General Research Resources

Important Documents

The Rules of Procedure (RoP) are the first important piece of text. The RoP lay down how the committees will proceed during the conference. Before you the first session, make sure you familiarise yourself with the RoP so that you are not caught off guard. If you are a first timer, all the rules may seem a little overwhelming. However, you will find that if you take it easy at the beginning, there is a logical succession of steps that will quickly make sense to you. You can find the CologneMUN RoP here [LINK].

The Study Guide of your committee will give you an overview of the topics at hand. It should be considered as a starting point for research, pointing towards the most important issues to be addressed during the conference. Individual research beyond the Study Guide is crucial. You should make use of official documents by the UN and your country, as well as academic literature and articles. We have collected some useful links for you here:

The UN System

- UN Main Page: http://www.un.org/en/

- Charter of the UN: http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml

- UN System: http://www.unsystem.org/

- UN Overview: http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/

- UN Treaties: http://treaties.un.org/Home.aspx

- UN Library: http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/index.html

- UN Member States: http://www.un.org/en/members/

- UN Chronicle: http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/

- UN Documentation: Research Guide http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/

- Permanent Missions to the United Nations: http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/portal/cache/offonce/home;jsessionid=B57FFCF0430A6FF9CB327F684F4106B9

Human Rights

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx

- Human Rights: http://www.un.org/en/rights/index.shtml

Country Information

- The Electronic Embassy

- Country Watch

- CIA World Factbook

- The Fragile States Index

- The Economist Country Briefings

Bear in mind though, that the whole point of Model UN is to form your own original ideas and solutions to problems of global significance. Although your suggestions should be in line with your country's policies, do not be afraid to be creative and go beyond what is possible at the actual United Nations.

Areas to Cover in Your Research

1. The United Nations: Familiarise yourself with the institutional set-up and the history of the United Nations.

2. Your Committee: Research the membership, mandate and function of your committee.

3. Your Country: Learn about the history, economy and politics of your assigned country.

4. Your Committee Topics: Thoroughly read the Study Guide provided to your by your chairs. This will give you an overview over the topics and hand. From there, do more research about the topics on your own, going beyond what is discussed in the Study Guide.

5. Your Country Position: Research your country's position on the committee topics, as well as your country's role in the committee (such as bloc positions) and its standing in the UN in general. You may not find out what explicitly your country's position on the topics is -- in that case, deduct from what you have learned during your earlier research on your country and its politics. Try to reflect your country's position accurately but feel free to do some of your own interpretation.