**Rules of Procedure**

Model United Nations conferences run according to a set of rules that keep the debate running smoothly. Committees are run by moderators known as ‘committee chairs’. While we won’t be going into every technical rule today, you will learn the basic flow of debate and some of the typical motions and points you can find in Model United Nations. You will be using some of these motions and points during the mock Model United Nations simulation.

When you speak

As a speaker in a Model United Nations conference, you must remember to always speak in third person as a representative of your country. When speaking, never use the word ‘I’, always refer to yourself as ‘this delegate of’ the country you’re representing. At the end of speeches (other than those in moderated caucuses), you will need to give your time to questions or to the committee chair. You do this by saying ‘I yield my time to questions’ or ‘I yield my time back to the chair’.

What is a motion? What is a point?

A motion is, in essence, a request by one delegate to change in debate in one way or another - either by moving to focused discussion, free discussion or even by ending the entire debate. A point is usually a question that won’t affect the debate, such as when you request to be allowed to visit the washroom or when you request that another delegate increase their volume so that you can hear them.

Some Common Motions and Points

All the motions below require a simple majority to pass. Resolutions and amendments require a supermajority to pass. Points do not require a vote.

*Motion to open General Debate*

This motion will allow the committee to enter the General Speakers List, which is the default state of committee (where speakers will speak in order).

*Motion to move into Moderated Caucus*

This motion will move the committee into a period of focused debate, where the committee will discuss specifically on a singular topic. The delegate proposing this motion will have to indicate the topic of discussion, the total amount of time and the time for each speaker.

*Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus*

This motion will move the committee into a ‘free discussion’ of sorts, where delegates can freely chat. Delegates still should not leave the room without the permission of their chairs. The proposing delegate must indicate the total time of the unmoderated caucus.

*Motion to Introduce Draft Resolution*

The motion to introduce a draft resolution will introduce your draft set of solutions to the committee as a whole. Your draft resolution must have been previously submitted to and approved by the committee chair. The draft resolution is not automatically passed - it will now undergo a process of debate within the committee.

*Motion to Introduce Amendments*

The motion to introduce amendments will introduce any proposed amendments to the resolution. Amendments must also be debated and voted on, and must also be approved before they are submitted.

*Motion to Move into Direct Voting Procedures*

This motion allows the committee to move into voting procedures on amendments and resolutions. Once this motion is passed, resolutions and amendments can be voted on in a second vote (this one will need a supermajority) to decide whether the committee wants to authorise them.

*Point of Parliamentary Inquiry*

The point of parliamentary inquiry is raised when you have a question about the rules of procedure for your committee chair.

*Point of Personal Privilege*

The point of personal privilege is raised when you have a personal request to make, such as asking a delegate to be louder or asking for permission to visit the washroom.

The Flow of Debate

1. Debate starts by everyone returning to their seats. The chairs will take attendance (this is called ‘roll call’) and everyone should indicate that they are ‘present and voting’. The chairs will announce how many people are present, and how many people are needed for a simple majority or a supermajority.
2. Next, the chairs will ask for delegates to motion to open general debate. The General Speakers List is the main list of speakers during Model UN, and is the default state of debate. When the speakers list is open, delegates can send notes to the committee chair to ask to be added as a speaker.
3. Delegates can make motions to introduce a moderated caucus or an unmoderated caucus. After a while, delegates can start working on their resolutions with one another. Once delegates are done with their resolutions, they can submit the resolutions to the chair for approval.
4. Once the resolution is approved, delegates can motion to introduce the resolution and introduce it for debate. Delegates can introduce amendments and discuss whether they should be added to the resolution. After debate, the resolution can be voted on to decide whether it passes or fails.
5. At the end of debate, the committee will adjourn.

Sample Resolution

This sample resolution does not mimic precisely a real Model United Nations resolution, but you should attempt to use this format when you submit your resolutions.

**Submitters:** Singapore

1. Recommends that countries work together to target the COVID-19 pandemic, through setting up vaccine passport programs that will allow countries to reopen to travel;
2. Supports countries that impose lockdowns during COVID-19 outbreaks;
3. Encourages countries to provide global assistance, both in financial manner and through provision of healthcare resources, to countries under strain due to severe outbreaks.
4. Recommends that countries use programs like TraceTogether, which use Bluetooth interactions to detect potential spread, to determine and stop COVID-19 hotspots.