

HOW TO RESEARCH A COUNTRY, AN ISSUE

There are two fields of research that you have to focus on when preparing for any MUN conference. First you need to learn about the **country** you represent and then there are the **issues** on the agenda.

I / How To Research A Country?

When researching your country you have several options. One of them is trying to contact its Embassy in your country. You will find that some Embassies are cooperative and others will be less so. You will just have to try.

Another option is to use the Internet. A widely used website for this is the **CIA World Factbook** (www.cia.gov). Choose the country you represent and you will find the information you need. If you need a guideline on what you need to know about your country you can refer to the **Council of World Affairs**. This is a very useful site, by the way, in preparing for many aspects of a conference. Alternatively you might try individual **countries' websites**.

II/ How To Research An Issue?

The issues on the agenda of a THIMUN conference are taken from the **UN website**. Hence going to this website and typing in the issue on the agenda into its search engine will be a good way to start your research on these issues. Member states have websites for their **Permanent Missions at the UN** that can also be useful if you want to learn about the views of your country on a given issue. You can also try its Embassy in your country, but cooperation may again vary.

In addition, the **THIMUN website** contains a lot of useful links with regards to research. It has discussion forums where you can do a pre-conference exchange of views with your fellow delegates and maybe also do some online lobbying.

III/ Useful websites

THIMUN	http://thimun.org/research/index.html
United Nations	http://www.un.org/english
Permanent Missions in New York	http://www.un.org/members/missions.shtml
UN Cyber School Bus	http://cyberschoolbus.un.org
CIA World Fact Book	https://www.cia.gov
Council of World Affairs of Canada	http://www.cowac.org
Embassies Worldwide	http://www.embassyworld.com
The Economist	http://www.economist.com
International Debate Education Association	http://www.idebate.org/index.php
CNN	http://www.cnn.com
BBC World	http://www.bbcworld.com
International Crisis Group	http://www.crisisgroup.org

**SECURITY COUNCIL, ECOSOC OR STANDARD DELEGATION
CHECKLIST 1 ON THE COUNTRY**

Name of the country: _____

I / IDENTITY

A/ Geography

- Surface? _____ Population? _____ Capital? _____
- Location:
 - o On which continent? _____ Landlocked country YES? NO?
 - o Close to a sea, an ocean YES? NO? Name it/them? _____
 - o Relief of the country? _____
 - o Is the relief an advantage or a disadvantage YES? NO?
 - o Explain: _____
- Name the bordering countries: _____

B/ History and political life

- Independent country YES? NO?
- Former colony YES? NO? Independent since when? _____
- A former colony of which country? _____
- Actual political regime? _____
- Is the regime stable YES? NO? Explain: _____
- Name of the Head of State? _____
- Name of the Head of Government? _____
- What are the main events of the last 5 years? _____

C/ Cultural aspects

- What is/are the official language(s)? _____
- Are there different ethnical groups YES? NO?
- Name them: _____
- What is/are the main religion(s)? _____
- Have these elements an influence on:
 - o The society YES? NO? / The political life YES? NO? / The economy YES? NO?
 - o Explain: _____

D/ Economic aspects

- GDP? _____
- Dependency and debt: _____
- Resources:
 - o Energy: _____
 - o Mines: _____
 - o Agriculture: _____
 - o Fishing: _____
 - o Industry: _____
 - o Services (trade, transport, tourism): _____
- Is it an MEDC YES? NO? Is it an LEDC YES? NO?
- Explain: _____
- Member of an economic organisation YES? NO? Name it: _____

II/ INTERNATIONAL POSITION

A/ Defence

- Military independence YES? NO? Explain: _____
- Member of a military alliance YES? NO? Name it: _____
- Nuclear weapon YES? NO?

B/ Influential position

- Member of the United Nations since when? _____
- Regularly member of the Security Council YES? NO?
- Last times member? _____
- Regularly member of ECOSOC YES? NO?
- Last times member? _____
- Member of international organisations YES? NO?
- Name them: _____
- Relationship with the bordering countries: _____

C/ Useful complementary information

CHECKLIST 1 ON THE ORGANIZATION

Name of the organization (give the full name and the acronym): _____

I/ IDENTITY

Location of the Head Office: _____

Background on the organization: _____

Official aims of the organization: _____

The aims of the organization are compatible with those of the United Nations because _____

Budget of the organization: _____

II/ ACTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION

What are the different actions led by the organization (try to be specific on the different fields of the actions): _____

Locations of the interventions? (give figures and various examples if possible): _____

Who were helped by the interventions (give figures and various examples if possible): _____

III/ NEEDS OF THE ORGANIZATION

What are the financial needs of the organization? _____

What are the material needs of the organization? _____

IV/ PARTNERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Who are the partners of the organization? Why? _____

V/ NEW INTERVENTIONS TO BE SET UP

What kind of interventions the organization would like to set up in the future? _____

**SECURITY COUNCIL, ECOSOC OR OTHER FORUM AGENDA
CHECKLIST 2 ON THE ISSUE**

Name of the issue: _____

I / OFFICIAL DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

-	_____	:	_____

-	_____	:	_____

-	_____	:	_____

-	_____	:	_____

II/ OFFICIAL REFERENCES / DOCUMENTS

- Resolution/Declaration (1):
Number: _____ Date: _____
Website: _____
- Resolution/Declaration (2):
Number: _____ Date: _____
Website: _____
- Resolution/Declaration (3):
Number: _____ Date: _____
Website: _____
- Any other websites relevant to the issue?

- Last conference on the issue?
Location: _____ Date: _____
Website: _____
- Name of the commission/council/organisation working on the issue: _____

- Website of the commission/council/organisation: _____

- Summarise on what the conference has debated/ decided on the issue: _____

