

Northwest Model United Nations – Seattle 2018

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Explanatory Note

What is the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption?

The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the policy-making body responsible for ensuring the goals of the Convention against Corruption are carried out. The Conference is convened every 2 years to discuss what progress has been made, to share successes, and to shape actions moving forward. Membership in the COSP is determined by individual state's ratification of UNCAC; when a state ratifies the treaty, it becomes a State Party and a COSP member. The Conference also oversees 4 subsidiary bodies, the Implementation Review Group, the Working Group on Prevention, the Working Group on Asset Recovery, and the Expert Meeting on International Cooperation.

What will happen at the UNCAC in NWMUN-Seattle 2018?

Although the real-world COSP typically discusses 4-6 topics during a conference, the UNCAC at NWMUN-Seattle 2018 will only discuss 3 due to time constraints: 1) Follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption, 2) Fostering Effective Asset Recovery, and 3) Corruption in Sport. All of these topics have recently been covered by the COSP, but the conference recognizes the need for further action and development, with many of these topics having been recurring themes throughout the last couple of COSP meetings. Delegates at NWMUN-Seattle 2018 are expected to have read and researched recent actions by and outcome documents from the conference, and to build on these ideas in their work at NWMUN-Seattle 2018. It is our goal that delegates will find new and interesting ways to progress the ideas laid forth in the Convention against Corruption and will work together to share these solutions to ongoing and often systemic issues.

Structure of the UNCAC Outcome Document

The UNCAC is unique compared to other treaty bodies in that it drafts outcome documents very similar to standard committee resolutions which are then merged into one collective document called the "Resolutions and Decisions." At NWMUN-Seattle 2018, the Resolutions and Decisions document will have the following segments:

1. Introduction: Provided by the NWMUN-Seattle 2018 Secretariat
2. Topic 1: Follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption
3. Topic 2: Fostering Effective Asset Recovery
4. Topic 3: Corruption in Sport
5. Decisions: Provided by the NWMUN-Seattle 2018 Secretariat

Please note that each topic's resolution segment will be one document comprised of any resolutions which pass in the committee. As such, delegates are strongly encouraged to read and offer comments on one another's work and to conduct their own merging of papers wherever possible.

Why is NWMUN-Seattle simulating the UNCAC as an agreement body?

Every year, NWMUN-Seattle simulates an agreement body (a committee that drafts one document throughout the entire conference) to give delegates the opportunity to experience a different dimension of international diplomacy and decision-making outside of traditional UN committees. The UNCAC allows delegates to discuss the timely and important issues surrounding corruption and its many forms in a unique and fast-paced environment. In recent years, corruption has come to the forefront of discussion as an issue which reaches into all aspects of life. Corruption often has strong connections with resources and development and can have serious implications for the overall health of a state and its people. At NWMUN-Seattle 2018, delegates will be asked to examine the progress made towards achieving the goals of the UNCAC through the lens of the 3 topics at hand.

How will the UNCAC be simulated at NWMUN-Seattle 2018?

The schedule for the UNCAC differs from other committees simulated at NWMUN-Seattle. This is due to the need to discuss all three topics and vote in a limited time, which is reflective of the challenges faced by real-world delegates to the COSP. The agenda and timeline for this committee are pre-set as follows:

Friday, November 16: Session I	Introductory Statements and Committee Overview Topic 1 (Follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration)
Friday, November 16: Session II	Topic 1 (Follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration)
Saturday, November 17: Session III	Topic 2 (Fostering Effective Asset Recovery)
Saturday, November 17: Session IV	Topic 2 (Fostering Effective Asset Recovery) Topic 3 (Corruption in Sport)
Saturday, November 17: Session V	Topic 3 (Corruption in Sport)
Sunday, November 18: Session VI	Consolidation of all Segments, Edits, and Amendments <i>During this time, delegates will be asked to finish final editing, submit any amendments, and wrap up all discussion.</i>
Sunday, November 18: Session VII	Final Amendments and Voting Procedure <i>Voting procedures will be lengthy, as we vote on all amendments, segments, and the final document. Delegates are asked to prepare accordingly.</i>

This is a tentative schedule for the committee. Topics may be discussed earlier or later than scheduled based on delegate work. The majority of drafting for each topic is expected to take place during its designated session; however, edits and revisions can only take place during later sessions. Delegates are asked to only discuss the current topic at hand during each session within their formal speeches.

Additional information about the flow of UNCAC will be provided at the conference. This will include an overview at the opening of the committee Friday evening. Delegates are encouraged to ask questions as needed to ensure the work and flow of the committee is clear and understandable.

What Rules of Procedure with the UNCAC be using at NWMUN-Seattle 2018?

UNCAC will use the standard NWMUN Long Form Rules of Procedure, as modified by the UNCAC Rules Addendum. Generally, UNCAC will follow the Long Form and be facilitated similarly to the General Assembly and other more conventional committees; however, there are some differences in procedure (such as the single outcome document), and as a result we offer the UNCAC Rules Addendum to explain those differences. All procedure not described in the Rules Addendum will be facilitated as described in the Long Form Rules.

How do I prepare for the UNCAC at NWMUN-Seattle 2018?

Where do I find my countries position?

1. Your country's Foreign Ministry, corruption agency, or UNCAC country profile websites.
2. Your country's Permanent Mission to the UN website.
3. Your country's statements made during debates in other relevant UN committees:
 - a. General Assembly
 - b. World Bank (Also look into the StAR database)
 - c. UNODC workshops and other meetings
 - d. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
 - e. 4 UNCAC subsidiary bodies

What do I do if I have more questions?

If you have questions related to the process we will follow at our conference, position papers, or anything related to NWMUN-Seattle's simulation of the UNCAC, please email the committee staff at uncac.seattle@nwmun.org. If your question relates to research, the sources in the bibliography of the UNCAC Background Guide are your best option; NWMUN staff members do not assist with substantive research, but we're happy to help with anything else!