

Model Global Parliament

2024 PROGRAM MANUAL

A Unity Grammar initiative in
collaboration with the Institute for
Global Peace and Sustainable
Governance.



Institute for Global Peace and
Sustainable Governance



Model Global Parliament Introductory Booklet

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Summary of Model Global Parliaments

Invitation to Join the Model Global Parliament

We would like to cordially invite you to be one of the participants in the annual student-run Model Global Parliament Program (MGP) at Unity Grammar. This esteemed event is designed to empower and engage all student participants, providing them with a unique opportunity to serve as role models for peace, social justice, and human rights within their peer groups, community, country, and the global community in general. The MGP will be held this year in the large Unity Grammar Hall, 70 Fourth Avenue, Austral NSW, on Monday 1st of July 2024 from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Following the success of several Model Global Parliaments held across Australia by universities and political organisations over the past decade, including events in Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney, we are honoured to bring this exceptional initiative to Unity Grammar and to host the second school-based Model Global Parliament throughout Australia.

The MGP aims to foster a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities of achieving effective global governance in the 21st Century and inspire students to become exemplary world citizens, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.



What is the Model Global Parliament?

The MGP is a simulated democratic global forum, wherein representatives of nation-states and geopolitical regional organisations work to determine practical solutions to global problems.

The MGP at Unity Grammar is hosted *with the sponsorship of the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)*, a non-for-profit organisation whose central goal is to support academic study, research and advocacy on the subject of democratic global governance.

The MGP is an education program that offers a unique opportunity for students to improve their public speaking skills, debate geopolitical issues amongst their peers, and interact with other passionate students from Western Sydney.

What is the Aim of the Model Global Parliament?

The aim of the MGP is to provide participants with a platform to collectively explore which global issues need their attention, and how they think a global parliament could formulate effective solutions and improve global governance in the future.

The MGP is an educational platform for students to learn to think and talk together about global issues, using parliamentary procedures. It is intended to enable students to explore new ways of addressing the evident gaps in democratic global governance arrangements and to present, contest issues and enact ideas about how to shape the future for the benefit of humanity.

Objectives

1. To publicise the ideal of democratic global governance, as a means of better managing the pressing global risks and challenges which confront us all as global citizens.
2. To build relationships with community groups, schools and politicians through their multicultural networks and projects.
3. To invite teachers, students and other relevant stakeholders to participate and organise their own Model Global Parliament to encourage debate and interactive discussion on global issues concerning the environment, human rights, peace and social justice within their own schools.
4. To give students practical experience in standing up and debating some of the vital issues concerning our global society. Thus to encourage knowledge of international affairs; understand the mechanisms of parliamentary procedures; enhance analytical reasoning and problem solving; impart professionalism in oral and written presentation of ideas; and other leadership skills.
5. To get students to work together as a team, drawing from the past and present and acting on a multilateral level, thus preparing youth to be concerned for the global future and empowering them to be a part of decision making at all levels.
6. To promote student empowerment and inspire leadership by helping students own the responsibility of shaping their future, their nations, and the world.



Vision and Mission of the Model Global Parliament

The Model Global Parliament (MGP) was conceptualised by Pera Wells, a former Australian diplomat and Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The core motivation is straightforward: global problems demand global solutions. Our global challenges are immense and include:

1. **Peace and Security:** Eliminating nuclear warheads and addressing conflicts and violence around the globe. We must strive to ensure justice, which can only be achieved through the rule of law and a robust governing structure.
2. **Environmental Preservation:** Addressing the strain human populations place on the global environment, including climate change, species extinction, and pollution of the atmosphere and oceans.
3. **Human Rights:** While the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has set forth basic principles, numerous individuals continue to suffer violations of their human rights every day.
4. **Economic Development:** Tackling the issue of poverty that affects one to two billion people living below the poverty line, aiming to create a more equitable and prosperous world. The MGP aims to establish a global forum that empowers individuals to find effective solutions to these challenges and work toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future.

Rule Guide

The rules and requirements for the MGP before and during the event can be broken down into four core steps described below, which should simplify the seemingly complex proceedings of parliament.

Step 1 - Selecting a Nation/Union

In the MGP, participants play the role of members of parliament (MPs), in teams of two to five, representing one nation or union in a democratically elected global parliament. They are empowered to seek practical and attainable solutions to global problems and are not subject to the restrictions of the present United Nations organisation. Each MP belongs to a group representing a nation-state or a geopolitical regional organisation and endeavours to speak for their constituency.

For the Model Global Parliament 2024 delegates to the Model Global Parliament ***will be randomly assigned*** different nations or regional communities/unions, as hypothetical members of a future world federation, and each team of two to five should embody one of these communities. The theme of topics this year is: ***'Shaping a Resilient Tomorrow'***, and so possible groups this year are:

1. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) <https://www.forumsec.org/who-we-are-pacific-islands-forum/>
2. European Union (EU) - https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en
3. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - <https://asean.org/>



4. African Union (AU) - <https://au.int/>
5. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) <https://www.saarc-sec.org/>
6. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) - <https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/union-south-american-nations-unasur#:~:text=UNASUR%20is%20a%20consensus%20mechanism,South%20American%20Nations%20Constitutive%20Treaty.>
7. League of Arab States - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/league-arab-states-las_en
8. United States of America (USA)
9. China
10. Russia
11. India
12. Australia
13. Turkey
14. South Africa
15. Japan
16. Pakistan
17. Germany
18. Saudi Arabia
19. United Kingdom (UK)

Step 2 - Selecting a Geopolitical Issue

MP's will also then *choose* a relevant global/political issue to form the basis for their motions and debates. Possible global issues may include:

1. **Climate Action:** Climate change poses a significant global threat. Greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and pollution are key issues that require international collaboration.

- How can countries enhance climate change mitigation commitments? ● What strategies can protect the global environment?

References:

- IPCC Sixth Assessment Report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>
- Australian Academy of Science: <https://www.science.org.au/learning/general-audience/science-booklets0/science-climate-change>
- UNFCCC: <https://unfccc.int/>

2. **Education and Lifelong Learning:** Disparities in educational opportunities and resources persist worldwide. Addressing these inequities and promoting lifelong learning can empower future generations.

- How can a global parliament work towards universal access to quality education?
- What initiatives can be implemented to promote lifelong learning and adaptability?



References:

- UNESCO, "Education for Sustainable Development Goals": <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000247444>
- World Bank, "World Development Report 2018": <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 4": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>

3. Global Health and Well-being: Global health challenges, such as pandemics and non-communicable diseases, require coordinated efforts to ensure equitable access to healthcare.

- What can be done to strengthen global health systems?
- How can a global parliament promote universal health care access?

References:

- WHO, "World Health Report 2019": <https://www.who.int/teams/global-report-on-effective-access-to-care/world-health-report-2019>
- Lancet Commission on Global Health 2035: <http://globalhealth2035.org/>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 3": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>

4. Poverty and Inequality: Poverty and inequality persist as global challenges, hindering access to resources and opportunities for millions of people.

- How can a global parliament address poverty and reduce income disparities? • What policies can be enacted to promote inclusive economic growth?

References:

- World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020": <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 1": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 10": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>

5. Gender Equality: Gender inequality persists in various forms, impacting education, health, economic opportunities, and political representation.

- How can a global parliament promote gender equality and women's empowerment?
- What policies can be implemented to address gender disparities?

References:

- UN Women, "Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021": <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/10/genderequality-strategy-2018-2021>
- World Bank, "Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Inclusive Growth": <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27294>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 5": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>

6. Digital Divide and Technological Advancements: The digital divide exacerbates inequalities, limiting access to information and resources for many people worldwide.

- How can a global parliament bridge the digital divide?
- What policies can promote equal access to technology and foster innovation?



References:

- ITU, "Measuring Digital Development": https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/misr2020.asp_x
- World Bank, "World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives": <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2021>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 9": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>

7. Peace and Security: Conflicts, terrorism, and weapons proliferation pose threats to global peace and security, necessitating cooperative international efforts.

- How can a global parliament help prevent and resolve conflicts?
- What actions should be taken to address weapons proliferation and terrorism?

References:

- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 16": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>
- Institute for Economics and Peace, "Global Peace Index": <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-peace-index/>
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, "SIPRI Yearbook 2021": <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2021>

8. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Rapid urbanisation and inadequate infrastructure strain resources, exacerbate inequalities, and contribute to environmental degradation.

- How can a global parliament support the development of sustainable and inclusive cities?
- What policies can be implemented to improve urban planning and resource management?

References:

- UN-Habitat, "World Cities Report 2020": <https://unhabitat.org/world-cities-report-2020>
- World Bank, "Urbanization Reviews": <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/publication/urbanization-reviews>
- UN, "Sustainable Development Goal 11": <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>

9. Human Rights: Human rights violations and inequalities remain prevalent worldwide, affecting civil liberties, social justice, and access to basic needs.

- How can a global parliament ensure the protection and promotion of human rights for all individuals.
- What strategies can be adopted to address and prevent human rights abuses globally?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable?

References:

- UN - Declaration of Human Rights: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- UN – UNOHCHR: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights>

Step 3 - Formulating Motions and Speeches

Once MP's have been assigned a nation or region to represent and have decided upon a global issue, they are to decide upon an actionable list of or individual ideas that can be implemented to reduce the effect of the global issue.



For example, *if the selected global issue were to be climate change, one implementable technique that is feasible for all other countries may be to ban plastic bags. However, countries who are heavily reliant on plastic bags may be reluctant to accept this.* Thus your proposed ideas should keep the economy of every other country in mind while remaining actionable. With their idea in mind, MP's are to write about their proposal in two separate forms.

1. In their teams, MP's are to write a motion. This motion should be a summary of their idea in 60 words or less. Motions should consist of two parts:

i. **A Preamble** – a sentence that sets the context for the motion, beginning with a present participle [a word ending with -ing such as 'noting' or 'considering'] – e.g. *Concerning the rise in greenhouse gas emissions around the world and its subsequent effect on global sustainability;*

ii. **An Action statement** – a sentence that starts with a verb – e.g. *Calls to set up legal precedent to punish environmentally harmful actions through the permanent ban of plastic bags, to reduce global emissions and waste, especially for G12 nations.*

Thus, a completed motion may read as such [**under 60 words**]:

Motion example:

Concerning the rise in greenhouse gas emissions around the world and its subsequent effect on global sustainability; calls to set up legal precedent to punish environmentally harmful actions through the permanent ban of plastic bags, to reduce global emissions and waste, especially for G12 nations.

2. Upon writing the motion as a team, each MP individually is to write a 60 second speech. Speaker order should be decided upon beforehand. Each team should have a proposer, the first speaker to introduce the set of ideas and elaborate on the motion, and a seconder to expand on the ideas introduced by the proposer. Teams may have up to three speakers, and up to five members [two of whom will not speak until rebuttal]

Step 4 - Event Day Proceedings

After all MP's have been seated and guest speakers have addressed the MP's (refer to appendix A for the outline of events), the procedures will begin, following Westminster rules:

1. The motions for debate will be projected on a screen, and when a motion comes up for debate, the **Speaker** who will be running all proceedings will ask for it to be read out by the **Recorder**, who will record any amendments, and [later] whether the motion is passed or rejected by the vote.

2. The **Recorder** will then call successively for a Proposer, a Secunder, and speeches in support or opposing the motion. MPs wishing to speak will raise their hands, and the Speaker will recognize the next speaker by their group name, e.g. "The Member for the European Union". The MP will then come to speak at one of the microphones on the speaker's bench.. **Please note that the speaker is to be referred to as 'Madam/Mister Speaker'**.



3. Debate amongst MP's will begin and take place for *ten minutes*. After being called for, an MP with an objection may raise their hand to raise their objection. Once an MP has been called upon, and has **thanked 'Mister/Madam Speaker'** for their opportunity, they may raise their objection. The initial proposer may then raise their hand to rebut or answer the query.
4. After ten minutes of debate, the **Speaker** will ask for a vote, to determine if the motion has passed or been rejected.

Conclusion

The Unity Grammar Model Global Parliament presents a remarkable and enriching opportunity for students to engage in significant discussions on pressing global issues, collaborate with their peers, and develop essential life skills. By participating in the MGP, students will be empowered to think critically, communicate effectively, and embrace diverse perspectives, shaping them into compassionate and responsible global citizens.

The topics explored in the MGP have been carefully selected to reflect the most pertinent challenges facing our world today. By deliberating on these issues and working together to devise innovative solutions, participants will contribute to the development of a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.

Furthermore, the MGP experience aligns with the broader educational objectives of Unity Grammar, fostering a learning environment that nurtures intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and social responsibility and those of our sponsor, the IGPSG. We firmly believe that this program will inspire students to become proactive agents of change, committed to making a meaningful and lasting impact on both their local and global communities.

We look forward to welcoming all participating students, educators, and guests to Unity Grammar for a truly transformative and inspiring Model Global Parliament experience. Together, let us embark on this journey together.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

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Appendices

Appendix A: Event Day Timeline



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