

WCDMUN Parliamentary Procedure

The following procedures are set out in order to facilitate debate and ensure that sessions are productive and ordered. Delegates should read through these rules and familiarise themselves with the procedures. Having a copy of these at the conference will be useful for reference purposes.

Rules for Delegates

Delegates are required to listen and to respect the decisions of the Chair at all times. They are required to stand when speaking, yield the floor when asked to do so by the Chair, to be courteous at all times and to speak in a manner which reflects the spirit of the United Nations. Abusive or insulting language will not be tolerated and delegates can be asked, via their advisors, to leave the conference.

Amendments to Resolutions

The intention of proposed amendments to resolutions should normally be to improve the resolution, with the object of achieving a wide consensus and thus helping the resolution to pass. All amendments must state clearly the line or lines in which the amendment is to be made; the clauses which are affected by the amendment; the kind of amendment e.g. strike, insert, strike and insert, add.

Amendments are to be submitted online, through wcdmun.ie. Delegates will find an amendment submission space at the bottom of their committee page. Delegates input their country, email, which resolution they are debating and their amendment. Amendments will then be sent automatically to chairs, who will be able to share the submitted amendments with the rest of the committee through projectors.

Amendments to a pre-existing amendment (amendments to the second degree) may only be submitted while the original amendment is being debated. They may be heard orally. If the amendment to the second degree passes after debate, the entire amendment passes.

Power of the Chair in Limiting/Extending Debate

The Chair will propose the limitation of debate time for each motion. This will normally be in main motions, where there could be a closed debate of ten minutes for and ten minutes against, or for amendments where there could be a closed debate of five minutes for and five minutes against. When debate time has been exhausted, the Chair will propose either the extension of debate time (e.g. five minutes for, five minutes against), or the closure of debate and subsequent vote on the question being considered. The Chair may, in the interests of debate, or in order to work towards a consensus, call upon a particular delegation to speak if they have an amendment which, in the opinion of the Chair, adds to the question of the resolution being debated.

The Chair may also restrict the speaking time of an individual delegate to allow more delegates the opportunity to speak or to move the debate on. Equally, the Chair will encourage delegates to open to points of information. The limitations of debate time will include the time taken for replies to points of information but will not include the time taken for questions to the speaker or for other interruptions.

Yields

The floor may be yielded by one delegation to another once; it then must yield to the Chair. Where delegations consist of more than one member, delegates from the same delegation may not yield the floor to each other. Delegates are strongly discouraged from yielding to other delegations from the same school. The Chair will discourage this and may disrupt a yield chain consisting of only one school



Interruption of Speeches and Rising to Points

A speech may only be interrupted by a point of personal privilege referring to audibility or personal offense. All other points e.g. a point of order or point of information to the Chair or speaker, will be dealt with only when the speaker yields the floor, either to the points of information, to another delegate or to the Chair.

- **A Point of Personal Privilege:** This must refer to the comfort and well-being of the delegate. It may not refer to the content of any speech and may only interrupt a speaker if the speech is inaudible.
- **A Point of Order:** This may relate to the procedural matters only.
- **A Point of Information:** This may be directed to the Chair OR the speaker who has the floor if he has indicated that he is willing to yield to points of information. A point of information must be formulated as a question, e.g. “Is the speaker aware that...” or “Does the speaker (not) realise that...” etc. A short introductory statement of reference may precede the question, e.g. “The speaker stated in his speech that...” or “Are they not aware that...”. A series of questions from the same questioner will not be in order.
- **The Previous Question:** Moving the Previous Question, calls for the closure of debate and for a vote to be taken on the motion pending. It may be moved by the Chair or a speaker who has the floor.
- **A Call for the Orders of the Day:** This is a call for the return to the main agenda of the committee, council or assembly. It may not interrupt a speech and must not refer to the content of the speech.
- **Right of Reply:** Rights of reply can only be requested after giving a point of information, they can only be requested once.

Voting

- **Amendments:** When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. Should a second amendment be moved to a proposal, this will be voted on before the vote is taken on the first amendment. There is a maximum of one amendment to an amendment. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of the other, the first amendment shall not be put to the vote.
- **Conduct during Voting:** After the Chair has announced the start of voting procedures, no interruptions will be allowed, except for points of order, connected with the actual conduct of the voting.
- **Abstentions:** The number of delegations actively abstaining (as opposed to simply failing to vote) will be recorded. However, abstentions will not count either for or against the adoption of a motion, i.e. a resolution will pass if the number for exceeds the number against, regardless of the number of abstentions. Abstentions will not be in order for amendments and only on the resolution as a whole,

The Question of funding

At WCDMUN, all Committees and the General Assembly must assume that the U.N. has infinite financial resources. It is therefore out of order to question the integrity of a resolution based on inadequate funding. This is to ensure more fruitful debate where financial viability does not consume debate. This, however, does not extend to the funding of individual member countries.

Written communication between Delegations

All written communication transmitted through the secretaries must be written on identifiable notepaper, with a distinctive (country) heading. Messages must be clearly marked FROM and TO delegates/delegations at the top of the paper. Messages not fulfilling the above requirements will not be transmitted. Delegations are expected to provide their own (appropriate) notepaper. Notepaper must not be offensive, racist or derogatory toward the country in question or other countries. A5 is suggested as an appropriate size. All waste paper will be recycled.