

How to prepare?

These are guidelines for an ideal preparation!

Research the structure and history of the United Nations

Thorough preparation must begin with an understanding of the United Nations itself. Numerous sources as „Die Vereinten Nationen“ by Gareis and Varwick (available at <http://www.bpb.de>) detail the events leading up to the creation of the UN. In addition make sure to review:

- the UN structure: how the various organs of the UN system (the Security Council, the General Assembly, ECOSOC etc.) work together and the topic specialties of each one
- the Charter of the United Nations: the UN Charter in its entirety
- Past actions by the UN: significant resolutions and decisions
- you can find relevant information about the UN and its structures on the UN homepage: <http://www.un.org>

Research your state

- Several factors such as political structure, economic conditions, religion(s), history and culture shape a state's foreign policy, familiarity with these areas will assist you in forming a consistent foreign policy. Research the problems within your state such as minority issues, suppression of dissent, division of wealth, freedom of press, development, environment, poverty, education, human rights etc.
- There are various ways to get information about your country. You could check the homepage of the permanent mission to the UN, the homepage of the government and the foreign ministry of your country, world fact book, etc.

Researching your Agenda Topic

This is the most important part of your preparation. Each Delegate should understand the topic on the agenda. The first resource to consult is the Preparation Guide (including footnotes and bibliography). However this guide should not be the sole source of research. Search for speeches made by your country on the topic and also important resolutions that were discussed and passed in your or other UN bodies and committees.

While reading the Preparation Guide, develop answers to the following basic questions:

- In your opinion as a diplomat, why are these issues important?
- Give specific reasons why you believe these issues remain unsolved.
- What important documents are essential for your research?
- What actions have various international bodies taken in the past regarding these issues?
- What issues are they currently taking, or which committees exist to address them?

Preparing for the committee

Based on your research, you will decide how your assigned country will approach each topic and the recommendations you will make for potential solutions. This includes identifying blocs of states that may share the same perspectives and priorities and collaborate with you during the sessions

- How does your state advocate the proceedings?
- Are there other states that share your view?
- What states are opposed to your view; be prepared to react if a state opposes your position?
- Which member states are in the same voting bloc as your assigned country?
- Is your assigned state affiliated with any regional organizations?

Once you have preformed your research all that you have learned should be organized in such a way as you can find it at the simulation as needed. You should also have a consistent as well as thought-out mental notion of your policy so that you are prepared to converse with other delegates at the simulation

Once again: this is the ideal way of preparation!!! You do not need to worry if you cannot prepare for all these points.

If you have further questions regarding the preparation you can contact the LahnMUN staff any time!