

Rules of Procedure of the UNHRC Committee

Rule Priority and Procedure. The rules contained in this handbook are the official rules of procedure of GSMUN and will be used for all UNHRC sessions. These rules take precedence over any other set of rules.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

General Authority of the UNHRC Chairperson. The UNHRC Chairperson shall be the chairperson at all Council sessions. In addition to exercising such authority conferred upon the Chairperson elsewhere in these rules, the Chairperson shall have the authority to:

- Declare the opening and closing of each session.
- Ensure the observance of the rules.
- Direct the discussions of the Council, and accord the right to speak.
- Advise the Council on methods of procedure that will enable the body to accomplish its goals.
- Rule on Procedural Points and motions, and subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Council and the maintenance of order at its meetings.

During the course of the session the Chairperson may propose:

- Limits on Debate, Closure of Debate, Enter Consultative Session and Suspension and Adjournment of the Meeting.

Absence of Council Chairperson. If the Council Chairperson should find it necessary to be absent during any part of a Council session, he/she will designate an individual, normally the Vice Chairperson, to chair the Council session and assume authority.

Attendance at UNHRC Sessions. Each UNHRC member Delegate assumes the responsibility to be present at each Council session.

Emergency Council Sessions. Emergency UNHRC Sessions may be called by the Secretariat at any time international conflicts require immediate Council attention, as established in the Charter of the United Nations.

Agenda. The Secretariat shall distribute an agenda to all Delegates prior to the start of the Conference.

- This agenda provides the Council with topics that are the basis for its deliberations.

2. GENERAL RULES

Diplomatic Courtesy. Delegates must accord diplomatic courtesy, to all other Delegates and Secretariat members, at all times.

- Any Delegate or visitor who, after being advised by the Chairperson, persists in an obvious attempt to divert the meeting from its intended purpose, or who otherwise attempts to disrupt the proceeding, shall be subject to disciplinary action and expulsion from the Council by the Chairperson,
- The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any Delegate from the Conference.
- Decisions of the Chairperson on diplomatic courtesy are not appealable.

Speeches. No Delegate may address the Council without previously obtaining the permission of the Chairperson.

- The Chairperson shall call upon Delegates in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
- Speakers must keep their remarks germane to the subject under discussion.
- A time limit may be established for speeches.
- Delegates, at the conclusion of a substantive speech, will be allowed, if they are willing, to answer questions concerning their speech.
 - A Delegate that desires to ask a question should signify by raising a Point of Inquiry.
 - All questions and replies are made through the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson.
- A speaker who desires to make a motion may do so after their speech and questioning, but prior to yielding the floor.
 - By making a motion the speaker yields the floor.
 - Motions may not be made from; Points of Order, Information or Inquiry.

Recognition of Speakers. Delegates wishing to speak on an item before the body will signify by raising their placards.

- The exception to this rule occurs on any Point of Order, Personal Privilege, or Inquiry, at which time a Delegate should raise their placard and call out to the Chairperson.
- Points will be recognized in the order of their priority.
- Speakers will be recognized in a fair and orderly manner.

Right of Reply. The Chairperson may accord a right of reply to any Delegate if a speech by another Delegate contains unusual or extraordinary language clearly insulting to personal or national dignity. The decision(s) of the Chairperson on a Right of Reply is not subject to appeal.

- The Chairperson may limit the time for reply.
- There shall be no reply to a reply.

Withdrawal of Motions. A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided the motion has not been amended.

- Seconds to a motion may also be withdrawn.
- A withdrawn motion or second may be reintroduced or sponsored, either verbally or in writing, by any other Delegate.

Dilatory Motions. The Chairperson may rule out of order any motion repeating or closely approximating a recent previous motion on which the Council has already rendered an opinion.

- This ruling is not subject to appeal.

3. RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS & STATEMENTS

Resolutions. A resolution is a proposal consisting of at least 3 preambulatory and 5 operative clauses.

- UNHRC Delegates will receive a booklet containing draft resolutions submitted by participating Delegates.
- These resolutions will be approved if they are legible, organised in content and flow, and in the proper format.
- Once approved, resolutions will be distributed in a timely fashion to all UNHRC Delegates.

A resolution that has been distributed may be proposed when the council considers the agenda topic that is the subject of the resolution.

- All proposed resolutions on an agenda topic may be debated concurrently.
- The resolutions will be voted on upon closure of debate.

Definition of Amendments. An amendment to a resolution is a written motion that adds to, deletes from, or revises any part of the resolution.

Amendments. All amendments must be submitted on an official amendment form to the Vice Chairperson for approval.

- Amendments will be approved if they are legible, organised in content and flow, and in the proper format,
- One or more amendments, on any resolution which is on the floor, may be considered at the same time,
- An amendment will be considered "friendly" if all sponsors of the resolution are also sponsors or seconding signatures to the amendment,
- A friendly amendment becomes part of a resolution upon receipt by the Chairperson; The Chairperson shall announce the acceptance of a friendly amendment on the first

opportunity at which no speaker has the floor,

- No vote is required to add a friendly amendment to a resolution.

4. VOTING

Voting Rights. Each UNHRC member Delegate is accorded one vote.

- No Delegate may cast a vote on behalf of another country.

Votes Required for Passage. Unless otherwise specified in these rules, decisions in the Council require 50% affirmative votes for passage.

Adoption by Consensus. The adoption of amendments and resolutions by consensus is desirable when it contributes to the effective and lasting settlement of differences, thus strengthening the authority of the United Nations.

- Any Delegate may request the adoption of an amendment or resolution by consensus at any time after it has been approved by the Chairperson.
- The Chairperson shall ask whether there is any objection to a consensus.
 - If there is no objection, the proposal is approved by consensus.
 - If any Delegate objects to consensus, voting shall occur as otherwise stated in these rules.

Conduct During Voting. Immediately prior to a vote the Chairperson shall describe to the Council the proposal to be voted on, and shall explain the consequences of a "yes" or a "no" vote. Voting shall begin upon the Chairperson's declaration "we are in voting procedure", and end when the results of the vote are announced.

- Once in voting procedure, no Delegate shall interrupt the voting except on a Point of Order or Information concerning the actual conduct of the vote.
- Following Closure of Debate, and prior to entering voting procedure, the Chairperson shall pause briefly to allow Delegates the opportunity to make any relevant motions.

Voting on Amendments. A motion for Closure of Debate on an amendment is in order at any time the amendment is under consideration by the Council.

- If the motion for closure passes, the amendment will be put to an immediate vote.

Voting on Resolutions. A motion for Closure of Debate on a resolution is in order at any time the resolution is under consideration by the Council. All resolutions being considered under an agenda topic will be put to a vote when a motion for closure of debate on that resolution passes.

5. POINTS OF PROCEDURE IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Point of Order. During the discussion of any matter, a Delegate may rise to a Point of Order if he/she believes that the Council is proceeding in a manner contrary to these rules.

- The Delegate will be immediately recognized if no speaker has the floor by the Chairperson and the point ruled on.
- A Delegate rising to a Point of Order may not speak substantively on any matter.
- If a Delegate's ability to participate in the Council's deliberations is impaired for any reason related to the Council's physical environment, the Delegate may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege.
- A Point of Order may not interrupt a speaker.

Point of Information to the Chair. A Point of Information to the Chair is raised to the Chairperson if a Delegate wishes to obtain a clarification of procedure or a statement of the matters before the Council.

- Delegates may not interrupt a speaker on a Point of Information.

Point of Information. During substantive debate, a Delegate may question a speaker by rising to a Point of Information.

- Questions must be directed through the Chairperson and may be made only after the speaker has concluded his/her remarks, but before he/she has yielded the floor.
- Delegates may not interrupt a speaker on a point of inquiry.

Point of Inquiry. A point of inquiry is raised if a Delegate wishes to obtain clarification from another Delegate regarding any points made in their most recent speech.

Point of Personal Privilege. A point of personal privilege is raised if a Delegate is facing any personal discomfort that is hindering them. Examples include distractions during the Committee session, inability to hear another Delegate and so on.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry. A point of parliamentary inquiry is raised if a Delegate wants to ask the Executive Committee about any queries or doubts that they might have regarding any of the motions, points or other technical procedures.

6. MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Motion to move to voting procedures. A motion to move to voting procedures is in order at any time during the discussion of an amendment or resolution. The effect of this motion is to bring the issue under discussion to an immediate vote.

- This motion is not subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker. However, if there is an objection, the motion is denied.
- Delegates should specify what the motion for closure applies to; an amendment or a resolution.

Enter the Moderated Caucus. In a moderated caucus, Delegates discuss a sub-agenda of the main agenda.

- Such a motion will be decided on by a vote of simple majority.
- The motion should specify a length of time for the Moderated Caucus, along with the length of time allotted to each individual speaker.

Enter the Unmoderated Caucus. An unmoderated caucus is an informal session where Delegates are free to leave their seats and discuss their plans and intentions with other Delegates. Motion to enter an Unmoderated Caucus is in order at any time.

- Such a motion will be decided on by a vote of simple majority.
- The motion should specify a length of time for the Unmoderated Caucus.

Limits on Debate. A motion to limit or extend the time allotted to each Delegate, or limit the number of times each Delegate can speak on a proposal, is in order at any time. Such a motion will be decided on by the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

- This motion is subject to open debate and may not interrupt a speaker.