



LEVANT MUN



CHAIRING
GUIDE

& RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chairing Terms:

Quorum

Reaching quorum is when **at least two thirds** of the committee members are present, **only** then can sessions be opened and debate permitted. The voting of resolutions also depends on achieving quorum.

Roll Call

Roll call occurs every time delegates collectively return to committee, i.e. after a break or lunch. Roll call is also taken before the morning's committee session. Delegates may respond "Present" or "Present and Voting" depending on their country's membership status.

Points

Most "points" are essentially questions. Delegates are able to raise points at any time during the debate by raising their placards in the air. A point can only be entertained at the President's or Chair's discretion, and may *not* interrupt a speaker, except for a Point of Personal Privilege due to audibility. The following are the points entertained in LevantMUN

Point of Personal Privilege

A question raised regarding the delegate's personal needs. **Can only interrupt a speaker if it relates to the audibility of a delegate speaking.** The Chair then proceeds to ask, "Is it due to audibility?" and awaits the delegates response.

General example: *"Point of Personal Privilege. Could the AC please be turned off?"* This cannot interrupt the speaker because it's for other reasons than audibility.

Point of Information to the Speaker:

It's a question directed to a delegate who has the floor and who has indicated that they are open to answering Points of Information. Can only be raised once the Chair has asked for Points of Information.

Must be phrased in question form, but a short introductory statement is permitted preceding the question. Only **one** question may be asked at a time. Follow-up questions are permitted at the discretion of the Chair.

Point of Information to the Chair:

A question directed to the Chair. Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling "Point of Information to the Chair." May **not** interrupt a speaker.

General example: *"Point of Information to the Chair. What time do we adjourn for lunch?"*

Point of Order

A question raised if the delegate believes the Chair has made an error in procedural matters such as keeping time, order of debate, etc. Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling "Point of Order." May **not** interrupt a speaker. Should only reference that which has just happened.

General example: *"Point of Order. The Chair just asked for more speakers on the resolution. The delegate believes speaking time for the resolution has elapsed. Shouldn't the committee be moving into voting procedures now?"*

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

A question directed to the Chair regarding the Rules of Procedure. Can be raised at any time by raising the placard and calling "Point of Parliamentary Enquiry." May **not** interrupt a speaker.

Motions

Motions are actions proposed by delegates that require support from the rest of the committee and the Chair's approval. Motions are usually called at any time **when a delegate is not speaking** by raising the placard and stating the motion. Most motions raised by a delegate require vocal support from at least one other delegate: a "second." If a delegate raises a vocal "objection," however, the motion is immediately out of order (in most cases). The following are the motions entertained throughout our conference:

Motion to move to previous question

This motion was previously known as "motion to move to voting procedures" which is self-explanatory. The President or Chair is required to ask if there are any objections, he can also decide to overrule the motion due to time constraints or simply for the sake of debate.

Motion to Reconsider a Resolution

Calls for the re debate and re vote of a resolution that has been previously discussed. This will be entertained after all the other resolutions have been debated and voted on. This motion Requires a 3/2 majority. Not debatable.

Motion to Withdraw a Resolution

Can be called at any time before voting on it. There must be a unanimous agreement between the submitters of the resolution. Can be questioned or objected to by any delegate.

Motion to extend debate time

Entertained at the Chairs discretion, it is not debatable. Requires a second, if proposed by any delegate. Can be overruled by the President of Chair due to mainly time constraints.

Motion to adopt without a vote

Also known as a “friendly amendment”, can be entertained with the unanimous agreement of all submitters if it is to change or edit something in the resolution. It cannot be adopted if an amendment was submitted by anyone other than the submitters. If grammatical corrections are required they will be adopted under the Chairs discretion. Can be overruled by the President or Chair in charge.

Motion to extend points of information

Entertained at the Chairs discretion, and can be overruled if the Chair sees it will affect the flow of debate or due to time constraints.^[SEP] Seconds and objections will also be entertained to the motion but the final decision is to the President or Chair.^[SEP]

Motion to Divide the House

This motion can be raised following a vote where there were a large number of abstentions (larger than the number for or against). This is essentially calling for a roll-call vote where **abstentions are no longer permitted. Objections are not permitted**, but it is ultimately up to the Chair’s discretion.

Yielding the Floor to other delegations

The floor may be yielded by one delegation to another only once consecutively. The Chair must know to which delegation it is to be yielded and upon on that decide to overrule or sustain the yield.

Voting

All delegations may vote both on amendments and on the resolution as a whole. In the event of a close result, the President/Chair may divide the house in which each member's name is called in turn and its vote recorded. Abstentions do not count either for or against the adoption of a motion. For a resolution to pass the number of votes in favor must exceed the number against, if the votes are equal the resolution fails. The President/Chair must encourage the passing of resolutions rather than failing.

All note passing is suspended during voting and the doors are to be sealed by admin staff which will then count the number of votes.

Amendments to the First Degree

Amendments to the first degree are changes to resolutions that are made after the resolution has been submitted to the Chair, approved, and is currently being debated.

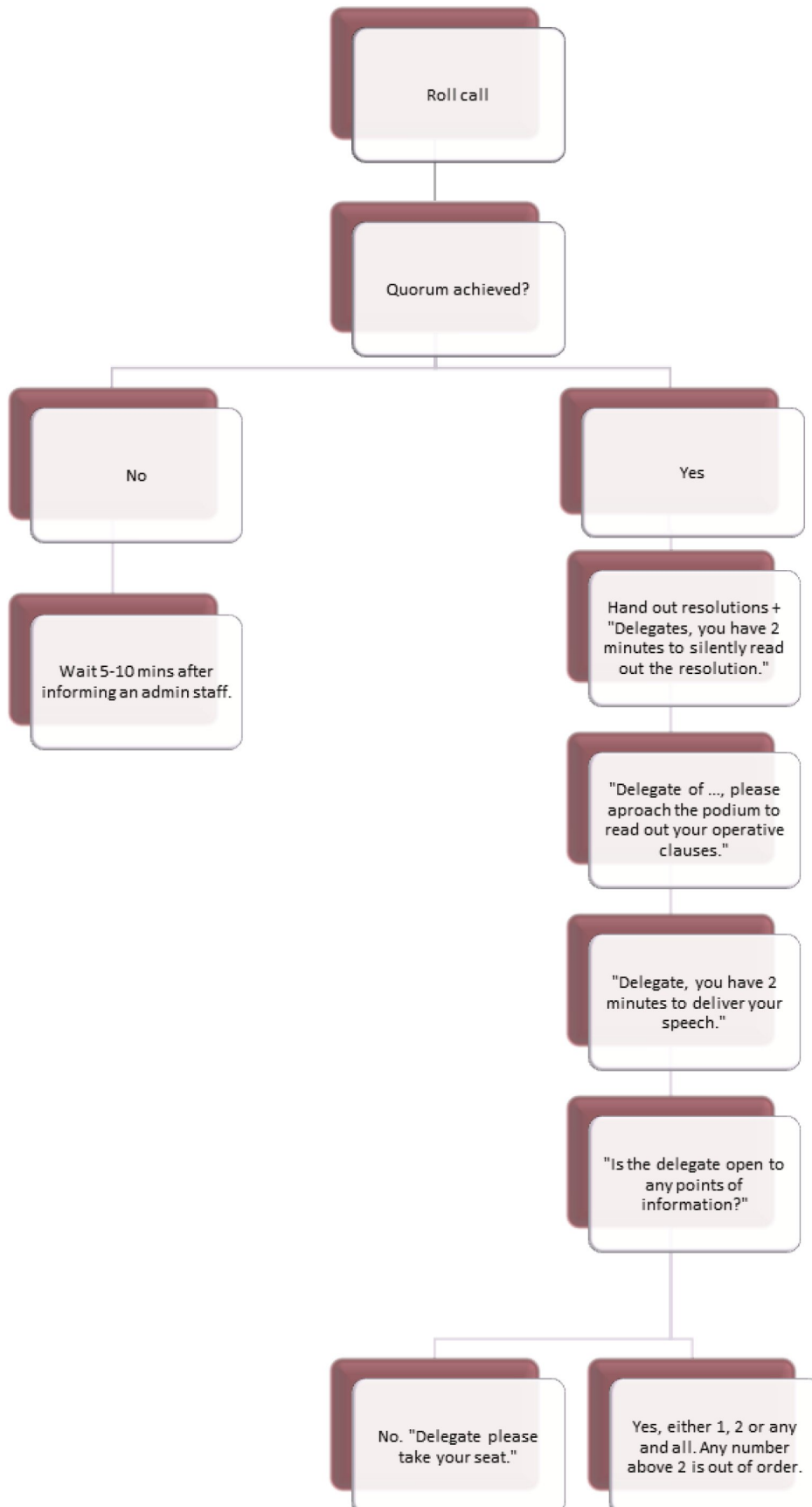
If the Chair rules the amendment submitted in order, the following will occur:

- Debate time will first be set for the amendment eg. 10 minutes
- Debate will move from the overall resolution to that of the amendment
- The house will be opened up to speakers wishing to speak for or against the amendment
- At the end of the set time, the committee will proceed into voting procedures on the amendment – delegates may vote for, against, or abstain.
- If the amendment passes, the change is incorporated into the resolution
- If the amendment fails, the house returns back to debate on the entire resolution with no changes made.

Amendments to the Second Degree

Amendments to the second degree are changes made to the original amendment that was submitted. Upon completion of debate and voting on the amendment to the second degree, debate will resume on the amendment to the first degree. Note that if the amendment to the second-degree passes, the amendment to the first degree must still be voted on and passed.

Flow of debate



Chairing in the Security Council

The Security Council (SC) is one of the strongest six principal organs of the United Nations which was founded in 1945 after the ratification of victors of World War II on the Charter of the United Nations. According to the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has the main responsibility for the maintenance of world peace and security by coordinating the efforts of all United Nations members which are obligated to comply with the Council's resolutions under the Charter.

The council is composed of 15 members in which 5 are permanent members (P5) **with** veto powers, those 5 permanent members are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States; the 10 non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly and they have **no** veto powers. The current 10 non-permanent members are Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, and Sweden.

Powers of members of the Security Council

The Veto Power

This is the most important power which distinguishes the Security Council from other committees, the 5 permanent members (P5) of the council have the ability to use their veto power against any resolution in which it causes the resolution to automatically fail regardless of the wishes of other council's members.

Your job as a chair regarding this power in particular is very sensitive, as veto power may drastically increase or decrease the quality of the debate present in the council according to the way it is used by the P5 members, you should explain to all P5 delegates prior to the debate to use their veto powers wisely as last resort to fail the resolution after trying to convince all members of the council to vote against it, as well as to try to avoid such an argument between two P5 members as it will lead to them using their veto powers excessively and affecting the debate negatively.

A chair can overrule a veto use if:

- a. The resolution does not contradict the foreign policy of the country the delegate is representing.
- b. If the power is excessively being used by a particular member without a strong and a clear purpose.
- c. Its implementation will affect the debate negatively or will lead to an unnecessary or an early war (this point should be unanimously agreed upon by all chairs).

To take military action (waging wars)

The members of the Security Council can command all member states to take military action against a particular aggressor or a violator of the UN Charter. Expect and encourage members of the council to include such points in their clauses in order to contribute in the maintenance of world peace.

To call on Members to apply economic sanctions;

This could be applied on countries or organizations that are a threat to world peace or that are violating the UN Charter, this could also be used to pressure countries to comply with United Nations resolutions.

To determine the existence of a threat to world peace or a possible violation of the United Nations Charter.

Lobbying and Merging and Security Council Clauses

Unlike other MUN committees there are no resolutions in the Security Council, members of the Security Council should work in groups of 4-5 members to submit single clauses for each topic (ask for at least 2 proper clauses for each topic). However, you should keep in mind that the clauses of the Security Council should be very detailed and precise to reach a minimum of one page. It is your duty as a chair during lobbying and merging to help delegates with their clauses in order for them to submit quality clauses and expect to find delegates with no Security Council experience that have no idea on how to write a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) clause.

At the beginning of the first lobbying and merging session, after you make the delegates comfortable and explain the differences between any other committee and the Security Council leave the delegates to choose their own groups. However, you are expected to do research on the foreign policy regarding the topics of each member state in the UNSC, to be able to regulate the process of finding allies and working with them in groups. Another thing you should do to ensure a fair and a balanced debate is to distribute P5 members in all groups (do **not** allow more than 2 **P5** members to work together in the same group, or 2 members with contradicting foreign policy).

Note: there are no perambulatory clauses in SC resolutions, only operative clauses submitted independently.

An example of a simple United Nations Security Council resolution is shown below.

Main Submitter: Russia

Co-submitters: China, Japan, Italy

Security Council,

Israeli's refusal to comply with UN resolutions.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. **Emphasizes** on the importance of the complete required compliance of Israel, to make a long-lasting solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict possible by:

Ensuring that Israel does not break any rules of the United Nations' Charter or any UN passed resolutions by:

- i. Enforcing Sanctions on the Israeli Government by the United Nations, while Russia, China, Japan, Italy and any willing countries placing embargos on Israel if they don't comply with any passed resolutions or any resolution that is going to get passed in the future.
- ii. Sending UN watchdogs to the West Bank and pre-1967 borders to ensure that that an independent Palestinian state is established in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza as voted upon in UN resolution 242 which clearly states that Israel should withdraw to pre-1967 borders.
- iii. Demanding that Israel should force all the Israeli citizens living in illegal Israeli Settlements in the West Bank to go to the legal Israeli state determined by UN resolutions or a sanction system will be implemented on the Israeli government depending on the number of Israeli settlers still found in the West Bank. Resolution 2334 reaffirms that these settlements are illegal.

b. Emphasizing on the importance of the disassemblment of the illegal walls built by Israelis before 2020 or The Military Staff Committee of the United Nations' Security Council will carry out the dismantling process since these walls are,

i. Currently violating many agreements found in,

1. Article 2 of the UN Charter
2. The Geneva Convention
4. Statements by the ICJ which ruled the separation barrier illegal.
5. The Washington Declaration
6. Many resolutions such as,

i. Resolution 242 (Nov. 1967 ,22) which "Emphasizes the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war", "emphasizes that member states have a commitment to abide by the U.N. Charter", and calls for the "Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied" during the June 1967 war."

. Resolution 2334 which " Reaffirms that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;"

ii. General Assembly Resolution 2625 which mainly focuses on the principles of the prohibition of the threat or the use of force and the illegality of any territorial acquisition by such means, it also notes the significant amounts of land that are annexed by the separation barrier.

The Flow of Debate

It is vital to always pay attention to the flow of the debate and to make sure delegates do not go off topic during their discussions; remember that the role of the Security Council is to maintain world peace and to force all countries to comply with UN resolutions and Charter, not to attack each other undiplomatically. The main role of the Security Council in Levant MUN is to teach delegates to practice diplomacy and international law.

Do not allow any member of the council to demand anything that contradicts with the UN Charter in their clauses or debate at any cost, or to go off topic no matter what.

9 (3/2 of the house) in favor votes (and no veto votes) are required for a draft resolution to pass, with the members' right to abstain on voting on an entire clause (not an amendment); another thing to keep in mind is the inability of a P5 member to veto an amendment, it can only use this power against an entire clause.

Note: There are opening speeches at the beginning of the first debate session in the UNSC as found in other committees. Nonetheless, the speech should give a brief idea on the country's opinion on both topics.

Note: P5 members can vote against a clause without necessarily using their veto power, they have to tell the chairing panel in advance before using their veto powers.

Points, motions and protocol in the United Nations Security Council

A lot of protocols are similar in the UNSC when you compare its procedures to other committees. However, there are no follow ups as the delegate asking the points of information can ask any number of questions directly until he is done or until the chairs asks him to take a seat as the debate is not reaching a particular point related to the topic. It is also useful to keep in mind that the debate in the Security Council is expected to be a little less formal than other committees and the debate is going to be more intense as members have more powers and are less than the members of other committees.

It is the right of any of the P5 members to ask for a P5 caucus, which is a private meeting between all P5 members only under the supervision of at least 2 chairs for a maximum time of 5 minutes to discuss a way to avoid using a veto power or a declaration of a war, this result of the meeting should be discusses with the entire house after it is done.

War

War distinguishes UNSC from other committees, your job as a chair is to prevent the occurrence of unnecessary war especially at the first and the second debating sessions, and this is why vetoes should not be used very often as it is the number one reason behind wars occurring in the Security Council. Wars should only happen as a last option when two countries or groups cannot agree on the same terms as it contradicts the foreign policy and the interests of at least one side or country, before announcing war delegates should be aware that they should inform the chairing panel of their decision and with details such as on which countries the war was declared upon and what is the disagreement that caused the country/countries to choose to declare war.

After all this the chairing panel discusses the case and if they do not overrule the declaration of war each side will spend 5-10 minutes to prepare a speech to convince other members to vote for them as the side with the higher points will win the war, in their speeches they should focus on the topic itself and the reason why their opinion regarding it is going to carry the responsibility of the UNSC to maintain world peace, where points of information are in order to be asked on their speeches by other members of the council.

What happens when a war is won?

When a particular country or number of countries are able to collect more points after the voting of the war is done, they will have the right to change the losing country/countries' name during the debate in all committees (make sure they choose a respectful new name), and make them lose their veto powers for that debating session **only**.

Useful Tips

Writing a long and a detailed clause for the UNSC could be confusing for some delegates at first, you can help them by knowing what ideas that want to add in their clauses and by teaching them how they can easily turn their ideas into a clause by using the proper format and conjunctions.

It is very important to explain all UNSC procedures to all delegates and to make it clear they can ask you any question regarding the debate or the protocols of the committee.

Do not make the ten temporary members of the council feel distanced from the debate or not as important as P5 members, explain everything to them and make them understand that they can contribute to the debate as much as P5 members can.

How to deal with challenging situations?

Disruptive delegates

Under no circumstance the President/Chair can embarrass or humiliate the delegate inside the forum and/or in front of other delegates. Mutual respect, professionalism and civility are essential when dealing with something like this. The President/Chair must give the delegate 3 warnings specifying what it is he is doing, e.g.: “delegate of ... side talk is out of order, this is your first warning.” After that the President has the right to suspend delegates but mustn’t keep him for too long outside the forum or suspend the same delegate too many times. If the behavior of the delegate still hasn’t rectified, the President/Chair must contact a secretariat member through the admin staff or security. The President/Chair **cannot** talk to the delegate on the side without a secretariat member present and **cannot** leave the forum to look for a secretariat member either.

Done with all resolutions?

In this case the President/Chair must tell an admin staff to inform a secretariat member whilst debating the last resolution. The secretariat member along with the President and the Chairs will deliberate shortly and come up with a decision depending of the time left and the forum at hand. Please do not allow delegates to leave the committee.

Technical problems

Technical issues include securing a projector, microphone or laptop. It can also include any problem with the AC, tables, chairs and resolutions. Please contact the admin staff or the security at the door and he will obtain whatever it is you need. If there still is an issue, tell the admin staff to contact a team member.

