



HELMUN

Introduction Booklet

Welcome to HELIMUN - a short introduction

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What is HELIMUN?

HELIMUN is the Helsinki International Model United Nations, a yearly Model UN conference organised in Helsinki each May. HELIMUN is held at Kulosaari Upper Secondary School (Ståhlberginkuja 1), with various schools participating mostly from the greater Helsinki area. The conference is generally attended by ninth graders, and it is the largest Model UN conference in the Nordic countries.

HELIMUN has been held annually since the year 2000.

Model UNs are constantly being held around the world, with many universities maintaining Model UN clubs. MUN experience is great to have when applying to competitive universities or seeking employment in a relevant field. The purpose of HELIMUN is to encourage students to research global topics, train debating and leadership skills, and gain a taste of why negotiations between different countries can be so challenging. The conference is also a great chance for students to practise their English language skills.

The Committees

HELMUN consists of several committees (meetings of students), each with their own topic:

The General Assemblies (GA1 & GA2)

Every country is represented at the GAs. GA1 covers “Disarmament and International Security” and GA2 covers the environment.

The Human Rights Council (HRC)

The HRC covers human rights topics. The HRC often sees very lively debate, because countries disagree on the specifics of the treatment of others.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The ECOSOC covers mainly economic issues. Not all countries are part of ECOSOC. *ECOSOC debate rules are slightly different to the other committees. Your committee chairs will explain the differences to you at the start of the conference.*

The Security Council (SC)

The Security Council is the smallest committee, with only 15 members. SC delegates have to be the most active and it is the fastest-paced committee, so it is sometimes considered the hardest. Some countries have the right to veto resolutions. The SC has the authority to deploy peacekeepers and impose sanctions. *SC debate rules are slightly different to the other committees. Your committee chairs will explain the differences to you at the start of the conference.*

The Historical Security Council (HSC)

The HSC operates with the same rules as the SC, but is set in a previous time.

Preparing for the Conference

HELMUN takes place every year in early May. Some students say that HELMUN can be stressful, since you are expected to speak in a foreign language in front of a group of people you have never met before. Almost everyone, however, ends up having a good time at HELMUN if they have prepared adequately. Many attendees cherish memories of the conference, since it is a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most.

Once you have been assigned your country and your committee, you should begin doing research. The following questions should guide you:

1. What is the basic information on my country (location, languages etc)?
2. What are the topics of the committee I am in? Do I understand what the topics mean?
3. What are my country's views on the topics being discussed?
4. Which countries are friendly with my country, and which countries are my enemies? Why?
5. Is my country part of any larger group of countries, like the European Union, NATO, BRICS, ASEAN, the G20, the Commonwealth etc? What are these groups for, and who else is in them?

If you can explain your country's position on the issues convincingly and you understand the background information which explains your position, you have done a good job researching.

It is good to also prepare a few clauses or a short resolution along with a couple of speeches prior to the conference. Not only does it demonstrate to your fellow delegates that you are well-prepared, it is a great way of finishing up your research and mentally preparing your arguments for the debate. It also reduces stress and workload, since you have already done some of the work beforehand.

Finding reliable information when researching can be difficult. Please see the next page "Help in Researching" if you have trouble. You can always ask one of your teachers for help if you need it.

Help in Researching

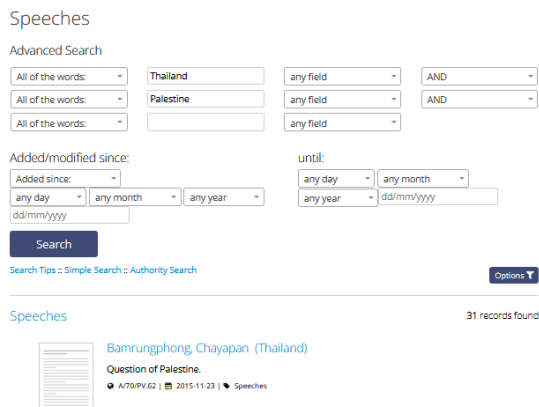
Finding out information about your country and its position can sometimes be difficult, but there are always things you can do. Here are a few instructions:

1. Read the Research Report carefully

The chairs of your committee have prepared Research Reports on the topics being discussed. They are a great starting point and contain all the basic information on the subject. You should read the research report carefully. Reports also include sources on each page, and they are often good places to find additional information.

2. Read previous UN speeches

UN speeches dating back to the 1980s are available for use online via the website digitallibrary.un.org. Consider using “advanced search” and make sure that the results you study are recent. See the example on the right.



The screenshot shows the 'Speeches' search interface on the UN Digital Library website. It features an 'Advanced Search' section with three rows of search criteria. The first row has 'All of the words:' followed by a text box containing 'Thailand', a dropdown menu set to 'any field', and a radio button labeled 'AND'. The second row has 'All of the words:' followed by a text box containing 'Palestine', a dropdown menu set to 'any field', and a radio button labeled 'AND'. The third row has 'All of the words:' followed by an empty text box and a dropdown menu set to 'any field'. Below this is an 'Added/modified since:' section with 'Added since:' and a dropdown menu set to 'any day', followed by dropdown menus for 'any month' and 'any year'. To the right is an 'until:' section with dropdown menus for 'any day', 'any month', and 'any year', followed by a text box for 'dd/mm/yyyy'. A blue 'Search' button is located below the date fields. At the bottom left, there are links for 'Search Tips', 'Simple Search', and 'Authority Search'. At the bottom right, there is an 'Options' button with a downward arrow. Below the search interface, the results section is titled 'Speeches' and shows '31 records found'. The first result is a document titled 'Bamrungphong, Chayapan (Thailand) Question of Palestine.' with a small thumbnail icon to its left. Below the title, there is a small icon of a document and the text 'A/70/PV.62 | 2015-11-23 | Speeches'.

3. Find news stories covering the issue

Government-run news agencies usually represent the views of their country’s governments. For example, a delegate representing Iran might want to look at the coverage of IRNA on the issues they are assigned to debate. You should also look into objective and unbiased reporting from various sources to get a fuller picture of the issue.

4. Research what your country’s allies think

Especially for small countries, look into what your allies think of the issue - you will probably be voting the same way as them at the conference anyway. For example, Commonwealth countries often vote with the UK and Belarus usually votes with Russia.

Introduction to Debate at Model UN

Many delegates say that the most difficult thing about HELIMUN is understanding how the conference debate actually works, so provided here is a short and somewhat oversimplified explanation. Your committee's chairs always have the last word, and they might deviate from this example if it is necessary.

- HELIMUN is a two-day conference and each committee has two topics, so one topic is debated per day.
- Each day is divided further into lobbying and debate.
 - Lobbying is where students move around the room freely and discuss the issue, trying to get other delegates to support their proposals and working together on resolutions.
 - Debate is the second part of the day, where students formally debate the draft resolutions they wrote.

Debate consists of:

- The country that submitted a *resolution* makes an opening speech
- Other countries make speeches in favour of the resolution
- Once time has run out for speeches in favour, countries make speeches against the resolution
- Once time has run out for speeches against, countries vote on the resolution

A *resolution* is a set of proposals to fix an issue. Resolutions follow a specific format, consisting of *preambulatory clauses* and *operative clauses*.

A speaker can also propose an *amendment*, which will also have speeches and a vote. An amendment is a proposal to change the wording of the current resolution.

After each speech, other delegates can ask questions from the delegate who gave the speech. These are called *Points of Information (POIs)*. Sometimes POIs are actually used to express opinions, for example “Is the delegate of France aware that Estonia thinks they made a very good speech?”

Glossary of Model UN terms

Term	Definition
Abstain	to express a wish not to vote in favour or against
Admin Staff	students tasked with helping delegates in note passing
Ambassador	the head of a delegation - always in a General Assembly
Amendment	a proposed change to a Draft Resolution
Chair / President	a student responsible for running the debate
Co-Submitter	a country who signs on to a resolution to help pass it
Committee	a room where debate happens, for example GA1 or HRC
Conference	HELMUN is a conference - consists of many committees
Delegate	a student attending a Model UN conference
Delegation	the group of people representing one country
Draft Resolution	a resolution that has not been voted on yet
Main Submitter	the country proposing a resolution, gives a speech
Motion	a proposal on a procedural matter in the debate
Operative Clause	paragraph of a resolution - includes an action
Point of Information	a question asked of a delegate who just gave a speech
Preambulatory Clause	paragraph of a resolution - does not contain an action
Research Report	a document written by a chair explaining the topic
Resolution	a set of actions to deal with the topic being discussed
Roll Call	taking attendance - seeing which countries are present
Secretariat	the three highest-ranking organisers of the conference
Student Officer	another name for a chair
The Floor	the right to speak
The House	the committee
To Yield	to give something to someone else

Example of a Short Resolution

Blue text is comments added - not included in a resolution. This example resolution contains extracts from a real HELIMUN resolution. The full resolution contained 15 operative clauses. Three of those clauses have been selected for this example.

Forum: The Security Council

Question: The Question of Yemen

The Security Council,

Recognising the urgency at which solutions to the conflict must be found due to its disproportionate effects on civilians and especially children, and due to the ongoing famine in Yemen, *This is a preambulatory clause, because it starts with an -ing verb in italics. It does not contain an action. Preambulatory clauses end in a comma. Preambulatory clauses provide context to the issue.*

Seeking peace and stability in the Middle East through providing humanitarian aid for the population and encouraging diplomatic dialogue between countries at conflict, *This is a preambulatory clause, because it starts with an -ing verb in italics. It does not contain an action. Preambulatory clauses end in a comma.*

1. Calls for the creation of a unity government including representatives from all the factions in the conflict to find solutions to problems affecting the country and to make arrangements for free, open elections to take place; *This is operative clause #1. The “operative word” (Calls for) is underlined. Operative clauses are proposals for a solution.*
2. Urges all UN members to work together in order to provide civilians with:
 - a. a demilitarised zone which will provide civilians with shelter, infrastructure and education *This is subclause A of operative clause #2.*
 - b. proper nutrition such as food and water *This is subclause B of operative clause #2.*
3. Encourages the members of UN to promote economic development in Yemen by:
 - a. improving healthcare services by: *Operative clause #3, subclause A.*
 - i. providing healthcare professionals with adequate funding to continue working *Operative clause #3, subclause A, sub-sub clause i.*
 - ii. improving water sources *sub-sub clause ii.*
 - iii. improving maternal health *sub-sub clause iii.*
 - iv. funding necessary medicine; *sub-sub clause iv.*
 - b. offering an opportunity for everyone to be educated by funding education in refugee camps and reducing the cost of education. *Operative clause #3, subclause B.*

The resolution ends with a period. It is the only full stop in the entire resolution text, meaning the entire resolution is effectively one sentence.