



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. **Language:** English is the official language of the Security Council. If another language is used, an English translation must be provided.
2. **Attire:** Delegates on the Security Council must wear Western business attire during all meetings.
3. **Conduct:** Delegates should conduct themselves in a respectful manner, including, but not limited to, showing courtesy to the staff and to other delegates, respecting others who have been given time to speak, and refraining from vulgarity during committee sessions.
4. **The Chair:** It is the Chair's duty to direct debate, call delegates to speak, and steer resolutions made by the body of the committee. The Chair also reserves the right to declare topics to be non-substantive. He/she may, if he/she so wishes, delegate his/her authority to a member of his/her staff.
5. **Quorum:** A meeting may begin when at least two-thirds of the countries represented on the committee have delegates present. If a delegate believes a quorum is not present, he/she may request a quorum count. Otherwise, quorum will be assumed. In extenuating circumstances, the chair may alter the number of delegates needed quorum.
6. **Roll Call:** At the beginning of each session, the Chair will take a roll call of all delegates. Delegates arriving late should send a notice to the Chair.
7. **Agenda:** The Security Council has no agenda list and will not run on a formal agenda. Delegates will be expected, however, to make their speeches and resolutions germane to world events that require the Security Council's attention.
8. **Speeches:** No delegate may speak without first having been recognized by the Chair. The Chair reserves the right to call a delegate to order if his/her remarks are not germane to the issues before the committee.
9. **Flow of Debate:** The Security Council will run in a moderated caucus (moderated informal session). After any points or motions have been addressed, the Chair will ask for delegates wishing to speak, and select one to speak. Debate will continue with the Chair selecting delegates one at a time to speak, directly before the speeches themselves.
10. **Speaking Time:** Speaking time for speeches will, as a default, be set at one minute per speech. Delegates may change the speaking time by raising a point of

parliamentary inquiry, and if the Chair deems the request in order, the change in speaking time will be put to a procedural vote, in which a simple majority of “yes” votes is required to pass. The Chair reserves the right to change the speaking time at any point.

11. **Points and Motions (in order of precedence):** All points and motions are at the discretion of the Chair; however, he/she will consider the wishes of the Council.
 - a. **Motion to Adjourn:** If the floor is open and there are fewer than fifteen minutes left in the final meeting of the conference, a delegate may move to adjourn. This motion permanently ends all committee functions for the conference.
 - b. **Motion to Suspend:** If the floor is open and there are fewer than fifteen minutes left in the session, a delegate may move to suspend until the next session. This motion ends all committee functions until the beginning of the next session. Such a motion must be accompanied by a time to reconvene the next session.
 - c. **Point of Personal Privilege:** If for some reason the delegate is impaired from participating in the debate, he/she may rise to a point of personal privilege and request that the impairment be rectified. Examples of such points include requesting that the speaker talk louder because he/she cannot be heard, requesting that the temperature of the room be changed, or requesting that more water be brought into the committee room. A point of personal privilege may also be used to increase or decrease speaking times. Points of personal privilege may interrupt speeches, but should only do so with the utmost respect for Rule 3.
 - d. **Point of Order:** If a delegate feels that the rules have been violated, he/she may rise to a point of order and ask that the Chair rectify the situation. A point of order may also interrupt speeches, also respecting Rule 3.
 - e. **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** If the floor is open and if a delegate wishes to ask a procedural question, he/she may rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry. If entertained, the delegate may pose his/her question to the Chair.
 - f. **Right of Reply:** A delegate whose personal or nation’s national integrity has been seriously impugned by the speech of another delegate may request a right of reply. The Chair’s decision to grant this Right is at his/her sole discretion. The length of the reply granted is also at the Chair’s discretion. If granted, the delegate receives the floor for the specified amount of time for the sole purpose of rectifying the impunity. A request for a Right of Reply cannot interrupt a substantive speech.
 - g. **Motion for a Straw Poll:** If the floor is open and if a delegate wishes to take an informal poll of the stances of the delegates on the committee on a certain issue, he/she may move for a straw poll on that issue. This motion is entirely at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair may also call for straw polls him/herself at any time, including on whether or not to take a straw poll.

- h. Question the Competence of the Committee to Decide a Question:** If a motion has been made and entertained and a delegate feels as if the motion is outside the jurisdiction of the body to vote on the motion, he/she may question the competence of the committee to decide the question. This motion is entirely at the discretion of the Chair. If entertained, the motion becomes out of order. This question may apply to a resolution.
- i. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus:** If the floor is open and a delegate believes a break from formal debate is necessary, he/she may move for an unmoderated caucus (unmoderated informal session). Such a motion must be accompanied by a duration. This motion, if entertained by the Chair, requires a simple majority for passage. Upon passing, delegates are free from the constraints of formal debate for the duration of the caucus, and may leave their seats.
- j. Motion to Lay on the Table:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to postpone debate on a resolution, he/she may move to lay the resolution on the table. If entertained, the motion requires a simple majority for passage. If passed, the resolution is laid on the table and cannot be discussed, as if it were never introduced.
- k. Motion to Take off the Table:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to resume debate on a resolution that has been laid on the table, he/she may move to take the resolution off the table. If entertained, the motion requires a simple majority for passage. If passed, the resolution is taken off the table and may be discussed as introduced.
- l. Motion to Close Debate:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to close debate and vote on an introduced resolution, he/she may move to close debate. A motion to close debate is a debatable motion, and the floor will be open to two speakers to speak opposed to the motion, for thirty seconds each, with the speakers selected by the Chair. After the speeches, the motion is put to vote and requires a two-thirds majority for passage. If passed, debate is closed and the committee immediately enters voting procedure. A motion to close debate may also apply to debate on an amendment to a resolution.
- m. Motion to Postpone Debate:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to postpone debate on a topic, he/she may move to postpone debate on the topic. The motion may be made to postpone for a specified amount of time, until a certain event occurs, or indefinitely. A motion to postpone debate is debatable, and the floor will be open to one speaker to speak in favour of the motion and one speaker to speak against it, each speaking for thirty seconds after being selected by the Chair. After the speeches, the motion is put to a vote and requires a simple majority for passage. If passed, the topic is postponed. The floor will then be opened to motions to set the agenda at a new topic or motions to resume debate. If the motion was for postponement for a certain amount of time or until a certain event, when those conditions are met, the new topic is automatically postponed and debate is resumed on the original topic.

- n. Motion to Resume Debate:** If the floor is open and the committee has previously postponed debate on a topic, a delegate may move to resume debate on that topic. A motion to resume debate is debatable, and the floor will be open to one speaker to speak in favour of the motion and one speaker to speak against it, each speaking for thirty seconds after being selected by the Chair. After the speeches, the motion is put to a vote and requires a simple majority for passage. If passed, the current topic is postponed and debate is resumed on the specified topic.
 - o. Motion to Introduce a Resolution:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to introduce a resolution, he or she may move to introduce a resolution. The motion must specify which resolution is to be introduced. This motion is only in order when there is a resolution that has been received by the Chair. The motion requires a simple majority for passage. Upon passing, the introduced resolution becomes debatable.
 - p. Motion to Introduce an Amendment:** If the floor is open and a delegate wishes to introduce an amendment, he or she may move to introduce an amendment. The motion must specify which amendment is to be introduced and which resolution it is amending. This motion is only in order when there is an amendment that has been received by the Chair and when there is a resolution introduced on the floor to be amended. The motion requires a simple majority for passage. Upon passage, the amendment is introduced and becomes the main motion. Amendments are debatable. The Chair will call for two speakers for the motion and two speakers opposing the motion, alternating between for and against. If a delegate is called on, he/she receives the floor for a speaking time at the discretion of the Chair. After at least two speakers have spoken for and against the motion, motions to close debate on the amendment are in order. If no motion to close debate is made, the Chair will call for more speakers for and against the amendment.
 - q. Motion to Divide the Question:** This motion is only in order during voting procedure on a resolution or on amendments, immediately after taking up a resolution or an amendment. Before the vote is called on a resolution or amendment, a delegate may move to divide the question. He/she must then specify how to group the clauses of the resolution or amendment. Only divisions that make grammatical and substantive sense are in order. A motion to divide the question requires a simple majority for passage. If passed, the resolution or amendment essentially becomes multiple resolutions or amendments, with each group of clauses being substantively voted on individually. If a motion to divide the question passes for a resolution or amendment, other motions to divide the question are still in order, even for that same resolution or amendment. The Chair reserves the right to deny a motion to divide the question, in the interests of time and efficient action by the committee.
12. **Working Papers:** A delegate may, at any time, submit germane work to the Chair and ask for its distribution. This may take any form, but must be the original work of the delegate and must have been written during conference. If

- the Chair approves the work, it will be distributed to the Security Council as a working paper and may be discussed immediately upon distribution.
13. **Resolutions:** A delegate may also submit a draft resolution. Resolutions must have at least one sponsor (an author of the resolution who supports its passage) and at least five sponsors and signatories (those that sign on to see the resolution debated—i.e., signatories do not necessarily support the resolution, but want to see it reach the floor). A resolution is a list of preambulatory and operative clauses that denote an action to be taken by the Security Council. A resolution must also fit proper formatting, grammatical, and substantive standards, as judged by the Chair, and must be within the competence of the committee. If a draft resolution meets these criteria, the Chair will approve it and distribute it to the committee as a resolution. Once distributed, motions to introduce it are in order. Delegates are encouraged to submit resolutions frequently to address issues as they arise and develop. As such, delegates are also encouraged to keep resolutions relatively short.
 14. **Actions:** Delegates should be familiar with the three primary actions that the Security Council can take to address an issue:
 - a. **Condemnation:** The Security Council can, as a body, formally condemn a nation, organization, group, or person for actions that the body finds objectionable or in violation of international law.
 - b. **Sanction:** The Security Council has the power to levy sanctions against a nation as punishment for actions the Council disapproves of, in accordance with Chapter VII, Articles 39-42 of the UN Charter. As Article 41 states, the Council's actions may include "complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations."
 - c. **Authorization of UN Peacekeeping Troops:** The Security Council can authorize UN Peacekeeping Troops to enter a region of conflict to facilitate pacification of the region.
 15. **Amendments:** A delegate may also submit an amendment. Amendments must have at least one sponsor and at least three sponsors and signatories. These Amendments must be lists of changes to a given resolution that has been introduced and is on the floor, and the changes must be numbered as clauses. Amendments cannot change the preamble of a resolution. Amendments cannot cause the resolution to be contradictory or otherwise lose practical function. Amendments must also fit proper formatting, grammatical, and substantive standards, as judged by the Chair, and must be within the competence of the committee. If an amendment meets these criteria, the Chair will approve it and distribute it to the committee as an amendment. Once distributed, motions to introduce it are in order.
 16. **Voting Procedure:** Voting procedure takes two forms:
 - a. **Voting Procedure on Amendments:** At any time after an amendment has been introduced, a delegate may move to close debate on the resolution. If this motion passes, the committee enters voting procedure on the amendment. Doors are barred and no one may enter or exit the

committee chamber. Delegates may not pass notes or talk amongst themselves during voting procedure. All points are in order during voting procedure, but the only motions that are in order are the ones that are specifically in order for voting procedure. By default, voting is done (by default) by roll call vote. Delegates may vote “yes,” “yes with rights,” “no,” “no with rights,” “abstain,” or “pass.” If a delegate votes “yes with rights” or “no with rights,” he/she will receive the floor forty-five seconds after voting is completed, called by the Chair in order of vote. Rights are to be used only when a delegate is voting against his/her nation’s policy or against comments he/she made during committee. In the interests of time or relevance, the Chair reserves the right to shorten or completely deny this speech. If a delegate votes “pass,” voting will continue through all delegations. After the list is exhausted, the Chair will return to those that voted “pass,” and they must then choose to vote “yes,” “no,” or “abstain.” The amendment passes if it receives a simple majority of “yes” votes. If the amendment passes, its changes to the resolution at hand are automatically implemented. Multiple amendments may pass for a single resolution. At the conclusion of this voting procedure, the committee will resume normal debate.

- b. Voting Procedure on Resolutions:** At any time after a resolution has been introduced, a delegate may move to close debate on the resolution and enter voting procedure on the resolution. If the motion passes, the committee enters voting procedure. Doors are barred and no one may enter or exit the committee chamber. Delegates may not pass notes or talk amongst themselves during voting procedure. All points are in order during voting procedure, but the only motions that are in order are the ones that are specifically in order for voting procedure. If there is more than one resolution on the floor, they will be voted on in the order that the Chair received them. By default, voting is done by roll call vote. Delegates may vote “yes,” “yes with rights,” “no,” “no with rights,” “abstain,” or “pass.” If a delegate votes “yes with rights” or “no with rights,” he/she will receive the floor forty-five seconds after voting is completed, called by the Chair in order of vote. Rights are to be used only when a delegate is voting against his/her nation’s policy or against comments he/she made during committee. In the interests of time or relevance, the Chair reserves the right to shorten or completely deny this speech. If a delegate votes “pass,” voting will continue through all delegations. After the list is exhausted, the Chair will return to those that voted “pass,” and they must then choose to vote “yes,” “no,” or “abstain.” With all fifteen members of the Council present, a resolution passes if it receives at least nine “yes” votes and if no permanent member of the Council votes “no.” If either condition is not met, the resolution fails. Multiple resolutions may pass. Passed resolutions are binding on all nations under the United Nations Charter. At the conclusion of this voting procedure, the committee will resume normal debate.

- c. Voting Procedure on Procedural Matters:** Procedural matters are those relating to the running of committee and not specifically to the topic being debated. Such matters include motions to adjourn, motions to suspend, motions for an unmoderated caucus, motions to close debate, motions to suspend debate, motions to introduce a resolution, motions to introduce an amendment, motions to lay a resolution on the table, motions to take a resolution off the table, and motions to divide the question. By default, voting is done by placard vote. A delegate may move to vote by roll call, but the Chair reserves the right to deny this motion. A motion that requires a “simple majority” passes only if the number of delegates voting in favor of the motion exceeds the number voting against. If equal numbers vote for and against, the motion fails. A motion which requires a “two-thirds majority” passes only if the number of delegates voting in favor of the motion equals or exceeds twice the number voting against. Delegates may not abstain from voting on a procedural matter.