

2017



1. General Considerations

1.1. Chairpersons

The Board of the General Assembly's Plenary Sessions shall be composed of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Deputy Secretary General, the President and the Vice President of the General Assembly.

1.2. Competence of the Chairpersons

The competence of the Chairpersons may not be questioned by the delegates.

1.3. Delegations' Participation

All delegations are obliged to attend the entire procedure of the General Assembly's Plenary Session having the right to participate in all procedures including voting and speaking rights. **All member states** shall vote on **all draft resolutions**; the Ambassador is the only one having voting rights after he/she consults his/her delegation. In case that the ambassador is absent, another member of the delegation will have to represent the state casting a vote at the request of the President of the General Assembly.

Each delegation shall have only ONE vote. The representatives of accredited FREDMUN observers shall have the same rights as a member-state delegate except **that they do not have the right to vote on substantial matters.**

2. Opening Plenary Session of the General Assembly

Plenary Session's proceedings officially begin with the Opening Plenary Session of the General Assembly. The session is headed by the President of the General Assembly.

2.1. Overview of the procedure

The President of the General Assembly declares the beginning of the session and entertains a Motion to Verify the Quorum. After the verification of the quorum, the Ambassadors of a previously determined number of delegations will issue their opening statements. Each ambassador will have a maximum of 60 seconds (1 minute) to address the General Assembly. After the conclusion of 5 speeches, the President will entertain a maximum of two (2) rights of reply, if necessary, on the grounds described below. The President's decision is not subject to

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appeal. After the opening statements of all the Ambassadors, the President of the General Assembly will adjourn the meeting.

2.2. Quorum

All delegations of FREDMUN participate in the Opening Plenary Session of the General Assembly. The session may begin when at least ½ of the delegations attending the conference are present, which will be verified by a Roll Call carried out by the President of the General Assembly. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled starting time of the plenary session, it is at the discretion of FREDMUN Secretariat to decide whether to start the session with the delegations present at that time. Delegations arriving during or after the Roll Call are required to send a note to the President stating their presence in the General Assembly. As long as participants have not informed the President of their arrival, they will not be recognized or allowed to vote. The President may at any time, especially before entering voting procedures, revisit the quorum at his/her own discretion.

2.3. Motion to Verify the Quorum

Delegations may propose a Motion for the Verification of the Quorum; the President will immediately proceed to verify the quorum via Roll Call. The President can rule the Motion dilatory without option to appeal.

2.4. Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting

Delegations may raise a Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting to suspend all Opening Plenary Session activities until the Closing Session of the General Assembly. The President may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. This Motion needs simple majority, in order to pass.

3. Rules of Procedure

3.1. Opening Speeches

Each delegation will have an Ambassador previously assigned by the Secretariat. A certain number of Ambassadors selected by the Organizing Team based on geographical representation and the conference's Agenda items will be called upon to deliver an opening speech in the Opening Session of the General Assembly. Speeches may not exceed one (1) minute and may not be interrupted.

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The speech should summarize the country's perspective and policy on the most urgent matters at hand with emphasis given to the agenda of the conference.

3.2. Rights of Reply

A delegate, whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate, may raise a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a delegate's speech does not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply. The President will recognize the Right of Reply at his/her discretion, as well as decide on its validity. This point may not interrupt a speaker. After the conclusion of five (5) speeches, the President will rule on the requested Rights of Reply and will entertain a maximum of two (2). Should the President overrule a Right of Reply, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

4. Closing Plenary Session of the General Assembly

4.1. Overview of the procedure

The President of the General Assembly announces the beginning of the session and entertains a Motion to Verify the Quorum. After the verification of the quorum, the President of the General Assembly announces that only the draft resolutions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd committee of the General Assembly will be presented and voted upon by the Assembly. Then, the President of the General Assembly will entertain a Motion for the introduction of the first draft resolution. Its sponsor will read out the operative clauses of the draft resolution. After the presentation of the draft, the sponsor will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to support the document. Then, the President of the General Assembly will entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against the draft. Each one will have one (1) minute. At this point, unless decided otherwise, the floor will open for points and motions launching a debate on the document. After debate upon the Topic Area has been closed, voting procedures will follow. After the presentation, discussion and voting on all the drafts, the President of the General Assembly will adjourn the session.

5. Rules of procedure

5.1. Quorum

See above in the rules of procedure of the opening plenary session.

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5.2. Authority of the Secretariat

The decisions of the President of the General Assembly are final and cannot be appealed.

5.3. Order of Consideration of Committees in the Closing Session of the General Assembly

The plenary session will discuss the draft resolutions in the following order: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Committee of the General Assembly. A different order of consideration may be decided by the President, should it be deemed necessary. His/her decision may not be appealed. At the discretion of the Secretariat, the reports of the Security Council (SC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Human Rights Council (HRC) may also be presented to the General Assembly in the respective order.

Essential Comments

**Draft Resolutions will not need additional signatures, in order to be considered by the General Assembly.*

**If a draft resolution fails before the Plenary Session, it may not be reconsidered.*

**If a draft resolution passes at the Plenary Session, it is considered to be adopted by the Organization.*

5.4. Introduction of a Draft Resolution

A delegation may propose a Motion to Introduce a Draft Resolution. After the verification of the Quorum the President may entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Resolution, requiring simple majority to pass. Once the Motion has passed, the President shall invite the sponsor of the Draft Resolution to read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Resolution to the General Assembly. The sponsor will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to speak in favour of the Draft Resolution. The Speaker may yield his/her remaining time to Questions or to another Delegate, if he/she wishes to do so. After this introduction, the President of the General Assembly will entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against the Draft Resolution. Following these speeches, the President may open the floor for points or motions at his/her discretion.

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5.5. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

A delegation may propose a Motion for a Moderated Caucus indicating the total duration of the proposed Caucus, the individual speaker's time and the topic of the Caucus. The President may suggest a more appropriate duration, speaker's time or topic, or may overrule the Moderated Caucus without possibility of appeal. If the Motion passes, the General Assembly will enter the Caucus. During this Caucus, the President will recognize at his/her discretion delegates, who raise their placards, in order to speak on the issue at hand.

5.6. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus

A delegation may propose a Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus, if it feels that additional time benefits the work of the General Assembly. The delegation proposing an Extension of the Moderated Caucus should suggest duration for the extension, not exceeding time allotted for the initial Moderated Caucus. The individual speaker's time and the topic of the Caucus remain the same. The President may suggest a more appropriate total duration and put the Motion to vote or may overrule the Motion without possibility of appeal. Only one extension of a Moderated Caucus is allowed.

5.7. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion

A delegation may propose a Motion to Close Debate, in order to end Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion. If the President rules the Motion in order, it is at his/her discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This Motion requires 2/3 majority, in order to pass. If this Motion passes, the General Assembly will immediately enter voting procedure on the Draft Resolution at hand.

5.8. Points

All points listed below, except for Point of Personal Privilege, are not allowed to interrupt a speaker. Point of Order and Point of Parliamentary Inquiry are in order during Formal and Informal Debate, at any given time, provided that they do not interrupt a speaker. Right of Reply is in order only during Formal Debate.

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5.8.1. Point of Personal Privilege

A delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege, if a matter impairs the delegate's participation in the activities of the Plenary Session. The President shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. A Point of Personal Privilege can interrupt the speaker in any case. However, this Point should be used with the utmost discretion.

5.8.2. Point of Order

A delegate may raise a Point of Order, if a Rule of Procedure is not properly observed/implemented by a delegate or by the President. The President will rule on the validity of the point immediately. A delegate raising a Point of Order may not comment on the topic under discussion. A Point of Order ruled dilatory by the President may not be appealed. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

5.8.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

A delegate may raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the President on the Rules of Procedure. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

5.8.4. Right of Reply

A delegate, whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate's comments, may raise a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a delegate's speech does not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply. The President will recognize the Right of Reply at his/her discretion, as well as decide on its validity. This point may not interrupt a speaker, but it should be addressed the moment he/she has finished his/her speech. Should the President rule the Right of Reply out of order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

6. Voting Procedure

When the President announces that the General Assembly is entering voting procedure, no entering or exiting from the room will be permitted, unless there is an emergency or until the voting procedure has come to an end. All auxiliary personnel, such as Journalists and Advisors etc. are required to immediately exit the room. The Secretariat may allow the Administrative Staff to remain in the room. Note passing is suspended. At this time, Motions to Split the House, Divide the Question or Roll Call Voting are in order.

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6.1. Method of Voting

Each delegation of the General Assembly has one vote and must demonstrate its voting intentions by raising its placard at the President's request, unless there is a Roll Call vote (see below). Delegations must vote “in favour” or “against” on procedural matters and “in favour”, “against” or “abstain” on substantive matters. An option of voting “with Rights” or passing is also available. No delegation shall vote on behalf of another delegation. Abstentions are not counted as negative votes.

6.2. Roll Call Vote

Motions to vote by Roll Call are in order. This Motion is automatically accepted, unless the President rules it out of order; the decision is not subject to appeal. The Roll Call starts from a delegation, randomly selected by the President.

6.3. Passing

During Roll Call, a delegation may choose to pass. The President will place the delegation at the bottom of the voting list. A delegation which has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again or abstain, but must ascertain its vote. A delegation which has passed cannot vote “with Rights”.

6.4. Voting with Rights

A delegation may request a right of explanation after voting, only in case it is differentiating its vote in the Plenary from its vote in the respective Committee. No such voting option will be granted in any other circumstance. Upon completion of voting, and after the delegations which passed have ascertained their vote, the President will allow those voting with rights to explain their vote. The President may limit the speaking time at his/her discretion or may decide not to entertain rights due to time constraints.

6.5. Motion to Split the House

The Motion to Split the House is in order when the delegation proposing this Motion wishes to exclude abstention from the voting options during the final vote on the Draft Resolution. This Motion has to be proposed immediately after the General Assembly closes debate and enters Voting Procedure. The Motion requires 2/3 majority, in order to pass. Once the Motion passes, delegations shall not be allowed to abstain during the voting of the Draft Resolution.

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6.6. Motion to Divide the Question

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on a Draft Resolution, a delegation may raise a Motion to Divide the Question, in order to vote on an individual operative clause, a group of operative clauses or clause by clause. A delegation must specify how it wishes to divide the operative clauses. Should there be more than one Motion to Divide the Question on the floor, the General Assembly shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The President shall take one (1) Speaker in favour and one (1) Speaker against the first Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each. The Motion requires 2/3 majority, in order to pass. If the Motion passes, subsequent Motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory and the General Assembly will proceed to voting on the Draft Resolution in the manner suggested by the Motion. If the Motion fails, the remaining Motions will be considered in accordance with the above procedure.

The divided section that fails during voting will be taken out of the final Draft Resolution; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the General Assembly will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Resolution as a whole.

6.7. Motion to Retake the Vote

The Motion to Retake the vote is in order when the result of the vote on the Draft Resolution ends with a difference of one (1) or a tie. The Motion automatically passes, unless the President of the General Assembly deems it dilatory. The General Assembly enters Informal Debate for a short period of time, defined by the President. After the caucus, the vote shall be retaken and the result of the second vote shall be considered as final. No further Motions to retake the vote shall be entertained. Should the second vote end in tie, the results of the previous vote shall be considered final and shall not be subject to another Motion to Retake Vote.

In case the initial vote is a tie as well, the matter is considered to have failed.

6.8. Motion to Adjourn the Session

A delegation may raise a Motion to Adjourn the Session, in order to permanently cease all General Assembly Plenary activities. The President may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or putting it to vote. This Motion requires 2/3 majority, in order to pass. **This Motion will only be**

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entertained at the end of the conference after all the matters have been properly discussed by the General Assembly.