SECURITY COUNCIL

RULES OF PROCEDURE

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THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council has 15 members. Five (China, the United States, the Russian Federation, France and the United Kingdom – allied countries during the Second World War) are Permanent Members. The other ten non-Permanent Members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years, depending on the part of the world to which they belong.

The approval of a resolution in the Security Council requires nine affirmative votes with no negative vote by any of the five Permanent Members. A “no” vote by a Permanent member blocks the resolution and is known as the “right to veto”.

In its decisions, the Council first explores the possibility of solving disputes by peaceful means. If there is fighting, the Council tries to achieve a ceasefire. If this fails, under the provisions of the Charter, the Council can authorise the use of “all means necessary”, including collective military measures, or send a peacekeeping mission to the area.

The decisions of the Security Council are legally binding on all UN Member States.

The Security Council may be called upon to meet in emergency session. Any country, or the Secretary-General, may refer a dispute, or a threat to peace, to the Security Council for its consideration.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rule 1. Rules of Procedure

The Security Council 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 Security Council 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. Functions and Powers

The Security Council deals with matters related to international peace and security, in accordance with the powers conferred on it by Chapter V of the United
Nations Charter. It is the only UN organ with the power to approve resolutions that are legally binding on all Member States.
The Security Council investigates any dispute that might threaten international peace and security. Its powers, set out in chapters VI and VII of the Charter, include making recommendations, acting as mediator, urging peaceful settlements, and if necessary, authorising coercive measures, such as sanctions, embargoes or the use of force.

Rule 3. Language

Spanish shall be the official working language of the Security Council and the use of any other language shall not be allowed during meetings.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Rule 4. Members of the Security Council

The Security Council shall comprise 15 delegations, one each for the Member States represented during the period of meetings of the model. Of the Member States, 15 are Permanent Members – the People’s Republic of China, the United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Russian Federation - and the other ten are considered non-permanent.

At its own discretion, and in accordance with availability or the functioning of the model, the Organising Committee shall be able to modify the composition of the membership of non-Permanent members of the Security Council.

Rule 5. Observers

Where appropriate, the Security Council 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. They shall not be entitled to endorse draft resolutions or amendments.

Rule 6. Countries invited to the Security Council

UN Member States that are not members of the Security Council and States that are not members of the United Nations may take part in the Security Council through the figure of the Representative to the Council. The representatives appointed to this effect shall have a voice but no vote in matters both substantive and procedural. They shall not be entitled to endorse draft resolutions or amendments. A representative of an invited country may work on a draft resolution or an amendment but these may only be tabled at the request of a Member State of the Council by means of the corresponding motion – rules 43 and 44 of the General Rules of Procedure.
**Rule 7. Appearance before the Security Council**

The Security Council may summon a Member State taking part in the model but not represented in the Council to appear before it, if it considers that the interests of that Member State are affected in any special way. Its presence may be requested in a note the Presidency by any Member State of the Council and it shall be the Chair that decides whether or not it is in order, taking into account progress in debate. Likewise, the Presidency may request the appearance of a Member State by notifying the Chair of the pertinent committee.

An appearance may also be requested to the Presidency by any Member State that does not belong to the Council. The request should be made in writing, specifying the reasons that make the appearance of the delegation in question necessary. The Presidency shall have the power to accept or reject the request, taking into account progress in debate.

The delegate of the Member State appearing before the Council shall be questioned by its members, steered by the Chair that shall stipulate the time for answers, which shall never be more than a maximum of ten minutes. At the his/her own request, and should the Presidency deem it fit, the delegate may make a speech to clarify the position of his/her country on the issue in question, but this shall in no case exceed two minutes.

**III. PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Rule 8. Agenda**

The Presidency shall decide the matters to be treated by the Security Council, 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.

At the start of each meeting, the Presidency shall communicate the agenda to the Security Council, as well as any additions or modifications to it.

**Rule 9. Vote on the agenda**

At the start of each day of meetings, there shall be a procedural vote to decide on the order of the items in the programme of work.

**Rule 10. Adjournment of an item**

Any item of the agenda of a meeting of the Security Council, consideration of which has not been completed at that meeting, shall, unless the Security Council otherwise decides, automatically be included in the agenda of the next meeting.
Rule 9. Proposal for the inclusion of an item

The Secretary-General, Member States of the Council, or any other Member State of the United Nations may draw the attention of the Security Council to any dispute or situation that threatens the maintenance of international peace and security. The petition should be presented in writing to the Presidency at the start of the meeting. 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 Council. If approved, the matter shall be included as a fully-fledged item in the Security Council’s programme of work.

Rule 10. Supplementary items

The Secretary-General, the Presidency or the Organising Committee may include, at any time during the meetings, additional items, meriting the attention of the Security Council.

Rule 11. Emergency meeting

The Security Council may be convened for an emergency meeting to debate and try to resolve any problem that threatens international peace and security. An emergency meeting shall take precedence in the working programme of the Security Council.

IV. OFFICERS

Rule 14. Presidency

The Presidency of Security Council falls upon the Chair, the President and Vice-President who shall work in collegiate fashion. The President shall represent the Council, in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations, to the Organisation and the Assembly General.

Rule 15. 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 as set out in rule 12 of the General Rules of Procedure.

Rule 16. Presidential statement

The Presidency, in the name of the Security Council, may issue presidential statements. A presidential statement is a non-binding document in which the Presidency outlines the Council’s opinion on some of the items in the working programme. The presidential statement shall be drafted by the Chair, with the consensus and approval of all Member States of the Security Council.
Rule 17. Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him/her as his/her representative, may attend and take part in Security meetings. 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 Security Council questions that fall under its remit as the guarantor of international peace and security.
2. Modify the agenda of the Security Council with the consent of the Presidency and the Organisation.
5. Be appointed by the Security Council as special rapporteur in any disputes or problems that threaten international peace and security.

V. PROCEDURE

Rule 18 Voting

Voting, both procedural and substantive, needs the affirmative votes of nine Members for a matter to be approved. The five Permanent Members have the right to veto in substantive votes, so, if any Permanent Member should vote against any substantive issue, the matter is automatically rejected.

Rule 19. Quorum

The Presidency may declare a meeting open and allow debate to start, when at least two thirds of the Council Members are present.

Rule 20. Meeting behind closed doors

As a general rule, and with the exception of voting, meetings of the Security Council shall be public.

However, this custom be suspended in order to hold a meeting behind closed doors, when the doors shall be sealed and people from outside the Security Council, including - but not limited to - non-Member States, observers, representatives, support personnel and members of the pubic, shall not be allowed to enter.

To call for a meeting behind closed doors, delegates should when the floor is open, put a motion to the Chair and it shall immediately be put to a vote, with a simple majority required for its approval. To end a meeting behind closed doors, a motion to reopen the meeting shall be needed, with the same prerequisites as a motion to have a meeting behind closed doors. Moreover, the Chair may order a meeting behind closed doors, at any time, and at his own discretion.
Rule 21. Amendments

Amendments come under the provisions established in the General Rules of Procedure, but being of a substantive nature, they are subject to the right to veto. To be approved, an amendment requires 9 affirmative votes from Permanent Members, with none against.

Rule 22. Resolutions

Resolutions come under the provisions established in the General Rules of Procedure, but being of a substantive nature, they are subject to the right to veto. To be approved, a resolution requires 9 affirmative votes from Permanent Members, with none against.

Resolutions of the Security Council are legally binding, so that as well as making recommendations, they may establish requirements that Member States are obliged to meet. The Security Council is the only organ with powers to authorise or request economic sanctions, embargoes, or the use of force under the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.