



THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

AGENDA

The Path to Social Inclusion Through Recognition and Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

COMMITTEE

General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

GRAMME OUTLINE

- There is no participation fee for this event.
- A digital certificate will be issued to all participants upon active participation.
- The Model United Nations (MUN) conference will be held on 2nd March 2024.
- The event will begin at 2 PM (Indian Time).
- The mode of the event is virtual (online).

PREFATORY NOTE

The [Vidyavardhaka Law College](#), Mysore, in association with the [Institute of Legal and Policy Research](#) (virtual NGO), is delighted to announce the organization of a virtual Model United Nations Conference. This joint effort aims to delve into the crucial theme of "Recognition, Reasonable Accommodation, Disability, Inequality, Social Inclusion" within the framework of the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). We are committed to fostering inclusive and accessible dialogue on these vital issues. Therefore, there are no participation fees for this conference. We believe that active engagement is key to meaningful participation, and as such, a Digital Certificate will be issued to all participants who actively engage in the conference proceedings. The virtual Model United Nations Conference is scheduled to be held on 2nd March 2024, starting at 2 PM Indian Time. The conference will be conducted entirely online, providing a convenient and safe platform for participants from around the globe to come together and discuss pressing matters related to disability rights. The agenda for this conference is "The

Path to Social Inclusion Through Recognition and Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities." We believe that by focusing on recognition and reasonable accommodation, we can pave the way for a more inclusive society that respects and upholds the rights of all individuals, including those with disabilities. The conference will simulate the proceedings of the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), providing participants with a unique opportunity to engage in diplomatic discourse and negotiation on a global scale.

We look forward to your active participation in this important conference as we work together towards a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol, adopted on December 13, 2006, and made available for signature on March 30, 2007, marked a significant moment in international human rights law. With 82 countries signing the Convention and 44 signing the Optional Protocol on the first day, it set a record for the highest number of signatories on the first day of any UN Convention. This highlighted the global recognition of the importance of protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. One of the key aspects of the CRPD is its status as the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organizations, in addition to nation-states. This inclusive approach underscores the universal nature of the rights enshrined in the Convention and its Optional Protocol. Effective from May 3, 2008, the CRPD represents a culmination of efforts by the United Nations to change perceptions and approaches to disability. It shifts the focus from viewing persons with disabilities as passive recipients of charity, medical care, and social protection to recognizing them as active participants in society with rights that must be respected and protected.

The CRPD is designed to be an explicit human rights instrument with a social development component, reflecting a holistic approach to addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. It adopts a broad definition of disability, encompassing physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments, and reaffirms that all persons with disabilities are entitled to the full range of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the CRPD clarifies how different categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and emphasizes the need for reasonable accommodations to ensure their effective exercise of these rights.

It also highlights instances where the rights of persons with disabilities have been violated and calls for stronger protection mechanisms to prevent such violations in the future. Therefore, in this conference, delegates could deliberate on a range of legal issues related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These issues include ensuring equal access to education for persons with disabilities, combating employment discrimination, improving accessibility in public spaces and technology, supporting independent living and community inclusion, guaranteeing equal access to healthcare, addressing legal capacity and decision-making, preventing violence and abuse, considering intersectionality with other factors, enhancing data collection and monitoring, and promoting international cooperation for rights protection and promotion.

These discussions would aim to formulate effective strategies and policies to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide.

The following questions are being presented for deliberation at The International Model United Nations Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

1. How can member states ensure equal access to education for persons with disabilities, in line with Article 24 of the CRPD?
2. What measures can be taken to combat discrimination in employment on the basis of disability, as outlined in Article 27 of the CRPD?
3. How can countries improve accessibility in public spaces, transportation, and information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities, as mandated by Article 9 of the CRPD?
4. What policies and programs can be implemented to support the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, as per Article 19 of the CRPD?
5. How can healthcare systems be made more accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities, as required by Article 25 of the CRPD?
6. What legal frameworks are needed to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others, as per Article 12 of the CRPD?
7. How can member states prevent and address violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in accordance with Article 16 of the CRPD?
8. How can intersectionality with other factors such as gender, age, or ethnicity be addressed to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, as outlined in the CRPD?

9. What mechanisms can be put in place to collect data and monitor the implementation of the CRPD to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are being upheld?
10. How can international cooperation be strengthened to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, as called for in Article 32 of the CRPD?

MUN STUDY GUIDE

The first simulations of what would later become known as Model United Nations were called an “International Assembly”, with the inaugural event held at Oxford University in 1921. Since then, Model United Nations (MUN) has evolved into a global educational activity that fosters open-mindedness and fresh ideas, which are essential elements of successful diplomacy. At its core, MUN encourages participants to understand and analyze all positions, including those they may oppose. This approach mirrors real-world diplomatic efforts, where success often hinges on the ability to see issues from multiple perspectives and find common ground.

MUN is an academic activity that offers participants valuable learning opportunities in diplomacy, international relations, and the workings of the United Nations. It helps develop debating and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities.

Before MUN conferences, delegates conduct research, pre-formulate positions, and develop policy proposals based on the stance of the member state they represent. This preparation is crucial for effective participation in debates and negotiations during the conference. One important aspect of MUN is the writing of position papers, which serve to familiarize delegates with the topics of debate, encourage academic research and writing, and enable thorough preparation for conferences. Unlike parliamentary debates, where the focus is often on arguing the nature of a question or defending a specific agenda, MUN emphasizes finding solutions that can be embraced by all nations, benefitting humanity and the environment. This approach distinguishes power struggles from diplomatic efforts and underscores the importance of cooperation in maintaining international peace and security.

THE FLOW OF DEBATE

The flow of debate is as follows:

Roll Call (Delegates can either vote as present or present in voting)

Formal debate (Formal debate revolves around the speakers' list. Each speaker can speak max. for 90 seconds)

Moderated caucus, (Each speaker can speak max. for 60 seconds)

Unmoderated caucus, (In an unmoderated caucus, the delegates informally meet with other delegates for discussions) followed by passing the resolution

Drafting Resolution (with the requisite number of sponsors and signatories is submitted to the dais for approval and once approved becomes a draft resolution)

Friendly amendments: Friendly amendments are changes or revisions made to the draft resolution that is approved by all sponsors.

Unfriendly amendments: Unfriendly amendments are not supported by all sponsors and must be voted on by the committee.

Preambulatory clauses: These clauses are substantive, begin a resolution and cannot be amended. Preambulatory clauses provide an overview of the problem and remind member states of past actions taken on the issue.

Operative clauses: These clauses contain the real content and action of a resolution and can be amended. In order to maintain decorum, at the MUN conference we use parliamentary procedures. During the conference, the delegates can make use of four privileges and they are:

- a) **Point of personal privilege**
- b) **Point of the parliamentary enquiry**
- c) **Points of information**
- d) **Point of order**

The delegates will be judged on the following criteria while awarding marks:

- i. **Diplomatic courtesy**
- ii. **Research**
- iii. **Analysis**
- iv. **Direction of debate**
- v. **Advocating**
- vi. **Questions and answer**
- vii. **Rules of procedure**

This study guide serves as a foundational resource for your research, providing you with a starting point to explore the themes and sub-themes outlined here. However, it is important to remember that this guide is not exhaustive, and you are encouraged to expand your knowledge by delving deeper into the topics discussed and exploring additional references provided for further research. As you embark on your research journey, you have the opportunity to select a country from the country matrix to represent during the Model United Nations conference. It is important to note that each participant will be allotted only one country to represent, and these allocations will be made based on your preferences on a first-come, first-served basis.

To make the most of your Model UN experience, consider the following steps:

Thorough Research

Dive deep into the themes and sub-themes outlined in the study guide. Explore various sources, such as academic journals, official UN documents, and reputable websites, to gather comprehensive information about your chosen country's stance on these issues.

Country Matrix Selection

Carefully consider your preferences when selecting a country from the country matrix. Research the countries available and prioritize based on your interest in their foreign policy positions and relevance to the conference agenda.

Position Paper Preparation

After selecting your country, prepare a position paper that outlines your country's stance on the topics to be discussed. This paper should reflect thorough research and critical analysis of the issues from your country's perspective.

Engagement in Debates

During the conference, actively participate in debates and negotiations, representing your country's interests while also being open to understanding and considering other viewpoints.

Networking and Collaboration

Use the conference as an opportunity to network with other participants, build alliances, and collaborate on solutions to the global challenges being addressed.

Note: Participants can choose the country from the country matrix. Each participant will be allowed to represent only one country. Countries will be allotted according to preference on a first come, first serve basis. For a better understanding of Model UN rules and procedures, please read and download the following data:

- **Model United Nations Essentials: A Student's Guide**
https://figshare.com/articles/journal_contribution/Model_United_Nations_Essentials_A_Student_s_Guide_b/25188872
- **For registration, please click on the WhatsApp group link:**
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0ddI-OZPfNg9bPvj8manfFs36a1YABk7JRBno6gio6SRg/viewform>

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Keynote Speaker

Prof. Daniel Hamilton Fernandes de Lima
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Distinguished Guest

Prof. Stefani Clara da Silva Bezerra
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