



OPOMUN

DARE TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

1. Debate Style

OPOMUN, is a clause-by-clause styled conference, which seeks to promote a constructive, step-by-step approach to resolution making, while at the same time providing the ideal environment in which ideas can be presented, discussed and judged in a streamlined and engaging way. Unlike most Model United Nations conferences, delegates present draft clauses. These are then debated by using this parliamentary procedure, where they are amended and discussed. If the clause is adopted by the committee, it is added to the resolution, which is debated as a whole at the end of the session.

2. Language

OPOMUN is a formal conference and therefore, delegates are expected to use formal and appropriate language. Delegates are also expected to use the 3rd person when referring to themselves and when addressing other delegates or the chair. Therefore instead of saying "I" or "You", Delegates should say "This Delegate" or "The Delegate of France". This is a list of the most common ways to address someone:

- Honourable Chair...
- The Delegate of _____ has a point of _____
- Is the the Delegate of _____ aware that _____
- Doesn't the Delegate of _____ realise that _____
- This Delegate yields the floor back to the chair / to the delegate of _____
- Would it be in order for the Delegate of _____ to _____

3. Behaviour

In any debate, behaviour is extremely important. No talking between delegates is expected. Instead, all communication between delegates should be through note passing paper. Delegates are responsible for bringing their own notepaper. MUN meetings are very serious and are a forum to discuss world issues, therefore declaring war on another nation or similar situations are not appropriate and will not be tolerated. If the Chair deems it necessary, he/she may issue a warning to a delegation that repeatedly breaks parliamentary procedure. After three warnings, a delegation will be asked to leave the room.

4. Electronic Devices

Electronic devices can be used in OPOMUN, with the exception of cell phones. However, devices must only be used for conference-related purposes. Warnings will be issued for the misuse of electronic devices.

5. Writing a Clause

A clause is a text where delegates explain their solution to the issue at hand. In OPOMUN we will only discuss operative clauses. Each operative clause must start with an operative verb which should be in bold and underlined. (a list of verbs is available bellow) Clauses should present a detailed solution of the issue in a coherent way. They should also be organised in a logical and simple progression. If it is necessary to use bullet punctuation to express details or variants, delegates can use “sub clauses” and “sub-sub clauses”. Sub clauses are lettered in minuscule letters followed by a closing bracket [a), b), c), d)....]. Sub-sub clauses are numbered in minuscule roman numerals followed by a period [i. ii. iii. iv. v. ...]. Sub clauses and sub-sub clauses should end with a comma, with the exception of the last one, which should end with a period.

Please bear in mind that clauses **CAN'T** break the sovereignty a government has over its land, mention specific sources and specific (numbers) amount of funding or be vague with it's solutions.

Example of a well structured clause:

Suggests that the Six-Party Talks endorse that an embargo be negotiated where:

- a) Commodities being sanctioned against DPR Korea be agreed,
- b) All Six-Party Talks members ensure the lifting of the embargo and then notify DPR Korea of the time lapse of the embargo,
- c) DPR Korea ends their Nuclear Activity by the set time of the embargo, and if DPR Korea does not comply with the terms of agreement, the embargo will:
 - i. Be extended,
 - ii. Restrict more commodities,
 - iii. Be implemented immediately,
 - iv. The IAEA be given the jurisdiction to disarm DPR Korea under their supervision with the consultation of the Security Council.

Source: THIMUN.org

List of Common Operative Verbs:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Accepts | Encourages | Further resolves |
| Affirms | Endorses | Has resolved |
| Approves | Expresses its appreciation | Notes |
| Authorises | Expresses its hope | Proclaims |
| Calls | Further invites | Reaffirms |
| Calls upon | Deplores | Recommends |
| Condemns | Designates | Regrets |
| Confirms | Draws the attention | Reminds |
| Congratulates | Emphasises | Requests |
| Considers | Encourages | Solemnly affirms |
| Declares accordingly | Endorses | Strongly condemns |
| Deplores | Expresses its appreciation | Supports |
| Designates | Expresses its hope | Takes note of |
| Draws the attention | Further invites | Transmits |
| Emphasises | Further recommends | Trusts |
| | | Urges |

6. Caucus Time

During caucus time (sometimes referred to as lobbying), delegates will have the opportunity to take their clauses to other delegates and try and gain support for their ideas. Most importantly, delegates must try and get co-submitters for their clauses, as without 5 co-submissions, their clause won't be debated. Delegates have the option to modify their clauses at the suggestion of others, or merge clauses if they find another delegate with a very similar proposal. Caucus takes place in the individual committee rooms, which means that a student will be placed amongst a group of other delegates working on the same issues on the same theme; but delegates are also encouraged to caucus during coffee break or lunch time. Caucus also provides a chance for students to "break the ice" and meet the other delegates from other schools. They should aim to locate and get to know their potential allies, and identify those who share their goals.

7. Submitting a Clause

A minimum of 5 co-submitters is needed for a clause to be submitted. Co-submitting a clause does not necessarily mean that you agree to the content of the resolution but that you agree to debate on it. Clauses may only be submitted to the chair once they meet the minimum requirement of signatures. Clauses should preferably be submitted in digital format. Since, due to high demand, we cannot guarantee high quality internet connection, delegates should be equipped with a USB Flash Drive if they wish to submit clauses.

8. Roll Call

At the start of the session, the Chair will do a roll call. At this time, the chair will call out all the delegations present in the room in alphabetical order. Delegates are expected to say "present and voting" and raise their placard when the name of their country is called out, in order for the co-chair to mark them present. If delegates miss the roll call, they must send a note to the chair to notify that they are present.

9. Yielding

When delegates finish speaking they need to yield the floor to the chair or to another delegate by saying, "This delegate yields the floor back to the chair", or "This delegate yields the floor to the Delegate of Brazil". Note that the floor can only be yielded to another delegate once - i.e. Delegate A can yield the floor to Delegate B, but Delegate B must yield the floor to the Chair.

10. Amendements

An amendment is a proposed change to the clause at hand. A delegate can fix the wording of a clause and/or add/strike a sub-clause. To propose an amendment, it is necessary to first write it clearly on amendment paper and send it to the Chair. When he/she asks for a speaker to address the house, the delegate must raise its placard and wait until the chair recognises the delegate. At the podium the delegate must say: "The Delegate of _____ has proposed an amendment. Is that in order?".

Amendments can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" which is supported by the original draft clause co-submitters, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original co-submitters and must be voted on by the committee as a whole .

The chair will ask if there are objections from the part of the main or co-submitters. If there are, then unfriendly amendment procedure is applied, if not, the amendment is passed and the clause is updated.

Amendments to the second degree are not in order in OPOMUN (except for Security Council).

11. Open Debate and Closed Debate

During Open Debate, the floor is open to amendments, speakers in favour of the clause, and speakers against. In Closed Debate, the floor is only open to certain points of view. and is divided into Closed Debate in favour, and Closed Debate against. You may not introduce an amendment during Closed Debate.

12. Voting Procedures

When time for the clause/amendment/resolution has elapsed, the chair will call for a vote. When voting on a clause or resolution a delegate can vote for, against, or can decide to abstain. When voting for a amendment, a delegate can only vote for or against. The chair will ask all delegates voting [for/against/abstain] to raise their placards and admin staff will count the votes. At the end, the chair will announce the results and announce if the clause/ amendments/resolution has passed or not. If the results are "tied" delegates can call for a division of the house (please see motions and points). Delegates are only expected to clap if the chair says "clapping is in order".

In the Security Council, 9 votes in favour are always required to adopt a clause, amendment or resolution, unlike other committees where a simple majority is necessary.

13. Veto Power - Security Council Only

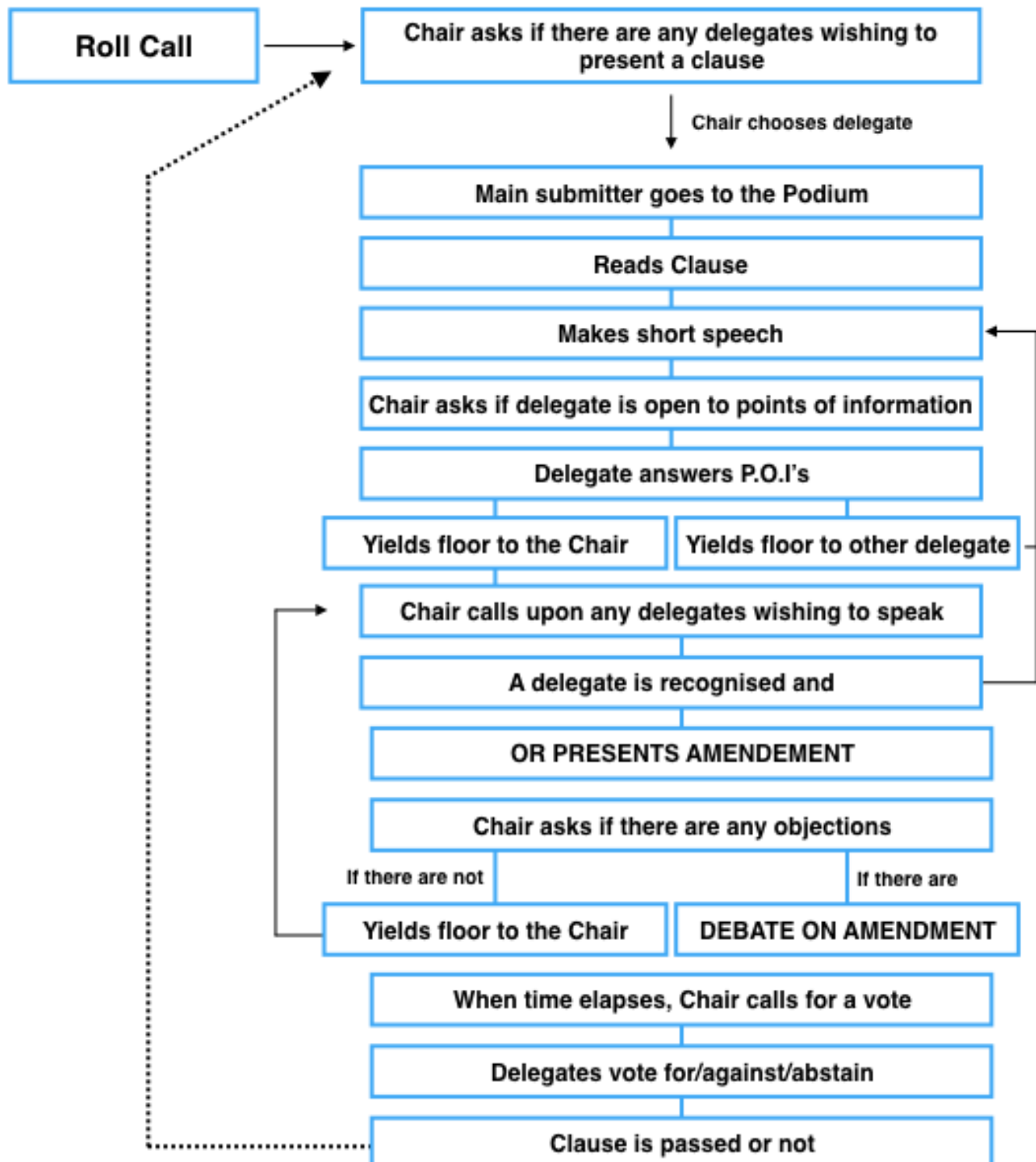
Under Chapter V, Article 27 of the United Nation Charter, in the Security Council, the 5 permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States) have the right to exercise the Veto Power. This means that for any clause/ resolution to pass, it must have the consent (they must not vote against) of the P5. If delegates wish to exercise the Veto Power they are expected to send a note to the Chair warning that they will veto the Clause at it's current state. The President of the Security Council may decide to call for a P5 meeting at the Veto room in order to negotiate a amendment to overrule the Veto.

14. International Court of Justice

The rules of procedure of the International Court of Justice differs from all other committees. Please consult the "ICJ Information Package" for any questions regarding this committee.

15. Flow of debate

The diagram below illustrates how debate generally works:



15. Motions and Points

Point of Personal Privilege: A point of personal privilege is used when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in committee. It is the only point that can interrupt the speaker.

"Point of Personal Privilege - This delegate is unable to hear what the Delegate of China is saying."

Point of Order: This is used when a delegate wishes to question the Chair about an action taken by another delegate e.g. inappropriate language.

"Point of Order - Is it in order for the Delegate of Japan to insult the Delegate of China?"

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry: This is used when a delegate wishes to question the Chair about his/hers action based on the Rules of Procedure or when a delegate wishes to clarify any specific term/language relating to the debate.

"Point of Parliamentary Enquiry - Could the chair please explain what is meant by abstaining?"

Point of Information to the Speaker: This is a question made to the speaker, and can only be done if recognised by the chair. It must be made in the form of a question. Delegates must remain standing whilst their Point of Information is being answered.

"Is the Delegate of South Africa aware that sub-clause b) violates the sovereignty of nations?"

Point of Information to the Chair: This is a question made to the chair that is not related to the Rules of Procedure but is relevant to the debate.

"Point of Information to the Chair - Could the chair explain what is the Atlantic Treaty?"

Motion to move to Voting Procedures: In open debate, it means that the debate will be moved into voting procedures. It requires a "second", but it is up to the Chair to decide whether or not to entertain the motion.

Motion to move to the Previous Question: In closed debate, if the house is in time in favour, motioning to move to the previous question, will move debate into time against. If debate was in time against, debate will then be moved into voting procedures. It requires a "second", but it is up to the Chair to decide whether or not to entertain the motion.

Motion to adopt without a vote: This motion means that the clause being debated will automatically pass without voting, and will be added to the resolution. It requires a "second", and there must be no "objections". This motion can only be considered when debating clauses.

Motion to Table the Clause: This motion requests the Chair to entertain a vote on consideration of a clause. If the vote ends favourably the clause is tabled to the end of the "line up" and is only to be considered after all other submitted clauses have been discussed.

Motion to Divide the House: A motion to Divide the House is a motion to have the Chair call out every country in alphabetical order and record the votes individually, instead of using the method of raising placards. This motion can only be called after a "tied vote", and delegates can only vote either for or against. The chair can decide to entertain it or not.

Motion to Move to Caucus Time: This motion requests the chair to stop the debate so that the House can move into Caucus. It is up to the chair to decide if it is entertained or not.