



Training Handbook

WFUNA International Model United Nations New York City 2024

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Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square

ECOSOC

Delegate Handbook





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 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 NY 2024 we will be simulating the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) that was established in 1992 by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [resolution 1992/1](#), upon request of General Assembly (GA) [resolution 46/152](#), as one of its functional commissions.

The Commission acts as the main UN policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. ECOSOC provided for the CCPCJ's mandates and priorities in [resolution 1992/22](#), which include improving international action to combat national and transnational crime and the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems. The CCPCJ also offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime.

In 2006 the GA adopted [resolution 61/252](#) which further expanded the mandates of the CCPCJ to enable it to function as a governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

The CCPCJ assists in the organization of the [United Nations Crime Congresses](#). In addition, Declarations adopted by the congresses are transmitted through the CCPCJ and ECOSOC to the GA for endorsement.





Main Elements of the Online Simulation 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 “Equal Access to Justice for All”. The Plenary is led by a Chair.

First formal meeting (run according to Rules of Procedure) to:

2. **Review and adopt the Organization of Work** which details how long delegates have to deliver their statements during the General Debate and how the time will be organized during the time delegates will be their Committees. The presentation of the Organization of Work is the first order of business which must be adopted by consensus before the Committee can begin its General Debate.
3. **Engage in an Interactive Session with a UN expert** to give delegates an opportunity to deepen their knowledge on the topic they will be debating. The Interactive Session will begin with a statement delivered by an expert followed by Q&A from the delegates.
4. **Convene the General Debate** where individual delegates speaking in their national capacity and/or on behalf of a political group will have an opportunity to make an opening statement on the topic that will be discussed. Any delegation or political group wishing to make a statement during the General Debate must subscribe to the Speakers List before the debate begins.

B. Informal consultations (where rules of procedure are suspended and where most of the time in the Committee is spent) to:

5. **Allow each regional group to 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 regional groups, the Committee as a whole must agree by consensus on a common structure for the operative section of the resolution.
6. **Merge the different drafts.** The regional groups must each choose a head delegate to lead the discussions on how to merge their different drafts into one resolution that is later reviewed paragraph by paragraph by the entire Committee. Each group can change the head delegate leading the negotiations on their behalf as often as they want.
7. **Submit the draft to the Bureau** along with a list of sponsors.
8. **Review the draft resolution line by line** to create a compilation text that contains a complete list of amendments proposed by delegations that chose not to sponsor the resolution. These amendments are neither friendly or unfriendly and are never voted on during informal consultations. 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. If the Committee decides to review the entire resolution without suspending the line by line at any point, then the debate of amendments would not begin until after the line by line review is completed.
9. **Debate the amendments** will be moderated initially by the presiding officer. The debate will begin by first giving the delegate who proposed an amendment to the text a chance to explain why they think it should be adopted by the Commission. If there are no objections the amendment will be inserted into the draft resolution.
10. If any delegates object, they will be given a chance to explain why they disagree. During this stage of the deliberations, sponsors and non-sponsors talk to each other with the goal of reaching consensus on the amendments that have been proposed. The debate will continue until all delegates agree on whether to keep the amendment, withdraw it from consideration or accept an alternate wording of the amendment.



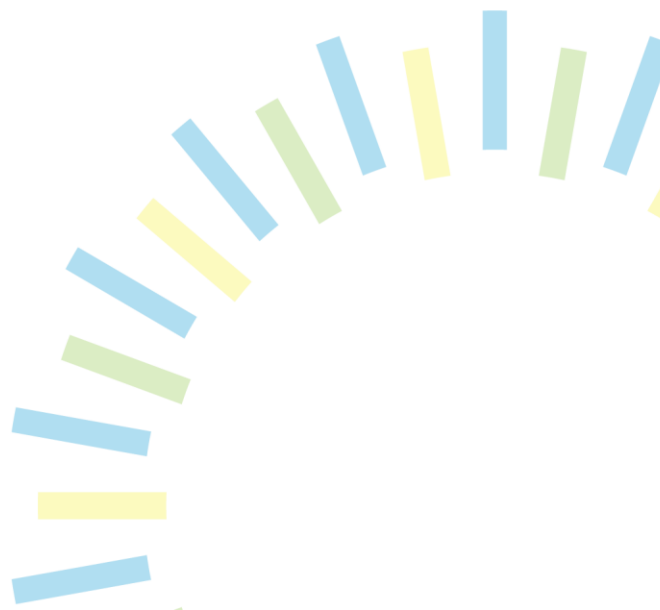
11. Every time the wording of an entire paragraph has been agreed to by the Committee it should be marked "Agreed ad ref" to indicate that the Committee has temporarily agreed to the text in that paragraph until the entire negotiation process has been completed.
12. During the debate, delegates can choose to have the Chair moderate the debate of amendments or to do it by themselves. It is up to the delegates to decide.
13. If there is an amendment that the delegates cannot agree on during informal consultations, the amendment 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.
14. After going through all the amendments at least once, the delegates should return to those amendments that have been "bracketed".
15. Facilitators can be appointed to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.
16. After all the amendments have been debated and all paragraphs are marked 'agreed ad ref', the Chair 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.
17. **Repeat #9 and 10** if new objections are raised until agreement has been reached on all of the new amendments and every paragraph is marked "Agreed ad ref".
18. If consensus has been reached early and time still remains in the Committee, delegates can go back and add more text or even another sub-topic. If new text is added, it must be reviewed and any amendments that proposed to the new text must be debated in the manner set forth in this handbook.

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

17. **Formally introduce the draft resolution** to the entire Commission. The sponsors must decide who will introduce the resolution to the Commission on their behalf.
18. **Adopt the draft resolution** by consensus (i.e., without voting).
19. The CCPCJ has always adopted its resolutions by consensus. **If consensus is not reached, the draft resolution would be withdrawn** and delegates would be allowed to make statements to explain why consensus was not reached or highlight where their delegation disagreed with the text that was being proposed or voice their disappointments over the negotiation process.

3. Closing Plenary of the Commission

If the consensus was reached on the text of the draft resolution during informal consultations, the resolution will be adopted as second time during during the Closing Plenary. Following the adoption by consensus, delegates would be allowed to make statements explaining their position. If consensus is not reached on a resolution, no decision will be taken on what actions should be taken by Members States or relevant stakeholders on the topic that as assigned. Delegates would still have an opportunity to make a final statements before the Commission is adjourned.





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 following properly.
7. Delegates must raise a Points 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 statements 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. **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. In most ECOSOC Commissions, if consensus is not reached on the text of a resolution, it is withdrawn.
6. **Explanation of position:** When consensus has been reached and a resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegation that chose not to sponsor the resolution 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 a Member State 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 Chair) and not to the delegates. Real UN diplomats **never** begin speeches using the word "Honourable" before the presiding officer's title.
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. The term "clause(s)" is **never used** when referring to real UN resolutions.





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 and/or the General Assembly has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed or a related item:

Example

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 77/232 of 15 December 2022, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an openended intergovernmental expert group,

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

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 sometimes go next,

Example

Recalling further the efforts taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene an expert group meeting to share information on promising practices to be considered for inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending,

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. At other times, Member States sometimes include paragraphs that recall important Declarations or Conventions that provide a human rights foundation for the actions to be recommended in the operative paragraphs or Declarations on Crime Prevention that relate to the agenda item that is the focus of a particular resolution.

Example

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all are equal before the law and all are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

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

Example

Expressing concern that people of colour are underrepresented at all levels of the legal profession, and that this can lead to a lack of understanding and empathy for the unique challenges and realities faced by racially marginalized communities and bring about further inequality in the justice system,

5. If there are any other reports delegates want to highlight, such as a report by the Secretary-General, this would typically be mentioned at the end of the preamble.

Example

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,

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.

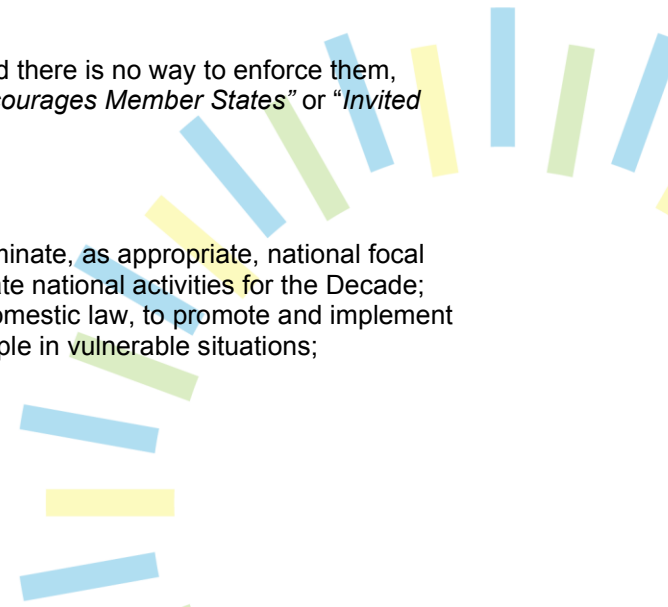
Content to be included in operative paragraphs with examples

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

Since ECOSOC resolutions are only recommendations and there is no way to enforce them, paragraphs in this section often begin with the words, “*Encourages Member States*” or “*Invited Member States*”.

Example

1. *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;
2. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to promote and implement policies aimed at guaranteeing access to justice for people in vulnerable situations;





The operative section is also the place where Member States would make requests. In the context of a resolution adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the requests would be directed to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Example

1. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing technical tools and training material..
2. Also *requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of experts, nominated by Member States...

More details about editorial guidelines for drafting resolutions can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/71/editorialguidelines.pdf>. For terms commonly used in resolutions, please consult the UNITAR Handout that is part of your training resources.

The best way to learn how to write a good resolution is to read them and analyze how they are structured. You can find CCPCJ resolutions here: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/commissions/CCPCJ/Resolutions_Decisions/resolutions_2020-2029.html

Take note of other verbs used to introduce paragraphs in the preambular and operative sections.





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