**Security Council Procedure**

Delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council!

Renowned for its intensity and high-level debate, the Security Council stands as the epitome of MUN, serving as the UN’s most representative organ and nonetheless promising unparalleled enjoyment.

For those of who are 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.

**Who are the members?**

The Security Council consists of only fifteen delegates.

Of these delegates, five of these member states have permanent seats on the Security Council and are known as the P5: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States.

The other ten delegates reside in the Security Council on a two-year, invitational rotation by the General Assembly.

A perk of the Security Council is that delegates are not required to stand up at any point to take the floor or raise points of information. Additionally, delegates remain seated in a horseshoe arrangement, meaning that delegates can feel more at ease during debate.

**Who has authority?**

Not a chair, but the ‘President of the Security Council’.

(This may prove useful when writing policy statements!)

To a certain extent, the five permanent members (P5): China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States.

**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.

However, one may only raise a veto if it is in direct violation of one’s national interest. If a P5 does not simply like a clause, they are obliged to abstain from voting in that instance.

When writing a resolution, be careful not to violate a P5’s national policy - one outstretched 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**

Prior to debate on a clause, the President will ask for ‘veto concerns.’

A P5 member may raise a veto concern, by raising their placard.

Raising veto-concerns leads to what is known a ‘caucus.’ This only involves the P5.

This will operate as either one of the following:

o CLOSED MODERATED

The P5 leave the room accompanied by one of the Presidents.

The P5 discuss the clause for 2 minutes with the President, to decide how the clause can be amended to become agreeable to the P5 (e.g. it may be striked altogether or simply amended).

Following the 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 will be given the opportunity to speak for the amended clause and answer any points of information.

o OPEN MODERATED

On occasion, if a delegate raises a ‘motion to hold an informal caucus’, the P5 will have the caucus discussion but remain in the room.

Therefore, only members of the P5 are permitted to speak, but the other delegates will be privy to the subjects of the caucus.

**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 is picked.
* Country A may take the floor and take points of information for the submitted resolution.
* Clause 1 is put on the screen.
* President asks if there are any veto concerns.
* There are no veto concerns.
* (If there are veto concerns, the caucus procedure will be followed.)
* President asks who wishes to speak FOR Clause 1.
* Country B delegate takes to the floor and speaks FOR the clause.
* Country B may take points of information.
* If time allows, a speaker FOR and 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 or B.
* 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. In this Security Council, a clause or resolution will require a 9/15 majority of votes in favour for it to pass; (this is subject to change on the day). 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**

Due to the powers of the Security Council, 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 rests on your shoulders…

Be brave and have a fruitful debate!

Yours Faithfully,

Kiyah-Louise Lopez
The President of the Security Council