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WIMUN NY 2025

# SIMULATION HANDBOOK

YOUTH COUNCIL

# Youth Council Simulation Handbook

Given the importance of giving youth a voice in the UN system, a think tank recently put forth a proposal to add a youth advisory body either as a Seventh Council or at the very least as an informal mechanism in parallel to the Assembly. In support of this proposal we decided to add a futuristic simulation of the UN Youth Council to the 18th edition of WIMUN to take a peek at what it might look like if it were implemented as an informal mechanism in parallel to the GA. The concept for the Youth Council proposes a twofold mandate:

- To ensure that the work the UN does on youth meets the needs of young people by supporting the implementation of the UN youth strategy and promoting youth participation; and
- To mainstream youth across the UN system, ensuring that young people are represented in all areas that concern youth, and that young people with different backgrounds are heard in the development of the UN system, the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and all other strategic operations of the UN.

Until something like the Youth Council becomes a reality, this simulation can be thought of as a kind of futuristic simulation of what might be one day.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MILESTONES AT THE UN

The [UN Charter's](#) emphasis on promoting social progress, laid the groundwork for future youth engagement. The focus on youth issues within the UN has evolved considerably since 1945, reflecting a growing recognition of the vital role young people play in shaping global progress.

In 1965, The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) endorsed the "Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples". This was the first acknowledgment that young people are essential to society's development.

Two decades later, the UNGA proclaimed the first International Youth Year (IYY) in 1985 to focus on issues that concern young people. The theme of the first International Youth Year was "Participation, Development and Peace".

The 1990s saw a shift toward institutional support, including the creation of the [UN Youth Unit](#) and the adoption of the [World Programme of Action for Youth \(WPAY\)](#) which addressed challenges like education, employment, hunger, and drug abuse both in 1995 and the inaugural [World Youth Forum in 1998](#).

In the 2000s, youth were recognized as key stakeholders in achieving the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#), particularly in education, employment, and health, culminating in the declaration of the [International Year of Youth \(2010–2011\)](#) to foster dialogue and mutual understanding.

# Youth Council Simulation Handbook (cont.)

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MILESTONES AT THE UN (CONT.)

The 2010s marked a new era of youth empowerment, with the appointment of the **UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in 2013** and the launch of the **Youth 2030 Strategy in 2018**, aligning youth-focused efforts with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

In the 2020s, the UN highlighted the disproportionate impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on youth at the **2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum**, emphasizing the importance of youth-inclusive recovery strategies. As of 2024, the **ECOSOC Youth Forum** continues to prioritize a **sustainable future for all**, demonstrating the UN's unwavering commitment to empowering young people as critical partners in achieving global peace, security, and development.

## UN YOUTH OFFICE

The **UN Youth Office** is a newly established entity dedicated to advancing the role of young people in achieving global peace, security, and sustainable development. It was created following the adoption of the **UN General Assembly resolution 76/306** in 2022, which recognized the need for greater institutional support for youth engagement within the United Nations system. The establishment of the Office also reflects growing recognition that young people are central to tackling issues like climate change, peacebuilding, digital transformation, and inequality.

The UN Youth Office mandate includes:

- Strengthening youth engagement in global decision-making processes, ensuring that their voices are heard in UN deliberations and beyond.
- Providing technical assistance and guidance to member states in implementing youth-inclusive policies and programs.
- Promoting the rights of young people, ensuring access to education, employment, health services, and opportunities for civic participation.
- Acting as a hub to coordinate youth-focused efforts across the UN system, streamlining initiatives and promoting coherence.
- Supporting youth-led organizations and initiatives through funding, training, and partnerships, empowering them to drive change in their communities.

The UN Youth Office represents a milestone in global youth advocacy, institutionalizing the role of young people as partners in shaping a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. It demonstrates the UN's commitment to fostering intergenerational dialogue and addressing the unique challenges faced by youth worldwide.



# Youth Council Simulation Handbook (cont.)

## ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

The **ECOSOC Youth Forum** is an annual platform organized by the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** that empowers young people to engage with global decision-makers and contribute to shaping international policies, particularly those related to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Established in **2012**, the forum serves as a vital space for dialogue between youth and representatives from governments, civil society, and the private sector.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum mandate includes:

- Facilitating discussions between youth representatives and policymakers to address critical issues such as climate change, education, employment, and inequality.
- Providing young people a voice in ECOSOC's broader work, including the **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development.
- Encouraging youth participation in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the SDGs.
- Highlighting innovative ideas and initiatives by young people that contribute to sustainable development.
- Fostering collaboration between youth organizations, UN bodies, member states, and private sector entities to advance youth priorities.
- Advocating for policies that empower young people.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is one of the most inclusive and participatory platforms for youth engagement within the UN system. By connecting youth with global leaders, the forum bridges the gap between grassroots initiatives and international decision-making, driving collective action toward achieving the SDGs.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is the closest entity in the UN System to what the Youth Council simulated at WIMUN NY 2025 strives to be. The main difference between the Youth Council and ECOSOC Youth Forum is that the Youth Council is intended to be a year-round forum for youth to engage and advise the UN on issues of importance to them and the ECOSOC Youth Forum is a meeting that is convened for only three days once a year.



# The Stages of Online Main Council and Youth Council Sessions

The work in the Youth Council is divided into the following segments:

## A. FORMAL MEETING (RUN ACCORDING TO RULES OF PROCEDURE) TO:

1. **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 in the Council. The presentation of the Organization of Work is the first order of business which must be adopted by consensus before the Council can begin its General Debate.
2. **Engage in an Interactive Session with UN experts** 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 one or more experts followed by Q&A from the delegates.
3. **Convene the General Debate** where representatives of youth NGOs will have an opportunity to make an opening statement on the topic that will be discussed. Any delegate 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 COUNCIL IS SPENT) TO:

1. **Draft resolution in regional groups.** 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 Council as a whole must agree on 4 broad areas they will include in the operative section of their resolution. Each regional group will draft up to three paragraphs under each broad area.
2. **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 Council. Each group can change the head delegate leading the negotiations on their behalf as often as they want.
3. **Submit the draft to the Bureau** along with a list of sponsors.
4. **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 Council 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.



# Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

## 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 General Assembly has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed:

The General Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

- Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010 and 66/260 of 19 April 2012 on improving global road safety,

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

- Recalling also 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”, in which Member States took into account road safety as part of their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

If the same word is used twice in a row to begin a paragraph, the second time it is used, the word also 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 its concern that the number of road traffic deaths still remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.24 million lives lost in 2010, and that only 7 per cent of the world’s population is covered by adequate laws that address all behavioural risk factors, including the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and the inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, while driving,

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<sup>1</sup> The resolution drafted in the UN Youth Council will begin the following chapeau: The Youth Council.



# Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

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

### **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 (cont.),**

Also expressing its concern that half of all road traffic deaths worldwide involve pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists, and that some developing countries have inadequate infrastructure and insufficient policies in place to protect these vulnerable road users,

### **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 and/or specialized UN agencies, programmes and funds,**

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. Recognition of regional organizations would come next, if this information was available,**

Acknowledging the important interregional efforts of the Economic Council for Europe and the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific in organizing the Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum to promote the implementation of United Nations road safety conventions and to facilitate the exchange of experiences in this field among European and Asian countries,

### **8. 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,**

Taking note of the report of the Assembly on Global Road Safety entitled Safe Roads for All: A Post-2015 Agenda for Health and Development,  
Only UN documents are referred to in the body of a General 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.



# Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

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

**9. If a preambular paragraph is used to highlight actions taken by Member States and/or civil society without mentioning specific countries or organizations, that would go toward the end of the preambular paragraphs,**

Commending Member States that have acceded to the United Nations international legal instruments on road safety and that have adopted comprehensive legislation on major risk factors, including the disregard for road signs and signals, the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, Recognizing Member States and civil society for their continued commitment to road safety by observing the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on the third Sunday of November every year,

## 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 developed 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.



# Drafting a Resolution (cont.)

## CONTENT TO BE INCLUDED IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS WITH EXAMPLES

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.

## Editorial Guidelines

When the same verb is used more than once in row you must use the following pattern:

- Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010 and 66/260 of 19 April 2012 on improving global road safety,
- Recalling also 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”, in which Member States took into account road safety as part 1of their efforts to achieve sustainable development
- Recalling further the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

The second time it appears “also” is inserted after the verb and the third time it appears “further” is inserted after the verb.

When repetition of verbs occurs in the operative section the order is reversed. The second time the verb is used, “also” appears **before** the verb and the third time it appears “further” appears **before** the verb as demonstrated below:

1. Invites Member States to continue to improve, where appropriate, their road management systems and to introduce both road safety audits for new construction projects and road safety assessment programmes for the existing networks;
2. Also invites Member States to develop and implement comprehensive policies on post-crash care and to consider enacting legislation to legally protect bystanders who in good faith provide care to those injured in a crash;
3. Further invites Member States to raise awareness of serious road traffic injuries, in particular brain and spinal cord injuries, and to encourage investment in scientific research aimed at effectively treating such injuries;

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.. Please consult the file titled, “Terms Used in Resolutions” for a list of proper verbs to use in the preambular and operative paragraphs.