



# **The Complete Starter Kit to Preparing for Your First Model UN Conference**

**Diplomat Track: For Novice MUN  
Delegates Ages 11-18** *By Best Delegate*

# Preparing for your first MUN Conference

Preparation is a critical part of any Model UN conference- you need to come prepared so you can deliver informed speeches, make strong arguments while negotiating, and write innovative and realistic resolutions on your committee topics. Preparation and research needs to focus on both your country and your topics, and it can add up to a lot of information that there's no way for you to memorize! Here's a sample conference preparation timeline:

Before the Conference	
6 weeks before	Print off and read the "Background Guide" for your committee. This is provided by the conference and can usually be found online.
5 weeks before	Put your "Background Guide" into a binder to hold all your information. This is called a "Research Binder". Start filling it with information you find researching your country and topic.
4 weeks before	Complete a "Country Profile", researching your assigned country.
2-3 weeks before	Research your topic- specifically the Topic Background, Past International Action, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions
1 week before	Write an "Opening Speech" and practice it before the conference!

## Researching your Country Profile

### Physical Geography

What is your country's official name?  
 What region of the world is your country located in?  
 How big is your country? (square miles)  
 Who are your country's neighbors?  
 How would you describe your country's physical features and climate?

### Culture

What is your country's population?  
 What is your country's ethnic composition?  
 What is your country's official language? What other languages are spoken?  
 What is your country's capital? What are some of the major cities?  
 How would you describe the quality of life in your country?

### Politics & Government

When was your country founded?  
 What type of government does your country have?  
 Who are some of your country's leaders?  
 How many people serve in your country's military?  
 Who are your country's allies? Enemies?

### Economy

What is your country's total Gross Domestic Product?  
 What are some of your country's natural resources?  
 What is your country's currency?  
 What are your country's major imports and exports?  
 What are your country's biggest trading partners?

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Your first step in assembling your research binder should be your country profile- a research packet about what country you're going to represent! While you may not need to know what your 8th biggest export is, it's critical to have a decent understanding of your country if you want to represent them in debate. See above for a list of guiding questions to research for your country profile.

There are many resources to help your research your country. While many resources may be provided by the countries themselves, there are also several credible databases that share information about countries; visit the [Best Delegate Country Profile and Policy Map](#) to check them out!

## Researching Topic Background

After researching your country, you should begin looking into the topic that you're going to be discussing. It's important to have a good base of understanding about your topic before you dive in and try to decipher how your country feels about that topic. There are numerous resources on UN websites and across the internet about your topic- even Wikipedia is a good place to start, so you can use their sources at the bottom to find more information about your topic. You should have a strong historical understanding of your topic, as well as the causes and impacts of the issue you're discussing so that you can come prepared to committee on the first day of the conference.



## Researching Past International Action and Country Policy

To understand how to represent your country at the UN, you need to know two things- what the international community has already done about the topic, and what your country wants to do about it. To find Past International Action, you can try looking through news sources, but you can also read past UN reports and resolutions on the issue. The [UN Official Documentation Services](#) can help you determine what the UN has done about the topic already. A similar solution can be found for your country's policy on the issue- by looking at the websites of your country's government, foreign ministry, or UN mission, you can find statements and actions related to the topic you're discussing.

## Researching Solutions

While researching UN and government websites can be helpful to learn about what the UN has done about your topic in the past, they may not be as helpful as you'd like for finding new solutions to these issues you're researching! However, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can be great resources to find solutions to the topic you're researching. Also, Think Tanks and University Researchers may have published ideas on how the issue can be fixed, and looking through their ideas can be great ways to brainstorm ideas on how to take these issues. The most important thing for finding solutions to these problems, however, is your creativity! Think of ways the UN and Member States could work together to combat this issue in realistic ways, and plan how these solutions would work in your words!



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Summer  
2017

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