



Preparation for Debates

How to prepare for OLINMUN
February 21st & 22nd 2025

Organizers



Mateo Romero Raful

Secretary General 2025

Emma Bravo Millares

Chief of Staff and Protocol 2025

Fernando Ruano García

Secretary of Academic Affairs 2025

Leonardo Ángel Rodríguez Piña

Secretary of Academic Affairs 2025

Daniela Sandoval Careaga

Coordinator of OLINMUN 2025

The main objective of Olinca's Model United Nations is to raise awareness of global issues in young people by opening new perspectives for them. This forum encourages all students to respectfully debate and propose solutions to worldwide issues affecting us all.

Contents

I. Preparation before Debates	p. 4
II. Preparation for Debates	p. 4
III. Debate Formats	p. 5
1. Position Paper (English and Spanish Samples)	
2. Resolution Paper (English and Spanish Samples)	
3. Evidence and witness ICJ	

I. Preparation before Debates

Studying the issues

Investigating about the topic to gather information and expand your knowledge is the first step of research.

You may find a wide variety of information about the crisis but try to figure out if the sources you are using are trustworthy and reliable. Consulting official UN sites is recommended since you may locate and retrieve copies of resolutions and voting records.

II. Preparation for Debates

a) Investigating about your country

Once you have understood the issues, you should become familiar with your country's position regarding the topics. You will learn who your allies and adversaries are. This will be helpful during the UN debate to form alliances and coalitions. It will be vital to know the strengths and weaknesses of your country so you can defend your position.

Other important facts you should consider are your geographical location, your trading partners, your adversaries (religious, economic, and historical) as well as your allies.

b) Where your country stands on the issue

Investigating about decisions that have been made in your country regarding the issue, as well as understanding the background of these decisions, is one of the most important things you should do. This will allow you to debate and **defend the exact position** of your country.

c) Know your country's weaknesses

You should objectively study your country's weaknesses and prepare defenses in case those vulnerabilities are brought up during the debate. A delegate caught unaware of these facts may lose support from others.

d) Teamwork

This is the most important part of your participation since you cannot succeed without the support of other delegations. Listen to what every delegate has to say, study about other countries and how they are related to the issues. This will help you during the debate.

e) Having all the information together

After doing all your research, certain information may come in handy on the day of the debate. This is why we encourage all delegates to have a binder where they keep important information including all debate formats. Delegates are also encouraged to write their initial speech with the objective of presenting the most pertinent information during the first quorum.

III. Debate Formats

1) Position Paper

When the agenda is opened you will be asked to hand in your country's position paper, which is intended to state your country's point of view. No plagiarism is accepted; copying your position paper will cause a direct warning. You should use the following format:

OLINMUN 2025



Sample Position Paper

COMMITTEE: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

COUNTRY: The United States of America

TOPIC A: Children and armed conflict

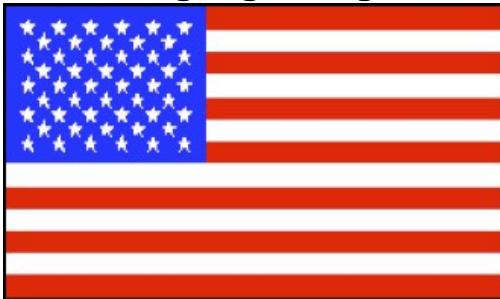
Official name: United States of America

Capital: Washington D.C.

Population: 294 million

Currency: US dollar

Official Language: English



(HISTORICAL BACKGROUND)

Throughout history and in many cultures, children have been extensively involved in armed conflicts. Children can take direct part in hostilities, used as porters, spies, messengers and sexual slaves. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 38 proclaimed: "State parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities." However, minors who are over the age of 15 but remain under the age of 18 are still voluntarily able to take part in combat as soldiers. Nevertheless, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers reports that the use of children in military forces, and the active participation of children in armed conflicts is widespread.

(POSITION PAPER)

In the United States 17-year-olds may join the armed forces, but may not be stationed outside the continental US or deployed in combat situations. The United States military is based on voluntary recruitment, though minors also must have parental permission to enlist. The US has founded organizations like the War Child that promotes not using children in armed conflicts according to The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also, the US has offered military assistance to countries using child soldiers.

(PROPOSAL)

To stop using children in armed conflicts or in any other military force, the US proposes all the countries to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The protocol requires of ratifying governments to ensure that while their armed forces can accept volunteers under the age of 18, they cannot be conscripted and States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities.

Sources of information shall be written below in APA format.

OLINMUN 2025



Ejemplo en español Posicionamiento Político

COMITÉ: Consejo de Seguridad

PAÍS: República de Colombia

TEMA A: Inseguridad para los migrantes debido a la presencia de militares en la frontera

Nombre Oficial: República de Colombia

Población: 49 millones de habitantes

Moneda: bolívar

Idioma oficial: español



(CONTEXTO HISTÓRICO)

La migración es un conflicto atemporal que ha estado presente desde que la humanidad comenzó a vivir en sociedad. Situaciones adversas o la búsqueda de más y mejores oportunidades obligan a millones de personas a desplazarse de sus países natales buscando asilo temporal o definitivo en otras naciones. No obstante, el viaje que han de emprender es siempre uno lleno de riesgos asociados a peligros externos durante el trayecto o discriminación y rechazo una vez que alcanzan el país al que deseaban llegar.

Las fronteras latinoamericanas se encuentran entre las más peligrosas debido a la fuerte presencia de grupos paramilitares, normalmente asociados a cárteles de crimen organizado y tráfico de drogas. La presencia de estos grupos en la frontera supone un riesgo importante para los migrantes indocumentados quienes son víctimas de atentados contra su vida o libertad en la búsqueda de un mejor futuro para sus familias.

(POSICIONAMIENTO POLÍTICO)

Colombia reconoce la evidente relación que su historia tiene con los grupos paramilitares, después de todo fue el caso de Sucre, en Colombia, el que dio paso a la ya común jerarquía narcotráfico-estado conocida como Captura del Estado y la coalición de la misma con grupos paramilitares como las Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia.

No obstante, la delegación considera que su historia con el narcotráfico supone una importante ventaja estratégica en su comprensión y prevención. Hoy en día el gobierno ha hecho importantes avances en contra del narcotráfico y la situación ha mejorado sustancialmente con respecto a hace cuatro décadas. Mediante la cooperación con las naciones con mayor importancia en el conflicto (Guatemala, México y los Estados Unidos de América) se podría llegar a una solución viable para garantizar la seguridad de los migrantes mediante la regulación de las políticas migratorias y la intervención en las fronteras.

(PROPUESTAS)

Colombia propone buscar soluciones inmediatas al problema, éstas suponen una militarización de las fronteras mediante una alianza multipartidaria de naciones involucradas con naciones europeas como observadores, o bien, la intervención de un ente externo como la INTERPOL debido a la ineficacia de los Cascos Azules del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

No se aceptarán documentos sin bibliografía en formato APA.

2) Resolution Paper

After debating on a topic, resolutions will start to be developed. Please follow this sample:

OLINMUN 2025



Sample Resolution Paper

Submitted to: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Subject: Children and Armed Conflict

Proposed by: The United States of America

Topic A: Children and Armed Conflict

(PREAMBLE PARAGRAPH)

The preamble paragraph should include a brief explanation of the topic that has been discussed. Preamble phrases should be used to take into consideration any resolution paper.

Preamble Phrases

Affirming	Emphasizing	Observing
Alarmed by	Expecting	Realizing
Aware of	Fully aware	Reaffirming
Believing fully	Having considered	Recognizing
Convinced	Further	Taking into consideration
Declaring	Keeping in mind	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply disturbed	Noting	

Example: Emphasizing the problem of children and their roles in armed conflicts, and alarmed by the number of children involved in armed conflicts, and fully aware of the countries that suffer from this problem, etc. ...

(OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH)

The actions that will be taken should be explained in this paragraph, using operative clauses.

Operative Phrases

Accepts	Encourages	Reminds
Approves	Fully recommends	Requests
Calls upon	Invites	Resolves
Condemns	Notes	Supports
Confirms	Proclaims	Trusts
Considers	Reaffirms	Urges
Declares	Recommends	Yields
Emphasizes	Regrets	

Example

- 1.- Approves the intervention of military support to assist the countries that are affected, following the next restrictions:
 - a. These bodies would assess other military forces.
 - b. No country is forced to accept this clause.
- 2.- Supports the existence of nongovernmental organizations.

OLINMUN 2025



Ejemplo en español Resolución

Presentado ante UNICEF

Tema: Niños en conflictos armados

Propuesto por: Estados Unidos de América

Tema A: Niños en conflictos armados

(PÁRRAFO PREAMBULAR)

El párrafo preambular deberá incluir una breve explicación del tema previamente discutido. Las frases preambulares deben ser utilizadas para que se tome en consideración cualquier papel de resolución.

Frases preambulares

Afirmando	Enfatizando	Observando
Alarmados por	Esperando	Percatándose
Conscientes de	Completamente conscientes de	Reafirmando
Creyendo ampliamente	Habiendo considerado	Reconociendo
Convencidos	En adición	Tomando en consideración
Declarando	Teniendo en mente	Viendo con aprecio
Profundamente perturbados	Notando	

Ejemplo: Enfatizando el problema de los niños y su rol en los conflictos, así como alarmados por el número de niños involucrados en el conflicto armado, estamos completamente conscientes de que la forma de proceder...

(PÁRRAFO OPERATIVO)

Las acciones que se llevarán a cabo deberán de ser explicadas en este párrafo usando frases operativas:

Frases operativas

Acepta	Alienta	Recuerda
Aprueba	Recomienda ampliamente	Solicita
Exhorta a	Inventa	Resuelve
Condena	Nota	Apoya
Confirma	Proclama	Confía
Considera	Reafirma	Incita
Declara	Recomienda	Cede
Enfatiza	Se arrepiente	

1.- Aprueba la intervención de apoyo militar y para las naciones afectadas siguiendo las siguientes restricciones:

- a. Estos cuerpos armados valorarán la intervención de otras fuerzas militares
- b. Ningún país se verá obligado a aceptar esta cláusula

2.- Apoya la intervención de entes no gubernamentales.

3) Evidence and witness for ICJ

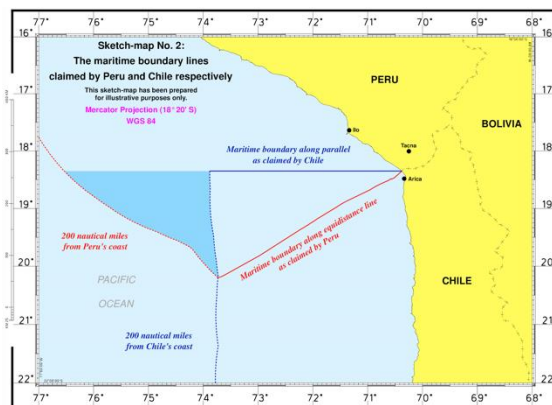
Evidence

Presentation of evidence must be brief and concise. Agents must clearly explain the point to be proven and relevance of the piece. It may be of any nature: physical; videography; photographic; phonographic; printed documents. Judges may require an extraordinary session of questions. After a piece of evidence has been presented, justices may then move to a retirement of the agency to review it.

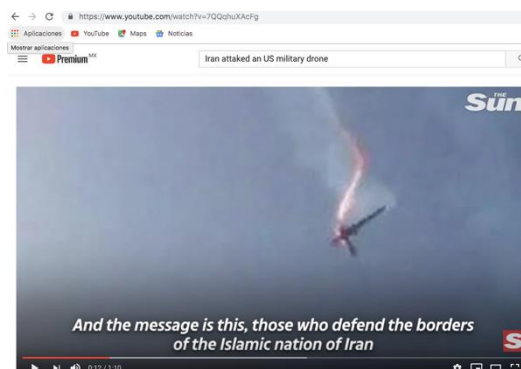
Images: Agents may present to court images to present their case in front of the justices. Images must be explained thoroughly, giving details of both, the content, and its relevance to the case.



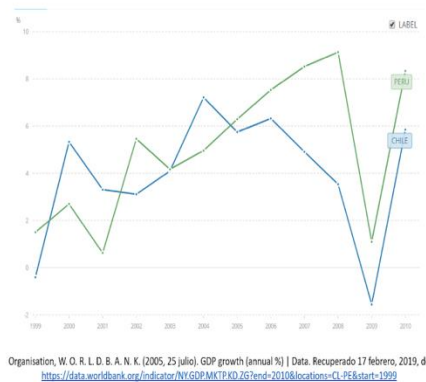
Maps: Agents usually bring maps to court when they want to explain a geographical matter in a dispute between states members. Most of the times it focuses on territorial matters or regarding resources.



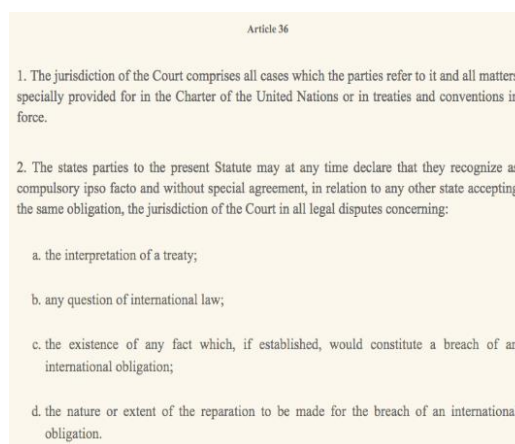
Videos: Agents are allowed to present short videos within the purpose of exposing their stand during court.



Graphs: Agents may bring graphs or statistic data to sustain their arguments.



Legal Framework: Agents are allowed to quote a treaty or a specific article as evidence.



Witness

Just as the presentation of evidence, the presentation of a witness must be brief and concise. Agents must clearly explain who their witness is and what their relevance is to the case. A cross-examination (questions to discredit or undercut testimony already given) by the counterpart must be allowed. Judges may require an extraordinary session of questions to the witness. After a witness has been presented, justices may then move to a retirement of the agency to review it.

Sample of Witness (ICJ/ICC)

THE LAWYER

AGENTS: Your honors, as our (1st or 2nd) witness, we introduce Ms. Fernanda Smith.

MODERATOR: Thank you, agents. (Ms. Fernanda Smith) Ms. please place your right hand on your heart and raise your left hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, under pains and penalties of perjury?

SMITH: I do.

MODERATOR: You may introduce yourself briefly and tell us why you are here.

SMITH: My name is Fernanda Smith. I am a lawyer who strongly believes in the US Constitution, their laws, and their policies. I studied at Harvard University where I made a master's degree in international law and politics and I am an expert in constitutional rights. I have come on my own will to give my testimony regarding the US violating the Amity treaty.

MODERATOR: Thank you. (To the agents) You may now proceed with the testimony. I remind you that you have (time considered suitable by the court).

AGENT: Based on your knowledge, could you explain to the court what the Kelsen pyramid is?

SMITH: Of course, it is a graphic legal system used to represent the hierarchy of laws. In a few words the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Below the constitution lie the laws made by the congress, the international treaties and the supreme decrees.

AGENT: Taking it under account, under what circumstances may a country breach an international treaty?

SMITH: The only reason to breach an international treaty would be if the country's constitutional rights are in danger.

AGENT: Based on what you have said, how does this apply to the situation of the United States of America?

SMITH: Based on the Article VI of the United States Constitution (which considers the supreme Law of the Land, the US Constitution is the primary Law) all the international treaties are below their Constitution. The government is obliged to accomplish every single paragraph of the United States Constitution, in this case the US is forced to preserve the "National Security" in their country.

AGENT: What is the National Security System of the United States based on?

SMITH: The National Security of the United States is based on the total defense, nationalism, and internationalism, of the economic and political interests of the United States of America, whenever it is necessary and when this cannot be guaranteed by diplomatic means or intelligence actions, the US has all the right to proceed however it considers suitable.

AGENT: Based on your historical knowledge, could you please explain to the court what the violations of Iran to the US national security are.

SMITH: Of course. For many years, Iran has been one of the largest States sponsoring terrorism by providing a wide array of weapons, funds, intelligence, safe harbor and logistical support to Al Qaeda and Hezbollah terrorists, organizations which have attacked my nation whenever they have had the opportunity to do so. For example, in the year 2001, when Iran facilitated the transit of al Qaeda members in and out of Afghanistan a day before the 9/11 attacks, or in the year 1983 attacks in Beirut attacks when a group of Hezbollah terrorist killed 241 US marines. Based on this connection between Iran and terrorism, the US has the right to apply the national security system, placing their citizens first.

AGENT: As you can see, Mr. Smith's testimony tells us that Iran has violated the United States national security, based on their connection with terrorism, so we are allowed to use our national security system to provide security to our citizens. The defense rests.

