

Debating Procedures

Committee Chairs are in control of the debates; as well as managing the order of speech, they set the timing for debates and reserve the rights to change the debating procedures if necessary.

Debates follow this order: introduction, main debate and voting.

Introduction

The Committee Chair will invite the main proposer to introduce their resolution who will read out the operative clauses and present their argument in favour of the resolution. Points of information (explained below) will then be allowed, and the primary submitter will have time to respond before moving on to the main debate.

Main Debate

If delegates wish to present an argument, they should send a note to the Chair, indicating whether they are in favour or against the resolution. Delegates are provided notepaper to allow communication with others. To send a note, the recipient's title should be indicated in the space provided, then hold the note in the air to notify a member of the AdStaff, who will collect and deliver the note. The Chair will then select the next speaker, aiming to alternate between those in favour and those against, to ensure a balanced debate.

When a delegate is presenting an argument, they may be interrupted for points of order. After a delegate has finished speaking, the Chair will open the floor to points of information, allowing other delegates to express any concern with the argument. Once all points of information have been exhausted, or when the Chair deems fit, the next speaker will be selected by the Chair. More information on points of order and points of information can be found below.

Delegates may wish to change part of a resolution. To do this, they may propose amendments. Amendments are then debated and voted on, before the main debate continues. Delegates also have the option to raise motions. These are proposals to either move to voting or extend the time for debate. More information on these procedures can be found below.

Point of Order

Delegates may wish to express confusion at a delegate's argument. To do so, they must raise their placard. The Chair will then interrupt the speaker at the appropriate time to allow the point of order to be raised. When raising a point of order, delegates should seek clarification on a point rather than expressing their view or arguing against the point. The speaker should respond to the point of order before continuing with their argument.

Point of Information

Once a delegate has finished presenting their argument, the Chair will invite the committee to express points of information. To do so, delegates should hold their placard up in the air.

Points of information should be used to express any concerns about an argument. The speaker may refuse to take points of information, but they must reply to any accepted.

Amendments

A delegate may request to amend an operative clause of the resolution that is being discussed by sending a note to the Chair. If so, the Chair should address the amendment before any new arguments.

The delegate proposing the argument will be given time to read out their amendment, as well as presenting their argument in favour. Other delegates are then welcome to give arguments in favour of or against the amendment (following the same rules as usual). Points and motions may also be used when debating an amendment. After the debating time has ended, the amendment is voted upon, and the resolution is changed if the committee votes to adopt the amendment.

Delegates can also alter an amendment that is being debated – or, in other words, propose an amendment to an amendment. These are called second-degree amendments, and are proposed, debated, and voted upon in the same way as a first-degree amendment. Third-degree amendments also exist but can only be used in the Security Council.

Delegates might also want to clarify part of an amendment without changing the meaning or content of the amendment, for example by changing a word to make it clearer. This is called a friendly amendment and may be submitted in a point of information to the submitter of the amendment or by sending a note to them. Friendly amendments are not debated; they may simply be approved or denied by the original submitter. The Committee Chair may deem a friendly amendment as non-friendly if it changes the meaning of the original amendment.

Motions

Delegates may request to move into voting procedures, if they feel that all valuable arguments have been exhausted. Alternatively, delegates may also wish to extend debating time. In order to do so, they should raise a motion.

Delegates may raise a motion by sending a note to the Chair detailing their request. The Chair will then announce the motion – delegates who agree should call “Second!” immediately after its proposal, and those who disagree “Objection!”. The Chair will then choose whether or not to implement the motion.

Delegates may also, after voting on an amendment or resolution, request that the committees move to split the house. This motion forces delegates to vote in favour or against a resolution

and removes the option of abstaining. After a vote, the Chair will ask for any objections. If a delegate wishes to move to split the house, they should raise their placard and state so.

Debating etiquette

Delegates should never refer to themselves as “I”. Instead, they should use the pronoun “we” or the name of their delegation (for example, “the Delegation of [state] believes ...”).

Similarly, they should refer to other delegates as “the Delegate of [state]” or by using the pronoun “they”.

Delegates should always begin their speech by addressing any present Secretariat members, the Chair, and fellow delegates. They may also address other attendees of the committee if they wish to do so.

Delegates should show respect and listen when another delegate is talking. If they wish to communicate with other delegates, they should do so by using the notepaper provided.

Voting

After a resolution or amendment has been debated, a vote is called by the Chair to decide whether to adopt it. Delegates may vote for, against, or decide to abstain. In order to vote, delegates should raise their placards when instructed by the Chair.

If a motion to split the house is implemented, abstaining is not an option, and all delegates must either vote in favour of or against the resolution or amendment.

A majority of more than 50% is sufficient to pass or fail a resolution or amendment. After all results are counted, the Chair will announce the decision.

Example of procedures

Main debate:

1. The Chair selects the next speaker and announces: “The floor is given to the Delegate of [state].”
2. The delegate presents their argument.
 - i. If another delegate wishes to express a point of order, the Chair will interrupt the speaker at an appropriate time with “The Delegate of [state] wishes to express a point of order.”
 - ii. The delegate should stand and express their point of order, resuming their seat once finished.
 - iii. The Chair will give the floor to the main speaker, who should address the point of order before continuing their argument.
3. The Chair stands and thanks the delegate for their contribution.

4. The Chair asks: “Are there any points of information from other delegates?”
5. Delegates may stand and raise their placards to indicate that they wish to express a point of information.
6. The Chair selects a delegate to present their point and announces: “The floor is given to the Delegate of [state].”
7. The delegate stands to express their point of information, resuming their seat when they are finished.
8. The main speaker presents their response.
9. Once all points of information have been exhausted, the Chair selects the next speaker and announces: “The floor is given to the Delegate of [state].” The next speaker begins their argument.

Proposing an amendment

1. The Chair gives the floor to the delegate proposing the amendment by announcing: “The floor is given to the Delegate of [state].”
2. The delegate states their amendment, followed by: “... therefore we have proposed an amendment.”
3. The Chair may allow or disallow the amendment to be debated by responding with: “That is [not] in order.”
4. The Chair sets the debating time for the amendment by stating: “The Committee shall have [allocated time] to discuss the proposed amendment.”
5. The Delegate then continues with their proposal including all details of the proposed new clause. Other delegates are welcome to give arguments in favour of or against the amendment (following the same rules as usual). Points and motions may also be used when debating an amendment. After the debating time has ended, the amendment is voted upon, and the resolution is changed if the committee votes to adopt the amendment.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Security Council

There is no second lobbying stage on the first day for members of the Security Council; debating begins immediately. As a result, there is more time available for debating, and third-degree amendments are allowed. Amendments may not go beyond the third degree. Additionally, four states of the Security Council (the US, China, Russia and France) are given a veto vote. If one of these states uses their vote against a resolution, it is immediately failed – regardless of the number of supporting or opposing votes.

The Forum Assembly

The Forum Assembly is the amalgamation of all five committees and is established on the final day. There is no lobbying stage for resolutions debated in forum assemblies. Delegates are also able to work more closely with other members of their delegation. This alternative dynamic

should be utilised during forum assembly debates in order to create more versatile, robust arguments.