

The Diplomatic Lens

The Delegate's Guide to Mastering Arabic MUN

With the first ever [THIMUN Qatar Arabic Conference](#) this February, a group of pioneering delegates will make history as they assemble to discuss & resolve pressing matters in the region in the Special Committee on The Middle East & North Africa, while carrying out all MUN procedures in Modern Standard Arabic.

These delegates will be paving the way for a new regional initiative that will soon become an International phenomenon. MUN in Arabic. You may be asking, how much does Arabic MUN differ from English, and whether or not it is a suitable choice for you. The truth is, it doesn't differ much, and you don't have to be an Arabic language expert to master it. You just have to master the basics, and then learn to get better at it. This is what you need to know to master Arabic MUN.

1. Know the terms.

The Delegate
The Chair
The debate
The Resolution
Lobbying
Voting Procedure
Raise a Point of Order/ Personal Privilege
Raise Point of Information to Chair/ Speaker

عضو الوفد/ المندوب
رئيس اللجنة
النقاش
القرار
التحالف
اجراء التصويت
رفع نقطة نظام/ حق شخصي
رفع نقطة استفسارية لرئيس اللجنة/ المندوب المتحدث

First, get well acquainted with Arabic MUN terms.

2. THIMUN Procedure

Second, get well acquainted with Arabic THIMUN procedure, as well as your own committee's procedure. Start with the available [Arabic THIMUN manual](#) and [video](#) that cover all steps of the conference, from opening speech, to lobbying, to draft resolution & voting. Moreover, stay in touch with Arabic O-MUN for our online conferences & training sessions.

3. Read the Topic Very well

This cannot be said enough. The **topic** can have massive impact on how well you do in a committee. It is written with that purpose in mind. To Help YOU. It is deliberately filled with information to help you understand the issue, decide where your country may stand, and guide you on the areas that you can research to gain an edge, and give power to your delegation in the conference. The topic is your gold mine. [Use it well.](#) Let it be your guide to research.

4. Do Smart Research.

The question of whether to research in Arabic, or English, or both, is yours to make. There is an abundance of [Arabic resources](#) made available by the UN, and major International News Agencies. I recommend you start with Arabic search, and only move to English to add to your findings, & gain a more comprehensive

view of the topic. It pays well to search in more than one language, even in an all-Arabic committee. Here are some good [starting points for Arabic research](#).

Regardless of language, the key to smart research is that it is *targeted*, and *effective* in acquiring **purposeful information** with as *little time & effort* as possible. Purposeful information can strengthen your position in the committee. It goes beyond background explanation that gets you acquainted with the topic. The best research includes *facts & figures*, your countries *statements on the issue*, and key info on *opponent's weaknesses*, and *your country's strengths* regarding the issue at hand. Effective research will lead you to a strong policy statement.

5. **Policy statement**

A country's policy statement (foreign policy) comes after good *background*, as well as *targeted* research.

Background information on your delegations includes its basic history, location, economic & political situation. **A good policy statement** however, dictates in detail: your delegations stance on the issue/ topic, its possible allies and adversaries (or neither) on this issue, its previous statements and actions regarding the issue/topic, and what role you expect it to play in the committee/ issue and why. This is targeted research. Your policy statement can have a massive impact on your performance in the conference. Be sure to give it the attention it deserves.

6. **Opening Speech.**

The opening speech is your first impression with the committee. You want to be as effective as possible in commanding attention, gaining ground, influencing the committee, and being well remembered. This will give you ground while lobbying and act as a confidence booster in debates. **Prepare your opening speech in advance**. Come prepared with it written, and practiced to perfection. Make sure it has a [hook, key information, and call to action](#). Use this opportunity.

7. **Lobbying & Draft Resolution**

The main submitter presents the draft resolution. If you are to present one, be sure to make it A) Consider as many delegations interests as possible, and B) Flawless when it comes to structure, spelling and THIMUN standards. This is what will help it win votes, and get fewer requests for amendments. In the THIMUN [Arabic manual](#), you'll find a sample draft resolution. Use it to **prepare a few operative clauses** prior to the conference. This will be extremely helpful during **lobbying** with other delegations and preparing a resolution to present to the committee for debate & voting.

8. **Debates.**

Debating is arguably the best part of the conference. Even if you are not an Arabic expert, you may be surprised at how well you can debate in MSA, with a few simple tricks.

1) **Write your points down.**

Put it down on paper the first few times. This will allow you to think the words through and choose exactly the right wording for the situation. After a few attempts, you'll find the paper is no longer needed. It's just a re-assurance – no more than moral support.

2) **Practice them once before speaking.**

Whether to yourself or to a friend, practice the manner of giving a speech to a large audience, so you can command attention when the time for your speech comes.

3) Have a few key terms prepared for different scenarios.

Little trick: Get some key phrases and expressions prepared as back up for different possible scenarios, so you can slip them into the speech and save time during the heated debate.

4) Keep going.

Don't stop your speech if you think you have made a mistake. Everyone around you is learning. A mix-up in pronunciation or grammar here and there are normal, if not expected. But the fact that you are working through a foreign language, makes you admirable. Little do you know, that the people in the room are looking up to you. Believe that, and act like it.

5) Body Language.

The phrase 90% of communication is non-verbal, absolutely applies here, most especially in the case of Arabic language. It is not all about impeccable terminology and vocabulary. It's about how you present your words. Use a clear, stable voice. Address the audience. Avoid monotone. Speak with expressiveness and energy. Believe what you're saying, and enjoy it.

That is how you master debates in Standard Arabic Language.

9. Maintain Diplomacy.

I will conclude with the most crucial and defining condition that governs Arabic MUN, in which Arab delegates debate controversial matters of the Arab World: **D.I.P.L.O.M.A.C.Y.**

It is very easy to analyze a decade old war, or debate current world issues unraveling on the opposite side of the globe. It is NOT easy however, to read about what the other half of the world is reporting on the crisis happening outside your window, or that directly involved a family member, or a dear friend. Nor is not very easy to dissect & debate it, representing a country other than your own. How many times have you seen a friend debate like an ambassador on a pressing International crisis, then lose his temper on an issue in his own country? How many times have **you**?

This is where **objective analysis & diplomacy skills** are tested. And **this is what MUN builds.**

In the Regional Arabic committee on Middle East & North Africa, the delegates will be addressing **local** issues, from an **objective, unbiased, fact-based and diplomatic** perspective, representing countries other than their own. This is where the power & value of what MUN can do to educate, build, change and inspire a generation comes to light. That is why the Arabic committee, that attempts to foster these skills in Arabic language, is such a valuable initiative.

Now, go through the available resources ([Manual](#), [video](#), [sources](#), [topics](#)), and **prepare**:

1. Your Policy Statement
2. Your Opening Speech
3. Three Operative Clauses for each [topic](#).

Honorable delegate, you are now ready for the Arabic THIMUN Conference.