

DCMUN 2017

The Davis College Model United Nations
Cork City Hall / 24th-27th January 2017

Model United Nations Explained

What is it?

MUN is one of the most popular extra-curricular academic activities worldwide. It is a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, in which students represent delegations (countries or NGOs – non-governmental organisations).

What is the objective?

To write clauses and ultimately resolutions that will tackle, resolve or at least minimise problems connected to pressing world issues in the areas of human rights, scientific advancement, ethics, aid, disarmament, etc.

How does it work?

In a MUN conference, each student represents a country or a NGO. Students will become experts in the delegation they represent and on the issues being debated. They will then write clauses, which will be debated, voted and included (or not) in a resolution.

How can I prepare for a conference?

Your MUN teacher will guide your research, which will basically consist of knowing your delegation's main characteristics and its position in relation to the issues that are going to be debated at the conference. This will generate ideas to write your clauses and resolutions.

What are clauses and resolutions?

A clause (operative clause is the proper full term) is a small text or paragraph, acting as UN legislation, about a certain important issue in the global agenda. The main aim is to solve world problems, but delegates will also want to look after their delegations' interests. A resolution is a long document made up of several clauses. Here's how a clause looks like:

EXAMPLE OF AN OPERATIVE CLAUSE

Issue 1 – Ethics in Medicine

Submitter: Netherlands

Co-submitters: Belgium, Greece, Ethiopia, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa

Asks for a more interventionist role by the WHO in the regulation of the antiretroviral drugs (ARV) trade in the following premises:

- a) Revise the intellectual property legislation on pharmaceuticals;
 - i) Patents should not be allowed to be extended;
 - ii) Pharmaceutical patents should not exceed a period of five years instead of twenty;
- a) Coordinate the production of generic medicine and guarantee affordability,
- b) Monitor worldwide drug distribution,

How can I write good clauses?

Firstly, research about your country; know it well. Secondly, research the issue will be debated. Become an expert in it; identify the main problems of the issue and come up with relevant solutions to it. Then, write it as a text... That's your clause. Just be careful never to compromise your country's principles and interests.

What are the rules to write an operative clause?

A clause cannot include opinion or justifications (e.g. "... because this is the best way to put an end to child labour"). It is simply a piece of legislation (law). It cannot have full stops. It must end with a comma. It can only start with a limited member of phrases, which must be underlined. Here is the list of operative phrases that can be used:

<u>Accepts</u> <u>Affirms</u> <u>Approves</u> <u>Asks</u> <u>Authorises</u> <u>Calls for</u> <u>Calls upon</u> <u>Condemns</u> <u>Congratulates</u> <u>Confirms</u> <u>Declares accordingly</u> <u>Deplores</u> <u>Designates</u> <u>Encourages</u> <u>Endorses</u> <u>Expresses its appreciation</u> <u>Expresses its hope</u> <u>Further invites</u> <u>Further proclaims</u> <u>Further recommends</u> <u>Further requests</u> <u>Further resolves</u> <u>Hopes</u> <u>Invites</u> <u>Proclaims</u> <u>Proposes</u> <u>Recommends</u> <u>Regrets</u> <u>Requests</u> <u>Resolves</u> <u>Seeks</u> <u>Strongly affirms</u> <u>Strongly condemns</u> <u>Strongly urges</u> <u>Suggests</u> <u>Supports</u> <u>Trusts</u> <u>Transmits</u> <u>Urges</u>

What are the rules at a MUN conference?

There is a formal diplomatic lingo that you will need to learn, but this will come easily to you. Delegates cannot use personal pronouns when addressing each other, they cannot engage in dialogue when in session, they only speak when they are so allowed by the chair, etc.

Is there a dress code?

Yes. All participants must wear formal attire. Usually boys wear a suit but in some conferences rules are less strict but they all require boys to wear blazer and tie. Girls must dress smartly. Denim and trainers are not allowed (see picture on next page).

Who can participate?

Despite catered especially to 4th years, any student, from 1st year to 6th year can participate in Model United Nations. Lessons and clubs in school can train students to become delegates and ultimately prepare them to participate in conferences in Ireland and abroad.

Are there many conferences in which I can participate?

Yes. There are national and international conferences. The most renowned are THIMUN (Hague), PAMUN (Paris), CICMUN (Porto) and IMUN (Lisbon). The Irish ones are DCMUN (The Davis College Model United Nations) and SAIMUN (St. Andrew's International Model United Nations).

What are the practical benefits from MUN?

- Worldwide, students who become experts in MUN are high achievers academically.
- They develop aural, oral and written skills, which are fundamental in exam situations.
- Because they research so many issues, they are also extremely familiar with a range of subjects and topics.
- They become diplomatic problem-solvers with a humanitarian conscience, which contributes to their formation as responsible citizens of the world.
- MUN students are always a step ahead and the skills they develop will allow for a better integration and success in the workplace in years to come.

Preparation Tips

Research is all about reliability. Information is often manipulated, even primary data (raw data such as birth rates, IMR, etc.). So, it is important to search the same type of information in a variety of neutral sources (where information is collected) to escape bias (when one point of view is prioritised) as much as possible. Even if it may not seem as such, having a variety of sources and data makes a big impact in MUN preparation.

1 – Know your country well.

- a) Basic data (location, area, population, borders, capital, etc.);
- b) Indicators (demography, economy, etc.);
- c) Constitution (regime, role of religion, law, etc.);
- d) Ethnic background (races, religion, etc.);
- e) Foreign relations and trade;
- f) Its position on the issues (self-determination, women, climate change, etc).

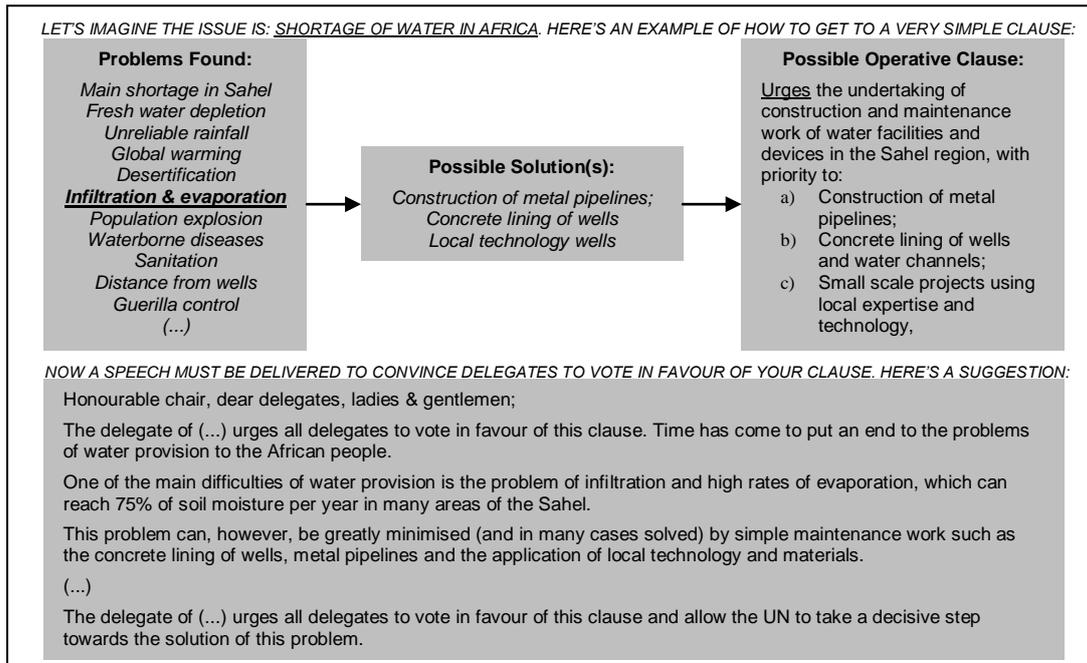
Useful sources:

- *United Nations* - <http://www.un.org/>
- *E-International Relations* - <http://www.e-ir.info/>
- *Wikipedia (use carefully)* - <http://www.wikipedia.org>
- *United Nations System* - <http://www.unsceb.org/directory>
- *United States Department of State* - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>
- *CIA – The World Fact Book* - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- *Permanent Mission of Country to the UN* - <http://www.un.org/en/members/>
- *United Nations Statistics* - <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>



2 – Get familiar with each issue, write clauses, speeches and prepare yourself to answer tricky questions

- a) Discover the problems;
- b) Choose a problem and come up with a solution;
- c) Write down that solution as a clause;
- d) Write down a speech to defend that clause.



3 – Know the MUN rules and procedures

- a) Fundamental vocabulary:
 - **Abstain** (vote neither in favour nor against);
 - **Ad Hoc** (when resolutions are not pre-written but rather clauses are submitted as the debate progresses);
 - **Adjourn** (debate time has elapsed – ended!);
 - **Agenda** (the sequence of events – the schedule);
 - **Amendment** (a change – addition, removal or adjustment – to a clause or resolution);
 - **Binding** (a binding resolution means that it has the power to be forced into action in member states);
 - **Bloc** (group of countries that share the same views on a certain issue or aspect – e.g. EU, NATO, OPEC, communist regimes, etc.);
 - **Caucus/Lobbying** (time for informal debate amongst delegates);
 - **Chair** (the leader of the debate – in charge of procedures);
 - **Admin Staff** (the people responsible for the organisation, logistics, note-passing and manning the conference in general, etc.);
 - **Delegation** (group of delegates who represent a country or an NGO);
 - **Floor** (metaphorical area, which delegates may obtain to speak on a certain issue or matter);

- **Head delegate/Ambassador** (the delegate in charge of a delegation – usually the most experienced);
- **House** (the committee: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Special Conference, etc...);
- **Member State** (recognised country, part of the United Nations – allowed to vote);
- **Notes & Note-Passing** (delegates communicate by passing notes written on official message paper – delivered by admin staff);
- **Observer** (country or organisation not fully recognised, therefore not allowed to vote. Can also relate to guests at the conference);
- **Placard** (sign with name of delegation – used to call the chair’s attention and to vote on a specific clause, amendment or resolution);
- **Position** (delegation’s viewpoint on a certain issue);
- **Quorum** (minimum amount of delegates needed for debate to be start – 1/3 of the house – not in S.C.);
- **Rapporteur** (an expert on all the issues – as this is quite challenging, there is usually a maximum of one per topic, often none);
- **Right of Reply** (when delegates may reply to a speaker’s comment);
- **Roll Call** (done at start of the day and after breaks to guarantee quorum and make sure voting is correct);
- **Second** (“second” is called out by a delegate who agrees with a certain motion. If in disagreement, ‘objection’ may be called);
- **Objection** (called when a delegate disagrees with a certain motion or situation);
- **Signatory** (a delegate or delegation that has signed onto a clause or resolution);
- **Speakers List** (the chair and co-chair keep track of who will be speaking and how often delegates spoke);
- **Yield** (yielding is where a delegate gives the floor either to another delegate or back to the chair);
- (...)(...);

b) **Points** - Questions raised by the delegates pertaining to the resolution or to the committee – they can be raised to the chair or to delegates who have the floor:

- **“Point of Personal Privilege”** (refers to the comfort of a delegate, often related to audibility – it can interrupt the speaker);
- **“Orders of the Day”** (called by a delegate who believes what a speaker is saying is off-topic – it can interrupt the speaker);
- **“Point of Order”** (related to MUN rules. Called when a delegate disagrees with a chair’s ruling – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Point of Information to the Chair”** (Can refer to anything that doesn’t pertain to rules of procedures or personal privileges. It can be a question or clarification on a certain issue – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Point of Parliamentary Enquiry”** (Refers to the rules of procedure, not a disagreement with a chair’s ruling. This is a question about the rules in general. – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Point of Information”** (a question allowed by the chair – remain standing while asking/being answered – not to be called out);
- (...)(...);

c) **Motions** - Requests made by delegates to change the course of events such as move directly into voting procedures or extended debate time, etc.

- **“Motion to move to Previous Question”** (often expressed as “motion to move to voting procedures”. It in fact means that:
 - a. If debate is closed in favour it will move to time against.
 - b. If debate is closed against it will move to voting procedures.
 - c. If debate is open, it will move to voting procedures.
 It requires a second but it is the chair’s call. – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Motion to move directly into Voting Procedures”** (request to move into voting procedures regardless of moment – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Motion to adjourn the debate”** (calls for a temporary stopping of debate or postponing debate for a later stage – after the other issues are debated, but needs justification by the proponent – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Motion to Reconsider a Resolution”** (calls for a re-debate and a re-vote of a resolution already debated. A vote by the House is needed. If approved, will move to the end as the others have priority. A 2/3 majority is required – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Motion to Extended Debate Time”** (asks for an extension of debate time – chair’s call – it may not interrupt the speaker);
- **“Division of the House”** (when the voting is very close, a delegate requests a re-count of votes by calling each individual delegation aloud – abstentions are not allowed – chair’s call (usually allows if number of abstentions could make the decision go one way or another – it may not interrupt the speaker);

d) **Life of a Resolution** – In a conference a resolution has a life: it is presented, debated and voted upon. This follows a regulated procedure:

1. **Resolution is presented:** Chair: “We are now in open debate, are there any delegates wishing to take the floor?...”
[Delegates raise their placards to show their interest in presenting a resolution]

Chair: “Malaysia has been recognised, delegate please take the floor...”
[The delegate of Malaysia takes the floor (the podium), starts by reading the resolution and then delivers speech]

2. **Resolution is debated:** Chair: “Thank you delegate. Is the delegate open to any points of information?...”

Delegate of Malaysia: [delegate may say one of the following]:

- “... as many as time will allow...”
- “... any and all...”
- “... one/two/three points of information...”
- “... this delegate is not open to any points of information.”

Chair: [let’s say the delegate opened himself to one point of information]

“The delegate is open to one point of information. Are there any on the floor?...”

[delegates raise their placards to show their interest in asking a point of information]

Chair: “France has been identified”

[The delegate of France asks his point of information – always in the form of a question]

[the delegate of Malaysia (at podium) answers the question – no dialogue is established]

Chair: “Thank you delegate. Can the delegate please yield the floor to the chair?...”

Delegate of Malaysia: “The delegate of Malaysia now yields the floor to the chair.”

Chair: “We are now in closed debate for this resolution. Any delegates wishing to speak in **favour** of this resolution please raise your placards...”

[Delegates raise their placards to show their interest in taking the floor to speak in **favour** of the resolution]

[Chair will identify one delegation and yield the floor. The delegate will speak in **favour** of the resolution at the podium and may be open to points of information – others may follow]

[After this, chair will also allow speakers **against** the resolution to take the podium]

3. **Resolution is voted on:** Chair: “We are now moving into voting procedures. Admin staff please take your positions...”

- “All of those voting in **favour** of this resolution, please raise your placards”
- “All of those voting **against** this resolution, please raise your placards”
- “All of those **abstaining** please raise your placards”

[the votes are counted by the admin staff, which informs the chair and co-chair]
[the chair then announces the results by saying, for example]:

“With 86 votes in favour, 49 against & 6 abstentions, this resolution has **passed**. Clapping is in order...”

or...

“With 65 votes in favour, 70 against & 6 abstentions, this resolution has **failed**. Clapping is not in order...”



Issue 1 - Combating Human Trafficking on a Global Scale (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Human trafficking is commonly defined as the trade of human beings. In most cases this trade is for the purpose of forced or coerced labour and sexual slavery. Human trafficking is widely regarded as one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time, as it is a grave violation of an individual's human rights. It takes place on a global scale with almost every country affected, whether it be as a country of origin,

transit, or destination. The crime is so well hidden by traffickers that United Nations experts have struggled to agree on an estimate for the number of people it affects. That said, the official estimate currently stands at approximately 21 million people worldwide, the majority of whom are women and children from Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). This makes it the 3rd largest international crime industry

after illegal drug and arms trafficking. Though much has been done by the United Nations and its member states to raise awareness of human trafficking, and to combat it, it continues to be an elusive crime allowing many traffickers to escape conviction. Additional work must be undertaken by member states of the UN to strengthen anti-trafficking laws, and to address the gravity of the issue.

Issue 2 - Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

The South China Sea has become a hotbed of international conflict and controversy over recent years. The central issue is who owns the waters in the area and thus who has the right to extract the natural resources, build structures on the islands and enforce their laws in the area. The risk of conflict in the South China Sea is significant. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines have competing territorial and jurisdictional claims.

Freedom of navigation in the region is also a contentious issue, especially between the United States and China over the right of U.S. military vessels to operate in the area. China has acted rather aggressively when compared to the other nations in the region. It is inevitable that China will soon challenge the U.S. as a superpower. China has embarked on a substantial modernization of its maritime paramilitary forces as well as naval

capabilities to enforce its sovereignty and jurisdiction claims by force if necessary. Given the growing importance of the relationship that China and its closer partner countries have to the West, and the Asia-Pacific region to the global economy, the west has a major interest in preventing any one of the various disputes in the South China Sea from escalating militarily.

Issue 3 - Media Censorship and Influence of Economic and Political Groups (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Although the issue of media censorship particularly affects citizens in countries controlled by authoritarian leaders, it is not an issue unique to these countries. Media censorship is the censoring of media outlets, usually by governments. Governments often censor media which they believe is not suitable for the public domain. The governments of Syria, Australia, Cuba,

UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Burma, China, DPRK, and Egypt, to name but a few, have all censored the internet in their countries to varying degrees of severity. The reasons for the media censorship being undertaken by these governments all have many arguments for and against. Such reasons for media censorship include the need to censor the information

available to the public, to protect government secrets, and to ensure accuracy of information. Thus censorship is by no means a black and white topic, and states must therefore decide the extent of the right to freedom of speech.

Issue 4 - Jammu-Kashmir Dispute and the India-Pakistan Nuclear Debate (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

The region of Jammu/Kashmir remains one of the most militarised zones in the world. Since its creation in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars over the territory which both claim in full but own in part. Pakistan controls 37% of the territory, with 43% under India's control and, since its war with India in 1962 China controls 20%. The UN stepped in after the first war, calling for a referendum allowing the residents of Kashmir to choose which country they

wanted to join, which never took place. Since then it is estimated that at least 70,000 are dead and a further 8,000 missing. Since 2000, several ceasefires have been called and violated. Peace talks have been arranged on multiple occasions and some progress was made, however the tension rose once again after the 2008 Mumbai attacks. To make matters worse, there is also rising tension between these nations relating to nuclear weapons. India's first nuclear

submarine; the INS Arahant has been declared operational, upgrading them to a 'second strike' capacity and encouraging Pakistan to once again match their firepower. To do this Pakistan has turned to China for help. The future of these nations remains uncertain, with relations them constantly fluctuating between peace and violence.

Issue 5 - Reform, Restructuring and Re-Organisation of the United Nations (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

The reformation of the UN, particularly the Security Council, has been a hot topic for a very long time. The UN was formed when colonial empires still held large non-independent territories. Thus former colonies, particularly in Africa feel as if they have less power than nations on other continents. There is no permanent member of the SC for Africa and as of now European Countries occupy four of the fifteen seats

available in the Security Council. Africa holds only two seats, neither permanent. Veto power in the SC (only held by the P5) is also a controversial question. Japan, India, Germany and Brazil believe that since the UN was founded global power has changed significantly and the current P5 do not represent this change. Another major issue is the role of the GA. Next to the SC it appears to hold little to no power. The resolutions

are not legally binding and the GA relies on state co-operation to get anything done. Why should a council of 15 hold so much more power and authority than an assembly of every nation on the planet? What powers should the GA, the SC, the blue-helmets, NGOs, the Secretary-General have?...

Issue 1 - Promoting the Mental Well-Being of Youth (SPECIAL CONFERENCE)

In recent years we have viewed an increase in mental health issues amongst young people. Mental health may be described as having positive self-esteem, having satisfying relationships with their peers and good coping mechanisms to deal with life in general. In developed countries, studies have shown that social media has a huge impact on the mental health of youth. It can set unrealistic standards, which

youths strive to achieve even though goals may be, quite often, unattainable. Also, social media is seen to be glorifying mental disorders such as anxiety and depression. Member states need to aim towards keeping the minds of their youth healthy and happy, as well as their bodies. Exercise and being sociable is a huge part of keeping the mind happy which many children/adolescents struggle to obtain due to lack of

support from state institutions. Delegates should focus on what kind of support governments should provide to minimise this social calamity but also consider what could be done upstream from this problem, that is, the devising of prophylactic strategies that prevent the manifestation of mental health conditions in youth.

Issue 2 - Alternative Energies as a Combatant to Climate Change (SPECIAL CONFERENCE)

Fossil fuel resources are being exhausted at an alarming rate. It is estimated that the planet will run out of crude oil by 2050. Coal remains the most abundant resource, however with increased consumption we could see this run out by 2090. The need to create alternative sources of energy has never been so important. Not only will they eventually replace the need for fossil fuels, they are also more

eco-friendly with lower CO₂ emissions. Examples of renewable energy sources include biofuels, wind, solar, hydroelectric and tidal energy. Consider also the hydrogen fuel cell which has been developed to power cars using water. While there are many obvious benefits to renewable energy, the outcomes of mass producing certain energies must be considered. The land and resources required to

produce biofuels, the damaging effect on the landscape that windmills may have, and the fact that many of these energies don't have the same power output of fossil fuels. Delegates should consider countries' existing resources (water, sunlight, waves, tides, biogas and geothermal capacity etc.) and how to exploit these in order to produce clean, effective power.

Issue 3 - Guaranteeing Universal Access to Education (SPECIAL CONFERENCE)

Education is a universally accepted human right, which is often not granted or respected. This may be due to lack of state funds to train or hire staff, equip classrooms, build schools or furnish them with proper facilities. It also happens that families may keep children away from school for reasons that vary from

financial to religious, gender intolerance, household or agricultural duties. In countries such as South Sudan, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Saudi Arabia we see a huge gap between male and female education, with male education taking priority over female education. When primary education is

completed, there is a decrease in students going on to secondary education, and an even bigger decrease in those going on to third level education. It is the responsibility of the delegates to tackle this issue in a decisive manner, whilst having the 4th Millennium Development Goal in mind.

Issue 4 - Animal Rights in Domestic, Economic and Wilderness Environments (SPECIAL CONFERENCE)

Animal rights affect us all. There are many issues that fall under this heading, including but not limited to abuse and neglect of domestic pets. From deliberate abuse to incompetent owners, the numbers of animals that are taken in by rescue centres and organisations is drastically increasing. Religious slaughter methods that are considered inhumane (Kosher/Halal killings) are increasingly debatable.

Dog fights, fox hunting, badger baiting and bull fighting are also on the agenda. Wild animals in circuses and the controversy surrounding wild animals in zoos/captivity, cosmetic testing and lab animals, the black market, exotic pet trading, illegal poaching the fur trade and festivals involving the abuse of animals (most notably the dog meat festival in Asia) are also relevant aspects of this issue.

Delegates should be aware of the prominence of these issues in their countries, the legislation surrounding them (or lack of), and activist groups that work to combat these issues. Consider the WWF, World Animal Protection, the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW), the declaration of animal rights and universal charter of the rights of other species.

Issue 5 - Youth Radicalisation Online and Internet Safety (SPECIAL CONFERENCE)

Youth radicalisation is the manner in which terrorist organisations (e.g. Daesh, Al-Qaeda) contact youths particularly those who they see as vulnerable. This has been happening for as long as the concept of terrorist organisations have been around, however with access to the internet this issue has grown exponentially. In the modern era social networking sites such as twitter have allowed terrorist organisations to contact hundreds of youths in a matter of seconds. They use the benefits of an open internet to prey on the youth to

gather recruits and turn them to their way of thinking. Since 2012 in the UK alone over 2000 young British Muslims have either gone to fight for The Islamic State or been caught trying to enter Syria to do so. In this new era of online radicalisation the questions has become, what can we do to combat it? Do we use aggressive censorship, combat the ideals of these organisations on these websites themselves or use state education systems to educate those who are targeted. It is up to the international community to

decide, and the imperative thing is that we reach a consensus and approach the issue united.