Security Council Simulation Addendum

SRMUN, Inc.
v.2015

I. Overview of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

The Security Council's annual agenda can be generated from the following five sources: the previous year's agenda, the President of the Security Council, any United Nations (UN) Member State, the UN Secretary-General and/or other UN bodies. The Security Council may decide to keep some items on its agenda if more discussion is deemed necessary by the body. For example, a very universal yet timeless, topic that re-appears on the agenda is Women and Peace and Security. The Office of the Security Council President plays a crucial role as well because it has the capability of placing items on the agenda. In January 2000, for instance, the United States, which held the Security Council presidency at the time, placed AIDS as a threat to international security on the agenda of the Security Council. Furthermore, Article 35 of the UN Charter grants UN Member States the right to refer disputes to the Security Council. In 1948, India used this mechanism to refer the situation in Kashmir to the Security Council. Likewise, under Article 99, the UN Secretary-General may bring items to the attention of the Security Council as seen when Former Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cueller asked the Security Council to investigate Geneva Convention violations in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Other UN bodies may also refer items to the Security Council. The General Assembly, for instance, is afforded this right under Article 11 of the UN Charter. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, for example, requested the Security Council discuss the demilitarization of Jerusalem. The President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General prepare a provisional agenda based on all sources of potential agenda items. The provisional agenda is provided to the members of the Security Council who then discuss and adopt the agenda. The Security Council may choose to discuss or not to discuss any agenda item referred to it by another body or Member State.

How the SRMUN Security Council Will Set the Agenda

The Security Council at SRMUN will operate differently than previously simulated committees held at SRMUN conferences. As opposed to providing delegates with pre-selected topics to consider, the SC, in line with how the real committee operates at the UN, will have an open agenda. Each Member State is charged with setting the agenda, based on the current issues of importance to the SC, and by means of a majority vote. Each delegate will be responsible for presenting two potential topics within their position papers that they will later defend before the Council to be considered as agenda items. These two topics should reflect the most important issues or crisis affecting your Member State.

The SC will operate independently of the other organs at SRMUN due to the possibility of a crisis scenario. Therefore, other UN organs represented at SRMUN will not refer items to the Security Council. The Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council are staff members and will not impact substantive debate, except when necessary. This leaves the agenda in the hands of the SRMUN Security Council delegates. Delegates to the Security Council should therefore be prepared for a range of likely topics.

After the roll is called, the President of the Security Council will open discussion of the Security Council agenda. Delegates may make formal speeches and utilize caucuses to discuss potential topics and negotiate how to proceed. After some discussion and negotiation, delegates may make motions to set the agenda. An example of such a motion is:

> *"The Delegate from Jordan moves for a discussion of the Situation in the Middle East."*

Note that the naming of the topic will affect the breadth of the topic. For instance, the issue of Israeli practices concerning the human rights of the Palestinian people is much narrower and more focused than the situation in the Middle East.

There can be multiple motions for different agenda items, but each motion can only name one potential agenda item. Motions for agenda items will be voted on in the order in which they are received. The first motion to receive nine

or more affirmative votes will be the agenda item. At the conclusion of discussion of that agenda item (either through voting or adjournment of the agenda item), the Security Council will again move back into a discussion of setting the agenda, and the process will proceed until the next agenda item passes by nine or more votes. Delegates may choose to negotiate more than one agenda item at a time, but they can only vote on one item at a time. For example, delegates may choose to discuss the Situation regarding Iran's atomic energy program and then Children in Armed Conflict. Delegates would move to set the agenda as Iran. Once Iran has been discussed and resolutions have been voted on or discussion on Iran adjourned, then the Council will move to discuss the agenda again, and delegates would have to move to discuss Children in Armed Conflict.

II.   Voting

All votes (both procedural and substantive) in the Security Council require 9 affirmative votes to pass, as outlined in the UN Charter. For instance, a vote of 8 in favor, with 0 opposed and 7 abstentions would fail Substantive votes (resolutions, amendments and second vote of division of question) additionally require the "concurring votes" of the permanent 5 (P-5) members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, UK and US). The UN interprets that an abstention by a member of the P-5 does not represent a veto. Therefore, for a resolution to pass, all members of the P-5 must either vote yes or abstain, and the resolution must receive 9 affirmative votes. Note that the P-5 have rarely utilized the veto in the past eight years; only 12 vetoes have been cast in that time, and in 1996, 1998 and 2000, no vetoes were cast.[1]

The SRMUN Security Council will adhere to the voting rules set forward in the UN Charter.

III.   Position Papers

Due to the open agenda of the SRMUN Security Council, delegates will be asked to write position papers that are different from all other SRMUN committees. Delegates should identify two issues related to international peace and security that best reflect the interests of their Member State. Position papers should present the significance of the two issues in the order in which their country wishes to see them addressed. For instance, the delegate for Chad, may propose the following two topics in order: 1) UN Efforts to Remove Landmines; and 2) Eliminating the Small Arms trade in Africa, whereas the delegate for the United Kingdom may propose: 1) UN Participation in the Rebuilding of Iraq; and 2) Terrorism.

IV.   Crisis
Background

The UN Charter of the United Nations states that the Security Council should be able to function continuously, and that the Security Council is the primary UN organ for dealing with crises that could impact international peace and security. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, for example, the Security Council held an emergency meeting at 2:00 am.

SRMUN Security Council

Addressing a crisis situation is often incremental in the work of the SRMUN Security Council. If a crisis situation arises, the Secretariat will provide delegates with pertinent briefing materials and periodic updates. The Secretariat will also forward communications from the governments of Security Council Member States to their representatives; this may include reports and communiqués. Other committees at SRMUN may or may not become involved; however, if such a situation arises, the Security Council will be notified. If other SRMUN committees are not involved, then Security Council delegates **SHOULD NOT** interfere with the work of delegates in other committees. It is up to SRMUN Security Council delegates to decide a course of action to attempt to resolve a crisis. The primary

---

[1] This chart breaks down use of the veto by decade/year. "Changing Patterns in the Use of the Veto in the Security Council." Global Policy Forum. http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/data/vetotab.htm

tools for delegates to resolve a crisis are diplomacy and negotiation. Delegates should be prepared to represent the interests of their countries in any potential crisis.

V. Outside Parties

Background

The UN Charter gives the Security Council the option to invite non-Member States of the Security Council to participate, without vote, in discussions that affect the non-Member States.

SRMUN Security Council

The resources of SRMUN are limited, so logistically, it may not be possible to honor all requests. If a potential crisis requires it, SRMUN may seek ways to accommodate such a request. To invite a non-Member State, delegates must first advise the committee Director and Assistant Director (from a logistical standpoint.) If it is cleared, a delegate should make a motion such as: "Under Article 32, the delegate from Argentina moves for the invitation of representatives from Cameroon to participate in a discussion of the agenda item under discussion." The motion requires a vote of 9 in favor to pass.

VI. The Double Veto

Background

Representatives at the San Francisco conference that created the UN left ultimate decisions on whether a vote in the Security Council was procedural or substantive up to the Security Council. On rare occasions, P-5 members are able to question whether an item is procedural which requires 9 affirmative votes and a yay or abstention from each of the P-5 members. For instance, a P-5 member may challenge the Security Council President's ruling that an issue is procedural. The Security Council then has a substantive vote on whether the issue is procedural or note. The P-5 member can veto this vote, making the issue substantive, then veto the original motion. This is known as the double veto. The double veto is rarely used.

SRMUN Security Council

The SRMUN Security Council has limited meeting time, and the desire of the committee is to maximize the available time. The Director of the Security Council has the right to limit the use of the double veto on procedural issues that have minor impacts on debate such as suspension of the meeting and setting speakers' time. However, procedural motions such as agenda setting or inviting a party to a dispute, could be subject to a potential double veto.

To call for the double veto, a member of the P-5 should raise their placard after a motion has been made, but before a vote has been taken and make the following motion:

> *"The delegate from the UK moves to declare this motion a procedural motion."*

For Example:
> *"The Delegate from Romania moves for a discussion of the Use of Pre-Emptive Force."*

The Delegate from the UK raises their placard and is recognized:
> *"The Delegate from the UK moves to declare this motion a procedural motion."*

Once the President accepts this motion, the Security Council moves to a substantive vote on whether or not the motion to set the agenda is procedural. A "yes" vote means that it is procedural; a "no" vote means that it is substantive. If the UK votes no, then the motion to set the agenda is considered substantive. At this point, the Security Council votes substantively on the motion to set the agenda. A no vote from any member of the P-5 will veto the motion.

If you have any questions about these issues or any other Security Council related question, please do not hesitate to consult your Director, Assistant Director, the Director-General or Deputy Directory General.