

NITMUN 2011

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Model United Nations is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. In Model UN, students step into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to debate current issues on the organization's agenda. While playing their roles as ambassadors, student delegates make speeches, prepare draft resolutions, negotiate with allies and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the Model UN conference rules of procedure - all in the interest of mobilizing international cooperation to resolve problems that affect countries all over the world.

Students have to research the issue that their committee will address. Model UN participants learn how the international community acts on its concerns about topics including peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, economic development and globalization. Model UN delegates also look closely at the needs, goals and foreign policies of the countries they will represent at the event. The insights they gain from their exploration of history, geography, culture, economics and science contribute to the authenticity of the simulation when the role playing gets under way. The delegates' in-depth knowledge of their countries guarantees a lively and memorable experience.

RULES GOVERNING DEBATE

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."

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 favour 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. 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 failed requires a second and is debatable to the extent of one speaker in favour 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 a 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 shall be ruled dilatory during the consideration of the agenda. Also, delegates will not be allowed to yield their time.

DEBATE

The setting of the Agenda is followed by the opening of a new, continuous Speakers List, which is used to begin 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 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.

UNMODERATED 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 and a topic of discussion 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 out of order and his/her decision is not subject to appeal. An unmoderated caucus may be extended only twice.

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/her discretion. 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. 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 and the Committee members will vote accordingly. The Chair may rule a motion out of order and his/her decision is not subject to appeal. No motions are in order between speeches during a moderated caucus. A delegate 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 twice but only after the caucus has ended.

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. The Chair may, subject to appeal, rule such a motion dilatory. When closure of debate is moved, the Chair may recognize up to two speakers' against the motion. No speaker in favour 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 acclamation. If there are no objections,

the motion to close debate will automatically be adopted and the Committee will move immediately to substantive voting procedure.

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 out of order; 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.

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 favour 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 favour and one opposed. Resumption of debate will cancel the effects of postponement of debate.

RECONSIDERATION

A motion to reconsider 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 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.

RULES GOVERNING SPEECHES

SPEAKER'S 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.

SPEECHES

No delegate may address a session without having previously obtained the permission of the Chair. The Chair may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion, or are offensive to Committee members or staff. Delegates are required to make all speeches from the 3rd person perspective. There can be no speeches made from the 1st person unless the approval of the chair is received. There can be no props used unless the approval of the chair is received.

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.
- 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.

COMMENTS

If a substantive speech involves no yields, the Chair may recognize up to two delegates, other than the original speaker, to comment for thirty seconds on the specific content of the speech just completed. Commentators may not yield. No comments shall be in order during debate on procedural motions.

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

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort, which impairs his/her ability to participate in the proceedings, he/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. Otherwise, the delegate rising on the Point of Personal Privilege must always wait till the end of the speech to raise the Point.

POINTS OF ORDER

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper parliamentary procedure. The Point of Order will be immediately decided by the Chair in accordance with these rules of procedure. The Chair may rule out of order those points that are dilatory or improper; such a decision is not appealable. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may not interrupt a speaker during the speech. The delegate who rises to a point of order must wait till the end of the speech. Additionally, the Committee Chair has the right to address a delegate if proper parliamentary procedure is not being followed.

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. Points of Information do not exist.

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. No document may be referred to as a “working paper” until it has been introduced.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A draft resolution may be introduced when it receives the approval of the Chair. Signing a draft resolution need not indicate support of the draft resolution, and the signatory has no further rights or obligations. 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).

AMENDMENTS

Delegates may amend any draft resolution that has been introduced by adding to, 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 15% of members in that body. 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 the 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;

- A motion to introduce an approved amendment may be introduced 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 one side and at least two on the other side.
- The Chair will recognize two speakers' against the motion to close debate, and a vote of twothirds is required for closure. If there are no speakers' against the motion to close debate, the Committee Chair will ask to move to voting by acclamation.
- When debate is closed on the amendment, the Committee will move to an immediate vote. Amendments need a simple majority to pass.
- After the vote, debate will resume according to the general Speakers' List.

ROLL CALL VOTING

A delegate has the right to request a roll call vote after debate on a draft resolution is closed. A roll call vote can only be in order for substantive votes. 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.
