

SweMUN

SWEDEN MODEL UNITED NATIONS



FN-förbundet
UNA SWEDEN

Guide to the Rules of Procedure at SweMUN

Security Council



Introduction

In 2017, SweMUN will simulate a Security Council, which will use a different set of Rules of Procedure than most Model UNs at Swedish high schools. This document will be your guide for these Rules of Procedure. This is a guide to understand the Rules of Procedure. This guide will help to clarify the negotiation processes, the structure and the procedures of the Security Council.

Composition of the Security Council

The Security Council consists of 15 member states. The five permanent member states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. These five member states (the P-5) have veto power, meaning that a resolution can only pass when none of them have voted against it. Veto power does not apply to procedural matters (e.g. when voting on whether to pass a motion or not). Before the SweMUN conference, please access this website to see the ten non-permanent member states, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/>.

Rules of conduct / procedure

Opening speeches

After a topic on the agenda is opened, the delegations will give their opening speeches. The Security Council opening speeches will be given separately – after those in the General Assembly – once the Security Council assembles in its committee room.

The length of the opening speech is maximum 2 minutes, and should a delegation choose not to fully use their time, any remaining time will automatically be yielded to the President. Please note that each delegation should prepare one opening speech for each item on the agenda. This means that each delegation should have two opening speeches prepared.

Debating the topics

In the Security Council of SweMUN there will be three kinds of debate: formal debate, formal informal debate, and informal debate. These might seem difficult to remember as their names are quite similar, but the reason for using them is that they are the closest to the real UN rules one gets. Below you will find presentations of each debate type, as well as an explanation on how to alternate between them.

Formal debate

Every session starts with a formal debate. This is the main setting for the Security Council. In the formal debate, a speakers list is used. When asked by the President, delegations show their wish to be added to the speakers list by a show of placards, and they are then added to the list. The President presides over the formal debate, and no member state may address the council without the permission of the President.

Formal Informal debate

During formal informal debate, the President continues to preside over the debate and the council, and no member state may address the council without the President's permission. A speakers list is not used. Instead, when asked by the President, member states wishing to speak show their placards, and the President chooses the next speaker.

Informal debate

During the informal debate, which is in many ways similar to the “lobbying” session often used at high school MUNs, the President no longer presides over the council. The rules of procedure do not govern the debate. The delegations may leave the room, talk to each other, and try to find solutions on the current topic of discussion. An informal debate may also be used to have fika or lunch.

How to alternate between the three types of debates

When in formal debate, a delegation may motion for a formal informal debate or an informal debate. This is done by a show of placards when the President asks for motions. When motioning for a formal informal debate, the delegation must specify the total time for the debate, the speakers time, and a specific topic (e.g. humanitarian corridor in Syria). When motioning for an informal debate, the delegation must specify the total time and the subject (e.g. merging two resolutions). It is only possible to motion to switch to formal informal debate or informal debate while the Council is in formal debate. Delegations cannot motion for a formal debate, as this is the debate that the Council is already in when motions are accepted. When in formal informal or informal debate, the Council has to wait until the total time of the debate has run out before the council can go back to formal debate.

When a motion is suggested, the President will ask if there are any objections. Seeing none, the motion is carried by consensus. If there are objections, there will be a vote determined by an affirmative vote of nine members. The P-5 will not have veto power on this vote, as it is a procedural matter.

Other rules

Point of order

At the Security Council of SweMUN 2016, only one point is used: point of order. This point includes all other points, such as point of personal privilege, point of information and point of order. To use the point of order, the delegation simply lifts the placard marked “point of order”, and the President then rules on it.

Right of reply

The right of reply is used when a delegation has been mentioned by another delegation in a speech, or feels that it has been gravely offended and wishes to respond. To use the right of reply, the delegation lifts the placard marked “point of order” and states that it wishes to use the right of reply. The President decides whether to allow the reply or not.

No yielding

If a delegation does not use its speaking time in full, the remaining time goes directly back to the President. It is not possible to yield the time to another delegation or to questions.

Resolutions

The purpose of the sessions of the Security Council is to agree on a resolution (one per agenda item), preferably by consensus. Consensus-based Security Council resolutions have the greatest possible international legitimacy. Once a resolution on an agenda item has passed, this agenda item will be closed and the debate on the next item will begin, meaning that not more than one resolution per agenda item can pass.

A resolution adopted by the Security Council is a legally binding document which consists of two types of clauses: preambulatory and operative clauses. The preambulatory clauses introduce the issues, but also make note of previous resolutions and international law. Each preambulatory clause ends with a comma (.). The operative clauses are the course of action that the Council wishes to take, and each operative clause ends with a semicolon (;). The last operative clause of a resolution ends with a full stop (.).

The resolutions of the Security Council at SweMUN will follow the same structure as the ones in the General Assembly. Further instructions are found here:

<http://fn.se/swemun/konferens/att-forbereda-sig/> or for English-speaking student here <http://fn.se/swemun/information-in-english/conference/how-to-prepare-yourself-as-a-delegate/>. Below, delegations will find suggestions on the preambulatory and operative clauses that should be used.

Preambulatory clauses:

Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Aware of
Believing
Bearing in mind
Cognizant
Conscious
Concerned
Confident
Contemplating
Convinced
Declaring
Desiring
Deploing
Expecting
Expressing its satisfaction
Emphasizing

Expressing its appreciation
Fulfilling
Fully alarmed
Fully aware
Guided by
Having adopted
Having assessed
Having considered
Having considered further
Having devoted attention
Having examined
Having heard
Having received
Having studied
Keeping in mind
Mindful

Noting
Noting with regret
Noting with satisfaction
Noting with deep concern
Noting with approval
Observing
Realizing
Reaffirming
Recognizing
Referring
Regretting
Seeking
Stressing
Taking into account
Taking note
Viewing with appreciation
Welcoming

Operative clauses:

Accepts
Affirms
Approves
Authorizes
Calls for
Calls upon
Commends
Condemns
Confirms
Considers
Declares
Declares accordingly
Demands

Deplores
Draws attention
Designates
Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Invites
Notes
Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends

Reminds
Regrets
Reiterates
Requests
Resolves
Solemnly affirms
Stresses
Supports
Takes note of
Trusts
Underlines
Urges
Welcomes

To table a draft resolution

To “table a draft resolution” is the term used when officially introducing a resolution to the Council. This is done by sending it to the President, who will revise it and either accept it or send it back to be corrected. Once approved by the President, the delegation which submitted the resolution may motion to table the resolution. This does not mean that the Council has to vote on the resolution – it simply means that the resolution officially exists. A resolution can only be referred to in speeches after it has been tabled. Please note that no co-sponsors or signatories are needed to table a resolution, so a delegation can submit a resolution all by itself. However, as the goal for the Security Council is to reach consensus, it can be wise to have other delegations that agree with the content of the resolution. Also note that more than one resolution may be tabled on the same agenda item. There is no limit for how many resolutions that can be tabled. However, only one resolution per agenda item can be adopted by the Council.

If delegations wish to support a resolution, they may become co-sponsors. Co-sponsors, together with the main sponsor, own the resolution, so any amendments will also have to be approved by them. Any amendments made to a resolution after it has been tabled must also be accepted by the President to be valid. Delegations that are not co-sponsoring may also make changes to resolutions, but this has to be done in session by sending the amendment to the President. When approved by the President, the delegation may motion to table the amendment, and then motion to take action on it. This means that the Council will vote whether to accept the amendment or not by a vote requiring an affirmative vote of nine members. In order for the amendment to pass, none of the permanent five members may vote against it. If the amendment is adopted, it will be added to the resolution. Once an amendment has been accepted by the Council, the main sponsor and the co-sponsors no longer own the resolution, as its content has been changed.

To take action (voting) on a resolution

When a delegation wishes to vote on a resolution, it motions to take action on resolution N^o X. If there are objections, there will be a vote whether to take action or not, determined by affirmative votes of nine members. The P-5 does not have veto power on this vote. If there are no objections, or the vote approves of taking action, there will be a voting procedure. All delegations may choose between voting in favor, voting against, or abstaining from voting. In order for the resolution to pass, an affirmative vote from nine members is required. If a P-5 delegation chooses to vote against, the resolution fails to pass. If more than half of the member states abstain from voting, the resolution fails.

If a resolution fails, the voting procedure will continue on the other resolutions that have been tabled, in the order that they were tabled. Please note that if the motion to take action is carried, the agenda item of the current discussion is closed, and cannot be re-opened. This means that motioning to take action on a resolution concludes all discussions on the item, even if the resolution fails