



# The Rules of Procedure

Harvard World Model United Nations

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## GENERAL RULES

### RULE # 1: SCOPE

The rules included in this guide are applicable to all committees of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Councils and Regional Bodies, and the Security Council. The Rules of Procedure for Crisis and Historical Committees are entirely at the discretion of the committee chair. If a situation arises that has not been addressed by the Rules of Procedure, the Committee Chair will be the final authority on what procedure to follow. At the discretion of the Chair or Secretariat, these rules can be modified to better facilitate healthy debate, and any modification of the rules will be announced clearly to the entirety of the committee, and will take precedence over any rules written in this document.

### RULE # 2: LANGUAGE

English will be the official and working language of the conference. If a delegate wishes to present any document or part therein written in a language other than English, the chair may at their discretion permit the introduction of the document alongside a full English translation of the document to be distributed to the entirety of the committee. Delegates may not carry out any activities relevant to their committees in any language other than English, which includes discussing committee topics in unmoderated caucus or outside of committee. This is to prevent the creation of language-based blocs that may exclude non-speakers of a language.

### RULE # 3: REPRESENTATION

A member of the Committee is a representative who is officially registered with the Conference. Each member will be represented by one or two delegates and will have one vote on each Committee. If two delegates represent a Member State of a Committee, the delegates can present

speeches together without formally yielding as long as only one delegate speaks at any given time.

### RULE # 4: CREDENTIALS

The credentials of all delegations have been accepted upon registration. Actions relating to the modification of rights, privileges, or credentials of any member may not be initiated without the written consent of the Secretary-General. Any representative whose admission raises an objection by another member will provisionally be seated with the same rights as other representatives, pending a decision from the Secretary-General.

### RULE # 5: PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS

Accredited Observers will not have the same right to be recognized and address the committee in debate as a member state. Any observer or other conference participant that does not represent a member of the United Nations and is not an Accredited Observer may address a Committee only with the prior approval of the Chair.

### RULE # 6: PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PRESS CORPS

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (“NGOs”) or the Press Corps reserve the same rights as a full member of the committee, with the exception of the right to vote on substantive matters. NGOs may be signatories on draft resolutions while Press Corps members may not. At the discretion of the committee Chair, delegates of NGOs or the Press Corps hold certain unique procedural rights stated below:

- **Introductory Statements to Committee:** If desired, an NGO or Press Corps member holds the right to submit a written introduction to the Committee Chair that elaborates on the position and powers of the NGO or Press

Corps member. The Chair reserves the right to postpone the introduction if necessary.

- **Written or oral announcements:** An NGO is allowed to address the committee in oral or written form, stating its stance on the topic being discussed and the possible contributions it can make. This announcement will also be made at the discretion of the Committee Chair.
- **Press Conferences:** A Press Corps member or group of members may, at the discretion of the Chair may hold a press conference in which the Press Corps members have a question and answer session with delegates. The Chair reserves the right to end the press conference at any time.

## **RULE # 7: STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARIAT**

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him/her reserves the right to make either written or oral statements to the Committee at any time. Delegates should expect to receive an address from the relevant Under-Secretary-General for their committee, either of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Regional Bodies, or Crisis and Historical Committees, at least once per day for committee feedback and announcements.

## **RULE # 8: GENERAL POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF**

The Committee Dais Staff consists of the Committee Chair and several Assistant Chairs. Each Committee session will be announced open and closed by the Committee Chair, who may also propose the adoption of any procedural motion to which there is no significant objection. The Chair, subject to these rules, will have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting. The Chair will direct the flow of debate, grant the right to speak, ask questions, announce decisions, rule on points of order, and enforce adherence to

these rules. If necessary and given no objections, the Committee Chair may choose to suspend the rules in order to clarify a certain substantive or procedural issue. The Committee Chair also has the right to interrupt the flow of debate in order to show a presentation or to bring in a guest speaker or an expert witness. The Chair can choose to temporarily transfer his or her duties to another member of the Committee Dais staff. Committee Dais staff members may also advise delegations on the possible course of debate. Further, no handouts may be circulated to the committee body without the knowledge and explicit approval of the Chair. In the exercise of these functions, the Committee Dais staff will be at all times subject to these rules and responsible to the Secretary-General.

## **RULE # 9: QUORUM**

Quorum denotes the minimum number of delegates who need to be present in order to open debate. When at least one-quarter of the members of the Committee (as declared at the beginning of the first session) are present, quorum is met, and the Chair declares a Committee open to proceed with debate. A quorum will be assumed to be present unless specifically challenged and shown to be absent. A roll call is never required to determine the presence of a quorum. In order to vote on any substantive motion, the Committee must establish the presence of a simple majority of members. For double delegation committees, at least one delegate from each pair must be present in the room at all times.

## **RULE # 10: COURTESY**

Every delegate will be courteous and respectful to the Committee staff and to other delegates. The Chair will immediately call to order any delegate who does not abide by this rule. Any delegate who feels that he or she is not being treated respectfully is encouraged to speak to the Chair, who will then take the appropriate action.

## RULE # 11: ELECTRONIC AIDS

Delegates are not permitted to use any type of electronic device, including laptops, phones, etc., in the committee room when the committee is in session. All laptop use must occur outside of the committee room unless otherwise specified by the Chair. Exceptions may be made in the case of paperless committees in which case the Chair will specify when it is appropriate to use electronic devices. The Chair may grant the use of electronic dictionaries at his or her discretion, such as during an unmoderated caucus.

## RULE # 12: DELEGATE CONDUCT

Delegates are warned that WorldMUN has a zero-tolerance policy for slandering, disparaging, or acting in any other way that is inflammatory to other delegates. Neither speeches nor debates with other delegates may contain remarks of this nature. Those delegates who believe that their countries' policies merit such conduct are advised to consult the Chair before taking any action.

## RULE # 13: ABSENCES

If a delegate is not present during roll call, he or she is considered absent until a note is sent to the dais staff. A delegate who is recognized but is not present when called upon yields his or her time to the Chair, and debate shall continue unabated. In order to receive fee waivers and financial aid awards, delegates are required to attend all sessions.

### RULES GOVERNING DEBATE

## RULE # 14: AGENDA

The Agenda decides the order in which the topics will be discussed in committee. Therefore the first matter the Committee decides on will be setting the agenda. The only motion in order at this time will be in the form of "I move that

Topic Area X be placed first on the Agenda." Alternatively, for single topic committees the Chair, at his or her discretion, may allow the committee to set the agenda to certain subtopics. The procedure for a motion to set the agenda is as follows:

- A motion shall be made to put a Topic Area first on the agenda. This motion requires a second.
- Delegates may only propose those Topic Areas listed in the preparation materials. The Chair holds the right to modify these Topic Areas at his or her discretion. In the case of single topic committees, the chair may allow delegates to set the agenda to certain subtopics.
- A Committee in which only one Topic Area may be proposed for the agenda will be considered to have automatically adopted that Topic Area without debate unless the Chair would like the committee to set the agenda to specific subtopics.
- A Speakers List will be established 'for' and 'against' the motion; speakers 'for' will speak in support of the Topic Area suggested, speakers 'against' will speak in favor of the other Topic Area.
- Debate over the Agenda can only be closed by a motion after the Committee has heard from two speakers for the motion and from two against, or all the speakers on one side and at least two on the opposite side. As stated in Rule 16, the Chair will recognize two speakers against the motion to close debate. A vote of two-thirds is required for closure of debate on the agenda. In the situation where the Speakers List on setting the agenda is exhausted, debate will automatically be closed even if a motion to close debate would not normally be in order.
- Once debate is closed, the Committee will move to an immediate vote on the motion, which will require a simple majority to pass. If the motion fails, the other Topic Area will automatically be placed first on the agenda.

- A motion to proceed to the second Topic Area is in order only after the Committee has adopted or rejected a resolution on the first Topic Area. A motion to proceed to the second agenda item after a resolution has passed or failed requires a second and is debatable to the extent of one speaker in favor and one against. This motion requires a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting to pass.
- In the event of a simulated international crisis or emergency, the Secretary-General, members of the Secretariat or the members of the Committee Staff may call upon the delegates of a certain Committee to set aside or table debate on the current Topic Area so that the more pressing issue may be attended to immediately. After a draft resolution has been passed on the crisis topic, the Committee will return to debate on the tabled topic. If a draft resolution on the crisis topic fails, the Committee may return to debate on the tabled Topic Area only at the discretion of the Committee Staff.
- Comments are not in order during debate on the agenda, since deciding the Agenda is a procedural question.
- All motions for caucus is out of order during the consideration of the agenda. Also, delegates will not be allowed to yield their time (see Rule 22).

### **RULE # 15: DEBATE**

Setting the Agenda is followed by a motion to open debate. This motion is not debateable and requires a simple majority to pass. A motion to open debate, if it passes, results in the opening of a new, continuous Speakers List, which is used to conduct general debate. This Speakers List will decide the order of speakers for all debate on the Topic Area, except when superseded by procedural motions, amendments, or the introduction of a draft resolution. Speakers may speak generally on the Topic Area being considered and may address any working paper or draft resolution currently

on the floor. Once a draft resolution has been introduced, it remains on the floor and may be debated until it fails, the Committee postpones debate on it, or the Committee moves to the next Topic Area.

### **RULE # 16: UN-MODERATED CAUCUS**

A delegate may motion for an unmoderated caucus at any time when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. The delegate making the motion must specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty minutes. The motion will immediately be put to a vote and will pass given a simple majority. In the case of multiple unmoderated caucuses, the Chair will rank the motions in descending order of length, and the Committee members will vote accordingly. The Chair may rule the motion dilatory, and his or her decision is not subject to appeal. An unmoderated caucus may be extended only once, and the combined length of an unmoderated caucus and its extension may not exceed twenty minutes.

### **RULE # 17: CONSULTATION OF THE WHOLE**

At the discretion of the Chair, delegates may motion for a Consultation of the Whole in which the rules of parliamentary procedure are suspended, and an informal discussion is carried out in the committee room. Speaking times as well as the order of speakers are determined on an ad-hoc basis at the informal discretion of the delegates and ultimately the chair. The delegate making the motion must specify a time limit and a topic of discussion for the consultation of the whole, not to exceed ten minutes. The motion will be put to a vote and will pass given a simple majority. During the execution of this motion, delegates not speaking will be expected to remain in their seats and be respectful of speakers at all times. The Chair may rule the motion dilatory or end the Consultation of the Whole at any point for any reason, and his or her decision is not subject to appeal. Like unmoderated caucuses, a



Consultation of the Whole may only be extended once and the combined length cannot exceed twenty minutes.

### **RULE # 18: MODERATED CAUCUS**

The purpose of a moderated caucus is to facilitate substantive debate at critical junctures in the discussion. In a moderated caucus, the Chair will temporarily depart from the Speakers List and call on delegates to speak at his or her discretion. Although the default is to only call one speaker at a time, the Chair, at his or her discretion, may create a list of up to a maximum of five speakers at any time. The Chair cannot create a list of all the speakers of a moderated caucus.

A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open, prior to closure of debate. The delegate making the motion must briefly explain its purpose and specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty minutes, and a time limit for the individual speeches. The Chair may rule such a motion dilatory, and his or her decision is not subject to appeal. Once raised, the motion will be voted on immediately, with a simple majority of members required for passage. In the case of multiple moderated caucuses, the Chair will rank the motions in descending order of length. Moderated caucuses of the same length will be ranked in descending order of number of speakers. Moderated caucuses that differ only in topic will be ranked in the same order that they were proposed. No motions are in order between speeches during a moderated caucus. A delegate who has been recognized to speak during a moderated caucus can and will be ruled out of order if the delegate's speech does not address the topic of the moderated caucus. If no delegate wishes to speak during a moderated caucus, the caucus shall immediately end. A moderated caucus may be extended only once, but only after the caucus has ended, and the combined length of a moderated caucus and its extension may not exceed 20 minutes. Delegates cannot yield

their remaining speaking time during moderated caucuses.

### **RULE # 19: CLOSURE OF DEBATE**

When the floor is open, a delegate may move to close debate on the substantive or procedural matter under discussion. Delegates may move to close debate on the general topic, debate on the agenda, or debate on an amendment. When debate is closed on the topic area under discussion, this motion has the effect of the committee entering into voting procedure on draft resolutions. The Chair may, subject to appeal, rule any motion to close debate dilatory. When closure of debate is moved, the Chair may recognize up to two speakers' against the motion. No speaker in favor of the motion will be recognized. Closure of debate requires the support of two-thirds of the members present and voting. If there are no speakers' against the closing debate, the Committee Chair will ask the delegates if there are any objections to voting by unanimous consent (Please see Rule 38 for details on procedure). If there are no objections, the motion to close debate will automatically be adopted and the Committee will move immediately to substantive voting procedure.

### **RULE # 20: SUSPENSION OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

The suspension of the meeting means the postponement of all Committee functions until the next meeting. The adjournment of the meeting means the postponement of all Committee functions for the duration of the Conference. Whenever the floor is open, a delegate may move for the suspension of the meeting or adjournment of the meeting. The Chair may rule such motions dilatory; these decisions shall not be subject to appeal. When in order, such motions will not be debatable but will be immediately voted upon, barring any motions taking precedence, and will require a simple majority to pass. A motion to adjourn will be out of order prior to the lapse of three-quarters of the time allotted for the last

meeting of the Committee. In the case of a real emergency as declared by the Secretary General, members of the Secretariat or the Committee Staff, debate will automatically be suspended without any exceptions.

### **RULE # 21: POSTPONEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

Whenever the floor is open, a delegate may move for the postponement of debate on a draft resolution, amendment, or topic currently on the floor. The motion, otherwise known as “tabling,” will require a two-thirds vote to pass and will be debatable to the extent of one speaker in favor and one opposed. No debate or action will be allowed on any draft resolution, amendment, or topic on which debate has been postponed. A motion to resume debate on an amendment, draft resolution, or topic on which debate has been postponed will require a simple majority to pass and will be debatable to the extent of one speaker in favor and one opposed. Resumption of debate will cancel the effects of postponement of debate.

### **RULE # 22: RECONSIDERATION**

A motion to reconsider a draft resolution is in order when a draft resolution or amendment has been adopted or rejected, and must be made by a member who voted with the majority on the substantive proposal. The Chair will recognize up to two speakers opposing the motion after which the motion will be immediately voted upon. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required for reconsideration. If the motion passes, the Committee will immediately vote again on the draft resolution or amendment being reconsidered without further debate.

### **RULE # 23: APPEAL**

An appeal can only be made to procedural matters, but not substantive ones (Rules 36, 37). A delegate may appeal any procedural decision of the Chair unless it is one that cannot be appealed

as stated by the rules of procedure. The delegate can only appeal a ruling immediately after it has been pronounced. The delegate will be given thirty seconds in order to explain the reasoning behind the appeal. The Chair may speak briefly in defense of the ruling. The appeal shall then be put to a vote, and the decision of the Chair shall stand unless overruled by two-thirds of those members present and voting. The Chair’s decision not to sign a draft resolution or amendment is never appealable. A “Yes” vote indicates support of the Chair’s ruling; a “No” vote indicates opposition to that ruling.

## **RULES GOVERNING SPEECHES**

### **RULE # 24: SPEAKERS LIST**

The Committee shall at all times have an open Speakers’ List for the Topic Area being discussed. The Chair will either set a speaking time or entertain motions to set a speaking time. Separate Speakers’ Lists will be established as needed for procedural motions and debate on amendments. A member may add its name to the Speakers’ List by submitting a request in writing to the Chair, provided that member is not already on the Speakers’ List, and may remove its name from the Speakers’ List by submitting a request in writing to the Chair. At any time the Chair may call for members that wish to be added to the Speakers’ List. The names of the next several members to speak will always be posted for the convenience of the Committee. The Speakers’ List for the second Topic Area will not be open until the Committee has proceeded to that topic. The Speakers’ List is the default activity of the Committee. If no motions are on the floor, debate automatically returns to the Speakers’ List. A motion to close any Speakers’ List is never in order.



## RULE # 25: TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES

The Chair may limit the time allotted to each speaker. The minimum time limit will be ten seconds. When a delegate exceeds his or her allotted time, the Chair may call the speaker to order without delay. However, the Chair may exercise his or her discretion to allow a delegate to finish his or her thought before calling the delegate to order. This rule is intended to account for the varying fluency in English among conference attendees.

## RULE # 26: YIELDS

A delegate granted the right to speak on a substantive issue may yield in one of three ways at the conclusion of his/her speech: to another delegate, to questions, or to the Chair. A delegate must declare any yield at the conclusion of his or her speech.

- Yield to another delegate. His or her remaining time will be offered to that delegate. If the delegate accepts the yield, the Chair shall recognize the delegate for the remaining time. To turn the floor over to a co-delegate of the same member state is not considered a yield. The second delegate speaking may not yield back to the original delegate.
- Yield to questions. Questioners will be selected by the Chair and limited to one question each. Follow-up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair will have the right to call to order any delegate whose question is, in the opinion of the Chair, rhetorical, leading and/or not designed to elicit information. Only the speaker's answers to questions will be counted against the speaking time.
- Yield to the chair. Such a yield should be made if the delegate does not wish his/her speech to be subject to questions. The Chair will then move to the next speaker.

Only one yield is allowed per speech (i.e. no yields on yielded time). There are no yields allowed if

the delegate is speaking on a procedural matter. A delegate must declare any yield by the conclusion of his/her speech. Even if a delegate's time has elapsed, he/she must still yield. Yields only need to be made when in a Speakers' List. If a

## RULE # 27: RIGHT OF REPLY

A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may submit a Right of Reply only in writing to the Committee staff. The Chair will grant the Right of Reply at his/her discretion; this decision is not appealable. A delegate granted a Right of Reply will not address the Committee except at the request of the Chair. A Right of Reply to a Right of Reply is out of order.

## RULES GOVERNING POINTS

## RULE # 28: PURPOSE OF POINTS

At Harvard World Model United Nations, Points are used exclusively to facilitate procedure and may never be used to make substantive remarks of any kind. Points of Information and Points of Inquiry are not recognized.

## RULE # 29: POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort, which impairs his or her ability to participate in the proceedings, he or she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. A Point of Personal Privilege may only interrupt a speaker if the delegate speaking is inaudible.

## RULE # 30: POINTS OF ORDER

At any point when a committee is in session, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate their belief that the rules of procedure are not being

properly followed. The Point of Order will be immediately decided by the Chair in accordance with these rules of procedure. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may never interrupt a speaker.

### **RULE # 31: POINTS OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY**

When the floor is open, a delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the Chair a question regarding the rules of procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker. Delegates with substantive questions should not rise to this Point, but should rather approach the Committee staff during caucus or send a note to the dais.

#### **RULES GOVERNING PATH TO A DRAFT RESOLUTION**

### **RULE # 32: WORKING PAPERS**

Delegates may propose working papers for Committee consideration. Working papers are intended to aid the Committee in its discussion and formulation of draft resolutions and need not be written in draft resolution format. Working papers are not official documents and may be presented in any format approved by the Chair, but do require the signature of the Chair to be copied and distributed. Once distributed, delegates may consider that working paper introduced and begin to refer to that working paper by its designated number. Working papers do not require signatories or votes of approval. Working papers are not introduced by motion.

### **RULE # 33 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**

A draft resolution may be introduced when it receives the approval of the Chair and is signed by 20 members in the General Assembly, 10 members

in the Economic and Social Council and Regional Bodies, or 5 members in the Crisis Committees. Signing a draft resolution need not indicate support of the draft resolution, and the signatory has no further rights or obligations. Signing a draft resolution only indicates a desire for the draft resolution to be discussed in Committee. There are no official sponsors of draft resolutions. Signatories should be listed in alphabetical order on every draft resolution. A draft resolution requires a simple majority of members present to pass. Only one draft resolution may be passed per Topic Area. After a draft resolution is passed, voting procedure will end and the Committee will move directly into the second Topic Area (following the rules governing the setting of the agenda

### **RULE # 34: INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**

Once a draft resolution has been approved as stipulated above and has been copied and distributed, a delegate(s) may move to introduce the draft resolution. Each motion will specify one draft resolution to introduce. The order in which draft resolutions are introduced is the default order for substantive voting on the draft resolutions. The Chair, time permitting, may read the operative clauses of the draft resolution. A procedural vote is then taken to determine whether the resolution shall be introduced. Should the motion receive the simple majority required to pass, the draft resolution will be considered introduced and on the floor. The Chair, at his/her discretion, may allow a brief presentation of the resolution in a manner determined by the Chair. Alternatively, the Chair, at his/her discretion, may answer any clarificatory points on the draft resolution. Any substantive points will be ruled out of order during any presentation or clarificatory period, and the Chair may end this any of these periods for any reason, including time constraints. More than one draft resolution may be on the floor at any one time. A draft resolution will remain on the floor until debate on that specific draft resolution

is postponed or a Resolution on that Topic Area has been passed. Debate on draft resolutions proceeds according to the general Speakers' List for that Topic Area and delegates may then refer to the draft resolution by its designated number. No delegate may refer to a draft resolution until it is formally introduced.

### **RULE #35: AMENDMENTS**

Delegates may amend any draft resolution that has been introduced by adding to, inserting into, deleting from or revising parts of it. Only one amendment may be introduced at any given time. An amendment must have the approval of the Chair and the signatures of 12 members in the General Assembly, 5 members in the Economic and Social Council and the Regional Bodies, or 3 members in the Crisis Committees. Amendments to amendments are out of order; however, an amended part of a draft resolution may be further amended. There are no official sponsors of amendments. As there are no official sponsors of draft resolutions, there can be no friendly amendments. If a submitted amendment contains a typographical error, the corrected version should be submitted to the Chair only and does not need to be circulated to the entire committee. The Chair, at his or her discretion will announce the corrections made in the latter version. Preambulatory phrases may not be amended. The final vote on the amendment is substantive; NGOs and Observer Nations will not be allowed to vote on amendments.

- A motion to introduce an approved amendment may be made when the floor is open. After this motion, the Chair may read the amendment aloud, time permitting. The motion will pass by a simple majority. General debate will be suspended and a Speakers' List will be established for and against the amendment.
- A motion to close debate will be in order after the Committee has heard from two speakers' for the amendment and from two speakers'

against or from all the speakers' on both sides in the case that one or both sides only has one speaker wishing to speak.

- The Chair will recognize up to two speakers against the motion to close debate, and a vote of two-thirds is required for closure. If there are no speakers against the motion to close debate, the motion passes by unanimous consent and no vote on the motion to close debate is necessary.
- When debate is closed on the amendment, the Committee will move to an immediate vote. Amendments need a simple majority to pass. Votes on amendments are substantive votes.
- After the vote, debate will resume according to the general Speakers' List.

## **RULES GOVERNING VOTING**

### **RULE # 36: PROCEDURAL VOTING**

Voting on any matter other than draft resolutions and amendments is considered procedural. Each and every member of the committee, including representatives of Accredited Observers and NGOs present in the room must vote on all procedural motions, and no abstentions will be allowed. A simple majority shall be considered achieved when there are more "Yes" votes than "No" votes. A two-thirds vote will require at least twice as many "Yes" votes than "No" votes.

### **RULE # 37: SUBSTANTIVE VOTING**

Substantive voting includes voting on draft resolutions and amendments. Once the committee closes debate on the general Topic Area, it will move into substantive voting procedures on resolutions. At this time, the chambers are sealed, and no interruptions will be allowed. The only motions that will be in order are: Motion to Divide the Question, Motion to Reorder Draft

Resolutions, and Motion for a Roll Call Vote. If there are no such motions, the Committee will vote on all draft resolutions in the order in which they were introduced. For substantive voting, each member will have one vote. Each vote may be a 'Yes,' 'No,' or 'Abstain.' Abstaining members are not considered to be voting, and are subtracted from quorum for the purposes of calculating a simple majority. All matters will be voted upon by a show of placards, unless a motion for a roll call vote is accepted. A simple majority requires more "Yes" votes than "No" votes. Once any Resolution has been passed, the voting procedure is closed, as only one Resolution may be passed per Topic Area. NGOs, Observer Nations, and Third Party Actors will not be able to vote on draft resolutions and/or amendments. In the Security Council, the five permanent members have the power to veto any substantive vote. A "No" vote by one of the five permanent members in the Security Council is considered a veto, and the draft resolution will not pass if it receives a veto.

### **RULE # 38: VOTING BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

Before the beginning the vote on a particular motion, draft resolution or amendment, the Committee Chair has the right to ask his or her members if there are any objections to a vote by unanimous consent. If no committee member expresses an objection, then the motion will automatically be adopted without the committee taking a vote. Any objection to voting by unanimous consent will mean that the committee will go into normal voting procedure.

### **RULE # 39: REORDERING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**

A Motion to Reorder Draft resolutions will only be in order immediately after entering voting procedure, and before voting has started on any draft resolutions. If the motion receives the simple majority required to pass, the Chair will take all motions to reorder draft resolutions and

then vote on them in the order in which they were introduced. Voting will continue until either a motion passes, receiving a simple majority, or all of the motions fail, in which case the Committee will move into voting procedure, voting on the draft resolutions in the default order which is the order in which they are introduced. Only one motion to reorder draft resolutions can pass for each round of voting procedures.

### **RULE # 40: DIVISION OF THE QUESTION**

After debate on any topic has been closed, a delegate may move that the operative parts of a draft resolution be voted on separately. Perambulatory clauses and sub-operative clauses may not be altered by division of the question.

- First, a motion to divide the question in general (divide the question at all) is in order. A vote will then be held on whether to divide the question at all. The motion can be debated to the extent of two speakers' for and two against, to be followed by an immediate procedural vote on that motion.
- If the motion receives the simple majority required to pass, the Chair will take motions on how to divide the question and prioritize them from most severe to least severe. If the motion fails, then voting procedure will continue and no further motions to divide the question are in order.
- The Committee will then vote on the motions in the order set by the Chair. If no division passes, the resolution remains intact. Once a division has been passed, requiring a simple majority, the draft resolution will be divided accordingly, and a separate procedural vote will be taken on each divided part to determine whether or not it is to be included in the final draft resolution.
- If all of the operative parts of the substantive proposal are rejected, the draft resolution will be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

- Parts of the draft resolution that are subsequently passed will be recombined into a final document. The final document will be put to a substantive vote along with the other draft resolutions in the relevant order.

- The Chair will then announce the outcome of the vote.

## PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS

### RULE # 41: ROLL CALL VOTING

A delegate has the right to request a roll call vote after debate on a draft resolution is closed or for any other substantive vote. A roll call vote is only in order for substantive votes. A motion for a roll call vote may be made from the floor and passes without a vote if it is seconded by 20 members of the General Assembly, 10 members of the Economic and Social Council and Regional Bodies and 5 members of the Crisis and Historical Committees

- In a roll call vote, the Chair will call members in alphabetical order starting with a randomly selected member.
- In the first sequence, delegates may vote “Yes,” “Yes with Rights,” “No,” “No with Rights,” “Abstain,” or “Pass.” Delegates who vote either “Yes with Rights” or “No with Rights” reserve the right to explain his/her vote only when the delegate is voting against the policy of his/her country. The delegate will only be allowed to explain an affirmative or negative vote, not an abstention from voting.
- A delegate who voted “Pass” during the first sequence of the roll call must vote (i.e. may not abstain or pass) during the second sequence. The same delegate may not request the right to explain his/her vote.
- The Chair shall then call for changes of votes; no delegate may request a right of explanation if he or she did not request on in the previous two sequences. All delegates who had requested the right of explanation will be granted time to explain their votes. The speaking time will be set at the discretion of the Chair, not to exceed thirty seconds.

The following are incidental motions which are dealt with immediately when they arise and thus have no precedence:

1. Point of Personal Privilege (Rule 29)
2. Point of Order (Rule 30)
3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry (Rule 31)

Motions will be considered in the following order of preference:

4. Adjournment of the Meeting (Rule 20)
5. Suspension of the Meeting (Rule 20)
6. Unmoderated Caucusing (Rule 16)
7. Moderated Caucusing (Rule 18)
8. Introduction of Draft Resolution (Rule 33)
9. Introduction of an Amendment (Rule 34)
10. Postponement of Debate (Rule 21)
11. Resumption of Debate (Rule 21)
12. Closure of Debate (Rule 19)

At the start of voting procedure, the following points and motions are in order, in the following order of precedence

1. Reordering Draft Resolutions (Rule 38)
2. Division of the Question (Rule 39)
3. Motion for a Roll Call Vote (Rule 40)