

Security Council – SC

The Security Council is an independent organ of the UN System. The Security Council has the highest authority in the UN and they debate the most challenging and controversial of topics such as: “The Situation in Afghanistan”, “Eliminating Somali Pirates”, “Nuclear Arms of North Korea” etc.

The Security Council consists of 15 members. Five of these 15 are permanent members, (Permanent 5 or P5), and the other 10 serve a two---year term. The Five Permanent Members are:

1. The People’s Republic of China
2. The Republic of France
3. The Russian Federation
4. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
5. The United States of America

These countries were permitted permanent membership of the Security Council by the United Nations Charter and for Historical reasons, leading to the end of the Second World War. These countries were also the first nations of the world to possess Nuclear Weaponry.

The 10 rotational members of the Security Council serve a two---year term.

They nominate themselves to serve in the council, and at the annual General Assembly Plenary, they are voted on whether they will serve or not. Their term starts on the first of January and five countries are replaced each year. Each regional bloc is allocated a number of seats to be served in the security council.

Please note, when representing a country that is active in an issue in the Security Council, if you are appointed as an Ambassador you will be called in for your country's views, so it is advised that you should be prepared for when you are called in!

The Five Permanent Members of the Security Council have Veto Power. The Veto Power entitles them to strike in a clause a specific clause of a resolution, or a resolution as a whole without question or without voting taking place. If a P5 nation uses their veto, the clause or resolution is struck immediately. Please refer to page 66 to learn about the Debate process at the Security Council.

A P5 Caucus is an informal meeting in the Security Council that breaks debate. All P5 members leave the council's room into a secluded area accompanied by one of the Student Officers of the Security council. There they discuss a certain aspect of the resolution without needing to speak in the third person.

The Caucus generally happens when one of the P5 delegates are considering on voting against (vetoing) a clause that other P5 delegates are in favor of. In the caucus, the P5 delegates discuss whether the clause is worth having in the resolution or should be struck. To ask for a P5 Caucus, you need to motion or send a note to the chair for one. The motion is called "Motion for P5 Caucus".

Please note: when in the Security and are a P5 Member, if you're unhappy with the clause, instead of vetoing it, try:

- Amending the clause with Amendments.
- Abstaining when voting on the clause (if you are unhappy with it, but don't mind if it remains in the (Resolution)).
- If it cannot be improved at all, and is a flaw in the resolution, it is suggested that you then should veto (vote against) the clause.