

Student Model United Nations 2010

Food Security

Friday, May 7, 2010
HJA Brown Education Centre
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participant Guide

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What to expect at the Model UN

The 2010 Model United Nations will be held on May 7 at the HJA Brown Education Centre. Twenty-four member states are represented at the Model United Nations and each is invited to have 10 delegates present. The state's UN Ambassador will sit at the board table and speak on behalf of the state.

The Model UN is a full-day event that runs from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. Here is an example of how the day will be structured:

8:30 a.m.	registration
9 a.m.	welcome and keynote presentation
9:50 a.m.	morning break
10:05 a.m.	question and answer with keynote presenter
10:45 a.m.	tabling of resolution
11 a.m.	.member states presentations on resolution (2 minutes each)
12 p.m..	working lunch to lobby and draft alternate resolutions
1 p.m.	alternate resolutions submitted
1:15 p.m.	alternate resolutions distributed for review of member nations
1:30 p.m.	reconvene in board room for open debate on resolution and alternate resolutions
2:45 p.m.	break
3 p.m.	open debate continues
3:40 p.m.	standing vote on resolution and alternate resolution
4 p.m.	closing remarks and wrap up

Registration

When your team arrives, have a representative pick up your country package at the registration desk. The package will contain important information about the day, including a flash drive with a template that can be used to *create an alternate resolution*.

Welcome and keynote

After a brief welcome, delegates will hear a keynote presentation that will provide additional information about the topic that you may be able to use in the development of your alternate resolution and in the open debate. Each member of your delegation should take notes and be listening for valuable information to support your position.

Question and answer session

You will have about 40 minutes to ask questions of the keynote presenter. When asking a question, identify the country you represent. Phrase your questions specifically based on the presenter's remarks and your state's position on the topic.

Member states presentations

Each country will have **two minutes** to present their state's position on the resolution. This should be a pre-written speech that is delivered by your UN Ambassador who is seated at the board table. You will only be allowed two minutes, so please plan appropriately.

Working lunch to lobby other member states and draft alternate resolutions

You will have from 12 to 1 p.m. to lobby, form alliances and draft an alternate resolution. In order for the resolution to be considered, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The alternate resolution must be submitted on the flash drive provided in your registration package and must be formatted using the template that is on the flash drive.
- The alternate resolution must be seconded by at least one other country in order for it to be considered.
- The alternate resolution must be submitted by **1 p.m.** to the Assistant to the Secretary General at his desk in the atrium.

Member states are encouraged to bring a laptop; however, computer stations will be available in the atrium. After 1 p.m., the alternate resolutions will be distributed to all countries for consideration prior to the start of the open debate. Each of the alternate resolutions will be voted on, as well as the proposed resolution.

Open debate

The open debate will run for almost two hours. The UN Ambassadors will answer any questions addressed to their state. They will also actively participate in the debate. All other delegates may participate in the debate by using one of the microphones in the General Assembly. Speakers will be selected based on the order of their request to speak.

Vote on the resolution

Following the debate, a standing vote will be held on the proposed resolution and all alternate resolutions. A majority is required for a resolution to pass.

How do I prepare for the Model United Nations?

The Model UN is a fast paced, high-energy day. It is important to come to the event with a firm understanding of the topic and your country's position on the topic. There are many things you should do to prepare your team for the event.

Choosing a country to represent

Meet as a team to discuss what country you would like to represent. You will select from the list of countries below. Decide on a first, second and third choice. You must choose your country before registering. As schools register, the school name and chosen country will be posted online in the 'Student Stuff' section of www.peelschools.org. Click on the "Model UN" link to find the list.

At the 2010 Model UN, the following countries will be represented:

Australia	Japan *
Brazil *	Kenya
Canada	Mexico *
China **	Netherlands
Ecuador	Nigeria
Egypt	Peru
France **	Philippines
Germany	Russian Federation **
Ghana	South Africa
India	Uganda *
Islamic Republic of Iran	United Kingdom **
Jamaica	United States **

**** indicates a permanent Security Council member**

*** indicates a non-permanent Security Council member**

Registering for the event

To register your team and country, go to the 'Student Stuff' section of www.peelschools.org and click on the Model UN link. You will receive a confirmation e-mail once your registration has been received. Supply coverage is **not** available for this event.

Understanding your position

Once your team is registered and your country selected, begin researching your country's position on the topic. You may want to break into groups to do this. You should familiarize yourself with all international treaties, declarations and conventions pertaining to the topic, whether your country has supported the declaration and whether it is being enforced in your country. A list of online resources will be posted in the 'Student Stuff' section of www.peelschools.org and can be found by clicking on the "Model UN" link.

Preparing your arguments

When preparing arguments for a debate, it is important to do three things:

- list all the reasons to support your state's position
- identify all possible arguments against your position
- formulate counter arguments to rebut arguments against your position

Tips for debating

- **using statistics** – if you will be using statistics in your arguments, make sure you know where the information was found. Should you be challenged, the burden will be on you to prove the validity of the facts. Not being able to do this will weaken your country's position.
- **challenging other teams** – before coming to the event, access the list of schools and countries represented in the 'Student Stuff' section of www.peelschools.org by clicking on the Model UN link. You may want to identify specific arguments that you can make against other states. For example, it may be helpful to have information about crop diversity or trade practices in the other states represented. Realize that other teams will be looking for the same information about your state. You must be prepared to defend yourself.
- **forming an alliance** – if your state traditionally aligns with other UN member states that will be represented at the event, try to connect with that team at the event. You may be able to influence the outcome of the day by forming alliances and working together to draft an alternate resolution.

Submitting an alternate resolution

Your country has the option of submitting an alternate resolution. Alternate resolutions must be submitted **before 1 p.m.** on the day of the Model UN. In order for the resolution to be considered, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The alternate resolution must be submitted on the flash drive provided in your registration package and must be formatted using the template that is on the flash drive.
- The alternate resolution must be seconded by at least one other country in order for it to be considered.
- The alternate resolution must be submitted by **1 p.m.** to the assistant to the Secretary General at his desk in the atrium.

Countries are encouraged to bring their own laptop; however, if this is not possible, computer stations will be available in the atrium. After 1 p.m., the alternate resolutions will be distributed to all countries for consideration prior to the start of the open debate. Each of the alternate resolutions will be voted on, as well as the proposed resolution.

Preparation checklist

Use this check list to make sure that you are prepared for the Model UN

	Timeline	Task
	As early as possible	Form a team of 10 delegates and choose a country to represent from the list provided: Australia Brazil * Canada China ** Ecuador Egypt France ** Germany Ghana India Islamic Republic of Iran Jamaica Japan * Kenya Mexico * Netherlands Nigeria Peru Philippines Russian Federation ** South Africa Uganda * United Kingdom ** United States **
	By April 9	Register your team at www.peelschools.org in the 'Student Stuff' section by clicking on the Model UN link.
		Receive a confirmation e-mail confirming that your registration has been received and which country you will be representing
		Access the list of resources posted on www.peelschools.org in the 'Student Stuff' section by clicking on the Model UN link. Use these resources to start your research.
		Familiarize yourself with all international treaties, declarations and conventions that are related to the topic. Know your country's position on all these documents and if they are being enforced.
		Begin preparing arguments to support your position on the resolution
		Consider if your country will submit an alternate resolution. Begin a draft version that can be finalized at the meeting.
		Identify all arguments that may be made against your country
		Develop counter arguments to defend your country's position
		Write a two-minute speech to be delivered by the UN Ambassador
	May 7	Arrive at the Model UN on May 7 ready to lobby, debate and vote

Model UN 2010

The issue

According to the World Food Program, 1.02 billion people—or one in six—do not get enough food to be healthy. The key causes of hunger are:

- natural disasters
- conflict
- poverty
- poor agricultural infrastructure
- allocation of resources
- over-exploitation of the environment

The recent economic crisis has pushed more people into hunger.

Hunger is more than having an empty stomach—micronutrient deficiencies increase susceptibility to infectious diseases, impair physical and mental development, reduce labour productivity and increase the risk of premature death.

The *right to food* is included in the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as other instruments. It has also been recognized in many national constitutions.

The right to food is defined in the [General Comment No. 12](#) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as:

“the right of every man, woman and child alone and in community with others to have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement in ways consistent with human dignity.”

Unfortunately, food is not treated as a human right—it is treated as a commodity. Trade practices and seed patents prevent small-scale farmers in developing countries from reaching their potential.

Multi-national companies own intellectual property rights to specific seed varieties. Currently, there are two systems for farmers to obtain seeds. Informal seed systems exist where seeds are stored from one year to the next and exchanged locally. There are also commercial systems marketing improved seeds which are certified by public authorities.

The monopoly of the seed market by commercial systems poses a number of concerns.

- Restrictions are imposed on the re-use of seeds meaning farmers need to purchase new seeds every season.
- As intellectual property rights are strengthened at the global level, the certified seeds will become unaffordable for the poorest farmers.
- Excessive intellectual property rights are becoming an obstacle rather than an incentive for innovation—it is becoming harder for public scientists to access and exchange genetic material.

- Research is primarily oriented towards the needs of rich countries—because of the market share they represent—rather than to those of small farmers in poor countries.

Background

Article 9 of [The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) guarantees the following in relation to farmers' rights:

- (a) protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- (b) the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- (c) the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Estimates indicate that food production needs to increase by 70 per cent to feed the world's population in 2050. It's not enough to just provide food for people. Although this is often a necessary short-term solution, in the long-term, the global community needs to develop solutions to help individuals feed themselves.

In response to rising global food prices, the United Nations Secretary-General established the [Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis](#) in April 2008. The task force is comprised of the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programs.

During fall 2009, a number of events took place that brought together experts and world leaders to discuss the topic of agriculture and achieving food security.

- [How to feed the world 2050--a high-level expert forum](#)—took place in Rome on Oct. 12-13. The forum discussed the problems that need to be resolved in order to feed the global population of 9 billion people that is projected for 2050.
- The [Committee on Food Security \(CFS\)](#) met on Oct. 14, 15 and 17. The CFS is the United Nations' forum for reviewing and following up on policies concerning world food security. It also examines issues which affect the world food situation. At the meeting, members of CFS agreed on a wide-ranging reform that aims to make CFS the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and nutrition and to be a central component in the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.
- On Oct. 21, 2009, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier de Schutter presented a [report to the General Assembly](#) outlining how increasing dependency on commercial seed varieties monopolized by a few very powerful multi-national companies could severely impact small farmers in developing countries. His report contained recommendations, including:
 - that states protect traditional resources by doing more to implement the farmers' rights under Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - that states provide funds necessary to support the flourishing of farmers' seed systems, develop local seed exchange programs and involve local farmers in all stages of research

- exploring the potential of training farmers in *agro-ecological* farming to increase productivity
 - *Agro-ecology* is an approach to agriculture that views agricultural areas as ecosystems and is concerned with the ecological impact of agricultural practices. Agro-ecology farming would include water harvesting, agro-forestry and inter-cropping—all strategies for increasing crop yield while maintaining the local environment.
- From Nov. 16 to 18, world leaders met at the Food and Agriculture Organization's headquarters in Rome for the [World Summit on Food Security](#). At the meeting, leaders unanimously adopted a [declaration](#) pledging renewed commitment to eradicate hunger from the face of the earth sustainably and at the earliest date.



Proposed resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly at the 65th session

Ensuring food security through equitable access to seeds and farming innovation

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law,

Recognizing access to food as a fundamental human right outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various other international instruments,

Also recognizing the rights laid out in article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,

Acknowledging the urgent need for a coordinated international plan of action to increase food production by 70 per cent by 2050, in response to global hunger,

Also acknowledging the connection between food security and climate change,

Also acknowledging that solutions to hunger will need to be safe, effective and environmentally sustainable,

Also acknowledging the need to empower small farmers through access and sharing of resources,

- 1) Agrees to establish a *Global Seed and Farming Cooperative* that will work within Member States, under the leadership of the Committee on Food Security. Member States will collectively contribute an additional \$5 billion to fund the initial establishment and implementation of the cooperative. The Cooperative will sustain operations through the following ongoing funding sources:
 - a. A membership fee of 2 per cent of annual profits
 - b. Annual grants from the International Fund for Agricultural Development

By working through designated local organizations, the Cooperative will:

- i. Create an internationally-regulated, not-for-profit system for the safe and effective exchange of local seed varieties appropriate to local conditions and environments. The system will include standards for storage and cataloguing. Seed availability and quality will be tracked through a global database. The system will provide an alternative to commercial seed markets, while working with farmers to ensure patent laws are not violated.
 - ii. Develop and implement land-share and farmer field school programs through the purchase of local arable land. Local families will have the opportunity to purchase land from the cooperative. A portion of the land will be used for education programs.
 - iii. Maintain regionally-based research institutes for farming and seed innovation. The research institutes will work with local farmers and combine science, agro-ecology and experience to improve crop yields through farming and seed production innovation relevant to the local environment. Innovations will be tracked through the global database to facilitate knowledge sharing across regions.
 - iv. Maintain an online and print directory of local small-scale farmers. This directory will be accessible to retailers and humanitarian missions in need of food and supplies.
- 2) Agrees to amend national policy of Member States to allow for the implementation of the Cooperative, including:
 - i. provisions to allow for the Cooperative to operate within the country without interference from private organizations
 - ii. land reform policy to allow the Cooperative first-right-of-refusal on a pre-determined portion of available arable land

What is the United Nations?

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization consisting of 192 member states. The UN was established following the Second World War to address issues that its predecessor, the League of Nations, was not able to resolve.

Location

The United Nations has offices around the world. Its headquarters are located in New York City and is home to the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council.

Other United Nations offices are located in The Hague, Netherlands, Geneva, Switzerland and Vienna, Austria.

Purpose

The United Nations has many purposes, which are global in nature. According to Chapter 1 of the *Charter of the United Nations*, the purposes of the UN include:

- maintaining international peace and security
- developing friendly relations among all nations
- initiating, promoting and coordinating international efforts to solve economic, cultural, social and humanitarian problems throughout the globe
- promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- providing a centre for harmonizing the efforts of nations in the attainment of common ends

Structure

The United Nations is composed of six 'organs'. United Nations commissions and programmes are under the authority of an organ of the UN. Specialized agencies of the United Nations are autonomous working units devoted to specific areas of UN work and coordinated by the Economic and Security Council.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all 192 member states, and each member state has one vote. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.

The General Assembly is neither a legislature nor a parliament. Respecting the sovereignty of its Members, the General Assembly offers a forum in which nations may share views and come to understandings regarding global international peace and security. Resolutions of the General Assembly are only recommendations to members and are not to be recognized as "global laws." Member states who vote in favour of a resolution do have a moral obligation to adjust their national legislation in accordance.

Security Council

The primary responsibility of the security council, according to the Charter of the United Nations, is to maintain international peace and security. There are five permanent members of the security council: China, France, Russian Federation, United States of America and United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland, and 10 rotating members.

Economic and Social Council

The Council serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues. It is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council is made up of 54 member states.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial body of the United Nations. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). It began work in 1946 when it replaced the Permanent Court of International Justice which had functioned in the Peace Palace since 1922. It operates under a Statute largely similar to that of its predecessor, which is an integral part of the Charter of the UN. The role of the International Court is to settle in accordance with international law the legal disputes submitted to it by States, and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international bodies and agencies. The court is comprised of 15 judges elected to serve nine-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is a group of international staff working in duty stations around the world. It carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the organization. It services the other principal organs of the United Nations and administers the programs and policies laid down by them. At its head is the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

About the Student Model United Nations

The Peel District School Board's Student Model United Nations is a hands-on learning experience which offers approximately 250 secondary students a chance to be a diplomat for a day. During this valuable learning experience, students represent different UN member nations and tackle tough international development and human rights issues in a simulated general assembly.

History

The board's first Model UN event was held in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Past topics

Various topics of global significance have been debated over the years. Some of them include:

- The use of child soldiers
- Action against terrorism
- Water as a human right
- Child labour
- HIV/AIDS and human rights
- Gender equality
- Arms trade
- Indigenous Peoples and climate change