MEDITERRANEAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MEDI.MUN)

SECURITY COUNCIL GUIDE

Contents

Introduction to the Security Council

Background

The main responsibility of the Security Council, under the UN Charter, is to maintain international peace and security. It is organised in a manner which allows it to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters in New York.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend to the parties to reach agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary General to do so. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement.

When a dispute leads to armed conflict, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends UN peace-keeping forces (blue helmets) to help reduce tensions in troubled areas, keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (e.g. trade embargoes) or collective military action.

A Member State, against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council, may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. A Member State which has persistently violated the principles of the Charter may be expelled from the UN by the Assembly on the Council's recommendation.

A State which is a Member of the UN but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that the country's interests are affected. Both Members of the UN and non-members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

Keep in mind these basic values of the Council when making decisions as stakeholders.

Functions and powers

Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- To call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new Members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary General, and together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

Notes

Military action against an aggressor should only be taken after all other methods to restore peace and resolve a dispute have been exhausted.

For the purposes of MUN, the UN's budget is considered to be unlimited.

Membership

There are five permanent members (often referred to as P5):

- China
- France
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom
- United States

There are also ten non-permanent members which change every year (for this year's ten non-permanent members please consult the Prospectus).

The ten non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms, are not eligible for immediate re-election. The number of non-permanent members was increased from six to ten by an amendment of the UN Charter which came into force in 1965.

Each Council member has one vote. Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the fifteen members. Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members. This is the rule of "great Power unanimity", often referred to as "veto" power.

Under the Charter, all Members of the UN agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the UN make recommendations to governments, the Council alone has the power to take decisions that Member States are obligated to carry out under the UN Charter.

Preparation before the conference

Delegates in the Security Council will be required to have an extremely deep understanding of the issues on the SC agenda, their country's policy and of the SC Rules of Procedure, which are different to those used by the General Assembly committees. Security Council delegates are therefore advised to carry out extensive preparation before attending the conference.

In addition to reading this guide, it is extremely important that Security Council delegates also download and study the Delegate Handbook.

Research

Being part of the Security Council, it is vital to have a sound grasp of other countries' policies as well, in order to hold stronger weapons of negotiation, lobbying and debating. Hence, you are also identifying friends and foes through their background and history.

Therefore, Security Council delegates must research the issues on the agenda very carefully. Please consult the Delegate Handbook for detailed guidelines on researching your country and the issues on the agenda.

There are many valuable resources, but after finding general information, please find out more about what the United Nations have done so far (if anything). The resolutions you will help create, are intended to help solve the issue. Frequently there will be a UN context: what are previous resolutions saying; what has been attempted before; are there UN reports/General Secretary reports on this issue? Aside from reading the research reports provided by your Student Officers, it is really important to watch the news prior to the conference – for many Security Council issues, developments will take place in the run-up to MEDIMUN because of the issues' immediacy.

Due to the urgency of the issues discussed (mostly very topical) and the binding nature of the resolutions produced by the real SC, it is imperative that delegates in the MEDIMUN SC are competent and experienced, as discussions in the council tend to get very technical and intense due to the nature of the issues.

Position papers

All Security Council delegates will be required to submit a position paper which will include the delegation's stance on each one of the topics on the committee's agenda. For each topic, delegates should write a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 120 words. In total, delegates should write more than 180 words and are advised not to write over 350 words.

Delegates should make sure that position papers are their own work in their entirety, and that these are sent to their chairs by the specified deadline, which is expected to be set to a date approximately one month before the start of the conference. Chairs will neither grade nor mark position papers, but it is possible that they will provide delegates feedback on the content of their submissions.

Delegates are reminded for the need to submit their position papers using the official MEDIMUN template which will be provided by their chairs.

Resolution writing

Once a delegate has completed his research, (s)he is ready to start work on his draft resolution. For the purposes of the Security Council, delegates MUST NOT choose one topic on which they will focus on. SC delegates will be expected to contribute clauses, both operative and preambulatory **for each one** of the topics on the SC agenda.

Delegates should therefore aim to produce at least 5 operative clauses and at least 5 preambulatory clauses on each of the topics of the SC, if not a whole resolution.

Delegates are advised to consult the Delegate Handbook for guidance on how to write their clauses. Clauses will be submitted one by one to the chairs, but they should still follow the correct format as this is described in the Delegate Handbook, as at the end of debating, all clauses the council has passed will be put together to form one resolution.

Lobbying and Merging

At MEDIMUN, the Security Council carries out lobbying and merging during the first day of the conference.

Lobbying

The conference process begins with lobbying which, in effect, is a session of informal discussion carried out between delegates regarding the issues to be debated.

The delegate should keep in mind that his/her clauses will serve as a basis for negotiation during lobbying, where delegates will compare clauses and exchange views. The lobbying procedure includes delegates:

- Interacting in order to find fellow delegates with similar policies (delegates should be aware of countries that might hold similar views but also those that are potential opponents, through the research they have conducted);
- Gathering information to counter potentially controversial points;
- Keeping in mind that the solutions proposed should be beneficial to all the members of the group of delegates allying.

In the Security Council, the lobbying window will be split into three equal time slots. Each of these slots will be allocated to one of the topics of the agenda in order for delegates to exchange ideas and clauses and decide on those clauses which they will submit to the chairs for debate.

The Security Council being such a small group, it is of great importance to have the strength and determination to not only form alliances, but also break alliances and form new ones, either in public or behind the scenes. Each lobbying slot is a new opportunity for cooperation, and delegates are not required to work with the same team for each topic if they feel that their country's policy requires them to switch teams.

Secret alliances, give you extra grip to take some parliamentary risks and also a backdrop of support so that you can give it all in your debates, negotiations etc.

Also, if you are a non- Permanent member state, finding a way to 'make friends' with a permanent member of the Council gives you additional strength. Non-permanent members are generally expected to observe alliance/allegiance politically and economically towards the main powers. Any anti-P5 movements where non-P5 "gang up" on the P5s are highly discouraged and should lead to a warning from the chair.

So, as a summary, alliances formed during the lobbying procedure have a knock on effect to the rest of the Council mostly in the way they are presented.

Generally, though not always,

- Alliances between Permanent Members – Secret
- Alliances between Permanent and Non-Permanent- Public
- Alliances between Non-Permanent countries- Secret

Of course, this depends on the nature of the issues on the agenda etc.

The lobbying procedure must also be used by all members of the council to try to gauge the intentions of permanent members in order to detect any potential causes for veto threats and achieve unanimity as far as possible, as this would bring the simulation very close to reality (bear in mind that in 2015, 87.5% of resolutions passed by the SC were passed with a unanimous vote). Therefore, clauses which might provoke a veto from the P5 should ideally be removed during lobbying.

Allying

- Do not team up because you know the other delegates from School! Instead try to find delegates that are complete strangers (it is fun getting to know each other).
- Work with delegates that have the same policies as you have.
- Do not approach countries that you know are bound to disagree with you.
- Discuss and analyse the issues with the other delegates.
- Know what kind of clauses you want to pass and try to persuade your potential allies that you have a common cause AND a common benefit from allying.
- Do not make the terms of alliances to vague or too binding because at some point you might have to break an alliance and form another OR you may need to reconsider the terms of it.
- BE FLEXIBLE and be 'sneaky'. Make 'under the table' deals, get support and dare to belong to more than one bloc of allies if you can handle the one not knowing about the other!!!
- Think twice about what status (public or secret) of the alliance will favour your position.

The Debating Procedure

Once all clauses have been submitted to the chairs and the list of approved clauses for debate has been approved, the Security Council moves onto the debating procedures. Separate debates are carried out for each of the topics, with the order of discussion at the chairs' discretion. The Security Council debates on an **ad-hoc basis**, that is it debates on a **clause-by-clause** basis.

During debate, delegates must:

- Respect and refrain from disputing the decisions of the Chair at all times
- Obtain the floor before speaking
- Stand when speaking
- Address other delegates in the third person
- Yield the floor when asked to do so by the Chair
- Be well-mannered at all times
- Be formal and avoid making insulting or derogatory statements

Outline of the Security Council debate procedure

1. The Chair takes Roll Call (takes the register)
2. The Chair calls the House to silence ("Will the House please come to order?").
3. The House first debates the preambulatory clauses. The Chair will pick the first clause from the list of approved clauses and will project it on the screen so that the delegates can read it.
4. After the clause is read, the Chair sets the debate time and the type of the debate (either open or closed debate). In either case, the submitting delegate gets the first speech

Closed Debate

1. In the case of a closed debate, the Chair sets the debate time FOR and the debate time AGAINST (e.g. 10 minutes for, 10 minutes against). He/she then yields the floor to the main submitter who speaks in favour of the clause and tries to persuade the House to vote for it. Once the speaker has finished s/he can either:
   - Yield the floor to another delegate to speak in favour of the clause. The floor may be yielded by one delegation to another only once (i.e. only from the first speaker to the second); it is then yielded to the Chair. ("I yield the floor to the delegate of France") OR

- Yield the floor back to the Chair. Delegates raise their placards if they wish to speak. The Chair will then recognise a delegate wishing to speak in favour of the clause. ("France you have been recognised. The floor is yours.")

Note: This procedure continues until the debate time for the clause has been exhausted. Any delegate wishing to speak is obliged to do so within the time limits set by the Chair.

2. Once debate time for has elapsed, the Chair then declares the floor open to any delegate wishing to speak against the clause. The same procedure is followed for the opponents as for the proponents.

Open Debate

In the case of an open debate, the Chair sets a debate time during which any delegate wishing to speak either in favour or against the clause can have the floor, each time yielding the floor back to the Chair.

Please note that most SC debates will be open

5. Voting: Once the debate time on a resolution is exhausted, the Chair closes the debate and orders the start of voting procedures.

Voting

Once the Chair has closed the debate and has ordered the start of the voting procedure, all points, apart from points of order relating to the conduct of the voting, are out of order. In addition, note passing is suspended.

- The delegates in the House can either vote for a clause to pass or fail, or they can simply abstain from voting.
- The delegates raise their placards (cards with the name of their country) when the chair says so and the Administration Staff count the number of votes in favour, the number against and the number of abstentions. The Chair then announces the result of the vote to the House.
- In the case of a tie, the Chair splits the House i.e. voting will be repeated but delegates may only vote for or against a resolution, and abstaining is forbidden.
- After all clauses have been voted upon, the Security Council votes on the resolution on its entirety.

In the Security Council, a simple majority of those voting either for or against is required when and if procedural matters are put to a vote.

When voting is carried out on clauses or amendments, a two-thirds majority (a supermajority) is required for the clause or amendment to pass, and the votes for must include the positive votes of all five permanent members who possess veto power. This means that the result of the vote should at least be 9 votes in favour and 6 or less votes against.

Veto power

The word 'veto' comes from the Latin word 'veto'- 'I forbid'.

It is also referred to as the principle of 'Great Power unanimity', as a reference to the need for consensus between the P5.

The 5 Permanent Members of the Security Council can exercise veto powers in order of preventing the adoption of any 'draft Council resolution regardless of the level of international support for the draft'.

However, delegates must always keep in mind that they are taking part in the SC in order to provide constructive dialogue and plausible solutions. The answer lies in compromising and amending, not simply saying no, because that not only creates friction, but also distorts the real spirit of the Council.

Warning to P5 representatives:

- It is essential that delegates of the P5 nations know when to use their veto power and when not to use it, so that the Security Council experience remains as realistic as possible.
- Delegates should bear in mind that veto power is almost NEVER used by the P5 in SC discussions. This is illustrated by the fact that a veto was used 14 times between February 2011 and July 2015, while the Security Council discusses about 60 resolutions every year.
- Therefore, delegates should only veto a clause when it is absolutely against their country's policy.
- An abuse of veto power by a P5 delegate could result in warning from the chairs, and ultimately in the removal of the delegates veto power from the chairs.

The P5 Caucus

MEDIMUN has introduced the P5 caucus to the Security Council debating procedure. A P5 caucus is an informal meeting of the SC that breaks debate.

All P5 member states have the right to call for a P5 caucus via the use of the "Motion for a P5 Caucus." P5 states should call for a P5 caucus when they see that a clause is very likely to be vetoed by another member state.

If the motion passes, debate is suspended and all P5 representatives leave the council's room and move into a secluded area for a 5-minute informal meeting that will be moderated but presided by, one of the Student Officers. In the caucus P5 delegates, discuss whether the clause in question is worth having in the resolution and whether it should be struck altogether or amended. At the end of the five-minute interval, P5 delegates and the Student Officer moderating return to the council's room and debate resumes normally.

Please note that up a P5 caucus can only be requested during debate on operative clauses, and only three times per topic.

With regards to veto power, always remember that:

- The greatest powers of veto do not lie in using it per se, but by having the diplomacy of threatening others that you will use it even though you know you are not going to use it!
- Use veto power wisely.
- Overuse it, and you create friction.
- Only threat and never use it, and then you are underestimated by both allies and foes.
- So, DO NOT threaten the use of it too often.
- USE IT even less often
- SEARCH for compromise, for behind the scenes negotiations, for a better more constructive solution.
- Before vetoing, always try to amend the clause using amendments and consider the possibility of abstaining. Be open to discussion on veto threats and don't object to motions for a P5 caucus.

Points

During the debate a delegate has the right to call for certain points. S/he does that by raising their placard. When recognised by the Chairs/he may speak. A description of each point is given below:

Point of Information

At the end of a speaker's speech, the Chair may ask him/her whether s/he is open to any points of Information, depending on the time limits imposed on them ("Is the delegate open to any points of information?"). Points of information are questions made by the delegates of the House towards the present speaker. The speaker has a few options:

- Refuse to open himself/herself to points information. ("I am not open to any points of information")
- Open himself/herself to a specific number of points of information. (e.g. "I will accept 3 points of information")
- Open himself/herself to points of information without specifying. (e.g. "I am open to all and any points of information") In this case the Chair has the right to stop further points of information due to time constraints.

Once a speaker has yielded the floor to the Chair or to another delegate, no more points of information may be asked.

Points of information must be phrased in the form of a question (one sentence only) for instance: "Is the speaker (not) aware of the fact...?" or "Does the delegate of DPR Korea not agree that...?" However, the points are not always genuine questions used to obtain information from the speaker. In many cases they are used rhetorically by delegates who will vote against the resolution and who want to put the speaker in an awkward position or to make the House aware of the weaknesses of the resolution. ("Is the speaker aware that clauses 3 and 6 are contradicting each other?").

Points of information can also be asked by delegates who are in favour of the resolution and want to make this clear to the House. ("Does the honourable speaker not agree with me that clause 3 is an excellent one because it covers the needs of both LEDCs and MEDCs?"). When a delegate wants to ask a point of information they must raise their placard and, if recognised by the Chair, ("China, you have been recognised. Please rise and state your point.") they can stand up and ask their question.

The speaker who has the floor should not be put off by these points. S/he is in an advantageous position, and has the opportunity to reply in any way they choose. However, the speaker is advised not to answer with a simple yes or no, since this is a waste of the opportunity to make an even stronger case. S/he can, however, answer with a diplomatic "no", for example by saying: 'The speaker recognises the point made by the delegate of Israel but does not agree with it because...' The time taken for the question is not included in the debate time, but the time taken for the answer is. A delegate can also direct a 'point of information to the chair'.

In the Security Council, delegates may request "**Permission for a follow-up**" after a delegate responds to a Point of Information they have made if they feel that the answer has not been satisfactory. If granted to them by the chair (granting permission is at the chair's discretion, they may make a follow-up question to the delegate to whom they had directed their original point.

Do's and Don'ts concerning Points of Information

- The point should not be offensive ("Is the speaker aware that his country's government is a dictatorship?").
- The point should always be in the form of a question ("Is the speaker aware that...?").
- The point should be in third person and never refer to a fellow delegate or themselves in the second person ("Does the delegate of China agree with me that...?").

Point of Personal Privilege:

During the debate, if a delegate finds herself feeling uncomfortable or in a disadvantageous position, s/he can make a Point of Personal Privilege. An example could be in the case when a delegate sitting at the back cannot hear well; he/she can ask the Chair for a Point of Personal Privilege: "Request for the delegate to speak louder because he is not heard at the back". **This is the only point that can interrupt a speaker and must be recognised by the Chair**.

Point of Order

This Point refers to procedural matters only. For example, if the Chair moves the resolution to voting and omits the debate time against the resolution, a delegate could raise a Point of Order stating the correct procedure. Also, if a delegate feels that s/he has been offended, they can rise to a Point of Order. For example, if China has been called undemocratic, the delegate of China can call for a Point of Order. A Point of Order is only allowed when the floor is yielded to the chair; **it cannot interrupt a speaker and must be recognised by the Chair.**

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

This is a question directed to the Chair concerning the rules of procedure. For example, "Are the countries allowed to submit an amendment for the resolution during time against?" A point of parliamentary enquiry is only allowed when the floor is yielded to the Chair; **it cannot interrupt a speaker and must be recognised by the Chair.**

Remember: No point apart from Point of Personal Privilege can interrupt the speaker.

Written Communication

During the debate of a resolution the House must be quiet. Therefore, oral communication between delegates during debate time is not allowed. However, many times the delegates of friendly countries who have a common policy on the issue being debated might want to communicate with each other. This could be to set the policy they will follow or to decide whether they will vote for or against a particular resolution. In this case, the delegates **can communicate via written communication using the Administration Staff**. This involves use of communication sheets: the delegate writes the message they want to pass on to a specific country, and then s/he raises the sheet discretely and it is collected by a member of the Administration Staff. Administration Staff, or Admin Staff, are students recognised by their badges, and can be seen moving around the committee room delivering messages and counting votes.
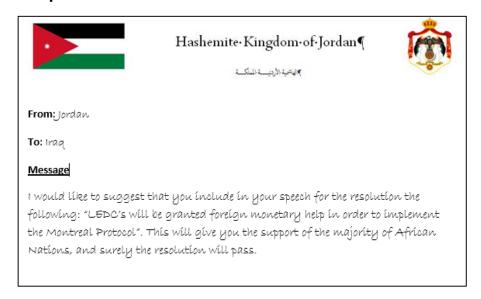
Messages must contain the following headings: FROM, that is the country the delegate represents and TO, that is the country the delegate wants the message to be sent to. Messages can also be addressed to the Chair in the case of a demand for an amendment sheet or a question.

Please respect the Admin Staff, so that all staff can maintain professionalism.

WARNING: All messages, will be screened before delivery. If they are considered inappropriate, (i.e. they contain information not relevant to the conference), or are not written in English, they will not be delivered. The Administration Staff may report this to the Chair, who has the right to suspend written communication.

<u>Note</u>: *Each delegation is responsible for bringing their separate communication sheets, as shown by the sample below. These should be prepared by the delegation before the conference*

Sample Communication Sheet

Hashemite·Kingdom·of·Jordan¶

From: Jordan

To: Iraq

Message

I would like to suggest that you include in your speech for the resolution the following: "LEDC's will be granted foreign monetary help in order to implement the Montreal Protocol". This will give you the support of the majority of African Nations, and surely the resolution will pass.

Amendments

During the debate on a clause, a delegate might find herself in favour of the clause, thinking that it is good enough to vote for, but believing there is space for improvement. In the case of the Security Council, there might also be a case of a delegate finding himself in the need to veto a clause because some of it disagrees with his country's policy.

In such cases, the delegate can submit an amendment written to the Chair on special amendment sheets, which are provided by the Chair when asked for through written communication. The amendment could be on any word, phrase or clause in the operative clauses, but it should be within the general purpose and intent of the original resolution. With the amendment the delegate can:

- Add a point in a clause, making it more specific,
- Ask for a totally different clause or sub-clause to be added in order to mention a point that was missing,
- Delete (strike) a clause because he/she might disagree with it or simply find it pointless or repetitive,
- Correct any structural mistakes they believe the Approval Panel has missed.

All the proposed amendments are delivered to the Chair who decides on whether the amendment will be put to debate and on the priority of the amendment. When a closed debate is being held, amendments can only be debated during time against. The Chair sets debate time FOR and AGAINST the amendment just as for the debate of the clause. When the debate time on an amendment is exhausted, the Chair will ask the house to vote on whether they agree with the amendment and want it to be included in the resolution or not. **No delegate is allowed to abstain from amendment voting**. If the amendment passes, the floor is yielded back to the Chair and debate for the resolution resumes with the amended clause.

Security Council delegates can propose **Amendments to the First Degree**, that is amendments to clauses, as well as **Amendments to the Second Degree**, which propose changes to amendments put forth by another delegate. When an Amendment to the Second Degree is made, debate on the Amendment to the First Degree is suspended so that the second-degree amendment can be discussed. Once debate on the amendment to the second degree is discussed and voted upon, debate on the amendment to the first degree resumes normally.

Sample Amendment Sheet

AMENDMENT SHEET

FORUM: GA1

QUESTION OF: Water supply and its importance for world peace, the conservation of the environment as well as its role in the implementation of Agenda 21.

RESOLUTION CODE: GA/01/A/01

SUBMITTED BY: Brazil

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:
(State clearly a) the line(s) and b) the clause(s) to amended and the nature of the amendment - to add/strike/change)

To add a new Operative Clause 8 stating:

"Affirms the sovereignty of every state in all matters of internal policy, including the management of natural resources;"

Debate terminology

The Chair might use the following expressions during debate with which the delegates must be familiar:

- The House will now come to order.
- The Chair calls upon X (the submitter/speaker) to take the floor.
- The Chair fixes a debate time of 10 minute for and 10 minutes against this clause.
- X has the floor.
- All points are out of order until the speaker has concluded his/her speech.
- X you have been recognised. Please rise and state your point.
- Will you please rephrase your question?
- Are there any further points on the floor?
- There is a Point of Order on the floor. Please rise and state your point.
- Your point is (not) well taken.
- Will the speaker please make his concluding remarks?
- Debate time has elapsed.
- The Chair proposes an extension of debate time by 5 minutes for and 5 minutes against the motion.
- The debate is now closed. We will move to voting procedures.
- All points are out of order.
- Will all those in favour/against of the clause/amendment, please raise their placards.
- Are there any abstentions?
- Will all those abstaining please raise their placards.
- This motion/clause/amendment has passed by/failed by x votes for, y votes against and z abstaining.

Motions

During debating, delegates are allowed to ask for certain motions. Motions are requests made by the delegate towards the house. Motions do not usually require a vote, but they do require a second (that is, approval from at least one other member of the house).

Motion to extend debate time

This motion calls for the chair to allocate extra time to debate. This is at the chair's discretion, and it will be entertained only in cases where the debate's quality will be increased, as all committees operate on an extremely tight schedule.

Motion to move to the previous question

This is a motion which when entertained moves the debate onto the next stage. It is intended to be used instead of a "Motion to move to voting procedures" when a delegate wishes the house to proceed to voting. Using this motion during debate time for when the house is in closed debate mode takes the debate into debate time against.

Motion to divide the house

This motion should only be used when there is a tie after delegations have voted on a resolution or an amendment. When this passes, the house will vote by roll call (individually) without abstentions. Chairs will usually overrule this motion as it is extremely time consuming.

Motion for a P5 Caucus

This motion can be used by permanent members only, and is a request for a 5-minute break in debate so that the P5 can hold a meeting in order for a potential veto threat to be discussed.

Motion to refer the matter to a committee, or to the Secretary-General

After seconding this motion, the Secretary General or one of his representatives, will follow to give advice on the issue either addressing the house or by calling a recess and addressing individuals.

Summary

Motion to	Can it interrupt the speaker?	Does it have to be recognized by the chair?	Does it require a second?	Can it be objected to?	Vote required?
Extend debate time	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
To move to the previous question	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Divide the house	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Motion to refer the matter to a committee, or to the Secretary-General	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
P5 Caucus	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO

If there is even one objection, a motion will not pass.

Even if there are no objections it is at the chair's discretion to overrule any motions that cannot be entertained due to time constraints or which he/she considers destructive to debate

Delivering Speeches

The Debate

Delegates need to be familiar with key terminology, understand the issues and know the rules explained above so that they are able to develop their speaking strategy.

When a delegate has the floor, he must persuade the House to accept or reject a resolution (and likewise with amendments).

The basis for this is factual knowledge of the issue and the use of logical argument coupled with oratorical skill.

In the Security Council, delegates are expected to participate actively in the discussions for all of the topics of the agenda.

Techniques and Tactics

Success in formal debate depends on the use of a different strategy and different tactics from the negotiating techniques used in the lobby.

A speaker should have the following in mind:

- The techniques used in the exchange of ideas and in forming interest groups, which took place during lobbying need to be adapted to a more formal setting. For example, during lobbying, resolutions are merged and clauses or phrases added or removed informally; in formal debate, however this should be done through the right parliamentary procedure.
- **Delegates need to know how and when to take the floor, when and how to ask questions and how, when and who to yield the floor to.**
- Participants should understand that the **audience includes other interest groups such as neutral or even uninterested parties**. Persuading such groups requires powers of rhetoric and oratory, as well as skilful use of the rules of the procedure.
- Formal debate requires formal presentation. **Delegates should learn the appropriate introductory and concluding phrases** (see below)
- They should also be **polite, respectful and courteous** and **avoid colloquialisms and slang**.

Preparing a Speech

- When preparing a speech, a delegate needs to have in mind his/her own strengths and weaknesses but also the ones of their opponents' case.
- The argument needs to be structured and balanced, and it should leave a strong impression as other speeches will follow and as the audience needs to be convinced.
- Apart from thinking about his/her oratorical and polemical technique, the delegate should also decide on the stance taken (e.g. firm, ironic, dogmatic) and the image projected (e.g. idealistic, revolutionary).
- A formal speech should start as follows: "Honourable chairperson, ladies and gentlemen of the house…"
- A formal speech should end as follows: "Therefore, honourable delegates, the United Kingdom urges you to vote against/for this resolution"

The style of a Speech

Three of the main ways one can argue against clause are:

- By being critical or ironic towards the clause, especially if the resolution is not a strong one.
- By taking all the weak points of the clause one by one and explaining why they are weak.
- By making loud or forceful speeches and condemning the clause in general terms. This should be used when arguing against a strong resolution which the delegate does not want to pass because it contradicts his/her own country's policy.

Two of the ways one can argue in favour of a resolution:

- By taking all the strong points of the clause one by one and explaining why they are strong.
- By praising the clause's general ideas and goals
- Nevertheless, it is up to each delegate to convey their argument in the most convincing way possible.

It is usually more difficult to try to persuade the House to vote for than to persuade the House to vote against.

Delivering a Speech

- A speech should be delivered in a clear and loud voice, especially when no microphones are available.
- In the Security Council, delegates do not speak from the podium but they do so from their seat.
- There must also be a clear development of the argument: e.g. "Therefore I urge the committee to vote for this resolution." It is also important to develop the points (in order of importance) so as to achieve a climax with the most important and concrete point/argument.
- References to other delegates should be made in the third person: e.g. "Is the speaker aware that…" and not "Do you think…"

Phrases to be used by members of the house

- Mr. /Madam Chairperson…
- Is the Chair/speaker not aware that…
- Does the speaker not agree…?
- I yield the floor…
- I urge the house to vote against/for this resolution/amendment…

Acknowledgments

Sources:

- Adapted from the MEDIMUN Security Council Guide (2009)
- The structure is based on "How to Help MUN Delegates Become Prepared-The MUN Guide," by Uday Rai Mehra
- The guide has been written according to the THIMUN Security Council Guidelines (May 2014 revision)
- Background information about the SC has been taken from the online portal of the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library

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