

Procedures and Rules

The rules utilized are modified from Model European Union conferences. The relaxed procedures used in this model conference allows the participant to focus more on substantive debate rather than on stringent rules that may distract from the presentation of such information.

Each committee, as in the European Union, will start with a *tour de table* wherein each person in the committee gives a two minute overview of their country's perspective on all the issues on the agenda. After this concludes, the committee commences its preliminary session. Once the *tour de table* is completed, the agenda will be decided. After the *tour de table*, the delegates can simply raise their placards to be recognized by the chair.

Agenda

Usually, in this forum, the delegates should defer the decision of the agenda to the chair that summoned the meeting. The chair will announce the intended agenda well in advance in the letter of invitation given to each participant before the council is summoned. The reason for such a setup is because the chair usually summons such councils to address current events about which the chair is particularly concerned. However, if a country's national interests are critically compromised by the agenda's order, the chairs will entertain those concerns and use their discretion if revisions to the agenda are appropriate.

Formal Debate

To promote substantive discussion, the chair will conduct formal debate as a *moderated caucus*. A moderated caucus is simply where delegates, at any time, can speak by simply raising their placards and wait for recognition from the chair without the use of a speaker's list. At the request of the delegates or at the chair's discretion, a speaker's time may be added to prevent filibustering or needlessly verbose speeches. However, the following points or motions can be called during formal debate to facilitate discussion. Each motion will be brought to the chair, and the chair will decide if they are cogent to debate. Third party arbitrators are at the conference only to help both sides reach a compromise. They will not vote on motions or recommendations unless their services are requested in a recommendation or their national sovereignty is demonstrated to be affected with the motion or recommendation on the floor.

Points

A delegate can make points at any time within formal debate. A *point of parliamentary inquiry* can be called so a delegate can determine what is within their purview during formal debate or to clarify a chair's or delegate's previous comments. A *point of order* can be called so a delegate can question a specific rule or a procedural action made during formal debate. A *point of personal privilege* can be called so a delegate can request for a change beyond the purview of formal debate. These points are usually

personal issues compromising a delegate's full participation in formal debate such as air circulation or requesting for someone to speak louder. The chair will accept or deny such points on a point-by-point basis.

Motions

If a delegate deems another mode of debate would be preferable for discussion, a motion for an *unmoderated caucus* can be requested. In an unmoderated caucus, the delegate just needs to propose a length of time for the caucus and then delegates can go wherever they see fit to talk with whomever they see fit during the caucus. The delegates do not have to remain seated or in the room during such caucuses because these caucuses are suspensions of formal debate.

A new motion is added to this conference, which is the motion for a *private conference*. This may be initiated by a chair with mediation from the chair's attachés or can be initiated by the conflicting parties themselves with whichever parties they deem necessary to mediate such talks. During the conference, the conflicting parties and whichever mediating representatives the parties request will hold private discussions away from the general assembly floor with the chair monitoring the progress of the session either themselves or through attachés. This will be done similar to Camp David where the parties will initially discuss together their issues, and then each party will speak to the mediating parties separately. The one caveat for this type of discussion format is that a **recommendation approved by both conflicting parties must result!** Thus, one should be careful of calling such a conference unless both are sure they are close to reaching a conclusive and binding agreement and just need some time to allow this to happen. However, the recommendation can be as simple as when and where to discuss each specific issue of contention. Thus, the recommendation **must be substantive** and have some form of action taken to resolve the issue.

When the allotted session time is approaching its conclusion, a delegate can motion for a *suspension of debate*. When this is called, the committee will end debate and reconvene at a later established time. To move into voting procedure, a delegate must motion to *vote* on the revisions made to the initial proposal. If the outlook for a resolution looks unforeseeable, a motion can be made *to table the topic*. This only requires a simple majority and moves discussion to the next topic on the agenda. **Note:** The motion to *reopen debate* on a previously tabled topic requires a 2/3rds majority, so be cautious about closing debate.

Voting

The objective of formal debate is to come up with fruitful recommendations on each issue that will be used to revise the initial letter of invitation and make it a binding final document acceptable to all parties involved. The chair and his staff will write each recommendation made during formal debate. The chair will then read the recommendations when entering voting procedure. The chair will then decide the countries or delegations that are directly affected in the proposed recommendations.

They must vote in the affirmative for the recommendation to pass. All recommendations passed in the committee will be binding on all voting parties as they have to be passed with unanimity. For example, if the Palestinian Authority and Israel decide they would like to seek aid from the US on a mutual dilemma such as economic cooperation, only the representative of the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and the US would vote on that issue, not Syria or Lebanon. Once a recommendation is issued, the next topic on the agenda will automatically commence.

Note: Any ruling is subject to the final discretion of the chair. This is to mitigate any unforeseeable circumstances that these rules cannot envision and to ensure debate continues smoothly and productively.