



CHAPTER EIGHT

RULES OF PROCEDURE: GENERAL ASSEMBLY & ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. Administrative

- 1.1 The Secretariat.** The Secretariat consists of the volunteer staff members of American Model United Nations.
- 1.2 Rules Committee.** The President of the General Assembly, the Senior Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, and one other person appointed by the Secretary-General shall compose the membership of the Rules Committee. On matters involving content, the head of the Rapporteur Department shall also be a member of the committee.
- 1.3 Credentials.** All questions concerning the validity of Representative credentials shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat,
- The Secretariat has sole authority to decide all questions concerning credentials,
 - Representatives must wear approved credentials at all times while on the Conference premises.
- 1.4 Quorum/Majority.** A quorum is one-fourth of the member delegations in attendance for each Committee/Council; a majority is one-half of the member delegations in attendance for each Committee/Council.
- A quorum must be present at all times during Committee/Council sessions,
 - A majority must be present for a substantive question to be put to a vote,
 - Questions concerning quorum or majority should be directed to the Chair,
 - It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that a quorum is present at all times.
- 1.5 Committee/Council Officers.** The Secretariat shall appoint the President/Chairperson, Vice President/Vice Chairperson, and Rapporteur(s) for each Committee/Council, and shall select any other positions necessary to help conduct the sessions of the Committees/Councils,
- Hereafter, in these rules, “Chair” will refer to both “Chairpersons” and “Presidents.”
- 1.6 General Authority of the Chair.** In addition to exercising such authority conferred upon the Chair elsewhere in these rules, the Chair shall
- Declare the opening and closing of each session,
 - Ensure the observance of the rules,
 - Direct the discussions of the Committee/Council, and accord the right to speak,
 - Advise the Committee/Council on methods of procedure that will enable the body to accomplish its goals,
 - Rule on Points and motions, and subject to these rules, have complete control of the proceedings of the Committee/Council and the maintenance of order at its meetings,

During the course of the session the Chair may propose Limits on Debate, Closure of Debate, and Suspension and Adjournment of the Meeting, The Chairperson is under the direct authority of the Rules Committee, and may be directed to inform the body on matters of procedure and/or the body’s topical competence if such action is deemed necessary by the Rules Committee.

- 1.7 Absence of Chair.** If the Chair is absent during any part of a Committee/Council Session, he/she will designate an individual, usually the Vice Chair to chair the session with the same authority.
- 1.8 Number of Accredited Representatives.** Each delegation is allowed two Representatives per Committee/Council on which it is a member, plus one Permanent Representative.
- 1.9 Selection of Agenda Topics.** Agenda topics shall be selected by the Secretariat prior to the start of the conference. Once selected, these topics are fixed for the duration of the conference.
- 1.10 Observer Status.** Those delegations recognized as having Observer Status by AMUN shall be accorded all rights in the Committee/Council except the following:
- They may not vote on any item,
 - They may not make or second the following motions:
 - Adjournment of the Meeting (rule 7.2),
 - Adjournment of Debate (rule 7.3),
 - Closure of Debate (rule 7.4),
 - Decision of Competence (rule 7.8).

2. General Rules

- 2.1 Statements by the Secretariat.** The Secretary-General or any member of the Secretariat may make verbal or written statements to a Committee/Council at any time.
- 2.2 Diplomatic Courtesy.** Representatives must accord Diplomatic Courtesy to all other Representatives and Secretariat members at all times,
- Representatives who persist in obvious attempts to disrupt the session shall be subject to expulsion from the Committee or Council by the Chair,
 - The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any Representative/delegation from the Conference,
 - Decisions of the Chair on Diplomatic Courtesy are not appealable.
- 2.3 Speeches.** No Representative may address the Committee/Council without obtaining the permission of the Chair,
- Delegations, not Representatives, are recognized to speak; more than one Representative from the same delegation may speak when the delegation is recognized,
 - Speakers must keep their remarks germane to the subject under discussion,

- A time limit may be established for speeches (rule 7.10),
- Representatives, at the conclusion of a substantive speech, will be allowed, if they are willing, to answer questions concerning their speech,
 - A delegation that desires to ask a question should signify by raising a Point of Inquiry (rule 6.3),
 - All questions and replies are made through the Chair,
- A speaker who desires to make a motion may do so after their speech and questioning, but prior to yielding the floor,
 - By making a motion the speaker yields the floor,
 - Motions may not be made from Points of Order (rule 6.1), Information (rule 6.2), or Inquiry (rule 6.3), or from any procedural speeches.

- 2.4 Recognition of Speakers.** Delegations wishing to speak on an item before the body will signify by raising their placards,
- The exception to this rule occurs on any Point of Order (rule 6.1), Information (rule 6.2), or Inquiry (rule 6.3), at which time a Representative should raise their placard and call out “Point of _____” to the Chair,
 - Points will be recognized in the order of their priority,
 - The Chair shall recognize speakers in a fair and orderly manner,
 - Speakers’ lists will not be used.

- 2.5 Right of Reply.** The Chair may accord a Right of Reply to any Representative if a speech by another Representative contains unusual or extraordinary language clearly insulting to personal or national dignity,
- Requests for a Right of Reply shall be made in writing to the Chair,
 - Requests shall contain the specific language which was found to be insulting to personal or national dignity,
 - The Chair’s decision is not subject to appeal,
 - There shall be no reply to a reply,
 - The Chair may limit the time allowed for a reply.

- 2.6 Withdrawal of Motions.** A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun,
- Seconds to a motion may also be withdrawn,
 - A withdrawn motion or second may be reintroduced by another delegation.

- 2.7 Dilatory Motions.** The Chair may rule out of order any motion repeating or closely approximating a recent previous motion on which the Committee/Council has already rendered an opinion,
- This ruling is not subject to appeal.

3. Rules That Relate to the Rules

- 3.1 Rule Priority and Procedure.** The rules contained in this handbook are the official rules of procedure of the American Model United Nations and will be used for all Committee/Council sessions. These rules take precedence over any other set of rules.

- 3.2 Precedence of Rules.** Proceedings in the Committees/Councils and General Assembly sessions of AMUN shall be conducted under the following precedence of rules
1. AMUN Rules of Procedure,

2. AMUN GA/ECOSOC Precedence Short Form (see page 40),
3. Rulings by the Rules Committee,
4. Historical Usage of the AMUN Rules of Procedure,
5. The Charter of the United Nations.

- 3.3 The Order of Precedence of Procedural Motions.** The order of precedence of procedural motions is listed in both the GA/ECOSOC Precedence Short Form (see page 40) and in these rules under Section 7, *Procedural Motions In Order of Priority*. These motions, in the order given, have precedence over all other proposals or motions before a Committee/Council or the General Assembly.

- 3.4 Rule Changes.** The Rules Committee reserves the right to make changes to these rules at any time. Should a change occur, it will be communicated to the Representatives in a timely manner.

4. Draft Proposals & Amendments

- 4.1 Definition of Draft Reports.** A draft report is a formal written proposal consisting of sections and paragraphs that detail a committee’s deliberations and recommendations on a particular topic. The report may include resolutions that the reporting body recommends for adoption by the body that receives the report. Reports must also include an Executive Summary.

- 4.2 Draft Reports.** Draft reports may be submitted to the Committee/Council Secretariat for approval at any time during the Conference,
- For a draft report to be considered, it must be organized in content and flow, have a minimum of 25% of the delegations in attendance listed as sponsors, and the signature of the Committee/Council Special Rapporteur,
 - The final required number of sponsors will be determined by the Rules Committee at conference registration and announced at the opening of each committee session,
 - After acceptance by the Special Rapporteur, draft reports shall be processed in the order in which they are received. Limited copies of the full text of the draft report shall be issued to the committee, and a copy of the Executive Summary shall be distributed to all delegations as soon as feasible,
 - Only one draft report per topic area shall be accepted for consideration by the Rapporteur,
 - Once a draft report is on the floor for discussion, additional sponsors may only be added to that draft report with the consent of the original sponsors,
 - Once a vote has been taken on a contested amendment to the draft report, no additional sponsors may be added,
 - Friendly amendments (rule 4.6) do not limit the addition of sponsors as above,
 - See also Consideration of Draft Reports (rule 7.14) and Closure of Debate (rule 7.4),
 - Objections or reservations to the report shall be included in the text of the report,
 - Objections to the report must be in writing and may be submitted before or after the final vote on the report,

- The default method of voting for reports shall be Adoption by Consensus (rule 5.3). If there is any objection, the Committee will proceed with a substantive vote, which would require a simple majority for passage.

4.3 Definition of Draft Resolutions. A draft resolution is a written proposal consisting of at least one preambular and one operative clause.

4.4 Draft Resolutions. Draft resolutions may be submitted to the Committee/Council Secretariat for approval at any time during the Conference,

- For a draft resolution to be considered, it must be organized in content and flow, in the proper format, have a minimum of 25% of the delegations in attendance listed as sponsors, and the signature of the Committee/Council Rapporteur,

- The final required number of sponsors will be determined by the Rules Committee at conference registration and announced at the opening of each committee session,

- After acceptance by the Rapporteur, draft resolutions shall be processed in the order in which they are received and distributed to all delegations as soon as feasible,

A draft resolution that has been distributed may be proposed when the Council considers the agenda topic that is the subject of the draft resolution.

- Only one draft resolution may be considered on the floor at any time during formal debate,
- Once a draft resolution is on the floor for discussion, additional sponsors may only be added to that draft resolution with the consent of the original sponsors,
- Once a vote has been taken on a contested amendment to a draft resolution, no additional sponsors may be added,
 - Friendly amendments (rule 4.6) do not limit the addition of sponsors as noted above,
 - See also Consideration of Draft Resolutions (rule 7.15) and Closure of Debate (rule 7.4).

4.5 Definition of Amendments. An amendment to a draft resolution or report is a written proposal that adds to, deletes from, or revises any part of a draft proposal.

4.6 Amendments. All amendments must be signed by 15% of the delegations in attendance,

- The final required number of sponsors will be determined by the Rules Committee at conference registration and announced at the opening of each committee session,

An amendment is submitted on an official amendment form to the Committee/Council Rapporteur for approval.

Amendments will be approved if they are legible, organized in content and flow, and in the proper format.

- Approved amendments will be assigned an identification letter by the Rapporteur,
- Typographical errors in a resolution or report will be corrected by the Rapporteur and announced to the body,

One or more amendments may be considered on the floor at any given time (see also Consideration of Amendments (rule 7.16) and Closure of Debate (rule 7.4)),

An amendment will be considered “friendly” if all sponsors of the draft resolution or report are also sponsors of the amendment,

- A friendly amendment becomes part of a draft proposal upon the announcement that it is accepted,
- No vote is required to add a friendly amendment to a draft proposal,
- A dais member shall announce the acceptance of a friendly amendment on the first opportunity at which no speaker has the floor,
- Friendly amendments cannot be accepted after a vote has been taken on a contested amendment.

4.7 Withdrawal of Sponsorship. Sponsorship of a resolution, report, or amendment may be withdrawn at any time before voting on it has begun,

- Sponsorship of a resolution or report may not be withdrawn after a vote has been taken on a contested amendment,
- If a draft resolution, report, or amendment falls below the number of sponsors required for consideration, additional sponsors may be added to that proposal with the consent of the original sponsors,
- If a draft resolution, report, or amendment falls below the required number of sponsors, it is automatically removed from consideration.

5. Voting

5.1 Voting Rights. Each Member State is accorded one vote in each Committee/Council on which it is represented,

- No Representative/delegation may cast a vote on behalf of another Member State.

5.2 Simple Majority. Unless otherwise specified in these rules, decisions in the Committee/Council shall be made by a majority vote of those nations present and voting. If there is an equal division between yes and no votes, the motion fails,

- The phrase “nations present and voting” refers only to members casting affirmative or negative votes. Members which cast a final abstention are not voting.

5.3 Adoption by Consensus. The adoption of draft resolutions, reports and amendments by consensus is desirable when it contributes to the effective and lasting settlement of differences, thus strengthening the authority of the United Nations,

- Any Representative may request the adoption of a report, amendment or draft resolution by consensus at any time after closure of debate has passed,
- For reports, the default method of voting is adoption by consensus,
- The Chair shall ask whether there is any objection to a consensus, and shall ask if any Member States wish to abstain from consensus,
- If there is no objection, the proposal is approved by consensus,
- If any Representative objects to consensus, voting shall occur as otherwise stated in these rules.

5.4 Method of Voting. The Committee/Council shall normally vote by a show of raised placards,

- The Chair may grant a request by a delegation for a roll call vote on any substantive matter, and the Chair’s decision on such a request is not subject to appeal,

- When applicable, roll shall be called in English alphabetical order beginning with a nation selected at random by the Vice Chair,
- Representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstain” or “abstain from the order of voting,”
- A nation may abstain from the order of voting once during a roll call; a second abstention from the order of voting will be recorded as an abstention.

5.5 Conduct During Voting. Immediately prior to a vote, the Chair shall describe to the Committee/Council the item to be voted on, and shall explain the consequences of a “yes” or a “no” vote. Voting shall begin upon the Chair’s declaration “we are in voting procedure,” and end when the results of the vote are announced,

- Once in voting procedure, no Representative shall interrupt the voting except on a Point of Order or Point of Information concerning the actual conduct of the vote,
- Following Closure of Debate, and prior to entering voting procedure, the Chair shall pause briefly to allow delegations the opportunity to make any relevant motions,
- Relevant motions prior to a vote include Adoption by Consensus (rule 5.3), Suspension of the Meeting (rule 7.1), Adjournment of the Meeting (rule 7.2), Decision of No Action (rule 7.5), Decision of Competence (rule 7.8), Division of the Question (rule 7.11), or Important Question (rule 7.13).

5.6 Changes of Votes. At the end of a roll call vote, but before Rights of Explanation (rule 5.7) and the subsequent announcement of the vote, the Vice Chair will ask for any vote changes. Any delegation that desires to change its recorded vote may do so at that time.

5.7 Rights of Explanation. Rights of Explanation are permitted on all substantive votes after voting. The Chair may limit time for Rights of Explanation.

6. Points of Procedure in Order of Priority

6.1 Point of Order. During the discussion of any matter, a Representative may rise to a Point of Order if he/she believes that the Committee/Council is proceeding in a manner contrary to these rules,

- The Representative will be recognized immediately by the Chair and the point ruled on,
- A Representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak substantively on any matter,
- If a Representative’s ability to participate in the Committee/Council’s deliberations is impaired for any reason, the Representative may rise to a Point of Order,
- A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker.

6.2 Point of Information. A Point of Information is raised to the Chair if a Representative wishes to obtain a clarification of procedure or a statement of the matters before the Committee/Council,

- Representatives may not interrupt a speaker on a Point of Information.

6.3 Point of Inquiry. During substantive debate, a Representative may question a speaker by rising to a Point of Inquiry,

- Questions must be directed through the Chair and may be made only after the speaker has concluded his/her remarks, but before he/she has yielded the floor,
- Representatives may not interrupt a speaker on a Point of Inquiry,
- See also Speeches (rule 2.3).

7. Procedural Motions in Order of Priority

7.1 Suspension of the Meeting. During the discussion of any matter, a Representative may move to suspend the meeting. Suspending a meeting recesses it for the time specified in the motion,

- This motion requires a second,
- The motion is not debatable,
- The Chair may request that the delegation making the motion modify the time of suspension,
- If the motion passes, the Committee/Council, when it reconvenes, will continue its business from the point at which the suspension was moved.

7.2 Adjournment of the Meeting. The motion of adjournment means that all business of the Committee/Council has been completed, and that the Committee/Council will not reconvene until the next annual session,

- This motion requires a second,
- This motion is not debatable,
- The Chair may refuse to recognize a motion to adjourn the meeting if the Committee/Council still has business before it,
- This decision is not appealable.

7.3 Adjournment of Debate. During the discussion of any draft report, draft resolution or amendment, a Representative may move the Adjournment of Debate,

- Adjournment of Debate on a draft report, draft resolution or amendment has the effect of tabling that item and allows the Committee/Council to move on to another draft report, resolution or amendment,
- This motion requires a second,
- Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion, and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- An item upon which debate has been adjourned must pass a vote of Reconsideration before it may be brought back to the floor for consideration (rule 7.12).

7.4 Closure of Debate. A Representative may move to close debate on a draft report, draft resolution or amendment before the Committee/Council at any time. The effect of this motion, if passed, is to bring a draft report, resolution or amendment that is on the floor to a vote.

- This motion requires a second,
- Two delegations may speak against closure; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- Representatives should specify whether the motion for closure applies to an amendment or a draft report/resolution,
- If closure passes on a draft report/resolution, all amendments on the floor will be voted on in the reverse order from which they were moved to the floor,
- After voting on all amendments is completed, the draft report or resolution shall be voted upon in accordance with these rules.

At the conclusion of voting procedure, the draft report, draft resolution or amendment being voted on is removed from consideration for future discussions, regardless of whether it passes or fails. Debate then continues on the current agenda topic under discussion.

- 7.5 Decision of No Action.** Applicable only in the General Assembly Plenary (rule 8.5).
- 7.6 Appealing a Decision of the Chair.** Rulings of the Chair are appealable unless otherwise specified in these rules,
- This motion requires a second,
 - Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed,
 - An appeal must be made immediately following the ruling in question,
 - This motion may be made by a delegation that has been recognized through a Point of Order,
 - The Chair shall put the question as follows: “Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?” A “yes” vote supports the Chair’s decision; a “no” signifies objection,
 - The decision of the Chair shall be sustained by a tie,
 - Rulings by the Chair on the following rules or motions are not appealable: Diplomatic Courtesy (rule 2.2), Right of Reply (rule 2.5), Dilatory Motions (rule 2.7), granting of a roll call vote (rule 5.4), Adjournment of the Meeting (rule 7.2), and any time a ruling by the Chair is a direct quotation from these Rules of Procedure.
- 7.7 Consultative Session.** Applicable only in the Economic and Social Council and designated reporting bodies (rule 9.4).
- 7.8 Decision of Competence.** A motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee/Council to discuss or adopt a draft report, draft resolution or amendment is in order at any time prior to entering voting procedure,
- This motion requires a second,
 - Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
 - The effect is the same as Adjournment of Debate (rule 7.3) and requires a motion for Reconsideration of Proposals (rule 7.12) in order to discuss the item again.
- 7.9 Consideration of Agenda Topics.** Agenda topics will be considered in the order in which they appear in the *Issues at AMUN* handbook, unless that order is altered by the passage of a motion for Consideration of Agenda Topics,
- This motion requires a second,
 - The motion is not debatable,
 - This motion is not in order during the Combined General Assembly Plenary session.
- 7.10 Limits on Debate.** A motion to limit or extend the time allotted to each delegation, or limit the number of times each delegation can speak on a proposal, is in order at any time,
- This motion requires a second,
 - Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
 - The time allotted for substantive speeches shall be no less than three minutes,
 - The time allotted for procedural speeches shall be no less than one minute,

- This motion may limit the number of Points of Inquiry a speaker may accept to a minimum of one,

A motion to limit the time of debate on an agenda topic, draft report, draft resolution, or amendment is also in order.

- 7.11 Division of the Question.** A motion to divide the question, proposing that clauses of an amendment or draft resolution or paragraphs of a draft report be voted on separately, is in order at any time prior to entering voting procedure on the amendment, draft resolution, or report,
- This motion requires a second,
 - Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
 - After a majority vote is received on a motion for Division of the Question, no other motion for Division of the Question is in order on that amendment, draft resolution or draft report,
 - Those clauses or paragraphs of the amendment, draft resolution, or report which are approved shall then be put to a vote as a whole,
 - If division causes the draft resolution or report to no longer be in the proper format (rules 4.1 and 4.3), the proposal as a whole is rejected.
- 7.12 Reconsideration of Proposals.** A motion for Reconsideration of Proposals is in order on a report, amendment or draft resolution which has passed or failed when put to a final vote. The motion is also in order for proposals on which Adjournment of Debate has passed (rule 7.3), on proposals on which a Decision of No Action was decided (rule 7.5) and on proposals upon which the Committee/Council has decided it was not competent to discuss or adopt (rule 7.8),
- This motion requires a second and a two-thirds majority vote for passage,
 - Two delegations may speak opposed to the motion,
 - If the motion passes, the issue is brought back before the body for debate and may be voted on again.
- 7.13 Important Question.** Applicable only in the General Assembly Plenary (rule 8.6).
- 7.14 Consideration of Draft Reports.** Applicable only in the Economic and Social Council and designated reporting bodies (rule 9.5).
- 7.15 Consideration of Draft Resolutions.** Draft resolutions with at least 25% sponsoring delegations may be considered, one at a time, from the floor. A draft resolution may be moved to the floor by a motion for Consideration of Draft Resolutions,
- This motion requires a second,
 - The motion is not debatable,
 - If the motion passes, the delegation moving consideration will be allowed to speak first on the draft resolution, if desired,
 - This motion is not in order during the Combined General Assembly Plenary session.
- 7.16 Consideration of Amendments.** To bring an amendment to the floor for discussion, a delegation must first be recognized by the Chair,
- No verbal second is required,

- The Committee/Council Secretariat will present the amendment to the body,
- The delegation moving consideration will be allowed to speak first on the amendment, if desired.

7.17 Setting the Order of Consideration of Draft Resolutions for Combined GA Plenary Session. This motion is in order at the conclusion of General Assembly Committee sessions, prior to convening the Combined General Assembly Plenary session. Each main General Assembly Committee must set a priority order of consideration of the resolutions which have passed during its sessions for consideration by the Combined Plenary. The Combined Plenary will then consider these resolutions for ratification, as described in rule 8.4,

- This motion requires a second,
- The motion is not debatable,
- This motion may list any or all resolutions already passed by the Committee, in order, for consideration by the Combined Plenary,
- The first motion to set the order of consideration of draft resolutions to receive a majority vote shall determine the order in which the draft resolutions are considered in the Combined Plenary. After a majority vote is received, no other motion to set the order of consideration of draft resolutions is in order for that Committee,
- If a Committee session concludes and this motion has not yet passed, a priority order will be set by the Committee Chair and the President of the General Assembly,
- This motion is not in order during the General Assembly Plenary sessions or the Economic and Social Council.

8. Rules Relating Only to the General Assembly Plenary Sessions

This section of the rules applies to both the Concurrent General Assembly Plenary session, which will convene at the same time as the main Committees, and to the Combined General Assembly Plenary session. Each rule below identifies the General Assembly session(s) to which it applies.

- 8.1 Interchangeability of Rules.** All Committee/Council rules apply to the conduct of business in the General Assembly Plenary, except where noted below:
- Motions described under Consideration of Agenda Topics (rule 7.9), Consideration of Draft Resolutions (rule 7.15), and Setting the Order of Consideration of Resolutions for Combined GA Plenary Session (rule 7.17) are not in order during the Combined General Assembly session.
- 8.2 Quorum.** The Concurrent General Assembly will observe the quorum requirements of rule 1.4. In the Combined General Assembly Plenary session, a quorum will be one-third of the member delegations in attendance at the conference.
- 8.3 Officers.** The President of the General Assembly shall act as the principal Chair of the Assembly, with the Assembly Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs serving as supporting officers during the Combined General Assembly Plenary. The officers shall have all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Committee Officers, as described in rules 1.5 and 1.6.

8.4 Order of Consideration of Committees in Combined General Assembly Plenary. The Secretary-General will randomly select an order for consideration of Committees in the Combined Plenary session. Each Committee will establish, in advance, the order in which its own passed resolutions are to be considered for ratification (rule 7.17). The Combined Plenary session will begin by considering the first resolution selected by the initial Committee. After considering this resolution, the Combined Plenary will then consider the first resolution selected by the next Committee on the list. Each Committee's first resolution will be considered in turn. After the last Committee's first resolution has been considered, the Combined Plenary will consider the second resolution prioritized by the next Committee in the order and move down the Committee list again,

- Resolutions passed by a Committee are considered in the Combined Plenary with no additional signatures needed,
- When a Committee resolution is brought to the floor of the Combined Plenary, an automatic limit of debate of 40 minutes is imposed on the discussion; after 40 minutes (including debate and suspension time) have expired, the draft resolution will come to an immediate vote as if Closure of Debate had been passed,
 - This limit may be shortened, extended, or repealed through the passage of a Limits on Debate motion (rule 7.10),
 - For the purposes of this rule, a Committee resolution has been "considered" when the Limit for Debate has expired, or when any of the following motions is passed: Adjournment of Debate (rule 7.3), Closure of Debate (rule 7.4), or Decision of No Action (rule 7.5),
 - If a resolution before the Combined Plenary does not pass (either through a failed vote, Adjournment of Debate or a Decision of No Action), the Combined Plenary may move to reconsider that resolution (rule 7.12) when the Committee from which it originated is again under consideration. A successful vote for reconsideration of a resolution would have the effect of deferring all subsequent resolutions selected by that Committee for consideration in the Combined Plenary to the next available time for that Committee,
 - Combined General Assembly Plenary will hear the reports of and consider resolutions accepting the work of its reporting bodies. The Secretary-General will place the relevant resolution(s) on the agenda for Combined General Assembly Plenary.

- 8.5 Decision of No Action.** During the discussion of any draft resolution or amendment, a Representative may move that the body take no action on that matter,
- This motion requires a second,
 - Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed,
 - The effect is the same as adjourning debate (rule 7.3) and requires a motion for reconsideration (rule 7.12) in order to discuss the item again,
 - This motion is in order during the Concurrent and Combined General Assembly Plenary sessions.

8.6 Important Question. An Important Question in the General Assembly requires a two-thirds majority vote of all members

present and voting for passage. Amendments to draft resolutions dealing with Important Questions also require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. Decisions on Important Questions are applicable only to the General Assembly. When discussed in Committees, these issues are debated and voted upon utilizing normal Committee rules. Such questions shall include:

- Recommendations with respect to maintenance of international peace and security (only when the Security Council fails to act),
- Admission of new members to the UN,
- Suspension of rights and privileges of membership,
- Expulsion of Member States,
- Questions in relationship to the Trusteeship system,
- Budgetary questions,

Draft resolutions which fall into these categories are automatically Important Questions, and will be designated as such by the President of the General Assembly.

- Determination of additional categories of Important Questions may be made by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting, before a vote is taken on any part of a proposal dealing with the subject.
- If Important Question status is moved, there shall be two speakers in favor and two opposed, followed by an immediate vote on the change of status,
- Note that this motion is in order only in the Concurrent and Combined General Assembly Plenary sessions.

8.7 **Security Council Priority Relating to Issues Concerning the Maintenance of International Peace and Security.**

The Security Council, as established in the United Nations Charter, shall have priority over the General Assembly on issues that pertain to the maintenance of international peace and security. Issues of this type, while under discussion in the Security Council, shall be seized from General Assembly action. Accordingly, any General Assembly draft resolution pertaining to a seized issue cannot be put to a final vote until the Security Council has completed its deliberations on the subject,

- General Assembly draft resolutions that deal with a seized issue may be discussed and amended, but no final vote on the draft resolution may be taken,
- If no resolution has been adopted, the Security Council will be considered to have completed its deliberations on a seized issue once that agenda topic is no longer under discussion.
- The Council may declare itself actively seized on a topic by stating this in a resolution; this seizure will prevent the General Assembly from taking action until a two-hour time period has elapsed,
- General Assembly Representatives will be kept informed by the Secretary-General of any seized issues,
- Note that this rule applies to only the Concurrent and Combined General Assembly Plenary sessions.

8.8 **Applications for Admission of New Member States.** Any State which desires to become a member shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. Applications shall contain a declaration, made in a formal instrument, that the State in question accepts the obligations contained in the UN Charter,

- The Secretary-General shall inform the Security Council and the General Assembly of any applications.

8.9 **Consideration of Applications and Decisions Thereon.**

If the Security Council recommends the application of a State for membership, the General Assembly shall consider whether the applicant is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the UN Charter,

- Any draft resolution on admission is automatically an Important Question,
- If the Security Council does not recommend the applicant State for membership, or if it postpones consideration of the application, the General Assembly may, after full consideration of the special report of the Security Council, send the application back to the council, together with a full record of the discussion of the General Assembly, for further consideration and recommendation,
- Note that this motion is in order in only the Concurrent and Combined General Assembly Plenary sessions.

8.10 **Notification of the Decision and Effective Date of Membership.**

The Secretary-General shall inform the applicant state of the decision of the General Assembly. If the applicant is approved, membership shall become effective on the date on which the General Assembly makes its decision on the applicant.

9. **Rules Relating Only to the Economic and Social Council**

9.1 **Interchangeability of the Rules.** All Committee/Council rules apply to the conduct of business in the Economic and Social Council. The priority of rules for motions specific to the Council shall be the order in which they are listed under Section 9, and they shall follow all other GA/ECOSOC rules in overall precedence.

9.2 **Participation of Non-Member States.** The Council may invite a non-represented State or intergovernmental organization to participate in its discussions on any item before the body. This includes all United Nations Member States, recognized non-Member States, and any organization or individual recognized by the United Nations whose participation would enhance the proceedings of the Council,

- Non-members may be invited into the Council by a request made to the Chair from any Member State,
- Non-Council United Nations Member States shall have all rights as observers (rule 1.10) in the General Assembly,
- Organizations or individuals may speak, but have no rights to make any motion or vote.

9.3 **Consideration of Reports in ECOSOC Plenary Session.** The Secretariat will announce an agenda for the ECOSOC Plenary session at the beginning of its meeting.

- The agenda will establish the order in which Committees' reports are to be considered, and the agenda will be made available at the dais for review.
- The agenda order may be altered by a majority vote of the Council (rule 7.9). ECOSOC *must* consider one report or item from each Committee before considering a second report or item from any Committee.

- When a draft resolution is brought to the floor of ECOSOC Plenary, an automatic limit of debate, as determined by the Secretary-General and announced by the Chair, is imposed on the draft resolution; after this time (including debate and suspension time) has expired, the draft resolution will come to an immediate vote as if Closure of Debate had been passed,
- This limit may be lengthened, shortened, or repealed through the passage of a motion for Limits on Debate (rule 7.10),
- For the purposes of this rule, a report has been “considered” when either Closure of Debate is successfully moved or the automatic limit has expired, and a vote, either passing or failing, has been taken on a draft resolution pertaining to the report,
- This motion is not in order in ECOSOC Commissions or Special Committees.

9.4 Consultative Session. The Council may choose to suspend the rules and enter an informal, Consultative Session if its members determine that this process will enhance members’ understanding on a particular issue,

- The motion to move into a Consultative Session must include the amount of time that such a session is to be in effect,
- This motion requires a second,
- Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- The Council will move immediately into a formal session at the conclusion of discussions on the consultative topic.

9.5 Consideration of Draft Reports. Draft reports with at least 25% sponsoring delegations may be considered, one at a time, from the floor. A draft report may be moved to the floor by a motion for Consideration of Draft Reports,

- This motion requires a second,
- The motion is not debatable,
- If the motion passes, the delegation moving consideration will be allowed to speak first on the draft report, if desired,
- Applicable only in reporting bodies.

9.6 Formation of Committees. A delegation may propose the formation of a Committee to deal with any issue(s), including topics not already on the agenda of the Economic

and Social Council. The motion must be submitted in writing to the Chair prior to being made from the floor, and must contain the following:

1. Membership of the Committee;
2. Issue(s) to be investigated;
3. Objectives of the Committee;
4. Duration of the Committee’s existence.

A Committee, once established, shall elect its own officers and determine its rules of procedure, within the bounds of the Council rules,

- This motion requires a second,
- Two delegations may speak in favor of the motion and two opposed; the motion shall then be put to a vote,
- Upon the conclusion of the Committee’s work, it will report its findings to the Council.

9.7 Formation of Commissions. The Council has the authority to establish commissions on topics that require long-term consideration,

- A commission may be established to develop a convention or treaty, or to deal with an issue that requires more in-depth deliberation than the Council can provide,
- The motion to establish a commission should be in the form of a draft resolution, detail the commission’s membership, and establish the mandate for its formation,
- Upon the conclusion of the commission’s work, it will report to the Council as a whole for approval on its findings.

9.8 Creation of Conventions and Treaties. The Council may decide to draft a convention or treaty on any given topic. The Council shall determine the format of such a document,

- Conventions and treaties, upon conclusion, shall be sent to the General Assembly Plenary session for approval and ratification by all Member States.