

THIMUN Procedures

A simple guide for our MUN-ers

Introduction

The Hague International Model United Nations, or **THIMUN**, is the more globally recognized form of conference. It holds professionalism to the highest degree, emphasizing proper conduct, rigor, and structure.

SCIMUN follows THIMUN procedure for all its committees, excluding the Security Council, which refers to the UNA-USA style. For more information on that format, please go to the SCIMUN Official Guide to the UNA-USA Style.

Structure

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| Roll Call | With its immense emphasis on parliamentary procedures, the THIMUN style follows a structure that is important to keep in mind. |
| Setting the Agenda | Roll call initiates the conference, and it also occurs at the beginning of every session. During roll call, delegates must be seated at their seats, marked by a placard with your country name. |
| Policy Debate | |
| Lobbying & Merging | When the chairs call on your country, please say “ <i>Present</i> ” or “ <i>Present and voting</i> .” The latter takes away your ability to abstain during voting procedures; you may only vote “for” or “against.” Note that you may not switch between the two choices throughout the conference. |
| Resolution Debate | |
| Voting Procedures | A motion to set the agenda refers to determining the order of topics to be debated. |

The first sessions are reserved for **policy debate**. The end of the first day to the beginning of the second is usually taken up by **lobbying & merging**. Once draft resolutions are completed and passed by the **Advisory Panel**, resolution debates begin, each of which is followed by voting procedures.

Policy Debate

The purpose of policy debate is to gain a deeper understanding of each other’s political positions. In this stage, delegates give **opening speeches** to describe their country’s individual stance, statement of terms, and perspective on the issue at hand.

A sneak peak of resolution proposals and calls to certain actions are offered here.

To be added onto the **speakers list**, raise your placard with the name of your country facing the chairs. The order of the countries on the speakers list is the order that the delegates will speak in. If the speakers list has been closed and you still wish to speak, raise a motion to reopen the speakers list. It must be noted that delegates may not speak out of turn; only the chairs may grant you permission to speak.

Each speech is followed by a series of questions. The chairs will ask you how many points of information you are open to, to which you may answer: *1, 2, 3, any and all, or will reply in note form.*

A piece of advice, pay close attention to other delegates with similar positions to yours. Like-minded allies are necessary to forming a bloc, which will in turn be necessary to writing resolutions.

Lobbying & Merging

All of your resolution-drafting should be done in the lobbying & merging sessions of MUN. This is when you split into groups, or **blocs**, based on country stances. You should have been able to gain a general sense of who to work with from the policy debates.

Lobbying & merging takes the form of informal debate, meaning delegates are allowed to leave their seats and convene together more efficiently. The rigor and formalities of the policy debate session are cast aside—for now.

Resolution-writing is a team effort. The abilities to cooperate, compromise, and contribute are heavily important. The key to writing an effective resolution lies in being goal-oriented and specific. More in-depth descriptions on how to write a resolution can be found on the SCIMUN Official Guide to Writing Resolutions.

Each resolution group must also gather **signatories**, which may vary due to the size of the committee. Signatories simply express a willingness to listen to the group's draft resolution.

All drafts must go through the **Advisory Panel** of MUN advisors. They will check for format, potency, practicality, and its logistics. Passing of your draft resolution indicates that your group may now prepare for the coming resolution debates.

Resolution Debate

Parliamentary procedure in these sessions return to the formalities of policy debate, meaning that the chairs preside over the floor. The order that the resolutions were passed and submitted in is the order that the resolutions are debated.

The main submitter presents the resolution to the full committee, reading the entirety of the resolution. This delegate must also follow that with a speech that

serves to clarify and offer a few highlights. With his or her conclusion, the floor will then be open to points of information.

The main submitter has generally five minutes in total to present. Remaining time may be yielded to a second delegate, who should aim to extend the committee's comprehension of the resolution.

The speakers list will then be opened to all delegates wishing to speak "for" the resolution. Once time for that has elapsed, the speakers list for those wishing to speak "against" the resolution will be opened.

Throughout the course of these debates, delegates may submit **amendments** to the resolution. All amendments must be written in the correct format and emailed to the chairs at the specified address. Delegates proposing amendments must be prepared to justify their need. All amendments must also be voted on. For more information on how to write an amendment, refer to the SCIMUN Official Guide to Writing Amendments.

Voting Procedures

Once debate on each resolution has subsided, a motion to move to voting procedures may be raised and passed. Admin will then secure the doors.

To vote, raise your placards. You may vote "for," "against," or "abstain." A reminder: delegates who are "*present and voting*" may not abstain. Do not be swayed by other delegates' votes. You must vote according to your country's political positions.

A Word on Conduct

THIMUN style values proper conduct. There are several rules that all delegates must follow in order to maintain professionalism within the committee.

Delegates must:

- refrain from using personal pronouns, such as "I," "me," or "mine"—delegates must speak in third person
- be dressed in formal attire
- raise their placards to speak
- all forms of communication between delegates must be mediated by the chairs, except during lobbying & merging
- not text nor misuse your devices
- work with your allies, not your friends