



# BEGINNER'S RULEBOOK



**UNIÃO NORTE-RIOGRANDENSE DOS ESTUDANTES DE DIREITO INTERNACIONAL  
SIMULAÇÃO DE ORGANIZAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS**

**PROFESSOR COORDENADOR**

Diogo Pignataro de Oliveira

**PROFESSOR COORDENADOR ADJUNTO**

Ana Beatriz Ferreira Rebello Presgrave  
Marco Bruno Miranda Clementino

**DIRETORIA UNEDI**

**Secretária-Geral**

Pamela Araújo Xavier de Paiva

**Vice-Secretária-Geral**

Mariana da Nóbrega Dantas

**Primeiro-Secretário**

Fábio Araújo de Paiva Cavalcanti

**Segunda-Secretária**

Rafaela Araújo de Albuquerque

**Primeira-Tesoureira**

Letícia Alves Andrade de Sousa

**Segunda-Tesoureira**

Brunna Bezerra Nunes

**Secretário Acadêmico**

Arthur do Nascimento Pereira

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## 1 INTRODUCTION – WHAT ARE MUNs?

Model United Nations (MUNs) are simulations of international organizations aimed at High School and College students, and in some places, they also extend to Elementary School students. From this perspective, participants in these initiatives take on roles as country representatives, such as diplomats, heads of state, ministers, or judges, lawyers, and experts in a wide range of areas on the international agenda, like human rights, social issues, security, economy, environment, among others.

It is important to emphasize that the purpose of the simulation is to debate an established theme and present some solution to the problem posed by each committee, that is, each simulated body, in order to reflect the real political and factual positions of the countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), parties, or personalities assigned to them.

Despite not being widely practiced in all universities and educational institutions in Brazil, MUNs emerged a long time ago, in the first half of the 20th century, when some professors and students from the Politics and International Relations course at Harvard University created the Model United Nations, with implementation in Brazil beginning only in 1997.

Currently, in Brazilian territory, it is estimated that there are around 100 (one hundred) initiatives; therefore, the Simulation of International Organizations (SOI) is proud to be part of these, as the 1st North-Northeast Simulation of the country

## 2 UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR COUNTRY SHOULD ACT

First, it is important to emphasize that not all countries will share the same opinions on the committee's topic. Thus, the topics of each committee are the guiding points for debates and discussions. Follow your country's position on the topics, always respecting the diplomatic framework. In other words, for example, if your committee's agenda is gender equality and the country you are representing has a poor stance on the issue, it is recommended to try to be more passive and condescending, while being aggressive or passionate will not benefit your country.

### 3 KNOW YOUR FOREIGN POLICY:

Participating in a Model United Nations does not imply that the diplomatic position, policy, economy, and social issues of the represented country should diverge from reality. In this context, knowing how and who your delegation can count is essential in a simulation. For example, the United States does not cooperate with Russia; Brazil is more or less a floating nation; and North Korea limits itself to China and Russia. Such alignments and how to proceed can be found in the Annex Guide before the simulation.

#### 4 DO NOT ALWAYS WRITE A FULL SPEECH

When giving a speech, mark the important points you want to cover and fill in the blanks at the time. This can facilitate the dynamism and speed with which debates progress.

Additionally, it is not advisable to deliver a long speech with many points due to the limited time for articulation. Therefore, try to prioritize the most prominent topics at the moment and check what material you have on the topic that can be used in the speech.

## 5 MAKE ALLIANCES AND SEEK TO COMMUNICATE

It is rare for the interests of delegations to align perfectly to reach a resolution in a committee. Therefore, unless it is specifically stated that you cannot discuss the committee in certain places or at certain times, feel free to discuss with other delegates about common points. From this perspective, in the discussions, seek to understand what the interests of other delegations concerning the resolution document, learn the personal interests of each nation, and always remain active and willing to foster alliances. If an allied delegate has experience in other simulations, use them to gather tips on how to improve your debate as well, since they can be your allies inside and outside the simulation.



## 6 TAKE INITIATIVE

During informal debate, if you wish to speak, always manifest in a way to further your interests, following the simulation's Rule Guide. Therefore, don't be afraid or intimidated due to your experience or by the demeanor of other delegates, the simulation environment is designed to enhance your skills, and your insecurity will diminish over time.

## 7 READ THE AVAILABLE GUIDES AND MANUALS

This is the most important lesson of a simulation. Each document is prepared with extensive study and dedication by the organizing committee. The Guides (Study Guide and Annex Guide) will contain essential information for your solutions in your Country Document (DPO), interesting discussion points for speeches, good topics for formal debates, and certain viewpoints that are useful for the final resolution. Make use of them!

## 8 CLEAR ALL YOUR DOUBTS WITH YOUR TUTOR

Your tutor is responsible for producing and reviewing every detail of the Study Guide, so don't hesitate to ask them for help with any doubts about your delegation, specific situations, or points in the Guides. You can also approach them to request sources and materials related to the simulation topic. Good support from you tutor makes the simulation even more solid.

## 9 TIPS FOR MAKING A GOOD SPEECH:

**Pay attention to details:** The SOI uses "Greek moderation," so from the moment you raise your delegation's placard, you are already on the speakers' list. Use this opportunity to actively participate in the committee, whether there are no more placards raised and you want to use your voice to bring a topic to debate, or when a bloc has formed around you, it can always be brought into the discussion.

**Use your voice:** Learn to use voice modulation to emphasize important points in your speech, bring more seriousness to your delivery, and further practice your public speaking skills.

**Motion or point of order:** A motion or point of order can be raised by any delegation and are important tools that can change the course of the committee or be of interest to the chair or even other delegates. Don't be afraid to use them, no matter the situation.

**Try not to speak too quickly:** It's tempting to say everything as fast as possible, but you might lose the thread of your speech and the audience's attention. Sometimes, it's better to sacrifice content for substance and impact.

**Take notes:** Note-taking is one of the best tools during the simulation. It allows you to track the points made by allied or rival nations and to plan your next move in your own speech. Additionally, it helps in organizing future working papers.

**Avoid using first and second person as much as possible:** Whenever possible, use third-person pronouns and refer to yourself and others in the third person. Unless you are simulating a specific individual in a committee, you are representing your country or delegation as a third party. For example, it's preferable to say, "The Delegation of Chile stated in its previous speech..." rather than "you stated in your speech..."

## 10 SUBMIT WORKING PAPERS

When you submit a working paper, that information becomes official within the committee and can be freely referenced by your delegation and all other members of the committee, including the chair. Therefore, don't hesitate to submit working papers, as they serve to solidify your position in the debate and are often used in the drafting of the Resolution Document. Additionally, organization, coherence, and clarity are extremely important in the preparation of a document, and, consequently, for a committee to present a good piece of work. By being clear about your objectives within the committee, it will be easier for other delegations to use your work and lead to a better-conducted debate.