



Main Committees of the Model United Nations General Assembly Rules of Procedure

I. Sessions

Place of Meeting

Rule 1

The Model United Nations General Assembly shall meet in the location designated by the International Institute of Buffalo.

Opening and Closing Dates

Rule 2

The Main Committees of the General Assembly shall open and close on the dates set forth by The International Institute of Buffalo.

Main Committees

Rule 3

The Main Committees are as follows:

- (i)** Political and Security
- (ii)** Special Political
- (iii)** Economic and Financial
- (iv)** Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian
- (v)** Ad Hoc Political and Security
- (vi)** Ad Hoc Special Political
- (vii)** Ad Hoc Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian
- (viii)** World Health Organization
- (ix)** United Nations Environment Programme

Officers of the Main Committees

Rule 4

The meetings of each of the Main Committees of the General Assembly shall be led by a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

II. Agenda

Rule 5

The resolutions for the meetings of the Main Committees shall be approved by The International Institute of Buffalo and the faculty advisors. The order of debate of the resolutions will be subject to no more than a half hour discussion at the beginning of the committee meeting.

Inclusion of Items

Rule 6

No new items can be added to the agenda after the opening of the session.

III. Delegations

Composition

Rule 7

The delegation of a Member State shall consist of no more than fourteen delegates. The International Institute of Buffalo may authorize an additional delegate in special circumstances.

Official Delegates

Rule 8

Only the delegates shall have the right to speak at the meetings of the Main Committees.

Advisors

Rule 9

Advisors shall provide technical expertise to the delegates and shall not speak at the meetings of the Main Committees.

Representation of delegations in Committee meetings

Rule 10

Each delegation may be represented by two delegates on any of the Main Committees. Seating at the country desk is limited to two persons, unless exception has been made under rule 7, above.

IV. President, Chairperson and other officers

Appointment of officers

Rule 11

The officers for the Main Committees shall be appointed by The International Institute of Buffalo. The officers shall not represent any Member State and shall not vote.

General powers of the Chairperson

Rule 12

1. The Chairperson of a Main Committee of the General Assembly shall preside over the meetings of the Committee and in the exercise of his/her functions shall remain under the authority of the Committee.
2. The Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct the discussions in Committee meetings, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put forth questions and announce decisions.
3. The Chairperson shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order there at.

4. The Chairperson may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitations of the number of times each delegation may speak and the closure of the debate.

5. Any motion that is felt by the Chairperson to be dilatory or harmful to debate will be ruled out of order.

6. The Chairperson shall have the authority to limit the number of amendments or the length of a debate so that each resolution on the agenda receives adequate consideration.

7. The Chairperson may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.

Acting Chairperson

Rule 13

If the Chairperson finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate the Vice Chairperson to take his/her place.

Rule 14

The Vice Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

Rule 15

The Vice Chairperson shall assist the presiding officer with clarifications and explanations of these rules of procedure.

Rule 16

The Rapporteur of a Main Committee shall be responsible for taking notes, processing, and coding documents, as well as reporting on the work of the Committee at the closing of each Committee Meeting.

V. Languages

Official and working language

Rule 17

English shall be the official and the working language of the Main Committees.

VI. Conduct of Business

Quorum for Main Committee meetings

Rule 18

The Chairperson of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the members of the Committee are present. The presence of a majority of the members of the Committee shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 19

No Representative may address the Main Committees without having previously obtained the permission of the presiding officer. The Committee Chairperson shall call upon speakers following the list of speakers or in the order in which delegates signify their desire to speak. The Committee Chairperson may call speakers to order if their remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Points of Order

Rule 20

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairperson in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time limit on speeches

Rule 21

The presiding officer may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each delegation may speak on any question. When the debate is limited and the delegate exceeds his/her allotted time, the presiding officer shall call that delegate to order without delay.

Rule 22

Consecutive yields of one speaker's time will not be permitted. A delegate cannot yield time to another delegate from the same school even though representing a different member state.

Closing of the list of speakers, right of reply

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the presiding officer may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Main Committee, declare the list closed. The presiding officer may accord the right of reply to any delegation after the list has been declared closed.

New Debate

Rule 24

No new resolutions may be introduced from the floor until the resolutions on the agenda have been debated and voted on.

Closure of Debate

Rule 25

A delegate may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other delegate has signified a desire to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to vote. If the Main Committee is in favor of the closure (with 2/3 of those voting for closure), the presiding officer shall declare the closure of the debate. The presiding officer may limit the time allotted to speakers under this rule.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, any delegate may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be immediately put to the vote (with 2/3 voting in favor for passage). The presiding officer may limit the time allotted to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. (Rule 12.5 also takes precedence)

Order of procedural motions

Rule 27

The order of precedence for motions is as follows:

- (1) Adjourn the meeting.
- (2) Close debate.
- (3) Recess.
- (4) Point of order.
- (5) Right of reply.
- (6) Point of personal privilege.

- (7) Point of inquiry-Chairperson.
- (8) Point of information-Speaker.

Resolutions

Rule 28

Resolutions for the committee agendas will be selected by a faculty advisor meeting.

Amendments

Rule 29

Any amendment must be submitted to the Vice Chairperson for approval before it can be introduced on the floor. Before consideration, an amendment must contain five seconding signatures from other member states. Of the five secondary signatures, at least three of the signatures must be from schools different from that of the sponsoring member state. Friendly amendments do not require seconding signatures, but are still subject to approval by the Vice Chair.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 30

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any delegation.

Voting rights

Rule 31

Each delegation of a Member State shall have one vote in Committee Meetings.

Majority vote

Rule 32

In accordance with rule 18, the presence of a majority of the members shall be required for a vote to be taken. Decisions of the main committees shall be made by simple majority of the members present and voting.

Members present and voting

Rule 33

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase “members present and voting” shall denote members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 34

The main committees shall normally vote by show of placards but any delegation may request a roll call vote. The roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, beginning with the Member State whose name is drawn by lot by the presiding officer. The name of each Member State shall be called in any roll call, and its official delegate shall reply “yes”, “no” or “abstention”. The results of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States.

Conduct during voting

Rule 35

After the presiding officer has announced the beginning of the vote, no delegation shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The presiding officer may permit delegations to explain their vote, either before or after the voting, and may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Division of proposals and amendments

Rule 36

A delegate may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If an objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall only be given to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Voting on amendments

Rule 37

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be debated and voted on, then the debate will turn into a motion. Amendments are considered singly.

Equally divided votes

Rule 38

If a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken at the subsequent meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.