



**United  
Nations**

Economic and Social Council

# **MARKMUN 23 STUDY GUIDE**

**Agenda Item:** How can renewable energy sources be utilized to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change?

POSITION PAPER NOT REQUIRED

## **I. Letters from the chairs**

Assalamu Alikum Delegates,

I am excited to see the level of debate and diplomacy that will be on display during this conference. MUNs have been a great part of my development as a student, not only in terms of my understanding of international relations and diplomacy but also in terms of my personal development.

As an Electrical Engineering undergraduate student at LUMS and the Lead Engineer at Mirage, I have been participating in MUNs for some time now and have gained valuable experience and honed my skills in leadership and diplomacy.

I look forward to moderating the discussions and debates in ECOSOC and helping guide the committee toward a successful outcome.

Regards,

**Muhammad Faseeh Ud Din, Chair ECOSOC**

Esteemed Delegates,

I was the Director General of IntraMUN '19, Benchmark's first MUN. Ever since I've delegated to various MUNs, and presently, I'm General Secretary Literary Club, MCS, NUST.

The last time I chaired at MARKMUN, I was amazed by the talent and vigor these young kids had. Hence, coming back this year I expect double the excitement and fun!!

Remember, as a delegate, you will be representing a specific country at a prominent United Nations body. This guide serves as a starting point for your research, but it is ultimately your responsibility to gather sufficient information on the topics being discussed and how they relate to the country you are representing.

Regards,

**Alishba Zahid, Co-chair ECOSOC**

## II. Preface

Dear delegates,

Welcome to this comprehensive guide for MARKMUN 23. This guide has been designed to provide you with the necessary information, skills, and techniques needed to participate in the MUN conference with confidence and success. Whether you are a seasoned MUN delegate or a beginner, this guide will provide you with a solid foundation to enhance your understanding of the UN, research, and negotiation. We hope that this guide will be a valuable resource for you as you strive to represent your country and advocate for its interests on the global stage.

While it's crucial to be familiar with the rules of procedure and the ability to write draft resolutions and working papers, delegates need to remember that the focus is to discuss a specific substantive issue. Therefore, delegates must do adequate research and acquire knowledge not only about MUN but also about the topic of "renewable energy sources." This guide is designed to assist delegates and offer guidance on how to approach this topic.

## III. About ECOSOC

ECOSOC stands for the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is one of the six main organs of the UN, established in 1945 with a mandate to promote international economic and social cooperation and development. The council has 54 member states, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

ECOSOC serves as a platform for member states to exchange ideas and coordinate their efforts in addressing global economic and social issues, including poverty, inequality, and sustainable development. ECOSOC holds a yearly high-level meeting, known as the Commission on Sustainable Development, to review progress on sustainable development goals and to make recommendations for future action.

## IV. Key terms

- **Renewable energy sources:** Energy sources that are replenished naturally, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy.
- **Carbon emissions:** Gases released into the atmosphere, primarily carbon dioxide, that contribute to climate change.
- **Climate change:** A long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local and regional climates.
- **Mitigation:** Strategies and actions taken to reduce the severity or impact of a problem.
- **Greenhouse gases:** Gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, that trap heat and contribute to the warming of the planet.
- **Energy efficiency:** The use of less energy to perform the same tasks, reducing energy waste and emissions.
- **Clean energy:** Energy sources that have low or no emissions and have minimal impact on the environment.

- Decarbonization: The process of reducing carbon emissions to mitigate climate change.
- Sustainable development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Net-zero emissions: A state in which the total amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed.

## V. Introduction

The issue of climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing our planet today. With increasing carbon emissions and global temperatures on the rise, we must take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. One solution to this problem is the utilization of renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy, have the potential to reduce carbon emissions and help us transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future. In this study guide, we will explore the role of renewable energy sources in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Through research and analysis, delegates will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by renewable energy and the role that countries can play in creating a more sustainable future for all.



- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the share of renewables in the global energy mix has increased from 18.1% in 2012 to 26.2% in 2019.
- IRENA also reports that renewable energy generated more electricity than coal for the first time in 2019, providing 26.5% of global electricity compared to coal's 26%.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states that the energy sector is responsible for over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that if renewable energy capacity is doubled by 2030, carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by nearly 1 gigatonne.
- According to the World Bank, increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix can lead to significant reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as create new jobs and boost economic growth.

## VI. Background

The topic for the MUN conference is Renewable Energy Sources. This is a relevant and timely topic, as countries are exploring alternative sources of energy to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This topic could be a good choice for students who are interested in science, technology, and environmental issues.

Energy sources are essential for powering our modern world. Currently, most of the world's energy comes from fossil fuels, such as oil and natural gas. These sources of energy are non-renewable and cause environmental damage, such as air pollution and climate change. Therefore, it is important to explore alternative energy sources, such as renewable energy, to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in 1992 as an international treaty to address the issue of global warming caused by increasing greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. This agreement also calls for increased efforts to utilize renewable energy sources.
- The Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative was launched by the United Nations in 2011 to ensure universal access to modern energy services, double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, and double the rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been working to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries through the deployment of clean energy solutions and the strengthening of national energy policies and institutions.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been advocating for the adoption of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures through its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), which aims to scale up clean energy solutions and support national policy frameworks.

## VII. Recent Developments

- The shift towards renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, as countries aim to reduce their carbon emissions and combat climate change.

- The increasing use of electric vehicles, which are powered by batteries and can reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- The growth of energy storage technologies, such as batteries and pumped hydro storage, which can help to balance the grid and integrate renewable energy sources.
- The continued exploration and development of unconventional oil and gas sources, such as shale gas and oil sands, have raised concerns about their environmental impact.
- The growing interest in hydrogen as a clean energy source, with countries investing in hydrogen production and distribution infrastructure.

Delegates are expected to explore this topic from a variety of perspectives, including policy, economics, and technology, and will make recommendations on how countries can transition to renewable energy sources.

### **VIII. Topics to be discussed.**

- Poverty
- Inequality
- Sustainable Development
- Renewable Energy Sources

### **IX. Preparation Tips**

- **Research:** Read about the UN and the committee you'll be representing. Research your country's stance on the topics to be discussed.
- **Writing:** Research your country's stance on the issues to be discussed in the committee.
- **Public speaking:** Practice public speaking to improve your confidence and delivery.
- **Role-playing:** Simulate committee sessions with friends to get a feel for the dynamics and to practice negotiating and speaking.
- **Knowledge of procedure:** Familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure and protocol used in MUNs.
- **Cultural awareness:** Research cultural differences and customs of other countries to improve your diplomatic skills.
- **Networking:** Meet other delegates and exchange ideas and information.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborate and coordinate with other delegates in the committee to present a united front.
- **Adaptability:** Be open-minded and flexible, as unexpected events and developments can occur during the conference.

### **X. Questions a Draft Resolution should answer.**

- What is the status of renewable energy sources and their contribution to reducing carbon emissions?
- What barriers exist to the greater utilization of renewable energy sources and how can they be overcome?

- How can countries collaborate to increase investment in renewable energy technologies and infrastructure?
- What role can international organizations such as the UN play in promoting and supporting the increased use of renewable energy sources?
- What steps can be taken to promote the development and deployment of renewable energy sources in developing countries?
- How can the environmental impacts of renewable energy sources be minimized and addressed?
- How can public awareness and education be increased to promote the adoption of renewable energy sources?

## **XI. Useful Links**

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/about-us>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/renewable-energy>

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-renewable-energy>

<https://www.irena.org/Digital-content/Digital-Story/2019/Apr/How-To-Transform-Energy-System-And-Reduce-Carbon-Emissions>

**GOODLUCK!**