

Security Council Procedure!

Delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council, the top of the MUNHIGH committee pecking order. You delegates are experienced; you walk the walk, you talk the MUN talk. There will be no more sitting quivering in your chair before a policy statement anymore. The standard of debate is high, and tensions are higher. For MUNHIGH21, due to the virtual format, our Security Council is a bit more densely populated than usual. For those of you new to the Security Council, there are some procedural differences you may want to acquaint yourself with. The President will follow the procedure outlined below like scripture.

Who has authority here?

Not a chair, but the 'President of the Security Council'.

To a certain extent, the P5: China, USA, UK, Russia, and France.

What are Veto Powers?

Each of the P5 members holds the power of veto, giving them the authority to strike a clause entirely. A vote against a clause by a P5 state fails the clause automatically. No ifs, no buts. With such great power comes great responsibility-one does not simply veto, only if it is in direct violation of one's national interest. If a P5 does not like a clause, they must abstain instead.

When writing a resolution, be careful not to violate a P5's national policy- one outstretched hand (or clicked emoticon hand!) means all your hard work may go down the drain, as your resolution could be vetoed. It may be a good idea to test the waters and befriend a P5 delegate to give yourself better representation in caucuses!

Caucuses

Before a clause is vetoed, there is some due procedure, known as a caucus.

Here is an outline on how a caucus proceeds:

- The President will ask for veto concerns prior to debate on a clause.
- A P5 member raises 'veto concerns.'
 - This can be done by unmuting/sending a message in Chat/ 'raising your hand' on Zoom.
- Raising veto-concerns leads to what is known a 'caucus.' This only involves the P5.
- This will operate as either one of the following:
 - OPEN MODERATED
 - All delegates apart from the P5 mute their mics but remain in the same meeting.
 - During a caucus, the P5 discuss the clause in question and try to reach a compromise. This can be achieved via an amendment.
 - If amendments prove unsatisfactory, it may then be vetoed outright.
 - CLOSED MODERATED - if Ria, our honourable Secretary General, is present
 - The P5 delegate will enter a separate 'breakout room' for 2 minutes, and discuss the clause as explained above.
- After caucus, one member of the P5 is required to feedback to the council and explain any changes.
 - If the changes made are dramatic (i.e. rendering the clause unrecognisable), a member of the P5 opportunity to speak for the amended clause and answer any points of information.

Debate Procedure

Resolutions are debated CLAUSE BY CLAUSE.

- When a resolution is chosen, each clause is debated individually.

Here is an example of debate procedure:

- Resolution of Country A picked
- Clause 1 put on screen
- President asks if there are any veto concerns *see above*
- There are no veto concerns
- Country A delegate takes to the floor, and speaks FOR their clause
- Country A takes points of information.
- If time allows, a speaker FOR or AGAINST may be permitted.
- Clause 1 is opened up to amendments.
- Amendments are debated until the clause in its final form is reached.
- Clause is voted on. If passed, it will become part of the final resolution. If failed, it is discarded.
- Move onto clause 2. President chooses a speaker FOR. This does not have to be country A. Process repeats until the end of session
- At the end, the resolution as a whole is debated.
- Additional clauses may be submitted and debated if time allows.

Voting

Unlike other committees, in the Security Council a 'super majority' is needed for a clause to pass. A clause or resolution needs 13 out of 20 votes in favour for it to pass. A P5 voting against leads to automatic failure. P5s are only allowed to vote against if the clause directly violates their national interest. Otherwise, they must abstain.

Policy Statements

Every delegate representing a P5 country must give a compulsory policy statement at the beginning of each debate. Then, the president will pick several more member states. Thus, having one prepared is an effective way to make a confident first impression. However, we will not disapprove of delegates not having one prepared and simply hastily hoping for a fruitful debate.

Resolutions

Now you are sat at the big boys' table, you can write resolutions enforcing measures such as the deployment of UN peacekeeping troops, economic

sanctions, or military intervention. You also have the authority to use the three Security Council exclusive words in resolutions: 'Demands', 'Condemns', and 'Strongly Condemns.' Use them sparingly.

The security of the world is on your shoulders, delegates. Be brave, debate your heart out, and do not forget to turn your mic off after.

Yours faithfully,

Mahima

The President of the Security Council