Active citizenship for Wales and the world

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MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES

A CEWC briefing pack for students

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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking part in a CEWC Model United Nations conference. We hope that you will have an enjoyable day debating world issues. The information in this pack is designed to help you be as prepared as possible for the day's events.

Our conferences provide an exciting simulation of procedures at the United Nations, the world's foremost international organisation. Working in delegations (teams) of three, students may represent any of the UN's 193 member states, the International Press, the UN Secretariat or non-governmental organisations, in discussing real, important issues. This pack gives details of all those roles.

Model UN conferences are not only for public speakers and debaters. Negotiation and compromise are also vital parts of the day's proceedings, so students who are able to reconcile their country's and others' positions are equally in demand.

We recommend that you read all of this pack before you start your research, so that you can establish what you are required to do. The more focused preparation you do, the more you will get out of the day itself. It's up to you now!

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

*CEWC wishes to thank the United Nations Association UK (UNA-UK) for its help in providing information for this pack. UNA-UK supports the organisation of Model United Nations conferences across the UK. For more information, visit **www.una.org.uk/mun**.*

2. ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The preamble to the Charter of the United Nations clearly sets out its aims:

> *We the peoples of the United Nations*
>
> *determined*
>
> > *to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and*
> >
> > *to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and*
> >
> > *to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and*
> >
> > *to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,*
>
> *and for these ends*
>
> > *to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and*
> >
> > *to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and*
> >
> > *to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and*
> >
> > *to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples*
>
> *have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.*
>
> > *Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives...have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the* **United Nations**.

From these beginnings in 1945, when 51 countries signed the Charter, the UN has grown into the organisation it is today. There are now 192 members of the General Assembly (Montenegro joined in June 2006) who meet together to discuss global issues.

The UN seeks to:
- Maintain peace and security throughout the world
- Promote fundamental human rights and freedoms; to fight poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy; and to encourage respect for each other among people
- Develop friendly relations among nations based on ideals of equality and self determination
- Provide means for helping nations achieve these purposes

In order for these purposes to be achieved, the UN and all member countries must uphold five key principles:

- All member countries are sovereign and equal
- Disputes must be settled by peaceful means and without endangering international peace
- Member countries must not use force or the threat of it
- The UN must not interfere with what goes on in a member country unless it is invited to by that country
- Member states should try to assist the UN when it is taking actions which the UN Charter allows it to

Member countries **must sign the Charter**, agreeing that they will uphold the principles of the UN. They **must also contribute financially** to the running of the UN, according to a fee calculated on the basis of population and gross domestic product (GDP). If a country falls behind in its payments then it can be stripped of its vote in the General Assembly (see below). Some countries refuse to pay for political reasons, or to try to persuade the UN to follow their chosen course of action. This can make it difficult for the UN to carry out its objectives.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the central body of the UN. Its meetings are open to all 193 member states. If a country is demonstrated to have broken the UN Charter then it can be expelled from the General Assembly. Although this has never happened, South Africa suspended its own membership during its apartheid period.

Each country sends more than one delegate to meetings of the General Assembly, as discussions are often split into **committee groups**. This arrangement can be difficult for less developed countries. In the first meeting of the year each country can outline what it feels the UN should be addressing that year. **Each country has one vote**, regardless of its population or wealth. A simple majority generally decides the outcome of the vote, although some issues require a two-thirds majority.

The General Assembly has powers to:

- Discuss and make recommendations on any subject concerning peace and world safety (except those already being discussed by the Security Council – see below)
- Discuss disarmament (how to limit the production and distribution of weapons)
- Discuss ways to ensure that women and children are treated equally and can access their human rights
- Discuss sustainable development (e.g. considering how countries can develop their economies without damaging the environment or getting into debt)
- Make recommendations on how to improve international laws on human rights, and how to encourage countries to work together to improve health, education and other matters
- Decide how much money the UN can spend and how much each country should contribute
- Elect countries to sit on other UN bodies such as the Security Council

Resolutions (action plans) are developed by committees, which aim to produce something which is accepted by **consensus** (general agreement). Resolutions are then presented to the General Assembly, and each country votes "For", "Against" or "Abstain". Abstaining can be used to express neutrality or mild disapproval, and essentially counts as a vote Against.

The resolutions passed by the General Assembly are only **recommendations**. There is no way to force countries to act on them; instead, decisions are based on trust and a sense of duty in complying with the wishes of the international community. The resolutions provide a consensus opinion of the countries of the world and are the basis of the UN Secretariat's (the staff's) workplan.

The Security Council

The Security Council is responsible for guarding peace between countries. It deals with threats to **"international peace and security"**. It is the most powerful part of the UN, and is the only body with the power to insist that its decisions be acted upon. Rather than having regular meetings, any country can call for the Security Council to convene in a time of crisis.

The Security Council seeks to:
- Investigate disputes or any situation which might result in conflict between countries
- Recommend methods and terms of settlement for a dispute or conflict
- Recommend actions to be taken when a country is acting dangerously
- Recommend to the General Assembly which countries should be appointed to the Security Council

One major problem facing the Security Council today is that many armed conflicts occur *within* countries, as civil wars. The UN may not intervene in such conflicts without being invited to do so by that country.

The Council is made up of 15 countries:
- **5 permanent members**: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States
- **10 elected members**, serving on 2-year terms. These are chosen by regional groups and confirmed by the General Assembly.

The **voting procedure** of the Security Council is different to that of the General Assembly. To pass a resolution, nine countries need to vote for it. However, if only one of the permanent members votes against, then the resolution falls, even if all 14 other countries support it. This is called a **veto**.

Permanent membership was originally based on those countries having been victorious in World War II, and the veto was provided to block any military decision that they were not prepared to enforce. They are also the only five countries permitted to possess nuclear weapons under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The current structure of the Security Council is the subject of much debate. The permanent 5 are widely thought to be geographically and financially unrepresentative of the United Nations membership. Japan, India, Brazil and Germany all wish to have permanent membership, and also support a permanent seat for an African country. In addition, it can be argued that the basis of permanent membership and the veto is now less relevant: the world has changed a great deal since 1945, and other countries now have a nuclear arsenal. A change in the structure of the Security Council would require the support of two-thirds of the General Assembly.

Other UN bodies

The UN has created many other organisations, focusing on various aspects of international affairs. When speaking at a Model United Nations conference, you may wish to refer to the work of one of these organisations. For a full list, and links to each organisation's website, visit **www.unsystem.org**.

Some of the most important UN programmes and agencies are as follows:

International Labour Organization (ILO)
www.ilo.org   Promotes social justice and human and labour rights

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
www.unicef.org   Promotes children's rights worldwide

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
www.unctad.org   Helps developing countries to integrate into the world economy

UN Women
www.unwomen.org   Works towards gender equality and empowerment of women

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
www.undp.org   Network for international development, co-ordinating efforts to reach the UN's Millennium Development Goals

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
www.unesco.org   Contributes to international peace and understanding through education, science and culture

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
www.unhcr.org   Protects and supports refugees and asylum seekers worldwide

World Health Organization (WHO)
www.who.int   Aims to attain the highest possible level of health for all people

For more detailed information about the work of the UN and its agencies, visit **www.un.org**.

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3. PROCEDURES FOR THE DAY

A Model United Nations conference will consist of either two sessions (each dealing with a different international issue) or one extended session (dealing with one issue in greater detail). The following is a typical conference programme:

9.15am	Delegates to be seated
9.20am	Welcome
9.25am	President's address
9.30am	Introduction to procedures
9.45am	Opening Speech
9.50am	Statements of Position
10.25am	Presentation of draft resolutions and amendments
11.55am	Press Report
12.00pm	Lunch
12.50pm	Opening Speech
12.55pm	Statements of Position
1.35pm	Presentation of draft resolutions and amendments
2.50pm	Press Report
2.55pm	Evaluation
3.00pm	Close

The *Quick Reference Guide to Procedures* (pages 9-10) gives you an idea of what each person taking part in the conference should be doing at each stage. You should also be aware that the President of the conference may introduce an **emergency situation** at any stage without prior notice. It is a good idea to keep an eye on current news stories shortly before the conference, so that you are aware of significant international issues which may arise during the proceedings.

Two rooms are used in each conference:
- the **Council Chamber** (usually a real local government debating chamber), used for the Opening Speech, Statements of Position, debates and voting;
- the **Committee Room** (a smaller room, usually for 15-25 people), used for negotiations between delegations.

Please try to divide your time between the two rooms during the conference, so that you gain a fuller understanding of how international discussions progress.

These are a few basic rules which will help the day run smoothly:

1. Please get involved as much as possible. The conference will be far less interesting if some delegations don't join in!

2. At least one member from each delegation must remain in the main chamber at all times. This includes the International Press and UN Secretariat.

3. Negotiations (even within your own country) should be carried out in the Committee Room. The only people who may talk in the main chamber are the President, the Vice-President and any delegate the President calls upon to speak.

4. Each delegation will be provided with a nameplate, and each country with a flag. Use your nameplate to indicate that your delegation wishes to speak (by turning it on its end and leaving it in that position until you have spoken) and to vote (by raising it in the air).

5. Please be punctual: this means arriving on time at the beginning of the day, and returning promptly after lunch and any other break called by the President. There is a lot to do during the day, so it is important that we stick to the prepared timetable.

6. Your rubbish is your responsibility. Local councils kindly allow us to use their places of work for these conferences, and they must be left spotless. Bin bags will be available at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

What you need to bring on the day

1. **Your research notes.**
   - Keep your notes well organised – perhaps in a folder or clip file – as this will help you when preparing resolutions or answering questions in the chamber.
   - If you have printed out material from the internet, or photocopied material from the library, bring it with you. It may be useful to refer to such articles, as well as to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and *Convention on the Rights of the Child* provided by CEWC.
   - Try to think of criticisms that other delegations may make of your country, and write down some prepared replies in bullet points.
   - If two topics are to be discussed during the day, it's a good idea to arrange these in two groups, with a set of notes on each of the topics being discussed.

2. **A prepared Statement of Position on each topic being discussed.**
   For more information, see *How to Write a Statement of Position*.

3. **Pens and paper**, including note-sized paper for passing information and negotiation requests to other delegations.

4. *Optional:* **draft resolutions, which may be presented on the day.**
   For more information, see *Sample Resolutions*.

4. HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE DAY

Once you know which country or organisation your delegation is representing and which issue(s) are going to be discussed, you can begin your research. This should fall into two key areas:

> 1. **Your country or organisation**
> 2. **The issue(s)**

CEWC provides an overview of each issue to be discussed, as well as links to recent press stories relating to the issue.

If you are representing the International Press, you should still research the issues to be discussed. It would also be helpful to understand the standards to which journalists are expected to conform: for example, see **www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp** for the Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics.

If you are representing the UN Secretariat, you do not need to undertake your own research. However, you may wish to help other delegations in their preparations.

Your country or organisation

a) If you are representing a country

Before you consider your position on the issues under discussion, make sure that you have a good general understanding of your country. Consider the following matters:

- **Location:** where are you geographically? Who are your neighbours?

- **Government:** what sort of government do you have (e.g. democracy, military dictatorship)? What roles do the leader and parliament take? Who elects the government?
  Remember: even if you don't support this form of government, it is your country's system and your decisions at the conference should reflect this.

- **Economy and trade:** do you have a stable economy? Are you an industrial or agrarian economy? What are your main imports and exports? How rich or poor are your people? How effectively do you trade with other countries? Are you in debt to others?
  This is especially important. Resolutions created at Model UN conferences sometimes propose that you give money for something or change your economic practices. If this is going to have a big impact on your country, you must speak up!

- **Ethnicity and religion:** what are the major ethnic and religious groups? Do these affect how your country is governed and the decisions it takes?

- **International relations:** how does your country work with others? Who are its friends and enemies? What international organisations do you belong to?

- **Human rights:** does your country have a history of human rights abuses? Are any groups of people treated differently from others?

- **History:** how and when was your country formed? Is there a history of civil war? Have you previously intervened on international issues?

- **Environment:** what is your country's climate? Are you a mountainous or flat country? How much access do you have to natural resources?

b) If you are representing a non-governmental organisation (NGO)

Before you consider your position on the issues under discussion, make sure that you have a good general understanding of your organisation. Consider the following areas:

- **Mission:** what does your NGO do? What are your chief aims?

- **Values:** what is your NGO's moral stance on issues? Are there certain possible proposals which you cannot support, or governments with whom you cannot work?

- **Geographical focus:** NGOs at Model UN conferences will be those with a global reach. But in which areas of the world do you particularly focus your work?

- **Campaigns:** many NGOs run short-term campaigns to raise public awareness of certain issues, or to encourage governments to act in a specific area. What campaigns are you currently running, and how might these be affected by discussions that will take place in the General Assembly?

The issues

Please research the issues to be discussed at the conference in as much detail as you can. The information supplied by CEWC provides only a basic introduction to the issues. In particular, you should try to establish your country or organisation's views on each issue.

Here are some suggested ways of doing this research:
- Read the *briefing pack* so that you understand the key aspects of each issue.
- Check the list of *Useful Websites* for any that are directly relevant to the issues.
- Find news sources using the list at the back of the briefing pack, and check media agencies in your country for their slant on the issue.
- Ask a teacher about their knowledge of the issue. For example, geography teachers may be able to tell you about sustainable development issues, and economics teachers can explain how international trade works.

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- Try to find out what your government has done regarding the issue. Your country's Embassy/High Commission (see **www.fco.gov.uk**) or Honorary Consul in Wales can be useful in this regard: don't be afraid to contact them by e-mail or letter, explaining what you are doing and asking for your government's official position on an issue. Remember to be formal and leave plenty of time for a reply.
- If you can't find out your government's position on a specific issue, try to make an educated guess based on your general research.

5. HOW TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF POSITION

Your Statement of Position is your delegation's chance to speak out unchallenged by the rest of the General Assembly or Security Council. We usually ask delegations to speak only on one of the two issues under discussion on the day, so it's important that you put your points across clearly so that everybody knows where you stand.

Make sure that you've practised your speech. While you might want to write out a full speech in your preparation, you will come across better on the day if you speak from notes (e.g. bullet points). Having notes also means you can alter your speech as other delegations make their Statements, noting agreement or disagreement with their views. This will put you in a strong negotiating position.

If you follow these steps you should have a well-rounded speech.

1. **Describe how this issue is important for your country.**
   If you don't feel that the issue is directly relevant to your country, you can at least offer practical help to your friends in the international community.

2. **Suggest possible responses to the situation.**
   You may already have formulated these as a draft resolution. You can also add your reaction to other delegations' suggestions.

3. **Inform the Assembly of what your country can offer.**
   This could be monetary aid, specialist knowledge, a policy that is already working in your country, or simply moral support.

4. **Suggest what other countries should do.**
   This is your chance to influence the behaviour of other UN members, and to comment on existing policies which you support or disagree with.

Most delegations will have 2 minutes to make their Statement of Position. Don't try to squeeze in all your research; instead, make references to information that you have at your disposal, letting other delegations ask you for further details later in the proceedings if they so wish.

If your delegation is making an **Opening Speech**, then you have 5 minutes. Before moving on to give your country's views, you should give an overview of the issue and how it affects the international community as a whole.

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WHEN MAKING YOUR STATEMENT, REMEMBER:
- **Speak slowly and clearly – everybody wants to know what you've got to say.**
- **If no microphone is available, stand up and speak as loudly as possible.**
- **Be expressive (even passionate) – this is your chance to get your views across!**

6. PRODUCING A RESOLUTION

During the course of the conference you will help to create a resolution to be agreed by the United Nations. This will be created during intensive negotiations between delegations in the Committee Room.

You can propose either of the following:
- A **resolution**. This is a new idea for action by the UN. It will usually have several **clauses**, each containing a related action point.
- An **amendment**. This proposes changes to existing resolutions under discussion. Often, a resolution will not be agreed in its existing form, and one or more written amendments will be needed to make it acceptable.

You should write your resolution or amendment on a resolution sheet, which looks like this:

RESOLUTION/AMENDMENT RELATING TO…	◄	Write down the issue to which your resolution/amendment relates, e.g. child labour, human rights abuses by a specific country, capital punishment.
DELEGATION PROPOSING:	◄	Under **delegation proposing**, write the name of your country or NGO. The proposing delegation will be the first to speak in support of the resolution/amendment.
CO-SPONSORS:		Under **co-sponsors**, write the names of countries or NGOs which support your proposal following negotiations. All proposals must be co-sponsored.
ACTION: RESOLUTION/AMENDMENT *(DELETE AS APPLICABLE)* …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… …………………………………………………… ……………………………………………………	◄	Write your point(s) of action. This will include your resolution/amendment for the General Assembly or Security Council to support. Examples: *In light of the recent action/incident/situation relating to the use of child labour in …………… , we propose that ……………* or *Noting the record of abuse of its minority population over many years by the government of …………… , we call upon the General Assembly to ……………*

Each resolution/amendment must be negotiated in the Committee Room, and must have at least one **co-sponsor** (other country supporting it). This may mean changing the wording of the resolution/amendment to suit another country. Once you have got at least one co-sponsor, bring the resolution sheet back into the main chamber and pass it (via the Secretariat) to the Vice-President. The Vice-President will then choose which resolution/amendment will be debated next.

After a short debate, the President will call a vote on the resolution/amendment. If it passes, it will become part of a **final resolution**, which will be voted on at the end of the session.

Please note:
- Co-sponsors will be expected to speak in support of the resolution/amendment during discussion.
- Observer countries and NGOs can propose a resolution/amendment, but must be co-sponsored by a voting country.

A good resolution

Here are some principles for a good resolution.

(1) It should include some detail. For example:
- *Who* is being addressed or requested to do something (e.g. the government of a particular country, the UN as a whole, a UN agency);
- *What* they are being asked to do (e.g. give money, set up a new body, refer the situation to the Security Council);
- Other details (e.g. deadline for action, how much money, how many countries, who will check that it has been acted on).

(2) It should be practical. Don't write a resolution calling for the immediate end to war in all of Africa, or for all the world's children to be given access to education within 6 months.

(3) It should be formal and clear. Instead of writing "Britain should not bomb people in Iraq", consider writing "Calls for an immediate withdrawal of the UK's troops from Iraq."

Advanced resolutions

A basic resolution need only contain one or two clauses, separated with bullet points. However, if you wish to write a more advanced resolution, try to include the following:
- a **preamble**, explaining why the clause has been written. This can use information from your research, from other delegates' speeches and even from past decisions made by the UN.
- **active verbs** in your clauses, such as "Calls for" or "Demands". This helps other delegations to understand how strongly you feel about a particular point.

See the *Sample Resolutions* (section 7) for examples.

Useful words/phrases for preamble:

* Affirming * Alarmed by * Approving * Aware of * Believing * Bearing in mind * Confident
* Contemplating * Convinced * Declaring * Deeply concerned * Deeply conscious
* Deeply convinced * Deeply disturbed by * Deeply regretting * Desiring * Emphasising * Expecting
* Expressing * Fulfilling * Fully aware * Fully believing * Further deploring * Further recalling
* Guided by * Having adopted * Having considered * Having examined * Having heard
* Keeping in mind * Noting * Observing * Realising * Reaffirming * Recalling * Recognising
* Referring to * Seeking * Taking into account * Viewing with appreciation * Welcoming

Active verbs for clauses:

* Accepts * Affirms* Approves * Asks * Authorises * Calls * Calls upon * Condemns * Congratulates
* Confirms * Considers * Declares accordingly * Deplores * Draws the attention * Designates
* Emphasises * Encourages * Endorses * Expresses its appreciation * Expresses its hope
* Further invites * Further proclaims * Further recommends * Further resolves * Further requests
* Have resolved * Notes * Proclaims * Reaffirms * Recommends * Reminds * Regrets * Requests
* Solemnly affirms * Suggests * Supports * Trusts * Takes note of * Transmits * Urges

7. SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS

United Nations A/RES/59/279 (extracts from a 'real life' resolution)

General Assembly Distr.: General

28 January 2005   **Fifty-ninth session**   Agenda item 39   04-49300
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/59/L.58 and Add.1)*]

59/279. Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The General Assembly,

Expressing sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the victims, their families, the Governments and the peoples of those States that suffered huge losses of life and socio-economic and environmental damage from the unprecedented tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian regions on 26 December 2004,

Commending the prompt response, support, generous contributions to and assistance of the international community, by Governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals, in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, which reflect the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation to address the disaster,

Commending also the leading role of the affected States and the role of the United Nations in addressing the disaster, and recognizing the importance of cooperation for effective mobilization, coordination and delivery of international assistance in the emergency relief phase,

Welcoming the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005 in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, and the pledges made by donor countries and international financial institutions for the affected countries,

Welcoming also the launching of the Indian Ocean earthquake-tsunami 2005 flash appeal by the Secretary-General to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of communities severely affected by the earthquake and tsunami and the outcome of the Ministerial-level Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Tsunami-affected Communities, held in Geneva on 11 January 2005.....

.....1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in a massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries;.....

4. *Encourages* the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to deliver swiftly on their pledges and to continue to provide the necessary funds and assistance to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;.....

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative in order to, inter alia, sustain the political will of the international community to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction efforts led by the Governments of affected countries at all levels...

Model UN resolution relating to the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention

DELEGATION PROPOSING: TURKEY

This Model United Nations General Assembly:

1. **Calls upon** the General Assembly to pledge swift and substantial help, in terms of finance and personnel, to those countries facing the main brunt of any influx of refugees as a result of military intervention in Iraq;

2. **Calls for** the international distribution of refugees, dependent upon the economic means-testing of individual nations. The 'first safe country' principle must only be a temporary measure;

3. **Asks** the more economically developed states of Western Europe and North America to offer financial aid that is commensurate with their means;

4. **Calls upon** all developed countries to pledge the cancelling of debts owed to them by developing countries under pressure from a refugee situation;

5. **Urges** nations to prioritise the needs of refugee children, and to provide help particularly for children and women, to help them access their human rights.

Adopted at the Model United Nations General Assembly at County Hall, Cardiff on 5 March 2003.

8. INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND UN SECRETARIAT

At each Model United Nations conference, the International Press and UN Secretariat will be represented in addition to countries and NGOs. Please read about their roles, whether or not you are taking part as one of these delegations.

International Press

The International Press is present at the conference to report on the day's events.

If you are representing the Press, you may **interview** delegates in the Committee Room, **gather quotes** and **intercept notes** passed during the meeting. At least one member of your delegation should be present in the Council Chamber at all times, to keep track of the speeches and debates taking place there. You should use these various sources of information to write **International Press Releases**, which can be posted in the Council Chamber.

At the end of each session, the International Press will be asked to give a 3-minute verbal report to the assembled delegates, summarising the discussions and events. A written press release, summarising the day's events, may also be sent to your local papers.

Other delegations should take these bulletins into account during the debate. Some dramatic news might emerge that could alter the direction of the debate and the actions that various countries/organisations would want to take.

Some delegations may wish to leak a story to the press to help strengthen their position. Others might attempt to discredit 'enemy' countries/organisations by feeding false information or distorting information. These may also be posted as news bulletins.

UN Secretariat

The UN Secretariat helps events at a Model United Nations conference to run smoothly by assisting the President, Vice-President and delegates. The following are some of the tasks that they are asked to perform:

1. Acting as runners

To cut down on movement and noise in the Council Chamber, delegates who want to meet with members of other delegations must do so via the Secretariat. They should hand to a member of the Secretariat a note to deliver to the delegation with which they would like to meet. Members of both delegations may then go to the Committee Room to negotiate.

When delegations return to the Council Chamber with a proposed resolution or amendment, this should be handed to a member of the Secretariat, who will pass it on to the Vice-President.

The President and Vice-President may also write notes for delegations during the course of the conference, and will circulate forms to delegates at various stages of the day. The Secretariat will be asked to deliver these.

2. Keeping the Speaker's List

When a delegate wishes to speak, s/he should indicate this by turning their delegation's nameplate on its end. A member of the Secretariat should note which delegations wish to speak, in the order that they raise their nameplates. This list should be passed regularly to the President.

3. Helping to count votes

The Secretariat may also be asked to assist the President and Vice-President in counting votes cast on resolutions or amendments.

All delegations are asked to use the services of the Secretariat in a polite and efficient way. You should not ask them to pass notes which are irrelevant to UN proceedings.

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9. LEARNING THROUGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES

Model United Nations conferences are not only an enjoyable way of learning about the UN and international affairs, they can also help you with your studies. This is a list of links between our conferences and the National Curriculum and subject specifications in Wales. Please note that the list is not exhaustive.

R indicates an objective met during research period
C indicates an objective met in the conference itself

Key Skills for Key Stage 4, A level and Welsh Baccalaureate

- Listen carefully, noting the strengths and weaknesses of viewpoints or lines of reasoning and show adaptability. Make significant contributions to discussions. **R/C**
- Use different reading strategies to locate, select and summarise information, identifying they key points. **R**
- Write coherently, presenting ideas and information logically and effectively. **R**
- Communicate ideas, emotions and information confidently and consistently through more complex and elaborate work in a range of mediums. **R/C**

Key Stage 4 – compulsory subjects

Personal and Social Education – Skills
- Listen perceptively in a range of situations, and respond appropriately. **C**
- Appreciate, reflect on and critically evaluate other points of view. **C**
- Resolve conflict with a win/win solution. **C**
- Adapt to changing situations. **C**
- Work both independently and cooperatively to plan and complete a range of tasks. **R/C**

Personal and Social Education – Range
- Understand how political systems work locally, nationally and internationally, *e.g. the European Union, the United Nations.* **R/C**
- Understand local and global contemporary issues and events, *e.g. homelessness and international migration.* **R/C**

English
- Identify key points and follow up ideas through probing question and comment in order to find ways of negotiating consensus and compromise, where appropriate**. C**
- Evaluate their own and others' talk, taking account of strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the quality of their talk. **C**
- Make appropriate references to text, cross-referencing and using quotations to justify opinions and conclusions. **R**

Welsh
- View and listen carefully to complex information, extracting the main points. **C**
- Respond extensively by:
  - ○ evaluating other people's opinions **R/C**
  - ○ considering the use of evidence, suggestion and that which is implicit in what is said **C**
- Expressing opinions effectively and confidently, using evidence to construct an argument, defend a viewpoint and be persuasive. **R/C**

Key Stage 4 – optional subjects (WJEC)

Geography
- Develop citizenship knowledge, skills and understanding. With an emphasis on inter-dependence at a range of scales, including global, planning issues, quality of life, and the delicate inter-relationship between people and their environment. **R/C**

Sociology
- Give students opportunities to develop an understanding of the interdependence of individuals, groups, institutions and societies. **R/C**

AS/A2 levels (WJEC)

Geography
- Draw together and apply a student's relevant knowledge and understanding of the world, and skills of enquiry. **R/C**

Sociology
- Gain an understanding of social control and significant sociological debates. R
- Apply their knowledge and understanding of social theory and debate to a variety of contexts and concerns. **R/C**

World Development
- Develop knowledge of international relations, institutions and systems of governance within political studies. **R/C**

Welsh Baccalaureate – Wales, Europe and the World

Political Issues
- Provides opportunities for students to engage in debate about why people should be concerned about politics and political issues, and the ways countries can help to improve international co-operation and understanding. **C**

Skills
- Provide students with a wide range of experiences that will equip them for living in the modern world. **C**
- Develop wider skills such as teamwork, problem solving, communication, planning and management. **R/C**
- Developing a presentation so it is accurate, clear and presented consistently, taking account of the views of others. *R*

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC)

Key Concepts
Model UN conferences can help students to explore several 'key concepts' of ESDGC, including interdependence, citizenship and stewardship, sustainable change and conflict resolution. **C**

Common Understanding
The *Common Understanding for Schools* provides a structured approach to ESDGC for teachers to follow in various curriculum areas. Model UN conferences can help deliver requirements such as exploring Wealth and Poverty, understanding Choices and Decisions, Health, Identity and Culture, and developing effective skills in thinking and communication. **R/C**

10. MODEL UNITED NATIONS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) How will I get the most out of the day?
First, make sure you do your research, so that you are armed with information on the day. Secondly, use the guidance on writing a good resolution; this will help you to explain your country's ideas on paper. Thirdly, and most importantly, you need to speak out on the day. The more you say, the more people will negotiate with you and the more involved your country will be in the decision-making process.

2) Can I speak in Welsh?
Where a minimum number of Welsh speakers are registered for a Model UN conference, CEWC provides simultaneous translation, and you are welcome to speak in Welsh throughout the day. See the event registration form for more information.

3) What should we wear?
These meetings are formal events; therefore, we expect you to dress smartly. This can be either in your country's traditional dress or in formal wear such as a shirt and tie.

4) What should we bring?
 Please see the list in Section 3 (*Procedures for the Day*).

5) Do we have to say exactly what our country would say?
Model UN conferences work best when each delegation represents its nation's views with a degree of accuracy. Clearly there are things that certain countries are highly unlikely to say (e.g. Cuba expressing its approval of capitalism). However, you may decide to make your country slightly more or less progressive for the simulation, and this is not a problem as long as you explain your viewpoint.

6) What if I don't agree with the views of the country I'm representing?
The success of Model UN conferences depends on agreeing a solution that is acceptable to most countries – even if they do have widely differing viewpoints. Some countries are governed in a way that might shock you; but by researching the background to these views and spending the day arguing for them, you will learn more about how world leaders have to work than if you radically change your country's point of view. Remember that no-one will believe that these views are your own and you can share your personal view of events at lunchtime or once the day is over.

7) Can we change our opinions during the conference?
If another delegation's argument persuades you to change your position on the issue being discussed, this is not a problem; indeed, it is to be encouraged as part of the negotiation process. However, if you do change your standpoint on an issue it is important to let the rest of the meeting know as this will affect who will want to negotiate with you.

8) How do I know who to negotiate with?
During the Opening Speech and Statements of Position you should get a feel as to which countries are thinking along the same lines as you. If a country raises one of the issues you are concerned about, start negotiating with its delegates as early as possible. As proceedings get closer to a vote, you may wish to negotiate with countries that don't agree, in order to persuade them to vote in your favour.

9) **How do I make sure my resolution is debated?**
   In order for your resolution to be debated in the main chamber it is important that it is clear, detailed and well supported. Resolutions should detail specific actions rather than make general statements. Please read carefully Sections 6 and 7 in this pack: *Producing a Resolution* and *Sample Resolutions*.

10) **Who can help me if I have a problem before the day?**
   If you have a problem during the research period, check this pack first. If that doesn't help, talk to your fellow students or teacher. If you are still unsure, please contact us on **cewc@wcia.org.uk** or 029 2022 8549.

11) **Who can help me on the day?**
   If you have a problem on the day itself, write it down and pass it the Vice-President via the Secretariat. He or she will guide you through any problems you are having.

12) **How will this help with my studies?**
   As well as being a great day out, CEWC's Model United Nations conferences tie in with both the National Curriculum and qualifications such as GCSE, A levels and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Please see *Learning through Model United Nations Conferences* for more details.

13) **I didn't attend a CEWC briefing for the conference – can I still take part?**
   CEWC briefings provide an introduction to the UN and the issues under discussion, as well as a more detailed description of the day's activities. If you didn't attend one, you can still take part in the conference – just be sure to read this pack and do your research, and contact us if you have any questions about the day's procedures.

14) **Is lunch provided on the day of the conference?**
   Our budget for Model UN conferences is quite small; therefore, unless you are told otherwise, please bring a packed lunch or be prepared to pay for lunch on the day. We do, however, provide basic refreshments during the day.

15) **Can we keep the flags?**
   This is the most asked question at all our Model UN events. Unfortunately, the answer is no. We run at least six events each year, and it is too expensive to buy new flags for each one!

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11. GLOSSARY

Amendment	A change made to a **resolution**, to make it more acceptable to the majority of voting countries.
Clause	One action point of a **resolution**.
Committee Room	The smaller room at a Model United Nations conference, used for negotiations between delegations.
Co-sponsor	A **delegation** which agrees to support a **resolution**.
Council Chamber	The larger room at a Model United Nations conference, used for speeches and debates on resolutions.
Delegate	One member of a **delegation**.
Delegation	A group of three **delegates**, representing a country, **NGO**, **International Press** or **Secretariat**.
Final Resolution	A resolution which is voted on at the end of each **session**, combining all the action points which have been agreed during that session.
General Assembly	The UN's democratic body, containing representatives of all its 191 member states. In Model UN conferences, around 20 to 30 countries will typically be present.
NGO	A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is an agency such as Oxfam or WaterAid, which may be invited to the Model UN conference to take part in debates relevant to its work.
Observer country	A non-voting country. In the General Assembly, this will be a country not recognised as a sovereign state, such as Palestine or Western Sahara. In the Security Council, all countries other than the 15 voting members are observers.
Opening speech	A 5-minute speech made by one country at the beginning of a **session**, introducing the issue to be discussed and possible actions to be taken.
Preamble	The preamble to a **resolution** explains why it has been written. For more information, see *Advanced resolutions* in Section 6.
President and Vice-President	In Model UN conferences, the President chairs the debate in the **Council Chamber**, calls on delegations to speak, and calls votes at appropriate times. The Vice-President assists by recommending resolutions for discussion, reading out those resolutions, and providing general help to delegates.

Proposer	The country/organisation which formulates a **resolution**.
Resolution	A new idea for action by the UN. It will usually have several **clauses**.
Secretariat	In Model UN conferences, members of the Secretariat carry messages between delegations, help the President to keep an ordered list of speakers, and provide other assistance when necessary.
Security Council	The UN body which deals with peace and international security matters. See *About the UN* for more information.
Session	A period in which to reach a resolution on one specific issue. A Model UN conference comprises either one or two sessions.
Statement of Position	A speech made by a delegation, setting out its position on the issue under discussion.
Veto	In Security Council voting, a veto is a vote against by any of the five permanent members of the Council. This means that a resolution or amendment falls, no matter how much support there is from other voting members.
Voting country	In the General Assembly, all member states of the UN may vote. In the Security Council, only the 15 member countries may vote, and a roll-call is normally made for the purposes of voting.

USEFUL WEBSITES

The following websites provide detailed information about topics relevant to the activities of the United Nations. They include inter-governmental bodies, agencies of the UN, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

International Organisations

europa.eu	European Union
www.acpsec.org	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
www.african-union.org	African Union
www.arableagueonline.org	Arab League of States
www.aseansec.org	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
www.thecommonwealth.org	Commonwealth
www.comunidadandina.org	Andean Community
www.g77.org	Group of 77 developing countries
www.nato.int	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
www.oas.org	Organization of American States
www.riia.org	Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House)
www.spc.int	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
www.un.org	United Nations
www.una.org.uk	United Nations Association UK
www.unsystem.org	Links to all UN agencies' websites
www.wcia.org.uk	Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Energy and Environment

www.foe.co.uk	Friends of the Earth
www.forumforthefuture.org.uk	Sustainable development charity
www.globalwitness.org	Links between resources, conflict and corruption
www.greenpeace.org.uk	Greenpeace
www.iaea.org	International Atomic Energy Agency
www.iea.org	International Energy Agency
www.iied.org	International Institute for Environment and Development
www.ipcc.ch	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
www.tourismconcern.org.uk	Tourism Concern
www.wateraid.org.uk	WaterAid
www.wwf.org	Worldwide Fund for Nature

Human Rights and Children's Rights

www.amnesty.org.uk	Amnesty International
www.anti-slavery.org	Anti-Slavery International
www.ecpat.org.uk	End Child Prostitution
www.globalexchange.org	Global Exchange
www.hrea.org	Human Rights Education Associates
www.hrw.org	Human Rights Watch
www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk	Civil liberties watchdog
www.minorityrights.org	Minority Rights Group International
www.womankind.org.uk	Women's development and human rights
www.worldaudit.org	Reports on democracy, rights etc.

International Aid Agencies

www.actionaid.org.uk	ActionAid
www.cafod.org.uk	Catholic Fund for Overseas Development
www.christian-aid.org.uk	Christian Aid
www.msf.org	Médecins sans Frontières
www.oxfam.org.uk	Oxfam
www.savethechildren.org.uk	Save the Children

Peace and Conflict

www.acronym.org.uk	Acronym Institute (conflict issues)
www.caat.org.uk	Campaign Against the Arms Trade
www.cartercentre.org	Peace programmes
www.child-soldiers.org	Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
www.cnduk.org	Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
www.incore.ulst.ac.uk	Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity
www.iwa.org	Institute of World Affairs
www.landmines.org.uk	Adopt-A-Minefield
www.nato.int	North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Poverty and Global Economics

www.fairtrade.org.uk	Fairtrade Foundation
www.iie.com	Institute for International Economics
www.imf.org	International Monetary Fund
www.waronwant.org	War On Want
www.wdm.org.uk	World Development Movement
www.weforum.org	World Economic Forum
www.worldbank.org	World Bank
www.wto.org	World Trade Organization

Refugees

www.ecre.org	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
www.refintl.org	Refugees International
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk	Refugee Council
www.unhcr.org	The UN refugee agency

News Sources

news.bbc.co.uk	BBC News (recommended)
news.google.com	Search thousands of sources
scicentral.com	Science news
www.economist.com	Political and economic news
www.indymedia.org	Independent news
www.newint.com	News on development issues
www.newstrawler.com	News search site

Others

www.africacentre.org.uk	Raises awareness about Africa
www.aidschannel.org	Resources on HIV/AIDS
www.campaignforeducation.org	Global Campaign for Education
www.cgfi.org	Center for Global Food Issues
www.consumersinternational.org	Consumers International
www.ei-ie.org	Education International
www.globalissues.org	Information about many issues
www.helpage.org	Global network of organisations working for older people
www.homeless-international.org	Homeless International
www.oneworld.net	Gateway for many world issues
www.peopleandplanet.org	Student campaigns on poverty, human rights, environment
www.populationconcern.org.uk	Population Concern
www.sgr.org.uk	Scientists for Global Responsibility
www.survival-international.org	Supports tribal peoples
www.twnside.org.sg	Issues affecting developing countries

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