



Model United Nations of the Far West

Guide to the Security Council

Contents

Security Council Priority	2
Under-Secretary General	2
The Revolving Presidency	3
Agenda and Order of Business	3
Debate	4
Resolutions	5
Amendments to Resolutions	5
Determination of the Order of Resolutions	6
Voting on Resolutions and Amendments	6
Rapporteur	7
Adjournment	7

Composed of fifteen Members, of which five are Permanent Members and ten are Revolving Members, the Security Council is the organ with the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. Under the Charter, all Members agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to Governments, the Council alone has the power to make decisions which Member States are obligated under the Charter to carry out. The Council has the right to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to friction between two or more countries. It shall also make recommendations to the General Assembly on the admission of new members.

The following guide provides the basic order to be followed in the Security Council at the Model United Nations Conference. While this guide is not comprehensive, it does provide the steps necessary for the Council to complete its work at the annual session.

Security Council Priority

According to SC-12 and P-33, Committees may discuss, but not vote upon matters concerning the maintenance of international peace and security under the jurisdiction of the Security Council until the Council has voted on the issue. A suspension of more than twenty-four hours by the Security Council will be considered its final action, allowing the Committee to resume consideration of the question. A Committee may be deprived of the vote on the item for longer than twenty-four hours only when the Security Council is actively debating that agenda item.

While the Security Council is exercising, in respect to any dispute or situation, the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendations with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

The Secretary General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security of which the Security Council is seized, and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the Model United Nations, if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately after the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary General, or a deputy acting on behalf of the Secretary General, may make either oral or written statements to the Security Council concerning any questions under consideration by it

(SC-5). Under-Secretary General

The Under Secretary General for the Security Council Affairs shall be appointed by the Secretary General, shall chair the meeting through the adoption of the agenda (subject to SC-2), and shall act as Rapporteur for the Council before the other bodies of the MUNFW. The USG shall have primary responsibility for the overall direction and conduct of the meeting. The USG shall give information on:

1. procedural strategies,
2. rules interpretations,
3. submission of the proposed resolutions and amendments,
4. background on the agenda items.

The USG shall also establish the order of the rotating Presidency and notify the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General when the Security Council decides to have either a rotating Presidency or a new permanent President using its authority to do so under SC-2. The USG serves at the request of the Secretary General who is solely responsible for his appointment and service.

The Revolving Presidency

After the adoption of the agenda, the Council may decide either to appoint a permanent President for the duration of the Session or to have a rotating Presidency. In the case of the former, the Security Council would nominate a single delegate for the Presidency and then vote on the nomination by secret ballot. The USG must retain the ballots and make them available for delegate inspection for a reasonable period of time. In the case of the latter, if the Council decides to have a rotating Presidency, then it shall be held in turn by the Member Nations of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names, commencing with the Member nation drawn at random by the USG.

The President shall retain full voting and debating privileges, or may allow an alternate to function as the country's ambassador to the Security Council. If a delegate does not wish to serve as the President, he may pass when the rotation comes to his turn. The term for each presidency shall be determined by the Under Secretary General. The rotation cycle shall be repeated as necessary. The President may withdraw if he feels participation in debate on an item will interfere with the proper exercise of his duties.

Agenda and Order of Business

While a Provisional Agenda for the Security Council shall be drawn up by the Secretary General, the members of the Security Council are responsible for formulating and adopting their own agenda. The first item of the Provisional Agenda shall be the adoption of the Agenda. Items on the Provisional Agenda may be deleted by the Security Council. The Security Council may, in urgent circumstances, make additions to the Agenda at any time during the meeting. Any member of the General Assembly, the Secretary General, or the General Assembly as a body may request the inclusion of an item. Such a request should be in the form of a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council. Such a request shall be numbered, duplicated, and distributed by the Secretariat prior to the first meeting. Objections to the inclusion of an item should also be submitted in written form for duplication and distribution. All items proposed for inclusion in the Agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum, and, if possible, by basic documents or draft resolutions.

The Security Council, taking into account the number of items on its Agenda, the number of resolutions submitted for each item, and the amount of time allocated for meetings, shall adopt its own priorities. Unless the Security Council decides otherwise, agenda items will be considered in the order in which they are listed on the Agenda. The agenda, as adopted by the Council, implies the completion of one item before a second item is considered. However, given the compressed nature of the Session, the time required to duplicate draft resolutions, and past UN and MUNFW practice, debate on the second agenda item is normally begun while the resolutions for the first item are being reproduced. This is accomplished through Rule SC-28, postponement of debate. The Secretary General shall schedule the first meeting of the Security Council. The Council shall determine the number, duration, and time of all subsequent meetings.

Debate

Following the procedures utilized in the United Nations, debate on all items shall be spontaneous. Generally, no speakers list need be maintained; instead, speakers will raise their placards to gain recognition (SC-23). No representative may address the body without previously obtaining the President's permission. Because of the spontaneous nature of debate, no short comments will be entertained.

General Debate begins discussion of an agenda item. Each delegate is afforded an opportunity to express his state's perception of the problem, evaluation of past action or inaction, and alternatives for future action. Reference to specific events, data, and past actions are made here. General Debate serves both to review the problem and perception of it as well as to note areas of concern and unity for future Council action.

Substantive Debate involves discussion on the various draft resolutions and amendments before the Council. It is an effort to formulate specific policy articulations for the Council. Substantive Debate occurs on all resolutions and amendments on an agenda item simultaneously and as a unit; each proposal is not debated separately. During this period, resolutions and amendments must be formally introduced. Speakers offer their state's views on all or some of the resolutions, noting their relative strengths and weaknesses. Authors of substantive proposals may defend their drafts and critique others. Substantive debate may not begin until all resolutions submitted on the item have been duplicated and distributed.

Each Member of the Security Council may have two delegates seated at the table at the same time, each simultaneously possessing full debating and voting privileges. Though these two delegates may alternate freely and without notification, only one placard per country may be raised at any one time. Blatant violations of this rule during voting or debate may result in the revocation of this privilege for the violating country.

Provision is made for non-Members of the Security Council to participate in its debates(SC-4). Parties to a dispute or initiators of a Security Council item may be invited by the Council to participate in its proceedings. Similarly, if a state feels its interests are directly involved in the questions and would like to speak in Council debates, it may request permission to participate without a vote in Council deliberations. In the latter case, the state's representative should address a letter to the President requesting the right to participate. The President shall indicate to the Council the receipt of such requests. The Council may, as a procedural motion, invite the state to participate.

The inclusion of non-Members in Council debates is solely by invitation only and they shall sit at the Council table only when delivering a statement. Guests of the Council shall abide by the Rules of the Security Council. The Council may establish guidelines for speeches by non-Members of the Council. Resolutions and amendments proposed by non-Members may be put to a vote at the request of a Council Member. Participating non-Members of the Security Council shall not vote.

Resolutions

Resolutions, while produced by individual states or groups of states, they are basic statements of Council policy. They form the basis of discussion for debate and of the Council's report. Thus, specific guidelines must be followed as to their form, time of submission, nature of distribution, and type of consideration. Refer to SC-11 and SC-14.

Resolutions are drafted by Council Members and should be typed or legibly printed for submission to the USG. The President will specify the time during which resolutions may be submitted on a given agenda item. Current practice in the United Nations has been to delay drafting and introducing resolutions until a general consensus has been reached or major positions have been set.

Resolutions are submitted to the Under Secretary General who will check them for proper form. If accepted, the resolution will be numbered and sent to be typed and duplicated by the Department of Public Information. Duplication by delegates for official distribution is not permitted. After resolutions have been typed and duplicated by DPI, they are returned to the Security Council. The Under Secretary General will distribute copies of the resolutions to each member of the Council. A brief period of time is usually allowed for members to read and review resolutions.

Amendments to Resolutions

Amendments are additions, deletions, and changes in the existing draft resolutions. Amendments must be typed or legibly printed and presented to the USG prior to their introduction. All amendments must be formally introduced (refer to SC-11 and SC-14). An amendment may, however, be submitted for numbering and duplication at anytime prior to its formal introduction, including the time of resolution submission. Early submission is highly recommended since the President may, at his discretion, not permit discussion without its duplication and distribution.

If an amendment is of a procedural or of a short substantive nature, the President may allow an oral introduction without duplication of the amendment. In cases of more than one amendment to a particular resolution, amendments will be voted on in the order determined by the President (SC-17). If the sponsor(s) of a resolution do not object to an amendment to that resolution, The amendment is considered a friendly amendment and is moved to the resolution without vote. A sponsor may not amend his/her own resolution. An amendment may not be amended. States may add or withdraw sponsorship to resolutions and amendments at anytime up to the close of debate (SC-14). Resolutions adopted by the Council will not bear the sponsor's names as they become statements of the Council and not of the individual states. A sponsor may withdraw a proposal anytime before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion or resolution has not been amended. If all sponsors of a resolution or an amendment withdraw sponsorship prior to the beginning of voting, other states will be offered a chance to co-sponsor. If none respond, the resolution or amendment will not be put to a vote.

Determination of the Order of Resolutions

If two or more resolutions relate to the same agenda item, the Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on resolutions in the order in which they have been numbered by the Secretariat. A motion for reordering of resolutions (SC-10) shall be voted on in the order in which they are proposed. Once voting has begun on a series of reordering motions, no additional motions to reorder may be made, and the first motion to receive a majority vote is the accepted order of resolutions. If none receive a majority vote, the Secretariat's order will stand. Proposals to reorder are in order after substantive debate on the topic has been concluded and before voting on any of the resolutions has begun.

The Council may, after a vote on a resolution, decide whether to vote on the next resolution. Decisions whether to vote on additional resolutions must be made individually for each resolution and not collectively (SC-10).

Voting on Resolutions and Amendments

Each member of the Council shall have one vote. No representative may cast a vote on behalf of another member (SC-7). Voting on resolutions is a three step process for each resolution. The first step is voting on the amendments in the order determined by the President on the first ordered resolution. Amendments may not be divided (SC-17). If the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote.

After all amendments to a resolution have been voted on, the second step is division of resolutions. A motion for division is in order only immediately prior to voting on the substantive proposal or substantive proposal as amended. A representative may propose that parts of a substantive proposal be voted on separately. The proposer shall specify the points of division of the proposal in the motion. Motions for division may concern only the operative parts of a substantive proposal. The smallest unit of division shall be an entire operative clause. Amendments by themselves may not be divided.

All motions for division of resolutions are accepted by the President. If there is an objection to a motion for division, the motion shall be voted on. The motion is debatable with permission to speak accorded to the proposer and one speaker against. The motions are voted on in the order received, and the first motion to divide which gains at least nine votes is the motion which is accepted. If no motions for division are approved, the resolution stands in its original form.

Those parts of a resolution which remain after amendment and division shall be voted upon as a whole during the third step. After all motions for division have been disposed of, and if all operative parts of the resolution have been rejected, the resolution will be considered to have been rejected. Step three is voting on the resolution as it stands after the first two steps have been completed. The Council would then proceed in the same manner with the next resolution.

Conduct of the Vote

A formal vote is required on all substantive proposals. Procedural motions may, however, be adopted without a vote, utilizing the procedure "seeing no objections.." Voting shall normally take place by delegates raising their placards. On any substantive proposal, any delegate may request a roll call vote (SC-21). Such a request must come before the vote has begun. The roll call will be called

starting with a state drawn at random. Each state shall respond “yes,” “no,” “yes with explanation,” “no with explanation,” “abstention,” “abstention with explanation,” or “pass.” Once the initial roll has been called, the President will ask the states that passed to cast a vote. The President will then accept changes of vote. Such changes are permitted on roll call votes only. Next, the President will allow explanations of vote. Finally, the President will announce the results of the vote.

Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members. Decisions of the Council on all substantive matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring vote of the five permanent members (SC-19). Once voting has begun, it may not be interrupted by any statement or motion unless it is a point of order concerning the actual way the vote is being conducted (SC-22).

Rapporteur

In accordance with SC-1, the Under Secretary General for Political and Security Affairs shall act as Rapporteur for the Council before the other bodies of the MUNFW. The Rapporteur is the Council’s official spokesperson and representative in the General Assembly. As reporter for the Council, the Rapporteur will also present to the President of the General Assembly a list of resolutions passed (SC-20). The Rapporteur shall also provide information on the Council’s actions to the Assembly Members and Officers. If the Under Secretary General so desires, he may appoint one of the delegates (such as a permanently elected President or a rotated President or other) to serve as the Council’s Rapporteur.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn (SC-27) is the last motion to be considered by the Council and terminates its activities for that particular Annual Session. It is in order only after all business of the Council has been completed.