WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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GLOBAL MODEL WHO 2026

GUIDANCE FOR

DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE IN MODEL UN NEGOTIATIONS

GUIDANCE FOR DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE IN MODEL UN NEGOTIATIONS

In a Model UN (MUN) conference, effective diplomatic discourse is essential for fostering constructive debates, negotiations, and resolutions. As representatives of different countries with diverse perspectives, it is important for delegates to engage respectfully while advocating for their country's interests. We encourage Faculty Advisors to talk about the key principles that underlie diplomatic discourse to ensure productive and respectful engagement during the conference:

1. Respect Differences and Diverse Perspectives

- Recognize that every delegate represents a country with unique interests, priorities, and policies.
- Avoid personal biases; speak from the perspective of your assigned country.
- Acknowledge differing viewpoints with professionalism, even when disagreements arise.

2. Use Diplomatic and Professional Language

- Avoid inflammatory or offensive language.
- Frame disagreements constructively using phrases like:
  - "While we understand your position, our delegation believes that..."
  - We appreciate your perspective, but we propose an alternative approach..."
- Always refer to other delegates formally (e.g., "The delegate of [Country]...").

3. Prioritize Consensus-Building

- Seek common ground where possible, even with opposing viewpoints.
- Be open to compromise; successful resolutions require cooperation.
- Engage in active listening—demonstrate understanding before presenting counterarguments.

GUIDANCE FOR DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE IN MODEL UN NEGOTIATIONS (CONT.)

4. Stay Policy-Oriented and Fact-Based

- Support arguments with data, historical context, and established international frameworks and cite UN resolutions, treaties, or reports when relevant to strengthen proposals that are put forth.
- Avoid emotional appeals or personal opinions—stick to your country's official stance.
- Cite relevant UN resolutions, treaties, or reports to strengthen your position.

5. Engage in Constructive Negotiations

- Present solutions, not just criticisms. Instead of rejecting proposals outright, suggest modifications.
- Maintain patience and diplomacy, especially when negotiations become intense.

By following these guidelines, delegates can engage in meaningful discussions, build diplomatic relationships, and contribute to impactful resolutions. Model UN is not just about winning arguments—it's about fostering international collaboration and developing real-world negotiation skills.