



Security Council Procedure

In the Security Council, debate is of more complex, detailed and rigorous style than other committees, so it traditionally comprises of the most able and experienced delegates. It is therefore rare for novice delegates to be fielded in the Security Council.

All delegations which represent nations with Security Council membership must field a delegate to the Security Council.

The Security Council exists to address matters mainly of international peace and security. It comprises of five permanent members, often colloquially referred to as “the P5” (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and ten non-permanent members, elected by the real General Assembly on two year terms.

Although the general model of debate is similar to other committees, there are significant differences as detailed below.

Presiding officers

The Security Council is not presided over by chairs, but by Presidents.

Debate procedure

Like other committees, resolutions are debated, but rather than being debated as a whole, each clause contained within a resolution is debated individually. This means each clause has its own debate and its own voting procedure. Amendments can be made to clauses, and these can be submitted at any time during debate of the clause, and debated in time against.

The Security Council is the only institution within the United Nations that may “Condemn”, “Decide” or “Demand”. It is also the only institution that may authorise the use of economic sanctions, the use of military force or the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers.

Yield chains are limited to one yield (A → B → President).

Voting procedure

Amendments require a simple majority to pass (8 votes in favour); abstentions are not in order.

Clauses require a 3/5 majority to pass (9 votes in favour), including no votes against by any of the five permanent members (a “veto”). If a permanent member intends to veto a clause, they should make this known to the Presidents before voting procedure begins; in these circumstances, a caucus between the permanent members and the Presidents will take place, where a compromise is attempted to be reached to assuage any concerns (this may result in amending the clause without consulting non-permanent members).

After debate for all clauses has elapsed, all passed clauses are amalgamated into a single resolution. This resolution as a whole will then be voted on, with the same criteria as above; if there is time, there may be debate on the resolution as a whole prior to voting procedure.