

Flow of Debate

Roll Call

Each session starts with a roll call in alphabetical order. When called upon, member states shall declare themselves “present”, whereas observers shall declare themselves as “present and observing”.

Debate

At the beginning, each delegate is expected to give a short opening speech outlining his/her country’s or organization’s position and objectives on the topic. Afterwards, a continuously open speaker’s list is to be established. After the adoption of the speaker’s list, the formal debate starts, and delegates can raise a motion and change the style of debate to a moderated caucus or suspend the meeting for informal consultations.

Formal Debate (Speaker’s List)

Delegates will be asked by the Chair whether they wish to be placed on the speaker’s list. Those holding their placards high will be put on the speaker’s list.

After the delegate finished his/her speech, the delegate may be added to the speaker’s list again by passing a written request to the Chair. The speaker’s list is continuously open.

Debate will not be over once the speaker’s list has been exhausted. In order to close the debate and move to voting procedure, a motion to close the debate is necessary, which requires a simple majority vote for passage.

Moderated Caucus

A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time during formal debate when the floor is open and prior to closure of debate. A simple majority vote is required for passage.

During a moderated caucus, delegates signify their wish to speak by raising their placards. The delegate raising the motion must explain its purpose and propose the individual speaking time.

If nobody wants to take the floor, the style of debate will continue in the form of the speaker’s list. Alternatively, formal debate can also be resumed by a motion to move back to formal debate which requires a simple majority vote for passage.

Suspension of the Meeting

A motion for a suspension of the meeting is in order at any time during formal debate or during a moderated caucus. A simple majority vote is required for passage.

The delegate raising the motion must explain its purpose and specify a time limit. During a suspension of the meeting, delegates can meet informally with each other to discuss relevant issues.

Once the suspension of the meeting is over, the formal debate or moderated caucus continues as before.

Closure of Debate

Once a delegate believes that the debate has been exhausted and/ or a draft resolution has been prepared, he/she may raise a motion to proceed into voting procedure. If the motion passes, the Chair shall declare the closure of debate and move to voting procedure.

Voting Procedure

Once the committee moves into voting procedure, amendments are voted upon first, then resolutions. Passage requires affirmative votes from two-thirds of the total number of voting delegates, nine in the case of the Security Council including the concurring or abstaining votes of the five permanent members, a simple majority and a seven state majority within the eleven seating permanent members in the Futuristic Security Council and a simple majority in the ICJ.

Observers have the same rights as members of the committee, but cannot vote on resolutions and amendments and may not introduce amendments, but can introduce draft resolutions.

Important Phrases

Motion to move to a moderated caucus

Honorable Chairperson, we would like (or: the Republic/ Kingdom/ etc of XXX would like) to raise a motion to move to a moderated caucus with the time limit of X minutes for individual speeches to discuss the topic XX.

Motion to suspend the meeting

Honorable Chairperson, we would like to raise a motion to suspend the meeting for a period of X minutes for the purpose of XX.

Motion to move back to formal debate

Honorable Chairperson, we would like to raise a motion to move back to formal debate.

Motion to close the debate

Honorable Chairperson, we would like to raise a motion to close the debate.

Right of Reply

Honorable Chairperson, as the integrity of our nation has been insulted by the delegate of XXX, we kindly ask for the right of reply.

Point of Order/ Point of Information

Point of Order, honorable Chairperson!

Point of Information, honorable Chairperson!

Resolution Writing

The results of negotiations have to be written down in a certain format and passed by the committee. Resolutions are the final outcome document agreed upon by a majority of the delegates in a committee. In reality most resolutions are a compromise passed by consensus. Resolutions usually address an opinion on a certain situation or recommend actions to be taken by the UN or its member states. Only in the Security Council resolutions have the potential to be binding, whereas in other UN organs and agencies they are merely recommendations. It is important to acknowledge that in drafting a resolution, wording will influence its acceptance among fellow delegates.

Resolutions within the UN follow certain rules and a certain format. Each resolution has three parts: the heading, the perambulatory clauses, and the operative clauses. The entire resolution consists of one long sentence, with commas and semi-colons throughout, and only one period at the very end.

1. The Heading

Committee: The committee or organ in which the resolution is introduced

Topic: The topic discussed at VIMUN

Sponsors: List of countries sponsoring the resolution. Sponsors of a resolution are those countries that have been the principle authors of the document and agree with its content.

2. The Preamble

The preamble of a resolution is the introductory part stating the general commitments of the council, referring to past resolutions and actions as well as expressing concerns about the issue at hand. Preambulatory clauses are separated from each other by commas.

Issues that might be included in the preamble:

- References to the UN Charta and citations of past UN Resolutions or other relevant treaties
- Historical background information explaining the need for further action
- Recognition of the efforts made by regional organizations to tackle the problem

Examples of preambulatory phrases:

Acknowledging...	Encouraged...	Noting...
Affirming...	Endorsing...	...with approval...
Alarmed...	Expressing...	...with concern...
Approving...	...appreciation...	...with deep concern...
Aware of...	Expecting...	...with regret...
Bearing in mind...	Fulfilling...	Observing...
Being convinced...	Fully...	Reaffirming...
Believing...	...aware...	Realizing...
Concerned...	...bearing in mind...	Recalling...
Confident...	Guided by...	Recognizing...
Conscious...	Having...	Referring...
Considering...	...adopted...	Regretting...
Convinced...	...approved...	Reiterating...
Declaring...	...considered...	Seeking...
Deeply disturbed...	...examined further...	Stressing... Welcoming...
Desiring...	...received...	Keeping in mind...
Determined...	...reviewed...	

3. The Operative Clauses

Operative clauses are recommendations for actions and are marked by numbers. Operative clauses outline a plan of action and may request action by the United Nations members, Secretariat, or other United Nations bodies. Only in case of the Security Council, operative clauses are binding and not just recommendations. Operative clauses begin with a verb to denote an action, and each clause usually addresses no more than one specific aspect of the action to be taken.

Examples of operative clauses:

Accepts...	Emphasizes...	Invites...
Adopts...	Encourages...	Notes...
Affirms...	Endorses...	...with appreciation...
Appeals...	Expresses...	...with interest...
Appreciates...	...its appreciation...	Reaffirms...
Approves...	...its regret...	...its belief...
Authorizes...	...its sympathy...	Recognizes...
Calls upon...	...its thanks...	Recommends...
Commends...	...the belief...	Regrets...
Condemns...	...the hope...	Reiterates...
Confirms...	Further...	Renews its appeal...
Congratulates...	...invites...	Repeats...
Considers...	...reminds...	Suggests...
Decides...	...recommends...	Strongly supports...
Declares...	...requests...	Urges...
Designates...	...resolves...	Welcomes...
Directs...	Instructs...	

Sample Resolution

Resolution 2159 (2014)

United Nations

S/RES/2159 (2014)



Security Council

Distr.: General
9 June 2014

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 7193rd meeting, on
9 June 2014**

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, including resolution 1696 (2006), resolution 1737 (2006), resolution 1747 (2007), resolution 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008), 1887 (2009), 1929 (2010), 1984 (2011), 2049 (2012) and 2105 (2013), as well as the statement of its President of 29 March 2006 (S/PRST/2006/15), and reaffirming their provisions,

Recalling the creation, pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010), of a Panel of Experts, under the direction of the Committee, to carry out the tasks provided for by that paragraph,

Recalling the 8 November 2013 interim report by the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010) and the 5 June 2014 final report (S/2014/394) by the Panel,

Recalling the methodological standards for reports of sanctions monitoring mechanisms contained in the Report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions (S/2006/997),

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided by the Note of the President (S/2006/997),

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of credible, fact-based, independent assessments, analysis, and recommendations, in accordance with the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010),

Determining that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations

1. *Decides* to extend until 9 July 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010), expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 9 June 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to this effect;
2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee no later than 9 November 2014 a midterm report on its work, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel of Experts submit to the Council its midterm report by 9 December 2014, and requests also a final report to the Committee by 9 May 2015 with its findings and recommendations, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel of Experts submit to the Council its final report by 9 June 2015;
3. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee a planned program of work no later than thirty days after the Panel's reappointment, encourages the Committee to engage in regular discussions about this program of work and to engage regularly with the Panel about its work, and further requests the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee any updates to this program of work;
4. *Expresses* its intent to continue to follow the work of the Panel;
5. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1737 (2006), resolution 1747 (2007), resolution 1803 (2008), and resolution 1929 (2010);
6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.