



Training Handbook

WFUNA International Model United Nations New York City 2024

30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024

Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square

World Health Assembly

Delegate Handbook





World Health Assembly Delegate Handbook

The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization. It is attended by delegations from all 194 WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.¹

The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day. There are now more than 7000 people from more than 150 countries working for WHO in 150 country offices, in 6 regional offices and at WHO's headquarters in Geneva.

The World Health Organization (WHO) was founded on the principle that health is a human right and all people should enjoy the highest standard of health. This aspiration towards better health for everyone, everywhere has guided the Organization's work ever since.

One of the greatest achievements of the WHO was the eradication of smallpox in 1977.

¹Liechtenstein is currently the only UN **member not** in the WHO **membership**. Two of the members of the WHO, the Cook Islands and Niue, are self-governing countries in free association with New Zealand.





The Stages of Assembly Sessions

Assembly sessions are divided into the following segments:

A. The Opening Plenary of the Assembly

The simulation begins with an Opening Plenary of the World Health Assembly where delegates will adopt their Provisional Agenda, review the Program of Work and listen to remarks from the Director-General of the Global Model WHO.

B. Committee A meetings

World Health Assembly has a complex list of health issues to review which accomplished through the work of two committees - A and B. **Committee A** meet to debate technical and health matters and Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organization (WHO). All of the simulations in WIMUN 2024 will focus on issues that have been allocated to Committee A. The following two topics will be discussed in the simulations of the World Health Assembly: 1) Universal Health Coverage : Reorienting health systems to primary health care and 2) Strengthening Infodemic Management.

Committee A meetings commence after the Opening Plenary and will be divided into the following segments:

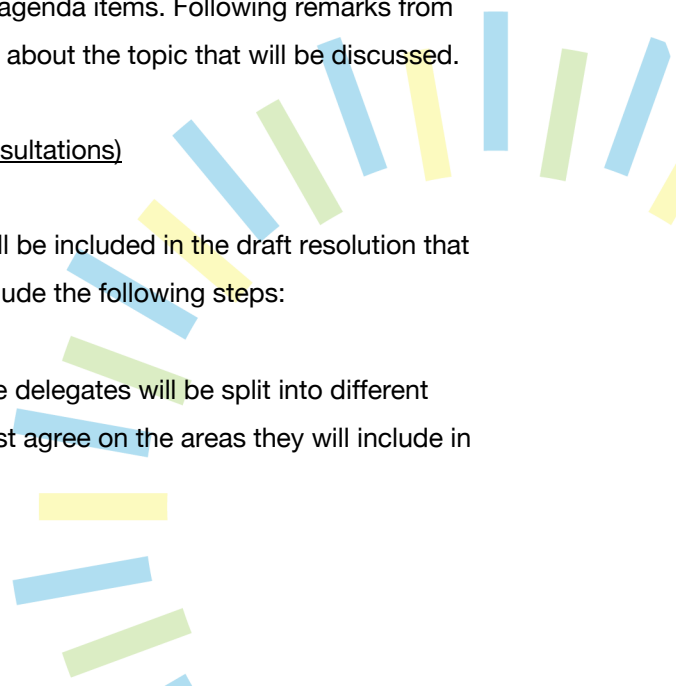
Briefing by WHO Expert (formal Committee meeting)

An interactive session with a WHO expert on each of the agenda items. Following remarks from the expert, delegates get an opportunity to ask questions about the topic that will be discussed.

Drafting and merging of conference papers (informal consultations)

All of the delegates work together to draft the text that will be included in the draft resolution that gets submitted to Committee A for consideration that include the following steps:

1. **Draft conference papers in regional groups:** Before delegates will be split into different WHO regional groups, the Committee as a whole must agree on the areas they will include in





the operative section of their conference paper. Once the delegates have agreed on the areas they will focus on, they will be divided into their regional groups to draft their conference paper.

2. **Merge the different conference papers:** The delegates must merge their different conference papers into one draft resolution that is later reviewed paragraph by paragraph by the Drafting Group.
3. **Submit the draft:** Once a draft resolution has been submitted delegates then begin the line by one review of each paragraph where they can submit oral amendments which are then debated until agreement is reached on the text.

Line by line review (informal consultations) (informal consultations)

Once a draft resolution has been submitted for consideration, delegates review the text line by line 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 Committee it is 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.

Debate of amendments (information consultations)

After amendments are proposed delegates to the text of the draft resolution, delegates engage in an informal debate with the goal of reaching consensus on the amendments that have been proposed. This involves making compromises and sometimes being willing to remove text that some delegates may object to strongly.

The debate of amendments will be moderated by the Chair acting as a Moderator. The debate will begin by first giving the delegate who proposed the amendment under discussion 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. If any delegates object, they will be given a chance to explain why they disagree. The debate will continue until all delegates agree on whether to keep the amendment, delete it or accept an alternate wording of the amendment.

If there are any amendments that are contentious during informal consultations and the delegates are having difficulty reaching consensus, the amendment should be "bracketed" or set aside for



further discussion later on, so that the Committee can first focus on those amendments that are easier to reach agreement on.

After going through all the amendments at least once, the Committee should return to those amendments that have been “bracketed.” The presiding officer will also act as a Moderator to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.

After all amendments have been debated and agreement has been reached on whether to accept them as they were proposed, accept a revised version of the amendment or to delete it, the Moderator will scroll through the entire resolution paragraph by paragraph and ask the delegates to carefully read the text to make sure there are no further objections.

If new objections are raised during the final review, each amendment will be discussed until agreement has been reached on all of the new amendments and every paragraph is marked “Agreed ad ref”.

If consensus has been reached early, the Drafting Group can go back and add more text. What new text is added must be reviewed and any amendments that are proposed to the new text must be debated in the manner set forth in this handbook.

Adoption of reports and resolution (formal meeting of Committee A)

Before taking action on the resolution, the Committee holds a general discussion on the agenda item where delegates are invited to make comments on both the Director-General’s report and the conference paper that was just negotiated. During the General Discussion, delegates can make statements that highlight those elements of the conference paper that reflect their government’s priorities, draw attention to any actions recommended in the draft resolution that explains why they support the adoption of the resolution and/or share their positive or negative reactions to the negotiation process.

Following the discussion, an Assistant Director-General will make comments on remarks made by Member States. The Committee will then move to adopt the draft resolution and send it to the WHA Plenary for final approval.





Following the adoption of the resolution in the Committee, delegates may make statements called Explanations of Position, that are used by delegations to identify those paragraphs that their government wants to dissociate from.

D. Closing Plenary of the Assembly

The final phase of the simulation includes a Closing Plenary of the Assembly led by the President where delegates will adopt their resolution by consensus. A resolution adopted in Committee is only a recommendation and does not become official until it is adopted by the WHA Plenary. That is why it is adopted twice, once in Committee and then again in the Plenary.

Delegates may take the floor after the resolution is adopted for any final statements.

Before the Assembly is closed, the Chairs of Committee A are given the floor to summarize the work completed in the Committee. Following these comments, the Director-General and then the President of the Assembly make their final statements before the Assembly is gavelled closed.





Things to Know about the Rules of Procedure

1. There are no moderated and unmoderated caucuses.
2. Speeches are never interrupted during the Opening Plenary or formal meetings of Committee
 - A. The Speakers List in formal meetings is followed until all speakers have had an opportunity to speak.
3. The presiding officer will never ask, "Are any points or motions on the floor?" during meetings.
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 during a formal meeting 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 Point of Order without being prompted.
8. The Right of Reply is allowed during the General Discussion if a delegation wishes to respond to a comment made during one of the statements that specifically mentions their country in a way that they find offensive. Any delegation wishing to exercise their right of reply must notify the presiding officer of their Committee of their request. If granted by the Chair they must wait until the end of the Speakers List to reply. Each delegation can exercise their Right of Reply a maximum of two times during the General Debate. Rights of Reply will not be granted simply because a delegate disagrees with the content of a statement.
9. Signatories are not required in order for a resolution to be considered. When there are multiple versions of a draft resolution on an agenda item, the Committee will merge the drafts so that no more than one resolution is submitted to the Bureau for consideration in each Committee.
10. During informal consultations on a draft resolution, 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. Delegates can make a statement after the adoption of the resolution to put on record any comments they may have about the outcome of their negotiations or any reservations they may have on particular paragraphs that they wish to disassociate from.





Terms used in WIMUN

1. **Bureau:** refers to the President and Vice-Presidents who are officials selected to preside over meetings. Since it is not possible to elect a President for an online simulation, one has been appointed in advance.
2. **Moderator:** The Moderator is responsible for facilitating the informal consultations and has the responsibility of helping the delegates reach consensus on the text of the draft resolution. The Chair will serve as Moderator during negotiations.
3. **Tabling a resolution:** refers to the act of submitting a resolution to the Bureau for consideration. This action does not require signatories.
4. **Drafting Group:** The group of delegates who participate in informal consultations to negotiate the text of a resolution.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Explanation of position:** When consensus has been reached and a resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegation can make a statement about any reservations it 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 the statement may express disappointment that something important to a delegation 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. **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 the World Health Assembly as the “House” when addressing delegates.
3. **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.
4. **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).
5. **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.

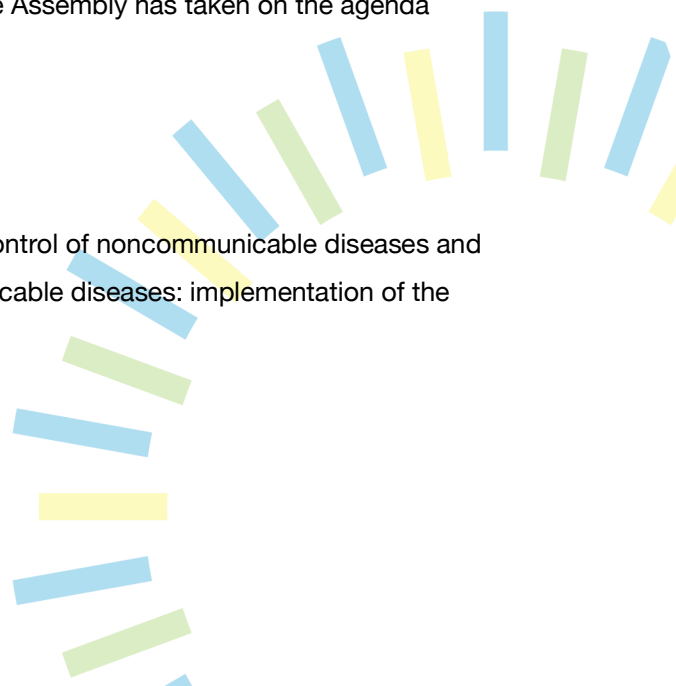
Type and order of content to include in the preamble with examples for each

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 includes past resolutions that the Assembly has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed:

The World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA53.17 on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and WHA60.23 on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy;





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

Reaffirming its commitment to the aim of the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases¹ to reduce premature mortality and improve quality of life;

Reaffirming also its commitment to addressing key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases through the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, adopted by the Health Assembly in 2003 (resolution WHA56.1) and the global strategy on diet, physical activity and health, endorsed by the Health Assembly in 2004 (resolution WHA57.17) and the evidence-based strategies and interventions to reduce the public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol (resolution WHA58.26);

3. The preambular paragraphs also include information about the concerns that are driving the debate of the agenda item that is under consideration,

Deeply concerned that the global burden of noncommunicable diseases continues to grow, in particular in low-income and middle-income countries, and convinced that global action is necessary, including by effectively addressing the key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases;

Noting with concern that, according to WHO, each year, 15 million people between the ages of 30 and 69 years die from a noncommunicable disease and that the current levels of decline in the risk of dying prematurely from noncommunicable diseases are insufficient to attain Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 by 2030;

6. The preamble would also note other actions taken by the WHO, Member States, or other parts of the UN system,

Welcoming the convening of the WHO Global Conference on Noncommunicable Diseases,⁵ which was organized by Uruguay and WHO, co-chaired by Finland, the Russian Federation and Uruguay, from 18 to 20 October 2017 in Montevideo;

Welcoming also the convening of the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Financing of Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Prevention and Control, hosted by the Government of Denmark and WHO from 9 to 11 April 2018 in Copenhagen, recognizing the need





to prioritize tackling noncommunicable diseases as an essential pillar of sustainable development and an integral part of countries' efforts towards universal health coverage;

Recalling the Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, held in China from 21 to 24 November 2016;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/274 (2018) on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Only UN documents are referred to in the body of an UN Environment Assembly 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 Member States should take to address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

The first operative paragraph typically begins with the verb "URGES" as illustrated below:

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to continue to step up efforts on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in order to attain Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 by 2030;

(2) to actively engage in the preparations at national, regional and global levels for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018;

Second, it should consist of recommended actions that Member States encourage intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders (e.g., non-UN entities like non-governmental organizations or the private sector) should take to address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

The chapeau that introduces this section can be general in its reference to stakeholders (e.g., "international organizations and other stakeholders") or more specific (e.g., "relevant national,



regional and international partners along with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector” or “relevant international stakeholders such as nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, private sector entities and philanthropic foundations, as appropriate”).

The second operative paragraph typically begins with the words “CALLS ON”, as illustrated below:

2. CALLS ON international organizations and other stakeholders:

(1) to support all countries, upon their request, in implementing their national action plans, in strengthening their health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) to work collaboratively at all levels to develop, test, and scale-up production of safe, effective, quality, affordable medicines and vaccines for the COVID-19 response;

(3) to address the proliferation of disinformation and misinformation particularly in the digital sphere and to supported the distribution of science-based data and information to the public;

Third, it should include recommended actions that the Director-General of the WHO should take to address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

The last operative paragraph typically focuses on actions Member States would like the Director-General of the World Health Organization to take, illustrated below:

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to work with the United Nations Secretary-General and relevant multilateral organizations, on a comprehensive and coordinated response across the United Nations system to support Member States in their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) to continue to build and strengthen the capacities of WHO at all levels;

These three sections occur in most WHA resolutions and should be included in the resolutions drafted in Committee A.

WHA resolutions follow certain editorial guidelines that differ from those found in other UN resolutions. First, both preambular and operative paragraphs end in a semi-colon (;) except for



the last preambular paragraph that ends in a comma and the last operative paragraph that ends in a period. Second, the verb that begins an operative paragraph is written in caps (i.e., URGES).

A list of terms commonly used in resolutions will be provided separately before the conference.

The best way to learn how to write a good resolution is to read them and analyze how they are structured: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA76/A76_R16-en.pdf





**WFUNA International Model United Nations
New York City 2024**

*30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024
Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square*

wimun@wfuna.org | www.wfuna.org