

JCC

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Agenda

Tensions at the Russia-Ukraine Border



Message from the Executive Board

Greetings, Dear delegates.

This is a concise guide designed with the purpose of providing you a basic understanding of the agenda and the conduct of the simulation. Note that the perusal of this guide's content will be insufficient if you wish to enjoy a healthy and competitive debate. Use the information you find between these pages as just an accompaniment to your research efforts. I shall be available to clarify any and all of your doubts before the conference. However, I would suggest you consider querying me as an option to be exercised as last resort, not first move.

Regards,
Executive Board,
Continuous Crisis Committee,
Epistome Model United Nations 2022

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Agenda: Tensions at the Russia-Ukraine border

Tensions at Kremlin and Kyiv are simmering. Following the significant troop build-up at the Russia-Ukraine border in November 2021 and the joint military exercises by Belarus and Russia in early February 2022, both Ukraine and its NATO allies have been concerned regarding Russia's posturing in the region. Russia on the other hand claims that the ultranationalist Ukrainian government has been oppressing the Russian-speaking minorities in Eastern parts of Ukraine nearing Russian border, namely Donetsk and Luhansk. The debate over Ukraine joining NATO has been re-invigorated since President Zelenskyy announced their nation's new National Security Strategy in 14 September 2020. However, there seems to be a divide within NATO on the issue of Ukraine's membership with some nations strictly opposing the entertainment of such an idea due to the potential political and economic ramifications. Russia however, has maintained steadfastly that Ukraine membership to NATO, if approved will not be greeted warmly by the Kremlin and its allies as they see it as a threat to their national security. The legacy of Crimean annexation – as the West would call it – or its accession to Russia – as Russia would like for it to be called – is something that lingers quite apparently in the minds of both sides. With the declaration of recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent and sovereign nations by President Vladimir Putin on 21st February 2021, every global leader has been looking to the Western democracies and their reaction to this declaration. Would there be a repeat of the events of 2014? Or would the NATO play a more active role in stopping Russia's envelope-pushing at their borders?



Agenda: Tensions at the Russia-Ukraine border

What should NATO states do?

What should Russia do?

What should the non-aligned States' response be?

Is there a path to peaceful resolution of the differences between Ukraine and Russia?

Is Crimea and Russian declaration an unforeseen consequence of the West's acceptance of the Kosovo advisory opinion?

How can Russia and its allies square their position on Kosovo advisory opinion with the Crimean incident and the latest declaration?

Can economic sanctions be a sensible way to contain Russia's actions?

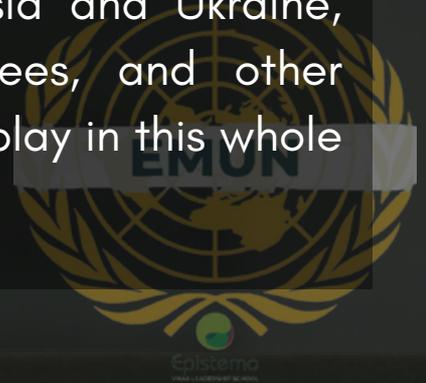
What will be the effect of such sanctions on the rest of the world?

How does the possession of nuclear weapons play into the equation between Russia's decisions and NATO's responses?

Is remedial secession a legitimate way in which States can be created?

What is the importance of Montevideo Convention in this whole discussion?

What is the role that the Minsk Agreements, Black Fleet Agreement, Treaty of Friendship between Russia and Ukraine, Budapest Memorandum on Security Guarantees, and other treaties concluded between Russia and Ukraine play in this whole issue?



Agenda: Tensions at the Russia-Ukraine border

All these questions and many more are waiting to be answered. It is upto the delegates to explore the whole issue in detail and come up with novel approaches to respond to the situation at hand.

Timeline

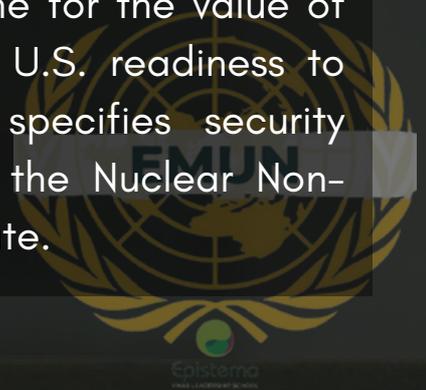
Note

Please note that the last date of the timeline is the freeze date of the committee. Freeze date is the date post which any events that happened in real world will not be considered. For the simulation, we will act as if we are all in a fictional timeline that begins on the freeze date and any and all crisis updates given shall be considered as fact in lieu of the real facts.

1991: Leonid Kravchuk, leader of the Soviet republic of Ukraine, declares independence from Moscow. In a referendum and presidential election, Ukrainians approve independence and elect Kravchuk as president.

1994:

The Russian, Ukrainian, and U.S. Presidents sign a statement that reaffirms Ukraine's commitment to transfer all strategic nuclear warheads to Russia and dismantle strategic launchers in its territory. The statement also confirms Russian readiness to compensate Ukraine for the value of the highly enriched uranium in the warheads, notes U.S. readiness to assist Ukraine in dismantling the launchers, and specifies security assurances Ukraine will receive once it accedes to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state.



Timeline

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) welcomes Ukraine into its Partnership for Peace, a collaborative arrangement open to all non-NATO European countries and postSoviet states. Ukraine and Hungary become the fifth and sixth members of the partnership. Russia becomes a member that June and conducts various cooperative activities with NATO, including joint military exercises, until 2014, when NATO formally suspends ties. As the Cold War ended, Russia had opposed the eastern expansion of NATO. However, thirteen former partnership members eventually join the alliance.

The Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances [PDF] is signed by Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States, following Ukraine's accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapons state. Russia, the UK, and the United States commit to respecting Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence, and promise to not threaten or use force against Ukraine.

1996: The Ukrainian parliament ratifies a new constitution. It theoretically has separation of powers, but the president holds significant sway. He or she can dismiss the prime minister and rescind acts of the cabinet, for instance. Among other things, the constitution guarantees free speech and private-property ownership and recognizes Ukrainian as the sole state language.



Timeline

1999: Kuchma is re-elected in 1999 in a vote riddled with irregularities.

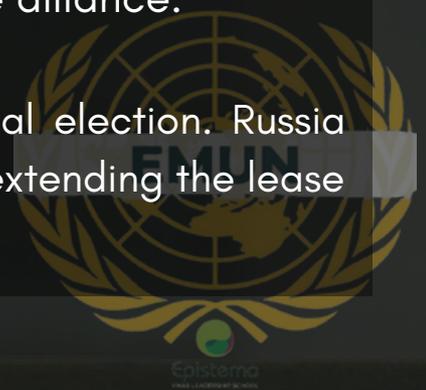
2000: On September 16, Heorhiy Gongadze, a Ukrainian journalist investigating alleged corruption in the Kuchma administration, disappears. His beheaded body is found two months later in a forest outside of Kyiv. Audio recordings eventually surface that purport to show Kuchma ordering subordinates to kill Gongadze. The scandal spurs public discontent about corruption among Ukraine's elites, leading to street protests. Western countries reconsider their support of Kuchma's government.

2004: Pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich is declared president but allegations of voter rigging trigger protests in what becomes known as the Orange Revolution, forcing a re-run of the vote. A pro-Western former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, is elected president.

2005: Yushchenko takes power with promises to lead Ukraine out of the Kremlin's orbit, towards NATO and the EU. He appoints former energy company boss Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister but, after infighting in the pro-Western camp, she is sacked.

2008: NATO promises Ukraine it will one day join the alliance.

2010: Yanukovich defeats Tymoshenko in a presidential election. Russia and Ukraine clinch a gas pricing deal in exchange for extending the lease for the Russian navy in a Ukrainian Black Sea port.



Timeline

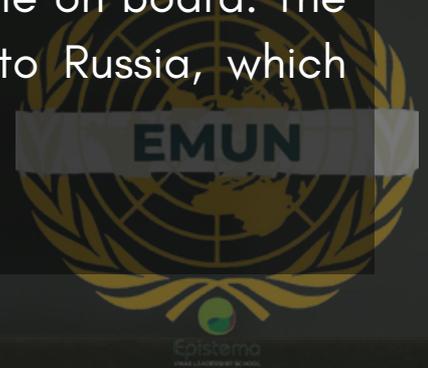
2013: Yanukovich's government suspends trade and association talks with the EU in November and opts to revive economic ties with Moscow, triggering months of mass rallies in Kyiv.

2014: The protests, largely focused around Kyiv's Maidan square, turn violent. Dozens of protesters are killed. In February, parliament voted to remove Yanukovich, who flees. Within days, armed men seize parliament in the Ukrainian region of Crimea and raise the Russian flag. Moscow annexes the territory after a March 16 referendum which shows overwhelming support in Crimea for joining the Russian Federation.

In April, pro-Russian separatists in the eastern region of Donbass declare independence. Fighting breaks out which has continued sporadically, despite frequent ceasefires, into 2022

In May, businessman Petro Poroshenko wins a presidential election with a pro-Western agenda.

In July, a missile brings down passenger plane MH17 en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, killing all 298 people on board. The weapon used is traced back by investigators to Russia, which denies involvement.



Timeline

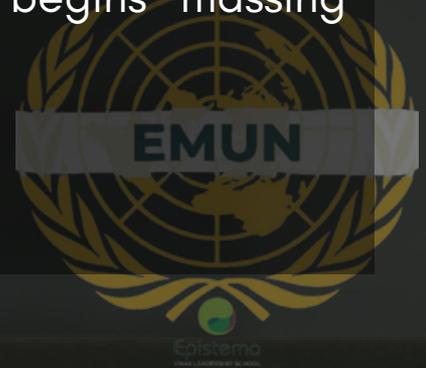
2017: An association agreement between Ukraine and the EU opens markets for free trade of goods and services, and visa-free travel to the EU for Ukrainians.

2019: A new Ukrainian Orthodox church wins formal recognition, angering the Kremlin.

Former comic actor Volodymyr Zelenskyy defeats Poroshenko in an April presidential election on promises to tackle corruption and end the war in eastern Ukraine. His Servant of the People party wins a July parliamentary election.

2020: IMF approves a \$5 billion lifeline to help Ukraine stave off the default during a pandemic-induced recession.

2021: Zelenskyy appeals to Biden, now U.S. President, to let Ukraine join NATO. In February, Zelenskyy's government imposes sanctions on Viktor Medvedchuk, an opposition leader and the Kremlin's most prominent ally in Ukraine. In October, Ukraine uses a Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drone for the first time in eastern Ukraine, angering Russia. In November, Russia again begins massing troops near Ukraine.



Timeline

In December, Biden warns Russia of sweeping Western economic sanctions if it invades Ukraine. Russia presents detailed security demands including a legally binding guarantee that NATO will give up any military activity in eastern Europe and Ukraine.

2022: Jan 10 - U.S. and Russian diplomats fail to narrow differences on Ukraine.

Jan 14 - A cyberattack warning Ukrainians to “be afraid and expect the worst” hits Ukrainian government websites.

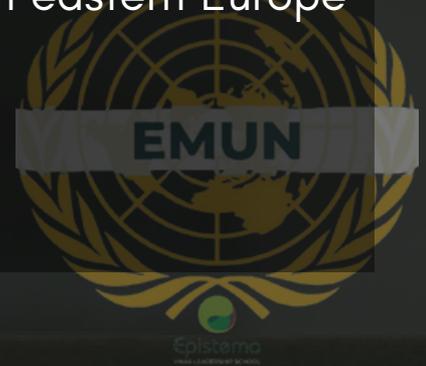
Jan 17 - Russian forces start arriving in Belarus, to the north of Ukraine, for joint drills

Jan 24 - NATO puts forces on standby and reinforces eastern Europe with more ships and fighter jets.

Jan 26 - Washington presents a written response to Russia’s security demands, repeating a commitment to NATO’s “open-door” policy while offering “pragmatic” discussions of Moscow’s concerns.

Jan 28 - President Vladimir Putin says Russia’s main security demands have not been addressed.

Feb 2 - The United States says it will send 3,000 extra troops to Poland and Romania to help shield NATO allies in eastern Europe from any spillover from the crisis.



Timeline

Feb 4 – Putin, at Beijing Winter Olympics, wins Chinese support for his demand that Ukraine not be allowed to join NATO.

Feb 7 – French President Emmanuel Macron sees some hope for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis after meeting Putin in the Kremlin. Macron then visits Kyiv and praises the “sangfroid” of Zelenskiy and the Ukrainian people.

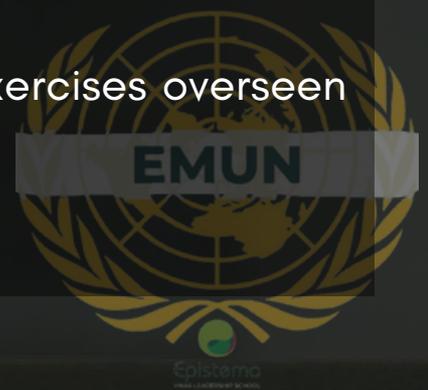
Feb 9 – Biden says “things could go crazy quickly” as the U.S. State Department advises Americans in Ukraine to leave immediately. Other countries also urge their nationals to leave.

Feb 14 – Zelenskiy urges Ukrainians to fly flags and sing the national anthem in unison on Feb. 16, a date some Western media say Russia could invade.

Feb 15 – Russia says some of its troops are returning to base after exercises near Ukraine and mocks Western warnings about a looming invasion. Russia’s parliament asks Putin to recognise as independent two Russian-backed breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine.

Feb 18 – U.S. ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Michael Carpenter says Russia has probably massed between 169,000–190,000 personnel in and near Ukraine.

Feb 19 – Russia’s strategic nuclear forces hold exercises overseen by Putin.



Timeline

Feb 21 – France's Macron says Biden and Putin have agreed in principle to a summit over Ukraine.

Feb 21 – Putin signs a decree recognising two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine as independent entities

Sources: 1: PBS

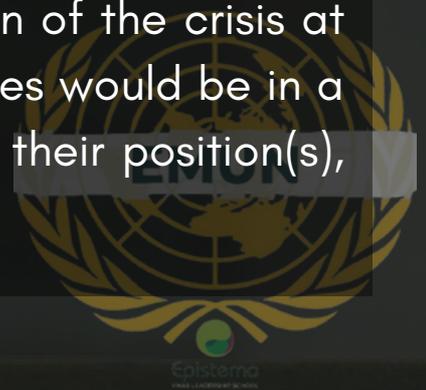
2: ZeeNews India

Directive writing basics

What is a directive?

A directive is a document formatted in a particular manner that provides instructions to your government on a specific plan of action or set of actions. These plan or set of actions must be aimed primarily at advancing your foreign policy and secondarily at resolving the crisis at hand.

The best directives are those that can achieve both the advancement of foreign policy and the resolution of the crisis at the same time. However not all portfolios or States would be in a position to aim to writing such directives due to their position(s), stakes, and objectives in the given crisis.



Directive writing basics

Directives can be sent in by an individual delegate or by a group of delegates. When sent in by a group of delegates, it is called as a joint directive.

Overt directive

All directives are by default considered overt in nature. Information on both the execution and outcome of such directive shall be communicated to the committee.

Covert directives

If you want your government to take certain actions but do not wish to have the involvement of your government in taking such actions disclosed, you should send covert directives. Only the outcome - if any - of such directives will be communicated either to the delegate from whom the directive was received or to the committee as a whole. Such directives are usually used for espionage, sabotage, intelligence, and other such operations the details of which should ideally not be disclosed to the public. If an action is conspicuous and cannot be carried out covertly, it would not matter if it was enclosed within a covert directive, its execution and outcome will be communicated to the entire committee.



Directive writing basics

Portfolio requests

These are communications from individual delegates to their respective governments seeking information unavailable to them at the moment based on which they can decide to take action. Such requests are encouraged only when the information sought is publicly unavailable.

Press releases

These are public statements that the delegate(s) want their government(s) to issue. These can be sent in by individual delegates or a group of delegates. If passed, these shall be publicly displayed in the committee.

Communiqués

These are secret communications that delegates can individually or collectively send to other delegates not present in their cabinet, their own government, or governments of States that may or may not be present in the committee. The content of these can include, but are not limited to, negotiations, requests, threats, or demands.



Directive writing basics

Format of directives

Title: [Any title for the operation/mission – required only in case a series of directives from a single operation/mission]

Type: Covert/Overt Directive

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Designation of the person within your government who has the authority to authorise or operationalise this directive's plan of action.]

Primary objective: [A one to two line description of what you wish to accomplish using this directive.]

Secondary objective (if any): [Any objective that may also be achieved while executing this directive.]

Mission brief: [A three to four line description of how the aforementioned objective(s) will be accomplished.]

Plan of action: [A detailed description of what you wish your government or its specific agenc(y/ies) to do to accomplish the aforementioned objective(s).]

Additional information (if any): [Any additional details that you wish to convey.]

References (not mandatory): [Sources of information using which you suggested the above plan of action.]



Directive writing basics

Format of Portfolio Requests

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Designation of the person within your government who has the authority to provide you the information you are seeking.]

[Question or query].

Format of Communiqués

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Name of the country to which you wish to send the communiqué]

[Message]

Press release/statement

From: Delegate of _____

[Statement]

Tips on directive-writing

- Each directive must be aiming to achieve one specific, well-defined objective using the most effective and resource-efficient means. There maybe secondary objectives for each action taken but the achievement of secondary objective must always be seen as an added benefit, not an absolute requirement for the plan of action mentioned in the directive.



Directive writing basics

Directives must be as detailed as possible. However, details that are redundant and superfluous must be avoided. For example, if a directive's aim is to buy your President a burger, it can have details with regards to what kind of burger to buy, where and when to buy it, etcetera. Details such as which service executive to buy it from, the clothing of the person buying the burger, the payment method etcetera would not be required.

If you require your government to initiate a complex mission or set of actions, divide the mission or set of actions into sensible composite parts and write a directive for each composite part separately. All the directives aimed at accomplishing said mission must be sent together or must have a mention of the name of the mission they are a part of.

The nature of the directive (cover/overt) must be mentioned clearly. In absence of any mention of the nature of the directive, the Executive Board will assume and evaluate the directive as an overt directive.

Foreign policy basics

What is foreign policy?

"General objectives that guide the activities and relationships of one state in its interactions with other states."



Foreign policy basics

What role must foreign policy play in your research?

Understanding the foreign policy of your country must be a checkbox that you tick off at the very beginning of your research. Your foreign policy should dictate everything from the arguments you make, the reasoning you give for making those arguments, and the actions you take in the Council.

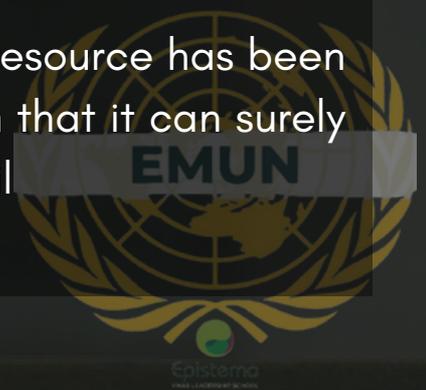
Where do I look to find foreign policy?

Most of the time, foreign policy is not explicitly stated. It must be inferred from the actions and statements issued by the country. Pro tip: Look for statements from your country's Foreign Ministry (or equivalent like Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs etcetera) and top leadership (PM, Pres., Secretary of State, Defense Minister).

Specific contentious rules

This section covers the Executive Board's views on some of the contentious rules that usually create confusion, conflict, and consternation when not explicitly stated in advance. The judgement and scoring during the MUN will be based on the views expressed here.

Regarding this guide and evidence Just because a resource has been mentioned in the background guide, does not mean that it can surely be used as evidence to your argument in the Council



Specific contentious rules

Why? Because: Eclectic nature of the resources: The guide has resources of wide variety. Some of the resources could be opinion-based articles, some may be from sources sympathetic to one party in the conflict, some could be outdated (we will try our best to not share such resources but we cannot control for things such as emergence of new facts post guide publication).

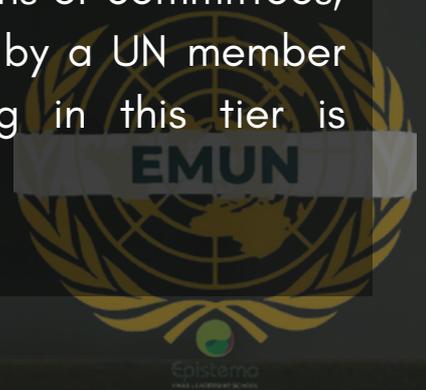
Foreign policy commitments:

To explain this point, we'll be using an example. Pakistan claims Kashmir is legally theirs. India claims, contrary to Pakistan, that Kashmir is theirs. Both sides, many-a-times, use the same evidence to argue their case but still derive completely different conclusions. In such cases, the Executive Board cannot accept the claims of one country while rejecting the claims of the other when both of those claims are backed by acceptable and equivalent evidence.

Hierarchy of evidence

Evidence can be presented from a wide variety of sources but not all sources are treated as equal. Here's the hierarchy in which evidence is categorised:

Tier 1: Includes: any publication, statement, resolution, or document released by any of the United Nations' official organs or committees; any publication, statement, or document released by a UN member state in its own capacity. The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.



Hierarchy of evidence

Tier 2: Includes: any news article published by any official media source that is owned and controlled by a UN member state. E.g.: Xinhua News (China), Prasar Bharti (India), BBC (United Kingdom) etcetera. The evidence falling in this tier is considered sufficiently reliable in case no other evidence from any Tier 1 source is available on that particular fact, event, or situation.

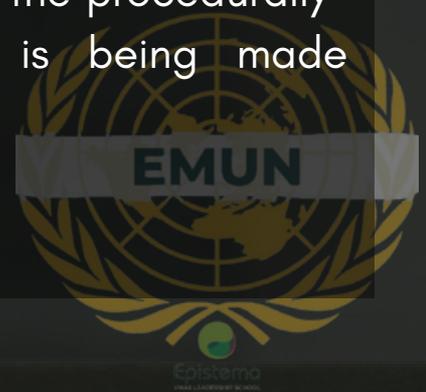
Tier 3: Includes: any publication from news sources of international repute such as Reuters, The New York Times, Agence-France Presse, etcetera. The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation. Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

Personal pronouns

This particular Executive Board does not care very much about whether a delegate uses personal pronouns to refer to herself/himself. As long as the language employed by the delegate is diplomatic in both tone and content, we will not mind the usage of personal pronouns.

Cheat-sheet on ROP

For the purpose of making the simulation easier to the procedurally-unacquainted, the following ROP cheat-sheet is being made available.



Cheat-sheet on ROP

Motions

Setting the agenda

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to set the agenda as _____.

Establishing a GSL

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to establish the general speakers' list with an individual speaker's time of ___.

Moderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic _____ for a total time period of ___ minutes with individual speaker's time being ___.

Unmoderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of ___ minutes

Extension to informal debate

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to extend the current moderated/unmoderated caucus by _____ minutes.

Introduction of documentation

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to introduce draft resolution/press statement/ Presidential statement [number].



Cheat-sheet on ROP

Motions

Voting on introduced document(s)

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to table formal debate and move into voting on [document name].

Points

Point of personal privilege

- Personal inconvenience e.g. inaudibility of some part of the speech of another delegate
- CAN interrupt an active speaker

Point of parliamentary inquiry

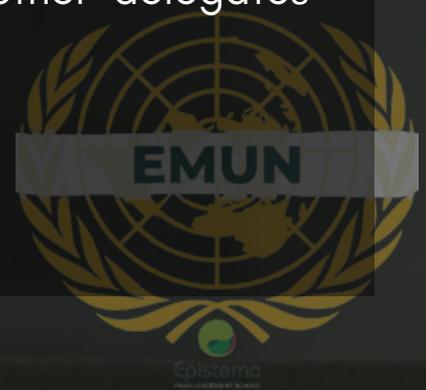
- Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure • CANNOT interrupt a speaker

Point of information

- Used to ask questions to other delegates on their speeches • CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

Point of order

- Used to point out inaccuracies in procedure and if allowed, even on factual inaccuracies within the speeches of other delegates • CANNOT interrupt an active speaker



Cheat-sheet on ROP

Yields

Yield to points of information

Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you on the speech you made.

Yield to another delegate

Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech

Yield to the executive board

Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time's usage is upto the discretion of the EB.

