



**ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN  
OF THE WORLD**

**RULES OF DEBATE**

Showing proposed amendments  
to be voted and approved at the  
31st Triennial World Conference,  
Ottawa 27 April – 2 May 2026

**Amendments last approved by Members prior to 24 May 2023**

**RULES OF DEBATE of  
ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD  
Amendments last ratified by Members prior to 24 May 2023**

*Notice of amendments to the Rules with the names of the proposer and seconder and their organisations must be given in writing to the Central Office staff in attendance not less than twenty-four hours before the Meeting at which they are to be proposed.*

**RD1 POWERS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman shall have control of the Meeting and over the maintenance of order at its sessions. ~~She~~The Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each session; direct the discussion; ensure observance of the Constitution, Bye-laws, Rules of Procedure and these Rules; accord the right to speak; put questions to the vote and announce the decisions. ~~She~~The Chair shall rule on points of order and have the power to propose the adjournment or closure of debate, adjournment or suspension of a session.

**RD2 REVISION OF THE AGENDA**

During the session, the Meeting may revise the agenda for the session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items.

**RD3 TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES**

The Meeting may limit the time allowed to each speaker. The time limits suggested are five (5) minutes for the proposer of a motion, three (3) minutes for the seconder and other speakers.

**RD4 POINTS OF ORDER**

During the discussion of any matter, a voting delegate may at any time raise a point of order. The point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with the Constitution, Bye-laws, Rules of Procedure and these Rules. A voting delegate may appeal against the Chairman's decision. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairman shall stand unless overruled by a 50% + 1 vote. A voting delegate may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

**RD5 DECISION OF COMPETENCE**

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

**RD6 SECONDING OF ALL MOTIONS**

Resolutions, Recommendations, Amendments and other motions must in every case be seconded by a voting delegate who is not a member of the same delegation as the proposer.

#### **RD7 WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS**

Any motion may be withdrawn by its proposer with the consent of the seconder at any time before voting on it has commenced. The motion which has thus been withdrawn may be re-introduced at another session of the Meeting by any voting delegate, but only once. On re-introduction it must again be proposed and seconded.

#### **RD8 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS**

In accordance with Bye-law 11, Resolutions, Recommendations and their amendments shall normally be circulated in advance of the Triennial World Conference which is to consider them. The Chair~~man~~ may, however, permit the discussion of amendments proposed during the meetings. No more than two (2) amendments to any one (1) Resolution shall be allowed. All amendments must be given in writing, to the Chair~~man~~, with the names of the proposer and seconder and the names of their organisations.

#### **RD9 VOTING ON AMENDMENTS**

Amendments shall not change the original intent of a Resolution or other motion to make it negative. Where two (2) amendments are allowed to the original motion, the last amendment is voted on first. If any amendments are carried, they become part of the original motion which is then called the substantive or amended motion. If the substantive motion is lost, then the original motion no longer exists.

#### **RD10 RIGHT OF REPLY**

The proposer of a motion has the right of reply and this closes the debate. The Chair~~man~~ may use ~~her~~their discretion to allow any other speaker to speak more than once, or a voting delegate may move that a speaker be further heard, which on being seconded shall immediately be put to the vote.

#### **RD11 ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE**

During the discussion of any matter, a voting delegate may move to adjourn the debate of an item under discussion. The motion to adjourn must be seconded. Then two (2) voting delegates may speak against the motion to adjourn, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote. In no case may a speaker move to adjourn a debate at the conclusion of ~~her~~their speech on that debate.

#### **RD12 CLOSURE OF DEBATE**

During the discussion of any matter, a voting delegate may move to close the debate on the item under discussion. The motion for closure must be seconded, then two (2) voting

delegates may speak against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote. In no case may a speaker move to close a debate at the conclusion of ~~her~~their speech on that debate.

### **RD13 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING / SESSION**

During the discussion a voting delegate may move for an adjournment of the meeting/session. If seconded, the proposal shall immediately be put to the ~~meeting~~Meeting/session without further discussion. The Chair~~man~~ shall announce the result of the vote, and if the proposal is carried, the meeting/session shall be adjourned and reconvened at another time or place. The Chair~~man~~ shall announce the time of resumption of the meeting/session.

### **RD14 ORDER OF MOTION**

The following motions shall have precedence in this order over all other motions or business before the meeting:

**14.1** to adjourn the ~~M~~meeting/session;

**14.2** to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

**14.3** to close the debate on the item under discussion.

### **RD15 ABSTENTIONS**

A delegate who, on instruction from ~~her~~their society, withholds ~~their~~her vote or who does not, for any reason, vote is considered to be neither for nor against the motion and is taken as abstaining. When determining a majority, those abstaining must be counted in the total vote at each session but shall not be added to those voting for or against. If, as a result, there is no overall majority, the motion shall be considered withdrawn.

### **RD16 MAJORITY REQUIRED**

Decisions of the Meeting shall be made by the appropriate majority as set out in the Constitution, Bye-laws, Standing Orders and Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedure and Rules of Debate. A simple majority means 50% plus 1 vote at each session. A two thirds majority means two-thirds or more of the voting strength at each session.

### **RD17 EQUALLY DIVIDED VOTES**

Subject always to the exercise of casting votes if a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the motion shall be regarded as rejected.

### **RD18 CONDUCT DURING VOTING**

After the voting has begun, no one shall interrupt the vote, except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting; and everyone except the tellers to remain seated.

#### **RD19 SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES OF DEBATE**

Any of these Rules of Debate may be suspended or amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting strength at each session. Notice of amendments to the Rules with the names of the proposer and seconder and their organisations must be given in writing to the Central Office staff in attendance not less than twenty-four hours before the Meeting at which they are to be proposed.