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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative organ of the United Nations. At present, it comprises 193 Member States, each having one vote. Its resolutions, though not binding, represent the moral authority of the international community from the legal point of view.

According to Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter, the General Assembly has the following powers and functions:

a) Discuss and, without prejudice to the powers of the Security Council, make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
b) Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament and arms regulation;
c) Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
d) Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations;
e) Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs;
f) Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States.

The General Assembly commences its work every year in the third week of September with a general debate, during which it is customary for Heads of State and Government of Member States to speak. Once the debate is concluded, the Assembly considers and debates the subject matters of the programme, according to their contents, in each of the Assembly’s six committees, i.e.:

- First Committee: Disarmament and International Security
- Second Committee: Economic and Financial Matters
- Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Matters
- Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonisation Matters
- Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary Matters
- Sixth Committee: Legal Matters

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rule 1. Rules of Procedure
The General Assembly is governed by the present rules of procedure and, by extension, by the General Rules of Procedure of the model. For all matters not covered by these rules, the workings of the General Assembly are subject to the General Rules of Procedure. In case of any contradiction or conflict, the specific rules shall apply.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to modify the present rules of procedure at any time, with the proviso that any modifications shall immediately be published and notified so as to guarantee the right of participants to be informed of the changes.

**Rule 2. Language**

Spanish shall be the official working language of the General Assembly and the use of any other language shall not be allowed during sessions.

**Rule 3. Types of meeting in the General Assembly**

The General Assembly may meet either in plenary session or in committee. Plenary sessions shall be held at the beginning and end of the model, and committee meetings, in the case of the Second and Third Committees, will be held during the remainder of the sessions.

**II. REPRESENTATION**

**Rule 4. Members of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly shall comprise 15 delegations, corresponding to Member States, elected according to the subject matters being debated and following criteria of regional diversity. All Member States with representation in the model shall have a delegation each both in the two Committees and in the plenary sessions. At its own discretion and in accordance with availability or the functioning of the model, the Organising Committee shall be able to modify membership of the General Assembly.

**Rule 5. Observers**

Where appropriate, the General Assembly may invite observers to attend its deliberations, as established by the Secretariat and the Organising Committee. In accordance with rule 16 of the General Rules, observers shall have a voice but no vote in matters both substantive and procedural. Nor shall they be entitled to endorse draft resolutions or amendments.

**III. PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Rule 6. First Plenary Session**

At the start of the model, a Plenary Session will be held with the sole objective of allotting the subject matters to each of the Committees according to their competences.
regarding the contents, and then they shall be debated in each of the respective Committees.

Rule 7. Agenda

The Chair of each Committee shall decide the matters to be treated, in accordance with rule 5 of the General Rules of Procedure. Only those items, of which notice has been given to Member States, as set out in the aforementioned rule 5, may be included in the provisional agenda, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, in which case the Assembly General will abstain in favour of the special competence to the Council.

At the start of each session, the Chair shall communicate the agenda to the Committee delegates, as well as any additions or modifications to it.

Rule 8. Adjournment of an item

Any unfinished business on the agenda of each Committee will automatically be included in the following session’s agenda, except if there is an agreement to the contrary reached by the Committee.

Rule 9. Proposal for the inclusion of an item

The Secretary-General, or any Member State may draw the attention of either of the General Assembly’s Committees any dispute that comes within their remit. A proposal for its inclusion on the agenda should be submitted in writing to the Committee Chair at the start of the session. It is the prerogative of the Chair to analyse and approve the proposal and it may, if it so desires, subject it to a vote of the members. If approved, the subject matter shall be included as a fully-fledged item in the Committee’s respective programme of work.

Rule 10. Supplementary items

The Secretary-General, the Chair or the Organising Committee may include additional items, meriting the attention of either of the Committees, on their agenda at any time during the sessions.

IV. OFFICERS

Rule 11. Presidency

The Presidency of Plenary Sessions of the General Assembly corresponds to the Chair made up of the President and Vice-President of the Committees. The Presidency shall represent the Assembly to the Organisation and the Assembly General in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.
The Presidency of the Committees falls upon the Chair of each, made up of the corresponding Presidents and Vice-Presidents, who will work in collegiate fashion.

**Rule 12. Powers of the Presidency**

The Presidency shall be entrusted to ensure compliance with the present rules of procedure by exercising all the powers contained therein. Equally it shall have all the powers outlined in rule 12 of the General Rules of Procedure.

**Rule 13. Secretariat**

The Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him/her as his/her representative, may attend and take part in the General Assembly sessions. His/her powers, apart from those outlined in rule 10 of the General Rules of Procedure, also include the following:

1. Bring to the attention of the General Assembly matters that fall under its remit
2. Modify the agenda of the General Assembly with the consent of the President and the Organisation
3. Mediate in negotiations, both formal and informal, between Member States
4. Act as guarantor of the treaties, dispositions and measures decreed by the General Assembly

**V. PROCEDURE**

**Rule 14. Quorum**

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Plenary or corresponding Committees are present.

**Rule 15. Voting**

Decisions of the Assembly General, both in Plenary Session and in Committee, shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, when they concern the following:

- Recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security
- The admission or expulsion of new Member States
- The suspension of the rights and privileges of membership
- Questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system
- Budgetary questions
Decisions on all other questions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

Delegations shall have one vote per Member State in plenary sessions of the General Assembly.

**Rule 16. Final Plenary Session**

Upon concluding their work, each Committee shall submit the group of resolutions approved for ratification by the final plenary session of the General Assembly, and at least one resolution for open debate, to be held in numerical order of the Committees. In the event of two or more resolutions being approved by one Committee, the delegations of that Committee shall decide, as the final item on their agenda in the Committee stage, which of the resolutions shall be debated in the plenary.

The plenary session shall be chaired by the President of the corresponding Committee, who shall start proceedings by submitting the resolution or resolutions not to be debated for their ratification. After this, the President shall proceed to read the resolution to be debated, and may choose to limit that reading to the operative clauses only. Subsequently, a maximum of three representatives from any of the sponsoring delegations shall be called to appear before the Plenary to defend the resolution. The delegates may be questioned by the plenary, moderated by the Chair that shall stipulate the time allowed for replies, which in no case should exceed a total of ten minutes. Before the round of questions, the Chair may, should it be deemed convenient, allow the speakers to make a statement to present and defend the draft resolution, allotting them a maximum of three minutes in total. After this, one amendment shall be allowed for debate through submission of the corresponding motion, in accordance with the procedure set out in rule 44 of the General Rules of Procedure. Finally, there shall be a vote on the ratification of the resolution by the Plenary.