

Security Council Manual



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I. What is the Security Council

The Security Council is considered to be an advanced committee and thus delegates of the SC are expected to conduct thorough and in-depth research on the issues in the agenda of the SC and know very well the Rules of Procedure applying to the Security Council specifically. The Security Council is the most powerful organ of the United Nations and therefore its decisions and passed resolutions are of great importance. Delegates attending it should also be fully aware of their country's policy and follow it at all times.

The DSAMUN Security Council operates in accordance with the official UN Charter and the functions and powers in articles 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 106 are in its remit. The procedures of the Security Council differ in some ways from those of other regular committees, so in order to make it as uncomplicated as possible for delegates who might be newcomers to the Security Council, we have collected the basic rules of procedure that may come up in this manual.

II. Jurisdiction

The Security Council (SC or UNSC) has a distinctive role since it is one of the 5 principal organs of the United Nations. Its agenda includes issues concerning the importance of security and socioeconomic ones which can be detrimental to international balance and equality. Thus, the SC's prime target is to introduce measures to keep intact the international peace and security and, simultaneously, detect the existence of a threat and urge the member states involved to resolve it peacefully. All UN Member States are committed to respect and follow its decision since they are considered obligatory. For the maintenance of these principles its members are allowed to decision-making concerning the *imposition of punitive sanctions* on those who trespass international regulations as well as the *dispatch of peacekeeping missions and military interventions*.

III. Quorum

Unlike other committees, the Security Council consists of 15 members only, (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent). A Quorum can be achieved when at least 9 delegates (or **2/3 majority** if the delegates are less than 15) are present, including the P5.

The P5 countries are France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States of America

IV. Lobbying/Debate

The Security Council follows the scheme of **lobbying-debate**, meaning that after lobbying on one topic, the committee continues debating upon the topic before moving on to the next one.

Delegations debate each clause of a draft resolution separately, thus delegates are expected to hand in clauses instead of resolutions formed in an alliance. The clauses are submitted by delegates separately, and no clause can be submitted by two or more delegates. During lobbying, delegates are supposed to negotiate with each other, so that they find supporters for their clauses or come up with new clauses. They should also try to merge similar clauses, because in case they don't, some will inevitably not be entertained by the presidency.

After having debated on each clause, the committee can debate on the (one) formed draft resolution as a whole, before voting upon it. During the debate on the draft resolution, delegates can submit additional clauses as amendments to the resolution.

V. Points and Motions

The Points and Motions mentioned in the DSAMUN Student Officer's Manual also apply to the Security Council.

There are, however, some different points and motions that are allowed only here.

a. Motion to Divide the Question

- This motion makes it possible to discuss each clause of a resolution separately.
- The **presidents should ask for a delegate to raise this motion at the beginning of the debate**. The resolution will then be discussed clause by clause.
- There will be a default time of 8-15 minutes of OPEN debate on each clause, but the presidents can extend or restrict debate time at their discretion, e.g. if a clause is very important give it more time, or if you see that everyone agrees to move onto the next one.

- The presidents should prioritize the most constructive clauses (since they decide the row on which the clauses will be debated). If there is time, all clauses can be entertained, however, this is not binding.
- Amendments of the first or second degree will be discussed normally (closed debate).
- Obviously, there is no reason to entertain amendments proposing to strike out a clause.
- Amendments that wish to add a clause should be entertained after the draft clauses that the chairs chose have been debated. These should be debated in closed debate.

b. Right of reply

- Will only be entertained after the policy statements of the members of the SC.
- The speaker does not have the right to answer, since the right of reply is just a short comment.
- Should be constructive and not overused (again their role is to enhance the debate).
- Should obviously not be offensive or include personal conclusions.
- Have to be recognized by the presidents.

c. Motion to reconsider the clause

- The equivalent of the “motion to reconsider the resolution”
- Asks for the re-voting and the re-debating of a clause that has already been adopted
- Entertained at the end of all other businesses
- 2/3 majority needed (abstentions are out of order)
- Not debatable

d. Motion to adjourn the clause

(Formerly also: Motion to table the clause)

- The equivalent of the “motion to adjourn/table the resolution”
- Calls for the temporary closure of debate on a clause.
- Debatable (*See: DSAMUN StOff Manual*)
- Simple majority needed

e. Motion to follow up

- Used for the clarification and elaboration on the answer given to the point of information just raised by the same delegate
- NOT used to ask an utterly different question, otherwise should be called out of order

- Cannot be raised two times in a row
- Constantly entertaining this motion should be avoided due to time limitations

f. Motion to move to P5 caucus

- This motion needs to be raised after a veto by a P5 country, so that the President of the SC or the expert chair can take only the P5 to a P5 meeting in a separate room, where they will try to agree on a solution (max. 10 minutes).
- The rest of the house should continue the discussion while the P5 are in the meeting, they can however obviously not vote on anything.
- P5 countries are encouraged to send a note to the presidency prior to the voting procedures (**veto threat**), in case they are thinking of vetoing a clause, in order to save time and move to the P5 caucus immediately. The Presidents of the SC are responsible for moving the SC to the P5 caucus as soon as they receive a veto threat.
- After the P5 caucus, the chairs have to entertain a **short speech by a P5 member** in order to explain to the other members what happened in the P5 caucus and what decisions were made.
- After the P5 caucus and the aforementioned short comment, the SC **directly** moves to voting on the item pending (resolution/clause/amendment/amendment to the 2nd degree), regardless of the outcome of the P5 caucus (whether the P5 member submitting the veto threat will exercise its veto power or not).

VI. Table with Points and Motions

Name	Description	Debatable	Vote	Second Needed	May interrupt the speaker
Point of Personal Privilege	Registers a complaint referring to the personal discomfort of an individual	No	-	No	only due to audibility

Point of Order	A short remark concerning a mistake the chair might have made	No	-	No	No
Point of Information to the speaker	A short question made to the speaker having the floor	No	-	No	Recognized after the speaker is done with their speech
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	Clarify the Rules of Procedure	No	-	No	No
Point of Information to the Chair	A question to the chair	No	-	No	No
Motion to move to the previous question	Calls for moving to the next stage of debate.	No	2/3 majority	Yes	No
Motion to reconsider a resolution	Refers to re-debating and re-voting on a resolution	Yes	2/3 majority	Yes	No
Motion to withdraw a resolution	Calls for withdrawing a resolution from being debated upon	Yes	All submitters and co-submitters of the alliance	Yes	No
Motion to extend debate time	Refers to the extension of debate	Yes	2/3 majority	Yes	No
Motion to	Extends POIs	Yes	-	Yes	No

extend Points of Information to the speaker	to the speaker having the floor				
Motion to divide the house	Calls for retaking voting procedure	No	2/3 majority	Yes	No
Motion to vote via Roll Call	Calls for voting via Roll Call	No	2/3 majority	Yes	No
Right of Reply	Refers to a delegate defending its country's integrity after a speech	No	-	No	At the end of a delegates speech
Motion to move into P5 caucus	The P5 members conduct a separate meeting to discuss the veto	No, but the Presidency could, in theory, convince the P5 member that raised the veto to revoke it	-	No	No
Motion to follow up	Used for the clarification and elaboration on the answer given	Recognition is up to the Chairs	No	No	No
Motion to adjourn the clause	Calls for the temporary closure of debate on a clause	Yes	Simple majority	No	No
Motion to reconsider the clause	Refers to re-debating and re-voting on a clause	Yes	2/3 majority	Yes	No

Motion to divide the question	Motion needs to be raised to start debate	No	No	No	No
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VII. Voting

Different rules apply also on voting in the Security Council. A clause needs a minimum of 9 votes in favour (or 2/3 majority if the delegates are less than 15) in order to pass. If there are 8 votes in favour the clause will fail, even if the votes in favor exceed the votes against. Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree need a simple majority to pass. **In the Security Council, abstentions are allowed when voting on an amendment or an amendment to the 2nd degree**, so as to avoid potential vetoes by the P5 members. In order for a vote to be taken, all P5 members have to be present and a quorum is required (9 member states present including the P5).

VIII. Veto

- Only the 5 permanent members of the SC (China, Russia, UK, USA, and France) have the right to veto.
- **A vote against by the P5 means a veto**, regardless of the item being voted upon (resolution/clause/amendment/amendment to the 2nd degree).
- The vetoed item cannot pass, even if it has acquired the necessary minimum of 9 votes in favour. Debating on this item freezes, and the discussion moves on.
- However, it is possible for the delegation that vetoed to deliver a short speech (max 30 seconds) on why they vetoed, or the other members of the council can ask for this (**motion to justify/explain vote**). One of the P5 may wish to vote against.
- **Avoiding veto can be achieved through abstaining**, which the chairs should encourage.
- A country of the P5 may veto only when its national benefits are being violated.
Veto-power abuse consists of a direct threat to the smooth function of the council and so **a warning order** issued by the Presidency is recommended. The council has to keep in mind that *in the UNSC veto is almost never used* (see: www.un.org)
However, should a P5 plan on issuing a veto occur, the delegate ought to submit a veto threat to the Chairs before doing so (the delegates have to be reminded about this).
- Veto applies **only to substantial matters** (procedural matters cannot be vetoed)

IX. Crisis

The delegates of the Security Council may be asked to confront a crisis. The crisis is linked with a scorching hot issue, an incident or a conflict relevant or not to the Agenda items of the

SC, which has just come up. For this reason, the SC delegates should be updated on any currently occurring crises and conflicts worldwide in order to be able to effectively deal with and elaborate on.

The Secretary General of the conference is responsible for its introduction and the committee should immediately move into an ad-hoc session, lobbying on the just announced topic, form draft clauses and then proceed with debating on them. The debate session of the crisis and the SC agenda items are, however, of equal importance as they consist an imminent threat on international peace, security and stability. The SC Presidency has to clarify the Rules of Procedure on the first day.

X. Guest Speakers

Guest Speakers can be invited to the Security Council. Usually, they are the Ambassadors of countries that are not represented in the council but have a crucial role in a topic at hand. These delegates can obtain the floor, deliver a speech outlining their stance on the topic and answer points of information. However, they can vote neither on substantial nor on procedural matters, and they can't participate in the debate on resolutions/clauses/amendments.

XI. Further Guidelines for the Presidency

The role of the Student Officers is to guide the delegates during the conference and cooperate in order to achieve a unanimous accord for the resolution. The SC Presidency should be qualified with exceptional knowledge and a profound understanding of the Rules of Procedure and the issues of the Agenda likewise. Under their responsibilities falls the explanation of those Rules on the first day of the conference as well as the entertainment and reply to all possible delegates' inquires.

It is also their role to **point out the indispensable character of the veto power to the SC delegates in order to avoid any arising abuse of this power and false representation of their countries' policies.** *Lobbying, note-passing or a P5 caucus serve as possible solutions aiming to the avoidance of veto use.*