MB MODEL UN CONFERENCE

RULES OF PROCEDURE

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

MB

Rules of Procedure: MBMUN

Please read the rules of procedure outlined below carefully. You should be familiar with this ROP during council sessions.

General overview:

1. General Rules
2. Voting Procedure
3. Council Dynamics
   a. General debate
   b. Roll call
   c. Opening speeches
   d. Motions
   e. Caucusing
   f. Points
   g. Working Papers and Draft Resolutions
   h. Amendments
4. Resolution Formatting
5. Note Passing
6. Lobbying and Pre/post-council Discussions

1. **General Rules**
   a. Similarity to normal MUN Protocol
      i. Most MUN protocol will be similar, with a few exceptions enumerated below.
   b. Dais
      i. The Dais reserves the right to suspend or modify the Rules of Procedure at any point for the betterment of debate.
   c. Group chat
      i. The group chat is analogous to talking in a real-life conference. Hence, it should not be used except during unmoderated caucus, before and after council sessions. It may be used to communicate with chairs.

2. **Voting Procedures**
   a. Voting is required for any and all motions to pass.
   b. Before the actual procedural/substantive vote, the Dais will ask for seconds and objections on the motion. **Note that this is NOT the actual vote, but rather a vote on whether or not council should even consider the motion in the first place**.
      i. The motion automatically fails should no delegate second it.
      ii. The motion automatically passes should no delegate object to it.
   c. Procedural Voting
      i. Simple majority is required **plus one** (50% + 1)
      ii. Delegates would type "for" or "against" in the group chat to indicate their vote. **Note that abstentions are NOT in order for procedural votes.**
      iii. Examples of procedural votes are votes in favor of caucuses or the introduction of Working Papers of Draft Resolutions.
   d. Substantive Voting
      i. Two-thirds majority **plus one** is required
      ii. Delegates would type "for", "against" or "abstain" in the group chat to indicate their vote.

1. **Note that abstentions are only in order for delegates who indicate that they are only "present" during roll call** (explained later).

   iii. Substantive voting is necessary whenever the vote is on whether or not council should adopt a document. For example, a substantive vote is needed when voting on the adoption of a Draft Resolution (i.e., direct voting procedure on the Draft Resolution).

3. **Committee Dynamics**
   a. General Debate
      i. Delegates will be given 1.5 minutes for their speeches
      ii. There are two forms of debate in council —**open debate and closed debate**.
         1. Open Debate
            a. When the content of speeches is up to the speaker's own discretion. No topic needs to be adhered to during open debate.
            b. Essentially the General Speakers' List (GSL), as enumerated below.
         2. Closed Debate
            a. When the content of speeches must be restricted to certain sub-topics.
            b. Essentially the moderated caucus, as elaborated upon below.
      iii. In the General Speakers' List (GSL), delegates are to yield their time back to the chairs, or to other delegates or points of information should time permit.
      iv. Chairs will call on delegates who wish to speak
         1. To join the speakers list, delegates will send a message to the group chat, after which the chair will verbally verify their addition

      v.   Chairs will share their screen to display the chairing software, which will show time remaining, upcoming speakers etc.

b. Roll call

    i.   Done at the start of every council session

    ii.   Delegates can either be **present** or **present and voting**

        1. Present

            a.   The delegate is able to vote for, against or abstain from substantive votes.

            b.   Abstentions are, however, NOT in order for procedural votes.

        2. Present and voting

            a.   The delegate can only vote for or against in all procedural and substantive votes.

        3. Delegates **cannot change** their voting status (ie, whether they are "present" or "present and voting") in the middle of council. They can only do so at the start of each council session during roll call.

c. Opening Speeches

    i.   Delegates will be given 1.5 minutes for their opening speech.

    ii.   Time yielding (explained below) will NOT be entertained at this point in time.

d. Motions

    i.   When the chair calls for motions, then delegates may type 'motion' into the group chat. When recognized by the chair, they may then speak up to offer motions, in order to keep debate clear

    ii.   Motions entertained are (in no particular order):

        1. Moderated caucus

        2. Unmoderated caucus

        3. Extend caucus

        4. Introduce working paper

        5. Introduce draft resolution

        6. Introduce amendment

7. Table the resolution

8. Direct voting procedure

9. Suspend debate

10. Adjourn debate

11. Modify council protocol

12. Divide the House

13. Divide the Question

14. Roll Call Vote

iii. When multiple motions are raised, motions would be voted upon in order of disruptiveness

e. Caucusing

    i. Moderated:

        1. The delegate who motions for the moderated caucus will be able to stipulate the total amount of time for the moderated caucus, the time per speaker and the topic that all speakers must adhere to.

        2. Dissimilar to the GSL, time yielding (to the chairs, to points of information or to other delegates) is not in order

    ii. Unmoderated:

        1. The delegate who motions for the unmoderated caucus will be able to stipulate the total amount of time allocated for the unmoderated caucus.

        2. A topic for the caucus need not be specified.

        3. Delegates will be free to use voice communications as they see fit during the unmoderated caucus.

        4. The delegate who motioned will have 1 minute to summarise the discussions in the caucus.

f. Points entertained are:

    i. Order

        1. Points of order are used by delegates to point out a mistake in protocol made by the Dais

    ii. Information

1. Points of information is a question directed to a delegate on the floor who has yielded his/her time to Points of Information in open debate (ie, during the General Speakers' List)

2. It must be phrased in the form of a short, succinct question

3. Points of information to a second degree (ie, follow up points of information) may be entertained, but only at the Dais' discretion.

iii. Parliamentary enquiry

1. A request for clarification directed to the Dais concerning the rules of procedure.

iv. Personal privilege

1. For volume issues only. Should delegates need to use the washroom, they may do so without informing the Dais.

v. Right to reply

The right to reply is a special action reserved for scenarios whereby a delegate believes that his/her delegation's personal or national integrity has been insulted by another delegate during a speech. Once recognized, the delegate must wait for the speech to conclude before stating his/her response.

g. Working Papers and Draft Resolutions

i. Working papers and draft resolutions are to be submitted to chairs via **personal message (google docs link) or google share to council mail** for vetting.

ii. ROP for Working Papers:

1. Each Working Paper **must only have 1 main submitter**. There can be a maximum of 2 co-submitters. Signatories are not needed.

2. Working Paper must first be sent to the Dais via PM by the **main submitter**.

3. Working Paper gets vetted by the Dais. During the vetting process, the Dais will **restrict the delegates' access** from the Working Paper and will create a new tinyurl link to be shared with council, should the paper be approved.

4. Dais informs main submitter once Working Paper has been approved. After this, the delegate may **motion** to introduce the Working Paper whenever possible.

5. Such a motion is a procedural vote and would need to have either no objections or over 50% of council support in order to be passed.

6. Reading time by the Dais' discretion will be given.

7. Delegates can then motion for closed debate on the Working Paper, should council see fit to do so. However, if no such motion materializes, then council will continue with normal procedure.

8. There will **not** be any voting on the Working Paper as such papers do not need to be adopted by the council.

iii. ROP for Draft Resolution:

1. Each Draft Resolution **must only have 1 main submitter and 2 co-submitters. 20% of the council must be signatories of the Draft Resolution.**

2. Draft Resolutions **must first be sent to the Dais via PM by the main submitter**.

3. Draft Resolution gets vetted by the Dais. During the vetting process, the Dais will **restrict the delegates' access** to it and will also create a new tinyurl link to be shown to the council should the Draft Resolution be approved.

4. Dais informs main submitter when Draft Resolution is approved. **Main submitter** can introduce the Draft Resolution via a **motion** when appropriate.

5. By Dais' discretion, reading time will be given.

6. Following this, the **main submitter** of the Draft Resolution will be invited to read out the **operative** clauses of the Draft Resolution. He/She will then be given **1.5 minutes to speak in favor** of the Draft Resolution. After this, the **main and all co submitters** will be invited to participate in a **Question and Answer session** of 3

minutes to answer questions from the floor. Questions must be raised as Points of Information to the delegates.

7. After this, council will automatically move into **closed debate** (essentially, a moderated caucus) on the Draft Resolution. There will be 2 speakers for and 2 speakers against the Draft Resolution on this closed debate. Speaking time will be 1.5 minutes.

8. Council will move back to open debate (ie, GSL) after the closed debate. **Friendly and/or unfriendly amendments** (more information on this below) will be entertained. Delegates may also motion to **move into direct voting procedure** on the Draft Resolution when appropriate.

h. Amendments

   i. Friendly

      1. Friendly amendments are amendments to Draft Resolutions that have the explicit approval of all the main and co submitters of the resolution.

      2. Delegates must pass on their friendly amendments to the submitter or co-submitter who will then submit the amendment. The submitter of a friendly amendment **must** be either a main or co submitter of the document.

      3. When approval of all submitters of the resolution is obtained, friendly amendments automatically pass once they have been submitted to the Dais.

      4. The Dais will inform council of the friendly amendments when appropriate.

   ii. Unfriendly:

      1. Unfriendly amendments are amendments made to the Draft Resolution that have not been approved by all the main and co submitters of the document.

      2. The submitter of an unfriendly amendment **need not** be a main or co submitter of the document.

3. 20% of the council is needed as signatories before an unfriendly amendment may be submitted for vetting.
4. Unfriendly amendments need to be motioned to be introduced before the Dais informs council of its existence.
5. Council can move into closed debate on the unfriendly amendment after it is introduced.
6. Council can subsequently move into **direct voting procedure** (a **substantive vote**) on the adoption of the unfriendly amendment into the Draft Resolution.
7. The unfriendly amendment only passes if it survives the substantive vote.

iii. Draft Resolutions automatically get tabled (or rejected) if **more than 50% of its operative clauses have been amended in any way** (inclusive of BOTH friendly and unfriendly amendments).

4. **Resolution Formatting**
   a. All Draft Resolutions, as stated above, must have 1 main submitter, 2 co submitters and 20% of council as signatories.
   b. They must include **both** pre-ambulatory clauses and operative clauses
   c. Pre-ambulatory clauses should include:
      i. Reference to the UN charter,
      ii. Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion,
      iii. Mentions of statements made by UN appendages,
      iv. Recognition of the efforts of regional or non-governmental organizations in resolving the issue under discussion.
      v. All pre-ambulatory clauses should start with an *italicized* verb in present continuous tense (ie *Affirming…*)
   d. Operative clauses are the clauses in which delegates set-out what was discussed during council session and their concrete solutions to the issue at hand.
      i. All operative clauses should start with an *italicized* verb in present tense (ie *Condemns*…)

e. All clauses, pre-ambulatory and operative, must end with a semicolon (;), except for the last clause, which must end with a full-stop.

5. **Note Passing**
   a. This would be done by personally messaging other delegates via Group chat.

6. **Lobbying and Pre/post-council Discussions**
   a. After council sessions ends at 1400 UTC, calls may continue informally for council discussions.