MODERATED CAUCUS GUIDE

What is a Moderated Caucus (Mod)?

Moderated: Review a proposal in relation to an agreed standard so as to ensure consistency of marking

Caucus: Meeting of a group of people belonging to the same faction usually to decide on policy

A moderated caucus (As implied by the definitions of "Moderated" and "Caucus") is the discussion of a proposed topic (relative to the main agenda of the committee) by the members of the respective committee.

Procedurally speaking, the time allocated for the discussion of moderated caucuses comes right after speakers list speeches. A chair would first open the floor for "moderated caucus topics" mid speakers list, recognize the ones that show promise, and each of them are picked and discussed one at a time.

How to write a Moderated Caucus

As mentioned, a moderated caucus is at its core, **a subtopic of the main topic that is being discussed**.

There are three fundamental steps to writing a Moderated Caucus:

1. Come up with the idea (subsidiary to the committee agenda) that you would like to discuss
2. Formally, phrase the idea out in the form of a topic
3. Adapt the standard structure of a moderated Caucus topic using relevant starters etc.

Step 1- "The Idea"

The writing of moderated caucus topics provides chairs with an opportunity to assess the creativity of their delegates, and it gives delegates an opportunity to explore different nooks and crannies of their topic to ultimately have a deeper understanding of their main topic.

Take the topic from the practice debate of the GA3 as an example; "Discussing the importance of protecting the cultural heritage of refugees."

As per the chairs of GA3, a well-regarded moderated caucus topic would be: "Discussing the feasibility of the use of digital archives in order to preserve and protect the linguistic heritage of the refugee community."

Here, if we break the moderated caucus down, there are two essential parts of it. One is the usage of "Digital Archives;" and two is "Linguistic Heritage."

The Brilliance behind this moderated caucus is the fact that this shows the delegate had identified a critical problem which had been given less attention, and provided an arguable solution to that problem.

Which is exactly what chairs are looking for, solution oriented moderated caucuses to tackle a very relevant topic in relation to the agenda.

The problem-oriented idea here is "Linguistic heritage," which automatically explores the relevance or irrelevance of even a need to protect linguistic heritage or their native language. The priorities that these refugees have are questioned, how dependent is an entire culture on their linguistics? It's a very underappreciated aspect of a refugee's cultural heritage, which is what makes it very important.

The solution-oriented idea here is "Storing cultural data Digitally," this Solution has its own pros and cons that can be debated upon by many delegates, whilst this does provide refugees with a permanent source of knowledge on their heritage, how accurate will this information be? Who will write the information and

how much bias of the information is there to consider? What about the ease of editing this information for the better, or the worse? All different angles of one solution that delegates will debate upon and narrow down into one feasible solution.

Step 2- Phrasing

Now that we have our two ideas, let's try to put them together in the form of a topic.

Storing Cultural data Digitally + Linguistic heritage =

IN SIMPLE TERMS: Let's try to save the linguistic heritage of refugees by storing linguistic information in digital archives

Here, the result is far too wordy, but at least it's in one sentence. The next step is to add some formality to the sentence

~~Let's try to save the~~ linguistic heritage of refugees ~~by storing~~ linguistic information in digital archives

turns into

Use Digital Archives to protect the linguistic heritage of refugees

This by itself is sufficient, but a more experienced writer would expand the topic to avoid any misunderstandings and ensures the topic will cover the full scope of all the sentiments the delegate wants to address, therefore:

Use digital archives in order to preserve and protect the linguistic heritage of the refugee community

TOP TIP: A good moderated caucus will identify a problem in the first half of the topic and follow it up with a potential solution to discuss, instead of vice versa.

Step 3- Adapting the standard structure of a Moderated Caucus topic

When you submit a moderated caucus topic, it is a formality that there are particular words that need to be used to start, extend or end a moderated caucus topic.

Conventionally, Moderated caucuses start with the following phrases:

1. Discussing the…
2. Focusing upon the…
3. Assessing the…
4. Exploring the…

Since "**Discussing the use of digital archives in order to preserve and protect the linguistic heritage of the refugee community**" makes complete sense and conveys the exact message the delegate wanted, this would be considered an excellent moderated caucus for the topic.

How many Moderated Caucuses will you have to write?

The limit to how many moderated caucuses can be submitted varies from committee to committee. Please contact your chairs on what is the maximum number of pre-mods and moderated caucus topics they are willing to entertain

How do you submit a moderated caucus?

Delegates will write it down in the official piece of chit paper that will be issued during the conference (for practice debates please in legible writing add it to a spare sheet of paper). On the piece of chit paper you must tick the appropriate box titled "Moderated Caucus Topic " and then write said topic in the space provided below. Delegates will have to specify who sent the paper and who is supposed to receive the paper on the header or footer of the note. When the chair announces that "The head table is open for moderated caucuses," delegates must then raise their chits of paper visible for an admin to see and come to collect to submit to the head table.

Submission of pre-moderated caucuses functions a little differently…

What are Pre-Moderated Caucuses (Premods)?

Chairs provide the delegates with an opportunity to submit their most important moderated caucus topics far before conference even begins, so that more time won't be sacrificed for the sake of submitting the topics during conference. Pre-mods should be typed out and emailed to a provided email address before the given deadline, specifying the country and committee of the delegate.

Disclaimer:

Regardless of how well thought out a moderated caucus topic may be, due to a multitude of reasons, there is a chance it may not be discussed, however please note that all moderated caucuses will be marked appropriately, whether or not they have been discussed in committee. So please take advantage of your pre-moderated caucuses submission and throughout the session when the floor is open send in pre-moderated caucuses.