

This document contains the standard MUN debate procedure that will be employed during the Ermitage Model United Nations conference.

# 1. Debate Structure.

The Model United Nations debate procedure is composed of multiple parts which outline the following structure:

- **Caucus Time:** At the beginning of the conference, delegates are given a period of time to prepare resolutions and discuss amongst themselves freely, without intervention of the chairs.
- **Opening Statement:** After caucus time (or after voting procedure), the chairs choose the next resolution to be discussed before the committee. The delegate having submitted said resolution will present it and choose to open themselves to points of information.
- **Open Debate (on the resolution):** After an opening statement, delegates can choose to submit amendments or to make speeches in favor or against the resolution.
- **Open Debate (on an amendment):** After a delegate has presented an amendment, delegates can choose to submit amendments to the second degree, or to make speeches in favor or against the amendment.
- **Voting procedure (on an amendment):** If at least one speech in favor and one speech against an amendment have been made, the committee can move into voting procedure on the amendment. If the amount of speeches made during the debate is insufficient, the amendment passes or fails automatically. Delegates will be asked to vote in favor or against the amendment, and will not be allowed to abstain.
- **Closed Debate:** Once the chairs deem it necessary, the committee will move into closed debate on the amendment. During closed debate, delegates will give speeches in favor and against the resolution before voting procedure.
- **Voting procedure:** After closed debate, delegates will be asked to vote in favor or against the resolution. Delegates are allowed to abstain. If a majority of delegates vote in favor, the resolution passes, otherwise it fails. The committee will then start discussing a different resolution.
- **P5 Caucus (Only in SC and HSC):** In the Security Council, the following delegates have the right to veto amendments or resolutions: France, United Kingdom, United States of America, People's Republic of China and Russia. During a voting procedure, any of these delegates can exercise their power to veto, in which case the 5 delegates will engage in a P5 caucus, during which they will discuss whether the use of veto is appropriate. Vetoed amendments and resolutions automatically fail.

## 2. Rules.

- Direct dialogue between delegates is only permitted during points of information and caucus time, otherwise the delegates must pass notes.
- The use of first person pronouns is unappreciated, prioritize using “we” or “this delegate”.
- Use parliamentary language.
- After a speech or a statement has been made, the delegate can choose to yield the floor to a different delegate to answer points of information.

### 3. Motions.

Delegates can use motions at any moment during the debate so long as it is not interrupting the other delegates. The chairs have the power to grant or deny any motion. Some motions need to be seconded by other delegates to be granted.

- **Motion to follow up:** Allows the delegate to ask a second point of information
- **Motion to extend points of information:** Invites the chairs to grant more delegates permission to ask points of information. *Must be seconded*
- **Motion to move to voting procedure:** Moves the debate into voting procedure, skips speeches in favor and against. *Must be seconded.*
- **Motion to divide the house:** During voting procedure, if any delegates chose to abstain, they must choose to vote in favor or against the resolution after this motion.
- **Motion for a formal apology:** If a delegate made targeted and rude remarks to another delegate, the latter can request a formal apology from the former.

## 4. Points.

Points refer to questions from the delegates directed to other delegates or the chairs. They are most commonly used to clear up confusion, correct information or to fact-check.

- **Point of information:** Question directed to a delegate having made a speech or an opening statement.
- **Point of information to the chairs:** Question directed to the chairs, can be used to ask to check if information that has been previously stated is correct.
- **Point of personal privilege:** Question directed to the chairs regarding personal comfort (going to the bathroom, adjusting the size of the screen...)
- **Point of order:** Question directed to the chairs to ask about the procedure of the debate, or to correct the chairs' decision on the procedure of the debate.