



Security Council Manual

27th DSAMUN

18-20 October 2024

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I. What is the Security Council

The Security Council (SC or UNSC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. It is composed of 5 permanent members with veto power (France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, and the United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

In Model UN, the Security Council is considered an advanced committee. Delegates representing it should thoroughly research agenda issues and be fully conversant with the Security Council's rules. Most importantly, delegates must possess a strong understanding of their country's policies and consistently adhere to them.

The Security Council in DSAMUN operates within the framework of the official UN Charter, exercising the functions and powers outlined in Articles 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, and 106. It shall be noted that the Rules of Procedure for the SC differ slightly from those outlined in the Delegate's Manual. The manual aims to offer an overview of the RoP and provide helpful preparation tips ahead of the conference.

II. Jurisdiction

The Security Council, being the highest-ranking organ of the UN, responds to urgent crises, tackling issues regarding peacekeeping operations, current conflicts, and other emergencies. The mandate of the Security Council is of great importance since all its resolutions are **legally binding** meaning that Member States are obliged to follow them.

The primary objective of the Security Council is to uphold international peace and security by identifying threats and encouraging member states to resolve them peacefully. To maintain these principles, the Security Council has the authority to decide on *punitive sanctions* for those (states or individuals) who violate international regulations, as well as to authorize *peacekeeping missions and military interventions*.

III. 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 (or **2/3 majority** if the delegates are less than 15) are present, including the P5.

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

IV. Lobbying/Debate

The Security Council follows the scheme of **lobbying-debate**. After lobbying on one topic, the committee proceeds to debate upon that topic before moving on to the next one.

What is more, each clause is debated separately. Therefore, delegates are required to submit clauses instead of entire draft resolutions. Each delegate submits clauses separately, and no clause may be submitted by multiple delegates. During lobbying, delegates negotiate with each other, so that they find supporters for their clauses or come up with new clauses. Nevertheless, alliances are to be formed.

Following the debate on each clause, the committee can proceed to debate the formed draft resolution as a whole, known as a *joint communique*, before voting on it. During this debate, delegates have the opportunity to propose additional clauses as amendments to the resolution.

V. Points and Motions

The Points and Motions outlined in the DSAMUN Student Officer's Manual also apply to the Security Council. However, there are specific points and motions unique to the Security Council that are permitted only in this committee.

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 raise this motion at the beginning of the debate**. The resolution will then be debated clause by clause.
- ◆ There will be a default time of 8-15 minutes of OPEN debate on each clause, but the presidents can extend or restrict debate time at their discretion. 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 (closed debate).
- ◆ 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. Right of Reply

- ◆ Right given to a delegate if their country's integrity is being violated during a speech.
- ◆ The delegate representing the country has the right to reply, thus defending its nation.
- ◆ The right of reply allows for a brief comment, and the previous speaker is not permitted to respond.
- ◆ Should be constructive and not overused (again their role is to enhance the debate).
- ◆ Has to be recognized by the presidents.

c. Motion to Follow Up

- ◆ Allows a delegate who moved a Point of Information to a Delegate to ask a second, clarifying question.
- ◆ Not used to ask a completely different question, otherwise considered out of order.
- ◆ Can be overruled by the Chairs due to time constraints.

d. 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. 10 minutes).
- ◆ The rest of the house should continue the 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 (**veto threat**), in case they are thinking of vetoing a clause, in order to

save time and move to the P5 caucus immediately. The Presidents of the SC are responsible for moving the SC to the P5 caucus as soon as they receive a veto threat.

- ◆ After the P5 caucus, the chairs have to entertain a **short speech by a P5 member** in order to explain to the other members what happened in the P5 caucus and what decisions were made.
- ◆ After the P5 caucus and the aforementioned short comment, the SC **directly** moves to voting on the item pending (resolution/clause/amendment/amendment to the 2nd degree), regardless of the outcome of the P5 caucus (whether the P5 member submitting the veto threat will exercise its veto power or not).

VI. Table with Points and Motions

Name	Description	Debatable	Vote Needed	Second Needed	May interrupt the speaker
Point of Personal Privilege	Registers a complaint referring to the personal discomfort of an individual	No	None	No	Only due to audibility
Point of Order	A short remark concerning a mistake the chair might have made	No	None	No	No
Point of Information to the Speaker	A short question made to the speaker having the floor	No	None	No	Recognized after the speaker is done with their speech

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	Clarify the Rules of Procedure	No	None	No	No
Point of Information to the Chair	A question to the chair	No	None	No	No
Motion to move to the Previous Question	Calls for moving to the next stage of debate	No	2/3 Majority*	Yes	No
Motion to Extend Debate Time	Calls for the extension of debate	Yes	2/3 Majority*	Yes	No
Motion to Extend Points of Information to the Speaker	Extends POIs to the speaker having the floor	Yes	None	Yes	No
Motion to Divide the House	Calls for retaking voting procedure	No	2/3 Majority	Yes	No
Motion to Follow Up	Allows a Delegate to Ask a Follow Up Question	No	None	No	No

Right of Reply	Refers to a delegate defending its country's integrity after a speech	No	None	No	At the end of a delegate's speech
Motion to divide the question	Motion needs to be raised to start debate	No	No	No	No
Motion to move into P5 caucus	The P5 members conduct a separate meeting to discuss the veto	No, but the Presidency could, in theory, convince the P5 member that raised the veto to revoke it	-	No	No

VII. Voting

Different rules apply also on voting in the Security Council. A clause needs a minimum of 9 votes in favour (or 2/3 majority if the delegates are less than 15) in order to pass. If there are 8 votes in favour the clause will fail, even if the votes in favour exceed the votes against. Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree need a simple majority to pass. **In the Security Council, abstentions are allowed when voting on an amendment or an amendment to the 2nd degree**, so as to avoid potential vetoes by the P5 members. In order for a vote to be taken, all P5 members have to be present, and a quorum is required (9 member states present including the P5).

VIII. Veto

- ◆ Only the 5 permanent members of the SC (China, Russia, UK, USA, and France) have the right to veto.
- ◆ **A vote against by the P5 means a veto**, regardless of the item being voted upon

(resolution/clause/amendment/amendment to the 2nd degree).

- ◆ The vetoed item cannot pass, even if it has acquired the necessary minimum of 9 votes in favour. 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 veto**).
- ◆ **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-power abuse consists of a direct threat to the smooth function of the council and so a **warning order** issued by the Presidency is recommended. The council has to keep in mind that *in the UNSC veto is almost never used* (see: www.un.org)
 - However, should a P5 plan on issuing a veto occur, the delegate ought to submit a veto threat to the Chairs before doing so (the delegates have to be reminded about this).
- ◆ Veto applies **only to substantial matters** (procedural matters cannot be vetoed)

IX. Crisis

The delegates of the Security Council may be asked to confront a crisis. The crisis is tied to a pressing issue, incident, or conflict, whether directly related to the Security Council's agenda items or not, that has recently emerged. For this reason, the SC delegates should be updated on any currently occurring crises and conflicts worldwide in order to be able to effectively deal with and elaborate on.

The Secretary General of the conference is responsible for its introduction and the committee should immediately move into an ad-hoc session, lobbying on the just announced topic, form draft clauses and then proceed with debating on them. The debate session of the crisis and the SC agenda items are, however, of equal importance as they consist of an imminent threat on international peace, security and stability.

X. 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, and they can't participate in the debate on resolutions/clauses/amendments.

XI. Further Guidelines for the Presidency

The role of the Student Officers is to guide the delegates during the conference and cooperate in order to achieve a unanimous accord for the resolution. The SC Presidency should be qualified with exceptional knowledge and a profound understanding of the Rules of Procedure and the issues of the Agenda likewise. Among their responsibilities is the explanation of the rules on the first day of the conference, as well as addressing delegates' inquiries.

It is also their role to **point out the indispensable character of the veto power to the SC delegates in order to avoid any arising abuse of this power and false representation of their countries' policies.** *Lobbying, note-passing or a P5 caucus serve as possible solutions aiming to the avoidance of veto use.*