



HOPE

Model United Nations

Delegate Handbook



**Hope College
Holland, Michigan
March 8-9, 2012**

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Introduction

This handbook provides new participants with an overview of our program, and informs previous participants of changes in this year's conference. Due to funding restrictions, we are not able to provide handbooks for every participant, so feel free to copy and distribute as needed or look to the copy available online at <http://www.hope.edu/mun>.

Awards and Judging

Students who demonstrate exceptional performance are given awards. The top three delegations, as determined by the directors and individual Hope student organ leaders, are recognized for their efforts. The judges' decisions are based on the delegates' representation of their respective countries and the quality of their participation. The criteria for the awards are quite specific and are used strictly by the judges in selecting award recipients. The delegates must demonstrate a high level of understanding of the topics in their organ. Not only is it essential that they understand their own country's positions, but they must also understand all sides of the issues. The best delegations have a general idea of how the rest of the global community would likely respond to the issues at hand. The delegates must also display a general knowledge of the country they represent, including information on its economy, allies, military status, etc. Another essential component of an exceptional delegation is its effectiveness in presenting the country's position. The quality of a delegation's arguments is more important than the quantity of statements. The judges are more interested in the relevance, clarity, and authenticity of a delegation than in the number of times a delegate speaks or the length of a statement.

Research Methods

We recommend delegations do research in three main areas:

First, delegations should have a basic knowledge of the history of their issue or crisis as well as an understanding of the multiple perspectives involved.

Second, delegations need to be able to speak knowledgeably about their country's government, populace, and general foreign policy.

Third, delegations should have basic understanding of the countries with which they will be interacting and regional political geography.

Information is only as good as its source. Avoid websites that do not cite their sources or that the general population can edit. Both the United Nations website and the International Relations and Security Network (www.isn.ch) are key to your preparation and contain links to international organizations and cites throughout the world. Also, international news and government agencies can be helpful sources.

Be sure to utilize resources at your school and local library. Reference librarians will be able to help you find print sources such as books and recent newspaper or magazine articles, as well as information from databases. Print sources can become outdated quickly, especially for developing issues, so be mindful of when your source was published.

Check out the HCMUN website for additional useful tips and helpful links. <http://www.hope.edu/mun>

Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 8, 2011

03:30-05:30 pm: Check-in: Security Council, ECOSOC,
and ICC delegates

*Session rooms to be determined
Early check in is encouraged*

06:00-06:30 pm: Orientation to issues

In respective session rooms

06:45-08:30 pm: Banquet for all Security Council,
ECOSOC, and ICC delegates*

Haworth Conference and Learning Center

08:30-10:00 pm: Sessions:

Security Council, ECOSOC, and ICJ;
IGA and AGA sessions optional

In respective session rooms

10:00pm- 12:00am: Delegate Gala

Haworth Conference and Learning Center

*Thursday's banquet is for all Security Council, ECOSOC, and ICC
delegates as well as advisors.

Friday, March 9, 2011

Delegates and advisors have the option of purchasing
breakfast and lunch in the college cafeteria.

6:30-8:30 am: Check-in: Introductory & Advanced
General Assembly delegates

Session rooms to be determined

7:30 and 8:00 optional campus tours available

8:30 am: All sessions begin

2:30 and 3:00pm optional campus tours available

3:30 pm: All sessions close

3:45 pm: Awards Ceremony

Member States

-Afghanistan	-Colombia	-Guatemala
-Albania	-Comoros	-Guinea
-Algeria	-Congo,	-Guinea-Bissau
-Andorra	Republic of	-Guyana
-Angola	-Costa Rica	-Haiti
-Antigua and	-Cote d'Ivoire	-Honduras
Barbuda	-Croatia	-Hungary
-Argentina	-Cuba	-Iceland
-Armenia	-Cyprus	-India
-Australia	-Czech Republic	-Indonesia
-Austria	-Democratic	-Iran,
-Azerbaijan	People's	Islamic
-Bahamas	Republic of	Republic of
-Bahrain	Korea	-Iraq
-Bangladesh	-Democratic	-Ireland
-Barbados	Republic	-Israel
-Belarus	Of Congo	-Italy
-Belgium	-Denmark	-Jamaica
-Belize	-Djibouti	-Japan
-Benin	-Dominica	-Jordan
-Bhutan	-Dominican	-Kazakhstan
-Bolivia	Republic	-Kenya
-Bosnia-	-Ecuador	-Kiribati
Herzegovina	-Egypt	-Kuwait
-Botswana	-El Salvador	-Kyrgyzstan
-Brazil	-Equatorial	-Lao People's
-Brunei	Guinea	Democratic
Darussalam	-Eritrea	Republic
-Bulgaria	-Estonia	-Latvia
-Burkina Faso	-Ethiopia	-Lebanon
-Burundi	-Fiji	-Lesotho
-Cambodia	-Finland	-Liberia
-Cameroon	-France	*Libyan Arab
-Canada	-Gabon	-Jamahiriya
-Cape Verde	-Gambia	-Liechtenstein
-Central African	-Georgia	-Lithuania
Republic	-Germany	-Luxembourg
-Chad	-Ghana	-Madagascar
-Chile	-Greece	-Malawi
-China	-Grenada	-Malaysia

- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- St. Vincent & The Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



Writing Resolutions

A resolution is a one-page proposal that calls for action to be taken by the United Nations. This action may be undertaken by the Secretariat, member states, or various UN organizations.

Resolutions have three main elements:

1) The **Heading** tells where the proposal is being submitted, the subject of the Resolution and the primary sponsor.

2) The **Preamble** states the purpose of the Resolution, and explains why the operative clauses should be adopted. Each preamble clause should begin with a "Preamble Phrase" and should be followed by a comma. The final clause in the in the preamble should end with a colon.

3) The **Operative Clauses** state the action that the committee should take and should be the bulk of the resolution. The first word of the clause should be a verb, which indicates the action of the clause. Each clause should be followed by a semicolon, with the last clause ending with a period.

Take a look at the sample resolution on the next page. The sections are labeled for you. You will not need to label the sections of your resolutions.

Sample Resolution

SUBMITTED TO: General Assembly
SUBJECT: Endangered Species, Loss of Biodiversity

ALARMED by the rising number of species at risk of extinction

FURTHER ALARMED by the increasing lack of biodiversity including but not limited to habitat loss/damage, climate change, and pollution

RECOGNIZING that the actions taken by current generations can and will have lasting impact

BELIEVING that it is a global responsibility to address the maintenance and care of the planet

FURTHER BELIEVING that the environment and its animal inhabitants are important and worth preserving

REQUESTS that the international community meet these goals:

- Reduce the amount of deforestation happening globally by 10% by 2020
- Create a committee with a budget of twenty million dollars to increase protective measures for animal species considered to be endangered and work with state governments to implement and enforce these measures. Funding shall be provided by all member nations on the basis of natural resource consumption percentage.
- Generate annual reports for the Assembly to review.

Examples of Preamble Phrases

Affirming	Guided by
Alarmed by	Having adopted
Approving	Having considered
Aware of	Having considered further
Believing	Having devoted attention
Bearing in mind	Having examined
Confident	Having studied
Contemplating	Having heard
Convinced	Keeping in mind
Declaring	Noting with regret
Deeply conscious	Noting with satisfaction
Deeply disturbed	Noting with deep concern
Deeply regretting	Noting further
Desiring	Noting with approval
Emphasizing	Observing
Expecting	Realizing
Expecting fully	Reaffirming
Expressing its appreciation	Recalling
Expressing its satisfaction	Recognizing
Fulfilling	Referring
Fully aware	Seeking
Fully alarmed	Taking into account
Fully believing	Taking into consideration
Further deploying	Taking note
Further recalling	Viewing with appreciation
	Welcoming

Examples of Operative Phrases

Accepts	Further proclaims
Affirms	Further reminds
Approves	Further recommends
Authorizes	Further resolves
Calls	Further requests
Calls upon	Notes
Condemns	Notes further
Congratulates	Proclaims
Confirms	Reaffirms
Considers	Recommends
Declares accordingly	Reminds
Deplores	Regrets
Draws the attention	Requests
Designates	Solemnly affirms
Emphasizes	Strongly condemns
Encourages	Supports
Endorses	Trusts
Expresses its appreciation	Takes note of
Expresses its hope	Transmits
Further affirms	Urges
	Yields

Introductory General Assembly

Directors: Derek Jager; Ryan Olivia MacDonald

The General Assembly program is the single largest organ of the Hope College Model United Nations conference. The General Assembly sessions serve to introduce students to the nature of the United Nations system and give them an awareness of some of the subsequent issues.

The Introductory General Assembly is for beginning students who want an introduction to the UN simulation. The Introductory General Assembly considers resolutions that have been drafted by Hope College students.

The issues facing the Introductory General Assembly this year are Reversing Global Warming and Regulation of Nuclear Energy Production. These resolutions have been created especially for the Introductory General Assembly and are not actual UN resolutions. Students participating in the IGA are expected to research the topic and resolution to which they are designated and prepare amendments to be submitted to the General Council.

Conference Participation

Delegates to the Introductory General Assembly have the option of participating in the opening ceremony and banquet which takes place on the evening of Thursday March 8, 2012. A small fee is required for those delegates who would like to attend. The banquet is followed by a required night activity for all over night participants. Students choosing to attend the banquet and night activity will be housed for the night with a Hope Student.

For those General Assembly delegates who choose not to attend the opening ceremony, check in will take place on the morning Friday, March 9, 2012. The session will open with each delegate giving a brief statement on their standing on the issues, a time of caucus for support of their amendments, and an opportunity to submit their amendments to the steering committee. After lunch, the Introductory General Assembly will hold a plenary session on each topic and discuss the selected amendments. All delegates are expected to accurately represent their countries in submitting and cosponsoring amendments, debating, and voting.

In the caucusing portions of the morning, the time will be devoted to obtaining support from other countries, and composing amendments. There are two delegates per country, both should be equally qualified to support their amendments during the caucusing and debate.

Region A

-Albania	-Greece	-Palau
-Andorra	-Hungary	-Poland
-Armenia	-Iceland	-Portugal
-Austria	-Ireland	-Romania
-Azerbaijan	-Italy	-Russian
-Belarus	-Kazakhstan	Federation
-Belgium	-Kyrgystan	-San Marino
-Bosnia and Herzegovina	-Latvia	-Serbia
-Bulgaria	-Liechtenstein	-Slovakia
-Canada	-Lithuania	-Slovenia
-Croatia	-Luxembourg	-Spain
-Czech Republic	-Malta	-Sweden
-Denmark	-Moldova	-Switzerland
-Estonia	-Monaco	-Tajikistan
-Finland	-Montenegro	-Turkmenistan
-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-Netherlands	-Ukraine
-France	-Norway	-United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
-Georgia		-United States of America
-Germany		-Uzbekistan

Region B

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Republic of Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Nauru
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tonga
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Region C

-Afghanistan	-Grenada	-Paraguay
-Antigua and Barbuda	-Guatemala	-Peru
-Argentina	-Guyana	-Philippines
-Australia	-Haiti	-Qatar
-Bahamas	-Honduras	-Republic of Korea
-Bahrain	-India	-St. Kitts and Nevis
-Bangladesh	-Indonesia	-Samoa
-Barbados	-Iran, Islamic Republic of	-Saudi Arabia
-Belize	-Iraq	-Singapore
-Bhutan	-Israel	-Solomon Islands
-Bolivia	-Jamaica	-Sri Lanka
-Brazil	-Japan	-St. Lucia
-Brunei Darussalam	-Jordan	-St. Vincent and Grenadines
-Cambodia	-Kuwait	-Suriname
-Chile	-Lao People's Democratic Republic	-Syrian Arab Republic
-China	-Lebanon	-Thailand
-Colombia	-Malaysia	-Timor-Leste
-Costa Rica	-Maldives	-Trinidad and Tobago
-Cuba	-Marshall Islands	-Turkey
-Cyprus	-Mexico	-Tuvalu
-Democratic People's Republic of Korea	-Mongolia	-United Arab Emirates
-Dominica	-Myanmar	-Uruguay
-Dominican Republic	-Nepal	-Vanuatu
-Ecuador	-New Zealand	-Venezuela
-El Salvador	-Nicaragua	-Viet Nam
-Federated States of Micronesia	-Oman	-Yemen
-Fiji	Pakistan	
	-Panama	
	-Papua New Guinea	

Reversing Global Warming

Over the last hundred years, the average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.6 degrees. By the end of the century, it is expected to increase by another 1.4 to 5.8 degrees. Scientists are predicting that this increase in temperature could trigger major environmental changes that would affect everyone on the planet; in the areas of climate change, agricultural production, human health issues, famine, animal extinction, and the spread of diseases. The United Nations is playing a central role in clarifying the science of global warming and preparing a global plan of action to deal with it. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are two United Nations organizations that established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The panel does not do its own research. Its job is to bring clarity to the highly political and controversial debate over global warming and its causes. Member countries of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiated the Kyoto Protocol. Under the Protocol, each country agrees to reach a national reduction target. The goal is a combined effort from all the countries to cut total greenhouse-gas emissions by 5 percent from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The United States withdrew its support for the Protocol, arguing the economic costs are too great compared to the benefits and argues China and India should be required to reduce their emissions as well. The Kyoto Protocol was never intended to be the complete solution for dealing with global warming and it expires in 2012.

Questions to Consider

How detrimental would these predicted temperature changes be to global regions? How would these regional issues affect the global community?

What is the United Nations currently doing about this situation? What should be done?

Should more global standards be amended and/or established that allow for specific regulations regarding the progression of reversing global warming? What kind of global force, if any, should exist that polices this initiative? Discuss what possible standards and implications of such ideas would look like.

Regulation of Nuclear Energy Production

Nuclear energy policy is a national and international policy concerning some or all aspects of nuclear energy, such as mining for nuclear fuel, extraction and processing of nuclear fuel from the ore, generating electricity by nuclear power, enriching and storing spent nuclear fuel and nuclear fuel reprocessing. Nuclear energy policies include the regulation of energy use and standards relating to the nuclear fuel cycle. Other measures include efficiency standards, safety regulations, emission standards, fiscal policies, and legislation on energy trading, transport of nuclear waste and contaminated materials, and their storage. Since nuclear energy and nuclear weapons technologies are closely related, military aspirations can act as a factor in energy policy decisions. The fear of nuclear proliferation influences some international nuclear energy policies.

Questions to Consider

What steps are necessary to begin to address the regulation of nuclear energy production?

What role should the United Nations play in monitoring this global situation?

What impact does the nuclear energy have on the global community? In what ways does the United Nations

Advanced General Assembly

Directors: Shubham Sapkota; Tommy Helderop

Advanced delegations will be made up of four participants-two for each committee or topic. There will be an optional Thursday night session for the Advanced General Assembly. For delegations choosing to attend, this session will give participants an opportunity to draft resolutions and submit the drafts to the steering committee. These resolutions will receive preference in Friday sessions and will be the first resolutions brought before the Assembly. For those delegations choosing not to attend, the expectation is that a completed resolution will be brought with them to the opening session on Friday morning. Failure to meet this expectation will be taken into account in the consideration for awards.

The Friday sessions will include time for caucusing in support of resolutions and drafting additional resolutions if necessary. Committees will review and approve resolutions which will then be sent to the steering committee. The steering committee will then select resolutions and the Assembly will convene to vote. Votes must receive two-thirds approval of the General Assembly to be passed.

Students choosing to participate in Thursday night session are invited to attend the opening banquet for a small fee. In addition there is a night activity required for all overnight guests. Housing will be available on the Hope College campus if desired.

Sustainable Food Production

When trying to understand Sustainable Food Production, you must first look at sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is the idea of harvesting food in a safe and environmentally friendly way. It is supposed to be safe for not only the people and animals but also for the environment they live in. Sustainable food production looks at many different aspects including air pollution. Air pollution comes from waste on the farm, and the fuels that are used to power the farm. By cutting back on these things in order to be more sustainable, it makes a large difference for the global society. The global society is responding to this development. The United States President Barack Obama has announced a stronger development for bio fuels. Africa recently launched a program model to follow Latin America's example for developing more sustainable food production. Sustainable Food Production is a major issue in the global community. Each country must play their part in this very important global development.

Questions to Consider

What is meant by “sustainable”?

Can the world’s food supply needs currently, with current population levels and consumption levels, be met in more sustainable manners?

Can the future world food supply needs be met with sustainable means of food production, delivery and consumption?

What areas may need to change or develop in order for the world to pursue sustainable food supplies?

Who are the major actors in the global food supply chain?

Security Council Reform

Formed right after the end of World War 2, the UN along with its Security Council still retains some of its characteristics from that era; while some of them may be continuing to function there are some that have come under great scrutiny and questions have rose of whether changes should be brought to the Security Council or not. For example, the special privilege of the veto was given to only 5 countries right after the war to make sure Germany and Japan stabilized and did not seek revenge during the aftermath of the war. But that was in 1945 and it is 2011 now and we can see how this special privilege is seen more of as a tool or self-interest rather than peace building.

In a world that has come a long way since the last great war, are privileges like the veto still necessary or should amendments be made to Article 27 to suit the modern world appropriately? In similar matter there are issues regarding whether, basing on economic and social development, if the permanent seats of the Security Council should still be left for the 5 major nations or if it is time to make changes and open the permanent membership to other developed nations as well.

Questions to Consider

What specific parts of the Security Council need reform? How does the United Nations work to address these issues and reform specific parts?

If the veto powers are eliminated, what would future power distribution look like in the Security Council?

How would an election process take place with a new economic order and power distribution?

Security Council

Directors: Taylor Groth; Erica Simpson; Meaghan McKeon; Scott Nielson; Lee Marcus; Alex Griffin

The role of the Security Council within the United Nations structure is to sustain international peace and security. The Council ascertains the existence of any danger to international peace, creates recommendations, uses appropriate enforcement procedures to resolve problems, and organizes the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations. The Security Council has fifteen members: five permanent members appointed by the United Nations Charter and ten non-permanent members designated by informal regional caucuses and elected for two-year terms on a rotating basis.

In order for a vote to be approved by the Council it must receive nine votes, including the support of all five permanent members. A veto or an opposing vote by any permanent member results in an automatic defeat of the proposal. The resolutions pertaining to the Security Council are binding to all United Nations member states.

Participating delegations in this organ are made up of two students. Each topic will have two sections, one for beginning students and the other for more advanced participants. In addition to the topics listed in this handbook, there will be an Emergency Crisis. Delegations participating in this crisis will not be given any information about this crisis until the conference. These students will be expected to have a working knowledge of their countries and their policies in order to adapt and accurately research this crisis during the conference.

Security Council

Continued

Delegations participating in the Security Council are required to attend Thursday night introductions and opening sessions. These sessions will consist of a brief explanation of the topic by Hope College session leaders and opening statements by each delegation. For the Emergency Crisis, the topic will be revealed at this opening session and each delegation will be given the opportunity to begin research during this time. As part of these Thursday sessions, delegations will also be invited to attend the opening banquet and ceremony followed by a night activity provided for all overnight students. Students who wish to stay the night will be provided with housing on the Hope College campus.

Friday will consist of three sessions of caucusing and debate. All delegations are required to attend all three sessions in order to be considered for awards.

Security Council Members

Permanent Members	2011	2012
China	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Colombia
France	Lebanon	Germany
Russian Federation	Brazil	India
United Kingdom	Gabon	Portugal
United States	Nigeria	South Africa

Countries are listed in accordance to the end of their membership cycle. For the purposes of Model United Nations, countries due to end their membership in 2011 will continue to remain part of the simulation in order to meet requests to streamline and expedite the country assignment process.

Spratly Islands

The controversy that surrounds the Spratly Islands has been a theme for many years in this region. The Spratly Islands is composed of more than 100 small islands and reefs in Southeast Asia. These small islands make up less than 4 square kilometers (less than 2 square miles) and yet are claimed in parts by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines. The islands are uninhabited by any indigenous peoples, but are occupied at times by various military personnel. They are a hotspot for numerous natural hazards such as typhoons and other maritime hazards with their numerous shallow reefs and shoals. Tensions between the nations that claim the islands have been steadily on the rise. In November 2002, claimants signed the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea” which eased tensions, but is not a legally binding code. In March 2005, the national oil companies of the Philippines, Vietnam and China signed another accord to “conduct marine seismic activities in the Spratly Islands”. The main disagreements over the territorial claims to the Islands has historically occurred between China and the Philippines.

Questions to Consider

How should the United Nations use its power to create a proper jurisdiction over the Spratly Islands and which countries should be factored into this consideration?

What is the international community's role in addressing the conflict in the Spratly Islands?

What are the implications of the fact that the Spratly Islands are uninhabited? How does that affect the power dynamics of the countries with interests in the Spratly Islands?

Israel | Palestine

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one that has been occurring for many years involving dispute over Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Current hot topics and issues involved in the conflict include freedom of movement and settlement for Palestinians, borders, security, rights, mutual recognition for Israelis and Palestinians, water rights and territorial control of Jerusalem. The conflict has inhibited both the security of both communities as well as outside resources, such as the tourism industry. Violence and increasing tensions have led to concern from the global community and United Nations; both parties have sought to help release tensions and diminish the violence that occurs between the Israeli-Palestinian communities. The efforts have often led to discussion about the implementation and possible success of a two-state solution. Many Israelis and Palestinians may agree that this is the “best” solution to many of the issues that are currently arising, however the feasibility of this solution is often addressed with concern. In September 2011, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas submitted a bid to the United Nations for full membership in the United Nations (elevated above their current observer status), hopefully to lead to consideration for statehood. This move was largely controversial for many powerhouse nations in the global community and is still up for consideration.

Questions to Consider

How has the Israeli-Palestinian conflict evolved over the past two decades? What can be learned from this pattern of conflict?

How does the recent Palestinian bid for elevated status in the United Nations affect these power dynamics?

What types of regional influences are affecting this conflict? How should the United Nations address them?

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country located in the mid-southern region of Africa. It is slightly less than one-fourth the size of the United States and experiences periodic droughts, flooding from the Congo River and the presence of active volcanoes in the Great Rift Valley. Environmental issues in the Congo include illegal wildlife poaching, water pollution, mineral mining and deforestation. Previously a Belgian colony established in 1908, the Democratic Republic of the Congo achieved independence in 1960. The official language is French, but the nation is home to some 200 African ethnic groups. The name was changed to Zaire in 1965 under the rule of Mobutu Sese Seko, but is now officially the Democratic Republic of the Congo (as of the mid-1990s). Major problems arose in the 1990s involving refugees from Rwanda and Burundi; issues involving refugees and immigrants are still a present-day concern. The Second Congo war, occurring 1998 to 2003, desolated the country. When the previous ruler, Laurent Kabila, was assassinated his son, Joseph Kabila gained rule of the country. He became president with a ruling body of four vice presidents also in power. In 2005 there was a successful constitutional referendum and elections for presidency. Kabila was official inaugurated as president in December 2006. The next national elections are scheduled for November 2011, but voter registration in July was beclouded by opposing parties addressing alleged issues of bias in the voting process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Continued

Refugees often seek refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan and the Republic of the Congo. Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have disputes over regions with hydrocarbon potential. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also a site of much human trafficking; the government is doing little to enforce regulations or seek asylum for the victims of human trafficking. Although in 2003 the transitional government was structured, fighting and varied control of the country's vast territory still continue, most prevalently in the east of the country. Today, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the UN peacekeeping forces top concerns, yet it remains one of the top countries with issues involving rebel groups, high rates of sex trafficking and violence torn regions.

Questions to Consider

What types of regional influences are affecting this conflict? How should the United Nations address them?

How should the international community and the United Nations seek to resolve internal conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo without violating its sovereignty?

What underlying factors are present in the current conflict? (ie: historical background, international actors, etc.). How should these be addressed?

Economic and Social Council

Directors: Cory Sicard; Emily Evans

The Economic and Social Council was established to discuss and coordinate efforts toward development and inequality. The Council is made up of fifty-four voting members elected for three year terms on a rotating basis by the General Assembly. Several bodies operate within the bounds of the Council., including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Ultimately, the goal is to identify, report, and address issues within the context of economic and social development and practice.

In Model United Nations, the Economic and Social Council is divided into two committees: the Economic Committee and the Social Committee. Each delegation participating in ECOSOC must have two participants-one for each committee. All delegates are required to attend the opening session held on Thursday. During this session the committees will be split into subcommittees and each group will be given approximately two hours to draft a resolution on their given topic. On Friday morning committees will gather together, one Economic and one Social, to discuss the two drafted resolutions and select one to be presented to the Council at large. Friday afternoon will be devoted to formal debate and voting on each resolution.

Participating students are invited to the opening banquet, ceremony, and night activity. Attendance is required at this activity for all overnight students. If needed housing will be provided on the Hope College campus.

Economic and Social Council Members 2011

2011	2012	2013
Cote d'Ivoire	Argentina	Australia
France	Bahamas	Cameroon
Germany	Bangladesh	China
Guatemala	Belgium	Ecuador
Guinea-Bissau	Canada	Finland
India	Chile	Gabon
Japan	Comoros	Hungary
Liechtenstein	Egypt	Latvia
Malta	Ghana	Malawi
Mauritius	Iraq	Mexico
Namibia	Italy	Nicaragua
Peru	Mongolia	Norway
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Philippines	Pakistan
Turkey	Rwanda	Qatar
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Slovakia	Republic of Korea
	Ukraine	Russian Federation
	United States of America	Senegal
	Zambia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Countries are listed in accordance to the end of their membership cycle. For the purposes of Model United Nations, countries due to end their membership in 2011 will continue to remain part of the simulation in order to streamline and expedite the country assignment process.

Illicit Trade

Illegal trade has become a prominent issue in the United States as a result of the narcotics trafficking that takes place in many countries in the region. This however is not the extent of the illegal trade that takes place in the world. Other items that are traded illegally include animals and animal products, arms, and even humans. Some of these types of trade produce immediate and undesirable effects, such as the arms trade and human trafficking. Other illegal trading practices, such as the animal and natural materials illegal trade, produce moral conundrums as to what humanity needs to do to promote the survival of the wonders of the natural world for future generations.

Whichever aspect of illicit trade is being focused on, a similar theme can be seen throughout the trades. There is a lack of control over what is being traded. Whether the lack of control manifests itself in the inability to control the means of production, harvesting, and transportation, or the lack of enforcement capabilities, this is not an easy problem to solve. The amount of money changing hands in these transactions is enough to override much of the deterrents currently in place to prevent illicit trade.

Questions to Consider

From where does the issue of illicit trade arise? In what ways should this be acknowledged by the international community?

How should the main actors in this issue be recognized? What are the minor actors? How should the United Nations address both?

How can the United Nations and the international community seek to cease illicit trade in a feasible manner? How should this be enforced?

Goals for African Development

The United Nations has set forth a number of goal sets relating to development, most notably the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals are aimed at improving the health of the third world, solving some of the problems related to human rights, and promoting economic development. The MDGs were set with the intent of having measurable goals for development throughout the world. There has been progress made on the MDGs since their conception in 2000, but many regions of the world are still lacking progress toward the goals.

Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, has been among the regions that is progressing most slowly toward these goals, as noted by the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report. Health and lifestyle goals have provided a large challenge for nations in these regions. The economic downturn has played a role in the slowing progress; there has been talks of how to improve the progress toward the goals more effectively. Specifying the problems and pushing toward realistic, measurable goals for African Development in the areas of is an important step in moving toward eliminating the problems Africans face on a daily basis. Economic and health goals are important, but social and human rights goals are extremely important as well.

Questions to Consider

What and how should changes be made to the Millennium Development Goals to ensure that they are being reached by all areas? If they should be changed, how should the four primary goals be altered?

Many post-industrialized countries already have a sustainable framework which allows for fairly plausible innovation to coincide with reaching the Millennium Development Goals. How can infrastructural changes be made to sub-Saharan Africa? How can they be done in a feasible manner? How would the United Nations aid this?

International Court of Justice

Director: Will DeBoer; Zack Sikkema

The International Court of Justice is the principle judicial body of the United Nations. Headquartered at the Hague in the Netherlands, this organ acts as a world court. By referring to international law, the Court settles disputes between States and gives advisory opinions on legal issues presented to it by other UN organs and agencies. The General Assembly and Security Council, voting separately, elect fifteen judges who serve terms of nine years (five justices selected every three years) and may be reelected. No two judges may be nationals of the same state, and the Court must represent the main forms of legal systems and societies of the world.

The Hope College Model UN International Court of Justice considers one case per year. Each country has one justice who will hear the case. Each country who is a party must have two lawyers. All participants are required to attend the opening session held on Thursday. During this session, time will be allocated for lawyer teams to meet and for judges to conduct any necessary research. Throughout Friday morning and afternoon, the hearing will take place and final rulings will be administered.

Participating students are invited to the opening banquet, ceremony, and night activity. Attendance is required at this activity for all overnight students. Housing will be provided on the Hope College campus, if needed.

International Court of Justice Member Countries 2012

Japan

Slovakia

Sierra Leone

Jordan

Germany

France

New Zealand

Mexico

Morocco

Russian Federation

Brazil

Somalia

United Kingdom

China

United States of America

Guide for Judges

A judge in the ICJ has a great deal of responsibility, and must act accordingly. Judges have an opportunity to present themselves in two ways. The first way is to act as an impartial judge and the second is to act on behalf of their countries best interests.

If one chooses to act as an impartial judge, they must put aside all personal feelings toward the case at hand, and they must ignore any particular interests their respective country may have on the topic. They must then utilize all relevant international law, along with the lawyer's testimony, to arrive at their verdict.

One must be cautious if they choose to act on behalf of their country. Acting in this way does not mean that one's verdict is already determined before the case is heard. Instead, this means one will have some biases in court decisions, should they impact your country. While this conflicts with the judge's role, it provides for a more realistic aspect in the courtroom. One must be careful, however, if this is the mindset that will be adopted, because others cannot know your agenda.

This year, there will be two students representing each ICJ judge delegation. This decision will allow more students the opportunity to participate in this organ. Furthermore, a greater number of participants will facilitate increased discussion; this will provide a wide array of opinions and approaches.

Guide for Lawyers

Lawyers in the ICJ must always act in the best interests of their country. Lawyers are to present their case with passion and conviction, while still being educated on the topic and having credible references. Lawyers should anticipate and be prepared for arguments other parties may present. Students filling this role are encouraged to be creative; they should not be afraid to utilize the list of member countries to formulate possible ways to present their case so that the argument will be weighed in their favor. Lawyers must be completely prepared and use of visual aides or other devices which may energize and clarify their presentation are allowed. Hope College has audio/visual resources that can be used to aid countries during the proceedings. In the past, characteristics of good lawyers have included thorough preparation and clear presentation.

Lawyers will be judged on several different levels. Participants must show strong understanding and knowledge not only on the topic but also on the varying perspectives of affected and member countries. In addition, creative arguments and use of technology will be taken into account during judging. If you have questions or concerns regarding the access to various forms of technology or media equipment please contact the Secretary Generals at mun@hope.edu no less than two weeks before the conference.

Advisory Opinion

Costa Rica versus Nicaragua

In November 19, 2010, Costa Rica filed a complaint against Nicaragua with the International Court of Justice. The Costa Rican government complained of Nicaraguan military activity in a border region between the two nations. The Nicaraguans have been dredging the San Juan River, but have allegedly been dumping the silt on the Southern (Costa Rican) banks of the river. The actions of the Nicaraguan military are also allegedly connected to a canal which is purportedly being built from the San Juan River (the natural border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua) and the Laguna los Portillos. This would alter the course of the river, potentially impacting the protected wildlife reserves in Costa Rica and the Costa Rican fishing industry on the river.

Both Costa Rica and Nicaragua have made claims of legitimacy to possessing the territory. The court has issued a statement mandating that no troops be allowed in the disputed territory. This is not the first dispute between these two nations; there have been border conflicts between the two nearly since their independence from Spain. The two countries are currently preparing their initial pleadings. Costa Rica's initial Memorial will be submitted on December 5, 2011, and Nicaragua's Counter-Memorial will be submitted on August 6, 2012.

Questions to Consider

Which factors in this border conflict need to be addressed? How do the historical background and conflicts in this region impact the current affairs?

What role do regional actors play in the border conflict between Nicaragua and Costa Rica? What role should they play in resolving the conflict?

Who should hold the nations accountable in explanation of the border conflicts? Similarly, who should set the terms of said accountability? Should they be determined by the nation state, the international community, the United Nations, etc.?

Looking Ahead

October

Register for the Conference

November

Receive Handbook

Begin researching general topics

Country Assignments will begin to be distributed

December

Country Assignments will be distributed as schools register

Continue researching with assigned countries in mind

January

Housing and Meal information will be sent

Registration Cards will be sent

Continue to prepare for conference

February

Completed registration

Housing and meal sign up finalization

March

Final reminders

CONFERENCE: March 8-9, 2012!

Delegates,

We wanted to take a minute and express our sincere appreciation for your participation in Hope College's Model United Nations program this year. We are looking forward to providing you with an excellent experience through our program. We hope to increase your understanding of international relations and politics and also strengthen your ability to be strong students and globally aware citizens.

We commend you all for taking the time to become engaged in Model United Nations. Involvement in programs like Model United Nations is an excellent way to gain experience and insight into important global issues while gaining a broader perspective. The pursuit of understanding the international system is a valuable tool which will serve you well, whether international relations is something you pursue in the future or not. Learning to appreciate the shared values and concerns of the world we live in, working together to solve the problems, and celebrating together in our successes is paramount to becoming more globally aware citizens.

Some of you may continue in your pursuit of knowledge of international politics long after this conference is over, while others may choose something different. Whatever the case you find yourself in, we hope that you all will use this experience to broaden and deepen your horizons. We hope that you all have an excellent time preparing for and attending this conference, and are looking forward to seeing you all in March.

In peace,

Amy Alvine, Stewart Elzinga, Kyla Koboski, & Ashley Fraley
Secretary Generals, Hope College Model United Nations 2012



Ashley Fraley
Secretary General

Ashley Fraley is a sophomore from Wellston, Michigan. She is majoring in Political Science and Communications. She is a member of Model UN, Student Congress, Phi Sigma Alpha and the Pre-Law Society.

Kyla Koboski
Secretary General
Kyla Koboski is a sophomore from Apple Valley, Minnesota. She is majoring in Political Science and Physics. She is a Resident Assistant, Teaching Assistant and a member of Model UN and Physics Club.



Stewart Elzinga
Secretary General

Stewart Elzinga is a senior from Zeeland, Michigan. He is majoring in Political Science and History with minors in Spanish and Asian Studies. He is involved in Pi Sigma Alpha, Hope Republicans, Intramural Sports, Hope Men's Way, Ottawa County Republicans Youth Chair & Executive Committee member.

Amy Alvine
Secretary General

Amy Alvine is a senior from Elgin, Illinois. She is majoring in Business and Political Science. She participates in Kappa Delta Chi, Phi Sigma Alpha, the Pull and Nykerk.



La'shawn Donelson
Media Coordinator

La'Shawn Donelson is a junior from Washington DC. She is majoring in Communications. She is involved in Delta Sigma Theta, Black Student Union, Gospel Choir, Panhellenic Council, Model UN and she is a Resident Assistant.





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