



The Hague International
Model United Nations

Delegate Guide

Basic guidelines for delegates participating in THIMUN Conferences.

Contents

Committees at the Conference	3
Roles at the Conference	7
How to be a well-prepared delegate	8
Research Guide	9
Policy Statements.....	12
Lobbying and Voting.....	13
THIMUN Terminology.....	14

Committees at the Conference

At THIMUN conferences there are several forums in which you can represent your assigned delegation. Depending on the conference some of the forums listed below may not be available at the conference you are attending.

Comprising all 193 member states, the General Assembly is the primary deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ for multilateral discussion on global issues covered by the UN Charter.

GA1: Disarmament and International Security

Scope: Addresses international security threats, global challenges, and disarmament.

Objective: Works to formulate solutions that maintain the global security framework.

GA2: Economic and Financial

Scope: Addresses economic growth, global development, sustainable policy, poverty eradication, and technological progress.

Objective: Focuses on international trade, financing, and supporting vulnerable nation groups like Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

GA3: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

Scope: Addresses global social, humanitarian, and human rights issues, including indigenous rights, crime prevention, and fundamental freedoms.

Objective: Advocates for vulnerable populations—such as women, children, refugees, and persons with disabilities—and promotes essential social development.

GA4: Special Political and Decolonization

Scope: Covers decolonization issues, atomic radiation risks, public information policies, and international security oversight.

Objective: Conducts comprehensive reviews of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

GA5: Administration and Budgetary

Scope: GA5 handles administrative and budgetary matters, financial oversight, and resource allocation across the UN system.

Objective: It approves financial arrangements with specialized agencies and manages the administrative and budgetary aspects of UN Peacekeeping.

GA6: Legal

This is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Scope: ECOSOC coordinates the economic, social, cultural, and health initiatives of 14 UN specialized agencies and five regional commissions.

Objective: It formulates policy recommendations to improve living standards, achieve full employment, promote human rights, and drive global socio-economic progress.

Security Council (SC)

Scope: The SC is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, resolving disputes peacefully, and mitigating military conflicts and hostilities.

Objective: It deploys UN peacekeeping forces, issues ceasefire directives, and enforces international security measures, including economic sanctions and collective military action.

The following appear at THIMUN Conferences but do not exist as UN commissions / committees.

Environment Commission (EVC) - Sub-Commissions 1 & 2

Scope: The EVC considers key environmental and ecological issues, including climate change, sustainability, and biodiversity protection.

Objective: It serves as a deliberative body that formulates and provides policy recommendations on global environmental issues.

Human Rights Commission (HRC) - Sub-Commissions 1 & 2

Scope: The HRC considers key human rights issues, defined as rights inherent to all human beings regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language, or any other status.

Objective: It serves as a deliberative body that formulates and provides policy recommendations on global human rights issues including the protection of minorities, access to the democratic process, and the rights of workers.

Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) - Sub-Commissions 1 & 2

Scope: The SDC focuses on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), economic and social affairs, and connecting THIMUN participants with official UN initiatives.

Objective: It serves as a deliberative platform for dialogue to formulate global, regional, and local solutions for the problems addressed by the SDGs.

The Special Conference (SPC) - Sub-Commissions 1 & 2

Scope: The SPC focuses on the annual THIMUN Conference theme, often inspired by the Millennium Development Goals established by Kofi Annan.

Objective: It provides a dedicated forum to address and deliberate on the specific key global issues highlighted in each year's chosen theme.

Historical Security Council (HSC)

Scope: The HSC re-examines major international crises and conflicts from a specific historical year. Delegates must navigate the geopolitical landscape using only the knowledge available at that time.

Objective: It challenges delegates to simulate diplomacy under past constraints to alter, resolve, or better understand historical threats to peace and security.

International Courts (IC)

Scope: The IC focuses on international legal disputes and criminal cases handled by judicial bodies such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), International Criminal Court (ICC), or International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

Objective: It allows advocates and judges to apply international law, present legal arguments, and deliver rulings on state or individual accountability.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Scope: NATO addresses collective defense, political-military coordination, and regional security challenges affecting Euro-Atlantic allies and partners.

Objective: It works to reach consensus on defense strategies, crisis management, and joint responses to global threats to allied security.

Comité Français

Scope: The Comité Français covers a range of international economic, social, human rights, and security issues entirely in the French language.

Objective: It provides a French-speaking forum to foster cultural and linguistic diversity while deliberating and drafting resolutions on key UN agenda items.

Roles at the Conference

Delegate

A delegate represents a country, a UN organisation, or an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in a forum. As a delegate you participate as a representative of the country or organisation to which you have been assigned.

Before the conference:

- Research the country or organisation
- Research the issues of your forum
- Write a policy statement
- Write a draft resolution

During the conference:

- Give an opening speech (if selected)
- Lobby
- Write resolutions
- Debate the resolutions

Ambassador or Head of Delegation

Before the conference:

- Lead your delegation in their research and writing

During the conference:

- Be ready to be called into the Security Council or other forum to explain your country's point of view on a specific topic
- Participate in the flag parade during the Closing Ceremony of THIMUN The Hague.
- Prepare delegation's official notepaper with A5 format, flag, list of the whole delegation with their positions (optional)

How to be a well-prepared delegate

Conduct

THIMUN is a simulation of the United Nations Organisation, therefore you should behave like a diplomat of the country or organisation you represent. In addition, you are a representative of your own school. This double representation means that you must always behave with professionalism and respect inside the Conference Centre, in your hotel, and in The Hague (public transport, streets, shops, cafés, etc.).

Dress Code

- THIMUN follows a formal dress code to reflect the professional and diplomatic nature of the conference.
- All delegates, Student Officers, and staff are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for a formal diplomatic setting.
- Appropriate attire includes:
 - business suits
 - blazers
 - formal trousers
 - Skirts and dresses
 - shirts and blouses
 - ties

Inappropriately dressed delegates may be sent back to their homes / hotels to change.

- Inappropriate clothing includes but is not limited to:
 - Inappropriately tight, short, or revealing clothing. Dress at least as formally as you would for a job interview.
 - Clothing, jewellery, or accessories which are distracting, inappropriate, or disrespectful to other THIMUN participants.
 - Team accessories such as scarves, hats, non-THIMUN badges/buttons/pins.
 - Sports shoes or denim clothes.
 - National costume or military attire.
 - School uniforms.

Research Guide

RESEARCH CHECKLIST for a COUNTRY

Name of the country: _____

Geography:

- What is the surface, population, capital of the country?
- Which countries are its immediate geographical neighbours?
- What significance does the geographical location of the country have in its politics and/or economic situation? (Small island state, land-locked mountainous region, etc.)

Politics:

- What kind of government does it have? (Monarchy, Republic, Parliamentary democracy etc.)
- Who is the current Head of State?
- 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 helped to shape the current state?
- What is/are the official language(s)?
- What are the main religious and ethnic groups?
- What role does religion and/or ethnicity play in the country's internal or external politics?
- Is the country a former colony? If yes since, when is it independent?

Economics:

- How self-sufficient or dependent is the country economically?
- What is the country's GDP?
- Is it an MEDC or an LEDC?
- What natural resources does it have?
- What basic commodities or manufactured articles does it produce and export?
- What basic commodities or manufactured articles does it have to import?
- What economic and/or trade organisations does it belong to or is it affiliated with?

Defence:

- What is the country's military strength or weakness?
- What defence alliances does it belong to?
- Has it been involved in any internal or external conflicts in its recent history?
- Does it possess nuclear weapons?

International relations:

- What role does it play and what influence does it have on the world stage?
- When did it join the United Nations?
- Is it regularly a Security Council or ECOSOC member? If yes, when was the last time?
- What direct involvement does it have with any United Nations organs or agencies?

How is its relationship with its bordering countries?

RESEARCH CHECKLIST for a NON-MEMBER DELEGATION

Name of the organisation (full name and acronym): _____

IDENTITY

- What kind of organisation is it? (UN Agency, NGO etc.)
- In which city and country is the Head Office located?
- Who is the current head of the organisation?
- Who are its members, if any?
- How is the organisation constituted?
- What is the origin of the organisation?
- What is its function or role within the international community as a whole?
- What are the official aims and objectives of the organisation?

ACTIVITIES

- What are the activities led by the organisation? (be specific on the different activities)
- Locations of the activities? (give figures and various examples if possible)
- Who were helped by the interventions (give figures and various examples if possible)
- What reports and documentation does the organisation produce? (try to obtain the most recent publications)
- What plans does the organisation have for future activities? (be specific)

NEEDS

- What are the financial needs of the organisation?
- What are the material needs of the organisation?

PARTNERS

- Who are the partners of the organisation? Why?
- What is the organisation's relationship to the United Nations?

RESEARCH CHECKLIST for an ISSUE

Issue on the Agenda: .

1. Key words and Definitions

2. Official References and Documents

- Existing Resolutions
- Websites Relevant to the Issue/Resolution
- Name of the commission/council/organisation/s working on the issue
- Conferences/Summits held relevant to the issue

3. Current Situation of the Issue – figures, locations, other relevant information

4. Position of the Country / Organisation on the Issue

- Did the Country / Organisation sign or ratify any documents (Resolutions) on the issue? If so, what are the specifics?
- Has the Country / Organisation done anything relevant to the issue? If so, explain.
- What changes does the Country / Organisation want to see regarding the issue?

Policy Statements

HOW to WRITE a POLICY STATEMENT

What is a policy statement?

- A brief, clear document explaining your country's or organisation's policies on the conference issues
- Written in preparation for the conference (maximum 300 words)
- Focuses you on your country's exact point of view
- Serves as a reference for delegation and committee members during the conference
- Useful for lobbying
- Can be the basis of your opening speech

5 parts to your policy statement

1. Explain and define the issue and its key terms
2. Summarise recent international action on the issue
3. Refer to key related documents
4. State your country's general position
5. Suggest your own solutions, in line with your country's policies

Address these questions:

1. What is the background to your country's view?
2. What is its current position?
3. What does it hope to achieve?
4. What have other member states with the same view done in this area? (optional question)

Remember!

- Research thoroughly before writing your policy statement
- Be brief and clear
- Ask fellow MUN students for feedback on your statement
- A clear statement is a strong starting point for lobbying, resolutions and your opening speech

Lobbying and Voting

LOBBYING

- Be proactive: present and discuss your proposals with other delegates.
- Aim to negotiate, build consensus and support for your draft resolution.
- Use a well-researched, clearly written policy statement as a starting point.
- Find delegates with similar proposals and consider merging drafts to strengthen them.
- Share views, build alliances, and support strong resolutions—even if that means setting aside your own.
- Keep your draft resolution to a maximum of two A4 pages and follow the official format of a resolution.
- Make recommendations realistic and representative of relevant policies and interests.
- Work with the Chairs, who coordinate lobbying and support delegates in this process.
- Secure enough co-submitters to register your resolution.

VOTING

- All delegates, including member states and non-member delegations, have full voting rights.
- Delegates may vote in favour, against, or abstain on amendments and resolutions.
- A proposal passes if votes in favour exceed votes against; abstentions do not affect the result.
- A tied vote means the proposal fails.

THIMUN Terminology

Key Words & Phrases:

Chair: Conducts the debate and maintains order while remaining impartial.

House: All the members of the forum except the Chair.

Submitter: The delegate proposing the motion in a draft resolution for debate.

Motion: The proposal for debate and voting.

Point of Information: A question to the speaker who has the floor or the Chair by a delegate of the House who has been duly recognised by the Chair.

Point of Order: A question to the Chair by a delegate of the House who feels that a mistake has been made in the order of debate or who requires clarification of the Rules of Procedure.

Point of Personal Privilege: A question to the Chair by a delegate about the comfort and well-being of the House (e.g.: audibility, room temperature, etc.).

To have the floor: To have been given the right to speak in debate before the House.

To yield the floor: To give up the right to the floor either finally or temporarily for a Point of Information to be asked.

Modes of address during formal debates:

Parliamentary language

1. Stand and address others in the Third Person, e.g. "*honourable speaker*" or "*fellow delegates*", never "*You*" or "*I*".
2. Do not use insulting or abusive language.
3. Address the Chair and the House before presenting a speech, e.g.: "*Honourable Chair, fellow delegates...*"

Phrases to be used by delegates

- "*Mr./Madam Chair...*"
- "*The delegate of ... requests the floor.*"
- "*The delegate of ... would like to raise a point of information/ point of order.*"
- "*The delegate of ... wishes to speak in favour of/against this motion/resolution/amendment because...*"

- *"Is the Chair / the speaker (not) aware that..."*
- *"Does the speaker (not) agree that..."*
- *"The speaker stated in their speech... Do they (not) realise that..."*
- *"The delegate of ... moves to amend the resolution by striking/inserting/adding the words..."*
- *"The delegate of ... urges the House to vote for/against this motion/resolution/amendment."*

Phrases to be used by the Chair

- *"The House will come to order."*
- *"The Chair calls upon the delegate of ... (the submitter) to read the resolution to the House."*
- *"The House has heard the resolution. Is there a second?"*
- *"The Chair fixes a debate time of 10 minutes for and 10 minutes against the motion."*
- *"The delegate of ... has the floor."*
- *"All points are out of order until the speaker has concluded his/her speech."*
- *"The Chair recognizes the delegate of..."*
- *"To what point does the delegate of ... rise?"*
- *"Please rise and state your point of information/point of order."*
- *"Please state your point in the form of a question."*
- *"Please repeat/rephrase your question."*
- *"Are there any further points on the floor?"*
- *"Are there any further points of information to this speaker?"*
- *"There is a point of order on the floor. Please rise and state your point."*
- *"Your point is (not) well taken."*
- *"Will the speaker please make his/her concluding remarks"*
- *"Debate time for/against the resolution/the amendment has been exhausted/has expired. Will the speaker please yield the floor"*
- *"The Chair proposes extending debate time by 5 minutes for and 5 minutes against the motion."*
- *"The debate is now closed. We will move into voting procedures."*
- *"All points are out of order."*
- *"The motion will now be put to the vote."*
- *"Will all those in favour of the resolution/the amendment, please raise their placards"*

- *"Will all those opposed to against/against the resolution, please raise their placards"*
- *"Will all those abstaining, please raise their placards"*
- *"The motion/the resolution/the amendment has passed by..."*
- *"The motion/the resolution/the amendment has failed by..."*
- *"With **X** votes in favour, **Y** votes against and **Z** votes abstaining, the motion/the resolution/the amendment has passed/failed."*
- *"Clapping is (not) in order."*

WHAT to BRING to THIMUN

- Draft resolutions
- Official delegation notepaper
- Laptop
- USB stick
- Charger
- Stationery