



SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURES

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



SINGAPORE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Security Council will be continuing with the Special Rules of Procedure (SROP) first adopted for SMUN 2022. Instead of being a complete document in and of itself, this document is meant to provide a summary of the changes made to the SMUN 2023 Rules of Procedure (ROP). The SROP is intended to bring council simulation closer to the actual working methods of the United Nations, with its changes to the SMUN ROP being drawn from Chapter V of the UN Charter as well as the Provisional ROP of the Security Council. Both are accessible via the following links:

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>

https://web.archive.org/web/20120510224150/http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sc_rules.htm

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SUMMARY OF SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Changes to the Rules of Procedure may be separated into three broad categories: Voting, observers and the determination of whether an issue is procedural or substantive.

With regards to voting, **both procedural and substantive voting in the United Nations Security Council shall require a 9/15 (or 60%) majority**, with abstentions being in order for all votes. The process of voting on a substantive matter shall be distinct in the ability of a Permanent Member to exercise a veto through a negative vote.

Observers, not being members of the Security Council, **will not be accorded voting rights** in the council. Besides speaking rights, which they will retain in their entirety, observers may also raise motions and introduce resolutions **with the endorsement of an existing member of the council**. Practically, this means that an observer may raise a motion, but it may only be put to a vote in council after the Chairs have verified that a council member is in favour of the introduction of the motion.

Observers may act as Sponsors and Signatories to a Draft Resolution or Amendment, but their presence as Sponsors or Signatories **will not be considered** as contributing to the number of Sponsors or Signatories when making calculations pertaining to **Rules 9.2.3, 9.2.4, 10.5.4, and 10.5.5**. In other words, when determining if a Resolution has breached the minimum number of Sponsors, maximum number of Sponsors, or has met the minimum proportion of total members (excluding observers) present in committee supporting the Draft Resolution or Amendment required before introduction, observers will not be considered in the tallying of either Sponsors or Signatories.

The determination of whether an issue is procedural or substantive in the context of this council **applies specifically to Resolutions and Unfriendly Amendments**. Whereas Resolutions and Unfriendly Amendments would, in an ordinary Model United Nations setting, be considered as wholly substantive, in the United Nations Security Council, clauses of these documents may be considered as procedural or substantive based on their content. As a result, Resolutions and Unfriendly Amendments in the United Nations Security Council would have the potential to be considered procedural in part or in its entirety. That said, a procedural vote will only be in order if all clauses in the issue being voted upon are procedural. For instance, during a Direct Voting Procedure on a Resolution, if no Motion to Divide the Question has passed, the vote on the Resolution will only be procedural if all of the clauses of the Resolution are procedural.

The determination of whether an issue is procedural or substantive would be **based on a set of rules, provided for in Appendix A**, which has been drawn on criteria set out in **General Assembly Resolution 267(III) (Rule A.3)** and the **Four Power Declaration (Rule A.4)**. While the Chairs will make the initial judgement based on the rules, delegates may challenge the Chairs' classification through 'Doubts' with justification. If the Doubt is deemed reasonable, the Chairs will initiate a *Vote on the Preliminary Question*, which is a substantive vote on whether the matter whose classification is being contested is procedural or substantive.

3 SAMPLE SCENARIOS

Observers

Example 1

- Iran introduces a *Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus* of 5 minutes.
- The Chairs will ask if there are any Permanent or Non-Permanent members of the council who wish to support the introduction of the motion.
- Russia indicates in favour of the introduction of the motion.
- The motion is put to a procedural vote between the Permanent and Non-Permanent members, as Iran and other observers will be excluded from the vote given their lack of voting rights.

Example 2

- Iran introduces a *Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus* of 5 minutes.
- The Chairs will ask if there are any Permanent or Non-Permanent members of the council who wish to support the introduction of the motion.
- None of the 15 members of the Security Council indicate in favour of the introduction of the motion.
- The motion is rejected.

Example 3

- Azerbaijan and Russia are Sponsors of a Resolution that has been submitted to the Chairs for approval. Three Signatories are indicated in the Resolution. All 15 Permanent and Non-Permanent members of the council are present.
- As an observer, Azerbaijan does not contribute to the total number of Sponsors and Signatories when determining if the Resolution has reached a minimum level of support from council for its introduction. As there are still a total of four Permanent or Non-Permanent members of the council who are Sponsors or Signatories, the Resolution is considered to have met the minimum level of support for its introduction.

- As an observer, Azerbaijan also does not contribute to the number of Sponsors when considering the minimum number of Sponsors needed for the resolution. Hence, the resolution is considered as only having one sponsor.
- The Resolution is rejected, as even though it has met the minimum number of delegates required to be in support of its introduction, it has failed to meet the minimum number of sponsors, rendering it invalid.

Determining if an Issue is Procedural or Substantive

Example 4

- A Draft Resolution is introduced by the US and UK calling for the establishment of a “sub-committee to examine miscarriages of justice associated with the process of investigating peacekeeper misconduct, to receive further statements and documents and to conduct such inquiries as it may determine necessary and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible.”
- The Chairs decide to classify this as a procedural matter under **Rule A.3 (d)**.
- Russia raises a Doubt that the sub-committee’s mandate and investigative powers could potentially have significant political implications and should then be considered a substantive matter.
- Chairs consider and reject the Doubt as matter falls squarely within the purview of **Rule A.3 (d)**. The Doubt is not deemed a Reasonable Doubt.
- The Draft Resolution is voted upon in a procedural vote, with no vetoes in order.

Example 5

- A Draft Resolution is introduced by the UK reminding regional bodies to uphold their obligations under the Charter with regards to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The Chairs determine that this is a substantive matter, as the Draft Resolution is inherently political by calling out one particular regional organisation and by extension, specific members of the committee.
- The UK raises a Doubt that this is a procedural matter under **Rule A.3 (f)**.

- The Chairs consider and deem this a Reasonable Doubt, and put this Doubt to the Council in the form of a *Vote on the Preliminary Question*.
- Russia and France vote against the Preliminary Question, thereby casting vetoes.
- The Draft Resolution is voted upon in a substantive vote, with vetoes in order.

Example 6

- A Draft Resolution is introduced by China calling for an end to Western imperialism.
- The Chairs determine that this is a substantive matter given the clear political nature of the Draft Resolution.
- No Doubts are raised by members.
- The Draft Resolution is voted on in a substantive vote, with vetoes in order.

4 CHANGES TO RULES OF PROCEDURES

Section II: Representation and Voting Rights

Rule 2.1 (Replaces Rule 2.1 in ROP)

Each member state in this committee will be represented by two delegates. Observers will also be represented by two delegates

Rule 2.2 (Replaces Rule 2.2 in ROP)

Representatives of Accredited Observers have the same rights and privileges as those of full members, but are excluded from any and all voting in the council. While they may raise motions and act as Sponsors or Signatories to Resolutions and Amendments, these rights are limited, as will be further explained in **Sections VIII, IX, and X**.

Section III: Quorum

Rule 3.1 (Replaces Rules 3.1 and 3.2 in ROP)

There is no quorum in this committee.

Section V: Definition of Key Terms

Rule 5.1 (Replaces Rule 5.1 in ROP)

This section contains the definitions of several technical terms that will be commonly used throughout this document and during the course of the conference.

- a. **Chairs** - The individuals helping the committee and moderating committee discussions. They are the first points of contact for any questions delegates may have. They may also be referred to collectively as 'Dais', or individually as 'Chairpersons'.

- b. **Voting Majority** - The act of achieving a **majority equal to or greater than nine-fifteenth (9/15)** of the committee's delegates (excluding observers), rounded up to the nearest whole number, who are present and voting, in favour of a certain committee matter. The total vote count excludes all member states who had voted to abstain.
- c. **Procedural Vote** - A vote to decide on committee matters that fall under **Appendix A**, which involves reaching a voting majority to pass.
- d. **Substantive Vote** - A vote to decide on committee matters relating to Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions that do not fall under **Rule A.2**. To pass the subject of the vote, a voting majority must be reached and all the Permanent Five members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) must not vote against.
- e. **Abstention** - The act of declining to vote on either procedural or substantive matters.
- f. **Motion** - A formal proposal raised by a delegate to request for the committee to take certain specific actions. Motions are fully expounded upon in **Section VII**.
- g. **Sponsor** - Sponsors are delegates who have submitted a Draft Resolution, and are typically the main writers and supporters of the content in the Draft Resolution. They are sometimes referred to as 'Submitters'.
- h. **Signatory:** Signatories are delegates who are interested in seeing a Draft Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment being formally discussed in the committee, regardless of whether these delegates support their contents. There is no limit to the maximum number of Signatories allowed for either document.
- i. **Reasonable Doubt** - The act of raising a Doubt to the Chairs about the Chairs' classification of a vote, through notepaper and with proper justification, which the Chairs then deem reasonable. *A Vote on the Preliminary Question* shall follow the raising of a Reasonable Doubt.

- j. **Vote on the Preliminary Question** - A vote on the question of whether the matter under consideration is procedural. The vote on the preliminary question is a substantive vote, and will be called by the Chairs after a Reasonable Doubt has been raised.

Section VIII: Flow of Debate

Rule 8.1 (Replaces Rule 8.1 in ROP)

To summarise the overview of debate proceedings, please reference the flowchart below (Figure 1) of debate from the start of conference to the conclusion of discussion on a debate topic. Please read on to better understand the nuances of each phase of debate.

Note: *Reasonable Doubt (RD)* is a special mechanic in this committee. For more information, please refer to **Rule 11.5**.

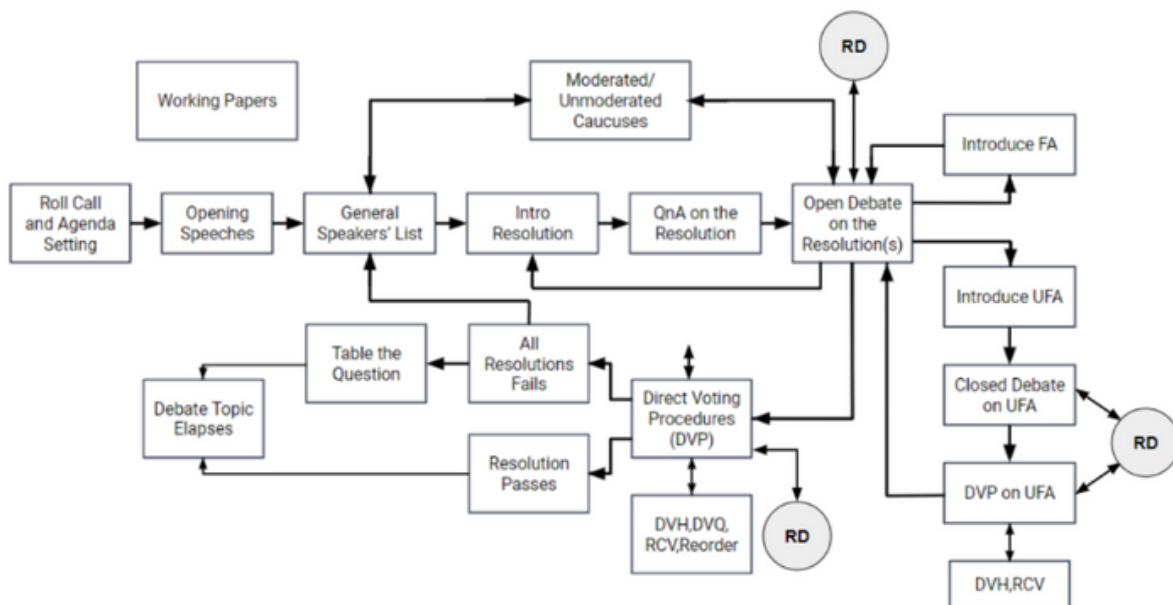


Figure 1: Overview of Debate Proceedings

Rule 8.2.3 (Replaces Rule 8.2.3 in ROP)

Once roll call is completed, the chairs will state the total number of delegates present as well as the number of votes required for a voting majority.

Rule 8.3.3 (Replaces Rule 8.3.3 in ROP)

At the end of all the speeches, the committee will conduct a procedural vote to decide which topic to debate first. The first topic, being the primary topic, will be voted upon first, followed by the second topic. The topic that achieves a voting majority shall be the first topic to be debated.

Rule 8.5.6 (Replaces Rule 8.5.6 in ROP)

If delegates wish to change the speaking time, a Motion to Change the Speaking Time may be raised which will require a **voting majority procedural vote** to pass.

Example: *“Motion to Change the Speaking Time to 60 seconds per speaker.”*

Rule 8.6.2 (Replaces Rule 8.6.2 in ROP)

A delegate wishing to raise a motion may raise their placard until the delegate is recognised by the Chairs. When recognised, the delegate is to stand and state the motion clearly for the committee to hear.

- a. If the delegate represents an observer state, the Chairs will ask the committee if any member (Permanent or Non-Permanent) is in favour of the introduction of the motion raised by the delegate. In the case where no member of the Security Council indicates in favour of the introduction of the motion, the motion is rejected.

Rule 8.6.4 (Replaces Rule 8.6.4 in ROP)

There are two types of motions, namely -

- a. Procedural Motions - Motions that concern the procedures of debate. These motions require a voting majority to pass.
 - i. Before the commencement of a procedural vote, the Chairs will ask for seconds and objections for the motion.
 - ii. Any motion with seconds and no objections will automatically pass, while any motion with no seconds will automatically fail.

- iii. If there are both seconds and objections, the committee will move to a procedural vote for the motion.
- iv. Abstentions are in order during a procedural vote.
- b. Substantive Motions - Motions that concern substantive actions of consequence which the committee desires to or is refraining from executing, namely the passing or failing of some Draft Resolutions and Unfriendly Amendments. These motions require a voting majority to pass and abstentions are in order.
 - i. Once a substantive motion is raised, the committee will directly move into the substantive vote.
 - ii. Abstentions are in order during substantive motions.

More details regarding substantive motions are detailed in **Section XI**.

Section IX: Documents

Rule 9.2

The following sub-rules under **Rule 9.2** will detail the procedures for Draft Resolutions.

Rule 9.2.3 (Replaces Rule 9.2.3 in ROP)

A minimum of two (2) Sponsors, with a maximum of three (3) other Sponsors or one-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) of the committee, whichever is lower, is required for the delegate's Resolution to be valid.

Rule 9.2.4 (Replaces Rule 9.2.4 in ROP)

A minimum of at least one-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$ or 20%) of the members present in committee, rounded up to the nearest whole number, must be in support of having the Resolution introduced. This number can be tabulated by summing up the total number of Sponsors and Signatories, excluding any observers who are Sponsors and Signatories.

Section X: Amendments

Rule 10.5

The following sub-rules under **Rule 10.5** will detail the procedures for Unfriendly Amendments.

Rule 10.5.4 (Replaces Rule 10.5.4 in ROP)

Unfriendly Amendments may have more than one (1) Sponsor, capped at a maximum limit of three (3) Sponsors or one-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) of the members present in the committee, whichever is lower. Observers are not included in this tally.

Rule 10.5.5 (Replaces Rule 10.5.5 in ROP)

The delegate is to ensure that at least one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$) of the members present in the committee, rounded up to the nearest whole number, are Signatories of the delegate's Unfriendly Amendment for it to be deemed valid. Observers are not included in this tally.

Section XI: Direct Voting Procedure on Resolutions

Rule 11.1.1 (Replaces Rule 11.1.1 in ROP)

At any point in time during open debate, a delegate may raise the *Motion to Close Debate and Move into Direct Voting Procedure (DVP)*. This motion will be voted on in a procedural vote.

Rule 11.1.7 (Replaces Rule 11.1.7 in ROP)

Resolutions will be voted upon substantively, except when their contents have been deemed wholly procedural, in accordance with **Rule A.2**.

Rule 11.3 (Replaces Rule 11.3)

The following motions are in order during Direct Voting Procedure (DVP) on Resolutions:

a. The Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions

The Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions can be raised if there are multiple Resolutions on the floor. This motion may be raised before closed debate on any Resolution commences, and when there is still more than one Resolution left to be voted upon. If passed, this motion will change the order of the Resolutions being voted on, and the Motion to Reorder Draft Resolution cannot be raised anymore to avoid trivialisation of the same. **This motion will not apply to DVP on Unfriendly Amendments.**

Example: *“Motion to Reorder Resolutions. The new order will be Resolution 2, Resolution 1, and finally Resolution 3.”*

b. Motion to Divide the House

The Motion to Divide the House is a motion that forces all delegates eligible for substantive voting to only vote ‘For’ or ‘Against’ the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment in question if passed; abstentions will not be allowed.

c. Motion to Divide the Question

The Motion to Divide the Question is when a delegate raises this motion and is passed, the committee will conduct a vote on individual components of the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment in question as opposed to the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment as a whole. The process of such a motion is described below. A delegate raising this motion **must specify how the Question should be divided** (i.e., Divide by Article, operative clauses, sub-clauses, etc.). If a delegate fails to specify how the Question should be divided, the Question will be divided by Articles by default.

Example: *“Motion to Divide the Question by Article(s).”* or *“Motion to Divide the Question by operative clauses.”*

Procedure to Divide the Question

- i. The chairs will be afforded special discretion to reject this motion for Unfriendly Amendments on grounds of triviality (i.e. the Amendment is not substantial enough for a worthwhile division of the Question).
 - ii. If passed, individual components of the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment affected will be voted on in either a procedural or substantive vote, depending on the content of the clauses. Any components failing the vote will be struck off. Abstentions will be in order and will follow the procedure highlighted in **Rule 11.1.8**.
 - iii. All the retained components will then be compiled as a new Resolution and will immediately go through a DVP. This will be either a procedural or substantive vote, depending on the content of the clauses.
 - iv. If less than one-half (1/2) of the original Operative Clauses are retained, the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment automatically fails.
 - v. Each article of a Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment will be considered an individual component by default. Should any delegate raise an objection to voting article by article, each clause of a Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment will be considered an individual component instead.
- d. Motion for a Roll Call Vote
A Motion for a Roll Call Vote, if passed, will require delegates to be asked individually to cast their vote for the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment in question, in alphabetical order of their countries. There will be two rounds of voting, as described in **Rules 11.3 d.i. to d.iii.**
- i. In the First Round, the delegates may vote 'For', 'Against', 'Abstain', or 'Pass'. A delegate who has voted 'Pass' would be taken to have not participated in the First Round of voting and is required to vote in the Second Round.

- ii. In the Second Round Delegates who passed in Round 1 will now vote 'For', 'Against', or 'Abstain' on the Resolution or Unfriendly Amendment. Delegates who voted 'For', 'Against' or 'Abstain' in the First Round are not allowed to recast a vote in the Second Round.
- iii. The total number of votes casted for 'For', 'Against' and 'Abstain' are tallied from both rounds of voting and the outcome shall be decided from thereafter.

Rule 11.5 (Added to Section XI)

The following sub-rules under **Rule 11.5** will describe the process by which a reasonable doubt may be raised during the course of debate on Resolution or Unfriendly Amendments.

Rule 11.5.1

The Chairs will classify individual clauses in a Resolution and Unfriendly Amendment as either "procedural" or "substantive" before they are introduced to the committee. The classification will be done based on the definitions provided in **Rule 5.1 (c) and (d)**.

Rule 11.5.2

If any delegate disagrees with the Chairs' classification of a particular clause, they are to raise a doubt to the Chairs through notepaper and with proper justification. These must be done during specific time windows as stipulated below:

- a. **For a Resolution** - The doubt must be raised either during Open Debate on the Resolution or during Direct Voting Procedures.
- b. **For an Unfriendly Amendment** - The doubt must be raised either during Closed Debate on the Unfriendly Amendment or during Direct Voting Procedures.

Rule 11.5.3

The Chairs reserve the discretion to deem a Doubt reasonable.

Rule 11.5.4

If the Chairs make the determination that a Doubt is reasonable, a *Vote on the Preliminary Question* will be held promptly for the committee to decide on the nature of the clause in question. The *Vote on the Preliminary Question* will be a substantive vote.

Appendix A: Definition of a Procedural Vote

Rule A.1

A vote to decide on committee matters relating to decisions involving procedure is a procedural vote.

Rule A.2

A vote to decide committee matters relating to Resolutions and Amendments may be a procedural vote, provided all the clauses under consideration fulfils one or more of **Rules A.3 to A.5**.

Rule A.3

Matters that shall be deemed procedural by the Chairs include:

- a. Submission to the General Assembly of any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.
- b. Request to the General Assembly that the General Assembly make a recommendation on a dispute or situation in respect of which the Security Council is exercising the functions assigned to it in the Charter.
- c. Request to the Secretary-General for the convocation of a Special Session of the General Assembly.
- d. Establishment of such subsidiary organs as the Security Council deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
- e. Steps incidental to the establishment of a subsidiary organ, such as but not limited to the appointment of members, terms of reference and rules of procedure. (However, the approval of the terms of reference will be a substantive vote if the subsidiary organ were given authority to take steps which, if taken by the Security Council, would be a substantive matter.)
- f. Decision to remind members of their obligations under the Charter.
- g. Establishment of procedures for the hearing of disputes or situations.
- h. Request for information on the progress of the results of resort to peaceful means of settlement.
- i. Request for assistance from the Economic and Social Council.

Rule A.4

For matters not listed in **Rule A.3**, they shall be classified by the Chairs in accordance with the following principle: **All matters that do not involve direct measures in connection with settlement of disputes, adjustment of situations likely to lead to disputes, determination of threats to the peace, removal of threats to the peace, and suppression of breaches of the peace shall be deemed procedural.**

Rule A.5

For a matter for which Reasonable Doubt has been raised by a member of this committee, and a subsequent *Vote on the Preliminary Question* is passed by the committee, the matter in question shall be deemed procedural.