

MINI-MODEL UN TOOLKIT

UNEA

SIMULATION

STUDENT WORKSHEETS: WORKSHEET 2
OPENING STATEMENTS

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS



United Nations
Department of Global
Communications



World Federation of United Nations Associations

2025

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KEY POINTS FOR OPENING STATEMENTS (1 MINUTE)

(Reference the Sample Opening Statement and the Guidance on Diplomatic Discourse)

Opening line: Thank you Mister / Madame President,

Main position or concerns:

Supporting arguments/facts that establish the importance of tackling this issue:

Actions and / or commitments your government has already made:

Future actions and / or commitments your government is willing to make:

4. STRATEGY & NEGOTIATION

(Use this worksheet while you are listening to opening statements. Listening is an important skill to develop to have a successful negotiation. Start developing your listening skills during the General Debate to see if the statements provide clues on which countries might support your country's position and which ones might oppose it.)

Alliances or partnerships to consider:

Countries who may not support your country's proposals and what they said that leads you to conclude that:

Points you are willing to compromise on with other delegates:

Non-negotiable positions for your delegation:

Keep the information from the last two bullet points in mind when you fill out your notes on each paragraph of the Zero Draft provided at the end of Student Worksheet #3.

4. STRATEGY & NEGOTIATION (CONT.)

General Questions to Keep in Mind

- What are your country's top priorities when it comes to plastic pollution?
- Does your country or group face major challenges (economic, technological, geographical) in preventing marine litter?
- What kind of international cooperation would be most helpful for your country?
- Are there any national programs or policies your country already supports that you want reflected in this resolution?

Use of personal pronouns in speeches

Did you know that real UN diplomats use personal pronouns (i.e., "I" and "we") all the time in their speeches? Many students are discouraged from doing this but it is allowed as long as you make it clear that you are speaking on behalf of a country or group of countries and not simply offering your own personal views on an issue. How do diplomats do this? Here are some examples:

- "I wanted to begin my statement on behalf of the Group of African States with..."
- "I have the honour to speak now on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. We reaffirm our strong support for..."
- "The EU believes that...We have firmly and continuously opposed ...We take due note of the amendments proposed by ..."