

HMDC Presents... SOCHUM: Opening Speech Outline

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THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We use this sample speech for the Kingdom of Sweden to hear how a one-minute opening speech sounds. Then we build our own speech for our own country with the fill-in-the-blank outline below. We plan for about one minute, and our chair tells us the exact speaking time, so every word has to earn its place.

THE FIVE PARTS OF THE SPEECH

1. **Hook:** One short sentence that makes the room look up, usually a surprising fact about the topic or our own country.
 2. **Our country's stake:** One or two sentences on why this topic matters to our people and our government.
 3. **One key fact with source:** A single number, spoken with its source, that proves the problem is real.
 4. **Our two solutions:** Two ideas we want the committee to adopt, each in one sentence.
 5. **Call to allies:** One sentence inviting the countries that agree with us to work with us in caucus.
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THE SAMPLE SPEECH

Delegation: The Kingdom of Sweden. About 140 words, about one minute at a calm speaking pace.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates.

In 2023, for every two hundred dollars that donors sent through civil society, only about one dollar reached organizations based in developing countries.

Sweden is one of only four countries that met the United Nations target for giving aid. We have learned that aid should leave something behind: local hospitals, schools and community groups strong enough to stand on their own.

Yet, according to ALNAP, only four point three percent of humanitarian funding went directly to local groups in 2025. The world promised twenty-five percent.

Sweden asks this committee for a framework with two parts. First, fair, multi-year funding, so local partners can build systems that last. Second, a handover plan in every program, so each community needs less outside help year by year.

We invite every delegation that believes in local ownership to join us in caucus.

Thank you.

Where the facts come from: The hook is from the HMDC report, Part 1B (OECD, June 10, 2025), where about 0.5 percent, or one dollar in two hundred, reached organizations based in developing countries. The aid target fact is from Part 1A (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, April 9, 2026). The key fact is from Part 1B (ALNAP State of the Humanitarian System 2026, September 10, 2026). The 25 percent promise is from Part 3A (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, May 7, 2024). The two solutions come from Part 1B (fair overhead), Part 3E (multi-year funding) and the "WHAT OUR CHAIRS WILL FOCUS ON" section, which asks every framework to say how a country will one day need less outside help.

Why this speech fits the December focus: Harvard's chairs will ask how NGOs can help communities while making local institutions stronger, in a way that is efficient, sustainable and free of dependency. So we built the hook, the stake and both solutions around local institutions and lasting development, and we left aid cuts and aid-worker safety out of this short speech.

OUR FILL-IN-THE-BLANK OUTLINE

We copy this outline onto a card and fill every blank from our own Country Report and the HMDC SOCHUM report. Then we read it aloud with a timer until it fits inside one minute.

1. **Hook:** "Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates. In ____ (year), ____ (one surprising fact about how much aid reaches local groups or local institutions)."
2. **Our country's stake:** "The delegation of ____ (country) believes that ____ (who should lead development: local NGOs, national governments, or both together), because in our country ____ (one short example of aid we give or receive)."
3. **One key fact with source:** "According to ____ (publication), ____ (one number that shows the gap between what was promised and what local groups receive)."
4. **Our two solutions:** "____ (country) asks this committee for two things. First, ____ (one idea that makes aid more efficient or more lasting). Second, ____ (one idea that helps communities need less outside help over time)."
5. **Call to allies:** "We invite ____ (the countries or bloc that usually agree with us) to join us in caucus. Thank you."

DELIVERY TIPS

1. **Saying the source out loud:** We say "according to" and the publication name slowly and clearly. The chair cannot see our citations; the chair can only hear them. A short name such as "ALNAP" or "UN Women" is easier to hear than a long one, so we choose our key fact with that in mind.
2. **Speaking numbers in words:** We write "four point three percent" and "one dollar in two hundred" on our card the way we will say them. That way we never stumble over a decimal point or a long number.
3. **Looking at the camera, not the paper:** On Zoom, the camera is the chair's eyes, so we practise until we can look up for the hook and the call to allies. We keep the card just below the camera so our eyes only move a little.

