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North Devon
Model United Nations conference
Draft resolutions



Model United Nations

Notes on the resolutions

The resolutions are a key component of the MUN conference. Much of the debate and the skills of negotiation and compromise will focus around the resolutions that countries put forward at the conference. It is therefore vital that students have time to consider carefully and precisely the form of words they decide to put into their draft resolutions. The resolutions **must** accurately reflect the position of the country that students are representing; finding out a country's position on climate change is one of the key research tasks.

Because of limited time, three draft resolutions have been prepared for students, providing a broad range of concerns and proposed actions on climate change. These resolutions should be seen as starting points to which students add, amend or insert clauses.

Each resolution consists of three main parts:

Part A. What we believe, or agree is the case

Part B What we are agreeing to do:

- i) whether there should be binding country targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and
- ii) How these reductions should be achieved

Parts of resolutions in *italics* are key terminology/concepts in the resolution and are likely to require clarification through research. See [www.globalnews.org.uk/student MUN](http://www.globalnews.org.uk/student_MUN) for links to help develop an understanding of these concepts.

Students should be encouraged to:

- Find out their country's position on climate change; the priority it gives the issue and its record to date on addressing the issue.
- Clarify the terminology and concepts contained in the resolutions
- Consider which of the three resolutions the country is most likely to support
- Make additions, amendments or insert clauses to the resolution[s]
- Consider which countries are likely to be allies in supporting the same or similar resolution and which are likely to support alternative resolutions
- Develop arguments for why they support/oppose particular resolutions or parts of resolutions

Model United Nations Climate Convention Resolution 1



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- A. We, the nations of the world, acknowledge that climate change presents a great challenge to our future well being and prosperity. We believe that further research is needed on the causes of climate change and its impacts.
- i) We consider that *binding targets* are unhelpful. However we agree to undertake long term co-operative measures to control climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, by
 - ii) Creating a fund to support research and development of a wide range of *emissions-saving technologies*, including *nuclear power* and *carbon sequestration*; the fund will also help with the installation of this technology in low income countries. We also support *voluntary codes* for businesses to become more energy efficient and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Notes:

Model United Nations Climate Convention Resolution 2



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- A. We, the nations of the world, acknowledge that climate change is an increasingly serious problem caused by human activity, and that if unchecked it will threaten human civilization and the survival of many species.
- B. Therefore we agree to undertake measures to achieve a reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions of 60% by 2050. This means
- i) Emissions targets for every country, based on reductions for *industrialized countries* and slight increases for *developing countries*
 - ii) An international *emissions trading scheme* whereby countries that exceed their targets can buy *emissions allowances* from countries that have not used all of theirs.

Countries exceeding their emissions targets can also gain *carbon credits* through the *Clean Development Mechanism*, by investing in *low carbon technologies* (such as *renewable energy*, *nuclear power*, *carbon sequestration*, planting or protection of forests etc) in other countries and counting the emissions saved as their own.

Notes:

Model United Nations Climate Convention Resolution 3



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- A. We, the nations of the world, acknowledge that climate change is an increasingly serious problem and that if unchecked will threaten the survival of humankind; even now climate change is bringing devastation, particularly to poor and vulnerable peoples.
- B. Therefore we agree to *binding emissions targets* to achieve a reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions of 80% by 2050. This means
- i) The targets will be chosen in such a way as to move towards *equal per capita emissions* between countries (*Contraction and Convergence*)
 - ii) Countries which exceed their targets will have to buy *emissions quotas* from the newly set up International Emissions Fund, which will sell excess quotas to countries in breach of their target, provided their domestic policies are planned to reduce their emissions in future.
The International Emissions Fund will receive a contribution from every country in proportion to its emissions, which will subsidise the installation of genuinely *sustainable energy technologies* and emissions reduction measures in developing countries.
An international tax on aviation fuel will provide funds to support countries to maintain their forests, particularly ancient forests. Newly planted forests will also be supported subject to their being ecologically suited to the area.

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