



# 1st International Model United Nations Conference Leirion

Domotel Kastri Contemporary Hotel

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Individual Freedoms in the Contemporary Era

## **Rules of Procedure of the Leirion MUN Security Council**

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**Figure 1** *The United Nations Security Council Seat in UN-New York Headquarters*



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## Introduction

The Security Council (SC or UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>. It is responsible for maintaining international peace, security, stability, prosperity and preventing conflicts and/or violations of states' sovereignty. The Security Council calls for the peaceful and diplomatic settlement of disputes between member-states. In accordance with the UN Charter, the Security Council is the only UN organ which can control the UN peacekeeping forces<sup>2</sup>; has the power to apply economic sanctions<sup>3</sup> or take military action against an aggressor<sup>4</sup>. Its decisions are binding for all UN member states<sup>5</sup>.

## Country List

The Security Council consists of 15 members<sup>6</sup>: 5 permanent members with Veto Power and 10 non-permanent members with 2-year-term. In our conference, for the purposes of achieving a heated debate we will use the following country list:

Name	Term Year
China	Permanent member
Russian Federation	Permanent member
United Kingdom	Permanent member
United States of America	Permanent member
France	Permanent member
Estonia	2021
India	2022
Egypt	-
Republic of Korea	-
Ukraine	-
Australia	-
Cyprus	-
Malta	-
New Zealand	-

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations official website, *Main Organs*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/main-bodies>

<sup>2</sup> UN official website, *Security Council/ Functions and Powers*  
<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/functions-and-powers>

<sup>3</sup> UN Charter Article 39-41

<sup>4</sup> UN Charter Article 41-45

<sup>5</sup> UN Charter Article 25

<sup>6</sup> United Nations official website, *Security Council/ Members/ Current Members*  
<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>



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## Quorum & Roll Call

- The Security Council committee-work may start when at least 2/3 of its members, namely 9 delegates (including the Permanent 5) are present.
- Before the beginning of each committee-activity and after every break, the Presidency should move on with Roll Call. Delegates whenever they hear their country's name shall raise their placard high and state "Present".

## Opening Speeches

Before Lobbying, the Presidency should allow all delegates to deliver opening speeches in order to comment on the agenda-topic; depict the ongoing situation in their respective country; briefly analyze their country's policy on the issue; point out basic problems that need to be addressed during resolution-drafting and finally offer some solutions.

- Opening speeches are similar to policy briefs/statements and should last approximately 1-2 minutes. **They are completely optional.**
- Opening statements by delegates will be delivered through the Speaker List Procedure. To establish a Speakers' List, a delegate shall raise the following motion: **"Motion to Establish a Speakers' List"** and determine each individual speaker's time. The Motion firstly must be approved by the Presidency and then is voted upon by delegates, requiring 2/3 majority (9 positive votes and no vetoes) to pass.
- A delegate, who has not been included in the List can be added to the Speakers' List by raising his/her placard when the Presidency calls for delegates to do so or by sending a note to the Chairpersons.
- After the Delegate finishes its Speech, they should yield the floor to the Presidency.
- Points of Information will not be in order after the speeches.

## Right of Reply

- If a delegate feels that another delegate in his/her speech stated false information for the former's country, then he shall raise a "Right to reply". If the Presidency decides that the Right to reply is in order, the delegate shall have 1 minute at his disposal to address the Council and rebut the previous speaker's point.
- Each delegate is entitled to two rights of reply.

## Lobbying

- After delegates finish with their opening speeches, the Presidency will set time for Lobbying, which should approximately last 2 hours.



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- During Lobbying delegates are called to form alliances (at least two) with other delegates. The creation of each alliance should take place in accordance with each country's policy, beliefs, political and financial system as well as geographical characteristics (e.x. Russian Federation will create an alliance with China, while USA, UK and France will form a separate one). The Presidency should oversee the alliances and advise delegates change alliance, in case of contradicting policies.
- During Lobbying delegates are called to discuss the issue and its sub-topics and come up with feasible solutions so as to create a resolution. Delegates do not have to create a resolution along with their allies, rather submit preambulatory and operative clauses on their own. They are strongly advised, though, to firstly engage in discussion with other participants, so as to ensure that other delegates will vote in favour of their clauses and to avoid repetitive clauses. If other members of the alliance do not agree with the operative clauses, delegates still have the right to submit them.
- Delegates are expected to merge their pre-written clauses or create new ones.
- While submitting their clauses, delegates should make sure that their country's name is written next to each clause. Each delegate is the Main Submitter of the clause he submits to the Presidency.
- No submitters-sheet or signatories are required in the Security Council.

## Resolutions

- The Presidency should collect all clauses and correct them, while taking into consideration the official format of a resolution. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Repetitive clauses should be omitted, this decision falls within the discretion of the Presidency. The Presidency should also prioritise the clauses and omit those that likely to be vetoed.
- The Presidency after correcting the clauses should directly send them to the Responsible Secretariat member, so as for the clauses to be forwarded to the Approval Panel.
- After the Approval Panel has finished with the final assessment, the resolution will be sent to the Presidency, so that debate can begin.

## Debate

- Security Council members shall debate on each clause separately, meaning that clauses are submitted, debated, and voted separately.
- The format of the clause-by-clause-debate shall be open. This means that there are not limitations on speakers in favour and/or against each clause.
- In order for the debate to start, a delegate must raise the following motion: ***“Motion to divide the question”***. It does need a second.



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- Preambulatory clauses are not debatable.
- The Presidency shall give the floor to the main submitter of the clause, so as to read the clause and then deliver his main-submitter speech. The speech should approximately last 2 minutes. After the delegate has finished, the Presidency shall ask, if he is open to any Points of Information. If the answer is affirmative, then the Presidency shall state: “The floor is now open for any delegate wishing to ask a question. Please raise your placards high now”. The Presidency shall recognise delegates to pose a question in that respective order. Each delegate will stand up and state his/her question. The Chair must ask the speaker/main submitter if the question was well taken. If he answers no, then the Chair shall ask the delegate who posed the question to repeat or to rephrase it. Then the speaker/main-submitter shall answer or ask the Chair for its re-statement. **There may be no direct dialogue between delegates.**
- When the speaker/main-submitter has finished with his speech and/or was not open to points of information, he shall yield the floor to the Presidency.
- When the floor is yielded, the Presidency shall state: “The floor is now open for any delegate wishing to deliver a speech either in favour or against this clause. Please raise your placards high now”. Delegates wishing to speak must raise their placards, so as to be recognised.
- The procedure is similar to the one described before (for the main submitter) with the difference that other speakers do not have to read the clause, rather proceed directly with their speech.
- The Presidency is free to recognise every delegate and urge less-active delegates to take the floor.
- After delegates have debated upon every clause, the Presidency shall announce that the Council will be moving forward with debating on the resolution as a whole. The debate on the resolution is open debate. The procedure is the one described above, with the difference that delegates make speeches either in favour or against the resolution as a whole.

## Voting

- For a clause and/or a resolution to pass in the Security Council, a minimum number of 9 votes in favour (or 2/3 majority if the delegates are less than 15) is needed.
- Delegates can vote either in favour, against or abstain.
- The P5 Members (USA, UK, France, Russia and China) have the **Veto Power**; if a P5 member decides to vote against a clause and/or a resolution, then it automatically fails. The P5 are strictly advised to send a “Veto threat” to the responsible member of the Presidency, before the voting procedure. When a Veto Threat is initiated, a P5 Caucus, namely a private meeting between the P5 members and the President shall take place. Delegates should discuss the purpose of the Veto and its effectiveness. If the delegate who has initiated the veto threat regrets it, then the clause/resolution may pass if at least 9 delegates have voted



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in favour of it. If the delegate who initiated the veto threat insists, then he shall notify the rest of the council and explain the reasons why he vetoed. No objections or questions are allowed.

- Veto power is almost never used in the UN. Thus, delegates must respect their country's policy and do not abuse their power.
- In case of a tie, the clause/resolution does not pass.

## Amendments

- Amendments are alterations and changes in the clauses debated. They can be submitted by any delegate. Typical amendments are of first degree.
- They must be submitted to the Chairs on an amendment sheet.
- One amendment can be discussed at a time.
- The Presidency after receiving the amendment sheets shall prioritise the proposals, chose the most efficient one and notify its submitter. If the amendment is to be introduced, the delegate who has submitted it, must firstly obtain the floor so as to introduce his amendment. After being recognized, he shall ask "Is my amendment in order?". If the answer is positive then, he shall be given the floor to firstly read out his amendment.
- The debate mode during amendment discussion is closed debate. Thus, the Presidency will set time in favor and set time against the amendment, with the submitter of the amendment counting as a speaker in favor.
- After the delegate reads the amendment and the Chairs set debate time, the delegate shall move on with his short speech (approximately 2 minutes). The procedure is the same as in open debate with limited amount of speakers
- When all speakers have delivered their speeches and answered any possible question, the council shall move on with voting procedures on the amendment (not on the clause as a whole). Delegates may vote in favour, against or abstain. Veto-threats-procedure as well as the majority rule apply accordingly.
- If the amendment passes, delegates should make the necessary changes to their clauses and continue with open debate on the amended clause as a whole. If the amendment fails, delegates should move on with open debate and/ or voting on the original clause.
- There are also amendments of second degree, which are changes on the amendment and are to be submitted only in time against of the original amendment (namely the amendment of first degree). Any delegate who wishes to submit an amendment of second degree shall do so through an official amendment sheet. The Presidency shall decide if the amendment of the second degree is to be entertained. The procedure is similar to the one followed for first degree amendments, while debate is again closed. After speakers in favor and against the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree amendment have delivered their speeches, the Council shall move directly to voting procedures regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree amendment (and not the 1<sup>st</sup> degree one). General rules regarding voting are equally applicable. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree amendment passes, the council shall continue with the closed debate on the amendment



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of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, after making the necessary changes; If the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree amendment fails, the council shall continue again with closed debate and/or voting on the first-degree amendment, without making any changes.

## Yielding

- To the Presidency: After the delegate delivers his speech, he shall yield the floor to the Presidency. The Presidency can then entertain Points of Information to the speaker from the committee, if he/she accepts so. Delegates wishing to ask questions shall raise their placards and wait to be recognised by the Presidency.
- To Another Delegate: After the speaker has delivered his speech and answered any possible questions, he shall be free to yield the floor to another delegate, if the latter accepts the yield. If he does, then the delegate has to immediately take the floor and deliver a speech. A Speaker that has been yielded to cannot yield his or her time again.

## Points and Motions

### Points

- *Point of Personal Privilege*
  - Refers to the comfort and well-being of the delegate
  - May only interrupt a speaker if it refers to audibility
- *Point of Order*
  - May be raised by a delegate, if he/she observes that an error was just made by the Presidency
- *Point of Parliamentary Inquiry*
  - Point of information to the chair concerning Rules of Procedure
- *Point of Information to the Presidency*
  - Question to the Presidency referring to anything that does not fall under the category of Point of Parliamentary Enquiry, Point of Order or Point of Personal Privilege
- *Point of Information to the Speaker*
  - A question directed to the delegate having the floor, who has stated that he/she is willing to yield to points of information.
  - Always remain standing when the speaker is replying to your Point of



## Motions

- *Motion to set a Speaker's List*
  - The Motion firstly must be approved by the Presidency and then is voted upon by delegates, requiring 2/3 majority (9 positive votes and no vetoes) to pass.
  - It is used to establish a list of Speakers that wish to deliver an opening statement in the beginning of the session of the Council.
- *Motion to divide the question:*
  - The presidents should ask for a delegate to raise this motion at the beginning of the debate. The resolution will then be discussed **clause by clause**.
- *Motion to move to the previous question*
  - Calls for the closure of debate and a vote to be taken on the item pending. When discussing, however, an amendment, in time in favour, this motion means to move to time against the amendment.
  - May not interrupt a speaker
  - Requires a second by the house. If an objection is raised, it cannot be entertained.
  - May be overruled by Chair if time needs to be filled
- *Motion to divide the House*
  - In case that many delegates decide to abstain from voting, a delegate may raise this motion so as the voting to be re-taken **without the ability to abstain**.
- *Motion to extend debate and/or Points of Information time*
  - At the chairs' discretion to entertain it
  - Needs a **second**, if proposed from the house
- *Motion to reconsider a clause*
  - Asks for the re-voting and the re-debating of a clause that has already been adopted
  - 2/3 majority needed (abstentions are out of order)
- *Motion to approach the bench*
- *Motion to vote by Roll Call*



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## Bibliography

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- ❖ United Nations Official Website <https://www.un.org/en>
- ❖ The Hague International Model United Nations Rules of Procedure
- ❖ Thessaloniki Model United Nations Conference Rules of Procedure