

#GTMUN2024

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Bridging technology and diplomacy.

Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.



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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE



General Rules

Participation of Members

This conference will only recognize officially registered delegates as participating members. A "member of committee" may be represented by only one (or two, in the case of a double delegation committee) attendees who have been assigned a committee and position via formal registration before the first day of the conference. Each member of committee will be capable of casting a single vote in procedural and substantive matters, unless special conditions arise, such as the categorization of an observer state, or a special consideration of historical circumstances under a crisis period, etc. These conditions are to be clearly communicated to the delegate by the Directors of committee.

Participation of Non-members

Accredited non-members, including press corps, will be allowed to address committee after approval of the chair, but will not hold voting rights for procedural nor substantive matters in the committee. Press Corp delegates hold unique procedural rights such as performing written or oral announcements, introductory statements of committee, and allowing for press releases or press conferences at the discretion of the chair. These are specified in the Press corps guide.

Expected Conduct and Behavior

GTMUN expects attending delegates to always abide by diplomatic behavior under all circumstances. Inflammatory remarks, slandering, and disrespectful behaviors against attendees or staff are strictly prohibited and will impact a delegation's chance at an award. Neither speech or debate should include remarks of these nature, and delegates who believe that their assigned position merits such a conduct should consult the committee directors before engaging in these actions. If the conduct is severe, it may grant expulsion from the committee to the discretion of the committee directors, Director General, and Under Secretary General of Policy. GTMUN has a zero-tolerance at personal attacks to attendees or staff regarding their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity and religion, these will be considered a violation of the DEI laws and may result in expulsion or banning from the conference.

Powers of Committee Directors

The Director and Assistant Director of each committee represent its "chair" or "dais" and have the authority of conducting, guiding, moderating, and ultimately approving substantive matters of committee. The dais oversees the directing the flow of debate, grants the right to speak, announces decisions, explains or rules on points, approves handouts for circulation, and enforces parliamentary procedure. The dais has the right of interrupting the flow

of debate, ruling proceedings dilatory, temporarily transferring their role to other staff members, and suspending, bending or modifying the rules of parliamentary procedure in the benefit of the committee. Dais decisions take precedence over any procedural rules stated in this document.

Feedback

The Director General or Undersecretary General of Policy of the conference have the right to pause committee session at any point of the conference to request feedback from the delegates. This feedback should be focused on conference organization, committee topics and dynamics, parliamentary procedure, director and assistant director performance, technical capacity, etc. Delegate feedback is communicated to committee staff confidentially and will not affect individual or delegation awards.

Advisors

Advisors are welcome to oversee committee from a designated space at the back of the room. They must conduct themselves in a non-disruptive manner when entering and leaving and are not allowed to directly address the delegates or directors during committee sessions. Advisors are considered non-members of committee and are not allowed to attend voting procedure.

Electronics and Aides

Electronic devices will not be allowed during formal debate unless specified by the dais or under special circumstances. Delegates may only use their electronics during informal debate (i.e. unmoderated caucuses).

Use of AI tools

GTMUN recognizes the rapidly evolving scape of artificial intelligence engines as an information search tool. Although discouraged, it is acceptable to use these engines as a locator for resources and initial idea/concept generator. It is strictly prohibited to generate content (position papers, working papers, draft resolutions and directives) for the conference with these tools. Delegates that fail to abide by this rule will face consequences that may include disqualification from awards.

Absences

A delegation will be considered absent if it does not respond to roll call at the beginning of each committee session. If a delegate misses roll call A request to be marked as present should be sent to the dais via a note. Delegates who are recognized but not present automatically yields their time to the chair.

Conference Space

Delegates should not enter staff-only spaces and remain in their designated rooms during committee session.

Summary of Precedence

Points

1. Point of Personal Privilege
2. Point of Order
3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Motions

1. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting
2. Motion to Suspend the Meeting
3. Motion to Set the Agenda
4. Motion to Open Debate
5. Motion to Set/Modify the Speaker's Time
6. Motion to Enter an Unmoderated Caucus
7. Motion to Enter a Consultation of the Whole
8. Motion to Enter a Round Robin
9. Motion to Enter a Moderated Caucus
10. Motion to Suspend the Rules
11. Motion to Introduce an Amendment
12. Motion to Introduce a Draft Resolution
13. Motion to Close Debate and Move into Voting Procedure
14. Motion to Divide the Question
15. Motion to Vote by Acclamation
16. Motion to Vote by Roll Call
17. Motion to Ramble the Wreck

Parliamentary procedure

Opening of Committee

Welcome to the Georgia Tech Model of United Nations. Committee sessions may begin with announcements about logistics, feedback, introductions from the chair, dynamics of committee, etc.

Roll call

each committee session begins with roll call, a process where the dais calls out each delegation and counts attendance. Representatives can answer with "Present" or "Present and Voting", indicating that they will not abstain in substantive voting. The director will determine the quorum, simplified and qualified majority for the committee and communicate it to the delegates.

Quorum

consists of half of the members present in the committee and it represents the number of delegates which must be inside of the committee room for this to function. If quorum is not met, the dais will pause the committee until at least half the delegates return to the committee room.

Setting the Agenda

The agenda dictates the order in which committee topics will be discussed. It is the first matter that the committee must address.

Motion to Set the Agenda

Dictates the preferred order of topics for a committee. When raising the motion, delegates should state the order of preference of the topics listed on the background guide. This motion is debatable and requires at least two speakers in favor and two speakers against, expandable at the discretion of the chair. Delegations selected to speak are not allowed to comment, yield to other delegations, or make other motions during this procedural question.

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Speakers list

A continuous list of the order of speakers which is used to conduct general debate. This is the default activity of committee when no other motions are raised but can be superseded by procedural or substantive motions at the discretion of the dais. Delegations will be able to address the general topic area or any developments in committee. After opening the speakers list, the dais will call for several delegations to participate. A delegate that is not selected may request to be added to the Speakers List via a note to the dais.

Motion to Open Debate

this motion is not debatable and requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Set the Speaker's Time

The speech time on the Speakers List is set by default to one minute, unless specified by the committee director. Delegates can raise this motion to modify the time to their preferences. This is a procedural motion that requires simple majority to pass.

Modes of Debate

Motion to Enter a Moderated Caucus

A moderated caucus is a tool to facilitate debate about specific subtopics. It represents a temporary departure from the Speakers List. A delegate may motion for a Moderated Caucus any time the floor is open and before debate is closed. The proposal of this motion should include the specific subtopic to address during the caucus, the total time of the caucus (not to exceed 20 minutes), and an individual speech time per delegate. In the case of several motions for moderated caucuses, these will be voted in order of disruptiveness. This motion requires simple majority to pass. The chair reserves the time to call speakers one-by-one, or in groups of up to five speakers at a time. If no delegates wish to speak in the moderated caucus, this shall end immediately, and the

Speakers List will be adopted. Delegates who address committee in a moderated caucus should keep their speech about the selected subtopic, or their participation will be ruled out of order. Yields to other delegates/questions are not allowed during a moderated caucus.

Motion to Enter an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is in order at any time when the floor is open and before the closure of debate. The delegate who raises this motion should specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed 20 minutes (with extensions). This is a procedural motion that requires simple majority to pass.

Motion to Open a Consultation of the Whole

Delegates may motion for a consultation of the whole at the discretion of the chair, and at any time the floor is open. The consultation of the whole is an informal discussion where the rules of parliamentary procedure are automatically and temporarily suspended. During this procedure, the speaking time and order of speakers is determined by the delegates on an ad-hoc basis. The delegate who motions for a Consultation of the Whole must specify a subtopic to address and a total time for the motion (to not exceed 20 minutes) and may specify if they require dais moderation (for example, tapping after a set amount of time has passed).

Delegates should remain in their seats and be respectful to the speaker. This motion requires a simple majority to pass and may be ruled as dilatory by the chair.

Motion for a Round Robin

This motion is raised when a delegate wants every individual in the committee to give a speech on a certain subtopic. The motion for a Round Robin should include a topic of interest and an individual speech time, and the motioning delegate can choose to address committee first or last. It is up to the dais to choose the speaking order around the room. During this procedure, a delegate may pass or refuse a speech. This motion is only allowed in crisis, "small" and specialized committees, and may be ruled dilatory by the chair.

Motion for the Suspension of the Rules

This motion can be raised to avoid technicalities in procedure to do creative dynamics in committee. A delegate may propose a motion for the suspension of the rules, followed by the proposal of a specific dynamic that may be beneficial to committee pacing. The dais reserves the right to accept or reject this motion.

Points

Points can be raised to facilitate parliamentary procedure, not to provide substantive remarks.

Point of Personal Privilege

A delegate may raise this point when they experience something that impairs their ability to participate in any aspect of committee. This point does not need the director's approval but may only interrupt the speaker if they are inaudible.

Point of Order

A delegate may raise this point to indicate the belief that the rules of procedure have been broken. The point of order will be immediately ruled by the dais, and a proper explanation of procedure will be provided. This point may never interrupt a speaker.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

A delegate may raise a point of parliamentary inquiry to ask the chair about the rules of procedure, committee dynamics, or for clarification on wording/ remarks. Substantive questions will not be answered by raising this point and should instead be solved by approaching or sending a note to the committee dais. This point may never interrupt a speaker.

Speeches

Language

All speeches will be conducted in English, unless specified by the committee guidelines. Speeches may include specific phrases or remarks in a language

representative of a delegate's position or state, only if directly followed by an English translation.

Time Limit

Speeches have a minimum allowed time of ten seconds. When a delegate surpasses their time, the dais will call the speaker to order. The dais will tap the gavel when a specific amount of time is left to each speaker. A delegate may raise a point of personal privilege to modify tapping time.

Yields

Delegates that have been granted with the right to speak may yield their time to a chair, to another delegate, or to questions. Yields must be declared at the conclusion of their speech, but may be ruled as dilatory by the dais at any point. Only one yield per speech is allowed.

i. To another delegate: A delegate yields their remaining time to another delegate, in which case will be immediately recognized by the dais. It's not necessary for double delegations to yield their time to their co-delegate if doing a joint speech.

ii. To questions: A delegate may yield their time to questions, in which case another delegate will be selected by the dais to ask a question. Only the response time will be counted towards the speech time. Follow-ups are only allowed under the discretion of the chair.

iii. To the chair: A delegate will yield their time to the chair if they do not wish

his/her speech to be subject to questions during the Speakers List. It is not necessary to yield to the chair during other modes of debate.

Right of Reply

A delegate may ask for a right of reply only if their national or personal integrity has been compromised by another delegate's intervention. This request must not interrupt the original speaker but be raised immediately after such delegate's speech has ended. A delegate granted with the right of reply may address the committee for a time up to the original speaker's time. The dais reserves the right to rule this request as dilatory.

Introducing Documents

Working Papers

A working paper is intended as an aid in the discussion and writing of a draft resolution. Working papers do not need to be in draft resolution format. Guidelines for this document (including number of sponsors and signatories) are to be established by the chair and communicated to committee. Once approved by the dais, delegates may accept the working paper as "introduced" and reference it in debate.

Draft Resolutions

A delegate may motion to introduce a draft resolution only after the approval of the chair. For approval, the draft

resolution should meet the sponsor and signatory limits established by the chair. After a resolution has been approved, no substantive modifications of any kind will be allowed. Signing a draft resolution only indicates the desire to discuss it in committee. Under the discretion of the chair, multiple draft resolutions may pass.

Motion for the Introduction of Draft Resolution

A delegate may move to introduce a draft resolution after it has been approved by the dais. This motion must include the draft resolution name or number. This is a procedural motion that requires simple majority to pass. At their discretion, the dais will allow for a reading period, followed by a brief presentation (author's panel, Q&A, etc.). A draft resolution will remain on the floor until debate is postponed or the resolution has passed. Delegates may only refer to a draft resolution in formal debate after it has been approved and formally introduced.

Amendments

Amendments include the addition, deletion or revision of operative clauses of a draft resolution after it has been introduced. To be introduced, amendments should be first approved by the chair, who will ensure that the document meets the required signatories and sponsor limits. Amendments to other amendments are out of order, but amendments to a part

of a resolution that has been previously amended are possible.

Motion to Introduce an Amendment

This motion may be made while the floor is open. Only amendments that have previously been approved by the dais will be considered for introduction. This motion moves to introduce all amendments that have been approved. After this motion, all amendments will be displayed or read out loud, with the process as follows:

1. Friendly amendments: written and proposed by the sponsors on a draft resolution. All the sponsors should unanimously confirm the nature of this amendment, otherwise it will be considered an unfriendly amendment. These amendments are adopted automatically.

2. Unfriendly amendments: these amendments are debatable with a two for-two against, under the director's discretion.

3. Motion to Close Debate and move Into Voting Procedure for Amendments: this motion requires a qualified (2/3) majority to pass. When proposing this motion, delegates should specify the order of voting. Amendments require simple majority to pass. Voting procedure on amendments is a substantive matter that requires all non-members present in the room to leave the committee and the

sealing of the chambers.

4. After voting, there is an implicit opening of debate, and the committee resumes according to the general speakers list.

Voting Procedure

Voting on draft resolutions, just like for amendments, is a substantive procedure that requires all non-members to leave the committee room and the chambers to be sealed. In all the voting modes, each delegation has only one vote. The simplified and qualified majority of committee may be temporarily modified by subtracting the abstaining members from the quorum. If there are no motions, the committee will move to vote resolutions by placard in the order that they were introduced. A draft resolution passes with a simple majority. As mentioned before, the dais reserves the right of passing only one or several resolutions per topic, depending on the level of the committee.

Motion to Close Debate and Enter Voting Procedure

Debate must be officially closed to enter voting procedure for draft resolutions. This motion is debatable with a two for-two against under the director's discretion, and requires a qualified majority (2/3) to pass. After debate is closed, only points

and motions to set the voting mode are accepted.

Motion to Divide the Question

A delegate may request for an operative clause or sub-clause of the draft resolution to be voted on separately. The process to divide the question goes as follows:

1. Motion to Divide the Question: The first vote will be held on whether to divide the question at all. If it fails, committee will continue into voting procedure. If it passes with a simple majority, the dais will take an additional motion to divide the question.

2. Motion to Divide a Clause or Sub-clause from a Draft Resolution: If the motion to divide the question passes, the dais will ask for a number of motions on how to divide the question, at their discretion. These shall be prioritized from most to least severe, depending on how much content is intended for the division. The committee proceeds with voting on these motions. If a division passes by simple majority, the draft resolution is divided. Successfully dividing a draft resolution does not mean that it passes, but that the divided clause shall be voted on separately to determine its inclusion in the resolution. If all motions at this stage fail, it means that the draft resolution remains intact at the time of voting, and the committee automatically moves into voting procedure. No other motions to divide the question are in order.

Modes of Voting for a Draft Resolution

Placard Vote

This is the default mode in voting procedure and requires no motions. In this vote, the chair will ask the committee who is in favor, against, and who abstains, and delegates will indicate their position with a raise of their placard.

Motion for a Rollcall Vote

A motion for a roll call vote is in order after the debate on a draft resolution is closed and voting procedure is opened. In this motion, the chair will call delegates in alphabetical order. Delegates may vote "Yes", "No", "Abstain", "Pass", "Yes with rights" or "No with rights". A delegate may only vote "with rights" when the vote conflicts with the policy of their represented state. Delegates who vote "with rights" will be granted a set time to explain their position at the end of rollcall voting, under the discretion of the committee director. A delegate who voted "pass" will be returned to at the end and must vote "Yes" or "No". If a roll call vote fails for a resolution, it means that this resolution fails, and committee moves on to other motions to vote on other resolutions.

Motion to Vote by Acclamation

A motion to vote by acclamation is in order after debate has been closed and voting

procedure has been opened. Acclamation is a unanimous vote on which the director will ask for delegations who are against passing a draft resolution to raise their placard. If one or more delegations are against, the vote is annulled, and the committee automatically moves into a placard vote for that resolution.

Post-Voting: Re-opening or Ending Committee

After voting, the committee will follow the following procedure at the discretion of the chair, and depending on the number of topics specified in the background guide:

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Motion to Open Debate

The second topic of the agenda can be opened through this motion, which requires a simple majority to pass. Parliamentary procedure then re-starts, as conducted for the first topic.

Motion to Ramble the Wreck

The motion to ramble the wreck is an exclusive motion for the Georgia Tech Model of United Nations conference that is only applicable to the last committee session. This motion indicates the suspension of formal rules of debate and the beginning of "FUNMUN" During this time, the dynamics in the committee will change at the discretion of the delegates and committee director. Even when, and

especially when formalities are suspended, delegates should abide by the expected conduct outlined in the general rules of the parliamentary procedure.

Adjournment of the Meeting

this motion calls for the postponement of all committee functions for the remainder of the conference. This motion takes precedence against all other motions, and will be immediately voted upon, requiring a simple majority to pass. A motion to adjourn the meeting is only allowed during the last committee session of the conference and can be ruled dilatory by the chair if proposed before the intended time. In the case of an emergency, this motion is not necessary, and debate will be automatically suspended without exception.



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