



## **The St. Petersburg International Model United Nations Security Council General Rules of Procedure**

**The United Nations Security Council** (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and according to the 24<sup>th</sup> clause of the UN Charter is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946.

The Security Council sessions are held with the presence of fifteen member states: five permanent members, that also get the ability to use their veto power, and ten non-permanent members, which are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

*The St. Petersburg International Model United Nations Security Council* (SPIMUNSC or SC) has had one of the major parts in the conference ever since its first session. To maintain the effective work and keep the unique spirit of the SC it is extremely important that all the subsequent rules are strictly followed.

**Please note:** It is important to first be familiar with the **SPIMUN Rules of procedure in formal debate.**

1. The session of the Security Council can only be held if **all** fifteen official member states delegations are present. If one of the members is running late and the Chairman is concerned about that, it is yet possible to start the work in order to not lose time.
2. There will be no lobbying at the SPIMUNSC, since the one resolution on each subject matter is ought to be built up clause by clause though out the session for a more efficient solution (see point 3).
3. The resolution has to be compiled in the following order:
  - a. The Chairman announces the subject matter and gives time (15-20 minutes) for the delegates to send clauses in a form of amendments. It is possible for the State representatives to provide the amendments in electronic formats or as a fully printed resolution, but each point will still be seen as one amendment. Prepared resolutions will not be discussed apart from the one resolution that will be built during the session meeting. Both points for the perambulatory and operative part are needed.
  - b. As soon as the time is up each amendment will be discussed in conformity with the SPIMUN rules of procedure:
    - *“An amendment is only in order if it is submitted to the Chair on the official Amendment Sheet at an appropriate time, and easily legible for the Chair,*
    - *Amendments will only be entertained if the speaker on the floor moves the amendment. Chair previously asks the delegate whether he wants to propose his/her amendment.*
    - *There is no such thing as a "friendly amendment". An amendment will usually be debated, and always put to a vote. Even if it is only a change of one word. (Yet in some cases a “friendly amendment” might be presented by the Chairman in the interest of the debate.)*
    - *Closed debate will be the norm for amendments. Chair must use his/her common sense to decide on the limit of debate time op. an amendment*

*(max.: 5 min in favor and 5 min against, min: 30 sec in favor and 30 sec against),*

- *Only ONE amendment (max: one entire clause) per amendment sheet will be in order*
  - *Chair should prioritize only constructive amendments, e.g. add a clause. Destructive amendments should be discouraged and not recognized,*
  - *If an amendment fails, the speaker who proposed the amendment retains the floor,*
  - *On an amendment, delegations can only vote for or against, no abstentions are allowed”*
- c. Only amendments up to the third degree are in order. Amendments of the second and third degree are in order only during the discussion of the original amendment or the debate on the resolution as a whole. Amendments of the second and third degree can refer to striking the original amendment out not. During the debate on the resolution as a whole, amendments of the first degree (suggestions to add a whole clause, yet not a sub-clause) will be in order only if considered a significant addition by the Chair yet in most cases will probably be overruled.
- d. If needed, an Immoderated Caucus is in order. An Immoderated Caucus is a form of debate that might be moved either by a delegate in form of a motion (“Motion to have an Immoderated Caucus”) or by the Chairman in case of low activity amongst the member states. The motion may not interrupt the speaker. If the mode was suggested by a delegate, one should rise by the command of the Chair, suggest the length and justify the need of the change of the Caucus from Moderated to Immoderated, the Chairman may suggest a more appropriate length and put out into vote. First requires simple “seconds”, but if an “objection” is heard, has to be properly yet quickly voted on and to be in order has to have 2/3 of the house in favor. The Chair may rule the motion out of order without a possibility to appeal. Motions to extend the Immoderated Caucus are in order but might be overruled by the Chair. An Immoderated Caucus is a “free debate” time, when all delegated are free to talk and move around without asking the Chair’s permission and is used for representatives to cooperate with one another and think of new strategies and solutions.

- e. After the voting, if the amendment passes it will be immediately moved to the future resolution's document by the Chairman or the Technical Support representative in the order the debate on it has been held, unless one is connected to another point that already has been taken.
  - f. When all amendments have been debated on or due to the lack of time the Chairman must announce the discussion of the resolution as a whole. This is a standard MUN mode of debates where the delegates should amend those points taken earlier if needed as any General Assembly Committee would do. Though these debates are meant to be brief and short since supposedly most issues on the subject had to have been discussed when the resolution was built. During the voting procedure on the resolution as a whole, abstentions are in order.
4. Veto power may only be performed by the permanent members of the Security Council: the United States of America, The Russian Federation, The French Republic, The People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom (the Big Five). The veto power on SPIMUN may be used by any of these members during the voting procedure on either a clause, an amendment or the whole resolution no matter the subject and the country's view on it as long as the delegate stays in character (see point 7). However, if the other permanent members are confused by the nature of their fellow nation's will to use such a power, it is possible for one of them to propose a Motion to have a Closed Big Five Session, which requires "seconds" from the permanent members and two "abjections" to overrule it. The Closed Big Five Session may not last longer than 7 minutes (the time will be set by the Chairman), is performed without the presence of the Chairman and, if needed, in the interest of the debate might be moved simply to the other side of the session hall while the non-permanent Security Council members will automatically move their work into an quite Immoderated Caucus mode.

5. Guest delegates are representatives of those countries that are not officially supposed to be members of the Security Council at that period of time yet that are invited to be present during the discussion of the issue their country plays a major role at. At SPIMUN a guest delegate should be also the registered ambassador of the country and must be ready to represent the idea of its government on the subject they will be invited to debate on. The MUN-directors or the MUN group representatives will be informed which country's ambassador and on what day should be presenting what issue (excluding guests for an Open Agenda question. Ambassadors of countries that would be the preferred to be a SC guest delegate for the Open Agenda, unlike other Guest delegates, will have a choice to either come or not, if the ambassador refuses, the SC Chairman might ask another representative of this country, yet they also have a right to refuse.). Guest delegates will be escorted before the beginning of debates by a Chief or an Administrative Staff member to the Security Council. Guest delegates will not be given a right to vote or propose amendments, yet they are free to explain the situation from their point of view, express their nations opinion on SC actions and comment on other delegates' speeches.
6. As in any other SPIMUN Committee warnings from the Chairman are in order and might be giving for the delegate's misbehavior, ignoring of the SPIMUN rules and play out of character. The warning of the Chairman may not interrupt the speaker, should be announced to the whole Council and might be dismissed if proved unfair immediately. The collection of warnings lasts only throughout the discussion of one issue. First warning is a simple reminder to follow the rules, after the second warning the delegate loses his right to speak, after the third warning the delegate loses his right to vote (if a permanent member, than only loses his ability to use veto power), after the fourth warning the delegate will be asked to leave the session hall.

7. In case of low activity that is not corrected even by an Immoderated Caucus, the Chairman may announce a Burning issue on the subject. A Burning issue on the subject is a hypothetical situation that might have happened in terms of this question which was made up and read out by the Chairman. This means there will be two resolutions by the end of the debates on the issue: a regular one and a Burning Issue.
8. If being performed, at SPIMUN the Open Agenda is announced to the Council one day before its discussion. Usually the most interesting and discussed in the world at that moment issue apart from those already present in the SPIMUNSC Agenda is chosen by the Chairs and SPIMUN-directors and Secretariat to be the question for the Open Agenda. The debates on the Open Agenda question are no different from any other debates in SPIMUNSC, yet the Chairs in that case shouldn't provide the delegates with an annotation.