



Model United Nations Conference

Teacher's Guide



photo by Kyo Morishima



Produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the Sask UN'08 Conference! This Model United Nations (UN) conference is to be held at three locations across the province, and intended to educate students about the diplomatic processes of the United Nations. The Conference is aimed at congregating high school students from across Saskatchewan to introduce them to the procedures of the United Nations through simulation.

Objective: Sask UN '08 strives to ensure the Model United Nations will provide an educational and comprehensive view on a diverse range of pressing issues. This Assembly aims to educate delegates on the complexities of real-world international negotiation, and emulates the spirit of the real United Nations, placing an unequalled emphasis on cooperation and compromise rather than the supremacy of any one country's position. In this way, delegates are given the opportunity to not only learn about current international affairs and to discover and represent one country's position, but also how to stick to that position while working with other delegates.

Session Topic: At this Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, students from across Saskatchewan will be answering the question:

What can we do to ensure our survival on this planet and what effects will our actions have on people living in poverty the world over?

These conferences are organized by the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC), whose mandates involve educating students to promote international cooperation and development. The SCIC is a coalition of organizations involved in international development who are committed to the recognition of the dignity of all people and their right to self-determination. The SCIC is committed to protecting the world's fragile environment, and to the promotion of global understanding, cooperation, peace and justice. The Saskatchewan Model United Nations conferences also have the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

This Teacher's Guide is designed to help you prepare delegates for the Sask UN'08 conference and offers general information about the conferences including the role assumed by teachers in this simulation.

All information including web resources for research can be accessed on the SCIC's Worldbeat website at <http://www.worldbeat.ca>

As always, our team is here to answer any questions you may have.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

<http://www.worldbeat.ca>

CONFERENCE DATES & LOCATIONS

March 7-8, 2008: Saskatoon, SK
Bethlehem Catholic High School, 110 Bowlt Crescent

April 4-5, 2008: Estevan, SK
Estevan Comprehensive High School, 255 Spruce Drive

April 18-19, 2008: Regina, SK
Luther College High School, 1500 Royal Street

REGISTRATION

Delegations can be made up of a maximum of three students. Schools can send as many delegations as they choose.

Registration is \$20.00 per student on or before January 30th, 2008; \$25.00 per student after January 30th, 2008.

*Supper on Friday and lunch on Saturday are included in the cost of registration. All other costs are the responsibility of the delegates.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday:

- 5:30 Registration
- 6:00 Supper/ Caucus
- 7:00 Welcome Assembly/Call to Order
- 7:30 Guest Speaker
- 8:30 Reception (following Guest Speaker)

Saturday:

- 9:00 Opening Address- (Presentation of Resolution #1)
- 9:15 Committee Session I
- 12:00 Suspension of Debate/Lunch
- 1:00 Committee Session II
- 3:30 Closing Ceremonies

Accommodations for “out of town” Students

All students are responsible for their own accommodations.

Rules of Conduct

- 1) Delegates are asked to act in a professional and diplomatic manner.
- 2) Delegates are to remain ‘in character’ at all times during the conference and act as close as possible to their designated country.
- 3) Students are asked to adhere to the Rules of Procedure when participating in the Model United Nations discussions (See Appendix B).
- 4) All cellular phones must be turned off during the meetings.
- 5) Delegates shall refrain from using derogatory or discriminatory language at all times during Model United Nations proceedings.
- 6) No blue jeans please.

Dress Code

No blue jeans. Delegates are encouraged to research the traditional clothing of the country they are representing and are encouraged to model that dress.

ROLES OF A FACULTY ADVISOR

(Adapted from material circulated by Dr. Peter Hausland, Santa Barbara City College)

Recruitment Officer

Recruiting is an integral part of creating a Model UN club or class. Once students agree to join, they usually become fascinated by the simulation and end up staying. One suggestion for encouraging recruitment is to invite a past delegate to speak about his or her previous interest, either during a special interest session or (sometimes more effectively) casually by word of mouth. It is important to deputize student interest and involvement by encouraging

experienced participants to take initiative. Teachers can also have in-class simulations; once students start MUN they usually can't stop. Of course, there is the traditional method of putting up posters and hosting an informational meeting. At the meeting, teachers can show a video about MUN or have students discussed their experiences, involvement, etc.

Organizer

As Model UN conferences are in different locations, faculty advisors will often plan travel arrangements and other logistical matters. Enlisting the help of experienced students will make it easier to manage these tasks as well as the club's day-to-day activities. The faculty advisor should assign leadership roles or have the students elect leaders. Usually, students will rise to the occasion.

Motivator

At various points along the path of preparing for an upcoming Model UN conference, students may begin to doubt their abilities as they experience new challenges. An advisor has to create a sense of both interest and engagement in the process in order to ease these fears.

Instructor

For a class advisor, creating a course structure that satisfies both academic requirements and the demands of a Model UN simulation can be challenging. If you are a club advisor and there is no credit given for the experience, there may be a lack of academic interest or discipline. An advisor has to create a structure in which both types of Model UN groups will achieve their requirements.

Setter of Boundaries

It is important that faculty advisors set clear parameters about what is and is not acceptable behaviour. Advisors should encourage students to enjoy the conference and acknowledge that this will include an active social life. But they should also point out that any behaviour that brings discredit to the team or to the school will be addressed sternly and swiftly. There should be flexibility and open-mindedness, but there should be no question about the nature and extent of rules and codes of conduct.

Cheerleader

By visiting committee sessions throughout the day (in other words, by showing support), teachers instil a valuable sense of approval and confidence in students. Many advisors take the delegation to dinner at least once during the conference. This builds teamwork, trust and camaraderie between among students and their advisor.

Publicist

The task of telling the world that you are engaged in something unique and academically useful belongs to you. Faculty advisors can prepare a report about their delegation's activities after returning from a conference and submit it to the school's administration or district board. They can also urge a school or local newspaper to highlight the delegation's experiences in a story or ask a campus information officer to develop a press release about the group's achievements. Photos of students interacting at a conference are often useful attachments to a press release or article.

Evaluation

Feedback is an important aspect of every successful academic experience. Advisors should use both anonymous, written evaluations and a general discussion with the students to gather this information.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

Model United Nations conventions are most successful when students invest the time to research the topic and their designated country thoroughly. The experience all students receive is directly correlated to the amount of effort initially invested by all students. It is important for Teachers to mentor and encourage students so they arrive adequately prepared for the Model United Nations conference.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Rules of Procedure that will be used in the Sask Model UN proceedings (Appendix B).

ASSIGNED COUNTRIES

Each delegation is designated a specific country to represent, and the Model United Nations simulation relies on the strict adherence by the students to the assigned country's mandates and policies. The students must research the country's involvement within the United Nations, its foreign policy, and its allies. A research guide has been formulated by the SASK UN'08 committee to focus student's research on areas of strategic importance (Appendix A).

PREPARATION

The preparation before attending the Model UN conference cannot be stressed enough. A background guide will be posted on the website to focus the student's research to the specific topic area.

A three-ring binder or a specific MUN folder will help students keep all information organized, including their delegate's guide and research information.

Background guides will help students understand what they will be expected to discuss at the conference. Read through the background guides before assigning them to your students. Highlight some content and/or address any vocabulary concerns that your students may encounter. Create “guided reading questions” at the end of major sections in the guides to check students’ comprehension rather than relying solely on the guides’ “Questions to Consider” sections.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Delegates can play many roles in the Model United Nations format. Public speaking skills are not essential for participation, but strongly encouraged. There are many different roles delegates can play in the Model UN, delegates can participate in caucusing, advocating and public speaking. Not all delegates are obligated to participate in public speaking.

RESOLUTIONS

The goal of a Model United Nations, as declared in its 1945 charter, was to provide a forum in which students can meet to discuss the greatest challenges facing the world today. Issues discussed range from international peace and security to economic and social progress and human rights. In this spirit, the goal of Sask UN ‘08 is to begin a process whereby constructive debate can lead to positive solutions tomorrow in the field of climate change and its effects on poverty.

Delegates will be given a flawed pre-drafted resolution that requires amendment. Delegates are to advocate and come to a collective agreement while learning about the negotiation process that takes place in the United Nations. The goal of the Model UN is to educate through building relationships, encouraging flexibility in negotiations and collectively work towards an improvement in the resolution.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Teacher volunteers are required on the day of the conference to assist students and add to the Model United Nations experience.

Committee Page: Help the delegates pass notes between one another during committee sessions.

Appendix A:

Sample Delegation Research Guide:

In order to prepare effectively for participation within the Model United Nations General Assembly, it is essential to understand background information on the country you are representing. This outline will be a brief but effective guide when conducting your research; it illustrates the minimum amount of research you should conduct in preparation for the Model United Nations convention.

1. Country's Official Name:
2. Bloc:
3. Geography:
 - a. Location
 - b. Neighboring Countries
 - c. Topography
4. People:
 - a. Population
 - b. Poverty
 - c. Ethnic Groups
 - d. Languages
 - e. Religion(s)
 - f. Conflicts
5. Political Structure:
 - a. Type
 - b. Divisions
 - c. Capital(s)
 - d. Cities
6. Economy:
 - a. Industries
 - b. Minerals
 - c. Chief Crops
 - d. Other Resources
 - e. Imports
 - f. Exports
 - g. Transportation
 - h. Currency
 - i. GNP
 - j. Energy
7. Education:
8. International Involvement:
9. United Nations Involvement:
10. Country's Position on Climate Change:

Appendix B:

Model United Nations Abstract of Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly

III. DELEGATIONS

Rule 25 (Composition)

The delegation of a Member shall consist of no more than three representatives. It is the delegation's responsibility to research, learn and then ensure they express their country's opinion (and not their own) during the General Assembly.

IV. CREDENTIALS

Rule 27 (Submission of Credentials)

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General no less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

V. PRESIDENTS and VICE- PRESIDENTS

Rule 31 (Elections)

For the purpose of SASK UN, however, a President and Vice-President shall be appointed in advance by the Saskatchewan Council of International Cooperation. They shall hold office until the close of the session for which they are appointed.

Rule 32 (Acting President)

If the President finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he shall appoint the Vice-President to take his place.

Rule 33 (Powers of Acting President)

The Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 35 (General Powers of the President)

In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session shall direct the discussion in the plenary meeting; ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order, and, subject to the rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may, in the course of discussion of an item, announce to the General Assembly the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak on any question, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of debate. He/She may announce the suspension or adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.

V. SECRETARIAT

Rule 45 (Duties of the Secretary-General)

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity, in all the meetings of the General Assembly, its committee and sub-committees. He may designate a member of the staff to act in his place at these meetings.

Rule 46 (Duties of the Secretary-General)

The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the General Assembly and any committees or subsidiary organs which it may establish.

Rule 47 (Duties of the Secretariat)

The Secretariat shall receive, translate, print and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the General Assembly, its committees and organs; interpret speeches made at meetings; prepare, print and circulate the summary records of the sessions; have the custody and proper preservation of the meetings; distribute all documents of the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and, generally, perform all other work which the General Assembly may require.

Rule 48 (Annual Report of the Secretary-General)

The Secretary-General shall make an annual report, and such supplementary reports as are required, to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization.

Rule 49 (Notification under Article 12 of the Charter)

The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters, relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are to be dealt with by the Security Council, and shall similarly notify the General Assembly or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

VIII. LANGUAGES

Rule 51 (Official and Working Languages)

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the General Assembly, its Committees and sub-Committees. English shall be the working language.

Rule 54 (Interpretation from other Languages)

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the working language. In this case, he shall himself provide interpretation into (one of) the working language.

XI. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Rule 64 (Invitation to silent prayer or meditation)

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

XII. PLENARY MEETINGS

Rule 67 (Reference to Committees)

The General Assembly shall not, unless it decides otherwise, make a final decision upon any item on the agenda until it has received the report of a committee on that item.

Rule 69 (Quorum)

A majority of the Members of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 70 (Speeches)

No representative may address the General Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in order in which they have been designated to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under consideration.

Rule 72 (Statements by the Secretariat)

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him as his representative, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements to the General Assembly concerning any questions under consideration by it.

Rule 73 (Points of Order)

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 74 (Time Limit on Speeches)

The mover will be allowed to speak for 2 minutes, the seconder for 1 minute 30 seconds and all other speakers 2 minutes to each resolution or part thereof. When a representative has spoken his allotted time, the President shall call him/her to order without delay.

Rule 75 (List of Speakers)

At the beginning of each session, the President may announce the list of speakers and declare the list closed. He/She may, however, accord the right of reply to any Member if a speech delivered after he/she has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

Rule 78 (Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting)

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

Rule 84 (Voting Rights)

Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

Rule 85 (Two-Thirds Majority)

Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. These questions shall include: recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of the Trusteeship Council (in accordance with Paragraph 1c. Article 89 of the Charter), the admission of new members of the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, questions relating to the operation of the Trusteeship System, and budgetary questions.

Rule 87 (Simple Majority)

Decisions of the General Assembly on questions other than those provided for in Rule 85, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a majority of the Members present and voting.

Rule 88 (Meaning of the expression "Members present and voting")

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "Members present and voting" means Members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered not voting.

Rule 89 (Method of Voting)

The General Assembly shall vote by a roll-call on all major resolutions. The roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of Members, and Members will vote by raising their country's placards.

Rule 92 (Voting on Amendments)

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the General Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed, in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

NOTE: These Rules of Procedure are based to a large extent upon those of the General Assembly of the United Nations. In places these rules have been modified to suit the particular needs of SASK UN '08.