

General Assembly Manual

1. Introduction to the SCMUN's General Assembly

At SCMUN, the General Assembly (GA) simulates one of the core bodies of the United Nations (UN). It is designed to challenge you to think critically and improvise in critical situations. It is composed of 5 committees, namely:

- Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)
- Economic and Financial Committee (GA2)
- Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)
- Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (GA4)
- Legal Committee (GA6)

Each GA committee is responsible for debating on two specific issues during the conference that are within their mandates. Note that the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (GA5) is not a part of the SCMUN Conference.

Key features:

- Each committee works independently throughout the majority conference, lobbying and debating on resolutions under the mandate of each committee. For further information about the responsibilities of each individual committee, please reference the Committee Overview.
- Delegates are expected to represent their country's policy and construct fruitful resolutions that will lead to productive and engaging debates.
- The Chair and Co-Chairs of each committee will select one resolution to advance to the Plenary Session, where all GA committees unite to debate and vote.

2. The Real UN General Assembly (UNGA)

The UNGA is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, where all 193 member states have equal voting power. It is often referred to as the most democratic forum of the UN. The UNGA is divided into six main committees, as it also includes the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (GA5). Resolutions are first created and debated within these committees, before being passed to the Plenary Session.

Key functions:

- Elect member states to other UN organs, e.g. the UN Security Council
- Approve the UN budget
- Review reports from other UN bodies
- Pass non-binding resolutions

3. The GA Plenary Session

The Plenary Session at SCMUN is a joint debate session of all GA committees (GA1, GA2, GA3, GA4, GA6) that simulates the full General Assembly. Unlike normal debate, the GA Plenary Session is chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and the Deputy President

of the General Assembly. All delegates will debate together - regardless of their committee, meaning that you will hear and vote on resolutions from all five GA committees. All delegates (not just the Ambassador) representing one specific delegation will be given the opportunity to participate, but only one delegate from each delegation will vote on the resolution as a whole (which is done by the Ambassador). The vote should be representative of the entire delegation.

During this session:

- All delegates may speak, but only one delegate per country casts the final vote per resolution - the ambassador
- The voting delegate is expected to represent the official position of the entire delegation
- Debate is faster-paced, more competitive, and highly collaborative
- Speeches are shorter and more impactful
- Sessions are held in the main theatre with considerably more delegates
- Delegates speak with purpose and respect the forum
- It is one of the most exciting and intense components of SCMUN

What does this mean for you as a delegate?

- You must be able to understand resolutions beyond your own committee
- You will be in a challenging environment where you must be flexible
- You will have to navigate a more intense and competitive environment
- If you are stressed, remember that the vast majority of the delegates are in the same situation as you

4. Why should I pick a GA committee?

Even though it may initially sound daunting, joining a GA committee at SCMUN offers you a dynamic experience, because:

- You discuss pressing, global concerns
- You get to develop your public-speaking skills to a larger audience
- You will develop self-confidence and proudly represent your delegation

For more information regarding specific committees, please reference the Committee Overview on the SCMUN website: <https://www.mun.stcatherines.gr/about-3>

5. Preparing for the Plenary Session

- Know your committee's resolutions thoroughly
- Review topics of other GA committees so you have an idea of what is going to be discussed
- Discuss with the other members of your delegation and share information on the stance of your country on each topic

6. During the Plenary Session

- Make every speech count

- Advise your Ambassador based on your country's policy for the final vote
- Stay calm under pressure
- Be diplomatic
- There is no right or wrong way to make a speech or POI
- Respect the Presidency and your Chairs
- It is recommended that all delegates participating in the GA Plenary familiarise themselves with the other committees topics in order to have a better understanding