

Term Glossary

| Term | Definition | Additional Information |
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| Abstain | During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a country does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no. | None |
| To suspend session | To Suspend Session is when a session comes to an end with a vote to adjourn. In this case, the debate is suspended until the next meeting. | None |
| Agenda | The order in which issues, crises or topics in the committee will be discussed. The first thing to do after roll call is set the Agenda. | None |
| Amendment | An amendment is a modification to a draft resolution. There can be two types. Friendly Amendments, that are supported by the draft's sponsors and Unfriendly Amendments, that must be put to vote in a committee or General Assembly. | None |
| Background Guide | A guide to a topic being discussed in a committee often written by the chairs of each respective committee. | None |
| Binding | Having legal authority in UN member states. Only the Security Council resolutions are bindings, along with decisions of the International Court of Justice. Resolutions of the General Assembly are not binding. | None |
| Block | A group of countries with a similar opinion on a certain topic. Blocks usually vote together in favor or against the same resolutions. | None |

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| Formal Debate | A debate where a speakers list is written by the chair in which delegates speak in a certain order by using the Podium or the Floor. Directly addressing delegations is allowed in these debates. | None |
| Informal Debate | Debate where the chair calls on the delegates and allows them debate and speak for brief moments. | None |
| Lobby Time | Time allowed by the chair where delegates can move away from their seats and speak with other delegates in order to work on resolution drafts. | None |
| Chair | A member of the dais that moderates the debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions and also enforces the rules of procedure. | None |
| Dais | The group of people, usually two presidents, in charge of the committee. In BIMUN it consists of two chairs. | None |
| Decorum | The order, respect and behaviour that all the delegates as BIMUN must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum or order when they feel that the committee is not being respectful of the speaker, of the dais or their roles. | None |
| Delegate Representative | A student acting as a delegate or representative of a state in a committee. | None |
| Delegation | The entire group of people representing a certain state or representation. | None |
| Working Paper | The entire group of people representing a certain state or representation. | None |

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| Faculty Advisor | The faculty member, usually a teacher, in charge of a Model UN Team or delegation. | None |
| Member State | A country that has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and whose application to join has been accepted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Currently, there are 193 member states. | None |
| Motion | A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into voting procedure. | No delegate may abstain from Procedural Motions |
| Resolutive Clause | The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.). | None |
| Preambulatory Clause | The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.). | None |
| Placard | A sign with a country's name that the delegates raise to signal to the Chair that they wish to speak. | None |
| Procedural Motion | A motion having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed (Parliamentary Language, Points of Order, etc). All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain. | None |

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| Quorum | The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution. In the Security Council, no quorum exists for the body to debate, but nine members must be present to pass a resolution. | None |
| Resolution | A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue. | None |
| Right to Reply | A right to speak in reply to a speaker's comment. This is to be invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. Requires a written note to the Chair to be considered and or approved. | None |
| Roll Call | The first order of business in a committee in which the Dais reads aloud the name of each member state in the committee. The delegates should reply with "Present" or "Present and Voting". | A delegate that replies with "Present and Voting" may not abstain from any votes. |
| Rules of Procedure | The rules by which BIMUN XXIII is ran. | None |
| Second | To agree with a motion being proposed. Motions must be seconded before they can go through a vote. Note that a delegate may second, but not necessarily be in favor of a motion. | None |
| Secretariat | A group often comprises two people that act as the heads of the Model. | None |
| Secretary-General | The leader of a Model UN conference. | None |

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| Signatory | A country that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft to accomplish this. A signatory country is not mandated to support the resolution, as Signatories simply recognize that the draft resolution should be discussed. | None |
| Simple Majority | 50% plus one vote of the number of delegates. | None |
| Speakers List | A list that determines the order in which delegates speak. When a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will often create a Speakers List by asking the delegates who wish to be added to raise their placards. | None |
| Sponsors | One of the writers of a draft resolution. | A friendly amendment can only happen if all sponsors agree. |
| Veto | The ability held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no. | None |
| Vote | A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. | None |
| Voting Procedure | The period at the end of a session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. | None |