

MUN GLOSSARY

ABM: Antiballistic Missile

ABSTAIN: to retrain from casting a "yes" or "no" vote

<u>ACTIVIST</u>: an individual who is extensively and vigorously involved in political activity,

either within or outside the governmental system

ADJOURN: to suspend a session to another time or place or indefinitely

ADJUDGE: to decide or rule upon as a judge

AGENDA: a list of specific items of business to be considered at a legislative session, conference, or meeting

ALBM: Air Launched Ballistic Missile

AMENDMENT:— is a change to the operative clauses of a draft resolution (after it is introduced but before it gets voted on. Just a reminder, preamble cannot be amended.

Approved draft resolutions are modified through amendments. An amendment is a written statement that adds, deletes or revises an operative clause in a draft resolution.

The amendment process is used to strengthen consensus on a resolution by allowing delegates to change certain sections. There are two types of amendments:

A friendly amendment is a change to the draft resolution that all sponsors agree
with. After the amendment is signed by all of the draft resolution's sponsors and
approved by the committee director or president, it will be automatically
incorporated into the resolution.

An unfriendly amendment is a change that some or all of the draft resolution's
sponsors do not support and must be voted upon by the committee. The author(s) of
the amendment will need to obtain a required number of signatories in order to
introduce it (usually 20 percent of the committee). Prior to voting on the draft
resolution, the committee votes on all unfriendly amendments.

Ultimately, resolutions passed by a committee represent a great deal of debate and compromise. They are the tangible results of hours if not days of Model UN debate. As a result, it is important to become familiar with the resolution process and practice drafting resolutions using the proper structure and wording.

ANNEX: to incorporate into a country the territory of another country

<u>APARTHEID</u>: the official policy of racial discrimination that existed in South Africa

<u>ARBITRATION</u>: process by which an outsider is authorized to dictate the terms of a settlement of a dispute if a voluntary agreement can not be reached

ARMISTICE: a temporary peace agreement

ASAT: Anti-Satellite weapon

AUSPICES: protection or patronage

AUTONOMY: independence, self- government

BELLIGERENT: group or nation which is engaged in a war or military conflict

BILATERAL: having or involving two sides

BOYCOTT: refusing to deal with a person, group, nation, or group of nations so as to punish or show disapproval

BREACH OF TREATY: failure to observe the terms of a signed treaty

BUILD DOWN: the theory of building up the weapons arsenals of the U.S. and Russia until equal and then negotiating reductions in arms from their new equal standing **CAPITALISM:** an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods by investments that are determined by private decisions rather than by state control, and by prices, production, and the distribution of good that are determined mainly by competition in a free market

<u>CARTEL</u>: an association of industrialists or nations formed to establish an international monopoly

<u>CAUCUS:</u> is an opportunity for a less formal debate for a duration of the caucus delegates are not according to the speakers list. There are two kinds:

- Unmoderated Caucus delegates are free to discuss without the guidance of the Chairperson or the formal rules.
- Moderated Caucus Speakers' List is abandoned; delegates raise their placards to speak and the Chairperson chooses the next speaker.

<u>CENSORSHIP</u>: broadly, any government restrictions on speech or writing; more precisely, governmental restrictions on forms of expression before they are disseminated

CENSURE: to blame, criticize adversely, or express disapproval

<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>: (Chair, Chairman, Chairwoman) – the person who is responsible for the smooth running of the Committee. He/she writes the study guides, moderates the entire

proceedings of the Committee, decides on some matters that are at his/her discretion and generally does everything to keep the debate smooth and productive.

CLAUSE: a paragraph in a resolution describing one specific guiding principle (perambulatory) or action to be taken (operative):

Preamble / Preambulatory clauses – the introduction, in which you state upon what principles you are acting (or what values you are upholding with the resolution), what events you are condemning or congratulating, and/or what other documents were used as a basis for this resolution. Preambulatory clauses cannot be amended or divided out of a resolution.

Operative clauses – these are the sentences that describe the actions you want to take (or want other organizations to take). You may directly order something to the bodies you have authority over, or urge independent organizations to take some action that is in their power. You may create new bodies, or terminate old ones. In operative clauses, you should also explain the financing mechanisms of your plan, as well as the enforcement mechanism it will use.

COALITION: combination of two or more factions or parties for the purpose of achieving some political goal

COLLECTIVE SECURITY: all members accept joint responsibility for preserving peace **COMMUNISM**: a totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls state-owned means of production with the professed aim of establishing a stateless society

COMPENSARY FINANCING: credit designed to help raw material producer members of the IMF in times of poor market for their exports

COUP D'ETAT: a sudden and decisive act in politics, usually bringing about a change in government unlawfully and by force

CRUISE MISSILE: a long range jet- propelled, winged-bomb which can be launched from land, sea, or air and targeted by remote control; usually considered to be more accurate and low-flying than traditional missiles

CTB: Comprehensive Test Ban

<u>DAIS</u>: officially, the table upfront behind which the Chairperson is sitting. Practically, the Dais denotes also the Chair and the staff of the Committee. Any concerns related to the proceedings of the Committee you may have you should address to the Dais. Same goes for notes to the Chairperson, or resolutions/amendments you want approved.

<u>DEBATE</u>: is what goes on in the committee. Formal debate is governed by the *Speakers'*List and moderated by the *Chairperson*. Debate is regulated by official Rules of Procedure.

<u>DECOLONIZATION</u>: process of transferring a colony to a self-governing area

<u>DEFLATION</u>: a sustained decrease in the general price level

<u>DELEGATE</u>: a person who is a member of a delegation

<u>DELEGATION</u>: a group of delegates who represent a nation, state, political party, or special interest group; usually acting in formal procedures for specified goals

<u>DEMILITARIZE</u>: to free from military control

<u>DEPRESSION</u>: a sever economic slump (worse than a recession) characterized by very high unemployment

<u>DEREGULATION</u>: the act or process of removing restrictions and regulation

<u>DESTABILIZATION</u>: the act of making a government unsteady

<u>DETAINMENT</u>: detention, confinement

DILATORY: causing delay, repetitive

<u>DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY</u>: special privileges accorded to diplomats and their families and staffs by international agreement, including freedom from arrest, search, and taxation
<u>DISARMAMENT</u>: the act of disarming; reduction of military forces and equipment
<u>DISSEMINATION</u>: the act or process of scattering or state of being scattered; usually referring to distribution of information

EASTERN BLOC: group of nations, traditionally led by Russia, whose general theory of government is Communism

EXPANSIONISM: the process of broadening a nation's borders

EXPROPRIATION: the taking of property into public ownership without compensation, such as the property of foreign investors or foreign industry in a nation

EXTRADITION: the surrender of a prisoner or fugitive by one state, nation, or legal authority to another

FLOOR: essentially means the opportunity to speak, or it can denote the subject matter that is currently debated. If someone "has the floor", it means they are allowed to speak. If a resolution is "on the floor", it has been formally introduced, it is being debated and it will be voted on.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: interference by one nation into the affairs of another **FORUM:** an assembly for discussing questions of foreign interests **GAVEL:**— the little wooden hammer the Chairperson uses to keep the Committee in order. Make sure they don't have to use it too much, *banging* the gavel does not make a very pleasant sound.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA): in the real UN, it is the body in which every country of the world is represented. Even though we won't have all the countries present at our Conference, the GA is still our biggest committee that every delegation will attend. Sometimes (in the MUN world) the General Assembly may be also called the *Plenary Session*.

GNP: Gross National Product; the total value of the goods and services produced in a nation during a specific period of time

<u>ICBM</u>: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile; a missile, normally with multiple warheads, with a long range

<u>IDEOLOGY</u>: a comprehensive set of political, economic, and social views or ideas, particularly concerned with the form and role of government

<u>INFLATION</u>: a sustained increase in the general price level

INTEGRITY: honesty; sincerity; trustworthiness

INTER ALIA: among other things

<u>INTERNAL AFFAIRS</u>: having to do with operations within a nation; domestic affairs

<u>JUNTA</u>: a political or military group holding power after a revolution; a political faction;
as assembly or council for deliberation or administration, especially in Spanish-speaking
nations

<u>JURISDICTION</u>: authority vested in a court to hear and decide certain types of cases; term literally means "to say the law"

LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC): countries whose share of output composed of agricultural products, mining, and the like is relatively high, which engage in proportionally little industrial high-technology activity, and whose per capita incomes are generally comparatively low

MANDATE: a commission given to one nation by a group of nations to administer the government and affairs of a territory or colony

MEDIATION: process in which an outsider is brought into a dispute negotiation in the hopes that this person can lead the two sides to a voluntary agreement through persuasion

MOTION: – motion is essentially a suggestion for action to the Committee. If you want to change the way of debating, introduce a resolution or generally move the proceedings forward, raise your placard and make a motion. There are several types of motions allowed in a Committee – for their list and further explanations, see the Rules.

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION: a company having branches in several nations

NATIONAL DEBT: a government's total indebtedness, which has resulted from previous deficits

NATIONALIZE: to invest control or ownership of industry in the national government

NATURAL RESOURCES: those actual or potential forms of wealth supplied by nature,
such as coal, oil, water powers, arable land, etc.

NON-ALIGNED: a nation not politically tied to another, usually taking a neutral position between large power blocs

OLIGARCHY: a system of government in which political power is exercised by a small group of people, usually self- selected

ORPHAN DISEASES: isolated yet deadly diseases which have no cure as yet

PATENT: a temporary grant of monopoly rights over an invention

PEACE BUILDING: post conflict support for future peaceful resolution of differences **PEACE-KEEPING FORCE:** a group sent to maintain, enforce, or intervene to achieve a cessation of hostilities between opposing armies, nations, or other groups

PEACE-KEEPING: the deployment of a United Nations presence in the field, hitherto with the consent of all the parties concerned, normally involving United Nations military and/or police personnel and frequently civilians as well.

PEACEMAKING: action to bring hostile parties to agreement, especially through peaceful means

<u>PLACARD:</u> – the sign that has the name of the country you are representing on it. You raise your placard to vote or to propose a point or motion – it is a way for the Chairperson to see you have something to say.

POINT: if you want to ask a question, or point the attention of the Chairperson to something, you use a Point. For example, when you cannot hear the speaker, when you think the Chair has made a procedural mistake, or when you do not understand the decision of the Chair and want to clarify the procedure. There are three types of Points (*Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry* and *Point of Order*); for further explanations please see the Rules.

<u>PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY</u>: action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur

PROCEDURAL: – all points/motions that have something to do with the official procedure of the debate – e.g. motions for caucuses, motion for a roll call, etc...

PROLIFERATION: a spreading; expansion; propagation

PROTECTIONISM: the process of government economic protection for domestic producers through restrictions on foreign competition

PROTECTORATE: a weak nation under the protection and partial control of a stronger nation

RAPPORTEUR: a member of a legislative miliary, or other official group appointed to record and make or draw up a report

RECESSION: period during which the total output of the economy declines

RESOLUTION: – is the final product of the Committee. It is a document that says how you want to change the world; what actions you want to take; how you are using your authority as a body. A resolution is created during the Committee sessions and in the end you vote on whether to implement it or not. Resolution has to be in a specific format, it is made of clauses and it has two main parts:

ROLL CALL: – when the Chairperson reads the names of all delegations in alphabetical order, to see if they are present (or to hear their vote, in a Roll Call voting).

<u>SANCTION</u>: an action by several nations toward another nation intended to force it to obey international law

SATELLITE: a country that claims to be independent but is actually under the control of another

SECOND: – whenever a motion is made, it requires a Second – that is, there needs to be another delegation that wants to see the motion implemented. To Second is easy – when you hear a motion you agree with, just raise your placard and say "Second".

SECRETARIAT: the official office or position of Secretary-General; the department, including staff, buildings, etc. controlled by the Secretary-General

SELF-DETERMINATION: the decision by the people of a nation as to what form of government they shall have, without reference to the wishes of any other nation

SIGNATORIES: – are the delegations that wish to see the draft resolution formally debated during the Committee session. They do not have to agree with the resolution; they just want to see it on the floor.

SLBM: Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile

SOCIALISM: the theory or system of social organization by which the major means of production and distribution are owned, managed, and controlled by the government, by an association or workers, or the community as a whole

<u>SOVEREIGN</u>: independent of all others; supreme in power rank, or authority

<u>SPEAKER'S LIST</u>: – is the order in which delegations will address the Committee. It is the backbone of the proceedings; it gives the Committee a basic structure.

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE: (or Regional Body/Bloc) – A committee that is smaller than the GA, typically it contains 20-30 delegations. The specialized committees are usually focused on particular geographic area (such as the African Union, or League of Arab States), or on a particular problem

SPONSORS: – are the delegations that author a resolution, and are committed to supporting it.

STRAW POLL:— a non-binding vote for the purpose of gauging the opinion of the Committee. If you want to see what everyone thinks about your proposal, you may make a motion for a Straw Poll — the Chair will then have the delegates simulate voting on the proposal, but the vote is only for information purposes — it is not binding and the count may, of course, change later.

<u>SUBSTANTIVE</u>: – all matter that has to do with the *content* of the Committee session – generally related to draft resolutions or amendments, real, actual, essential

SUSPEND: to cause to stop temporarily, as a meeting; to set aside or make temporarily inoperative, as the rules

SYNFUELS: fuels synthesized from sources other than crude oil or natural gas **TARIFF:** a schedule of duties, rates, or charges imposed by the government on imported or exported items

TERRORISM: use of terror, especially the systematic use of terror by the government or other authority against particular persons or groups; a method of opposing a government internally or externally through the use of terror

THIRD WORLD NATIONS: the underdeveloped nations of the world

TO BE IN ORDER: — if a type of a point or motion is said to be "in order" it means that the rules allow you to make such a point or motion. E.g. "a motion for a roll call is in order only when voting on draft resolutions" means you may only move for a roll call during the final voting procedure, but not when voting on amendments or other motions.

TO RULE STH. OUT OF ORDER: - when a chairperson rules something out of order, (s)he is basically saying either that the rules do not allow it, or that he believes it would hurt the committee and therefore he will not allow it (the second is sometimes also called "ruling something dilatory"). If a delegate is out of order, it means that the action s(he) has made (offensive speech, incorrect motion) is inappropriate at that time and will not be considered.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION: corporation whose operations transcend international borders

TRUSTEESHIP: the administration by a nation of a trust territory, approved by the UN, usually with the idea that the trust territory will be developed toward self-government or independence

VOID: without legal force or effect; not binding by law

WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION: weapons whose effects are wide- spread or deemed to be excessively injurious to civilians or the environment, e.g. chemical, biological, and radiological warfare

<u>WESTERN BLOC</u>: group of nations, traditionally led by the United States, whose general theory of government is democratic and capitalist

WORKING PAPER: – a document that is authored by one or more delegates, presented to all delegations, and which helps the work of the Committee in some way. It does not have to be in a resolution format, it can be a list of ideas; nevertheless, a good working paper provides a backbone for a resolution.

<u>YIELD</u>:— is what you do with the remainder of your speaking time. Yielding essentially means giving the rest of your time to someone. You may yield to other delegation, to questions (if you are willing to answer them), or to the Chairperson (if you have finished speaking or you have no more time anyway). For further info see the Rules.