

# Researching Your Country

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**You will probably find out which country you are first.** You should immediately start gathering information about it. You will need to learn about your country so you can address the issues raised at the conference just as a real delegate from that country would at the United Nations.

**To represent your country accurately,** start by answering the following questions:

- What sort of government does your country have?
- What types of ideologies influence your country's government?
- Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?
- What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?
- Which ethnicities, religions, and languages can be found in your country?
- Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- Which countries share a border with your country?
- Which countries are considered allies of your country?
- Which countries are considered enemies of your country?
- What are the characteristics of your country's economy?
- What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- When did your country become a member of the UN?
- Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations (IOs) outside the UN system, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Does your country belong to any regional organizations, such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?
- What recent UN resolutions or global treaties is your country supportive or a signatory of, such as the Kyoto Agreement or the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT)?

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## Some tips for researching your country:

- Look up your country's permanent mission to the UN. You can also call the mission directly to ask questions or request a position statement on an issue. All country's mission websites can be found on the UN website: <http://www.un.int/index-en/webs.html>.
- Find your country's voting records and read speeches on the United Nations Bibliographic Information System website: <http://unbisnet.un.org/>.
- Look at the CIA World Factbook for a general overview on your country, as well as figures and statistics: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>.
- Check out news and media sources for recent developments in your country.