



# Middle School Model United Nations Delegate Guide

Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

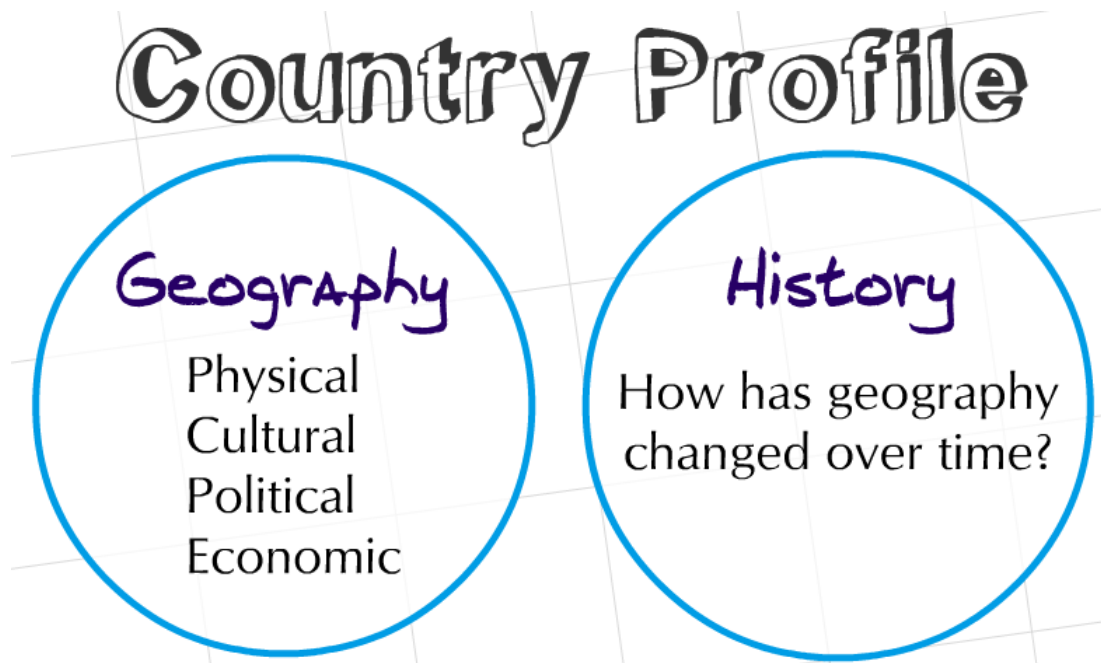


# What Are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 Goals that all member states of the United Nations have agreed to work towards achieving by 2030. Since their launch in 2012, the SDGs have reduced the share of the world's population living in poverty from 16% in 2010 to 8.6%, at present, and a wide range of other successes which can be found here on the [SDG Knowledge Platform](#) Each SDG is broken down into Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Tangible, Targets and Indicators. These help change makers to achieve the SDGs.

The progress of each indicator is tracked using the SDG Tracker- Your team can use this data to research which indicator is making the least progress in each country, which is incredibly useful in determining the progress of each indicator by region! Please click here to see the [SDG Tracker](#)

## Country Profile: Geography and History



1. What is your country's official name?

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2. What is your region called?

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3. What are the countries in your region?

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4. How big is your country in square km?

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5. How would you describe your country's physical features and climate?

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6. How many people live in your country?

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7. What is your country's ethnic composition (use percentages)

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8. What are your countries official languages?

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9. How would you describe the quality of life for the average person living in your country?

a. What is the average salary?

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b. Access to healthcare?

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c. Access to education?

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d. Access to good nutrition?

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e. Access to higher education opportunities?

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f. Social welfare system (e.g. unemployment checques)?

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10. When was your country founded?

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11. What type of government does your country have?

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12. How many people serve in your country's military?

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13. What are your country's military capabilities?

a. Do you have the nuclear power?

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b. Do you have ballistic missiles?

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c. Do you have chemical and biological weapons?

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14. What are your country's natural resources?

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15. What are your country's major exports and imports?

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## 16. What are your country's biggest trading partners?

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The starting point for country research is the [CIA World Factbook](#). This was the first website I was told to look at when I started Model UN, and every MUNer I know uses it for their country research. Information from the CIA World Factbook will answer most of the questions in the handout above.

I also think Wikipedia is a good primer for researching your country. It should not be quoted or cited, especially in academic writing, but for Model UN, and for introductory-level research, Wikipedia often provides a good overview of a topic, and more importantly, it can lead your students to more robust sources of research, e.g. primary sources. I would treat Wikipedia like a background guide in Model UN: it's not meant to be authoritative; rather, it's a starting point for your research.

Additionally, see if your country's ministry of foreign affairs has a website, which will often contain information on current events and history, as well as speeches by government leaders. And, online news sources, particularly news aggregators like Google News and Yahoo!

Once you have researched your country well, you will be able to determine the role that you will take in resolving the issues on the agenda. Will you be looking at it from the perspective of a receiving country? Or a donating country? Or a supporting country?

# Dissecting the Research Report



The research report is split into three sections: **the Introduction, the UN and Possible Solutions.**

## **PART 1 of the Research Report: The Introduction**

What are the root causes of the issue? Use the information on the research report slides to outline the main causes that contribute to this problem:

What [social factors](#) cause this issue?

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What [economic factors](#) cause this issue?

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What political factors cause this issue?

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What other factors cause this issue?

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Use the research report and the guiding questions to look up how your country engages with this issue.

How has your delegation negatively impacted this issue?

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Which organisations benefit from the status quo?

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How does your country benefit from the status quo?

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Which countries agree with your delegations stance on this issue?

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Does your delegation's policies contradicts the resolution of this issue?

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Which countries influence this issue the most? How so?

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How has your delegation positively impacted this issue?

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Why is it important to positively impact the issue? How does it affect your country?

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Which countries/groups are the most impacted by this issue?

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Which countries/groups should take the lead in solving this issue?

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# PART 2 of the Research Report: The UN

This section covers what UN action has been taken to address this issue on the agenda

Which resolutions linked to this issue has your country [ratified](#)?

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Which UN resolutions linked to this issue were not ratified? Why?

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Did your country take any steps to implement this resolution?

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How far did this resolution solve the issue?

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Why wasn't this resolution completely effective? Was it blocked by a specific organisation/country? Were there any objections from a major organization?

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### **PART 3 of the Research Report: Possible Solutions**

Read through the possible solutions outlined in the research report.

How far does your delegation agree with this solution? Why and how so?

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Which countries would disagree with this solution?

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Why would some countries disagree with these solutions?

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What would your country need to change in order to implement this solution?

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How would this affect the economy (jobs, market value etc)?

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How would this affect education?

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How would this affect political landscape in your country?

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Model United Nations

# How to write a draft Resolution

Name of delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolutions bring delegates together so they should be open and engaging and never mean. The idea is not to get MY resolution passed, its to come up with a collaborative resolution the global community can agree on

Your resolution should be no more than ONE PAGE LONG since you'll have to show it to all the other delegates



# The Heading

The heading at the top left corner will contain the following information, in this specific order:

FORUM: The full name of your committee

FORUM: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION OF: The full topic as stated on the website

QUESTION OF: \_\_\_\_\_

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MAIN SUBMITTER: The full delegation name of the delegate introducing the resolution

MAIN SUBMITTER: \_\_\_\_\_

# The First Line

A resolution is always written in one whole sentence meaning there shouldn't be a full stop until the very last line of the document. However, the first line itself address the subject in this case it would be your full committee name followed by a comma.

Example: Sustainable Development Goal 3 Committee,

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# The Preamble

These are clauses that should **explain** the problem. They should be informative; and, they should NOT propose any action. Any person who reads this part should be able to quickly understand:

- The problem- clearly and with statistics
- What is currently being done to solve the problem- clearly and with reference to the Non Government Organisations (NGOs) that are concerned and the UN resolution number that dealt with the issue previously
- Each of these clauses begin with a preamble phrase which is *italicized*, these clauses then end with a comma,
- Information can include:
  - Statistics about the issue
  - References to the UN Charter
  - Past UN resolutions and treaties
  - Efforts by Non- Governmental Organizations (often referred to as NGOs)
  - General statements on the topic
  - Any other factual information about the issue

### Example Preamble Phrases

<i>Affirming</i>	<i>Declaring</i>	<i>Expressing its appreciation</i>
<i>Alarmed by</i>	<i>Deeply concerned</i>	<i>Expressing its satisfaction</i>
<i>Approving</i>	<i>Deeply conscious</i>	<i>Fulfilling</i>
<i>Aware of</i>	<i>Deeply convinced</i>	<i>Fully alarmed</i>
<i>Bearing in mind</i>	<i>Deeply disturbed</i>	<i>Fully aware</i>
<i>Believing</i>	<i>Deeply regretting</i>	<i>Fully believing</i>
<i>Confident</i>	<i>Desiring</i>	<i>Further deploring</i>
<i>Contemplating</i>	<i>Emphasizing</i>	<i>Further recalling</i>
<i>Convinced</i>	<i>Expecting</i>	<i>Guided by</i>

*Having adopted*

*Noting with regret*

*Recognizing*

*Having considered*

*Noting with deep concern*

*Referring*

*Having considered further*

*Noting with satisfaction*

*Seeking*

*Having devoted attention*

*Noting further*

*Taking into account*

*Having examined*

*Noting with approval*

*Taking into consideration*

*Having heard*

*Observing*

*Taking note*

*Having received*

*Reaffirming*

*Viewing with appreciation*

*Having studied*

*Realizing*

*Welcoming*

*Keeping in mind*

*Recalling*

*Clause 1:* this one defines the problem USE STATISTICS!

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*Clause 2:* this one says what has been done by the UN to solve this issue already

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*Clause 3:* this one also says what has been done, by other NGOs to solve this issue already

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## Operative Clauses

This is what you actually debate- these are the UN “laws” that you want every country to agree to so that altogether we can all solve the issue. These clauses will change DRASTICALLY once you lobby with your co-submitters, so keep them clear and short.

Operative clauses express what the main submitter of the resolution thinks other countries and organizations should do to help improve the situations linked with the issue. Each of these should begin with an operative phrase that is underlined and should end with a semicolon. The solutions should be not only original but also practical in real-life situations. Each operative clause should only outline a single idea/proposal beginning with numbering (“1.” “2.” “3.”...) . Each clauses should be as specific as possible and the usage of “sub-clauses”(beginning with “a.” “b.” “c.”...) And “sub-sub-clauses” (“i.” “ii.” “iii.”...) are allowed for further explanation of the proposal, however, there must be multiple “sub-clauses” and “sub-sub-clauses” per clause. After the last operative clause, the resolution then should end with a full stop.

1. Ask yourselves these questions:

- a) What exactly do I want to achieve?
- b) Where?
- c) How?
- d) When?
- e) With whom?
- f) What are the conditions and limitations?
- g) Why exactly do I want to reach this goal? What are possible alternative ways of achieving the same?

2. Operative clauses should be SMART :

- a) Specific: Be really clear what you want to see happen
- b) Measurable: how will you know that you’ve achieved your goals?
- c) Achievable: make sure you are using the right resources to get the job done
- d) Relevant: make sure that this clause really does achieve what you want

e) Time Bound: set a realistic time to achieve this goal;

### Example Operative Phrases

<u>Accepts</u>	<u>Encourages</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
<u>Affirms</u>	<u>Endorses</u>	<u>Reminds</u>
<u>Approves</u>	<u>Expresses its appreciation</u>	<u>Requests</u>
<u>Asks</u>	<u>Expresses its hope</u>	<u>Solemnly affirms</u>
<u>Authorizes</u>	<u>Further invites</u>	<u>Supports</u>
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Further proclaims</u>	<u>Takes note of</u>
<u>Calls upon</u>	<u>Further reminds</u>	<u>Transmits</u>
<u>Confirms</u>	<u>Further recommends</u>	<u>Trusts</u>
<u>Congratulates</u>	<u>Further requests</u>	<u>Urges</u>
<u>Considers</u>	<u>Further resolves</u>	<b>Demands</b>
<u>Declares accordingly</u>	<u>Has resolved</u>	<b>Condemns</b>
<u>Deplores</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<b>These bolded phrases are only for Security Council delegates</b>
<u>Designates</u>	<u>Proclaims</u>	
<u>Draws the attention</u>	<u>Reaffirms</u>	
<u>Emphasizes</u>	<u>Recommends</u>	

1. Clause 1: this one calls upon the most relevant countries to get involved in this issue

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2. Clause 2: Address the social factors of the root causes of this issue. What are the social behaviours, social groups and

organisations, contributing to the issue? How can government policy affect the social change- whether through awareness, establishing advocacy groups or supporting social change through government incentives. Use SMART criteria to show you you can Specifically, Measurably, Achievably, Realistically and within a Timed boundary implement this clause.

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3. Clause 3: Address the economic factors at the root cause of this issue. What are the economic pressures contributing to the issue? How can government policy affect the economic change- whether through encouraging better trade laws, investing in better infrastructure, or any other economic measure. Use SMART criteria to show you you can Specifically, Measurably, Achievably, Realistically and within a Timed boundary implement this clause.

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4. Clause 4: Address the partnerships that can support the effectiveness of your solutions? Use SMART criteria to show you you can Specifically, Measurably, Achievably, Realistically and within a Timed boundary implement this clause.

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At the end of the resolution you should have solid clauses that agree with your country's policies and that can make a measurable contribution towards resolving the issues on the agenda. Merge your clauses with other nations that align with you and good luck debating your resolution!

You may add more clauses if you so wish until you have covered the social, economic, military, political, legal, and educational, aspects of a comprehensive solution to the issue on the agenda.

### **During Debate**

#### **Below is a list of the points and motions to be used during debate**

The only point that may interrupt the chairperson/speaker is a point of personal privilege due to audibility. Delegates may not immediately state their point, but wait for recognition by the chairperson.

Chairpersons must repeat the point to the house.

#### **Point of Personal Privilege:**

- A comment in reference to the comfort and well-being of a delegate
- May interrupt a speaker but only if it is in reference to audibility
- May not be in reference to the content of a speech
- Is not debatable
- Does not require a second
- *Example: 'Could the AC please be switched off? It is very cold in here.'*

### Point of Information to the Speaker:

- One question directed to the delegate who has the floor and who has indicated that he/she is open to points
- The delegate asking the Point of Information can only speak if recognised by the Chairperson
- The Point of Information must be formulated in the form of one question (e.g. 'Is the speaker aware that...?') although a short introductory statement may precede the question
- There is no 'Right to Follow-Up' under THIMUN Rules of Procedure and so there will be no dialogue between the speaker and questioner
- The delegate must always remain standing when the speaking delegate is replying to their Point of Information
- Be fair and treat all delegates equally when recognizing points of information to a speaker
- *Example: 'Could the honourable delegate, as she is the main submitter of this resolution, please explain to the House what she intends with and what the purpose is of Clause 3'*

### Point of Information to the Chairperson:

- A question to the Chairperson (one that does not qualify as a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Parliamentary Enquiry or Point of Order - this could, for example, be a question in reference to the lunch schedule or a question related to the factual contents of the debate)



- May not interrupt a speaker
- The respective Chairperson should answer clearly with a short statement and swiftly move forward
- *Example: 'Could the Chair please explain to the House whether the Darfur Liberation Army has signed the Darfur Peace Agreement?'*

#### **Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:**

- A Point of Information to the Chairperson concerning the Rules of Procedure
- May not interrupt a speaker
- *Example: 'Could the Chair please explain to the House what is meant by Open Debate?'*

#### **Point of Order:**

- An observational comment in reference to the Rules of Procedure (if the delegate believes the Chairperson has made an error concerning procedural matters).
- May not interrupt a speaker
- The Point of Order can only be in reference to something that just happened, direct referral, otherwise it is out of order itself
- The respective Chairperson should take time and clearly explain the situation so that all the delegates understand your arguments
- *Example: 'It is not out of order for the delegate to yield the floor to another delegate since the floor was previously yielded to him by the delegate of Saudi Arabia?'*

## Motions

Always repeat the motion to the house. Chairpersons must note and remind their forum that abstentions are not in order when voting on procedural motions.

### **Motion to extend debate time:**

- Needs a second if proposed from the floor
- At the Chairpersons discretion and is not debatable
- Needs a simple majority or a ruling by the Chairperson to be adopted

### **Motion to refer a resolution to another forum:**

- This motion can be expected when a resolution includes operative phrases with no reference to the mandate of the forum and also when the resolution takes actions that can only be issued by the Security Council (such as sanctions, embargoes, sending peacekeeping troops etc.)
- Should be discouraged as other forums have enough business for their respective meetings

- Can be avoided by urging the House to amend clauses such as: 'Demands...' to 'Strongly Urges the Security Council to demand...'
- Is debatable
- Expert Chairperson can hold a speech for the forum preceding the vote for/against the vote, in which he/she strongly discourages passing this motion
- Needs a simple majority to be adopted

**Motion to withdraw a resolution:**

- Can be done at any time before voting has commenced if all submitters and co-submitters agree on withdrawal
- Can be reconsidered by any member of the forum

**Motion to move to the previous question:** *(formerly: Motion to move directly into voting procedures)*

- Calls for the closure of the debate and a vote to be taken on the motion (amendment/resolution) pending
- If called for when discussing an amendment, in time in favour, this motion means to move to time against the amendment.
- May not interrupt a speaker
- Needs a second
- Chairperson needs to ask if there are any objections
- Is quickly voted upon if any objections are raised
- Can be overruled by the Chairperson at his/her discretion

**The 'Motion to adopt without a vote' (also known as a 'Friendly Amendment') is not democratic and hence will be out of order.**

### **Motion to adjourn the debate:**

- Calls for the temporary disposal of a resolution
- The submitter of this motions 'to table' a resolution needs to give a short speech on why the item should be adjourned
- The Chairperson needs to recognize two speakers in favour of the motion and two speakers against the motion
- The forum will then put the motion to vote, a simple majority is needed for the motions to pass, but tied results mean that the motion has failed
- If the motion passes, debate on the resolution will come to an immediate end - debate on the same resolution can be restarted by any member of the forum only after all other resolution have been debated and only if there is a two thirds majority support for the re-debate.
- If the motion fails, debate on the resolution will continue

### **Motion to reconsider a resolution:**

- Calls for a re-debate and re-vote of a resolution that has already been discussed and adopted
- Can be called for only after all other pending draft resolution have been debated
- Is not debateable
- Needs a two thirds majority

### **Objection to the main motion:**

- Is in order only in exceptional circumstances - otherwise, if for only tactical purposes or if only destructive and without argument, it is out of order
- The delegate proposing the objection has one minute to explain his/her proposal
- The main submitter of the resolution in question is accorded a right of reply of equal
- Needs a two third majority

