to propose amendments. These amendments are never voted on during informal meetings but discussed during informal informals until agreement on the proposed changes is reached. There are no rules of procedure during a formal informal meeting.

7. **Consensus:** Consensus occurs when all of the delegations in a Committee reach agreement on the wording of every paragraph in a draft resolution and are ready to adopt it without voting on it. This is the goal of the negotiation process. In order to reach consensus delegates have to be ready to make compromises.
8. **Explanation of position:** When consensus has been reached and a resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegate (in the case of the UNFF of CPD) or non-sponsor (in the case of the CCPCJ), is given the opportunity to make a statement about any reservations they may have about particular paragraphs that are included in the draft resolution. It is possible to agree to adopt a resolution without a vote and still have elements of a resolution that the non-sponsor is not entirely pleased with. Or it may be to express their disappointment that something important to the non-sponsor was left out of the resolution.

Terms not used in WIMUN

1. **Dais:** This term is not used at the UN and is therefore not a part of the terminology of the WIMUN approach. The proper term to use when referring to the officials presiding over a meeting is the Bureau.
2. **Honourable Delegates or Honourable Chair:** These terms are used in a Parliament and since the UN is not a Parliament it is not appropriate to use them during the simulation of UN meetings. When making a statement during the General Debate, delegates should address his/her comments to the person presiding over the meeting (e.g., Mr./Madame President during Plenary meetings) and not to the delegates.
3. **House:** In some conferences, the person presiding over a meeting may say, "Will the House come to order" if the delegates are making too much noise. Again, since the UN is not a Parliament, it is inappropriate to refer to ECOSCO as the "House" when addressing delegates.
4. **Director:** Most MUN conferences have a Director that oversees working papers and draft resolutions and acts as an expert on topics. The WIMUN approach does not have Directors. There is the Chair who presides over meetings and Secretariat staff or real UN experts who advise on topics being discussed in each Commission.
5. **Friendly and Unfriendly amendments:** These terms are not used at the UN and do not apply the negotiation process in the WIMUN approach which focuses on reaching consensus among all delegates.
6. **Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses:** These terms do not exist at the UN. what does exist are Formal Informals and Informal Informals which are similar in some respects but differ in other respects (see definition above).
7. **Clauses:** Model UN conferences around the world refer to the clauses of a draft resolution. In contrast, the editorial guidelines at the UN refer to them as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.

Drafting a Resolution

Every resolution is divided into two sections that consist of preambular and the operative paragraphs.

Preambular paragraphs begin with a word or phrase in the present participle (e.g., *Recalling*) and always ends with comma. Preambular paragraphs are not numbered.

Operative paragraphs begin with a word or phrase in the present tense (e.g., *Encourages*) and always end with a semi-colon except for the last operative paragraph that ends with a period.

The words or phrases used to begin a paragraph are always italicized and never underlined.

The preambular paragraphs set the stage and context for the operative section.

The best way to learn about how to write a good resolution is to study and compare them. Here are some tips about what goes into a good resolution.

Type and order of content to include in the preamble with examples for each

When reading this section, please keep in mind that the aim is to give you an idea of the range of content that could be included in a resolution and does not mean that this content is always included in a resolution. It also aims to serve as a guideline on how to decide the order in which to include content when drafting a resolution or merging content from different resolutions on the same agenda item.

1. The preamble usually begins by recalling past actions that the Economic and Social Council has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”,

If the same verb (i.e., recalling) is used twice in a row to begin a paragraph, the second time it is used, the word also is added and italicized.

2. If there are other actions that the United Nations has taken on this agenda item that would go next,

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

If the same verb (i.e., recalling) is used three times in a row to begin a paragraph, the third time it is used, the word further is added and italicized.

3. After highlighting the actions of the United Nations, it is common to add paragraphs that recall reports distributed to Member States by the Secretary-General,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on improving global road safety and the recommendations contained therein,

4. At this point it usually good to add some information about the concerns that are driving the debate of the agenda item that is under consideration,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States, the United Nations and their capacity caused by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, health emergencies and epidemic outbreaks, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

5. If there is any impact that has resulted from the actions the UN has taken that the delegates wish to draw attention to, this would go after expressing their concerns,

Noting with satisfaction that targeted steps to reduce road traffic injuries undertaken by the United Nations, including in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, have yielded positive results, and recognizing in this regard that more than 100 Member States, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives organized pedestrian safety activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, held from 6 to 12 May 2013,

6. The preamble would also note any actions taken by Member States, specialized UN agencies, programmes and funds, and/or regional commissions,

Commending the Governments of Brazil, Mozambique, Romania and Thailand and the World Health Organization for the successful launch, in May 2013 in the context of the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, of the Global Alliance for Care of the Injured,

7. If there are any other reports delegates want to highlight this would be included at some point after a report by the Secretary-General is mentioned,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2015–2016,

Only UN documents are referred to in the body of an ECOSOC resolution. If there are other resources, reports or books that were used while doing research and they were not published by the UN, they should not be included in the resolution.

Content to be included in operative paragraphs with examples

First and foremost, the operative paragraphs should consist of recommended actions that address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

Sometimes there is a sequence of paragraphs the lead up to the recommended action. Consider the following example of operative paragraphs:

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas, and in this regard takes into account road safety as part of the effort to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Commends* Member States that have developed national plans that are in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, and encourages Member States that have not yet de-

veloped such plans to do so, paying special attention to the needs of all road users, in particular pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, as well as issues related to sustainable mobility;

3. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to nominate, as appropriate, national focal points for the Decade of Action to coordinate and facilitate national activities for the Decade;

In this instance, operative paragraphs 2 and 3 contain two related recommended actions. Operative paragraph 1 and the first half of operative paragraph 2 set up these recommended actions by establishing why they are important and by drawing attention to actions already taken by some Member States (without naming who they are) that are linked to these recommendations.

What is interesting about this example, is that operative paragraph 1 and the first part of paragraph 2 would ordinarily be content that we would expect to find somewhere in the preamble but because it is being used to justify a specific action in the operative section, it makes more sense to include in the operative section as a lead in to a specific recommendation.

More details about editorial guidelines for drafting resolutions can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/71/editorialguidelines.pdf>

Ask your Secretary for a list of terms commonly used in resolutions.

The best way to learn how to write a good resolution is to read them and analyze how they are structured.

Annex

Functional Commissions	Ad hoc bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Narcotic Drugs 	Expert Bodies composed of governmental experts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Population and Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Science and Technology for Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission for Social Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on the Status of Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Sustainable Development 	Expert Bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee for Development Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Forum on Forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Regional Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Experts on Public Administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 	Other related Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Narcotics Control Board
Standing Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee for the United Nations Population Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee for Programme and Coordination	

Figure 1. Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC