

## WHAT IS A WORKING PAPER?

Working papers are the first written expression of delegates' concerns and solutions to the issues at hand. Even though they are informal by nature, they are essential components of the resolution process. Delegates will usually compose working papers in small groups or blocs, beginning the process of compromise that eventually results in a resolution.

Working papers are written in the format delegates think is best suited to spreading their ideas. They do not require the preambulatory or operative phrases of draft resolutions. Some delegates prefer to bullet ideas or write in paragraph form, while others prefer to use resolution form. Either is acceptable. Again, the function of working papers is the spread of ideas in tangible form.

After being written, working papers should be submitted for approval to the Director of the committee. Upon obtaining the Director's approval, the working papers will be submitted to the Administrative staff along with the proper submission form.

When the Director receives the working papers from the Administrative staff, they will be distributed at the discretion of the Director. The rules of debate are temporarily suspended in order for copies of the working paper to be distributed and read by all members of the committee when the Director so chooses. Before the working papers are introduced to committee, however, delegates may not refer to them as such. Delegates may only refer to working papers during debate that have not yet been introduced as a "set of ideas". Once working papers have been distributed and read by all, debate continues as it was.

## WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A resolution is a more formal solution proposal, usually written after extensive debate and deliberation on the topics. Effective resolutions must be the product of the compromise of many nations, not just the ideas of a select few. In essence, a resolution outlines the specific statement that the committee will make on the topic.

Often the working papers that have been distributed to the committee are combined with the ideas echoed in formal debate to form the basis of a resolution. Unlike working papers, resolutions are composed in larger groups attempting to merge the ideas of many nations into one cohesive, comprehensive solution. Some resolutions combine working papers. Others combine previous draft resolutions. In either case, a resolution is expected to be the best means in which the committee addresses the situation before it.

At UCMUN, multiple resolutions may be passed on the same topic provided they are not contradictory. While the Director of the committee will ultimately decide if resolutions are indeed contradictory, few committees will pass such resolutions. The passage of multiple resolutions allows delegates to consider several strategies when devising resolutions. First, delegates can opt for the comprehensive approach. In this manner, delegates attempt to conceive one resolution that encompasses the entire breadth of the topic. Another option is that of addressing smaller aspects of each topic in greater depth. A more narrow resolution may provide greater focus and depth than a broader resolution that must address the entire topic. If the committee passes several of these types

of resolutions, it may ultimately provide a more extensive solution. Ultimately, though, the type of resolution depends on the dynamic of the committee, delegates, and the topics.

In the United Nations, the success of a resolution depends on the support it holds within the committee. To the extent that countries supporting a resolution will be most likely to implement its principles, a successful resolution will have the support of many delegations. As such, resolutions should contain the input of many nations. They should be the product of debate, consensus, and compromise. While nations should never compromise the principles of the nations for the sake of a resolution, delegates must weigh the need for compromise with the preservation of national interests. Quality resolutions will discover the solution most agreeable to the most nations.