



# Co-Chair Notes

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Co-chairs,

Thanks for being the “center” which holds us together! A few notes for you to consider as you begin.

- Expect to have a co-chair who may have more or less chairing experience than you. Share the duties and fun! The host school will also try to provide a rapporteur for your use.
- Expect a variety of experience levels, despite the topic of the committee. Move slowly, therefore, until you can gauge the level of experience in the room. Maybe take a quick straw poll on MUN experience at the beginning.
- If mostly beginners, feel free to stop during the first two session meetings as motions and speeches are made to explain these terms/ideas, or even the importance of terms like sovereignty, the Charter, etc. Make everyone feel comfortable. For that matter, try never to rule against a delegate without explaining the more proper rule and allow the delegate a chance to correct him/herself.
- Co-chairs and rapporteurs may wish to “help” delegates with ideas, what to say in speeches, procedural matters, or history notes on their country. SEMMUNA encourages this; this is *not* competition; it is *education* and *consensus-building*; it is *learning* about world systems.
- SEMMUNA has a reputation for having focused debate in its committees; some asides of fun are doable (if needed to help the climate of the room), but keep such silly distractions to a minimum. There is little enough time to debate the topic seriously today.
- Skip or streamline rules as needed to *help students*, but not to satisfy your own preferences. Rules are important.
- Some crises have been “planned”. Ignore them or use them as you wish. In all committees but Sec. Cncl., they are built to *complicate debate*, but not necessarily to be responded to with new resolutions.
- Add “color” to the debate if you need to; if a slow or strangely unanimous debate needs stirring up, feel free to add a crisis or complication of your own *for the purpose of pushing delegates toward deeper understanding of topic*. You can call on the Secretariat to do this as well.
- Contact the Secretariat for any personal needs, personnel needs, or anything! We need you to feel comfortable!
- Rapporteurs or the Secretariat can make copies of Resolutions.

- Our hope is to push delegates *to get to the particulars* of a topic whenever possible, to debate the genuine substance of the issues. This means a couple of strategies for dealing with “throwaway” resolutions:
  1. As a matter of policy, the Secretary-General has placed a moratorium on the creation of most new committees, organizations, etc. until the US-UN relationship has been restored to health.
  2. In this decade of conferences, the UN has suffered for what is deemed a “wasteful bureaucracy” of talking heads. There is simply no room in the calendar for new conferences until after 2002, no budget for them, and besides, conferences allow delegates to escape the challenge of the topic. Let them do the work of a conference as best they can.
  3. The Sec.-Gen. has passed the problem to your committee because your committee currently has the best resources to deal with it. Other existing agencies should not be used to *establish policy*, but may be used as agencies to implement or enforce. Other committees may be called upon to offer opinions on aspects of the topic, but keep your committee delegates debating on the core of the topic.
- Forward copies of resolutions/statements/papers from your committee to the Secretariat. Be prepared for the Secretariat to direct your committee to prepare comments, positions, etc., at the end of the conference.
- Have fun! Take a break if you need to, ask someone in the Secretariat to sit in for awhile, etc. We want you to be comfortable and welcome!

**DO YOU HAVE:**

- An attendance list of countries in your session?
- Extra background papers?
- A rapporteur?
- A chalkboard or butcher paper?
- Copies of the Charter, Decl. of Human Rights, and rules?