

Security Council Manual



21st DSAMUN

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The procedures of the security council differ in some ways from those of other regular committees, so in order to make it as uncomplicated as possible for delegates who might be newcomers in the Security Council, we have collected the basic rules of procedure that may come up in this manual.

I. Quorum

Unlike other committees, the Security Council consists of 15 members only, (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent). A Quorum can be achieved when at least 9 delegates are present, including the P5.

The P5 countries are France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States of America.

II. Lobbying/Debate

The Security Council follows the scheme of lobbying-debate, meaning that after lobbying of one topic, the committee continues with debating upon the topic before moving on to the next one.

Delegations debate each clause of a draft resolution separately, thus delegates are expected to hand in clauses instead of resolutions formed in an alliance. The clauses are submitted by delegates separately, and no clause can be submitted by two or more delegates. During lobbying, delegates are supposed to negotiate with each other, so that they find supporters for their clauses or come up with new clauses. They should also try to merge similar clauses, because in case they don't, some will inevitably not be entertained by the presidency.

After having debated on each clause, the committee can debate on the formed draft resolution as a whole, before voting upon it.

III. Points and Motions

The Points and Motions mentioned in the delegates' manual also apply to the Security Council.

There are, however, some different points and motions that are allowed only here.

a. Motion to Divide the Question

- This motion makes it possible to discuss each clause of a resolution separately.
- The presidents should ask for a delegate to make this motion at the beginning of the debate. The resolution will then be discussed clause by- clause
- There will be a default time of 15 minutes OPEN debate on each clause, but the presidents can extend or restrict debate time at their discretion, e.g. if a clause is very important give it more time, or if you see that everyone agrees move onto the next one.
- The presidents should prioritize the most constructive clauses (since they decide the row on which the clauses will be debated). If there is time, all clauses can be entertained, however, this is not binding.
- Amendments of the first or second degree will be discussed normally.

- Obviously, there is no reason to entertain amendments proposing to strike out a clause.
- Amendments that wish to add a clause should be entertained after the draft clauses that the chairs chose have been debated. These should be debated in closed debate

b. Rights of reply

- Will only be entertained after the policy statements of the members of the SC
- The speaker does not have the right to answer, since rights of reply are just short comments
- Should be constructive and not overused (again their role is to enhance the debate)
- Should obviously not be offensive or include personal conclusions
- Has to be recognized by the presidents

c. Motion to move to P5 caucus

- This motion needs to be raised after a veto by a P5 country, so that the President of the SC or the expert chair can take only the P5 to a P5-meeting in a separate room, where they will try to agree on a solution (max. 15 minutes)
- The rest of the house should continue discussion while the P5 are in the meeting, they can however obviously not vote on anything
- P5 countries are encouraged to send a note to the presidency prior to the voting procedures, in case they are thinking of vetoing a clause, in order to save time and move to the P5 caucus immediately

IV. Voting

Same rules apply also to the Security Council; however, a substantial matter (clause/amendment) needs a minimum of 9 votes in favor in order to pass. If there are 8 votes in favor the clause/ amendment will fail, even if the votes in favor exceed the votes against. In the Security Council, abstentions are not allowed when voting on an amendment or an amendment of the second degree.

V. Veto

- Only the 5 permanent members of the SC (China, Russia, UK, USA, and France) have the right of veto
- A vote against by the P5 means a veto
- The vetoed item cannot pass, even if it has acquired the necessary minimum of 9 votes in favor. Debating on this item freezes, and the discussion moves on
- However, it is possible for the delegation that vetoed to deliver a short speech (max 30 seconds) on why they vetoed, or the other members of the council can ask for this (**motion to justify /explain vote**)
- One of the P5 may wish to vote against. Avoiding veto can be achieved through abstaining, which the chairs should encourage
- A country of the P5 may veto only when its national benefits are being violated (veto should not be overused)

- Veto applies only to substantial matters (procedural matters cannot be vetoed)
- When a P5 nation votes against an amendment, they are asked whether they mean to veto or not, since they can simply vote against instead

VI. Guest Speakers

Guest Speakers can be invited to the Security Council. Usually they are the Ambassadors of countries that are not represented in the council but have a crucial role in a topic at hand. These delegates can obtain the floor, deliver a speech outlining their stance on the topic and answer points of information. However, they can vote neither on substantial nor on procedural matters.