



SECURITY COUNCIL MANUAL

The following rules of procedure have been modified to fit the needs of the LOCALS Model United Nations conference. These rules are self-sufficient and the only rules of procedure applicable to committee sessions.

Adapted from: IASAS MUN 2024 Security Council Manual

Additional Materials:

- ☰ CONVENTIONAL COMMITTEES MANUAL LOCALS 2025
- ☰ HISTORICAL CRISIS MANUAL LOCALS 2025

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I. SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)

The Security Council (SC) is one of the five primary organs of the UN, with the primary purpose of maintaining international peace and security. It consists of 15 members, and the existing structure of the council is that ten elected members serve two-year terms and five permanent members, also known as the P5 nations, that possess the “veto” power. A key difference between SC and General Assembly (GA) is that SC resolutions are legally binding, meaning that they are not merely suggestions but must be implemented by the states, given that the council can impose sanctions for non-compliance.

The SC takes the lead in determining the existence of threats to peace or acts of aggression, calling upon parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means/recommendations, though in some cases, the SC can resort to imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force in order to maintain or restore such peace.

II. P5 VETO POWER

The P5 nations for SC are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The significance of these member states is that they get veto power.

Essentially, a “veto” means a vote against by the P5, regardless of the item being voted upon, which could be a resolution, clause, or amendment. The vetoed item cannot pass, even if it has acquired the necessary minimum of 9 votes in favor. Debating on this item freezes, and the discussion moves on. Vetoes only apply to substantial matters (procedural matters cannot be vetoed.)

After issuing a veto, the delegation that vetoed will have a choice to deliver a short speech (max 30 seconds) on why they vetoed, or the other members of the council can request one by raising a “Motion to justify/explain the vote.”

*Since a veto highly disrupts the flow of debate as the entirety of whatever is discussed is to be considered to be discarded, a warning order issued by the President is recommended, and P5 nations are reminded that they may only veto when their national interests are being violated.

Thus, if a P5 does plan on issuing a veto, the delegate is required to submit a veto threat to the Chairs before doing so through note-passing.

Please keep in mind that the actual UNSC veto is almost never used, so use this power wisely.

*In order to avoid any abuse of such power and false representation of the delegation’s policies, the chair will have the discretion to question or even retract vetoes if they clearly violate and disrupt the grounds of debate.



III. COMMITTEE DEBATE FORMAT

The SC follows the **lobbying-debate** scheme as well as the **clause-by-clause debate** procedure.

Lobbying-debate means that after lobbying on one topic, the committee debates on said topic and then repeats this process for the second issue. Additionally, during the debate, each clause is debated separately, and no preambulatory clauses are submitted.

During the conference, delegates must hand in clauses for a joint resolution. The clauses are submitted by delegates individually for the committee to come together to negotiate. Similar clauses should be merged or else they will not be entertained by the President.

After debating on each clause, the committee debates on the (one) formed draft resolution as a whole, before voting upon it. During the debate on the draft resolution, which is essentially the final stage of debate for that issue, delegates can submit additional clauses as amendments to the resolution.

IV. SPECIAL POINTS AND MOTIONS

Points and motions used in standard proceedings also apply to SC, but there are more procedural elements specific to the committee listed below:

a. Motion to Reconsider the Clause

This motion is the equivalent of a “Motion to reconsider a resolution”; it asks for the re-voting and the re-debating of a clause that has already been adopted, entertained at the end of all debate; $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed, abstentions are out of order, not debatable.

b. Motion to Adjourn the Clause

This motion is the equivalent of a “Motion to adjourn/table the resolution,” debatable (requires voting with no abstentions in order — simple majority needed)

c. Motion to Move to P5 Caucus

This motion needs to be raised after a P5 nation raises a veto so that the President can take the P5 to a private meeting (simply discuss outside the committee room; max 10 minutes).

The rest of the House should continue discussion, but no voting will occur without the P5's presence.

Once again, a veto threat must be sent to the President before a P5 officially issues a veto to ensure efficiency so that the President can arrange the P5 caucus right after.



After the P5 caucus, the chairs have to entertain a short speech by a P5 member in order to give a brief summary/comment on the conclusions of their discussion.

V. VOTING

The SC also has different rules when it comes to voting. A clause needs a minimum of 9 votes in favor (or $\frac{2}{3}$ majority if there are fewer than 15 delegations) in order to pass, meaning the clause will fail even if the votes in favor exceed the votes against.

However, amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree only need a simple majority to pass. Abstentions are allowed when voting on an amendment or an amendment to the 2nd degree, so as to avoid potential vetoes by the P5 members. In order for a vote to be taken, all P5 members have to be present, and a quorum is required (9 member states present, including the P5).

