



**No Borders MUN**

# **Rules of Procedure**

**THIMUN**

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## General Rules of Debate

The decisions of the Chair are final.

Only the Chair, a member of the house recognized by the Chair for a point, or the speaker holding the floor has the right to speak.

All speakers must address the Chair first.

The Chair may, if circumstances warrant it, extend or reduce debate times and limit the number of points of information (POIs).

Except by a decision of the Chair, there will be no suspension of the rules or changes in the order of debate.

Direct conversation between delegates is prohibited, and must take place through the chair.

### Roll Call

The Chairs will call the house to order and commence roll call, in which each delegation's name (ex. "Delegate of Saudi Arabia") will be called in alphabetical order. Upon hearing their name, delegates may respond with either Present, or Present and Voting:

- a) Present: the delegate may vote for, against, or abstain during voting procedures.
- b) Present and Voting: the delegate may only vote for or against, and can not abstain during voting procedures.
  - i) Abstentions are only permitted during voting on amendments, not the resolution as a whole.
  - ii) Non-Governmental Organizations and Observer States may only state Present during roll call.

### Opening Speeches

The Chairs will call upon each delegate to present their opening speech in alphabetical order (maximum 1 minute in length). Delegates may choose to address either one or both of the issues in their respective committees. (Please note that most committees will only have one topic on their agenda.)

### Lobbying

The Chairs will allot a certain amount of time for an unmoderated caucus in which delegates may form blocs and begin writing a resolution on the topic of their choice. The Chairs may decide to split a bloc into two if there are too little resolutions / too many delegates working on one resolution.

There is a limit of one main submitter and four co-submitters per resolution; the number of signatories must equal at least half of the number of delegates in the committee (excluding the main submitter and co-submitters) for the resolution to be vetted. Once this number has been achieved, the main submitter will send the resolution to the Chair (that wrote the background guide for that issue) and the respective Secretary-General. The Chair will check the content to see that it is pertinent to the issue on the agenda; the Secretary-General will check the format, language and logical consistency.

All resolutions must be submitted and vetted during the lobbying period if they are to be debated upon later in the session.

## **Debate**

The Chairs will announce the resolution that is on the table, and will call upon the main submitter to read out the operative clauses. Points of Clarification may be asked at this time. These will be followed by the main submitter speech (maximum 2 minutes in length).

The Chairs will then ask whether the delegate is open to any points of information, upon which the delegate may answer with:

- a) "No", however this is highly discouraged;
- b) "x POIs", with x specifying a number;
- c) "Any and all pertaining to the speech"; or
- d) "Any and all".

Follow-ups are allowed, but not POIs to the second degree.

After POIs, the delegate may either yield the floor back to the chair or to another delegate. Yields to the second degree are not allowed.

The floor will then be open for any delegate to speak, upon which delegates may raise their placards to make a for speech, an against speech, or an amendment. All speeches aside from the initial main-submitter speech will be a maximum of 1 minute long. The same policies regarding POIs and yields are followed.

## **Amendments**

There are three types of amendments that delegates can submit:

- a) Add: these are the most constructive types of amendments that can be made to a resolution and are thus highly encouraged. These add new content to a resolution by adding a new clause, sub-clause, or sub-sub-clause.
- b) Modify: These amendments replace a certain section of a clause, sub-clause, or sub-sub-clause with something else.

- c) **Strike:** These types of amendments are discouraged due to their unconstructive nature, but can sometimes be necessary when the flaws of a clause, subclause, or sub-sub-clause are too overwhelming to be fixed.

When the floor is open, a delegate wishing to entertain their amendment may raise their placard and, if called upon, state that they believe they have submitted an amendment. (Please note that amendments must be approved by the chair beforehand.) The Chair will then read out the amendment and set a closed debate time of 5 minutes for and 5 minutes against the amendment. The submitter will then make a speech, as will any other delegates wishing to speak during the given time constraints.

Amendments to the second degree are allowed and may be entertained during time against the amendment to the first degree.

## Voting Procedures

### Amendments

Once debate time elapses on the amendment, delegates will vote for or against the amendment on the table (abstentions are not allowed).

If an amendment to the second degree passes, the original amendment automatically passes as well. If the second degree amendment fails, the committee will return back to debate on the original amendment.

### Resolutions

Before voting on the resolution as a whole, the Chairs may give the main submitter the courtesy of making the final speech (maximum 1 minute in length).

Once debate time on the resolution as a whole has elapsed, delegates will vote either for or against (or abstain if they stated “present” during roll call).

## Points

The points allowed under THIMUN procedure are as follows:

- a) **Points of Clarification:** asked to the main submitter of a resolution after they read out the operative clauses so they can elaborate on words or phrases used.
- b) **Points of Information (POI):** Questions asked by delegates to other delegates after a speech. Please be reminded that POIs cannot be statements, and must be in a question form.
- c) **Point of Order:** A point raised by delegates to the Chairs when they believe that proper ROP has not been followed.
- d) **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** A question raised by delegates to the Chairs to ask for clarification on what proper procedure would be.

- e) **Point of Personal Privilege:** A point raised by delegates to the Chairs regarding the delegates' own personal comfort (e.g., audibility). This is the only point that is allowed to interrupt a speaker.

## Motions

The motions allowed under THIMUN procedure are as follows:

- a) **Motion to Move into the Previous Question:** This is used when delegates would like to move into the next part of the debate (e.g., from time for an amendment to against an amendment, or from general debate time into voting procedures). If raised, the Chairs will ask the committee whether there are any seconds and if there are any objections. Should there be an objection, the motion will be denied. Whether this motion is entertained at all is up to the discretion of the Chairs.
- b) **Motion to Extend Debate Time:** This is used if delegates would like to spend more time debating on a resolution as a whole. This must be seconded by another delegate but is left to the discretion of the Chairs.
- c) **Motion to Move into an Unmoderated Caucus:** This is typically used so delegates can draft amendments with one another. The motion must state the desired time of the unmoderated caucus and be seconded by another delegate, but is left to the Chair's discretion. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates can move around and talk to one another.
- d) **Motion to Move into a Moderated Caucus:** This follows all the same principles as the motion for an Unmoderated Caucus, with the only differentiation being that during a moderated caucus, delegates must be quiet and stay seated. This is typically used to draft speeches.
- e) **Motion to Divide the House:** This motion calls upon the House to reconduct the vote on a resolution, and is entirely at the Chair's discretion. Seconds and objections are not entertained. If the Motion is successful, it leads to a revote in which the Chair will individually call out each delegation and ask for their vote. Abstentions are not allowed. This motion is only entertained if removing abstentions from the vote could affect the outcome of the resolution.
- f) **Motion to Adjourn Debate:** This tables a resolution and ends debate on it. It is rarely used.

## Miscellaneous

All resolutions and amendments require simple majorities to pass. If the vote is tied between delegates in favour and those against, the resolution or amendment being voted upon will fail.

The Right of Reply is the Right that delegates can exercise when they believe that they (as an individual delegate) or their nation have been gravely offended by the remarks of another delegate. In this case, the delegate would raise their placard (after the speaker is done with their speech or POI response) and request that the Chair allow the delegate to exercise their Right of Reply. The Chair will typically ask for the delegate's reasons to exercise their Right of Reply. If the reasons are deemed appropriate, the delegate may give a brief speech on how they have been offended and how the offending delegate was mistaken.

Unless in specific cases, funding should not be discussed. It can be assumed that it is being covered by the UN.