

Should We Support a UN Parliamentary Assembly?

A Simulation Exercise



Introduction: Should the country support the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly? You are part of a team of national lawmakers taking part in a debate to decide. At the end of the exercise, you'll cast your votes. You will also have the opportunity to go online and sign the actual petition of support for a UNPA, should you choose to do so. You will draw on the assigned readings on the UNPA, and democracy beyond the state more generally, to participate in this exercise.

Instructions

- 1) Your class has been divided into 'Pro' and 'Con' sides on the UN Parliamentary Assembly question.
- 2) Each side should select one overall Chair and three Sub-Committee Chairs. The remaining members should then divide themselves equally among the three sub-committees. Each sub-committee works under the coordination of its Chair to prepare one Pro point, in favor of the UNPA; or one Con point, against it, to raise in the debate. Teams should draw from the assigned readings to develop their points. The overall team Chair helps coordinate the efforts of the three sub-committees and leads the debate for her/his side.
- 3) The full Pro and Con sides then come together, and Sub-committee Chairs take turns raising their points. After each point is raised, the other side is given a chance to respond. Then debate is open, and anyone can offer a comment on the point that was raised until the instructor calls time. The next point is raised by a Sub-Committee Chair, and the process is repeated until all six points have been raised and debated.
- 4) At the end of the debate, all students cast votes by show of hands to determine whether the country will support the creation of a UNPA. This is an open 'conscience' vote, meaning that you can vote whichever way seems best to you, regardless of whether you were on the Pro or Con side.
- 5) After the vote has been tallied, you will be asked to go online to the actual UNPA Campaign site, read it and determine whether you yourself will add your name to the UNPA support petition there. You can then discuss your decision on the vote and on the petition in a closing, full-class dialogue.

The UNPA Campaign site is at: <http://en.unpacampaign.org>