



Rules of Procedure of the Security Council

Rule Priority and Procedure. The rules contained in this handbook are the official rules of procedure of American International School Model United Nations and will be used for all Security Council sessions. These rules take precedence over any other set of rules.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

1.1 The Secretariat. The Secretariat consists of the volunteer staff and students of American International School Model United Nations.

1.2 Quorum. In the Security Council a quorum is made up of all member delegations; to begin a Council session all members must be present,

- The Secretariat reserves the right to adjust the quorum as it deems necessary.

1.3 Security Council Officers. The Secretariat shall appoint the President and Vice President of the Security Council, and shall select any other positions necessary to help conduct the sessions of AISMUN.

1.4 General Authority of the Security Council President. The Security Council President shall be the chairperson at all Council sessions. In addition to exercising such authority conferred upon the President elsewhere in these rules, the President shall have the authority to:

- Declare the opening and closing of each session,
- Ensure the observance of the rules,
- Direct the discussions of the Council, and accord the right to speak,
- Advise the Council on methods of procedure that will enable the body to accomplish its goals,
- Rule on Procedural Points and motions, and subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Council and the maintenance of order at its meetings,

During the course of the session the President may propose:

- Limits on Debate, Closure of Debate, Enter Consultative Session and Suspension and Adjournment of the Meeting,

1.5 Absence of Council President. If the Council President should find it necessary to be absent during any part of a Council session, he/she will designate an individual, normally the Vice President, to chair the Council session and assume authority.

1.6 Attendance at Security Council Sessions. Each Security Council member delegation assumes the responsibility to be present at each Council session.

1.7 Emergency Council Sessions. Emergency Security Council Sessions may be called by the Secretariat at any time international conflicts require immediate Council attention, as established in the Charter of the United Nations.

1.8 Informal Session. The Council may choose to suspend its rules and enter an informal session if the members determine that this process will better facilitate the discussion of a particular issue, The motion to move into an informal session must include the amount of time that such a session is to be in effect,

- The Council will move immediately into a formal session at the conclusion of discussions on the informal topic.

1.10 Provisional Agenda. The Secretariat shall distribute a provisional agenda to all delegations prior to the start of the Conference,

- This agenda provides the Council with topics that are the basis for its deliberations, but in no way limits the Council's topics,

1.11 Daily Order of Consideration of Agenda Topics. The Council will establish the daily order of consideration of agenda topics at the start of each daily session. Once established, this will become the *working agenda* for the duration of that day,

- Agenda topics will be discussed in the order in which they appear on the working agenda (See rule 7.10),

1.12 Participation by Non-Council Member Nations and International Organizations. When an issue before the Security Council involves a non-Council UN member nation or observer, the Council may request that the delegation be represented during Council Sessions in which the issue is being discussed,

- To do this a Council delegation must move that the nation is Party to the Dispute (see rule 7.15),
- A delegation that has been requested to attend Council sessions will usually be given debating privileges; this would allow the delegation to be recognized by the President during debate,
 - A delegation requested to attend a Council session, but not given debating privileges, will be subject to a question and answer period monitored by the President and conducted by the Council as a whole,

If the Security Council, when discussing any issue, finds it necessary to have present a Representative of a non-UN member nation, an international organization, or any other persons whom it considers competent for the purpose, it may request one by means of party to the dispute (see rule 7.15). A Representative will be made available to the Council in a timely fashion,

- These Representatives may not be given debating privileges, but will be subject to a question and answer period,
- The Secretariat will assume full responsibility to certify Representative credentials prior to their appearance before the Council.

1.13 Security Council Priority Relating to Issues Concerning the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. The Security Council, as established in the United Nations Charter, shall have priority over the General Assembly on issues that pertain to the maintenance of international peace and security,

- Issues of this type, while under discussion in the Security Council, shall be seized from General Assembly action,
- Accordingly, any General Assembly resolution pertaining to a seized issue cannot be put to a final vote until the Security Council has completed its deliberations on the subject,
- General Assembly resolutions that deal with a seized issue may be discussed and amended, but no final vote on the resolution may be taken,

The Security Council will be considered to have completed its deliberations on a seized issue once a resolution on the subject has been put to a vote and the topic closed, or after a two hour time period has elapsed since the Security Council last considered any aspect of the topic. The Council may also remain actively seized on any issue, thus preventing General Assembly action until further Security Council action is taken. Throughout the General Assembly, Representatives will be kept informed by the Secretary General of any seized issues.

2. GENERAL RULES

2.1 Statements by the Secretariat. The Secretary General, or any member of the Secretariat, may make verbal or written statements to the Security Council at any time.

2.2 Diplomatic Courtesy. Representatives must accord diplomatic courtesy, to all other Representatives and Secretariat members, at all times,

- Any Representative or visitor who, after being advised by the President, persists in an obvious attempt to divert the meeting from its intended purpose, or who otherwise attempts to disrupt the proceeding, shall be subject to disciplinary action and expulsion from the Council by the President,
- The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any delegation from the Conference,
- Decisions of the President on diplomatic courtesy are not appealable.

2.3 Speeches. No Representative may address the Council without previously obtaining the permission of the President,

- The President shall call upon delegations in the order in which they signify their desire to speak,
- Speakers must keep their remarks germane to the subject under discussion,
- A time limit may be established for speeches (rule 7.11),
- Representatives, at the conclusion of a substantive speech, will be allowed, if they are willing, to answer questions concerning their speech,
 - A delegation that desires to ask a question should signify by raising a Point of Inquiry (See rule 6.3),
 - All questions and replies are made through the President or the Deputy-President,
- A speaker who desires to make a motion may do so after their speech and questioning, but prior to yielding the floor,
 - By making a motion the speaker yields the floor,
 - Motions may not be made from; Points of Order (rule 6.1), Information (rule 6.2) or Inquiry (rule 6.3).

2.4 Recognition of Speakers. Delegations wishing to speak on an item before the body will signify by raising their placards,

- The exception to this rule occurs on any Point of Order, Personal Privilege, or Inquiry, at which time a Representative should raise their placard and call out "Point of _____" to the President,
 - Points will be recognized in the order of their priority,
- Speakers will be recognized in a fair and orderly manner,

2.5 Right of Reply. The President may accord a right of reply to any Representative if a speech by another Representative contains unusual or extraordinary language clearly insulting to personal or national dignity,

- The decision(s) of the President on a Right of Reply is not subject to appeal,
- The President may limit the time for reply,
- There shall be no reply to a reply.

2.6 Withdrawal of Motions. A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided the motion has not been amended,

- Seconds to a motion may also be withdrawn,
- A withdrawn motion or second may be reintroduced or sponsored, either verbally or in writing, by any other delegation.

2.7 Dilatory Motions. The President may rule out of order any motion repeating or closely approximating a recent previous motion on which the Council has already rendered an opinion,

- This ruling is not subject to appeal.

4. RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS & STATEMENTS

4.1 Resolutions. A resolution is a proposal consisting of at least 3 preambulatory and 5 operative clause,

- Security Council Representatives will receive a booklet containing draft resolutions submitted by participating delegations.
- These resolutions will be approved if they are legible, organized in content and flow, and in the proper format,
- Once approved, resolutions will be distributed in a timely fashion to all Security Council delegations,

A resolution that has been distributed may be proposed when the council considers the agenda topic that is the subject of the resolution,

- All proposed resolutions on an agenda topic may be debated concurrently,
- The resolutions will be voted on upon closure of debate.

4.2 Definition of Amendments. An amendment to a resolution is a written motion that adds to, deletes from, or revises any part of the resolution.

4.3 Amendments. All amendments must be submitted on an official amendment form to the Vice President for approval,

- Amendments will be approved if they are legible, organized in content and flow, and in the proper format,

One or more amendments, on any resolution which is on the floor, may be considered at the same time,

An amendment will be considered "friendly" if all sponsors of the resolution are also sponsors or seconding signatures to the amendment,

- A friendly amendment becomes part of a resolution upon receipt by the President,
- The President shall announce the acceptance of a friendly amendment on the first opportunity at which no speaker has the floor,
- No vote is required to add a friendly amendment to a resolution.

5. VOTING

5.1 **Voting Rights.** Each Security Council member delegation is accorded one vote,

- No Representative/delegation may cast a vote on behalf of another country.

5.2 **Votes Required for Passage.** Unless otherwise specified in these rules, decisions in the Council require nine (9) affirmative votes for passage.

5.3 **Adoption by Consensus.** The adoption of amendments and resolutions by consensus is desirable when it contributes to the effective and lasting settlement of differences, thus strengthening the authority of the United Nations,

- Any Representative may request the adoption of an amendment or resolution by consensus at any time after it has been approved by the President,
- The President shall ask whether there is any objection to a consensus,
 - If there is no objection, the proposal is approved by consensus,
 - If any Representative objects to consensus, voting shall occur as otherwise stated in these rules.

5.4 **Method of Voting.** The Council shall ordinarily vote on motions by a show of raised placards. Unless adopted by consensus, votes on substantive issues will be taken by roll-call,

- Roll shall be called in English alphabetical order beginning with a nation selected at random by the Vice President,
- Representatives shall reply "yes", "no", "abstain" or "abstain from the order of voting",
- The President may grant a roll-call vote on items other than substantive issues,
 - The decision to grant such a request is not subject to appeal.

5.5 **Conduct During Voting.** Immediately prior to a vote the President shall describe to the Council the proposal to be voted on, and shall explain the consequences of a "yes" or a "no" vote. Voting shall begin upon the President's declaration "we are in voting procedure", and end when the results of the vote are announced,

- Once in voting procedure, no Representative shall interrupt the voting except on a Point of Order or Information concerning the actual conduct of the vote,
- Following Closure of Debate, and prior to entering voting procedure, the President shall pause briefly to allow delegations the opportunity to make any relevant motions,
 - Relevant motions prior to a vote include: Suspension of the Meeting (7.1), Adjournment of the Meeting (7.2), Enter Consultative Session (7.7), Division of the Question (7.12) or Adoption by Consensus (5.3).

5.7 **Rights of Explanation.** Rights of explanation are permitted on all substantive votes after voting. Rights of explanation may be limited in time by the President.

5.8 **Voting on Amendments.** A motion for Closure of Debate on an amendment is in order at any time the amendment is under consideration by the Council,

- If the motion for closure passes, the amendment will be put to an immediate vote,

5.9 **Voting on Resolutions.** A motion for Closure of Debate on a resolution is in order at any time the resolution is under consideration by the Council,

- All resolutions being considered under an agenda topic will be put to a vote when a motion for closure of debate on that resolution passes,

5.10 Consent of the Five Permanent Members. As established in the Charter of the United Nations, each of the five Permanent Members; China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, shall have the right to veto any substantive matter which comes to a vote before the Security Council,

- A "no" vote by any Permanent Member, along with nine affirmative votes by other Council members, shall constitute a veto and cause the motion to fail.

6. POINTS OF PROCEDURE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

6.1 Point of Order. During the discussion of any matter, a Representative may rise to a Point of Order if he/she believes that the Council is proceeding in a manner contrary to these rules,

- The Representative will be immediately recognized if no speaker has the floor by the President and the point ruled on,
- A Representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak substantively on any matter,
- If a Representative's ability to participate in the Council's deliberations is impaired for any reason related to the Council's physical environment, the Representative may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege,
- A Point of Order may not interrupt a speaker.

6.2 Point of Information to the Chair. A Point of Information to the Chair is raised to the President if a Representative wishes to obtain a clarification of procedure or a statement of the matters before the Council,

- Representatives may not interrupt a speaker on a Point of Information.

6.3 Point of Information. During substantive debate, a Representative may question a speaker by rising to a Point of Information,

- Questions must be directed through the President and may be made only after the speaker has concluded his/her remarks, but before he/she has yielded the floor,
- Representatives may not interrupt a speaker on a point of inquiry,

7. MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

7.5 Motion to move to voting procedures. A motion to move to voting procedures is in order at any time during the discussion of an amendment or resolution. The effect of this motion is to bring the issue under discussion to an immediate vote,

- This motion is not subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker. However, if there is an objection, the motion is denied,
- Representatives should specify what the motion for closure applies to; an amendment or a resolution,

At the conclusion of voting procedure, the resolution or amendment being voted on is removed from consideration for future discussions, regardless of whether it passes or fails. Debate then continues on the current topic under discussion.

7.6 Appealing a Decision of the Chair. A motion to appeal the Chair's decision is in order in effort to change the Chair's decision.

7.7 Enter Informal Session. A motion to enter informal session is in order at any time.

- Such a motion will be decided on by the President or Deputy President,
- The motion should specify a length of time for the informal session,
 - This can be set to a specific time, or based on the discussion of a specific amendment, or resolution.

7.11 Limits on Debate. A motion to limit or extend the time allotted to each delegation, or limit the number of times each delegation can speak on a proposal, is in order at any time. Such a motion will be decided on by the President or Deputy President.

- This motion is subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker. Upon closure of the open debate period, the motion shall then be put to a vote,

A motion to limit the time of debate a resolution, or amendment is also in order.

7.12 Division of the Question. A motion to divide the question, proposing that clauses in an amendment or resolution be voted on separately, is in order at any time prior to entering into voting procedure on the amendment or resolution,

- This motion is subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker. Upon closure of the open debate period, the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- No debate or vote is necessary if the sponsor(s) of the resolution does not object to the division,
 - If a resolution has been previously amended, any Council member may object to division and require a vote,

The first motion for division to pass shall determine the order in which the amendment/ resolution is voted on. Those clauses of the amendment/resolution which are approved shall then be put to a vote as a whole,

- If division causes a resolution to no longer be in proper format, the proposal as a whole is rejected.

7.15 Party to the Dispute. When the Security Council discusses a topic/issue that involves a nation or international organization not represented on the Council, it may request a Representative by moving Party to the Dispute,

- This motion is subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker. Upon closure of the open debate period, the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- The motion must state the nation(s) or organization(s) whose Representative is desired and, if a nation, whether debating privileges are to be granted,
- If debating privileges are not granted, a formal "question and answer" period may be instituted by the President, for the purposes of questioning the Representative on the issue(s) at hand,