

RULES OF ORDER

I. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

1. The organization is known as the Mississippi Model Security Council and stands as an official participant in the model United Nations program.

2. The meetings of the organization shall be conducted in accordance with these *Rules of Order*. All rules are based on *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised 9th Edition*, as interpreted by the Legal Counsel and accepted by the MMSC.

3. All actions of the MMSC shall be consistent and based on the *Charter of the United Nations*.

4. There will be no motion allowed to the suspension of the *Rules of Order* or *Charter of the United Nations*.

5. There shall be seven sets of officers for the sessions of the MMSC

A. Steering Committee, which will be composed of the Director of MMSC, Secretary General, and Legal Counsel. The committee reserves the right to make changes in these rules and present them to the delegates at any time during proceedings.

B. Secretary General, who will provide, appoint and direct the Secretarial Staff required by all organs of the MMSC. This officer also has the authority to make statements to any organ of the MMSC with regards to any questions being considered. The individual in this office may designate a member of his staff to act in this capacity at any time.

C. Legal Counsel, who has official interpretation of *Rules of Order* and *Charter of the U.N.* Officer will also recommend the proper actions on questions of procedural matters during the sessions of all organs of the MMSC.

D. Public Relations Officer, who will provide guidance for all materials as related to the conference.

E. Diplomatic Liaison Officer, who will provide attentiveness for all distinguished guests.

F. Head President, who will provide guidance for all presidents and vice-presidents on how to start and run a council, how to deal with common council problems, and how to facilitate the flow of debate of MMSC.

G. President, who shall preside over all meetings of the MMSC. There shall be one president for each individual council. They stand responsible for declaring the opening and closing of all sessions, directing discussions, ensuring the observance of the *Rules of Order*, announcing decisions, and reserving the right to speak. The president also rules on all points of order, proposes the closure of speakers' lists or closure of debate, proposes recesses and adjournments, and has complete control of all council proceedings, subject to these rules of order. This officer

also has the authority to limit the time for discussion, limit the number of times a delegate may speak on any occasion, set time limits for the submission of amendments, and select the point at which written amendments will be entertained.

H. Vice-President, who shall have the primary role of maintaining an up-to-date speakers' list, noting attendance at the beginning of each session, and maintaining any official minutes as is deemed necessary. In the event of absence by the President, the Vice-President shall assume all responsibilities of the presiding officer.

6. Any officer or staff member of any organ of MMSC who, in the judgment of the Secretary General or Legal Counsel, is unable to perform his duties, may be replaced by an appointee of the Secretary General or steering committee as a whole.

7. English shall be the official language in all business of the MMSC.

8. All proceedings of the organization shall follow the schedule of events set forth by the steering committee, which will be presented prior to the start of the MMSC.

II. SESSION MEETINGS

9. For a session to be considered open for purposes of discussion, one-third of the members of the MMSC (five of the 15 representatives) must be present to begin a session. A simple majority (eight of 15 representatives) must be present to take a vote of any kind.

10. The agenda set forth for each council by the presiding officers shall be regarded as adopted at the opening of each meeting. The presiding officers reserve the right to revise the agenda prior to each meeting, and any revision from the floor must attain a 2/3 vote of the council (10 of 15 representatives).

11. The issues to be discussed shall be submitted in resolution form. There must be at least 17 typed copies of the resolution for it to be considered by the Council. The author must be prepared to present the resolution at the time it appears on the agenda.

12. Only one delegate from each nation is allowed to sit at the table. The delegate sitting at the table is the only delegate that may speak on issues. The *lead delegate* sitting at table may confer with the other members of his/her delegation. The lead delegate position may be transferred to other members of the delegation at any time.

13. No delegate may address the Council without having obtained the permission of the chair. Once a member has been recognized by the chair as being next on the speaking list, that individual will have the floor. The member wishing to ask a question or series of questions must first ask the chair if the member they wish to question will yield to the request. A series of questions may not exceed three questions at one time.

Example 13:

Delegate A: "President, will Delegate B yield to a series of questions?"

President: "Delegate B, will you yield to a series of questions?"

Delegate B: "I will yield to one question."

President: "The Delegate will yield to one question, Delegate A."

Delegate A: "Very well, Delegate B, is it a fact that. . ."

In the above scenario, a delegate wishes to ask a series of questions of another delegate. However, the other delegate decides to answer only one question. The exchange is handled through the president at all times.

14. While a resolution is open to debate, no member is allowed to claim the floor repeatedly as long as other members of the Council have not spoken on the issue at the table. One can only obtain a second position on the speaking list after yielding the floor for the first opportunity. A member cannot rise for the purpose of claiming preference in being recognized on the speaking list after the chair has given the floor to another member.

III. SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

15. **Amending.** Delegates can modify a resolution in two manners:

A. *Friendly Amendments.* These may be moved when one has the floor and asks if the author of the resolution will yield to an amendment.

Example 15:

Delegate A: "President, will the author of the resolution yield to a friendly amendment?"

President: "Please state your amendment."

Delegate A: "I move to strike line 10 from the resolution."

President: "Delegate B, do you yield to this amendment?"

Delegate B: "Yes, I will accept the amendment."

President: "The friendly amendment proposed by Delegate A has been accepted. The resolution now reads . . . this resolution now stands amended."

In the exchange described, one delegate wished to amend the resolution by striking a line from it. The author accepted the change. All proceedings go through the chair and the presiding officer will read the entire resolution for the Council to note the amendment.

B. Written Amendments. These are submitted in written form to the chair. As the time limit for written amendments closes, all submitted alternatives will be considered in the order that the chair received them. The author of the written amendment will be asked to introduce the modification, and a timed debate will follow, with the time limit set by the chair. At the conclusion of the time period or a motion for previous question, the amendment will be voted on by the Council in order to determine if it will be adopted or rejected. All amendments, either friendly or written, must be relevant to the resolution and in compliance with the charter of the UN. A super majority (9 out of 15 members) is needed to pass a written amendment. Veto powers are not allowed to veto written amendments.

Note: If a resolution is amended by written amendment, then the affected section may no longer be amended by friendly amendment unless all members of the Council agree to the friendly amendment.

16. Previous Question. This motion is used to immediately close debate and bring the resolution or written amendment to a vote. This motion can interrupt a speaker at any time. This motion can be met with opposition and must be seconded. When this scenario occurs, a vote will be taken on whether or not to end debate. Prior to the vote if there is opposition, one speaker will announce why they feel the debate should end and one speaker will voice why they are opposed to ending debate at this time. The vote on previous question must have 2/3 of the members casting votes in favor for debate to end (10 of 15 members).

Example 16:

Delegate A: "President, I call for previous question."

Delegate C: "Second!"

President: "There has been a call for previous question and a second. Is there any opposition? [sees several members raise placard] There is opposition. I will take one speaker in favor (seeing Delegate A raise placard) Delegate A. One speaker against..."

(seeing Delegate B raise placard) Delegate B. The chair now recognizes Delegate A as speaking in favor of previous question."

Delegate A: "Ladies and gentlemen, I feel that we have exhausted all avenues of debate and negotiation on the matter. I think it is now time to vote on the resolution."

President: "I now recognize Delegate B speaking against previous question."

Delegate B: "Ladies and gentlemen, we have some details that have not been completely discussed. I do not feel that we can have a legitimate vote on the resolution until we have answered all questions on the issue."

President: "We will now take a vote on previous question. [the Vice-President takes the vote and counts the results] The motion has passed by attaining the required 2/3 majority. Let the record show that ten delegates were in favor and five were against.. We will now go into a vote on the resolution as a whole."

The above scenario shows the manner in which the motion will be treated. A member will call for previous question; if there is opposition, one speaker in favor of previous question and one speaker against will be chosen by the President. They will then voice their opinions, with the speaker in favor of previous question always speaking first. Then a vote will be taken concerning the motion for previous question. Should the vote fail, debate will continue and it will be up to the chair's discretion when previous question can again be called.

17. Lay On the Table This motion enables the Council to lay aside the pending resolution when another issue of immediate urgency has arisen. The call for laying a resolution on the table requires the President to ask for any opposition and a second is needed. If there is opposition, one speaker may rise in favor and one against. The motion will then be put to a vote where it must obtain a simple majority (8 of 15 members). The call for laying on the table cannot interrupt a speaker.

18. Limit or Extend Debate This motion can only be used in debate or written amendments. It is used in two ways:

- A. To limit the number of speakers or time of debate.
- B. To extend the limit or number of speakers or time for debate.

For debate to be limited or extended, there must be a second to the motion, and the presiding officer must ask for opposition. If there is opposition to the motion then the president will hear one speaker for and one speaker against the motion. In addition, the motion must obtain 2/3 favorable vote (10 of 15 members) of the delegates to be accepted.

IV. PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

19. Point of Order This motion can interrupt a speaker when a member thinks that the rules of the Council are being violated. By calling a point of order, a delegate looks to the chair for a ruling and enforcement of the regular rules.

Example 19.

Delegate A: "Delegate B, do you feel . . ."

Delegate C: "Point of Order!"

President: "State your point."

Delegate C: "The Delegate did not ask if Delegate B would yield to a question."

President: "Point well taken, and Delegate A is ruled out of order for failing to gain permission to ask a question."

20. Point of Privilege This motion can interrupt a speaker when a member must address a personal issue.

Example 20a.

Delegate A: ". . . I consider this . . ."

Delegate B: "Point of Privilege."

President: "State your point."

Delegate B: "I would like for the delegate to speak louder. I am having trouble hearing him."

President: "Very well. Delegate A, please speak louder."

Example 20b.

Delegate A: ". . . this issue is . . ."

Delegate B: "Point of Privilege."

President: "State your point."

Delegate B: "I would like to have the water pitcher passed down the table."

President: "Very well. Please pass the water pitcher down the table."

This motion is not to ask for information. It is only related to the personal integrity of the delegate.

21. Point of Clarification This motion can interrupt a speaker when a member is unclear on a statement or issue. By calling for a clarification, a member asks for the chair to give additional information about a previous statement or an issue in question.

Example 21.

Delegate A: "Under the UN Charter's VIIth chapter. . ."

Delegate B: "Point of Clarification."

President: "State your point."

Delegate A: "Please explain chapter VII of the UN Charter."

President: "Very well. . ."

V. INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

22. Appeal the Ruling of the Chair This motion can be called immediately after the chair has given a ruling. If a member disagrees with the presiding officer, they should not hesitate to motion for appeal. An appeal cannot come against any ruling that is directly taken from these rules of order. The motion must be seconded, and the chair will allow one speaker to voice and needs only a simple majority (eight of 15 members) to be overturned.

23. Right to Reply This is a judgmental motion of the chair. It is used only in extreme cases in dialogue between members. If a member feels that a slanderous statement has been made against them or their country, they can ask the chair for a right of reply immediately following the speaking member's yielding of the floor. The chair will decide on the severity of the comment and rule accordingly on allowing a reply. If a right is granted, the violated member can briefly rebut the statement, but should refrain from slanderous statements in their rebuttal. The right to reply is granted immediately upon calling for the right. The reply must be held until the current speaker yields the floor.

Example 23:

Delegate A: "The situation has been escalated by the incompetent, hypocritical leadership of those in charge from Country B."

Delegate B: "Right of Reply."

President: "Due to the nature of the comments I will allow a right of reply."

Delegate B: "Thank you, I would like to defend the credibility of my country's leaders. Our president has served our nation with tremendous leadership and a commitment to his people. Therefore, I do not think that Delegate A is accurate in their assessment."

President: "I now will reprimand Delegate A to refrain from such statements for the remainder of the session."

In this scenario, Delegate A made a slanderous statement directly against Delegate B's country. The chair decided that the statement was severe enough to warrant a reply. The Chair also reprimanded Delegate A against further statements. Right to Reply will only be granted when the first delegate is finished with his or her speech.

24. Division of a Question Division of the question can be called when a motion relating to a single resolution has several distinct operative clauses. If these clauses are capable of standing on

their own and could cause a resolution to fail as a whole, the clauses can be taken one at a time, briefly discussed, and voted on. Whatever clauses are accepted by this process will stand as the resolution and the bill will be passed by acclamation. Note that in this instance the *veto powers have the ability to veto the resolution's clauses, since a passing vote automatically adopts each clause*. It is only in this Case that the veto powers may veto individual clauses.

The motion can only be called when a member has the floor, requires a second, and will have one speaker in favor of and one speaker against dividing the question. A 2/3 vote is required to pass. When a motion for previous question has been called, a delegate may interrupt at this time to motion for division of the question. It is only in this case that motion for division of the question may interrupt. Veto power may be used on each clause for Division of the Question.

Example 24.

Delegate A: "I move previous question."

President: "Is there a--"

Delegate B: "Division of the question!"

President: "Very well, is there a second for the division of the question?"

25. Taking a Motion from the Table When there is a break in a session and it occurs between resolutions, a member can move to take a previously-tabled resolution from the table. This motion only needs a simple majority (8 of 15 members) for a resolution to be brought from the table.

VI. VOTING

26. General Voting Rights Each member has one vote on all issues. In a full council, there will be 15 votes at any given opportunity. Should a delegation not attend a session, its vote will be counted as an abstention (or non-vote) during voting times. For resolution and written amendments to pass the council, they must attain 9 affirmative votes of the 15 members.

27. Methods of Voting There will be two methods of voting used by the MMSC:

A. The *roll call vote* is used for most votes. This method will be used in every vote on a resolution or written amendment. The chair will call each member one at a time to voice their vote.

B. The *placard vote* is another means of voting. It is never used for votes on resolutions and written amendments. It can be used for all other votes. The chair will ask for those in favor to raise their placards, and then for those against a motion to raise their placards.

28. Voting Options Members can vote in four ways:

A. In the affirmative, announcing either "aye" or "yes"

B. In the negative, announcing either "nay" or "no"

C. Abstaining, which will count as a "non-vote"

D. Passing, which allows the delegate to postpone voting temporarily. A delegate may only pass once a voting period and only on votes concerning resolutions or amendments.

29. **Veto Power** Only the five permanent members of the Security Council have the ability to veto, or automatically fail, a resolution. They are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A negative vote by any of these five members will fail a resolution, even if the resolution would have normally passed. In all other cases the negative votes of the permanent five are simply negative votes, except in the special case of division of the question. In division of the question, each clause of a resolution is voted on and adopted or rejected individually, and so the veto power is in effect.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

30. **Outside Speakers** At any time during a session, an outside speaker may address the council. The chair makes the decision to allow the speaker an opportunity to address the council. In the special case of honored guests entering a council, the president will temporarily suspend the proceedings, rise, and introduce the honored guest. The council will then rise and give a brief round of applause.

31. **Lack of Decorum Among Delegates** The participating members of the MMSC are expected to follow certain guidelines and are subject to reprimands if found in violation. There will be a dress code of business attire for all sessions. There will also be a code of conduct for all members to act in a professional manner during sessions, meetings, and other stated events.

32. **Recession of the Council** All members are to remain seated and in order until the chair has closed each session. Once the time for a session has elapsed, the chair will ask for a motion to adjourn and will then take an immediate placard vote. Also, periodic breaks during sessions may be desirable. A member may move for a temporary recess for an amount of time to be decided by the chair. A simple majority is required.