

Ad Hoc

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Letter from Chair

Esteemed delegates,

Why are you here? Discarding the possibility that it may have been because you were forced to, it's because you, like we do, love MUN. It's because you love raising your placard, because you love pulling out the facts to defend yourself against another delegation's attacks, because you love the feeling of stepping into a different viewpoint than your own for a couple of days— or because you enjoy offhandedly referring to yourself as a third-person country.

But, as much as we hate to admit it, MUN is not a perfect simulation. We go in with full knowledge of our topics and a preconceived notion of how the debate will flow. As such, a common criticism of MUN and its committees is that they leave little room for variety— and thus we increasingly see committees where delegates believe war or controversy is the only option to 'spice things up'.

Here's where ad hoc comes in.

The ad hoc committee is anything but predictable, and seeks to emulate the UN experience as closely as it can. Real UN delegates tackle issues head-on as they emerge, and are masters of their foreign policy in order to apply it to any rising situation to their country's benefit. That is what the ad hoc committee will demand from you, and the scenario it aims to emulate. Through this committee, we hope to challenge proficient delegates to take their MUN skills above and beyond and rise to the demands of a high-stakes debate beyond a comfort zone.

It doesn't mean it will be easy. You will be expected to master both your foreign policy and the current state of affairs of the UN, and be prepared to handle any curveball that the world that day throws your way. Nonetheless, since this committee is especially challenging, we commend you on choosing to step beyond the lull of a regular MUN experience and deciding to enter a realm of foreign policy closer to the real state of affairs.

We wish you the best of luck!

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Committee Policies

Technology

Because ASFMUN will be run online this year, delegates will be required to use their laptops and computers to participate in committees. The only websites delegates are allowed to use during committee sessions are Zoom, Google Docs, which delegates will be writing their working papers and resolutions, and any other sources that the Chair permits. Unless there is an emergency, delegates should not be using cellphones or other electronic devices that will give them an unfair advantage. If there is a concern that a delegate is breaking these rules, please contact any member of the Secretariat.

Zoom Guidelines

All committees will use Zoom, and each committee will use the same Meeting ID and Passcode for every committee session. Delegates should never distribute the Meeting ID and Passcode to anybody else. In the meeting, delegates should change their display name to their position. For instance, a delegate representing Mexico should rename their display name to “Mexico”.

Moreover, delegates are expected to have their camera on at all times except when they are standing up, leaving a room, or having connection issues. While in moderated caucuses, delegates must keep their microphone muted until called on to speak.

Delegates should prepare their own placard in advance for roll call, points, motions, and voting. [This Google Drive folder](#) will have instructions on how to make your own placard.

Pre-writing and Plagiarism

Pre-writing of clauses, language, working papers, and draft papers is strictly forbidden.

Delegates are welcome to use Google Drive to collaborate with other delegates when writing documents. However, in order to ensure fair participation from all delegates, they must not work on papers outside of the committee sessions.

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and if any attempts are found, delegates will no longer be eligible for any awards.

Committee: At a Glance

Introduction to the Committee

Ad hoc is a unique crisis committee designed to challenge each delegate's expertise in their respective country as they face a variety of topics that stem from our ASFMUN committees and the current state of affairs in the UNSC. Delegates are expected to master country policy, as they will not be made aware of the topic until they are in committee session. This is one of the most challenging committees ASFMUN offers.

What Makes Ad Hoc Unique?

Unlike other committees, the ad hoc topics are unknown until delegates enter the committee room. Because of this, delegates will not be given any specific topics or issues to research, and must instead devote their preparation time to wielding their foreign policy as masterfully as possible. Throughout the committee, delegates will be updated on the state of affairs at the real Security Council, and expected to follow along with the real-world proceedings of the UN.

Aside from mastering current world affairs and country policy, ad hoc will also feature the unique characteristic of relating to other ASFMUN topics in a way no other committee will. It is likely that, aside from real-life topics, the ad hoc committee will pull from what is happening in other ASFMUN committees and prompt you to debate on that, meaning you will be expected to talk to the delegates of other committees that are also representing your country in between committee sessions— and, when prompted on that topic, hold the same policy as *they* did in their specific committees.

Therefore, the unique appeal of ad hoc lies in that it combines both real-world emerging situations with committee interactions, thus making for a versatile and challenging MUN experience that expects delegates to be as proficient in objective consistency as in quick-thinking communication.

Preparation: Research

Foreign Policy Research

All MUN committees require a degree of foreign policy research; however, since ad hoc delegates are expected to fully dominate it, their research on it must be more exhaustive than it generally is. For this, we suggest...

- Make a country profile based on the CIA Factbook and other encyclopedia-style country profiling sources. Be sure to include your country's economic, political, and social profile.
- Understand the political system of your country in question. Is it an autocracy? A democracy? A parliamentary government? Make sure you know how decisions are made and how the governmental structure impacts those decisions— for example, decisions in autocratic China are not made in the same interest or procedure as those of the democratic United States.
- Make a list of your country's key allies and understand the nature of that alliance. China's alliance with Kazakhstan, for example, is an economic alliance; by contrast, alliances between European countries are based upon a shared history and bonds of continental loyalty. How does your country act toward its allies, and how do your allies act toward you?
- Understand the current political situation in your country. What is the government in charge? What are the domestic issues your country is currently facing? This will help inform you of your country's interests, so you are able to pursue them objectively in committee.
- What are the international issues your country is most involved in? What is its role in those issues, and why do they matter?
- What is the political rhetoric used by your country's politicians when speaking about global issues? Do they tend to be nationalistic or internationalist? What does that reveal about your country's foreign policy stance?

Topic Research

Since delegates will not be informed of the topic prior to the arrival to the committee room, thorough research forms the base of delegates' performance. The absence of a topic also means it can be daunting to begin your research, but we have compiled a list of resources we will be using to monitor UN actions and events we will draw from when choosing topics. These are the bare minimum delegates will be expected to account for; however, going above and beyond and being

more thorough with the issues explored in these sources will yield a better result. Delegates should check these sources consistently —ideally, daily— between now and the conference date.

UN Web TV

Link: <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/security-council/>

This website has live broadcasts of the UNSC sessions that are currently going on. If you aren't fortunate enough to catch a live broadcast as it happens, the website also has reruns and videos of past sessions from recent days, as well as offering classifications for related videos based on topic or region. This is your best primary source to understand what is currently going on in the UN world and to look at the rhetoric of your country within it.

UNSC Veto List

Link: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/veto>

This archive shows the veto record of the Permanent 5 in the UNSC. This can be useful to understand what issues are absolute no's for the P5, as well as what issues to tread lightly on for other members of the Council when trying to garner the P5's support.

UNSC Meetings and Outcomes

Link: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2020>

This archive gives a comprehensive summary of the meetings of the SC, their outcomes, and member states' voting records. This source is frequently updated to reflect the most recent meetings. This is an important source, and you will be expected to be aware of the most recent issues the Security Council has tackled, how your country has voted on them, and what their significance has been.

Related News Articles

Link: <https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/un-security-council>

Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cy3eyy9ml9t/un-security-council>

These sources are not firsthand and they should not be your only source of research; however, they can be more easily digestible and help give you context on what is happening in the UNSC.

Preparation: Writing

Since, devoid of a topic, it is impossible to write a position paper, the writing sample you will submit in place will be a small briefing regarding your country's policy and important issues. It must follow this format:

- I. Country Background**
You must give a brief overview of your country's political system, current government, and current political situation.
- II. Domestic Issues**
You must list the three main domestic issues that your country is currently facing and how they are impacting what your country's main goals are.
- III. International Issues**
You must list the three main global issues your country is involved in or cares about and why they are important to your country.
- IV. Proposals**
You must name the issues you hope are discussed during the ad hoc committee or the topics you hope the committee will resolve.

Please remember the writing sample is a requisite to be eligible for awards.