Security Council and Historical Security Council Procedure Guide

The Security Council is a much smaller forum than other committees, consisting of only 15 delegates. Five of these Member States have permanent seats in the Security Council, while 10 are allocated on a two year rotation by the General Assembly.

Veto power

Unlike in other committees, in the Security Council, the P5 Members (China, USA, France, United Kingdom and Russia) all have veto power. This means that they have the power to strike a clause entirely, and a vote against a clause by a P5 Member State results in the clause failing automatically, regardless of the popular vote.

P5 members may only veto a clause if it directly violates their national interests. If it does not, then like all other delegates they are able to abstain from voting.

We recommend that all P5 delegates understand the national policy of their countries before drafting a resolution and attending debate.

Caucuses

Before a clause is vetoed, the P5 member state is required to raise “veto concerns”. The chairs will ask for veto concerns before a clause is debated. When veto concerts are raised, the P5 enter what is known as a Caucus.

The P5 will leave the room accompanied by one Chair, they will discuss the clause and try to come with a compromise to decide on a way in which the clause can be amended to become more agreeable to the Member State. If a compromise is found, the Chair will be the one to make the edits on the resolution document. However, if there is no way for the clause to be amended then it may be vetoed.

Following the Caucus, one member of the P5 is required to give feedback to the council and explain to them the ways in which the clause has been altered. If the clause has been changed so much that it is unrecognizable, a member of the P5 will be given the opportunity to give a speech for the amended clause and answer any points of information.

Any changes to the clause by P5 members are considered amendments, and will be voted upon by the council as a whole. If the amendment does not pass, it is assumed that the clause will be vetoed when it comes to voting on the clause as a whole.

Debate Procedure

Security Council resolutions are debated clause by clause. This means that when a resolution is chosen, each individual clause is debated like a mini resolution itself. For each clause time for and against will be entertained.

Keeping this in mind, when lobbying and creating resolutions, each individual clause must have written down at the end which delegate is the main-submitter of that clause. This person will be the one to give a short opening statement on the clause when debate time for that clause starts.

If time allows, delegates can submit amendments (after all the original clauses of the resolution are debated) in the form of completely new and separate clauses.

Delegates do not have to approach a podium when giving a speech or raising a point of information. They stand where they are seated and deliver their speech.

When voting in the security council, a "super majority" is required in order for a clause to pass. Therefore, a clause or resolution needs to have 9 out of 15 votes in favour to pass. If any P5 member votes against the clause automatically fails.

In the Security Council the action that is able to be taken is more extreme. Any security council resolution is legally binding and can enforce strict measures such as deployment of UN peacekeeping troops, economic sanctions, or military intervention. Also, the Security Council has the authority to use all operative clauses.

Historical Security Council

For the HSC the same procedure is followed, however delegates must maintain all debate centered around the date decided. This means that no event after the date can be discussed or referenced. It is also important to keep in mind that a country's foreign and national policy changes over time, and it may not be the same today as it was in the past..

In this committee, delegates ***must not*** speak in the past tense when referring to the chosen historical date. All delegates are required to position themselves within that year and conduct debate as though it is the present time.

Accordingly, statements such as "In 1994…" are not permitted. Additionally, delegates must avoid referring to their country's policies, positions, or actions in the past tense. For example, phrases such as "The United States supported…" are inappropriate.

Delegates are reminded that, within the Historical Security Council (HSC), discussion is strictly limited to events, perspectives, and information available up to and including the selected year. No references to events or developments occurring after that date may be introduced or considered.