

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Model United Nations
Quilmes University

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - RULES OF PROCEDURE

CHAPTER I

Composition of delegations

Article 1. Each delegation shall consist of up to two delegates. Any of them may speak during the debate interchangeably.

CHAPTER II

Formal opening of the sessions

Article 2. The Chair will formally open the sessions of the Committee. Then, roll call will be conducted. All delegations must be present during roll call. Should any delegation arrive late, its delegates will have to send a written note to the Chair communicating their presence. If this is omitted, the delegation will not be considered part of the debate.

CHAPTER III

Nature of the debates.

Article 3. The debate will be divided in two parts that will be constantly alternated: the General Debate on the topic and the Specific Debate on the working paper selected by the delegations.

Article 4. During all formal debates, delegates will address the Committee through the Chair (triangular relationship). This will not be necessary in semi-formal or informal debates.

CHAPTER IV

General Debate.

Article 5. Delegates may participate in the General Debate by adding their name to a speakers' list or by raising their placards, according to the Chair's decision. Placards must be raised to request the right to speak.

Article 6. The speakers' list may be completed all at once or reopened in the future. delegations not included in the initial list may join later. Each delegation will appear on the list only once per topic.

CHAPTER V

Development of the General Debate.

Article 7. The Chair will call delegations to the podium to present their position on the topic. Only a maximum of four delegates will be able to be at the podium at the same time, regardless of their delegation.

Article 8. Each delegation called to the podium will have two minutes to share its position paper.

Then, the Chair will grant an additional minute, which the delegation may use in one of the following, mutually exclusive, ways:

1. Yield the time to the Chair. The delegation will return to its seat. No right of follow-up questions will be allowed.
2. Yield the time to a supporting delegation. That delegation may only make a statement. No follow-up questions will be allowed.
3. Allow the interpellation from other delegations, who will raise their placards and be chosen by the Chair. The delegation at the podium may accept “simple” or “double” interpellation. After answering, delegations will be able to request a Right to Follow-up Question, which the delegation at the podium may accept or reject. If accepted, the delegation at the podium will have thirty seconds to answer.

CHAPTER VI

Working Papers.

Article 9. Working Papers are draft Resolutions that delegations present to the Committee in order to address the topic that is being discussed.

Article 10. Working Papers can be written during informal sessions.

Article 10 bis. Informal sessions will only and exclusively be called by delegates. To do so, they will present the Motion of Suspension of the Meeting. Then, delegations against this motion may present a Motion to Vote. Should a delegation present a Motion to Vote, the Motion of Suspension of the Meeting will be admissible if it obtains a simple majority of votes in favor. If no delegation presents a Motion to Vote, the Motion of the Suspension of the Meeting will automatically proceed. The Chair will not establish whether informal sessions are to take place.

Article 11. Working Papers must resemble actual UN Resolutions and refer explicitly to the Thematic Axes proposed by the Organizing Committee.

Article 12. Each Working Paper must include:

1. the name of the Committee;
2. the topic addressed;
3. a list of sponsoring delegations and signatory delegations.

Article 13. The body must include a Preambulatory and an Operative section.

1. The Preambulatory Clauses justify the document based on international law, current or past events and statements, and others.
2. The Operative Clauses contain proposed measures and actions to be taken once the Resolution is adopted by the C, in order to give a solution to the problems related to the topic addressed in the Debate.

Article 14. An additional page with the signatures of sponsoring and signatory

delegations must be submitted along with the Working Paper.

1. Sponsoring delegations are those which present the Working Paper to the Committee.
2. Signatory delegations are those that did not take part in the presentation of the Working Paper in question, but are interested in having it discussed by the Committee, regardless of whether they agree or disagree with its clauses.

Artículo 15. At least 20% of the delegations present must sign the Working Paper to be submitted to the Approval Panel. They will be considered signatory delegations. **Article 16.** Each delegation may sponsor only one Working Paper per topic or none at all. However, they may sign as many Working Papers as they want.

Article 17. The group of delegations sponsoring a Working Paper will choose three Representative delegations. The first one may make a statement of up to two minutes to defend the Paper before the Committee; the other two delegations may respond to questions regarding the Working Paper.

Article 18. After the Chair accepts the Working Papers, it will become a Draft Resolution, starting the Specific Debate, in which delegations may present amendments to the Draft.

CHAPTER VII

Specific Debate.

Article 19. The Specific Debate will consist of formal, semi-formal (Moderated Caucus), and informal sessions (see Article 10 bis), which will be alternated by decision of the Chair. During semi-formal and informal sessions, delegations will focus on the discussion and negotiation of Amendments to the Draft Resolution. Formal sessions will be used for the presentation, debate, and voting of the submitted Amendments, as well as the final vote on the Draft (see Article 17).

Article 20. When granted the right to speak during semi-formal sessions, delegations will have one minute to do so. They may only speak about the content and direction of the Draft, its main themes, and the changes made or to be made. Interpellations will not be allowed.

CHAPTER VIII

Amendments.

Article 21. Amendments allow delegations to add, delete or modify clauses in the Draft Resolution. The process includes two stages: Drafting (informal) and Presentation (formal).

Article 22. During the Drafting stage, delegations must fill in two copies of the Amendment form. One is submitted to the Chair, and the other is kept by the presenting delegation.

Article 23. A minimum of 10% of the present delegations must sign the Amendment. Signatures go on the back of the form.

Article 24. delegations may support only two Amendments per presentation round. A delegation may not support its own Amendment, nor may it give more than one signature to the same Amendment.

Article 25. Clauses that have already been modified may not be amended again. Only the lines that were blank in the original Working Paper may be amended, in which case the new text will be added after the previous one.

Article 26. The presentation stage will take place during formal sessions. Once submitted, the Chair will call presenting delegations to the podium, which will have one minute to present their Amendment.

Article 27. The Chair will name the supporting delegations and read the Amendment to the Committee. A **Closed Debate** will follow: two speakers in favor and two against.

Article 28. Voting process of the Amendments. The Amendment will pass with an absolute majority (50% plus one of present delegations). Abstentions are allowed.

CHAPTER IX

The voting of Draft Resolutions.

Article 29. At the end of the Specific Debate, the Committees will proceed with the final vote on the Draft Resolution. The Chair may authorize instances of Moderated Caucus so that delegations can debate before casting their vote.

Article 30. The Draft Resolution will be submitted to a substantive vote and will become a Resolution of the Committee if it receives an absolute majority of affirmative votes from the Member State delegations.

CHAPTER X

Points and Motions.

Article 31. During formal sessions, delegations may present Motions to modify the course of the debate proceedings.

Article 32. Properly presented Points and Motions that meet all criteria will be accepted automatically, unless the Chair objects.

Points and Motions may be accepted or rejected by the Chair or submitted to a vote if a delegation presents a Motion to Vote.

Article 33. To raise a Point, a delegate must stand, raise their placard, and clearly state it. The Chair may ask for an explanation before deciding.

Article 34. There will be three types of Points:

- a. Point of Privilege: for external factors disrupting a Delegate's ability to

follow the debate (example: if a delegate at the podium is speaking too quietly and other delegates cannot comprehend what he is saying, they may present a Point of Privilege). It may interrupt any speaker. The Chair may ask for clarification.

- b. Point of Follow-up Question: only if the delegation at the podium accepted interpellation.
- c. Point of Order: only when no one is speaking. It refers to procedural doubts not solvable by ushers.

Article 35. During formal sessions, if the Chair grants time for delegations to present Motions, any delegation wishing to do so must raise its placard and wait for the Chair to grant the floor. Once recognized, the delegation must state the name of the Motion it wishes to present and may explain the reasons for its request. The Chair will take note of the Motion and repeat the procedure until no other Motions are to be presented. Each delegation may present only one Motion.

Article 36. There will be three types of Motions:

- a. Motion for Suspension of the Meeting: to request an informal session for negotiations. The requesting delegation may suggest a time, but the Chair will decide its acceptance according to schedule. It requires a simple majority if voted on.
- b. Motion for Moderated Caucus: to request a semi-formal discussion. The Chair will decide on time and format. Also approved by simple majority if voted on.
- c. Motion to Vote: to request the voting of a Motion, a Resolution Draft or an Amendment. Only delegations against them must present a Motion to Vote. Otherwise, it would not be necessary because the Chair will accept the Motion, the Draft or the Amendment automatically.

Article 37. Regardless of the delegates' right to interrupt the debate in the cases it is allowed, the Chair shall have the authority to interrupt it at any moment and in the way it considers most appropriate to properly guide the sessions. To do so, the Chair may impose or submit any of the three Motions to a vote, make speeches during the debate to provide guidance, clarify doubts, or offer advice.

CHAPTER XI

The Right of Reply.

Article 38. A delegation may request a Right of Reply if it considers itself insulted or attacked. A form must be filled indicating the offending remarks and the delegation responsible. Two copies must be made; one submitted to the Chair. If granted, the delegation has one minute to speak.

Article 39. A delegation may not request a Right of Reply on behalf of another

delegation, nor for comments not directly addressed to it.

Article 40. Replies may not be responded to with another Right of Reply.

CHAPTER XII

Majorities.

Article 41. There will be different types of majorities:

- a. **Qualified Majority:** two-thirds (66%) of present delegations.
- b. **Absolute Majority:** one-half plus one (50% + 1) of present delegations.
- c. **Simple Majority:** more votes in favor than against.

CHAPTER XIII

Code of Conduct.

Article 42. Delegates must wear their credentials at all times and in a visible place.

Article 43. Delegates must always respect the protocol and formalities corresponding to a diplomatic session.

Article 44. Use of phones or electronic devices will not be allowed during formal sessions, but only in informal debates.

CHAPTER XIV

Communication between delegates.

Article 45. Communication will be allowed via ushers' messaging service. The Chair may suspend or restore this service at their discretion.