

TRINITY SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED
NATIONS 2021

Forbidden Words

Instead of this	Use this
War	Armed Conflict
Kill	Commit Murder/ Casualties
Rich Countries	Developed Countries
Poor Countries	Undeveloped Countries
Poor People	Lack of Recourses
Black	African American
White	Caucasian
Army	Armed Forces
Money	Economic Recourses

GLOSSARY OF MUN TERMS

Abstention An official statement of no opinion.

Ad Hoc Committee called to focus on a specific topic (i.e. Ad Hoc on Terrorism).

Agenda Topic General topics suggested by the Chairs for the committee to discuss in detail.

Amendment Additions, deletions, and changes in a resolution.

Annex To incorporate into a country the territory of another country.

Armistice A temporary peace agreement

Auspices Protection or patronage

Autonomy Independence; self-government

Back Row Bloc A sarcastic reference to the bloc composed of delegations who sit in the back row of the room. You do not want to be in this.

Bilateral Having to do with two sides (versus multilateral)

Binding Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice.

Bloc Common interest group which meets to formulate group policies on particular issues.

Boycott Refusing to deal with so as to punish or show disapproval.

Breach of Treaty Failure to observe the terms of a signed treaty.

Caucus A break in committee for the purpose of informal debate. It may be either informal

(most often used, at any time during the conference where delegates get around and talk policy) formal (when delegates get up and talk about their resolutions in front of committee)

or moderated (delegates stand up from where they sit and state any comment or push their solution forward)

Censure To blame, criticize adversely or express disapproval.

Chair Person in charge of a committee; assisted by Vice-Chairs.

Committee A group of people representing various viewpoints which gathers to discuss certain issues; headed by chairs/chairmen.

Compensable financing Credit designed to help raw material producer members of the IMF in times of poor markets for their exports.

Dais The group of people in charge of the committee.

Decolonization The establishment of a self-governing area.

Decorum Term used by chair to indicate that the committee is too noisy and that they must come to order.

De Facto “Actually,” in reality (not officially)

Delegate The representative of a nation who is designated to defend his/her country’s position on certain issues.

Delegation One or two delegates who represent a nation in a committee; also the entire group of delegates who represent a nation/school at a conference.

Demilitarize To free from military control or presence.

Deregulation The act of process of removing restrictions and regulations.

Destabilization The act of making a government unsteady

Dilatory Causing unnecessary delay

Diplomatic immunity Special privileges accorded to diplomats and their families and staffs

by international agreement, including freedom from arrest, search, and taxation.

Disarmament The act of disarming; the reduction of armies, navies, and their equipment.

Docket The resolutions to be discussed by a committee.

Expropriation The taking of property into public ownership without compensation, such as

the property of foreign investors or foreign industry in a country.

Extradition The surrender of a fugitive or prisoner by one state, nation, or legal authority to

another.

Foreign intervention Interference by one nation into the affairs of another.

Formal speech A speech made by a delegation placed on the Speakers List.

Gavel Used by the Chair during committee at many conferences; awarded to the best delegation in the committee.

General debate First portion of debate on a committee agenda item; discussion of specific resolutions and amendments is forbidden.

Gross National Product (GNP) The total value of the goods and services produced in a nation during a specific period of time. (GDP - Gross Domestic Product)

Internal affairs Having to do with affairs within a country; domestic.

Junta A political or military group holding power after a revolution; a political faction; a group of plotters or partisans; an assembly or council for deliberation or administration.

Mandate A commission given to one nation by a group of nations to administer the government and affairs of a territory or colony; a mandated territory.

Nationalize To invest control or ownership of in the national government.

Non-aligned A country that is not aligned politically; “neutral.”

Operative clause Policy portion of resolution.

O.P.I Office of Public Information- where resolutions are typed, photocopied, and distributed.

Page A person in committee who delivers notes.

Peace keeping forces A force sent to maintain, enforce, or intervene to achieve a cessation of hostilities between opposing armies, countries, or other groups.

Placard Each delegation is given a placard, which is used to receive recognition from the Chair and also for voting.

Plebiscite Run by the United Nations in order to affirm a people's right to self-determination to be autonomous or a part of another country.

Plenary session Cumulative Committee session where all committees of the UN organs convene.

Preambulatory clause Justifications for action; found in resolutions.

President Person in charge of Security Council or an Ad Hoc committee; assisted by

Vice-Presidents.

Protectionism The process of government economic protection for domestic producers through restrictions on foreign competition.

Protectorate A country under the protection and partial control of another nation.

Puppet A government or person whose actions, while seemingly independent, are actually manipulated or controlled by another.

Rapporteur The most eloquent speaker in committee, which is voted on by other delegates. He/she

will sometime summarize the committee during plenary session at the end of a conference.

Resolution A formal expression of opinion on problems confronting the world.

Roll Call Vote Procedure used in order to hear each country call out their vote individually. Normally you say aye or nay.

Rules of Procedure The rules used at a Model UN conference to run committee.

Sanction An action by nations toward another nation. Includes blockades, restrictions on trade,

withholding loans. Intent is to force compliance with international law.

Secretariat Composed of people who organize and run the Conference. Headed by the Secretary General and Under-Secretary-Generals.

Secretary-General The person in charge of the Secretariat and responsible for success of the Conference.

Self-determination The ability for the people of a nation to decide what form of government they

shall have without interference from other nations.

Short Comment Speech immediately following and pertaining directly to a formal speech; Official

Newsletter of the Berkeley Model United Nations Conference

Sovereignty Power or authority in a state.

Speakers List The order in which delegates will speak in formal debate; the Chair keeps the list of

country names.

Special Drawing Rights IMF currency value is the average of US dollar, European Euro, Japanese

yen, and English pound.

Sponsor One of the writers of a draft resolution.

Substantive Debate Second portion of debate on an agenda item; discussion focuses on specifics of

resolutions and amendments.

Tariff A schedule of duties (rates or charges) imposed by a government on imported goods.

Trusteeship The administration by a country of a trust territory, approved by the UN, usually with

the hope that the area in question will be developed toward self-government or independence.

Undersecretary Generals Assistants to the Secretary-general.

Veto The ability, held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the

United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no.

Vice-Chairs Assistants to Chairs during Committee.

Vice-Presidents Assistants to Presidents during Committee.

Voting Bloc Temporal portion of committee devoted to voting on resolutions and amendments.

Working Groups A formal subdivision of a committee.

Working Paper A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are

proposed; often the precursor to a draft resolution

Yield In a formal speech, time not needed by a delegation can be “yielded” to another delegation or the Chair.

Phrases

“Is it in order to...”

Is it allowed to

“It is in order to...”

It will be allowed

“It isn’t order to...”

It won’t be allowed

“Debate Time”

Time set for the debate

“Time Constraints”

Restrictions of time

“Request for follow up?” (to the chair)

Can I ask for another question?

“Yield the floor”

Give the floor to someone else

“That will be Entertained”

That will be allowed to happen

“That won’t be Entertained”

That won’t be allowed to happen