



International Year of the Forest

The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests. Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.

Welcoming South Sudan

South Sudan becomes the 193rd Member State of the United Nations. Tensions between South Sudan and Sudan on the rise.

Official Name Change

Since recognition of the National Transitional Council, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is now formally known only as Libya.

Top 10 Regional News for the UN

IAEA Condemns Iran

1 The International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors condemns Iran's failure to comply with its inspection regime after a recent report suggested that Iran was pursuing nuclear weapons. The United States (US) government is expected to outline new sanctions targeting the Iranian energy and financial sectors.

Cricketer for Pakistani PM

2 Imran Khan's campaign in Lahore, Pakistan has successfully mobilized thousands of people in a city that has been a traditional stronghold of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) party.

Thailand Seeking to Stop Floods

3 Thailand seeks a permanent solution to end dangerous flooding. Thai authorities are considering the construction of a super-express waterway through Bangkok to prevent future floods. Recent floods have crippled the Thai capital.

US involvement in Uganda

4 At the direction of President Obama, the US government has set goals to destabilize the Lord's Resistance Army of Uganda, seeking an end to the humanitarian crisis.

Italy Endorses new PM

5 The new Italian Prime Minister, Mario Monti, won a confidence vote by the Italian parliament this past week. Monti replaced Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned amidst scandal and failed economic reforms, after a 17 year political career.

Arab League Suspends Syria

6 The Arab League voted earlier this week to suspend Syria's membership. This comes as a consequence of President Bashar al-Assad's failure to adhere to the League's plan, aimed at ending violence against civilians.

Euro Zone Crisis' Global Impact

7 Excessive sovereign debts of several European Union member states, such as Greece, threaten global economic recovery and stability. Shocks seen in severe fluctuations of bond markets have shaken investor confidence and consumer spending.

Brazilian Agriculture Advances

8 Brazilian agricultural advancements may transform global responses to food security. Surges in domestic production of soybeans triggered by seed and soil research provide new regional and global food sources.

DRC Urged to Hold Elections

9 The head of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and members of the diplomatic corps in the country voiced support for all Congolese as they prepare to hold presidential and legislative elections.

Cassava Virus Must Be Stopped

10 The Food and Agriculture Organization is urging for swift action to be taken to stem the progress of the virus affecting the cassava plant, a staple crop of East Africa.



AMUN International Conference returns to the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers for the 22nd AMUN Conference. Welcome all! Now let's start changing the world.

Staying in Your Lane - Understanding Purview

Purview defines the scope

"It's the UN's way of saying we are working towards a common goal."

By Jacqueline E. Whitt
Under-Secretary General

Whether in driver's ed or in dividing a group's tasks, the command to "stay in your lane" is restrictive and confining. It also ensures that no one's toes get stepped on, that others stay in their lanes. It serves the greater good, so an overarching goal might be accomplished. So it is with purview. It is the UN's way of saying "we (the nations of the world) are working toward a common goal, but everyone has a piece to develop." Together, these pieces might add up to a spectacular whole. Purview defines the scope of a topic that each committee, council, or commission

can address. Purview is about staying in your lane.

AMUN strives to simulate the United Nations in New York as realistically as possible, and this philosophy requires careful attention to purview. AMUN Secretariat members review draft resolutions, reports, and amendments to ensure they fall within purview. This is particularly important within the General Assembly, where the Main Committees are assigned specific areas of concern, and delegations are careful to not let their topics overlap.

For example, if the general topic under discussion is conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa, the GA Plenary may discuss the topic as a whole, but its Main Committees would focus on specific aspects of it. The First Committee might discuss how to reduce illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. The Second Committee

could discuss the role of micro-credit and microfinance in reducing intra-state conflict, while the Third Committee might address hunger or education. Each committee (and the Representatives therein) would be quite careful not to expand the discussion of any topic beyond its mandate.

As you work, make purview part of your negotiations. If you have questions about purview, several resources are at your disposal: First, the *Issues at AMUN* Handbook contains brief explanations of purview (at the beginning of each simulation's background guide). Second, Rapporteurs and Home Government staffers are specifically trained to help ensure resolutions and reports are within purview. Do not hesitate to put these resources to the test, and remember, stay in your lane!

The Question on Everyone's Mind

By Adam Cross

AMUN Home Government

Following the 23 September 2011 announcement by Mahmoud Abbas that Palestine would seek full membership in the UN, the Security Council began to consider the issue of membership, sending the issue before its Committee on the Admission of New Members. After an open meeting on 28 September and discussion throughout October and November, the Security Council was ultimately unable to come to a recommendation in favor or opposition to full UN membership. This has ultimately left the decision to push for a course of action on membership to Palestine, allowing them to request the Security Council to vote on the application for membership.

Mahmoud Abbas, with the endorsement of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has stated his intent to pursue the request for full membership through the Security Council. Hamas, however, has not endorsed the move, as it believes this to be an

internal political power play. In addition to putting political pressure on Hamas, the move has already put pressure on the United States and Israel.

Such a vote, however, is not without risk. Following the adoption of Palestine as a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United States withheld payment of \$60 million to the organization. Israel withheld the transfer of taxes collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority equaling roughly \$100 million a month. Many diplomats have voiced concern that withholding funding from the Palestinian Authority will only serve to destabilize the security situation in the West Bank as well as cripple the Palestinian economy.

If the question is ultimately brought before the Council, chances of passage are slim at best. Even without the promised US veto, Palestine still lacks critical support. Nine votes are required in order to pass a resolution

recommending full-membership into the UN. Brazil, China, India, Lebanon, the Russian Federation, and South Africa have stated their support for the measure, while Gabon and Nigeria will also likely support the proposal. However, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom have voiced their intent to abstain. This leaves Palestine in a precarious position, forcing it to decide whether to wait until the composition of the Council or political climate improves, or to force the decision with the possible consequences therein.

The United States and Israel have stated that direct negotiations are necessary. Palestine claims that it is open to negotiations but that Israel must freeze settlement expansion. Israel insists this is an unacceptable precondition leading to a virtual impasse on the front for negotiations. However, with Palestine forcing the United States to use its veto power being considered a moral victory in many circles, negotiations may fall flat.

SG Welcomes All to the 22nd AMUN

Conference One-a-Kind Learning Experience

"You're no longer a student from a particular university but a distinguished diplomat"

By Rachel M. Fritzler
Secretary General

On behalf of the Secretariat, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd American Model United Nations International Conference. Over the next four days, you will find yourself immersed in a one-of-a-kind learning experience, one that cannot be found in a classroom. You are no longer a student from a particular university, but a distinguished diplomat, a Representative of your nation. As such, your goal throughout the coming days is to advocate and protect the best interests of your government, while striving to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter. In your simulation, you will find that there are people, principles, and issues that will challenge those goals. Through diplomacy, however, you will find that such challenges can provide opportunities for cooperation and new solutions to serious problems – because the issues confronting the delegations at AMUN are neither simple nor trivial. Across the 14 simulations at AMUN this year, Representatives will be asked to tackle questions that run the gamut of international problems, from international peace and security to economic development and the most basic of human rights. The months you have spent in preparation for this moment will aid you in crafting policies and solutions that are not only workable, but acceptable to a consensus of Member States. This task may at times seem daunting, but I am confident that if you are willing to work hard and engage with your fellow Representatives, you will succeed. I am equally confident it will be a memorable experience. I hope it will also be enjoyable and rewarding. I am here, as are the other members of the AMUN Secretariat, to further that experience, and I hope you will not hesitate to approach us if there is anything we can do. Welcome to AMUN! Now go – start changing the world.

Do You Know Your AMUN Services?

Home Government (Level 2, Missouri Room) is your source for any information you need to accurately promote your country's agenda. You can also request a speaker from organizations not represented at AMUN, like the IAEA or the American Red Cross.

The International Press Delegation (Level 2, Colorado Room) is your source for the *AMUN Chronicle*. You can request a press conference, deliver a press release, or submit a personal ad. You can also ask for a reporter for breaking news or an interview.

Delegate Services (Level 2, Arkansas Room) is your home for Resolution writing and submission. You can use computers to draft your resolutions, and, once you are done, submit them to your committee's Rapporteurs. DS can also get you *limited numbers* of copies for a small charge.

Countries to be Recognized for Position Paper Completion

Adrian College, Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Alverno College, Bangladesh
Aquinas College, France
Austin College, South Africa
Belmont University, Republic of Korea
Bethel University, Sri Lanka
California State University - Sacramento, Sweden
Calvin College, Latvia
Carthage College, Argentina
Central Michigan University, Yemen
College of Wooster, Iraq
College of Wooster, Malawi
Collin College, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Columbia College, Namibia
Denison University, Spain
Denison University, Tunisia
East Texas Baptist University, New Zealand
Eastern Michigan University, Bolivia
Eastern Michigan University, Philippines
Elmhurst College, Malta
Grinnell College, Belgium
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Albania
Johnson County Community College, Cuba
Johnson County Community College, Haiti
Luther College, Singapore
Marietta College, Oman
McKendree University, Palestine
Missouri Southern State University, Rwanda
Missouri State University, Guinea
Muskingum University, Kenya
North Central College, Sudan
Northern Kentucky University, Austria
Northern Michigan University, Kyrgyzstan
Northern Michigan University, Mexico
Park University, China
Phoenix College, Viet Nam
Purdue University - West Lafayette, Eritrea
Purdue University Calumet, Nepal
Saginaw Valley State University, Russian Federation
Truman State University, Islamic Republic of Iran
Truman State University, Morocco
University of Arizona, Czech Republic
University of Central Missouri, Saudi Arabia
University of Central Oklahoma, Gabon
University of Cincinnati, Ecuador
University of Cincinnati, Sierra Leone
University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Djibouti
University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Somalia
University of Mount Union, Serbia
University of South Dakota, Venezuela
University of St. Thomas, Chile
University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse, Netherlands
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Bosnia-Herzegovina
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Estonia
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Guinea-Bissau
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Mauritius
Western Kentucky University, Romania
Western Kentucky University, Zimbabwe
Westminster College (PA), Australia
Westminster College (PA), Poland

Safety at American Model United Nations

By Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

American Model United Nations (AMUN) places extreme importance on the safety of our participants. We hope that you have an excellent and fun learning experience while at the Conference, but encourage everyone to consider safety issues in and around the Conference hotels. We also suggest that you follow several common-sense rules to keep all participants safe during the Conference. These include the following:

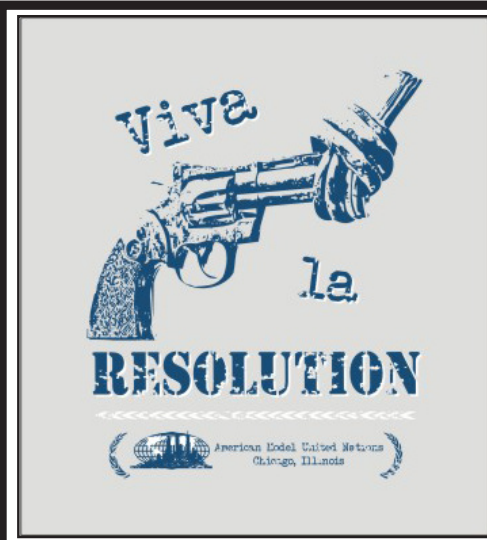
- As a general rule, do not leave the hotel grounds without letting your group know how to find you.
- Always let one of the leaders of your group (faculty, club or organization officer, etc.) know where you are going prior to leaving the hotel or area around it (to visit lo-

cal friends or relatives, etc.).

- Never leave any of the hotels alone, especially after dark.
- Always travel with at least one person that you know.
- Always remove your name tag prior to leaving the hotel so as not to advertise yourself as a tourist.
- Help other participants to be safe by encouraging others to not travel outside of the hotel alone. Just say "NO" to solitude; one of the main functions of the Conference is to bring people together.
- Inform one of the leaders of your group immediately if you have a safety concern, or if any emergency situation occurs to you or another participant, regardless of the time. Remember that safety should always be more important than avoiding minor embarrassment to you or another person.

Please feel free to contact the AMUN staff at any time during the Conference, day or night, if any emergency or similar event occurs where we can be of assistance. We can be reached in the Ohio Room, located on the second level of the Sheraton Hotel, or via any Secretariat member wearing a blue badge. If an emergency occurs that requires immediate help, you should also feel free to contact Hotel Security by dialing "88" and asking the operator for the security office.

AMUN's goal is to provide an educational, fun and safe experience for everyone - and we appreciate your help in reaching that goal!



The New 2011 AMUN T-Shirt

The "Knotted Gun" sculpture has long been an internationally recognized symbol of the United Nations and the goal of international peace and security. The sculpture was donated in 1988 by Luxembourg, and now you can have it as a shirt.

Quantities are limited, so head by Conference Services soon to get yours.

Who Are Those People with Blue Badges Wandering Around My Committee?

By Kellymarie Ziemann
USG - Rapporteurs

Walk into any of the General Assembly committees or Economic and Social Council commissions, and you will immediately see Chairs and Vice Chairs, or Presidents and Vice Presidents, sitting in front of the room, usually with a microphone, presiding over the body. But who are those staffers with the blue badges sitting off to the side? And why are they wandering around the committee/council room, listening to all of your caucusing?

Distinguished diplomats, that is your Rapporteur Department. If you are an AMUN veteran, you may remember this as the place where you take all of your resolutions and amendments for processing and approval. Indeed, that is a major function of this department. Rapporteurs exam-

ine every draft report, resolution, and amendment to ensure that it that it is in purview (see article, page 1); in proper AMUN format; and that it is clear, cohesive, and free of grammatical error. They may ask you to make corrections to your draft (which is why they always ask you for two copies of anything that they are editing) to ensure that all of the documents that come before the body are of the highest possible quality. They also keep track of all of the documents, so if you need to know the status of any draft, your Rapporteurs will be more than happy to share that information.

But the Rapporteur Department does much more than manage paperwork. Often, you will see Rapporteurs circulating during suspensions, listening in on informal debate. Because so much work gets done outside of formal session, staff should be available

to assist there as well. Specifically, Rapporteurs may clarify a procedural issue, suggest an alternate perspective, or suggest a possible role player who might be helpful. They may point out additional collaborative partners based on drafts they have edited or conversations they have heard. They also know a thing or two about the rules, specifically as they relate to reports, resolutions, and amendments. Essentially, if you find yourself having any conversations that begin with "I wonder if..." or "Maybe we could..." seek out a Rapporteur, who can help you make sure that you're on the right track. They can answer most questions, and if you happen to come up with something that they can't answer, they will be more than happy to point you in the direction of someone who can.

Have a question?... Need Directions?... Or Want to purchase some exciting memorabilia to commemorate your AMUN experience?

Come visit **Conference Services** Located on the Ballroom Level!

AMUN staff can give you helpful information regarding nearby restaurants, places of worship, tourist information about Chicago for your free afternoon, and all things related to the Conference. The staff will be able to answer your Conference-related questions and will have extra Conference handouts and handbooks available.

Diplomatic Attire: It Suits You!

Western Business Attire

Pages 3-4 of the AMUN Rules & Procedures Handbook outline the dress code.

By Mary Beth Brennan-Seng
Associate Executive Director

Are you drawn to the speaker in the sharp suit? Do you choose to join a caucus based on the professionalism shown by the participants? The appearance of participants at AMUN provides the first impressions of their delegation to other Representatives. In order to demonstrate respect to fellow Representatives, Secretariat members, and distinguished guests of the Conference, AMUN requires Western business attire during all formal sessions, including the final General Assembly sessions on Tuesday.

As noted on pages 3-4 of the AMUN Rules and Procedures handbook, AMUN's dress code is defined as follows: Western business attire is a business jacket or suit, dress slacks (or a skirt for women), dress shirt (with a tie for men), and dress shoes. Attire should follow the rule of being appropriate for visiting an embassy. Revealing dress shirts that expose excessive bare skin on the chest or stomach are not appropriate. Sweaters are generally considered too casual for Western business attire. Clothing that reveals undergarments in any way, including being too tight, is not appropriate. AMUN will not consider any manner of dress appropriate which includes T-shirts, jeans, shorts, hats, athletic shoes or any form of commercial advertising.

Participants also shall not wear the traditional or religious garb of any state or organization. The only exception to this is required traditional or religious garb from a Representative's personal religion or culture. Additionally, participants should not affect the mannerisms, linguistic characteristics, or any other perceived traits of a state or culture that they are representing. These affectations are inappropriate and may be seen as offensive by other students, or by natives of that state or culture.

Please be aware that Representatives who are not appropriately attired or who do not follow these rules may not be recognized during formal debate in any AMUN simulation. Further, AMUN reserves the right to refuse admittance to the Conference floor to any Representative who is inappropriately attired or who violates the above provisions. Decisions of appropriate attire and professional behavior are at the ultimate discretion of the Secretariat.

The AMUN Staff invites you to "Look good, feel good, do good!"

Don't forget to submit personal ads to IPD to be published in a future AMUN Chronicle