



SIMONU

2026

Guide for Student Representatives and Link Teachers

Septiembre 18 y 19



#SIMONUXSiempre

1. WHAT IS SIMONU?

SIMONU is the United Nations Simulation, organized by Secretaría de Educación del Distrito (SED) and the United Nations Information Center for Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia (CINU) for over 14 years. It brings together students from public and private schools in Bogotá, who represent countries, localities, or social actors to debate current issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)..

The 2019 District Deliberative Assembly will take place on Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Skills it develops

- Research and critical thinking
- Public speaking and diplomatic writing
- Peaceful conflict resolution
- Leadership, empathy, and teamwork
- Decision-making and democratic participation

2. SIMONU'S STRUCTURE

Key Roles

Role	Primary Function
Secretary-General	Highest procedural authority; coordinates deputy secretaries and presidents.
Deputy Secretary	Oversees the committees under their responsibility and assists in the development of teaching guides.
Committee Chair	Leads and moderates the discussion within their committee.
Delegate	Represents a country, city, town, or social actor; researches, debates, and proposes solutions.
Press Committee	Documents and disseminates the results through newsletters, photos, and videos.
Teachers (Link Teachers)	Support their students' research; may participate in teacher committees.
Mentors	College students or graduates who train student leaders and provide pedagogical support.

The 41 committees

Essentially, the committees function as a citizenship laboratory where young people transition from being researchers to agents of change, using words and diplomacy to influence public policy and their own educational communities. These 41 committees are subdivided into traditional and specialized committees:

- Traditional Committees (18): represent UN bodies and agencies (ILO, UNICEF, WHO, Security Council, among others). They address global issues.
- Specialized Committees (23): These focus on the context of Bogotá and Colombia (Restorative School Justice, networks of Student Ombudsmen, Student Representatives, Auditors, the Colombian Health System, etc.).

3. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – SDG – IN SIMONU

SIMONU is part of the effort to find solutions to local and global issues based specifically on the 17 SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015. The goal is for participants, through their discussions, to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda's goals. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (adopted by the UN in 2015) are the central focus of all committees..

Each delegate must identify which SDG their committee's topic relates to and include it in their portfolio.

The 8 Cross-Cutting Thematic Areas

To organize the debate in the 41 committees (both traditional and specialized), SIMONU has defined eight thematic areas that directly link the SDGs to the topics of discussion

- Responsibility toward the planet (SDGs 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15)
- Empowerment of Girls and Women (SDG 5)
- Reducing inequalities (SDGs 1, 2, 10)
- Health and well-being (SDGs 3)
- Work and productive life (SDGs 8, 9, 11)
- Educational Innovation (SDG 4)
- Peace and justice (SDG 16)
- Partnerships for change (SDG 17)

4. THE PORTFOLIO

The portfolio is the physical document that each delegate compiles before the simulation; it is the result of the research process each delegate undertakes to frame their arguments during the deliberative session. It is the only tool permitted during the debate and consists of 5 mandatory sections:

1 • Country or Entity Profile

Full official name, location, system of government, economic data, and foreign policy. Use official sources: embassies, the UN Digital Library, and specialized agencies.

For specialized committees: include the territorial profile and local regulatory sources (Development Plan, Land Use Plan [POT], CONPES documents).

2 • Committee Profile

What the committee is, why it was created, what its mandate is, what it can and cannot do, which body it belongs to, what its acronym is, and which SDGs it prioritizes.

For specialized committees: include the territorial profile and local regulatory sources (Development Plan, Land Use Plan [POT], CONPES documents).

3 • Position Statement

The country's official stance on the topic under debate. This is not the student's personal opinion. It must include:

- Identification: official name, verified figures, topic, and approach.
- Rationale: values, foreign policy, and national interests.
- Proposed actions: campaigns, initiatives, or specific projects.

Language: Always use the third person. Example: "The delegation from... believes that..."

4 • Opening Speeches

A concise text to be read in no more than 90 seconds. It must include:

- A diplomatic greeting to the presiding officers and the other delegates.
- Introduction of the country or organization.
- Recognition of the importance of the issue.
- A brief statement of the official position.
- • Willingness to engage in dialogue and cooperation..

Tip: Practice out loud, record yourself to manage your time, and maintain eye contact with the entire room.

5 · Bibliography

All sources must be cited in APA format (latest edition). Prioritize: official UN documents, websites of embassies, and organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, or FAO.

If AI was used, do not cite it as a source: verify the data using official documents and cite the latter.

5. RESEARCH: “GLOCAL” APPROACH

The glocal approach connects the global with the local: investigate how global issues affect nearby regions and what solutions may emerge from there.

For traditional assignments (global action)

- Consult the mandate in the UN's digital libraries and previous resolutions.
- Seek out primary sources: interview experts or representatives to obtain firsthand perspectives.
- Connect the international mandate to specific local impacts.
- Analyze the foreign policy and cultural characteristics of the country being represented..

For specialized committees (national and local context)

- Consult the school's Student Handbook and the School Education Plan (PEI).
- Interview guidance counselors, teachers, or community leaders.
- Limit the research to a specific area (Bogotá, a department, a town) and to recent years.
- How are conflicts resolved in my area or school? What does the current ombudsman do?

6. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Sessions follow a structured order that ensures the equitable participation of all delegations:

Momento	Descripción
Start of the session	Roll call (“present” or “present and voting”) and adoption of the agenda.
Opening speeches	Each delegate presents their official position in no more than 90 seconds.
Debate and Argumentation	Delegations compare positions, defend interests, and seek allies.
Informal consultations	Negotiations among delegations to build consensus.
Motions and points	Point of privilege, point of order, point of information.
Working papers	Delegates draft proposals collectively to be submitted for debate.
Voting	Only delegates may vote; committee chairs do not have a vote.
Final documentation	Approved proposals become draft resolutions and may be amended before their final version is adopted.

The Three Points of Order

- Point of Personal Privilege: when an external factor prevents a delegate from participating properly (e.g., inability to hear the speaker, physical discomfort).
- Point of Order: when established procedure is not followed. The delegate must wait to be recognized and limit themselves to pointing out the procedural error.
- Point of Information: to ask questions of the presiding officers, request clarification, or ask permission to step out briefly.

Figure1 . Estimated times for each step of the committee procedure



7. PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL

Formal Language

- Always begin with: “Honorable Chair, honorable delegates, observers, and all others present in the room...”
- Use the full official name of the nations. Ex.: “Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.”
- Always speak in the third person: “The delegation from... considers that...”
- Use inclusive language: “girls, boys, adolescents, and young people.”

Tips for the Speech

- Take a deep breath and maintain a steady posture with your feet firmly planted.
- Maintain eye contact with the entire room, not just one person.
- Practice out loud and record yourself to keep the speech within 90 seconds.
- Vary your tone of voice; don’t speak too fast or too slow.
- Avoid filler words: “this,” “well,” “um,” “uh.”
- Get straight to the point: clarity and conciseness are more effective than flowery language.

8. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS

To successfully represent your country as a delegate at SIMONU 2026, it is essential to combine technical preparation, mastery of diplomatic public speaking, and the development of social-emotional skills, which include:

Eje	Habilidades
Self-Awareness	Requires self-reflection to understand one's emotions, thoughts, behaviors, and identity.
Empathy	The ability to understand others, connect with them emotionally, and act in a way that promotes their well-being.
Conflict Management	It fosters constructive changes in the dynamics, relationships, and structures that give rise to conflicts, viewing them as opportunities for democratic and social development, beyond their mere resolution or management.
Agency	An essential skill that enables people to take an active role in their learning, be agents of change in their community, and take ownership of their environment.
Decision-Making	Involves evaluating opinions, anticipating consequences, and choosing among alternatives while considering criteria, information, and individual, social, and collective well-being.

9. ETHICS IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In light of advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and misinformation, SIMONU establishes clear guidelines:

The AI Ethical Traffic Light

- Green light (allowed): using AI to plan schedules, learn basic concepts, or formulate questions for interviews.
- Red light (prohibited): asking AI to write complete texts, speeches, or a portfolio. This undermines the student's ability to reason.

How to Verify Information

- Source: Does it come from an official agency or a reputable media outlet?
- Author: Who is the source of the information, and what is their intent?
- Date: Is this current information or a past event taken out of context?
- Evidence: Are there figures or documents to support the claim?
- Tools: Was the image or text generated by AI?

Golden rule: Any information obtained through AI or social media must be cross-checked against the UN Digital Library, embassy websites, or official documents before including it in the portfolio.

10. BASIC CONCEPTS

Quorum

The Chair of each commission can declare a session is open and, proceed with the debate when at least, there is a simple majority of the members present in the room. When the commission needs to vote over a Substantive Matter two-thirds of the members have to be attending the room. Any delegate has the right to ask for a quorum checking by a motion. The Chair must decide if it is relevant to take attendance to verify it.

Definition of Majorities

A simple majority is achieved when there are more votes in favor than against the matter. A two-thirds majority is achieved when there is at least the double of votes in favor than against the matter. In each case, abstentions won't be considered in the definitions of majorities.

Right to Vote

Each delegation will have the right to vote. A delegation can only abstain when a Substantive Matter is being considered. These abstentions will not be taken into account when determining the majority of votes in the decision-making process over Substantive Matters.

People who participate as observers will not have the right to act formally as promoters of resolutions nor amendments and; they will not have the right to vote in Substantive and Procedural Matters.

Delegates can vote: "in favor", "against", "in favor with reasons", "against with reasons", "abstain" or "pass". The delegations that abstain will not be taken into account when counting the votes and the ones that decide to "pass" will be called at the end for them to share their vote.

Before the reconsideration of votes, the Chair will give a minute for the delegations who voted "in favor with reasons" or "against with reasons" to give their considerations. These reasons will only be taken into account by the Chair when the vote is unexpected. When they are heard, the delegations can reconsider their votes; for example, the ones that abstained can vote "in favor" or "against".

Procedural matter

It is defined as "procedural matter" to motions, meeting points and phases in which the commission work is developed.

Substantive matter

It is defined as "substantive matter" any document that is presented for consideration of the commission to exercise its powers and functions, as well as the amendments that are made to them. Matters that are

directly related to the commission's topics, different from those of the traditional or basic procedure, are also included here.

Floor messaging

The dispatch is the mean of communication in the commission. For this, delegates should write the message on a piece of paper, outlining the sender and the receiver of it. Later on, they should raise their hand so the floor secretary can pass by the delegates desk to pick up the message and deliver it to the receiver. The improper use of floor messaging will be sanctioned, these should not be about personal matters; they must be relevant to the topic of discussion and the commission's dynamic.

Motion

A motion in a debate is a formal proposal presented by a participant for discussion and a vote by the group or assembly. In a debate or assembly, a motion serves to introduce a topic, request a specific action, or influence collective decision-making. Any member may present a motion by following an established procedure that allows for debate and, subsequently, approval or rejection by a vote. Its main purpose is to organize the discussion and ensure that decisions are made in a democratic and structured manner.
