

## WASMUN 2017 Long Form Rules

\*\*Updated: Fall 2016

### General Rules

**INTRODUCTION:** These rules of procedure are binding in all Washington State Model United Nations Committee meetings. Committees shall proceed in the following manner: A Delegate may raise his/her placard in order to be recognized by the Director. After the delegate has been recognized, the delegate must state the rule to which he/she rises. WASMUN will follow the UN Rules of Procedure, as adopted by the GA, SC, or relevant body, in addition to the rules below. Where the two rules conflict, WASMUN rules will take precedent.

**1. CREDENTIALS AND ATTIRE:** All participants must wear their credentials and be dressed appropriately at all times. WASMUN observes Western-Business attire as its standard. Any participant who does not have his/her credentials will not be recognized by the Director to speak or vote on any motion. Any Delegate dressed in a manner that disrupts Committee proceedings or offends his/her fellow Delegates may be dismissed by the Director and/or the situation may be referred to the Secretariat.

**2. GENERAL DUTIES OF DELEGATES:** Each Delegate attending the conference has the duty to respect the decisions of the Committee Director, gain recognition from the Director before addressing the Committee, advocate his/her represented nation's interests, accord due courtesy and respect to fellow Delegates and other conference participants, and act in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Any Delegate will be removed from Committee proceedings if he/she is found in contempt of these duties.

**3. GENERAL DUTIES OF THE SECRETARIAT:** All rights and privileges accorded to the Secretariat in these rules apply to the Secretary-General, the Director-General, and any other individual so designated by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General shall hold his/her position throughout the conference. He/she may designate a member of the Secretariat to act in his/her place at any conference meeting. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required for Committee session. The Secretariat shall receive, print and distribute resolutions of the Committees, and have custody over and ensure proper preservation of documents.

**4. GENERAL DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE DIRECTOR:** All rights and privileges accorded to the Director in these rules are also accorded to the Assistant Director and Chair. The Committee Director shall hold his/her position throughout the conference. The Director may pass any or all of his/her duties to the Assistant Director and/or Chair, on a temporary or permanent basis. In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him/her herein, the Director of the Committee shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct its discussions, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and exercise control of the proceedings of the Committee and the maintenance of order at its meetings. The Director may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the closure of the speakers list, or the closure of the debate. He/she may also propose the suspension or adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. The Director is responsible for the flow of debate, and as such, introduces items that interrupt committee procedure at their discretion.

**5. QUORUM:** One third of the members of the Committee present shall constitute a quorum. Directors must establish quorum after lunch, long breaks and committee sessions. Regardless of quorum, the Director may open any meeting and commence with its proceedings at his/her discretion. A quorum is required to have a substantive vote, i.e. to vote on a resolution and/or amendment.

## Committee Operations

**6. SETTING THE AGENDA:** Discussion of and setting the agenda will be the first order of business for the Committee. A motion to set the agenda requires a simple majority. Multiple proposals for setting the agenda are in order. Once voting has begun on motions to set the agenda, no further motions will be accepted. The motions will be voted on in the order in which the Director accepts them. The first motion to receive a simple majority vote will be adopted by the Committee. Should no proposal receive a majority vote, the Committee will default to the order as set forth on the Provisional Agenda of WASMUN 2017, unless under director discretion, the committee staff decides it appropriate to continue with debate regarding setting the agenda.

**7. SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE:** After the agenda has been determined, substantive debate on that topic will begin. A speakers' list will be established for all debate on an agenda item, except when superseded by procedural motions or the introduction of a resolution. Speakers may speak on the agenda item being considered and may address any working paper or draft resolution on the floor. Working papers may be proposed only when the Committee is in debate on the relevant topic. Amendments may also be proposed during substantive debate.

## Debate

**8. SPEAKERS' LIST:** The Committee shall have an open speakers' list during debate. The speakers' list shall be drawn up at the start of debate, and a new one will be established after each closure or postponement of debate, although the Speaker's List may continue from preceding sessions at the Committee Director's discretion. Separate speakers' lists shall be established as needed for procedural motions. At the Director's discretion, a Delegate may be added to the speakers' list by submitting a written request to the Director or by rising under the speaker's list rule. The speaker's list will be posted for the committee's convenience.

Delegates may close the speaker's list on the current topic and reopen a speaker's list that has been closed. A closed speakers list will run through the remaining speeches and then move to voting bloc.

**9. SPEECHES:** No Delegate may address the Committee without the permission of the Director. The Director shall call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion or display a lack of courtesy. Default time limit for speeches will be 90 seconds. Delegates may motion to change the speakers' time for any interval of 15 seconds, not to exceed 120 seconds. Time limits may differ depending on the motion under discussion. When a Delegate's allotted time has expired, the Director shall call him/her to order without delay. Replies to points of information are considered to be part of the speech.

**a) Conduct during formal session:** During formal sessions delegates should remain courteous to the dais or current speaker and refrain from talking to their neighboring delegates. A speech may be interrupted only by a point of personal privilege or a point of order that relates directly to the speech. Electronic devices are not permitted during formal session unless otherwise approved by the dais.

**10. SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING:** Delegates may move to suspend the meeting at any time when the floor is open. When motioning for a suspension of the meeting, the delegate must specify whether they would like a moderated or unmoderated caucus and the time limit. If there is a motion for a moderated caucus, the Delegate must suggest a reason for the motion and a time limit, which shall not exceed twenty minutes. Suspensions of the meeting will be put immediately to a vote and requires a majority to pass. Suspensions may be extended, but only at the

Director's discretion. The Director may rule the motion out of order or dilatory to ensure the productivity of committee.

**11. WORKING PAPERS:** Working papers are recognized by the WASMUN conference. Drafts of work by delegates are considered working papers, which are considered 'draft resolutions' when approved by the Director.

## **Substantive Proposals**

**12. SUBMISSION OF A RESOLUTION:** Any Delegate who is present and a member of the committee may rise to submit a resolution to the Director. A resolution requires at least two sponsors or 1/10 of the body, whichever is greater, and the approval of the Director. The resolution also requires 1/5 of the body (or 3, whichever is greater) to be signatories. Sponsors to a resolution are required to vote for their resolution, unless there is an unfriendly amendment. All resolutions must be accepted and formatted by the committee Director. Resolutions require a simple majority to pass. Additional voting restrictions apply in the Security Council and specialized committees, such as the European Union. The Committee may pass multiple resolutions per agenda item. If resolutions are contradictory, the first resolution passed will stand and subsequent contradictions are stricken from the record. Approved working papers are considered Draft Resolutions.

**13. AMENDMENTS:** Amendments may change, delete from, or add to a resolution. An amendment requires the approval of the Director. Amendments must have signatories of 1/10 of the body, but not less than 3 Members. Signing an amendment does not constitute support of or require a vote in favor of the amendment. Amendments are voted upon before voting on the resolution. Amendments will be voted on in the order of most destructive as determined by the Director. If amendments contradict, the amendment passed first will stand and subsequent contradictions will be stricken from the record. Amendments require a simple majority to pass. Amendments are treated as unfriendly by default.

**14. FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS:** A friendly amendment is one where all the sponsors of a resolution sign on to the amendment. It may be added to the resolution, without vote.

**15. CLOSURE OF DEBATE:** Closure of debate ends debate on the current topic, and enters the Committee into voting bloc. The Director will call for two speakers for and two speakers against the motion; the Delegates who proposed and seconded the motion will speak in favor, and two objecting Delegates will speak against. The motion requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Committee will move into voting bloc if the motion is successful. This is not to be confused with closing the speaker's list. If only one speaker for the closure of debate volunteers, only one speaker against will be selected.

**16. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:** A motion to adjourn the Committee session is only in order at the completion of the Committee's deliberations, and only at the specific request of the Committee Director. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

**17. POSTPONEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:** Delegates may move to postpone debate and later resume debate whenever the floor is open during debate. These motions table debate for later discussion. A motion to postpone debate requires four speakers (two in favor, two opposed) and requires a two-thirds majority to pass. No debate or action on a resolution that has been postponed is in order until resumption of debate on the topic.

**18. VOTING ON PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:** Official observers and non-governmental organizations may vote on all procedural motions. After the Director has announced the start of voting on any procedural motion, only

Points of Information, Order, and Personal Privilege may be raised. Each member shall have one vote, and may vote "Yes," or, "No." Every member must vote on procedural matters. A simple majority requires 50%+1 in favor to pass, i.e. more "Yes" votes than "No" votes. A two-thirds majority requires 66.7%+1 in favor to pass. Delegates will cast their vote by raising their placard at the appropriate time.

## **Parliamentary Points**

**19. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:** Such points must pertain to the comfort and wellbeing of the Delegate, and may not refer to the content of any speech. Points of personal privilege may interrupt a speech only if the speech is inaudible or if the Delegate experiences acute discomfort that prevents him/her from fully participating in the work of the Committee. Delegates do not need to rise under a point of personal privilege to use the restroom.

**20. POINT OF ORDER:** Such points may relate to procedural matters only. A point of order may interrupt a speech but may not refer to the content of a speech. Delegates should rise to this point only to notify the committee of incorrect parliamentary procedure. The Director shall rule on a point of order immediately in strict accordance with these rules of procedure.

**21. POINT OF INFORMATION:** Such points may be directed to the Director or to a speaker who has yielded to points of information or to questions. A Point of Information may also be directed toward a Director on issues of parliamentary procedure. Points of information may not be directed towards other delegates.

## **Voting Bloc**

**22. CONDUCT DURING VOTING BLOC:** After the Director has announced the entrance into voting bloc, no procedural motions are in order, except requests for a roll call vote or division of the resolution. Parliamentary points are in order. During voting bloc the Committee room will be closed, and no Delegates will be allowed to enter. Delegates will be silent, will not pass notes, and will not use any form of electronics (including laptops, tablets, phones, etc.).

**23. DIVISION OF THE QUESTION:** After amendments have been voted on, a Delegate may move that certain operative clauses of the resolution be voted on separately. This is generally used to highlight a particular operative clause. Perambulatory clauses may not be divided in this manner. The first motion to divide a resolution is procedural. After this, the Director will call for divisions, and they will be voted on in order that they were received. The Director may rule the motion out of order if they believe that the division is being used to eliminate a clause from the resolution. A motion to divide requires a simple majority to pass. Only one motion to divide may pass; that is, after one motion to divide has passed, all other motions to divide are out of order.

**24. VOTING:** Each member State has one vote. Official observers and non-governmental organizations are not able to vote on amendments or resolutions. After the Director has announced the entrance into voting bloc, only points of parliamentary inquiry relating specifically to the conduct of voting and points of personal privilege relating to acute discomfort are in order. Each member may vote "Yes," "No," or "Abstain." Member States indicated as "Present and Voting" may not abstain. Abstentions do not count as votes for purposes of determining a majority. All member States must vote on all substantive matters. Amendments and resolutions require a simple majority to pass. A simple majority requires more "Yes" votes than "No" votes. Voting shall be done by placard, except in the case of a roll call vote. In the Security Council, all votes must have the concurrence of the Delegates from France, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Any and all of those five Delegates has the right to vote "Yes," "No," or "Abstain." A "No" vote from a permanent member constitutes a veto.

**a. Roll Call Voting:** After substantive debate has been closed on a resolution and any amendments have been voted on, Delegates may request a roll call vote on the resolution. Delegates will be called by country and must vote "Yes", "No", "Abstain", or "Pass." Member States indicated as "Present and Voting" may not abstain. Abstentions do not count as votes for purposes of determining a majority. Should any Delegate pass, the roll call will proceed for a second round only. During the second round of voting, delegates who voted "pass" are called upon to vote again, and may not abstain during the second round of voting. Roll call votes may not be taken on procedural motions.

**b. Vote by Acclamation:** A "Vote by Acclamation" may also be requested. In this motion, if there are no objections the Draft Resolution passes automatically. If there is an objection, as signaled by raising a placard, then the motion automatically fails. Delegates may only object to a motion to vote by acclamation if the delegate plans to vote "No" on the resolution. They may not object if they intend to abstain from the resolution.

*Note: Voting procedure functions differently in committees such as the ICJ and the SC.*

## **Other Rules of Procedure**

**25. STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARIAT:** The Secretary General or a member of the Secretariat, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements to the Committee concerning any matter. Such a statement takes precedence over any and all other motions on the floor, and may interrupt caucuses and Delegates' speeches.

**26. APPEAL:** If a Director makes a decision detrimental to the committee or an egregious violation of the Rules of Procedure and does not respond to a Point of Order, a delegate may appeal the decision. The Delegate may ask for the matter to be referred to the Director-General, if an issue of Procedure or Parliamentary Procedure, or the Secretary General, if a matter of conduct. The Director will contact a member of the Secretariat, who may deal with the appeal at his/her discretion, and may rule the appeal out of order.

**27. RIGHT OF REPLY:** If any Delegate should be slandered in a public forum, then the offended Delegate may rise under the right of reply. The right may be granted only at the Director's discretion, and applies only when the Delegate's personal and/or national dignity has been slandered specifically. Rights of reply are very uncommon and are not applicable if a delegate refers to known policy. Rights of reply must be submitted to the Director in writing and will be considered a minimum of 15 minutes following the accused slandering.

**28. PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS:** Points and motions will be considered in the following order:

1. Parliamentary points:
  - i. Point of Personal Privilege (Rule 23)
  - ii. Point of Order (Rule 24)
  - iii. Point of Information (Rule 25)
2. Procedural motions which cannot be debated:
  - i. Suspension of the Meeting (Rule 12)
3. Other procedural motions:
  - i. Adjournment of Meeting (Rule 20)
4. Procedural motions applicable to the resolution or amendment under consideration:
  - i. Postponement and Resumption of Debate (Rule 21)
  - ii. Closure of Debate (Rule 19)
5. Substantive motions:

i. Proposal of an Amendment (Rule 17)