

# Rules of Procedure

*Security Council 2023*

## Our World at a Turning Point

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**BREAKING OLD PATTERNS**



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Rules of Procedure for the Security Council, 14<sup>th</sup> edition

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However, you are not authorized to reprint or republish them for other MUNs or to change them without permission from the Secretariat.

All Delegates should be aware that the rules are intended to facilitate debate and to accord to all members their democratic right to voice an opinion. The Presidents of the Security Council will apply the rules in the committee. They will not tolerate the misuse of the rules for obstructive or restrictive purposes. Eventually, the Presidents and Chairs have the last say on any procedural question.

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## Dear Delegates and MUN Directors,

Welcome to the Security Council of the 2023 Oldenburg Model United Nations Conference! This manual will help MUN-Directors preparing their classes, Delegates preparing for and during the actual Conference and the Presidents during the preparation and the chairing of their Committees.

The rules have been tested, approved and extendedly debated in order to ensure a constant flow of debate. With clear rules, every MUN-Participant has the same opportunities; success in debate is not only dependent on experience, but on preparation, information, and knowledge of the proper procedures and, of course, rhetorical talent.

The OLMUN rules are designed for High-School level MUN-Conferences, thus some of the rules may differ from those employed at other major MUN-Conferences. Please take this as a motivation to study them carefully even if you are an experienced MUN-Participant.

The better you know these rules and the more you participate, the more interesting the debate will be! Due to this fact we ask you to study this manual carefully.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask your Presidents at any time.

We wish you all the best during preparation and a successful conference!

On behalf of the Secretariat,

Yours sincerely,



**Mika Jelko Niederheide**

President of the General Assembly



**Anna Siebels**

Deputy President of the General Assembly

## Chapter I - General

### Rule I: Scope

1. These rules are based on the original rules of the Security Council as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice. However, adaptations have been made to facilitate and ease debate during the Model UN conference.
2. The rules are self-sufficient and shall be considered adopted in advance of the meeting.
3. Additionally, the *Rules of Procedure* of OLMUN 2023 are applicable.

### Rule II: Language

1. English shall be the official and the working language of the Security Council.
2. All resolutions and other documents shall be published in English.

### Rule III: Courtesy

All delegates shall show courtesy and respect to the Presidency, the Secretariat and to other representatives at all times.

## Chapter II - Representation and Credentials

### Rule IV: Composition

The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. There are five permanent (P5) member states in the Security Council:

- a. The People's Republic of China,
- b. France,
- c. Russian Federation,
- d. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
- e. United States of America.

The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent Members of the Security Council for a two-year period, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the main-

## 2 Representation and Credentials

tenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution. For this year's Security Council, the General Assembly has elected the following as non-permanent Members (in alphabetical order):

- f. Albania
- g. Brazil
- h. Ecuador
- i. Gabon
- j. Ghana
- k. Japan
- l. Malta
- m. Mozambique
- n. Switzerland
- o. United Arab Emirates

Due to this year's topic of the Security Council, there will be two Observer States taking part in the debate. This will be the following (in alphabetical order):

- p. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
- q. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

### **Rule V: Credentials**

Each member of the Security Council shall be represented at the meetings of the Security Council by an accredited representative that shall be identified by the official OLMUN badge.

### **Rule VI: Quorum**

No quorum exists for the body of debate, but a quorum shall be made up of nine members of the Security Council for passing a Resolution. The Council may not vote on any substantive matter without a quorum present.

### **Rule VII: Roll Call**

The Presidency shall conduct the Roll Call for the purpose of establishing the quorum at the beginning of each session. Members who desire to be considered present shall reply 'present' and raise their placard high when the name of their delegation is called. They also have the opportunity to call "Present and voting". In this case abstentions will be out of order for those delegates.



## Rule VIII: Observer States

1. Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected. The representative of the Party will have an observer status and will not have the right to vote on any substantive matter; however, the vote on procedural matters will be in order.
2. Any State or Party invited in accordance with the preceding rule can only enter the discussions with the approval of the Security Council. The approval will be considered a procedural matter.
3. Any Member of the United Nations invited in accordance with the preceding rule to participate in the discussions of the Security Council may submit proposals and draft resolutions. However, Observer States need a Co-Submitter. These proposals and draft resolutions may be put to a vote only at the request of a representative on the Security Council.
4. The Security Council may invite members of the Secretariat or other persons, whom it considers competent for the purpose, to supply it with information or to give other assistance in examining matters within its competence. An invitation requires a so called, *Motion to Invite a Guestspeaker*. This shall be decided upon by the Presidency.

## Chapter III - Presidency

### Rule IX: The Presidency of the Security Council

1. The Presidency shall preside over the meetings of the Security Council and, under the authority of the Security Council, shall represent it in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.
2. In case of a dispute over the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure, the Presidency or any person appointed by the President shall make the final interpretation of these rules and the United Nations Charter.
3. The Presidency has the authority to overrule any procedural matters he deems not beneficial to the work of the Security Council.



## Chapter IV - Communication

### Rule X: Notes

Written notes should be the only means of communication between members not recognized to speak. All notes have to be written in English and shall only concern issues related to the Council's work. Notes which fail to fulfill these specifications will be handed to the Presidency by the Admin Staff. Further consequences will be decided upon by the Presidency.

## Chapter V - Conduct of Business

### A) Debate

The questions brought before the Security Council shall be formally debated and led by the Presidency of the Security Council. Any member wishing to speak during debate should signal this by raising its placard. The Presidency shall then recognize a speaker.

The Presidency decides whether the modus operandi is an open or a closed debate. In Open Debate no difference is made between time in favour and time against the issue currently debated. Whenever the floor has been yielded back to the Presidency, both a speaker in favour and a speaker against have the right to obtain the floor.

In Closed Debate, time in favour and time against the Resolution or Amendment are separated. Usually time in favour goes first, this can however be changed by decision of the Presidency. During time in favour, only speakers in favour have the right to obtain the floor; during time against, only speakers against may do so. During Closed Debates Amendments also can only be proposed during time against.

The Security Council, unlike all other Committees at OLMUN, discusses its Resolutions clause-by-clause. This means each clause will be negotiated with in a separate Debate with a separated Voting Procedure. The whole clause-by-clause Debate is considered a Closed Debate. There will be no Open Debate until the clause-by-clause Debate has elapsed. Once a clause has been voted upon it can no longer be amended and the decision whether it will be part of the Resolution is final! However, after the clause-by-clause Debate the Council will also entertain an Open Debate again and a final Voting on the Resolution as a whole. Whether the Resolution passes is only decided upon through the outcome of this Voting, regardless how many clauses have been passed or failed before.

### Rule XI: Speeches

1. No Delegate may address the Security Council without the permission of the Presidency.

2. Speakers must keep their remarks relevant to the topic under discussion.

## **Rule XII: Yielding**

A Delegate may yield his or her remaining time of speech to another Member or to the Presidency. Otherwise he or she has the possibility to open him- or herself to Points of Information. During Moderated Caucus, yielding is not necessary (→ See B).

## **B) Points**

### **Rule XIII: Point of Personal Privilege**

A Delegate may at any time request the Presidency to correct discomforts that hamper their ability to participate in the proceedings. It may not refer to the content of any speech and may only interrupt a speaker if it is referring to audibility.

### **Rule XIV: Point of Order**

A Delegate may at any time make the Presidency aware of an improper course of events regarding the official Rules of Procedure for the Security Council. This shall immediately be decided upon by the Presidency.

### **Rule XV: Point of Information**

If a speaker has opened himself to points of information, the Presidency shall select questioners which are granted one question each. A point of information has to be phrased as a question. A short introductory statement or reference may however precede the question. There will be no further dialogue between the delegates on the floor. There is the possibility to introduce a Request for a Follow-up. During Moderated Caucus Points of Information are not in order (→ See Point C)

### **Rule XVI: Point of Parliamentary Enquiry**

A Delegate may ask the Presidency for clarifications on the procedure or for the explanation of terms or abbreviations used in the Security Council.

## **Rule XVII: Right of Reply**

A Delegate may request the right to speak if another Member has impugned its national integrity. This is immediately decided upon by the President.

## **C) Motions**

### **Rule XVIII: Request for a Follow-up**

A questioner may ask for a Follow-up if the speaker has been given an unclear or even non-sensical answer to a Point of Information. The Presidency will decide upon such requests on a case-to-case basis in the interest of debate. If the request is granted, the speaker will be allowed to make another Point of Information which has to be related to the previous one. A second Request for a Follow-up will not be granted.

### **Rule XIX: Motion to Extend Debating Time**

This Motion decides whether to extend the debate time set by the chair. It passes with a simple majority or by decision of the chair. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council.

### **Rule XX: Motion to move the Previous Question**

A Delegate may propose a Motion to move the Previous Question when he or she sees no necessity to continue the current procedural stage. Passing this Motion will move the council directly to the next step of the substantive or procedural matter currently under discussion. This means it will:

- a. Move into Time Against if the Council is in Closed Debate in Time in Favour;
- b. Move into Voting Procedure if the Council is in Closed Debate in Time Against
- c. or in Open Debate.

The Presidency may decide whether this Motion is in order. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council. The Presidency may recognize speakers for and against the Motion. The Motion needs a Simple Majority to pass.

### **Rule XXI: Motion to retake votes**

A Delegate may introduce this Motion directly after a Voting Procedure in order to decide whether the votes should be retaken. The Presidency may decide whether this Motion is in

order. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council.

## **Rule XXII: Motion to Split the House**

This Motion can be used by delegates for votes on substantive matters if they want every member to vote either in favour or against. Abstentions will therefore be out of order. It passes by decision of the Presidency.

## **Rule XXIII: Motion for a Roll Call Vote**

A 'Motion for a Roll Call Vote' will force each Member of the Security Council to explicitly state its vote in favour, against or an abstention after being called upon by the Presidency. It requires a Simple Majority or a decision of the Presidency to pass.

## **Rule XXIV: Motion to Divide the Question**

This Motion can be used by Delegates in order to separate the Resolution into two reasonable sections. The specification on how exactly these two parts shall look has to be done by the Delegate proposing the Motion. The Motion only affects the Operative Clauses. After passing the Motion and having a Delegate clarifying the divisions there will be another voting on this separation of the Resolution. Abstentions will be in order during this procedure. In case the Resolution is split into two divisions, these divisions must be voted upon separately in the end of debate, when voting on the Resolution as a whole. Debate however will not be split. The motion passes with a Simple Majority or by decision of the Chair.

## **Rule XXV: Motion to move into Moderated Caucus**

A Moderated Caucus can be entered in order to debate on recent developments or other topics that urgently need to be discussed. The Presidency may decide whether this motion is in order. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council.

## **Rule XXVI: Motion to move into Unmoderated Caucus**

During Unmoderated Caucus all rules concerning the conduct of debate shall be suspended in order to discuss the business at hand. The motion may be introduced by any delegate. The delegate that presents the motion must also state the total time for the Unmoderated Caucus.

If affirmed by vote of the Security Council, the Committee will enter the Unmoderated Cau-

cus for the time proposed. The President shall call the committee back to order when the total time for the Unmoderated Caucus has elapsed. During this process of lobbying delegates may extend the time of Unmoderated Caucus by a request to the Presidency. The decision to extend the Unmoderated Caucus is then taken at the Presidency's discretion.

## **Rule XXVII: Motion to Suspend / Adjourn the Meeting**

1. A Delegate may propose a Motion for a 'Suspension of the Meeting' for a specified time and purpose. The Presidency may decide whether this motion is in order. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council.
2. A Delegate may propose a motion to 'Adjourn the Meeting', in order to reconvene the next day. The Presidency may decide whether this motion is in order. There must be a Second to the Motion for it to be considered by the Security Council.

## **Rule XXVIII: Motion to appeal the decision of the Presidency**

This Motion can be employed if delegations feel that the decisions made by the Presidency are against the Rules of Procedure. It exceptionally needs a 2/3 majority to pass.

However, if the Presidency can confirm that he or she was acting in accordance with the official Rules of Procedure, the Presidency may overrule this Motion.

## **D) Resolution and Amendments**

All resolutions and amendments shall be displayed in written form and readable for all representatives during discussions.

### **Rule XXIX: Resolutions**

1. Resolutions may only be introduced when signed by at least five members of the Security Council, including the main-submitter, and when distributed to all Members of the Security Council.
2. Upon introduction the resolution is debatable. Only one draft resolution can be subject to discussion at any given time.
3. The Security Council debates on each clause of the resolution individually. Therefore, a Closed Debate for shall be established for the whole clause-by-clause Debate. During that time only amendments and speeches concerning this particular clause are in order. Once debating time for the clause elapses and no further motion to extend debating time is suggested by a member, the Security Council shall vote on the clause in question for it to be integrated into the final resolution or not. If affirmed, no further changes to the clause may be made through amendments.

4. Once every clause has been debated, an Open Debate on the entire resolution shall be established for the purpose of introducing amendments, which add further operative clauses.
5. When time on the Open Debate on the entire resolution has elapsed and no further extension is proposed, the Security Council shall commence with the voting procedure.

## **Rule XXX: Amendments**

1. Only a speaker who has the floor can submit amendments.
2. Amendments have to be submitted in written form and state the amended operative clause. For this purpose, special paper will be provided.
3. The intention of proposed amendments to resolutions should at all times be to improve the resolution with the objective of achieving a wider consensus and thus helping the resolution to pass. The President may refuse to debate an amendment if he perceives it to be entirely destructive or merely being used for tactical purposes not connected with the substance of the resolution. The objection will then not be put to the vote and the decision of the President is final.
4. “Friendly” amendments are grammar mistakes or clauses, which the submitting countries agreed on during the lobbying process, but which were not included during the writing process. They have to be announced at the beginning of the debate and may then be included without vote. Otherwise they may only be handed in during debate in the committee. Clauses which have undergone a friendly amendment remain amendable according to the rules above.
5. Amendments to the Amendments shall be entertained. There shall be no Amendments to the third degree.

## **E) Voting**

### **Rule XXXI: Rights of Voting**

Each member of the Security Council has one vote.

### **Rule XXXII: Procedural Matters**

1. A procedural matter is a Voting on:
  - a. any Motion whatsoever;
  - b. the invitation of a Party which is not a Member of the Security Council
2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affir-

mative vote of the Simple Majority. Abstentions are not in order. A vote on procedural matters is only conducted if there are objections to the motion introduced.

## **Rule XXXIII: Substantive Matters**

1. A substantive matter is a Voting on:
  - a. the inclusion of an amendment;
  - b. a clause;
  - c. a final resolution.
2. Decisions of the Security Council on substantive matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members. Abstentions by Members of the Security Councils are in order.

## **Rule XXXIV: Veto Right**

The P5 members have the right to Veto. This right enables them to circumvent the usually necessary majority as the Veto is binding and has priority above all other votes. A Veto may be used e.g. to fail an amendment, strike out a Clause of a Resolution or even the Resolution itself. If a P5 member votes against in a Substantive Matter it is automatically considered a Veto. Therefore all Substantive Matters may only pass if all P5 members either vote in favour or abstain from the voting.

When using the Right to Veto, the delegate vetoing needs to deliver a short informational speech upon the reason of his Veto. The delegate may open him- or herself to Points of Information in order to clarify delicate points. If the Council fails to find a solution which will keep the P5 member from vetoing, the current matter on the vote will be considered to have failed and the Council will continue its work with the next issue. However, there is the possibility to move into a P5 Caucus.

## **Rule XXXV: P5 Caucus**

A P5 Caucus can be introduced whenever a P5 member wants to veto a matter which one or more of the other P5 members decided to vote in favour of. To do so, one of the P5 members needs to notify the Presidency via note or a Point of Information. The Presidency will then decide whether this is necessary or not. During a P5 Caucus all five permanent members leave the Conference room together with the Presidency of the Security Council; committee session is paused for the duration of the P5 caucus.

The P5 members and the President of the Security Council will then entertain an informal session in which they try to find a solution for the current issue and state arguments why a certain Amendment or Clause should be part of the Resolution or why not or why the current Resolution should pass or fail. All participants of the P5 caucus are asked to act construc-

# 6 Order of Disruptiveness

tively and work towards a solution of the problem at hand.

The President decides when the P5 caucus is over. Committee session will be resumed then in the Voting Procedure of the current issue.

## Chapter VI - Order of Disruptiveness

If at any time more than one point or motion is on the floor, the following list shall decide upon the order of disruptiveness.

### Rule XXXVI: Order of Disruptiveness

1. Motion to Appeal the Presidency's Decision
2. Motion to Suspend/Adjourn the Meeting
3. Motion to Move the Previous Question
4. Motion to Divide the Question
5. Motion for a Roll Call Vote
6. Motion to Split the House
7. Motion to Retake Votes
8. Motion to Extend Debating Time
9. Motion to Move into Unmoderated Caucus
10. Motion to Move into Moderated Caucus





## Chapter VII - Chart of Points and Motions for the UNSC

Point or Motion	Second required?	Debate entertained?	Interruption of the Speaker?	Vote or Decision?	Abstentions allowed?
<b>Point of Personal Privilege</b> Referring to audibility	No	No	Interruption	Decision (Chair)	-
<b>Point of Personal Privilege</b> all others	No	No	No	Decision (Chair)	-
<b>Point of Order</b>	No	No	No	Decision (Chair)	-
<b>Point of Information</b>	No	No	No	Decision (Chair)	-
<b>Point of Parliamentary Enquiry</b>	No	No	No	Decision (Chair)	-
<b>Call for the Order of the Day</b>	No	No	No	-	-
<b>Clause</b>	-	Debate	-	Vote 9 votes	Yes
<b>Amendment</b>	-	Debate	-	Vote 9 votes	Yes
<b>Resolution</b>	-	Debate	-	Vote 9 votes	Yes
<b>Request for a Follow-Up</b>	No	No	No	Decision (President)	-
<b>Motion to Extend Debating Time</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj.	No
<b>Motion to move to the Previous Question</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to Retake Votes</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to Divide the House</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to Split the House</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to move into unmoderated Caucus</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to move into moderated Caucus</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to Suspend/ Adjourn the meeting</b>	Second	No	No	President/Vote simple Maj	No
<b>Motion to Appeal the Decision of the President</b>	Second	No	No	Vote 2/3 maj.	No

It will prove to be useful to print this chart and take it with you to your Committee!



**OLMUN 2023**

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