



Baltic Model United Nations

– facing regional challenges in a globalized world –



Delegate's Handbook

Overcoming Obstacles to Optimize Our Approach to Human Rights Standards
2023 conference | June 1st – June 4th | Innerstädtisches Gymnasium Rostock

Contents

Organization 2023	3
Conference Management	3
Secretariat	3
General Assembly	3
Committees	4
Possibilities to attend BALMUN 2023	5
Preparation	6
Firsts Steps	6
Opening Speech	6
Resolution	7
Useful phrases to start a preambulatory clause	8
Useful phrases to start an operative clause	8
Salutatory Address	10
The conference	11
Opening Ceremony	11
Lobbying and Merging	11
Debate	11
General Assembly	12
Closing Ceremony	12
Preliminary Time Schedule 2023	12
Points and Motions	13
Amendments	13
Rules	14



Organization 2023

Conference Management

Martha Kukuk and Cyell Dittbrenner are the 2023 Conference Managers. The task of the Conference Management is to make the conference work. They coordinate all the separate departments as for example the housing program or the finances. If you have any questions regarding the organization of the conference, contact them by sending an email to conference.management@balmun.de.

Secretariat

Secretary General of BALMUN 2023 will be Jamie Potschantek. She is in charge of choosing the conference's topics. Questions as well as remarks according to this part of the conference may be mentioned in a brief comment. You can reach the Secretariat via secretary.general@balmun.de.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the UN-Organ where all delegations represented at BALMUN 2023 come together to:

- attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies,
- deal with passed resolutions,
- listen to the speeches of guest speakers or single delegates.

Just like every other committee the General Assembly has its own Chair, the President of the General Assembly.



Committees

Every delegate applying for MUN has to choose one committee he or she would like to work in. Every committee has its own specific topic which is related to the conference's theme "Overcoming obstacles to optimize our approach to human rights standards".

GA 1 – Disarmament and International Security

- Preventing and combating the financing of terrorist organizations
- Addressing the illegal trade and supply of weapons to countries involved in armed conflict

GA 3 – Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

- Protecting and promoting the rights of children in war zones
- Enforcing women's self determination in connection with reproductive rights on a global scale

GA 4 – Special Political and Decolonization

- Eliminating the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics
- Scrutinizing global decolonization efforts

Security Council

- The situation in Ukraine
- The Iranian nuclear deal

Economic and Social Council

- Working to achieve international food security and diminishing malnutrition
- Realizing the right to suitable shelter

Environment Assembly

- Promoting sustainable agriculture
- Reducing and counteracting the environmental damage caused by nuclear waste



Delegate

Being a Delegate means to be a representative of a UN-member state or NGO you choose beforehand. Therefore, one can either apply as a single delegate or as a whole delegation. Delegates work in the committees on precise given topics. The result of the delegate's work should be the passing of a final resolution in the general assembly in cooperation with other country representatives.

Press Team

As a member of the Baltic Model United Nations Press team the participant is able to be part of the editorial staff of the "Baltic Herald" – the official and independent BALMUN newspaper. Taking pictures, writing articles, interviewing delegates as well as guest speakers are only a few tasks to work on. For further information contact the Head of Press Julia Palent.

Chair (Student Officer)

A Chair (Student Officer) is the leading person of a committee which means that he or she guides the discussions and debates. The Chairperson should be experienced in the field of MUN – former positions as a Chair or at least a delegate of multiple conferences is desirable in case of an application. He or she should be able to work in small groups and get into personal contact with the delegates.

Member of Staff

The members of staff help making the conference work. For example: Note passing is an essential part of the delegates' communication and operated by staff members. Without the staff a lot of things during the conference would not be possible. For more detailed information, contact the Heads of Staff Hannes Drexler, Marie Rubel, and Manuel Todd staff@balmun.de.

Detailed information according to the application process of the different positions as well as contacts and more information are published on www.balmun.de.

Preparation

Firsts Steps

To represent your assigned nation or organization properly it is necessary for you to have certain background knowledge. Most importantly, you must be informed about these main aspects: the political structure, culture, geography, history, resources, defense and economy. Make sure to know about the views your country or organization represents concerning international issues.

Furthermore, you should know your country's or organization's beliefs and challenges, as well as which alliances and treaties the country or organization has signed. With a substantial knowledge, you will be able to vote appropriately. Remember that, during the entire conference, you do not put forward your personal opinion but the country's or organization's views.

For your research we suggest the following websites:

United Nations: www.un.org

UN Foundation: www.unfoundation.org

CIA: www.cia.gov

Embassies Worldwide: www.embassyworld.com

Of course, there are many other websites, books, newspapers or other sources as well that may be helpful.

Opening Speech

During the Opening Ceremony of the General Assembly, every delegation has to hold an Opening Speech to represent its country or organization. In order to avoid that the whole ceremony gets too long and boring your opening speech should not be longer than 90 seconds.

The opening speech is held by one delegate whom the delegation appoints beforehand. He or she should be rhetorically talented and be able to attract the attention of the assembly.

Your opening speech has to begin with a formal greeting such as "Mister/Madam President, Distinguished Delegates, Honorable Guests". You should then concentrate on what your country or organization is concerned about, regarding the state of the world (e.g. war, human rights, disarmament or ecology).

You can also relate to the conference theme and your country's/organization's opinion thereto. Do not hesitate to refer to current events that have occurred in your country (e.g. a civil war or an election) or that have happened in history and made your country glorious. You can also use typical and well-known phrases of your country's language (e.g. "¡Hasta la victoria siempre!" or "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité"). In no case you should insult other countries and delegations.

Furthermore, you can integrate some rhetorical devices into your opening speech by asking for example a rhetorical question or using an anaphora. The following opening speech was held by the Dutch Delegation during the BERMUN conference in 2008 and can be seen as a sample.



Madam President, Fellow Delegates, Distinguished guests,

How is it possible,
that women in America are suffering subordination to men?
that women in Australia are suffering domestic violence?
that women in Asia are suffering forced marriage?
that women in Africa are suffering genital mutilation?
that women in Europe are suffering human trafficking and forced prostitution?

The delegation of The Netherlands greets the General Assembly on behalf of Queen Beatrix, feeling especially honored to participate in THIS year's Conference.

Strengthening the role of women, all over the world, is not only a duty of global society, but also the pavement on the road of world-wide progress.

We invite all nations, straying on the wood way of violence and wrongfulness, to join us in spreading peace and justice across the insignificant borders of countries, costumes, and cultures.

The Delegation of the Netherlands is eagerly looking forward to a fruitful collaboration, keeping in mind that good intentions alone will not solve the problem!

Thank you!

Resolution

As a delegate of your country, you have to write a resolution before the conference takes place since this will be the foundation for the debates in your committee. Firstly, your main goal should be that your resolution would pass in your committee with you as the main-submitter and secondly, pass in the General Assembly. A resolution represents the opinion of a country regarding a specific topic that is set in your committee. It suggests proposals for solutions concerning the problem that is dealt with in your committee. It should be noted, that only the Security Council can require action or sanctions from member states. All other committees only call for or suggest actions. Your resolution should show that you are familiar with your problem and possess a certain profoundness and conciseness.

Structure of a resolution

The proper format for a resolution is the following:

- Name the committee, the topic and the submitter.
- Skip a line after each clause.
- Begin all clauses with the appropriate phrases (see list).
- End each preambulatory clause with a comma.
- End each operative clause with a semicolon.
- End the final operative clause with a full stop.
- On the following pages you can find a sample resolution.



Types of clauses

There is a particular structure that every delegate has to respect while writing a resolution. First of all, a resolution consists of one single sentence that is divided into two sections: The *Perambulatory Clauses* and the *Operative Clauses*.

Perambulatory Clauses indicate the reasons behind the resolution and can refer to past UN resolutions or give background information such as statistics. They always begin with present participles (see the list of Perambulatory Phrases).

Operative Clauses describe the course of action the country or organization proposes. They always start with a verb (see list of Operative Phrases).

Your clauses should be logically arranged, clearly and detailed formulated and not repeat themselves. A clause should not be a collection of unrelated thoughts or statements on a broad topic. Each clause should deal with only one aspect of the issue. Pay attention to correct English grammar, vocabulary and punctuation.

Useful phrases to start a preambulatory clause

Acknowledging	Deploring	Having studied
Affirming	Desiring	Keeping in mind
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with appreciation
Approving	Expecting	Noting with concern
Aware of	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Bearing in mind	Expressing its satisfaction	Pointing out
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully alarmed	Realizing
Congratulating	Fully aware	Recalling
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recognizing
Convinced	Further recalling	Referring
Declaring	Guided by	Taking into consideration
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Welcoming
Deeply convinced	Having examined	
Deeply regretting	Having received	

Useful phrases to start an operative clause

Accepts	Designates	Regrets
Affirms	Encourages	Requests
Approves	Endorses	Resolves
Asks	Expresses its appreciation	Seeks
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Calls for	Further invites	Strongly affirms
Calls upon	Further requests	Suggests



Condemns	Hopes	Supports
Confirms	Invites	Transmits
Congratulates	Proclaims	Trusts
Declares accordingly	Proposes	Urges
Deplores	Recommends	

Sample resolution

FORUM: Environment Assembly

QUESTION OF: Outlining a Policy to Promote Individual Initiative to Preserve the Environment

MAIN SUBMITTER: New Zealand [Only 1 Main Submitter]

CO-SUBMITTERS: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden [At least 5 Co-Submitters]

THE ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY, [Commission must be stated in all capital letters followed by comma]

Aware of the fact that rising temperatures melt the polar caps, which steady rise the mean sea level and keeping in mind that rising temperatures result from human caused, [Italicize preambulatory word/phrase. Use comma and spacing of a line to separate preambulatory clauses]

Noting with regret there are several coastal area, highly endangered by long-dated flooding,

Deeply convinced [Try not to start two preambulatory clauses with same word/phrase] that not only polity is responsible for a healthy and balanced environment, but also policy and individual initiative is necessary,

- 1) Requests [Underline each operative word/phrase. No two operative clauses should begin with same word/phrase] governments of all nations to accept and explain the fact of change in climate in consideration of pollution in an official declaration, which must be accessible for all citizens; [Use semicolons to separate operative clauses]
- 2) Calls upon education and information for every individual person of every nation by means such as but not limited to: [Introduce sub-clauses using colons]
 - a) public establishments to hold courses of instruction and advanced training for interested citizens in environmentally-friendly methods in: [Introduce sub-sub-clauses using colons]
 - i) Villages
 - ii) Communities
 - iii) Townships
 - iv) Regions
 - b) surveys for environmental constructions
 - c) education of agricultural workers in ecologic methods; [There are no subsequent sub-sub-sub-clauses]
- 3) Asks for international accepted reports, published by the United Nations, that research into global warming and proximate consequences, that must be open to the public;
- 4) Expresses its hope that the encouragement of public dialog about the Preservation of environment guides to complete success. [End resolution with a period]



Salutatory Address

Every speech should begin with: “Mr. (or Madam) Chair, ladies and gentlemen of the house...” or a similar phrase. To other delegates you should refer in the third person and entitle them as “the (honorable) delegate”. To yourself you should not refer as “I” but as “we” since you are a part of your delegation. Commonly used expressions are the following:

Mr. or Madam Chair / President

I request / wish to have the floor

I rise to a point of information / point of order.

I wish to speak in favor / against the resolution.

Is the Chair / the speaker (not) aware of...

Does the speaker not agree with me that...

The speaker stated in his speech...

I yield the floor to points of information / the Chair etc.

I urge the house to give me its support by voting for /against the resolution.



The conference

Opening Ceremony

Usually, the BALMUN Opening Ceremony is held in the assembly hall of the Innerstädtisches Gymnasium in Rostock. This official opening of the conference is performed by the President of the General Assembly to welcome all the delegations and Chairs. The Opening Speeches of each country or organization which will be delivered by one representative of each delegation are the most important part of the Opening Ceremony. A lot determines the first delegation to begin. The other Opening Speeches follow in alphabetical order. After a speech was delivered you may reply with a comment. To do this, you have to raise your country placard and wait for the President of the General Assembly to recognize you.

Lobbying and Merging

Your first task in your committees will be the lobbying. During the lobbying process it is your aim to find delegations who agree with your resolution or at least with certain clauses. These delegations are the so-called co-submitters. Therefore, you have to present your resolution to other delegates and try to convince them of your ideas. It is also a possibility for you to reject your own resolution and to become a co-submitter. You can criticize other resolutions and demand for certain points to be changed. This is the process of merging. When the lobbying and merging process are finished the final resolution has to be checked and read over by the Approval Panel.

Debate

The debate will start with the main-submitter reading out the operative clauses of the resolution. Afterwards the Chair will decide if there will be an open or closed debate. In a closed debate there is a certain time to speak for and against the resolution. In an open debate you can express your arguments for and against at any time. Usually, the main-submitter begins the debate by defending his resolution, afterwards he can yield the floor back to the Chair or one of his or her co-submitters. All delegates can participate in the debate with certain points and motions which will be explained on the following pages.

During debate there are certain rules to be followed. First of all, always be polite and do not offend other delegates for not sharing your opinion. To speak you need the Right to have the Floor, or an appropriate point or motion. Otherwise, be calm and do not disrupt other delegates. When you say something please stand up and remain standing while people respond to you. And most important is that you do not argue with your Chair (Student Officer) or president. His or her decision is final and incontestable.



General Assembly

The General Assembly is a consortium of all GA-committees (GA1, GA4). Nonetheless, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, and the Environment Assembly will attend the opening and closing ceremonies. During the opening and closing ceremony, the participants will hear speeches by fellow delegates, Student Officers and guest speakers.

Closing Ceremony

During the Closing Ceremony, the work done in the different committees will be presented to the GA by the Chairs. Afterwards, there will be a speech delivered by a member of the Secretariat before the President of the GA officially closes the conference.

Preliminary Time Schedule 2023

Thursday – June 1st, 2023

17:00 – 20:00 Informal Opening with Introductory Film and Icebreakers in all Committees
19:00 – 20:00 STOFF Meeting

Friday – June 2nd, 2023

08:45 – 09:00 Delegates and Chairs enter Plenary
08:45 – 11:45 Opening Ceremony
09:30 – 10:15 Keynote Speech (Mahvash Siddiqui)
10:15 – 11:00 Keynote Speech (Dr. Jan Philipp Wölbern)
12:00 - 12:30 Committees in Session
12:30 - 14:30 Staggered Lunch Break
13:30 - 17:00 Committees in Session

Saturday – June 3rd, 2023

08:30 - 11:30 Committees in Session
11:30 - 13:30 Staggered Lunch Break
12:30 - 15:30 Committees in Session

Sunday – June 4th, 2023

09:00 - 10:45 Committees in Session
10:45 - 11:00 Break
11:00 - 12:00 Closing Ceremony



Points and Motions

To ensure a proper conference there have to be certain rules. For the delegate there are two possibilities to communicate with the Chair or the speaker: Points and Motions.

Points are a means for a delegate if he or she has any petition or question. Motions can be utilized for requests. In the following you can find a selection of points and motions.

Point of Order – During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a point of order with regard to the conduct of business. A point of order may interrupt a speaker. There is no debate on a point of order, so the Chair (Student Officer) should immediately issue a ruling pertaining to the point of order according to the rules.

Point of Information – A delegate may raise a point of information to make inquiries to or request clarification from the Chair (Student Officer) concerning parliamentary procedure or any other relevant questions pertaining to the business of the committee. A point of information must not interrupt a speaker.

Point of Personal Privilege – A delegate may raise a point of personal privilege concerning a personal matter or the conduct of another delegate. The Chair (Student Officer) should respond appropriately to the matter. A point of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker.

Point of Inquiry – During debate on a resolution or amendment, a delegate may raise a point of inquiry. The point of inquiry must be directed through the Chair (Student Officer) and may be made only after the speaker has finished speaking, but before the speaker has yielded the floor. A point of inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.

Motion to Adjourn – A delegate may offer a motion to adjourn the meeting at the end of the regular meeting of the committee or council. A motion to adjourn requires a second, and cannot interrupt a speaker. A motion to adjourn is not debatable, so the Chair (or Student Officer) should immediately call for a vote on the motion. The motion is approved if a majority of the delegates vote in favor of the motion (abstentions are considered “no” votes).

Motion to Suspend for a Caucus – During general debate on an agenda item, a delegate may offer a motion to suspend the meeting for the purpose of going into caucus to informally discuss the agenda item and prepare resolutions pertaining to the agenda item. A motion to suspend for a caucus requires a second, and cannot interrupt a speaker. A motion to suspend for a caucus is not debatable, so the Chair (Student Officer) should immediately call for a vote on the motion. The motion is approved if a majority of the delegates vote in favor of the motion (abstentions are considered “no” votes).

Motion to move directly into voting procedure – When everything is said and done and only three states strive to debate their private questions, you can introduce a motion for a closure of debate. This means that no further nation may speak and that you will start voting on the resolutions on the floor.

Amendments



During Debate you have the possibility not just to speak against or in favor of a resolution, but you can also try to change, add, or remove parts of the resolution. To do this, you have to fill in an amendment sheet with your proposal and direct it to the Chair (Student Officer). After raising your placard and being recognized by the Chair (Student Officer) you will get the chance to present and explain your amendment. Every amendment can be voted on separately. You should always keep in mind that an amendment has to be constructive and its goal should be to attract more voters.

Rules

To ensure an enjoyable and outstanding conference as well as fruitful debates everybody has to follow certain rules.

Rules of the House – Innerstädtisches Gymnasium in Rostock has certain rules for every person entering the school building. These rules are posted in the building, especially stressing polite cooperation.

Conference Language – The Conference Language is English. Please pay attention to not to talk in your mother tongue during the conference. A cooperation can just be ensured when you involve everybody. This will not work when you start using other languages. Our Chairs (Student Officers) and the Secretariat will pay special attention to this issue. Please note that also Note Passing is involved in this rule.

Dress Code – To participate in the Conference it is necessary that every delegate obeys a certain Dress Code. Boys need to wear a suit including a tie. Girls have to wear a pantsuit, a skirt and a blouse or something similar. Jeans, sneakers, and T-shirts will not be tolerated.

Declaring War – Sometimes, delegates who suffer from a lack of arguments want to declare war on another nation. Declaring war is not an appropriate way to win a debate.

Country Flags – All of the country flags which will be distributed in the General Assembly are the property of the BALMUN Conference. You are not allowed to take them with you or demolish them. If done, you will have to pay a fee to replace the flag for the following conference.



Imprint

Delegates Handbook 2023,

11th edition Written by: Jamie Potschantek

Published by: Baltic Model United Nations (BALMUN)

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