

Security council rules of procedure

Debate Style

SPIMUN Security Council will be adopting a clause-by-clause styled debate, in order to encourage constructive resolution making. Through this style of debate, delegates will present draft clauses which will be debated, amended, and voted on. If the clause is adopted by the committee it is added to the resolution which will be debated as a whole at the end of the session. The Security Council at SPIMUN will firstly entertain the delegates' operative clauses and then move to per-ambulatory clauses. Because of the small number of delegations and the importance of the issues in the Security Council, the debate will be less formal than in other forums. Long procedures, e.g. formal speeches and rhetoric would only slow down the pace of the debate. Therefore, the debating style resembles a discussion.

For a resolution to pass in the Security Council it requires a minimum of nine affirmative votes in favour including those of the P5. The goal during debate therefore is to achieve a unanimous vote in favour. Since this is a more informal debate, delegates must be ready to voice their country's position at any given time throughout debate and the P5 members should always clearly showcase their position to avoid votes against a clause or a resolution. Delegates are able to go into recess in order to call for a special P5 meeting where these delegates are escorted out to privately discuss certain issues or call for extra lobbying time. A vote may be taken for this motion to pass, and it may be overruled by the Head Chair when it is seen to be a general disturb of the debate.

Open debate

The Security Council unlike the other committees follows an open debate and as such, submitting and opposing parties can speak whenever they want during debate time that is once they have been recognized by the Chair. There is no division between time in favour and time against, but a continuous debate. This is another factor which characterises the more informal discussion style of debate in the Security Council.

Conduct

There will be no direct dialogue between delegates during moderated caucus. During this time any communication between delegates should be through note passing paper.

If the Chair deems it necessary, they may issue a warning to a delegation that repeatedly breaks parliamentary procedure. After three warnings, the delegation will be asked to leave the room.

Language

Delegates are expected to use formal and appropriate language, including the use of the 3rd person when referring to themselves and when addressing other delegates or the chair.

- e.g. Instead of "I" or "You", delegates should say "This Delegate" or "The Delegate of France".

The following are example of how to address other participants:

- Honourable Chair...
- Is the the Delegate of _____ aware that _____

Yielding

When delegates finish speaking they need to yield the floor to the chair or to another delegate by saying, “This delegate yields the floor back to the chair”, or “This delegate yields the floor to the Delegate of Brazil”. However, the floor can only be yielded to another delegate once – i.e. Delegate A can yield the floor to Delegate B, but Delegate B must yield the floor to the Chair.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are allowed with the exception of cell phones. However, devices must only be used for conference-related purposes. Warnings will be issued for the misuse of electronic devices.

Lobbying

During lobbying (often referred to as unmoderated caucus), delegates will have the chance to take their clauses to other delegates and gain support for their ideas. Delegates must try to get co-submitters for their clauses: a minimum of 2 co-submitters is needed for a clause to be submitted and approved by the chairs. If such requirement is not fulfilled, the clause will not be debated. Co-submitting a clause does not necessarily mean that you agree to the content of the resolution but that you agree to debate on it. Delegates have the option to modify their clauses at the suggestion of others, or merge clauses if they find another delegate with a very similar proposal. Caucus takes place in the individual committee rooms, which means that a student will be placed amongst a group of other delegates working on the same issues; but delegates are equally encouraged to caucus during coffee break or lunch time. Caucus also provides a chance for students to “break the ice” and meet the other delegates from other schools. They should aim to locate and get to know their potential allies, and identify those who share their goals. A motion to extend unmoderated or moderated caucus can be entertained in the Security Council if found relevant by the Chairs.

Amendments

An amendment is a proposed change to the clause at hand. It shouldn't be targeted at fixing the grammar and spelling (since that will be done by the chair), but rather at improving the content. A delegate can add or strike a sub-clause, or even amend one by adding or removing certain pieces of information. To propose a more elaborated amendment, it is necessary to first write it clearly on amendment paper and send it to the Chair, however a delegate that has the floor may indicate small changes. Amendments can be friendly, supported by the original draft clause main-submitter, and is passed automatically, or unfriendly, not supported by the original main-submitter and must be voted on by the committee. The chair will firstly ask if there are objections from the part of the main submitters. If there are, then unfriendly amendment procedure is applied, if not, the amendment is passed, and the clause is updated. The Security Council does entertain second-degree amendments unlike other SPIMUN committees. Both amendments and second-degree amendments only require a simple majority rather than a 2/3 one.

Voting procedures

Officially, to pass a resolution nine members including the five permanent members must vote in favour. Voting against the resolution by a P5 member constitutes a veto. The literal wording in the UN Charter implies that a veto is also constituted when a member of the P5 abstains from voting. However, it has become custom in the UN Security Council that abstaining does not constitute a veto. The main purpose of this the fact that a permanent member can show its disapproval without actually defeating the resolution.

The unwritten rules of debate (conventional mores) say that when a P5 member wants to veto a single clause or the entire resolution, the P5 member should indicate this intention as early as possible. The purpose of the debate is to reach consensus, so it is considered improper to constitute a veto without indicating this in advance. SPIMUN will not entertain veto threats that have not been previously indicated to the chairs. The veto power will only be entertained during voting procedures and not open debate.

Delegates must be aware of the rarity of the use of a veto power and although it is granted to them, the P5 members are encouraged to reflect on this and act realistically. SPIMUN does not entertain motions to take away or restore veto powers to a country by taking the vote to the General Assembly. Whilst no P5 member is at risk of being deposed of their right to veto, they must reflect on its meaning and do not abuse this power. Chairs will remind delegates who abuse this power and may escort them out for a private conversation to remind them of their roles if necessary. The veto power must be used with prudence.

Both votes on a clause or resolution require a 9-vote majority (2/3) due to both of these being legally binding.

When a veto is called, the current Head-Chair will escort P5 members outside of the conference room, to enter a discussion regarding the veto proposed. Due to time constraints and improve the flow of debate, the country issuing the veto will have one minute to explain why they have vetoed the clause, resolution or amendment in question. The P5 members will then have a maximum of 5 minutes to reach an agreement. If the Chair deems it necessary the time frame may be extended, otherwise if an agreement is not reached in the indicated time, the veto will stand as is. Whilst the P5 members discuss, the remaining of the Council will remain in the conference room with the Co-Chair and Typist and entertain unmoderated caucus for the 6 minutes allocated (provided an extension isn't given).

THE FLOW OF DEBATE

Debate time in SPIMUN should flow as follows:

1. Roll Call;
2. Opening Speeches;
3. Chairs ask if any delegates wish to present a clause;
4. Chair chooses a delegate (the main submitter) and they go to the Podium;
5. The main submitter reads out the clause and makes a short speech supporting it;
6. Chairs ask if the delegate is open to any points of information;
7. Delegate answers the points of information if there are any;
8. Delegate yields the floor back to the chair;
9. Chair asks if any delegates wish to speak in favor or against the clause or to present an amendment;
10. If there are any objections on the passing of the amendment, there is closed debate time on it;

11. When time elapses, there are voting procedures on the amendment / on the clause;
12. Delegates vote for, against or abstain;
13. Clause passes or not and the process repeats.
14. After all operative clauses have been debated, pre-ambulatory clauses will follow (SPIMUN will not entertain amendments to the second degree for pre-ambulatory clauses and only of the first degree if time is allowed by the Chairs)
15. There will be a debate and voting on the resolution as a whole.

At SPIMUN, there will be unlimited funds, as to not deter the debate from the main topic of discussion. However, delegates should be mindful of their choices and policies proposed, by keeping in mind that the UN does not have unlimited funds, and that some legislation proposed under an unlimited funds directive might not be realistic. MUN focuses on modelling the United Nations, and delegates should never lose sight of that.

POINTS AND MOTIONS

Point of Information to the Speaker

Question made to speaker, and can only be done if recognised by the chair. It must be made in the form of a question. Delegates must remain standing whilst their Point of Information is being answered.

- (E.g.: Is the Delegate of South Africa aware that sub-clause b) violates the sovereignty of nations?)

Point of Information to the Chair

Question made to chair that is not related to the Rules of Procedure but is relevant to the debate.

- (E.g.: Could the chair explain what is the Atlantic Treaty?)

Point of Personal Privilege

Used when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in the committee. It is the only point that can interrupt the speaker.

- (E.g.: Could the delegate of Japan please speak up? Could the chair increase/decrease the air conditioning?)

Point of Order

Used when a delegate wishes to question the Chair about a action taken by another delegate such as inappropriate language.

- (E.g.: Is it in order for the Delegate of Russia to insult the Delegate of France?)

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Used when a delegate wishes to question the Chair about their action based on the Rules of Procedure or when a delegate wishes to clarify any specific term/language relating to the debate.

- (E.g.: Could the chair please explain what is meant by abstaining?)

Motion to Cite Sources

Used when a delegate is unsure of the information present in another delegate's POI, clause, response or claim. It must be accepted by the chair, and if it is, then the delegate making this motion must specify what they would like to be clarified and by which delegate. Then, the delegate to which the motion is directed at must cite the sources they have used to justify a claim they have made. At SPIMUN, there will be a maximum of two minutes allocated for a

delegate to search for their sources. If they are unable to do so, the motion will be dismissed and debate will proceed accordingly.

Motion to Move to Voting Procedures

In open debate, it means that the debate will be moved into voting procedures. It requires a “second” from another delegate and it is up to the Chair to decide whether or not to entertain the motion.

Motion to Adopt Without a Vote

The clause being debated will automatically pass without a voting, and will be added to the resolution. It requires a “second”, and there must be no “objections”. This motion can only be considered when debating clauses. This motion can only be done by one of the main-submitters of the clause.

Motion to Table the Clause

Requests the Chair to entertain a vote on consideration of a clause. If the vote ends favourably the clause is tabled to the end of the “line up” and is only to be considered after all other submitted clauses have been discussed.

Motion to Divide the House

Motion to have the Chair call out every country in alphabetical order and record the votes individually, instead of using the method of raising placards. This motion can only be called if the previous vote ended in a tie. Delegates can only vote either for or against. The chair can decide to entertain it or not.

Order of the Day

Used when a delegate believes the debate has gone off topic and the discussion is no longer related to the agenda topics.

Right of Reply

Special rule that is invoked if a delegate feels that her/his national, or persona, integrity has been insulted in the speech of another delegate. Can be requested as a verbal request or as a written note to chairs. The request for a Right of Reply should clearly state the specific statement that provoked you to exercise a right to reply. It is up to the chairs whether they entertain the right of reply.

Motion for Moderated Caucus

This motion is used primarily in the Security Council requires the delegate to suggest the speaker’s appropriate speaking time and purpose of this motion. The Chair may suggest a change to the timing, put it to vote or rule out the motion. If the motion passes, the Council will enter informal debate, and the Chair will recognize the speakers in question.

Motion to Extended Moderated Caucus

This motion is used to extended moderated caucus time given by the Chair if the delegate feels it may benefit the debate. A duration that does not extended the initial duration of the caucus may be proposed as well as a topic for the informal debate. The Chair may suggest a change to the timing, put it to vote or rule out the motion. If the motion passes, the Council will re-enter informal debate and the Chair will recognize the speakers in question. Only one extension is allowed.

Motion for Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is used primarily in the Security Council requires the delegate to suggest an appropriate duration and purpose of this motion. The Chair may suggest a change to the timing, put it to vote or rule out the motion. If the motion passes, the Council will enter informal discussion on the topic without leaving the conference room.

Motion to Extend Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is used to extended unmoderated caucus time given by the Chair if the delegate feels it may benefit the debate. A duration that does not extended the initial duration of the caucus may be proposed as well as a topic for the informal discussion. The Chair may suggest a change to the timing, put it to vote or rule out the motion. If the motion passes, the Council will re-enter informal discussion. Only one extension is allowed.

Sources include IMUN's (Iberian Model United Nations) **rules of procedure for Security Council**, Security Council Rules of Procedure