

1st ACGMUN Conference

ICJ Manual

Welcome to this year's ACG MUN Conference! This manual will help you understand the principles and the procedure of the International Court of Justice. Here you will find all the information you will need as well as some basic tips and guidelines to make your ICJ experience as fruitful as possible.

What is the International Court of Justice?

The ICJ, which was first established in June 1945 and began work in April 1946, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. In accordance with International Law, its role is to settle legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinion on legal questions.

For more information on the ICJ role in the United Nations visit:

<http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php?lang=en>

How does the Model ICJ work?

The ICJ consists of 15 judges, the Registrar, two Presidents and 4 advocates divided by two equal pairs representing each country on the trial in question. Each advocate team has to make their case and convince the panel of judges to vote for or against (respectively) on the case. During the procedure, the advocates have to call on their memorandum, their witnesses and substantial evidence that they have provided. It is in the judges' discretion to decide whether the evidence and witnesses' statements are taken under Minimum, Medium, Maximum Consideration. Each judge has one vote for or against the Applicant. In the off chance that there is a tie, the president of the ICJ has the deciding vote.

What should be done prior to the Court Session? (Advocates)

Each team of Advocates representing their Country is obligated to prepare a Memorandum that shows the position of their country and their point of view on the matter. Within the Memorandum (which is approximately 1000 words) there should be included: a complete listing of the issues of their country, events and facts that happened between those two countries considering the case and anything else that would make the judges more sympathetic towards their side. The form that it should follow is:

- 1. Statement of Facts**
- 2. Statement of the Applicable Law**
- 3. A passage supporting the claims of each country**

4. Wishes and propositions for the exact terms the ICJ should advise

Furthermore, the Advocates have to find Stipulations (facts and events both parties agree on) and present them to the presidency.

The above documents have to be sent to the Presidency and distributed to the Judges prior to the conference.

In addition, the Advocates have to prepare a witness list and inform the Presidency. The witnesses have to be relevant to the case.

Objections, Points and Motions

The Objections, Motions and Points are used to draw attention to mistakes that may have been made, requests to do something outside of the natural procedure and questions that a participant may have.

Objections:

- **Hearsay** (when during the interrogation of the witness, the witness doesn't work as a primary source but as a secondary)
- **Leading Question** (when the questions made by the advocate providing the witness to the same witness can be answered in a yes or no manner or it is posed in a way that the witness doesn't express their opinion)
- **Speculation** (when the witness or an advocate tries to predict a certain outcome that is not capable of being confirmed)
- **Prejudicial** (when a question hurts the integrity of the panel or the witness)
- **Competence** (when a question requires knowledge that the witness cannot possibly possess ex. a question with technical details)
- **Badgering** (when a question is intimidating the witness)

Points

- **Point of Personal Privilege**
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**

Motions

- **Motion to extend** (only made by the Judges)
- **Motion to approach the board** (only made by the Advocates)

What does each day entail?

Day 1

1. Roll Call
2. Opening statements
3. Presentation of evidence by both parties
4. Judges Deliberation
5. Questioning of Advocates by the Judges

Day 2

1. Roll Call
2. Debate
3. Presentation of Witnesses
4. Cross examination
5. Interrogation of Witnesses by the Judges
6. Judges Deliberation
7. Questioning of Advocates by the Judges

Day 3

1. Rebuttal
2. Questioning of Advocates by the Judges
3. Deliberation
4. Verdict

Closing Remarks

Advocates have to communicate and act as a team as well as keep in touch with the other team of Advocates as well as the Presidency.

The case has to be prepared thoroughly and examined in every part.

It's very important that the documents that are required prior to the conference be sent on time.

Feel free to pose questions for a better conference experience to the designated Presidency.

Witnesses have to be prepared by the Advocates and relevant to the case.

Keep in mind that the rating of the Witnesses and Evidence is not up to the Advocates discretion. Don't base your case only on the Witnesses and little Evidence.

Advocates and Judges throughout the Conference are not to discuss the case with each other.

We're looking forward to seeing you in April!

Best regards,
The Secretariat