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Diplomacy and Delegate Behaviour

Lagos Model United Nations



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Diplomacy and Delegate Behaviour

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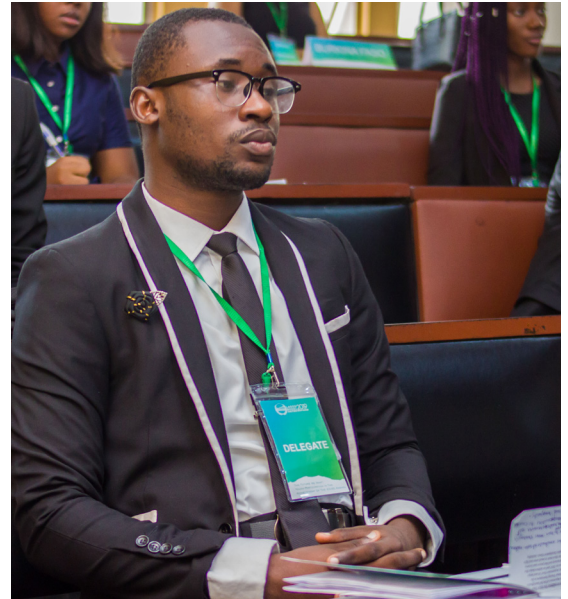
What is Diplomacy?

Diplomacy is the art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of states. It usually refers to the conduct of international relations through the intercession of professional diplomats with regard to a full range of topical issues. The **purpose of diplomacy** is to strengthen the state, nation, or organization it serves in relation to others by advancing the interests in its charge. It strives to preserve peace in most cases, as well as promote cooperation and harmony amongst various states; **diplomacy** is strongly inclined toward negotiation to achieve agreements and resolve issues between states. **Diplomacy** is a **skill** set that enhances your ability to manage internal and external relationships in a job



Who are Diplomats and What do they do?

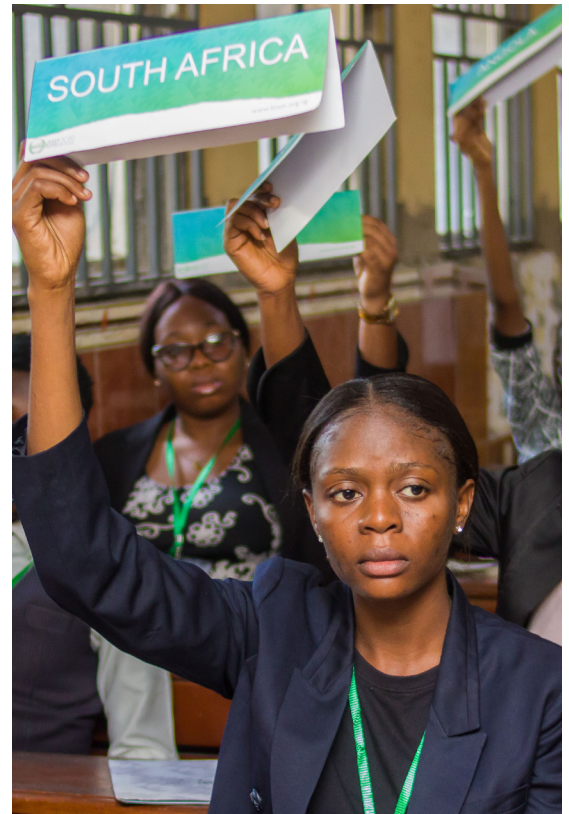
Diplomats, as you might have guessed, are representatives of nations/states that perform the duties mentioned above. They are usually individuals that speak or give recommendations to solving certain issues from their country's perspective. So, they work on the motto of "What would my country have to say about this, what would my country do in this situation?" Diplomats don't represent just countries, diplomats also exist within organizations, as long as a person is representing some organization or country. They are called diplomats because they are acting the capacity of the country or organization. The duties of diplomats are:



- *Building relationships*
- *Making reports and engage in policymaking*
- *Publicity and media exposure*
- *Coordinating activities not only of foreign countries/ other companies but also staff or people serving under him/her.*

Diplomacy in MUNs

We are sure, when someone tells you about MUNs, one of the descriptions they would give you is that “It is a simulation of the United Nations, where every representative is regarded as a delegate aka diplomat, and you’re expected to act in a diplomatic manner”. Diplomacy is vital in being an amazing delegate in any MUN you attend. Diplomacy in MUNs obligates delegates to follow specific procedures and formats as well as refrain from certain behaviours and statements. Diplomacy in MUN conferences also encourages delegates to reach consensus on topical, argumentative matters or issues, relating to the topic that is being addressed in various committees. Diplomacy in MUNs maintains the order of the debates and keeps discourses civil, which encourages professionalism and formality in delegates and chairs alike. So, when you hear that you have to act in a diplomatic manner.



Dias members always make comments like “Delegate, please maintain diplomatic decorum.” This statement is usually made when the Dias has noticed a discrepancy in the behaviour of delegates or statements they have made in their speeches or their conversations with other delegates. The chair uses it to ensure delegates stay in check with the committee guidelines for diplomatic decorum. Diplomacy for an experienced delegate is more than a manner of speaking. A truly diplomatic delegate can influence the direction of the committee.

How to be diplomatic in MUN

Diplomacy in MUN is something that can be achieved by every aspiring delegate. Being diplomatic can be achieved by the following:

- **Know your Onions:** if you know this phrase, you would already have an idea of what we mean. Knowing what you are going to do in a MUN conference gives you an extra boost of confidence that makes diplomacy easy for anyone. Delegates are advised to complete their research on; the topics their assigned committee will be addressing, preparing their speeches before going to speak, what their nations foreign policy on the topics are, their representatives' interests as well as the mandate and powers of the committee they are assigned to.
- **Being respectful of diverse opinions:** diplomatic delegates listen to other delegate's opinions and comments on certain issues in their various committees. After listening they do not turn down their opinions, but instead, they try as much as possible to understand and appreciate all comments made, seeing as people and nations are of different beliefs. A statement such as "I appreciate your view", "I understand what you're trying to say or the message you're trying to pass across... but!" after the but you can now give your own opinion in a respectful non-forceful manner.
- **Being Familiar with the Rules that apply to the MUN:** Different MUNs exist around the world and they all have rules that guide them. A diplomatic delegate will recognize the importance of knowing the rules of procedure

that applies to the MUN they are attending. The Rules of Procedure is regarded as a tool for delegates because it prevents a delegate from being corrected over and over again by the Dias members. Familiarise yourself with LMUN Rules of Procedure.

- **Appropriateness of Speeches and content:** speeches given by delegates that aim to diplomatic have to be respectful at all times, regardless of the message they are trying to pass across. E.g. We all know Iraq is a terrorist prone nation. Delegates who are diplomatic won't say "Obviously, Iraq shouldn't have a say in this matter since they're the major reason why terrorism exists in the first place". Statements such as that aren't regarded as diplomatic, because the delegate is calling out a country which doesn't solve any issue or more the committee forward, it only leads to conflict and tension in committee sessions.



The Do's and Dont's of Delegate Behaviour

The Do's

- **Dress appropriately:** some conferences specify that the representation of the country they're representing in that country's native attire, isn't allowed. Which is the case of LMUN as well. Diplomatic delegates follow strictly the rule if dressing. Just as the saying goes "Dress the way you want to be addressed"
- **Language:** the appropriate language that is accepted in LMUN is ENGLISH. Other languages used maybe in speeches have to be translated to English, and delegated are expected during both formal and informal sessions to relate to themselves in English and not any other language. This will enable everybody to understand what a person is saying. Also, harsh words, as well as curse words, are not allowed to be used in LMUN. Everybody is expected to act in a professional manner.
- **Tone:** the tone in which diplomatic delegates speak is really important because it determines how another delegate will relate with you. Harsh sounding delegates are considered not easily approachable thus it is recommended that delegate adopt a soft but knowledgeable tone (happens when you know your onions)
- **Attitude:** delegates are advised not to be rude to any of the delegate or none delegate. Diplomatic delegates are usually emphatic towards other delegates as well as show compassion when needed. So, to be a very good diplomatic delegate, you have to have those features, so delegates feel at ease speaking to you about their opinions and policies that can help move the committee forward!



The Dont's

- ***Do not be an idle delegate:*** join bloc(s), make contributions, raise motions
- ***Don't observe for too long:*** it's understandable that some delegates are first-timers and they feel the need to observe some of the processes and pick up on the way. This for many delegates doesn't work out so well, because before they know it, they have no idea what's going on in the committee because they lost the timing to engage
- ***Don't be overly competitive:*** awards are good, but delegates shouldn't forget to enjoy the conference, in as much as they want to put in enough effort that would deserve awards. At the end of the day, the most important thing about MUNs is that you're involved in the creation of possible solutions for world problems, which alone should be very fulfilling
- ***Don't forget to make friends:*** you might not make lasting friendships in MUNs but you would definitely make friends. Friend, you can share laughs with once in a while, or just follow on social media. Friends are friends no matter how deep/strong the relationship is. You never know where you might people in the future
- ***Don't forget to be wise:*** people can be cunning during MUNs. So be wise and don't fall for some delegates tricks. But remember to do this in a diplomatic manner.



A man and a woman in business attire are smiling. The man is on the left, wearing a suit and tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a blazer. They are both looking towards the right. A sign with the word 'BOTSWANA' is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by a green banner.

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**That's it! See you at
the conference!**