



**The
Athens
Model United Nations**

Rules of Procedure
of the
Security Council



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PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS



Rule 1

The Council may neither begin with the conduct of business nor vote on any matter without a quorum present. A quorum constitutes two thirds of the Members of the Council. The President shall establish a quorum at the beginning of each session. It will be considered present thereafter unless specifically challenged.

Rule 2

Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure shall be reserved exclusively to the Secretary-General or his designate. In case of a dispute over the interpretation of the present Rules of Procedure, the Secretary-General or his designate, the President and Deputy President shall agree on a final interpretation of these rules in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The final interpretation will not be subject to appeal.

PART II. AGENDA

Rule 3

The Secretary-General shall immediately bring to the attention of all representatives on the Security Council all communications from States, organs of the United Nations, or the Secretary-General concerning any matter for the consideration of the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Rule 4

Only items which have been brought to the attention of the representatives on the Security Council in accordance with rule 3 may be included in the provisional agenda.

Rule 5

The President shall extend the agenda of the Council if a dispute or situation is brought to the attention of the Council under Article 35 (1)(2) of the Charter of the United Nations, or if the General Assembly makes recommendations or refers any question to the Council under Article 11 (2)(3), or if the Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Council any matter under Article 99.

Rule 6

The provisional agenda for each meeting shall be circulated to the members of the Security Council at least twenty-one days before the opening of the meeting. Any subsequent change in or addition to the provisional agenda shall be brought to the notice of the members at least five days before the meeting. The Security Council may, however, in urgent circumstances, make additions to the agenda at any time during a meeting.

PART III. MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

A. SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rule 7

Membership of the Council will be in accordance with Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Rule 8

Each member of the Security Council shall be represented at the meetings of the Security Council by an accredited representative.

B. NON-MEMBER STATES



Rule 9

Participation of non-Security Council Members or non-United Nations Member states in the Council's proceedings will be in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations and subject to Rules 11 and 12 of the present document.

Rule 10

Any representative on the Council may at any time request the President to request the attendance of any ambassador representing a member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Security Council at the Council's meeting. Any such a request will be dealt with at the discretion of the President.

Rule 11

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may be invited, as the result of a decision of the Security Council, to participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council when the Security Council considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected, or when a Member brings a matter to the attention of the Security Council in accordance with Article 35 (1) of the Charter.

Rule 12

Any state invited in accordance with Rule 11, or in application of Article 32 of the Charter, to participate in the discussions of the Security Council may submit proposals and draft resolutions. These proposals and draft resolutions may be put to a vote only at the request of a representative on the Security Council.

C. THIRD PARTIES

Rule 13

The Security Council may invite members of the Secretariat or other persons, whom it considers competent for the purpose, to supply it with information or to give other assistance in examining matters within its competence.

PART IV. PRESIDENCY

Rule 14

The President shall preside over the meetings of the Security Council and, under the authority of the Security Council, shall represent it in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

Rule 15

The President shall be responsible for the interpretation and implementation of the Rules of Procedure as defined in Rule 2.

Rule 16

The President may close debate at his discretion.

Rule 17

The President decides upon the time limit of speeches.

Rule 18

No representative may address the Council without the permission of the President.

PART V. SECRETARIAT



Rule 19

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Security Council. The Secretary-General may authorise a deputy to act in his place at meetings of the Security Council.

Rule 20

The Secretary-General, or his deputy acting on his behalf, may make either oral or written statements to the Security Council concerning any question under consideration by it.

Rule 21

The Secretary-General may be appointed by the Security Council, in accordance with rule 22, as rapporteur for a specified question.

Rule 22

Cooperation between Security Council Members and the Secretary-General will be guided by the principles set out in Article 100 (2) of the Charter.

Rule 23

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the preparation of documents required by the Security Council and shall, except in urgent circumstances, distribute them in advance of the session at which they are to be considered.

PART VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

The President shall call upon representatives that request the floor at his discretion.

Rule 25

The Security Council may appoint a commission or committee or a rapporteur for a specified question.

Rule 26

The President may accord precedence to the Chairman of a commission or committee, or the rapporteur appointed by the commission or committee to present its report, or any rapporteur appointed by the Security Council for the purpose of explaining the report.

Rule 27

Proposed resolutions, amendments and substantive motions shall normally be placed before the representatives in writing or on screen/board.

Rule 28

Motions and draft resolutions shall have precedence in the order of their submission.

Rule 29

The following motions shall have precedence in the order named over all principal motions and draft resolutions relative to the subject before the meeting:

- To refer any matter to a committee, to the Secretary-General or to a rapporteur;
- To introduce an amendment.

Rule 30



It shall not be necessary for any motion or draft resolution proposed by a representative on the Security Council to be seconded before being put to a vote, with the exception stated in Rule 42 (1).

Rule 31

A draft resolution can at any time be withdrawn by unanimous consent of all signatories, or by unanimous consent of the Council or by the passing of a motion to allow withdrawal. This will be in order before voting has commenced on the draft and it has not been amended.

Rule 32

If two or more amendments to a motion or draft resolution are proposed, the President shall rule on the order in which they are to be voted upon. Ordinarily, the Security Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed until all amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 33

A recognised speaker may choose to yield to points of information and shall thereafter yield the floor either to the President or to another representative. The floor may be yielded to another representative only once consecutively.

Rule 34

If no draft resolutions are before the Council at the beginning of debate, the Council will draft a resolution *ad hoc*.

Rule 35

The order in which draft resolutions are to be discussed is at the discretion of the President. The President may consult with the Council before ruling on this question.

Rule 36

Parts of a draft resolution shall be voted on separately at the request of any representative on the Council, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Rule 37

It shall be necessary for all draft resolutions to be signed by at least two Members of the Council before they can be introduced.

Rule 38

It shall not be necessary for any draft resolution introduced by a representative to the Council to be seconded before being addressed. The introduction of the draft itself may, however, be objected to as stated in Rule 42 (7).

Rule 39

Any representative may deliver a working paper to the Secretariat for distribution among the Council's members. The working paper must be signed by the President or Deputy President and contains a brief policy statement on an item of the Council's agenda. It is not subject to particular formatting rules.

Rule 40

Written notes will be the only means of communication during sessions between representatives not recognised to speak. Notes should be written on official notepaper and they shall be circulated by the Administrative staff only. It is at the discretion of the President to suspend such communication.

PART VII. POINTS OF DEBATE AND MOTIONS



Rule 41

The points of debate are defined as follows:

1. **Point of Personal Privilege:** Such point refers to the comfort and well-being of the representative to the extent that specific discomforts hamper his ability to participate fully in the Council's proceedings.
2. **Point of Order:** A representative may draw the attention of the President to improper and unruly procedure. If a representative rises to a Point of Order, the President shall immediately state his ruling.
3. **Point of Information to the Chair:** A representative may request the President to inform or to explain a substantial issue to the Council.
4. **Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:** A representative may request the President to clarify a procedural matter by rising to such a point.
5. **Point of Information to the Speaker:** A representative may indicate that he wishes to ask the speaker a question. Such points will be entertained at the President's discretion.
6. **Call for the Orders of the Day:** A representative may call this point if he feels that debate is drifting from the question under debate.

Points of debate may never interrupt a speech, except for a Point of Personal Privilege pertaining to the audibility of a speech.

Rule 42

The motions are defined as follows:

1. **Motion to Close Debate:** Calls for the closure of debate and for a vote to be taken on the motion pending. It requires a second and may be stopped by a single objection.
2. **Motion to Lay on the Table:** Allows the Council to suspend consideration of a draft resolution and to take up another draft resolution. The draft resolution can be taken from the table by a similar vote.
3. **Motion to Reconsider:** Calls for the reconsideration of a draft resolution on which the Council has already taken a decision during the same session or of a decision taken on a motion. When referring to a draft resolution, this motion is in order after all other business has been dealt with.
4. **Motion to Extend Debate Time:** Calls for the President to allow additional debate time, and may also be moved by the President.
5. **Motion to Vote by Roll-Call:** Calls for the President to record the vote of each representative separately.
6. **Motion to Permit Withdrawal of a Resolution:** Calls for the withdrawal of the resolution that is being debated. Such a motion can only be moved by one of the signatories.



7. **Objection to the Main Motion:** Calls for the draft that has been introduced to be discarded. It is in order directly after the President has read out the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution or after the draft has been introduced. The objecting representative has one minute to explain his request. One of the signatories of the draft resolution will then be accorded a Right of Reply of equal length. If the objection passes, the draft in question cannot be considered by the Council, unless the objection is itself reconsidered and overturned.
8. **Motion to Recess:** A motion to take a recess needs to be seconded by the house and it is stopped by a single objection. The President will define the duration of the recess.
9. **Motion to Divide the Question:** Calls for a separate vote to be taken on different parts of the resolution that are defined by the motion itself.

Votes on motions will be considered procedural in nature and will therefore require nine affirmative votes to pass. In case a representative is missing when the vote takes place he will be considered to be abstaining. All motions may be overruled by the President. Apart from the exception mentioned (7), these motions are not debatable.

PART VIII. VOTING

Rule 43

Voting in the Security Council shall be carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the Charter.

PART IX. LANGUAGE

Rule 44

English shall be both the official and the working language of the Security Council.

Rule 45

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the language of the Security Council.

PART X. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS, RECORDS

Rule 46

Unless it decides otherwise, the Security Council shall meet in public.

Rule 47

- A. The official record of meetings of the Council, as well as the documents annexed thereto, shall be published in the official language as soon as possible. This official record will contain the final decision taken by the Council as well as the main points of discussion.
- B. The official record can be censored if the Council so decides.



Appendix

CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS – RELEVANT ARTICLES

Article 11

2. The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 35 (2), and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations with regard to any such questions to the state or states concerned or to the Security Council or to both. Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion.
3. The General Assembly may call the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security.

Article 23

1. The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organisation, and also to equitable geographical distribution.
2. The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from eleven to fifteen, two of the four additional members shall be chosen for a term of one year. A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
3. Each member of the Security Council shall have one representative.

Article 27

1. Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.
2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.
3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

Article 31

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected.



Article 32

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council or any state which is not a Member of the United Nations, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, shall be invited to participate, without vote, in the discussion relating to the dispute. The Security Council shall lay down such conditions as it deems just for the participation of a state which is not a Member of the United Nations.

Article 34

The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 35

1. Any Member of the United Nations may bring any dispute, or any situation of the nature referred to in Article 34, to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly.

Article 99

The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 100

2. Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.