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SIMULATION HANDBOOK

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ECOSOC Commission on Population and Development Simulation Handbook

ECOSOC includes nine Functional Commissions which are deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues. During WIMUN NY 2025 we will be simulating the following Functional Commission.

The ECOSOC Commission on Population and Development (CPD) was established in 1946 as a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Initially named the Population Commission, it was tasked with advising ECOSOC on population trends and their implications for economic and social development. Over time, its role evolved to align with the changing global focus on sustainable development and population issues. In 1994, following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the Commission was renamed the Commission on Population and Development, reflecting its broadened mandate to monitor and review the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The CPD focuses on key population and development issues, including:

- Tracking the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which addresses population growth, reproductive health, gender equality, migration, and sustainable development.
- Analyzing how population trends intersect with achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Providing policy recommendations to ECOSOC and member states on integrating population dynamics into development planning.
- Facilitating the collection and analysis of demographic data through collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and other agencies.
- Serving as a platform for member states, experts, and organizations to discuss challenges and share best practices related to population and development.

The CPD plays a critical role in shaping global and national policies on population issues, ensuring they contribute to equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development. It remains central to advancing the UN's goals of addressing population challenges while promoting human rights and improving quality of life worldwide.

The simulation of the CPD will focus on the theme: "Population Education and Sustainable Development".

Main Elements of CPD Meetings

The simulation of the ECOSOC Plenary is divided into three parts: 1) Opening Plenary, 2) Informal Consultations, and 3) Closing Plenary.

THE OPENING PLENARY OF THE COMMISSION

All of the delegates first meet together in a formal meeting to adopt the agenda and Organization of Work by consensus. Following the adoption of these two items, there will be an interactive session in with a UN expert on the agenda item that has been allocated to the CPD.

As part of the Plenary meeting, delegates will engage in a General Debate on the theme. During the General Discussion on the priority theme, Member States will have an opportunity to make statement representing their government's views on the agenda item titled, "Population, Education and Sustainable Development". Delegates can speak in their national capacity and/or on behalf of a regional or political group. Any delegate representing an individual country, regional or political group wishing to make a statement during the General Debate must subscribe to the Speakers List before the Plenary begins.

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

General Discussion of Zero Draft

Once the Plenary meeting is adjourned, the Commission on Population, Education and Sustainable Development will transition into informal consultations where they will first have an informal discussion on the Zero draft of the Resolution. This discussion should be very general in nature and focus on articulating a delegation's priorities, what paragraphs they think need to be elaborated and what paragraphs perhaps should be deleted from the text. This is not the time to propose specific amendments to the text. Before taking the floor during the General Discussion of the Zero Draft, delegates will have an opportunity to meet in their regional groups to share their perspectives on the Zero Draft to determine where their positions agree and/or disagree.

Line by line review of Zero Draft

Following the informal discussion, delegates will meet in their regional groups to share the amendments they play to propose to the Zero draft. Following this informal discussion, the Facilitator will begin the line by line review by reading each paragraph and ask the delegates if there are any changes they wish to make to the text. There is no limit to how many amendments a delegate can propose. During this phase of the simulation, the rules of procedure will be suspended so that delegates can focus on negotiating the text. The majority of time at the conference will be spent working in Informal Consultations with the aim of reaching consensus on the text so that it can be adopted without a vote.

Amendments will be inserted into the Zero draft of the Resolution which will be displayed on a screen during the Debate of Amendments.

Main Elements of CPD Meetings (cont.)

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS (CONT.)

Debate of Amendments

During the debate, the sponsors of each amendment will be asked to explain why they think their amendment should be included in the text. If there are no objections it is then incorporated into the Resolution. If there is an objection from one or more delegates, there must be a discussion until all delegates agree 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.

If no changes are proposed to a given paragraph, it will be marked "Agreed ad ref" to indicate that the delegates have temporarily agreed to the text in that paragraph. Delegates can return to paragraphs that have been marked "Agree ad ref" and propose changes later if they so choose.

Whenever all of the amendments in a particular paragraph have been discussed and resolved, the paragraph will be marked "Agreed ad ref".

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.

Roughly midway through the debate of amendments, delegates will meet again in their regional groups to review the amendments that have yet to be debated.

After going through all the amendments at least once, the delegates should return to those amendments that have been "bracketed". The Facilitator can intervene during the Debate of Amendment and propose suggestions in an effort to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.

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.

If new objections are raised, these objections must be discussed until agreement has been reached and no where further changes to the text are proposed.

Consensus has been reached when every paragraph is marked "Agreed ad ref".

CLOSING PLENARY OF THE COMMISSION

In the last phase of the simulation, all of the delegates meet together in the Closing Plenary to adopt their Resolution by consensus. After the adoption, delegates may take the floor, if they wish, to make a statement. These statements typically focus on paragraphs in the Resolution that a particular delegation would like to highlight in some way. It also provides an opportunity for delegations to indicate which paragraphs they would like to disassociate from if their government disagrees with some element in the text.

If consensus is not reached on the Resolution, the entire text will be withdrawn by the Chair.

Things to Know about the Rules of Procedure

1. When delivering a speech during the Opening or Closing Plenary, speeches cannot be 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. Each delegation can exercise their Right of Reply of maximum of two times during the General Discussion of the priority theme.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The line by line review offers an opportunity for the delegates to propose changes to the draft resolution. Delegates can indicate if they agree or disagree with the amendments that are proposed. Delegates must wait until the line by line review has been suspended or completed before they can begin debating the amendments that have been proposed.
12. If the Committee is not able to reach consensus, the Resolution are withdrawn from consideration.

Terms used in the simulation of the CPD

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. **Paragraphs:** Model UN conferences around the world are used to referring to the clauses or sub-clauses of a resolution or Resolution. At the United Nations, these are referred to as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.
4. **Zero draft:** Some Functional Commissions rely on beginning with a draft resolution or Resolution that has been written by the substantive office in the UN Secretariat who has an expertise on the agenda item that is being discussed. The document, referred to as a "zero draft", is submitted to the delegates on behalf of the Chair.
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.
6. **Disassociate:** When consensus has been reached and the Resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegate is given the opportunity to make a statement about any reservations they may have about particular paragraphs that are included in the Resolution. It is possible to agree to adopt the Resolution without a vote and still have elements within it that a delegation is not entirely pleased with. When this occurs, a delegate can take that floor after the Resolution have been adopted to indicate that their government wishes to disassociate itself from a particular paragraph.

Terms not used in the simulation of the CPD

1. **Dais:** This term is not used at the UN and is therefore not a part of the terminology of the in this simulation. The proper term to use when referring to the officials presiding over a meeting is the Bureau.
2. **Honourable Delegates or Honourable Chair:** Delegates should not begin their statements with the words "Honorable delegates" or "Honorable 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 a delegate is given the floor to make a statement during the General Discussion, delegates should begin by saying "Thank you Mr/Madame Chair."Statements are always addressed to the presiding officer not to the delegates.
3. **House:** In some conferences, the person presiding over a meeting might 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. **Friendly and Unfriendly amendments:** Delegates are expected to work together to find solutions related to the priority theme. Therefore, these terms are not used at the UN and do not apply the negotiation process in this simulation which focuses on reaching consensus among all delegates.
5. **Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses:** These terms do not exist at the UN. What does exist are different types of informal consultations which are similar in some respects but differ in other respects.
6. **Clauses:** Model UN conferences around the world refer to the paragraphs in an outcome document like a resolution or Resolution as "clauses". This term is not used at the UN. In contrast, the editorial guidelines at the UN refer to the sections of an outcome document as paragraphs or sub-paragraphs if they follow a chapeau (see next section on Resolution).

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., Reaffirming, 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., Requests, 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 reaffirming the recommendations made in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action which are foundational outcome documents that later resolutions on this always reference and build upon and other relevant meetings, conferences or summits:

Examples

The Commission on Population and Development,

- *Reaffirming* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] in particular those recommendations relating to population, education and development,

- *Reaffirming* also the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration[3] in particular those recommendations relating to population, education and development,

- *Reaffirming* further the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits,

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[1] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

TYPE AND ORDER OF CONTENT TO INCLUDE IN THE PREAMBLE WITH EXAMPLES FOR EACH (CONT.)

1. The preamble usually begins by reaffirming the recommendations made in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action which are foundational outcome documents that later resolutions on this always reference and build upon and other relevant meetings, conferences or summits (cont.):

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

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

2. The preamble is also a place where Member States would recall past resolutions that are linked to the topic:

Examples
- **Recalling** its resolution 2003/1 of 11 April 2003 entitled, "Population, education and development",

3. The preamble also highlights important elements associated with the topic that typically begin with the verbs such as **Noting, Recognizing, Bearing in mind or Acknowledging:**

Examples
- **Noting** the importance of education, especially of young persons and in particular of girls and women, to achieving population and development goals and the contribution,
- **Acknowledging** the importance of universal access to quality education and comprehensive population policies as essential pillars for sustainable development, gender equality, and the empowerment of individuals to make informed decisions about their lives,
- **Bearing in mind** the critical role of education and population policies in fostering sustainable development, eradicating poverty, and empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.

4. Finally, the preambular paragraphs also draw attention to the concerns Member States have about the topic:

Examples
- **Noting with concern** the reported recent decline in resource flows for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,
- **Expressing deep concern** that 129 million girls worldwide remain out of school limiting their potential to contribute to economic growth,

Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

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. As a result operative paragraphs typically begin with the verbs, **Encourages, Urges, or Calls upon.**

Examples

- Encourages the United Nations Population Fund, in close cooperation with relevant partners, to continue its support for population, education and development programmes so as to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

The operative section is also the place where Member States would make requests. In the context of a resolution adopted by the Commission on Populations and Development, the requests would be directed to the the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

Examples

- Requests the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its research on the linkages between population, education and development;
- Also requests the Population Division to work in close cooperation with all relevant bodies, funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to contribute its research findings to the implementation of the outcomes relevant to population, education and development of the United Nations conferences and summits;

Please note that when a verb is repeated more than once in the operative section, the second time the verb is used, "also" appears before the verb (e.g., Also requests) and the third time it appears "further" appears before the verb (e.g., Further requests).

A list of terms commonly used terms in resolutions will be posted on the WIMUN NY 2025 website along with the Study Guide and Annotated Bibliography for each simulation.