Frequently Asked Questions

**Can we bring laptops?**

* This is a common misconception; unlike other high school Model United Nation conferences, we encourage every delegate to bring a laptop.
* Committees can be very unpredictable. The topic you focused your research on wasn’t picked, fellow Member States are using unfamiliar terms, the chair asks you to find some Non-Governmental Organizations which specialize in North-South Cooperation with an emphasize on subsidizing and elevating subsistence farmers; a quick Google search can massively help.
* Also, Google Docs is terrible on mobile.

**Can multiple resolutions pass?**

* Yes, this is another common misconception; we allow multiple resolutions to pass.
* Resolutions are voted on individually during voting procedure.
* All, some, or none of the resolutions can pass at the end.
* If multiple resolutions share similar focuses, the Dais will encourage the body to merge their resolutions into a single document.

**Can we talk during informal?**

* Absolutely! This is the time when you will be networking, finding Member States of similar interests/goals, and doing all your writing on your working papers.

**Can we leave the room during informal?**

* You sure can! The committee rooms can be a bit crowded and sometimes a change of scenery is nice when you are discussing more delicate matters.
* With that in mind though, we do not exclude walking time from the length of the suspension, so the further away from the room you choose to caucus, the less time you’ll have to work.

**Can we leave the room during formal?**

* Yes, we understand that between bathroom breaks and faculty advisors wishing to talk, there can be scenarios where a delegate needs to leave the room during formal session.
* If you must leave the room, do so as quietly as possible and preferable just as a fellow delegate finishes their speech.
* We do ask that as much as possible, the delegates remain in the room as it is important to give your fellow delegates the appropriate level of respect when they are doing speeches.
* SIDE NOTE: Multiple people can leave the room at the same time/not return in time for formal session, however if we do not meet **quorum** (*1/3 of attending delegates in the committee room at the beginning of formal session*) we will not be able to progress with speeches.

**Can I use my laptop during formal session?**

* Out of respect for fellow delegates who are giving speeches, we ask that all other delegates close their laptops and give the speaker their full attention.
* Although it can be tempting to work on writing resolutions during formal session, this is highly discouraged as it does not allow fellow delegates to see what edits are being made, and distracts listeners from delegates’ speeches

**Am I allowed to read my speech off my laptop?**

* Yes, laptops may be used to read speeches off of.
* For the sake of time, delegates who are immediately queued to give speeches may have their laptop open during formal session to prepare for giving their speech.
* This policy helps the conference and delegates adhere to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (*Responsible Consumption and Production*) by limiting excess printing of documents.

**Can I write speeches before I get to conference?**

* Yes! We encourage all delegates to prepare at least an opening speech before coming to conference.
* This pre-written speech should express your Member State’s stance on the topic and give some method of solving the issue.
* A delegate my pre-write as many speeches as they like.

**Can I write a working paper or clauses for a working paper before I attend conference?**

* No, although we encourage delegates to be well prepared for conference, they are not allowed to pre-write any portion of a working paper (*Preambular Clauses or Operative Clauses*)
* This policy exists as the writing of clauses should be a collaborative effort between all delegates of a working group.
* A position paper on the other hand, which is written in an essay format, is not covered by this policy.
* Delegates found to be using pre-written clauses may make themselves and/or delegation ineligible for awards at the discretion of the Dais.

**My working group wants more time to work on our working paper, what can we do?**

* The conference alternates between formal and informal session. Early in the day the focus will be on formal session to allow delegates to express their ideas, but as voting procedure draws closer the Dais will increase the proportion of informal to formal session.
* To decrease the length of formal session, delegates can:
  + Return to their seats in a timely manner
  + Motion to shorten speaker’s time (such as 30 seconds)
* To increase the length of informal session, delegates can:
  + Motion for longer suspensions of the meeting (15 minutes is the maximum)
  + Express concerns to the Dais
* Should delegates speak to the Dais about time-related concerns, they will likely understand and adjust procedure according.
* Examples of language the Dais may use to adjust this proportion include:
  + [At the start of formal session] “*The Dais would look kindly upon a 15-minute suspension of the meeting. Are there any points or motions?”*
  + [When asking for motions] “*The Dais would look kindly upon a motion to set the speaker’s time to 30-seconds. Are there any points or motions?*”
  + [Near the end of informal session] “*The Dais will informally ask delegates if they would like to extend the suspension for 10 minutes. Is there any dissent?*”

**I do not personally agree with my Member State’s stance on the topic, can just I use my own?**

* No, one of the pillars of Model United Nation simulations is working with Member States of drastically different beliefs and finding a compromise which pleases every side.
* Some Member States have poor human right records, others exhibit blatant social divides, yet every Member State has an equal voice in the United Nations, and most, if not all, strive to remove these injustices within our world.
* A word of caution though; although some Member States discriminate against specific races, genders, and sexual orientation, it is NEVER acceptable to exercise those policies against fellow delegates. All are welcome at Model United Nations.

**Can we leave the room during voting procedure?**

* Yes, delegates can leave the room during voting procedure, but they cannot re-enter the room.
* Faculty advisors are exempt from this rule.

*Created & Written by Secretary General Austin Kultgen in association with Lillie Lee and Peter Laning.*