



Rules of Procedure

UCBMUN XXIII



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1 Meeting and Session

1.1 Scope

These rules will be applicable for all UCBMUN committees unless the Secretary-General stipulates otherwise and will be considered adopted prior to the opening of the conference.

1.2 Session Date

The University of California at Berkeley Model United Nations will meet every year in regular session at a time and place stipulated by the Secretary-General.

1.3 Duties of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General will provide and direct the staff required by all UCBMUN committees. The Secretary-General will have ultimate authority over all such committees and may at any time delegate authority to a member of the Secretariat.

1.4 Credentials

Every registered delegation will have its credentials reviewed and accepted by the Secretary-General. Challenges to the credentials of any member should be addressed in writing to the Secretariat.

1.5 Functions/Powers of the Chair

1.5.1 Procedure

In addition to exercising the powers conferred elsewhere in these rules, the Chair of a committee will:

- Declare the opening and closing of each committee meeting,
- *Interpret* and **ensure** observance of these rules,
- Accord the right to speak,
- Put questions to a vote,
- Announce decisions.



1.5.2 Order

The Chair will have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and the maintenance of order therein.

1.5.3 Discretion

The Chair will have the discretion to entertain a motion, to deny a motion, or to decide that a particular motion would be appropriate or inappropriate at any time.

1.5.4 Delegation

The Chair will have the power to delegate authority to either a vice-chair or any other appropriate person(s).

1.5.5 Format

The Chair may require that any motion or request be submitted in writing.

1.6 Quorum

The Chair may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one-third of the expected number of members in the committee are in attendance. The presence of two-thirds of the members recorded in attendance will be required for any substantive votes to be taken.

1.7 Majority

1.7.1 Committee Votes

Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, all committee votes will require a majority of the members present. A majority will be taken to mean greater than 50 percent of the member-states or characters present. In a substantive matter, abstentions do not count in favor or in opposition. UCBMUN makes no distinction between “Present” and “Present and Voting” except in the UN Security Council. “Present and Voting” is a non-revocable status during attendance that prevents them from abstaining on any substantive matters.



1.8 Adoption of the Agenda

Note: No comments or yields are in order during procedural debate.

1.8.1 Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for a regular session will be composed by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat and will be communicated to the member states prior to the opening of the session.

1.8.2 Setting the Agenda

After the initial business of the committee has been conducted, or once debate has been postponed or closed on a topic, the committee will debate setting the agenda. Only topics which are on the agenda can be considered unless the Chair rules otherwise.

1.8.3 Procedure

The Chair will open a primary Speakers' List for the purpose of debating how the agenda should be set. The Chair will entertain motions to set the speaking time, with the default as one minute. Neither comments nor yields are in order as this is a procedural debate. At any time during the debate, a motion to place one of the topics on the agenda will be at the Chair's discretion. In the event of a motion, the Chair will entertain at most three speakers for and three speakers against the motion, with a default of 30 seconds. If there are no speakers against, the motion passes automatically (note: this rule applies to all motions requiring speakers). If the motion passes, then the Chair will open a new secondary Speakers' List for the discussion of the chosen topic. If the motion to place a given topic on the agenda fails, then the committee will move by default to the second topic. In this way, only one topic will be considered and placed on the agenda at any given time.

1.8.4 Crisis

There is no adoption of the agenda for crisis committees.



1.9 Competence

A Motion to Question the Competence of a committee to discuss a topic is in order during adoption of the agenda if a member feels that a topic is outside of the scope of the committee's United Nations commission and agenda. Such motions are not applicable to provisional agenda topics, and may not be appealed. Two members may speak for and two may speak against the motion. If it carries then the committee will immediately cease all consideration of the topic.

1.10 Language

1.10.1 Official and Working

English will be the official and working language of all UCBMUN committees.

1.10.2 Interpretation

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official and working language, if the representative provides for the interpretation of the speech into the working language. Interpretation will not count against the speaker.

2 Debate

2.1 Speakers List

2.1.1 General

After a topic has been chosen, one secondary Speakers' List will be followed for all debate on that topic area. Speakers may speak generally on the topic area being considered, or any proposal on the floor. Separate speakers' lists may be opened by the dais for motions that require discussion(s) different from direct debate on the topic. A member-state may add its name to a list if it is not already on the list and if the list has not been closed. The Chair may further limit a limited speakers' list.



2.1.2 Recognition

The Chair will call upon speakers in the order in which they are listed on the relevant Speakers' List. No member may address a committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chair. The Chair may call a speaker to cease if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject matter under discussion.

2.1.3 Speech Time

During debate on any procedural or substantive motion, the Chair may limit the time allowed to each speaker as deemed appropriate.

2.1.4 Closure

If the Speakers' List has been exhausted, debate will immediately be considered closed, and whatever votes are required will be taken.

2.1.5 Crisis

There will be no Speakers' List in crisis committees. Committee members will be called on to speak individually within moderated caucuses.

2.2 Yields

No comments are in order after yields have been made. No yields are in order after yields have been made. No yields are in order during moderated caucus. A member who has been accorded the right to speak on a substantive issue may yield time in one of the following manners:

- To the Chair of the committee if the speaker does not desire to yield any remaining speech time to another member or to point(s) of information.
- To Point(s) of Information from other members pertaining to the substance of the speech. The Chair will only count the speaker's answer(s) to the question(s) against the remaining speech time.
- To another member if a speaker wishes to allocate any remaining time to another member-state. The member that is yielded to may not make any additional yields.



2.2.1 Point of Personal Privilege

A member may rise to a point of personal privilege during the discussion of any matter when experiencing personal discomfort that impairs the delegate's ability to participate.

2.2.2 Point of Order

A point of order is used when a member finds a procedural error made by the Chair or another member. A member may rise to a point of order during the discussion of any matter, and the point of order will be immediately ruled upon by the Chair. However, points of order should not interrupt a member if they are speaking.

2.2.3 Point of Information

Note: Yielding to points of information is the equivalent to yielding to questions. If speaking time has been limited and a speaker has yielded any remaining time to points of information, then any member may raise a placard in order to ask a question concerning the substance of the speech to the speaker. The Chair will recognize such points of information until the speaker's time has elapsed. The speaker has the right to decline to answer a point of information. Only the speaker's answers to the points of information will be counted against the remaining time.

2.2.4 Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

A point of parliamentary inquiry may be raised by a member who is unsure of the committee's proceedings. A member may rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry only on matters of parliamentary procedure.

2.2.5 Right of Reply

If a delegate (not the country) is personally impugned in a speech, then after the speaker's speech time has elapsed, the member may request from the Chair the Right to Reply to the speaker. The member receiving the right must submit it in writing to the Chair. The Chair's decision to accord or not accord the Right of Reply may not be appealed. When the Chair approves the Right of Reply, the Chair will read it out to the committee. No motions for right of reply will be granted after a right of reply.



2.2.6 Comments on Speeches Summary

No comments on comments. No comments after yields. Comments must be germane to the speech commented upon. The Chair may recognize a specific number of delegates other than the speaker to comment on any substantive speech. Those commenting may not yield and must keep their comments germane to the speech upon which they are commenting.

2.2.7 Closure and Reopening of the Speakers' List

A member may at any time move that the Chair close or reopen a speakers' list on a substantive motion. Debate on the closure or reopening of the speakers' list will be limited to two speakers in favor of and two against the motion, after which time the motion will be put to an immediate vote.

2.2.8 Unmoderated Caucus

During the discussion of any matter, a member may motion to suspend the meeting for an unmoderated caucus. The motion will be put to an immediate vote. No speeches for or against the motion will be entertained. The sponsor of the motion must specify the time limit for which the meeting would be suspended. The time limit is subject to the Chair's approval and will in no case exceed thirty minutes. The Chair also has the right to rule an unmoderated caucus dilatory.

2.2.9 Moderated Caucus Note

No comments or yields allowed during Moderated Caucus. The committee may request to depart from the Speakers' List and have the Chair follow a different debate format. The motion will be put to an immediate vote. No speeches for or against the motion will be entertained. The sponsor of the motion must specify the purpose for the moderated caucus, the total time limit and the time allowed for speeches. Only points are allowed during a moderated caucus. The time limit is subject to the Chair's approval and will in no case exceed fifteen minutes.



2.2.10 Suspension/Adjournment of the Meeting

A member may motion to suspend/adjourn the meeting in order to discontinue all official committee functions until the next scheduled session/conference. The Chair may rule this motion dilatory; this ruling is not subject to an appeal. The motion is not debatable and will be put to an immediate vote. Suspension is in order at the end of a session and adjournment is in order at the end the conference.

2.3 Tabling/Resumption of Debate Key to the Rule

Requires a 2/3 majority for tabling an agenda item.

2.3.1 Procedure

A member may motion to postpone or resume debate on any substantive matter under discussion. Two members may speak in favor of and two may speak against the motion, after which time the motion will be put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required to carry the motion to postpone or resume the debate on a substantive matter.

2.3.2 Postponement

If a motion to postpone debate passes, debate on the matter is said to be tabled and is placed aside without further action or votes of any kind until such time as the Chair entertains a motion to reintroduce the postponed item.

2.3.3 Resumption

If the motion to reintroduce the postponed item passes, debate on the item resumes with the existing Speakers' List. It is the moderator's discretion to entertain a motion to close the Speakers' List and open a new one.

2.3.4 Closure of Debate Key to the Rule

Requires a 2/3 majority.



Exception In crisis committees, a member may motion to close debate on a specific directive, communiqué, or document. If passed, the committee will move into immediate voting on the specific document, without going into voting bloc. A member may at any time move to close debate on a substantive matter under discussion. The Chair will entertain two speakers for and against closure. The motion will require a two-thirds majority of the members present to pass. If the motion carries and the debate on the topic is closed, it is equivalent to closing debate on all resolutions as well as all amendments pertaining to the resolutions. These resolutions and pertaining amendments may not be further debated upon.

2.3.5 Suspension of the Rules

A member may move to suspend the rules at any time when the floor is open, after the general speakers list has been opened. The member must specify what specific rules will be modified or discarded, to what purpose, and for what period. The Chair's decision is not subject to appeal. The motion is not debatable, and an immediate vote will be taken. This motion requires a two-thirds majority passage. Delegates are urged to use this motion sparingly.

2.3.6 Appeal a Decision of the Chair

A member may appeal the ruling of the Chair only on discretionary matters through a point of order. The point must be made immediately after a ruling by the Chair with no motions intervening in between. The Chair will speak in defense of the ruling. If the member is not satisfied with the explanation, their appeal may be addressed in writing to the secretariat.

3 Proposals

3.1 Working Papers

The number of signatories required for working papers will be established by the Chair at the beginning of committee. Working papers must be first submitted to the Chair in writing. The Chair may read and return working papers with suggestions or point out glaring mistakes. Once working papers are resubmitted, they can be copied and



distributed at the Chair's discretion. Working papers not approved by the Chair are out of order.

3.2 Draft Resolution

A working paper that has been introduced to the committee, then edited and/or merged with other working papers is reintroduced to the committee as a draft resolution. Draft Resolutions can only be introduced after they have been given final approval by the chair and disseminated to the committee. A draft resolution only becomes a resolution when the committee has passed it in voting bloc.

3.2.1 Format

All submitted to the Chair must be in proper format, as specified in the Handbook.

3.2.2 Introduction

See Introduction of a Proposal.

3.2.3 Incorporation

Multiple resolutions may be passed on the same topic.

3.2.4 Depth

Though multiple resolutions may be passed on the same topic, the UCBMUN Secretariat discourages insignificant, meaningless resolutions and instead suggests delegates produce comprehensive, well-reasoned resolutions, which further the topic under discussion.

3.3 Amendments

3.3.1 Format

A proposal is considered an amendment if it adds to, deletes from, or revises the operative clauses of a resolution. An amendment is considered to be out of order if it would render the resolution meaningless.



3.3.2 Sponsorship

An amendment must have the required number of sponsors and signatories to be considered by the Chair.

3.3.3 Editorial Amendments

An amendment may be considered an editorial amendment if it does not alter the meaning, effect, or overall substance of a resolution, and is introduced solely for the purpose of clarification. Editorial amendments, if approved by all of the sponsors of a resolution, are immediately incorporated into the resolution without a formal vote.

3.3.4 Friendly Amendments

An amendment may be considered “friendly” if supported by all the sponsors of a resolution and does not fundamentally change the intent of the resolution as a whole. “Friendly amendments” pending review the chair are immediately incorporated into the resolution without a formal vote.

3.3.5 Unfriendly Amendments

An amendment which is not supported by all the sponsors of a resolution is considered “unfriendly” and requires a simple majority to be incorporated into the resolution. “Unfriendly Amendments” must satisfy all the stated conditions.

3.3.6 Introduction

See Introduction of a Proposal. Amendments not approved by the Chair or dealing with resolutions not yet introduced are not in order.

3.3.7 Incorporation

Once an amendment has been passed, it is immediately incorporated into the resolution.



3.4 Introduction of a Proposal

3.4.1 Approval

In order for a proposal to be introduced to a committee, both signatures from a proportion (set by the Chair) of the members present and voting and the approval of the Chair must be obtained. Signatures do not necessarily indicate support for a proposal, but rather a desire to hear the proposal debated.

3.4.2 Sponsors

A member-state or group of member-states must express, in writing, both substantive contributions to the proposal and willingness to oversee the proposal while it is on the floor. The name(s) of the sponsor(s) will appear at the top of the proposal with signatories appearing beneath the text. These sponsors must move to introduce the proposal to the floor and will be consulted by the regarding any motion to withdraw the proposal. The sponsor(s) may request time to discuss their proposal and to take questions.

3.4.3 Procedure

A delegate may introduce a proposal on the current topic area whenever the floor is open. Once a proposal been introduced, the Chair will entertain editorial non-substantive comments known as Points of Clarification. The proposal remains on the floor and may be debated until the committee closes debate on it, the committee moves to the next topic area, or a procedural issue takes precedence.

3.4.4 Withdrawal of a Proposal

Any proposal may be withdrawn from the consideration of the committee if all the sponsors assent and if the Chair gives approval. Any member or members of the committee can move to reintroduce a withdrawn proposal by obtaining a sufficient number of signatures (the same amount needed to introduce) and the Chair's approval as with any new proposal.



4 Voting

4.1 Voting Rights

Every member-state of each UCBMUN committee will have one vote in both substantive and procedural matters, except for Non-Member Observer States, which have one vote in procedural matters only.

4.2 Order of Voting

4.2.1 Motion

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the committee will normally vote on the proposals in the order in which they were submitted. In case a delegate wants to change the order, he/she will be required to raise a motion to change the order of voting of proposals, along with the new suggested order. The Chair may entertain multiple such reordering requests. The chair may entertain up to two speakers for and two speakers against motion. A simple majority of the members present will be required to pass the motion. Once re-ordered, proposals may not be re-ordered again; however, if a section is divided out, the sub-proposals can be re-ordered.

4.3 Division of the Question

4.3.1 Motion

Immediately after debate is closed on a proposal, once any motion to order the voting has been entertained, then, before the final vote, a member may motion to divide the question. This motion indicates that the member wishes to consider one or more specific clauses of the proposal separately. Once the motion for division has been made, the Chair may entertain up to two speakers for and two speakers against the motion. This motion will require a simple majority in a procedural vote.

4.3.2 Procedure

When a division passes, then the division is voted upon first, and the remainder of the initial proposal is voted upon separately.



4.3.3 Clause by Clause Division

In the event a clause-by-clause division is passed, there is a substantive vote on each clause of the divided proposal.

4.4 Important Questions

4.4.1 Requirements

Vote on a resolution may be labeled an important question if it falls into one or more of the following:

- Recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security,
- The admission of a new member to the United Nations,
- The suspension of the rights and privileges of membership,
- The expulsion of member,
- Budgetary questions.

4.4.2 Procedure

When the question comes to a vote, any member may request to the Chair that the vote be labeled an important question, stipulating how the vote falls under one or more of the five acceptable categories. If the Chair determines that the question does fall within one or more of the categories, then the motion will be allowed and will be put to a vote. This decision is not subject to appeal. If the motion passes and a vote is labeled an important question, then final, substantive vote on the question will require the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the members Present in order to pass.

4.4.3 Voting on Procedural Matters Key to the Rule

No abstentions are allowed on procedural votes. All member and non-member states present must vote on procedural matters. Procedural matters include, but are not limited to, motions to adopt the agenda, closing and opening the speakers list, postponement, resumption, or closure of debate, caucuses, suspension or adjournment of the meeting, order of voting, and the first tier vote of the division of question.



4.4.4 Conduct During Voting

After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting procedure, no member may interrupt the voting except by raising points having to do with the actual conduct of the voting. No motions other than those having to do with voting are in order. The doors of the chamber must be closed during voting procedure, and no one may enter or leave the chamber until the voting has been completed.

4.5 Roll Call Votes

4.5.1 Procedure

A member may request a roll call vote for a given proposal before the final vote on that proposal. If the chair approves the motion, each member of the committee will vote as follows when called upon in alphabetical order: Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, Abstain, or Pass.

4.5.2 Pass

Members who pass will be called at the end of the roster in alphabetical order. A member may pass only one time on any given vote, and only vote yes or no after a pass.

4.5.3 Voting with Rights Key to the Rule

Do not vote with rights unless your vote diverges from your policy.

Procedure If, during a roll call vote a member-state votes with rights, the member-state may explain briefly why it voted in the way that it did. After the vote result has been announced, the Chair will allow each member-state who voted with rights to explain its vote. This right should be requested of the Chair only if the vote is in divergence from previously stated policy. The Chair may call delegates to order if these requirements are not met.

Abstentions Are assumed to have no opinions on the matter and are not accorded any rights of explanation. They are not counted in the final tally of votes.



4.6 Precedence of Motions

1. Motion to Open Debate
2. Motion to Set the Agenda
3. Motion to Close/Re-open Speakers' List
4. Motion for comments
5. Motion to Suspend/Adjourn the Meeting
6. Motion to Suspend the Rules
7. Motion for Extension
8. Motion to Table/Resume Debate
9. Motion to Move into Voting Bloc
10. Motion to Introduce/Withdraw a Proposal
11. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus
12. Motion for a Moderated Caucus in Order of Disruption
 - First precedence goes to the longest time
 - Second precedence for caucuses with identical lengths goes to the greatest number of speakers
 - Third precedence if length and number of speakers are identical goes to order of proposal

Only within Voting Bloc:

13. Motion to Order the Proposals
14. Motion to Divide the Question
15. Motion for a Roll Call Vote