

Preliminary Agenda

Should the Convention on Torture Be Renegotiated to Make Torture Legal Under Certain Circumstances?

Introduction and Protocol

General Introduction

The Global Problems Summit is designed to teach participants about the dynamics of global problems, international politics, and negotiations. Students act as representatives, “delegates,” of those states participating in the summit. Student representatives meet in formal and informal debates to design solutions for a wide range of current global issues.

The Global Problems Summit applies some of the same rules of conference diplomacy practiced in the United Nations. These rules and norms of state behavior began to emerge at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, were further developed at the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and became formalized in the League of Nations and the United Nations system. The rules applied at the United Nations today have successfully guided the institution for 57 years.

Summit Procedures

The Global Problems Summit will run during three, successive class periods. All of the sessions will be divided between formal debate and caucus time. During formal debate, the rules of procedure are in force. Delegates will make speeches, respond to questions, and introduce and debate resolutions to these problems. When a caucus is called during sessions, delegates meet informally with each other to discuss resolutions and the issues at hand.

To facilitate caucus, it is suggested that delegates meet in various blocs. Blocs are groups of countries in roughly the same geographic area or with similar interests. Blocs are by no means rigid or required. Sometimes delegates find that their interests do not fit in with those of any bloc and form new groupings. Blocs are really a vehicle to facilitate discussion and to develop collective responses to problems.

The primary mechanism for international solutions in the Global Problems Summit is the **resolution**. For the resolution to be an effective solution, an oversized majority of member states (two-thirds) must agree on and vote for the proposed solution. Thus, the success of the Global Problems Summit is directly contingent on sovereign state behavior and the development of standards of conference diplomacy.

The process of developing a resolution requires written work. Documents are copied and distributed throughout the summit, thereby giving maximum exposure to all ideas presented. The mechanism for gathering support for a resolution is the draft resolution or **working paper**. Working papers are summary documents that outline a country’s position on the problem and make suggestions, comments, proposals, etc... All delegates are required to complete working papers in advance of the summit sessions.

The best resolutions are the result of collaboration among delegates. This involves conversion of working papers or related ideas into a resolution by adding appropriate wording. It is expected that delegates may develop and consider several, different resolution drafts on a topic at the same time.

For formal consideration, resolutions require four sponsors. Once a delegate believes that s/he has enough international support, they must submit the draft resolution to the Chairperson with the signatures of the sponsors. The Chairperson will review and then distribute the resolution for formal consideration at the summit meeting. A great deal of negotiation will be required to build consensus to pass a resolution. Throughout the summit, delegates should constantly ask themselves how many compromises their country would really make to get a resolution passed.

Summit Protocol

There are several important Rules of Protocol for the Global Problems Summit:

1. Delegates gain the attention of the Chair either by sending a note or by raising their placards. Delegates are addressed as, for example, the “Delegate of Sweden,” or simply by country name.
2. Delegates should dress in semi-formal attire. Delegates are encouraged to dress in the formal style of the nation which they represent. Participants in the Global Problems Summit should be careful to show respect for the country they are representing.
3. Delegates are also expected to show respect for the rules of the summit, the staff, and the traditions of institutions like the United Nations. “Respect” includes careful attention during formal debate, respect for all speakers in formal debate, as well as good behavior during informal debate and caucus. Delegates may be called to order by the Chairperson or his/her staff when their behavior shows a lack of respect for others.
4. After a speaker has completed his/her speech in the general debate, the Chairperson will ask the delegate to take a question or will acknowledge the next speaker from the speaker’s list to take the floor.

Rules of Procedure for the Global Problems Summit

Section 1: Agenda

The provisional agenda for Global Problems Summit sessions shall be set by the Chairperson and be communicated to delegates at least fourteen days before the opening of the summit.

Section 2: The Chairperson

The Chairperson exercises the powers conferred upon him/her by these rules. In addition, the Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each session, direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. The Chairperson may, in the course of discussion of an item, propose to the summit the limitation of the time allotment for speakers, or the closure of debate on the item under discussion.

Section 3: Speakers' List

No representative may address the summit without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairperson. The summit shall have at all times an open speakers' list for the topic area being discussed. The Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Section 4: Speaking During Formal Debate

Delegates are allowed a set time to speak on the issues relevant to the debate on the agreed topic. If time remains after a speaker has finished speaking, the Chairperson will request whether the speaker wishes to answer questions from the assembly or yield the remainder of his/her time to another delegate or the Chair. Any delegate with a question shall indicate this by raising his placard. Questioners shall be chosen by the Chairperson, and the speaker can continue to take questions until his/her time elapses and the Chair designates that the next speaker from the speakers' list will take the floor.

Section 5: Point of Information

A Point of Information may be used at any time to make inquiries on rules of procedure; the past, present and future state of business; or any other relevant question pertaining to the summit procedure or other matters. The point may interrupt a speaker. If the Chairperson feels that Points of Information are being used to disrupt or delay the orderly conduct of the meeting, s/he may rule that they must be submitted in writing for a specific period of time.

Section 6: Right of Reply

The Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, accord the Right of Reply to any delegate if a speech delivered by another representative makes this appropriate and may limit the time accorded for reply. It shall be the policy of the Chairperson not to accord the Right of Reply unless a preceding speech has contained extraordinary comment bearing directly on the national or personal dignity of the delegate offended. Malicious or slanderous attacks of a personal nature, or against any particular nation, are prohibited.

Section 7: Caucusing

At any time a delegate may make a motion to caucus, which shall immediately be put to a vote unless ruled out of order by the Chairperson. The delegate making the motion to caucus must specify a time limit for the caucus and briefly explain its purpose. The time limit is subject to the Chairperson's approval. During a caucusing period, the formal rules of procedure are suspended and delegates may discuss the issues on the table and draft resolutions informally. Delegates may not leave the committee room or such areas as are designated for the caucus.

Section 8: Form of Resolutions

A. Proposed resolutions shall be placed before the Chairperson in writing. A resolution may be introduced on the floor when it has the approval of the Chairperson and has been signed by four member states at the summit. Signing a resolution need not indicate support of the resolution, and the signer has no further rights or obligations.

B. The resolution should be a formal statement of member state intentions--a plan to resolve key issues through cooperative actions. It should include a brief introduction that refers to precedent or recognizes past developments. It should also include 'active clauses' that specifically describe the purpose and program to be carried out if the resolution passes.

C. No resolution may be introduced to the committee until it has the approval of the Chairperson and has been copied and distributed to the delegates. When this has occurred, one of the sponsors of the resolution will be directed to rise to introduce it resolution when the floor is open. The resolution, and all other issues related to that topic, are then open for debate.

Section 9: Closure of Debate/Vote on Resolutions

A representative may at any time make a motion to close debate on any resolution and put it to an immediate vote by raising their placard. If a majority of the member states votes in favor of closure, the Chairperson shall declare debate closed and will then initiate an immediate vote on the primary proposal at hand. An affirmative vote by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting shall be necessary for passage of any resolution. Once passed, a resolution becomes a binding contract and a standard of international law. If a resolution does not receive enough support, it is removed from consideration at the summit.

Section 10: Voting

A. Each member of the Global Problems Summit shall have one vote. Votes on procedural motions are to be taken by placard only and require a simple majority (51%). Permissible votes on procedural motions are "yes" or "no" only.

B. Votes on substantive resolutions require a roll call vote and a two-thirds (67%) majority for passage. In a roll call vote, the Chairperson shall read the name of each member nation. The member shall call out "yes", "no", "abstain", or "pass". After going through the list of members once, the Chairperson shall ask again for the votes of members who passed the first time. If a member passes twice, his/her vote shall be recorded as "abstain". After all votes have been taken, the Chairperson tallies the vote and then announces the outcome of the vote.

Appendix A: Sample Summary Working Paper

Topic: The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Sponsor: Germany

Delegate: Ulrich Metz

As Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer reiterated in 2001, Germany's non-nuclear vows are "unambiguous and forever." Our non-nuclear weapons status has been a requirement since the Two-Plus-Four agreement that paved the way for reunification in 1990. In 2005, Germany remains a fervent advocate of the non-nuclear regime and is completely convinced that there is a further need for more systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. German citizens believe nuclear weapons are more of a liability than an asset and they affirm that promoting nonproliferation and disarmament means promoting German national interest. Our policies are determined by basic principles: we want to strengthen cooperative relationships with our economic partners in the world to promote democracy, free trade, and human rights. Germany is not a military power with global commitment. As a signatory of the NPT's non-nuclear states party and adherents to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Bans, we expect the continued protection under NATO's and the United State's nuclear umbrella but recognize that the NPT does not preclude an European Union with nuclear capability. However, Germany will never co-possess nuclear weapons, and in this context, we propose global, multilateral approaches to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction that will achieve nuclear disarmament and not merely conduct "good faith" negotiations:

1. Not only should existing treaties for the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction be modified to force compliance but new principles in the NPT should be implemented to promote elimination of nuclear weapons.
2. Globally agreed upon sanctions should be brought against those who do not comply with the modifications. New principles should be implemented that further enhance nonproliferation:
 - a. Require all nuclear states to place all fissile materials under international safeguards, similar to the principle we unsuccessfully tried to implement in the 1995 NPT extension.
 - b. Establish a convention banning production of fissile materials for non-peaceful purposes and challenge the U.S.-Russian position that the cut off verification regime must not require IAEA full-scope safeguards. It is illogical that IAEA monitors all plutonium in non-weapon states under the NPT while the cut off allows declared and undeclared to get away with less.
3. A global, multilateral approach to structuring a convention for a Global Zero Treaty for Weapons of mass Destruction should be founded, which would lead to an eventual ban on the productions, use, and threat of all nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.
4. All new treaties and/or modifications to treaties should include a call for the building of institutions and structures that will promote economic and security cooperation in this increasingly interdependent world.

Appendix B: Sample Resolution

RESOLUTION 3

Title: Global Zero Treaty for Weapons of Mass Destruction

Sponsors: South Africa, Paraguay, Venezuela, Malaysia, Canada

Recalling past efforts to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

Recognizing Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that calls on nuclear weapons states to “pursue complete nuclear disarmament.”

Realizing the evidence that limits on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are being violated and the need for a cooperative venture to be undertaken by all nations of the world. We hereby:

1) Recommend that states sign a new Global Zero Treaty for weapons of mass destruction. The Global Zero Treaty would include the following clauses:

- a) Each signatory pledges to eliminate its stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons by 2010;
- b) Each non-possessor state agrees not to acquire weapons of mass destruction;
- c) All states agree to turn over all technology and blueprints for these systems to the international authority named below.

2) Urge the establishment of an International Weapons of Mass Destruction Monitoring Agency (IWMDA), with the following aims:

- a) The IWMDA will be established with the express purpose of monitoring and inspecting weapons facilities in states that sign onto this treaty so as to ensure compliance.
- b) IWMDA will oversee the collection of WMD technology and blueprints, and will propose options to signatories for the conversion of these resources into peaceful energy programs.

3) Call for signatories to the Global Zero Treaty to provide funds for the operation of the IWMDA by imposing a special tax on all arms transactions across state borders. Member states would ensure that arms dealers pay 10% of the value of their international sales into the IWMDA account at the World Bank.