



CancunMUN

START THE WAVE

by International American School of Cancun



Delegate Handbook

Front Desk

During the length of the conference there will be an information desk open to help you. A CancunMUN officer will be there to provide information, replace missing name tags, help you solve issues, and take your comments and suggestions. The front desk is located in registration at the school's library.

Technology

Use of the following devices is prohibited during committee sessions and opening and closing ceremonies: laptop computers, portable music players, cellphones and other communication devices, and all portable gaming systems. Those who do not comply with these regulations will be asked to turn their device to the chair or will be asked to leave.

Dress Code

All participants are expected to adhere to the standard of Western Business Attire during all committee sessions. At its most informal, this indicates dress pants, a jacket, and tie for men, and a blouse, skirt, dress, or dress pants for women. No jeans, athletic shoes, or revealing attire will be permitted. CancunMUN chairs will not allow delegates to enter the committee if they are dressed inappropriately.

Respect

Although delegates are encouraged to discuss and argue inside committees about the topic, any discussion that the staff deems disrespectful could result in a warning for the parties involved or in the expulsion of the conference.

Official Language

The official language of the conference is English. All official documents and notes passing inside the committee must be in English; position papers, working papers, and resolutions. All delegates are to speak only in English while their committee is in session, the use of other languages can be penalized. Additional information that delegates wish to bring to the conference, such as notes and research, can be in other languages, but translated for presentation. There is only an exception when it comes to our two Spanish committees: PNUMA y la Cámara de Senadores. Inside those committees, Spanish is the required language.

Identification Badges

All conference participants must wear their credential badges at all times. Lost credential badges must be replaced through the delegate-services team, located on the first floor in the information desk. Replacement badges and placards will be subject to a small fee.

Pictures

CancunMUN has official photographers during the event. Let them take your picture and download it for free at the CancunMUN Gallery section of the website. If at any given moment you feel uncomfortable with pictures being taken of you please let the photographer know.

Debate

The session will start with the chair doing roll-call. Then, for each topic, the position papers will be read as the motion is made. All those who wish to read them will raise their placard. Afterwards the delegate/senator must make a motion to open a moderated or unmoderated caucus, which is recommended when it is time to write the resolution. In a moderated caucus, the delegate/senator must raise their placard and wait for the chair to call on them in order to speak. In an unmoderated caucus, which usually comes after, the delegates/senators will have time to communicate and walk around the committee room to team up and write the resolution.

Pre-Written Material

The use of working papers, resolutions, operative, and pre-ambulatory clauses prepared prior to the conference is not acceptable under any circumstances. Not only is this unfair to other delegates, but the pre-written document cannot possibly contain the true sentiments of multiple delegations. Notes, research, and other written preparation material are permitted and highly encouraged.

Resolutions

When writing resolutions, be sure that you work collaboratively in your groups to get the most solid policy on paper. Be inclusive and don't shut out other ideas completely - the entire idea of MUN is to be diplomatic! CancunMUN allows a maximum of five sponsors per resolution and the number of signatories is limitless. Two sponsors of each resolution will present it to the rest of the committee, which will lead to the voting process. All resolutions must be presented before the voting rounds begin. Once a resolution has been voted in favor by the majority, it will go to a second round of voting in either the General Assembly or ECOSOC with a Secretary General present. It is recommended that there be at least two resolutions per topic to keep the debate flowing smoothly.

When voting, if the resolutions tie or the majority of the committee votes against them, there are two options; open an unmoderated caucus to fix the resolutions or set the agenda to the next topic. Remember that the UN does not have any legal authority over states. Thus, in the resolutions you can only suggest or strongly urge the international community to act on the issue at hand; don't use threats or attempt to impose laws when writing

Tips for First Time Delegates

Your first MUN experience can be overwhelming. We are happy to assure our novices that this conference is beginner friendly, as long as you come prepared and ready to debate you will most definitely enjoy this experience. Research is the best way to prepare and succeed in any MUN conference. Understanding your topics and having information not just on your own country but on the other ones in your committee. This prepares you for the sessions and makes it easier for you to debate and defend your country's position. Please remember that you should stick to what your country believes, even if the beliefs don't match your own.

Advice

1. Be prepared: Make sure you turn in your position paper on time, have more than enough research on your topic and always arrive on time.
2. Be confident: You may feel intimidated when entering a room full of experienced delegates, but confidence is key. Try to put all the doubts you are feeling on the back of your mind and focus. If difficult questions are asked, try your best to answer them. Don't be afraid to ask questions, this is a vital part of any MUN conference and will help you come up with a resolution.
3. Pay attention: When other delegates are speaking it is important to see who is on your side, analyzing everyone's speeches will lead to finding your allies in the conference.

Useful Resources

[United Nations](#)
[BBC Country Profiles](#)
[CIA](#)
[Embassy WorldWide](#)
[Best Delegate](#)
[Wikipedia](#)

Country Checklist

When learning about the country you will be representing, you should ask yourself the following questions and make yourself familiar with the answers.

➤ **Name of the Country**

➤ **Geography:**

- ❖ Where is the country located?
- ❖ What are its neighboring countries?
- ❖ What significance does the location of the country have in its politics and/or economic situation?

➤ **Politics:**

- ❖ What kind of government does the country have?
- ❖ Who is the current Head of Government?
- ❖ What are the main political parties?
- ❖ How stable is the current political structure?

➤ **History and Culture:**

- ❖ What historical events have shaped the current state?
- ❖ What are the main religious and ethnic groups?
- ❖ What role does religion and/or ethnicity play in the country's internal or external politics?

➤ **Economics:**

- ❖ In terms of economic self-sufficiency or dependence, what is the country's status?
- ❖ What natural resources does the country possess?
- ❖ What is its Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
- ❖ What economic or trade organizations is the country a member of or associated with?

➤ **Defence:**

- ❖ What is the country's military strength or weakness?
- ❖ Has it been involved in any internal or external conflicts in its recent history?

➤ **International Relations:**

- ❖ What position does it hold and what impact does it wield on the global platform?
- ❖ When did it become a member of the UN?
- ❖ How is the relationship with its neighboring countries?

Committees

➤ **General Assembly**

CancunMUN's largest committee, delegations will engage in diplomatic discussion and negotiations pertaining to global issues that are pressing in today's world. Countries from all over the world come together in this committee and topics can be a plethora of things. The General Assembly is the UN's main organ and is comprised by all 193 member countries.

➤ **Security Council**

The Security Council is one of the UN's six main organs. It has the goal to maintain global security, dealing with threats that involve violations of freedom, peace and any act of aggression among the world. The Security Council consists of 15 members, five of which are permanent members: Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. These five permanent members have the power to overrule any decision made in this committee, this capacity is known as the power of **veto**.

➤ **ECOSOC**

The Economic and Social Council is another organ of the United Nations. It deals with economic, social, health and cultural matters, promoting the well-being of the world's citizens. The committee promotes higher standards of living and social progress, promoting international collaboration, identifying economic and social problems and working cooperatively to find a solution.

➤ **AD-HOC Crisis Committee**

AD-HOC is a platform for the best delegates of the conference to show off their skills. This fast paced and high-stress committee tests the delegates by launching them into unfamiliar situations in which they will have to learn to work together with their peers, with a common goal to find solutions to complex problems. This committee is designed to surprise and challenge delegates, promoting quick thinking and efficiency when problems arise.

➤ **WHO**

The World Health Organization is responsible for promoting international public health. It assists governments by strengthening their health services, making sure to keep the world safe and attending to those who are vulnerable. The committee collects data on global health issues and serves as a forum for scientific and political discussions regarding the health of the global citizens.

➤ **US Senate**

The United States Senate plays a crucial role in the American government, being one of the main participants in the checks and balance system of the United States of America. Participants will take on the role of an American senator, having to represent not just their country but also their political party, state and also their personal beliefs. The US Senate provides a forum for deliberation and decision-making on key issues affecting the nation.

➤ **Senado de México**

El Senado de la República Mexicana es una de las dos cámaras que integran el Congreso de la Unión. Forma parte del Poder Legislativo junto con la Cámara de Diputados y se encarga de representar a las entidades federativas de México, así como de participar en la elaboración y aprobación de leyes y en la toma de decisiones importantes para el país.

(Lenguaje Oficial: Español)

➤ **European Union**

Established on the 1st November 1993, the European Union seeks to solve pressing issues in the European continent. With 27 member states, the EU will provide delegates with an enticing look into the politics and economics of Europe's most powerful nations.

➤ **UNHRC**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has the mission to ensure the protection of human rights around the world. It promotes universal respect for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. It addresses situations in which violations of human rights occur and encourages global cooperation to find a solution and protect these basic rights.

➤ **UNODC**

As an organ of the United Nations, the office on Drugs and Crime plays a pivotal role in addressing global challenges related to illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and trafficking in persons and firearms. As the UN's primary agency responsible for justice, the rule of law and security around the world. UNODC provides multiple tools for member states to combat these types of crimes.

➤ **PNUMA**

El Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente se encarga de buscar soluciones a problemas ambientales. Se encarga de evaluar las causas de los impactos ambientales y el estado del medio ambiente mundial. Ha favorecido en el establecimiento de un marco de cooperación entre los países para identificar y abordar preocupaciones ambientales.

(Lenguaje Oficial: Español)