



LAGOS
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NATIONS

Giving Speeches

Lagos Model United Nations



Giving Speeches

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Introduction

Speeches are an important part of the Lagos Model United Nations (LMUN) Conference. They let you present your country's position, ideas, solutions and help you win over delegates to work with you. Speeches let you present your ideas without intrusion as the committee will be listening to what you have to say. Oh, and there are awards for amazing speeches.

Several misconceptions about speeches subsist in several MUNs. One common misconception is that speeches have a common, formalised mode of delivering, i.e. they follow a defined pattern. This document seeks to dispel these notions, and highlight recommended methods to adopt to ensure you deliver the best speeches at the conference.

Note – For the purpose of speeches, we refer to communication that deal specifically with the topics to be addressed by the committee.



Setting the Agenda (30-Second Speech)

Here, delegates are required to give a speech to set the agenda in the manner they would like the committee to address the topics. That is, which topic should be addressed first. The time set for your speech to set the agenda is short, so the speech should be brief. You have to get to the point quickly. Here, we simply want to know how you want the topics to be addressed (Usually, only one topic is discussed in each committee at LMUN, so really, you are telling us the topic you want to discuss at the conference). It would usually contain:

- An outline of how the topics should be addressed.
- A short reasoning as to why your country believes the topic should follow that particular order. E.g., statistic
- A call to action

Example

Honourable Dais, fellow delegates Pakistan believes that the agenda should be set in the following order:

Topic 2 firstly

And then topic 1

While both topics are important, Pakistan believes that topic 2 should take precedence because of the sheer scale of contemporary situations of crises and disasters. Up to 25% of Member States here today face crisis situations. We also cannot continue to take lightly the fraught of 136 million people in need of humanitarian relief.

Pakistan calls upon this committee to realize the exigency of strengthening humanitarian relief and address it first at this conference

(Average of 28 seconds)

Your 90-Second Speech

This is “it”. The speech on the topic to be deliberated upon – the 90-second speech. With this speech, you are able to introduce to the committee, your country’s position on the topic, the depth and extent of the topic, possible solutions, and importantly, sell your ideas and your attributes that will enable other delegates want to work with you.

During the course of the conference, you should give a few of these speeches. Ideally, the average number of speeches you should give will depend on the size of the committee, and whether or not the motion to set the speaker’s time is utilized (increasing or reducing the speaker’s time). Since you will be required to give several speeches, you will have to know when to say what, using the tips which will be provided below.

You should keep in mind that **there is no “one-size-fits-all” format** to writing and delivering your speech. You should do what works for you. To provide some tips to enable you get an idea on how to go about the process, you may want to include some or all of the following:

A. Your Country’s Position/Foreign Policy Objective

Always remember you are representing a country. As such, you have to make sure to let the committee know the what the country believes in with respect to the topic. E.g.

“Canada believes that tackling migration through illegal routes will reduce the mortality rates that subsist as a result of the situation”

“The Republic of Ireland strongly affirms that there is link between the poverty situation in the world and climate change”

“Finland reaffirms her commitment towards reducing plastic pollution in the oceans”

In the examples above, we get an insight into what the country understands and believes the topics deal with, as well as what your country “feels” about the topic. It’s like telling us what you as a person stand for, but rather than using a personal qualifier, as in “I”, you speak with respect to the country you represent.

B. An Insight into the Situation

One thing you should know is statistics have power. Nobody can argue with facts. It would be bland if you were speaking about a conflict situation without providing statistics on how many people have been affected by affected by such conflicts; or telling us the importance of education of children without mentioning how many children are out of school.

“From the 1950s up to 2018, an estimated 6.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced worldwide, of which only an estimated 9% has been recycled and another 12% has been incinerated”

“According to the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute of statistics, 263 million children are currently out of school and 22% of them are of primary school age. This number is equivalent to a quarter of the population of Europe, which recognizes that 60% of youth, between 15 to 17, are not in school”

This solidifies whatever position you may adopt by showing us the depth of the situation. Keep in mind however, that not every topic may require statistics, but other kinds of facts may be presented.

C. Your Country's Actions/Plans/Policies and Solutions with Respect to the Topic

Remember that you should naturally tell us your country's position in the course of your speech. One way to expand on that position would be to tell us actions that your country has taken with respect to that. You could also tell us solutions you feel will be able to adequately address the topic. Actions could take many forms, including:

- Executive policy directions
- Legislative frameworks, i.e. bills, laws
- Judicial Pronouncements
- Domestication, ratification, signing of, or being party to International treaties, conventions, protocols

“True to the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade, Ethiopia has developed a 5-year action plan aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This, augmenting the existing legal frameworks, one of which is the Environmental Safety Act, will ultimately enable Ethiopia reduce its carbon levels to conform with the current UN carbon benchmark”

“As part of the necessary actions taken to better protect the rights of children, Nigeria has signed the Convention on the rights of the child. To ensure adequate implementation by the government, we have also utilized the contents of the CRC to develop a unique national legislation – The Child Rights Act”

D. A Call to Action

Don't get lost in the beauty of your speech. Your speech may be wonderful, but beyond telling us what your country believes in, you want to tell your fellow Member States to believe in that same thing. Essentially, you will call on the committee to address the topic in a particular way, or on Member States to work with you to address the topic in a particular way. This is usually done at the end of the speech (but remember, there's no one single way to writing your speech)

"We have done a lot, but certainly not enough in the fight against harmful cultural practices. It is for this we committed to developing more effective measures aimed at tackling HCPs"

"Climate change is real. We can only adequately address it when we also change our perspectives. Sweden has begun that change and urges Members of this committee to work with us so that Our world will continue to thrive"

These are some major things that would usually appear in a speech, but that's not to say they are the only things that could make your speech great. Some things that could give your speech flair and make it more stylish are:

E. Quotes

Not just any quote; one from a distinguished individual, or from a reputable body; it could even be from a fictional character (as long as it's one the audience will know or are connected with), and will usually affirm that the ideology or stance of your Country is agreed with by these entities. It could be a proverb or saying in your country. Of course, beyond this, a quote, depending on which, makes delegates think. It has that "hmm" effect, making your audience want to listen more. Make sure the quote actually relates to the topic or you can find a way to link it to it. Quotes don't always have to be serious. They could also be whimsical, but of course, try not to lose focus and get carried away. Serious issues are still being addressed.

"Run from it, dread it, destiny still arrives." We have constantly run from the truth that our planet can no longer handle the devastating impact of industrial waste emissions. Destiny has finally arrived in the form of heatwaves, storms, increase in sea levels, and poor atmospheric conditions. If we don't urgently address this situation..."

(P.S.: that was your favourite villain, Thanos)

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." These were the eternal words of Nelson Mandela, who envisioned that securing the education of our children, will secure the prosperity of our future..."

A quote can be inserted anywhere, but for best effect, it's best to add it at the introduction or conclusion.

F. An Analogy

This is simply a comparison between one thing and another, typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification. It's like making a point on something with reference to an example which may or may not be true or have happened, by connecting the two at the core.

"Just as a sword is the weapon of a warrior, our voice is the weapon with which we stand up for human rights..."

G. A Catchy Story

Depending on the topic, a story highlighting the depth of the situation may provide a more visual picture with which delegates may relate to the topic, and get the point you're making even better. A story may also appeal to the emotional side of delegates, making them more attentive to your points. It could be purely fictional or a real-life story.

"Only 12 years old, Abdul had neither the strength for nor the understanding of the world he was about to enter. A bright boy with a smile to every question he was asked just before his answers echoed his truth. "I want to change the world" he said constantly. His heart was simply beautiful. But here we are, 5 years later, still tackling the issue of child conscription, because Abdul and thousands of other young boys are still fighting a war, they had no hand in starting. Fellow delegates, child conscription is neither humane nor is it necessary. As such, we..."

H. Work with Other Countries/Bodies

(Applies majorly after you've started working within blocs): You may include in your speech (usually the subsequent speeches) that you are currently working with other Member States you have formed blocs with and state what you have begun working on, and maybe call on other delegates who may want to join your bloc

"...committed to the fight against climate change, Norway has partnered with Canada, Ireland, and the Netherlands, currently working on designing a generic policy framework which will guide Member States in what we believe will aid climate change mitigation and adaptation. We welcome ideas which Member States may want us to add. You are welcome to join us at the back of the room to share your ideas..."

Final Note

Note again that you should give a good number of speeches, depending on the size of your committee. So, you can always fuse a few of these to form as many speeches as possible. You may be required to come up with several impromptu speeches, depending on how the committee discussion shapes up. It's best to have 2 prepared speeches (a first and second speech). The third speech will have to be developed in the course of the conference, as by then you would have created blocs and started working on respective issues. Since you don't know the Member States you might be working with or what you give will put in your working papers, you can't exactly come up with speeches prior to the start of the conference.

- For your first speech, you might want to focus on telling us about the problem and what your country has done to address it, and maybe possible solutions, while calling upon member state to increase action. You may add quotes, analogies, stories and the likes to spice up the speech
- The second speech might have more of what your country has done and more solutions that might convince other member states to work with you. You may add quotes and the likes here to spice up the speech
-]Subsequent speeches will deal mostly with what you are working on with other Member States in your bloc. It will usually include solutions and call to action
- Your final speeches might be to thank the committee for the work they have done and encourage States to implement the solutions that were developed at the conference.

Also note that substance is not all there is to giving speeches. Take note of the following things to consider when drafting and giving speeches

1. Time Management – When drafting your speech. Put a cap at about 5 seconds less than the maximum time allowed
2. Diction – Make sure your pronunciations are spot on
3. Clarity – Let us be able to hear you. Don't mumble your words.
4. Confidence – It's okay to be nervous. Try your best not to appear as such
5. Emphasis and pauses – To add that effect, that makes your speech dazzling
6. Eye contact – Look around the room when addressing delegates. Don't look at one delegate. You may also look in the direction of the dais occasionally
7. Express and gesticulate – Let your look match what you say at every point. You may also add hand movements so delegates can relate better to what you say.
8. Try to greet the dais and your fellow delegates (it's not compulsory). E.g. Honourable Chair/ Dais., fellow delegates

Example of a First Speech

Country: Pakistan

Committee: General Assembly 3

Topic: Strengthening Humanitarian and Disaster Relief

The Rohingya crisis, the war in Yemen, the Pakistan flood, the boko haram insurgency, and the several other crises and disasters we as a global community have experienced have left us vulnerable, and despondent. 136 million people in need of humanitarian relief, with the possibility of 27% of these people losing out on relief, and losing out on life itself.

There is an urgency required to be given to the issue of strengthening humanitarian and disaster relief in light of this modern day threat to humanity. Pakistan, having experienced internal conflict, various natural disasters and being one of the worst countries affected by climate change, strongly adopts this position.

We commend the work of the international community in addressing the issue, especially the General Assembly third committee, which in 2018 adopted 4 resolutions relating to the issue. We equally commend the efforts of such bodies as UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, especially as they collaborate with CSOs such as the IFRC to improve humanitarian response to disasters.

Pakistan on its part has adopted various policies including a humanitarian preparedness plan, and a humanitarian strategic plan, both established to address the needs of 2.23 million people in Pakistan affected by disaster. We equally reduced the number of requirements needed by NGOs and CSOs to implement humanitarian action within the country.

It was no mistake that the UN Secretary had said that, “we must take action when we don’t like where we find ourselves”. Pakistan believes that no Member State is pleased with the current state of global affairs with regard to humanitarian issues and calls upon States to work with us and amongst each other to come up with lasting solutions to the issue

(This speech combines A, B, C, D, E, and H, with an average time of 85 seconds) Keep placing yourself on the speakers list! All in all, don’t forget to have fun!



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