

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Preparation Guide

Model UN Research

The most important aspect in a successful and fruitful Model United Nations conference is the preparation of the delegates. The level of debate and the productivity of the committee depend on this. Thus, for you to have an enjoyable experience research is very important. Give yourself plenty of time before a conference to research, read and then formulate your arguments.

While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to represent your country as realistically as possible. To do so, you will need to research three different areas:

- Your country and its positions;
- The issues to be debated at the conference; and
- The UN system.

Collecting Country Information

First, you will need to learn about your country so you can address the issues raised at the conference as a real UN delegate from that country. To represent your country accurately, start by answering the following questions:

- What sort of government does your country have?
- What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?
- Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?
- What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?
- Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in your country?
- Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- Which countries share a border with your country?

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- Which countries are considered allies of your country?
- Which countries are considered enemies of your country?
- What are the characteristics of your country's economy?
- What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- When did your country become a member of the UN?
- Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?