

International Lyon MUN (ILYMUN) Rules and Procedures



Rhône-Alpes Région



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I. Principles of ILYMUN

II. Positions in the Conference

Chair: A Chair acts as a mediator for the discussion, as unmediated debate generally results in unintelligible yelling. The Chair sits at the front of the room, and chooses who speaks and when. The Chair will also decide when to entertain amendments, as well as when to entertain motions or speakers. He or she will be in charge of deciding when committee is in Open or Closed Debate, as well as how much time is allotted to certain issues. The Chair also has the power to reprimand disrespectful or disruptive activity, and he or she can take away your speaking rights, or send you out of the room, so please act respectfully.

Delegate: A delegate acts as representative of a country. As such, it is the duty of the delegate to act as if he were simply a mediator for the views of whatever country he or she is representing. It is pertinent that you, as a delegate; only act in accordance with the policies of the state you are representing. A failure to do so is usually puts in question your credibility amongst other delegates and the chairs. Having considered this, it is crucial that you research the country that you are representing, that way you will never do false statements. As a delegate, you have the right to introduce amendments, clauses, vote and take the floor to make speeches. Delegates are the core of the debate, in that they are the ones who argue. As a delegate, you are permitted to ask or introduce points of informations, points of parliamentary procedure, and motions, all of which are outlined in section II.v.

Admin: ILYMUN has a remarkable ADMIN team. They participate in setting up the conference, making documents available to the delegates as well as organizing everything from the coffee breaks to the placards. During committee sessions, they will be in charge of counting votes and passing notes. They have the right to screen and censor your notes.

Press: The press consists of students who record the activities during the conferences and produce the Le MUN. As well they are in charge of the communication aspect of this conference (Facebook, Flickr, Storify, Tumblr, etc...).

III. Resolution

Resolutions are literally documents that are intended on resolving global conflicts. In MUN, all debate is over resolutions. Each delegate argues for his individual country's policy towards the conflict or problem. Resolutions consist of the following elements:

Question: All resolutions pertain to a certain conflict. The way in which the problem is established is through stating "the question of". For example, if a resolution is intending to deal with Climate change it might be "the question of climate change". Questions are found at the top of resolutions.

Pre-ambulatory clauses: Pre-ambulatory clauses serve as a preamble or a preface to a resolution; they generally are used as an introduction to a subject. They are supposed to contain references to the UN Charter, citations of past UN resolutions, treaties on the topic, mentions of efforts made by countries, general statements on the topic, etc... However, they must be in clause form, they must be made in brief sentences beginning with verbs. Such verbs include:

Affirming	Expecting	Having studied
Alarmed by	Expressing its appreciation	Keeping in mind
Approving	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with regret
Aware of	Fulfilling	Noting with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Fully alarmed	Noting with satisfaction
Believing	Fully aware	Noting further
Confident	Fully believing	Noting with approval
Contemplating	Further deploring	Observing
Convinced	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Declaring	Guided by	Realizing
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Recalling
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Recognizing
Deeply convinced	Having considered further	Referring
Deeply disturbed	Having devoted attention	Seeking
Deeply regretting	Having examined	Taking into account
Desiring	Having heard	Taking into consideration

However, pre-ambulatory clauses are written by your committee Chairs prior to the conference (and will be found in your ILYMUN delegate package). If an explanation concerning the pre-ambulatory clauses is needed, your Chair can define it for you.

Operative clauses: Operative Clauses are the core of a resolution, in that they are used in order to make requests, recommendation or calls for action. Try to organise it so that all operative clauses only contain one idea. That way the resolution can remain clear and concise. You can have sub clauses in an operative clause in order to specify measures or intentions. All operative clauses must begin with “tentative” phrases because the role of a resolution is that the UN encourages action. Operative phrases that can be used in all committees are:

Accepts	Encourages	Further recommends
Affirms	Endorses	Further requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls	Further invites	Notes
Calls upon	Deplores	Proclaims
Condemns	Designates	Reaffirms
Confirms	Draws the attention	Recommends
Congratulates	Emphasizes	Regrets
Considers	Encourages	Reminds
Declares accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Designates	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns

If an explanation concerning the operative clauses is needed, your Chair can define help you defining this term.

IV. Amendments

During Open Debate on a clause, you can make amendments, meaning that you can change specific aspects of the clause that are inconsistent with your country's policy, or that you think would improve the clause. When you submit an amendment (if the Chair recognize you and accepts it) you will take the floor and justify it. Usually one speaker in favor of the amendment and one speaker against follow this. When the last speaker has spoken, or time has elapsed on the subject the house votes on the amendment (there are no abstentions in amendment voting). A, amendment requires a simple majority to be integrated into the resolution (i.e. more than 50 percent of the house must vote in favor for it.) There are several types of amendments:

Striking: You can strike any operative clause in the resolution if its is inconsistent with the policies of your country, or simply outrageously irrational. Striking a clause would cause it to be taken out of the resolution all together. You would do this by sending a note to the Chair writing "*Strike clause X from the resolution*" and then sign it with your country, that way the Chair knows whot to call on if they decide to entertain it.

Adding a sub-clause: You can amend a clause by adding your own sub-clause. This is used to clarify and to enlarge the plan of action of the clause. You would do this by sending a note to the Chair writing "Add sub-clause to clause X "[content of subclause]" and then sign it with your country, that way the Chair knows whot to call on if they decide to entertain it.

Clarifying a clause: If a clause in a resolution is unclear, then you can submit an amendment clarifying the wording. You would send a note to the Chair saying something along this lines of "In clause X, replace [word A] with [word B]" and then sign it with your country, that way the Chair knows whot to call on if they decide to entertain it.

V. Voting

At ILYMUN, voting takes place after the discussion of each clause. If it is passed, then the clause enters the committee's resolution, and if it fails then is discarded.

Voting on Resolutions: Voting on a resolution occurs at the end of the debate, generally after Closed Debate on the entire resolution. While voting on a resolution, you can choose to vote for, against or abstain. Abstentions mean that you do not have a view on the subject or that your country has a neutral policy towards the subject being discussed.

Voting on Amendments: When voting on amendments you do not have the option to abstain.

VI. Parliamentary Procedures

In order for all conferences to run smoothly, we all follow Parliamentary Procedures. Parliamentary Procedures is essentially a formal way of making points, moving motions and acting during conferences. The first and most important rule in Parliamentary Procedures is ensuring that your language remains diplomatic and politically correct. That is to say, do not use terms like “dude, man, what's up with...etc” because it detracts from the overall seriousness of the conference. Perhaps the most important rule of parliamentary procedure is the fact you are not allowed to use personal pronouns. As you are representing a country, refrain from using “I” or “my”; use “we” instead. Furthermore, address other delegates as “the delegate” or “the (honourable) delegate of...” instead of “you”.

Here are some points and motions with which you should become familiar. Note that a Chair must recognise your point before you rise and state it:

Point of Order: A Point of Order is a question directed at the Chair regarding the rules of the conference. For example, if the speaker takes the floor and begins using unparliamentary language, you could make a Point of Order. You would generally raise your placard and say “Point of Order”, and then state your point in question form. Considering this example, you would say: “Is it in order for the delegate to use unparliamentary language?” Do not over use Points of Order, because it leads to unpopularity amongst the house and the Chairs. Remember to wait until the speaker is finished before making a Point of Order, as interrupting him or her is not allowed for this point.

Point of Personal Privilege: A Point of Personal Privilege is the only point that can interrupt a speaker. Use Points of Personal Privilege if the speaker is delivering a speech in a manner that renders the content of the speech incomprehensible or unintelligible. So, if the speaker were speaking too quickly, mumbling or speaking in a different language, you would simply call out: “Point of Personal Privilege!” *You must not exercise this point to go to the restroom, please send a note to the Chair!* A Point of Personal Privilege may also be used to address issues such as the temperature of the room. However, a Point of Personal Privilege that is not due to audibility may never interrupt a speaker, and should preferably be sent in note form.

Point of Inquiry to the Chair: A Point of Inquiry to the Chair is a point directed at the Chair regarding parliamentary procedure. It is very similar to a Point of Order. However, it can pertain to general questions about Parliamentary Procedure or general questions about the content of the debate (fact-checking). You could use a Point of Inquiry to the Chair to ask whether the debate is in open or closed format, or whether the debate is regarding a resolution, or an amendment. This point is not allowed to interrupt the speaker. Therefore, you would have to wait until no one has the floor, and call out “Point of Inquiry to the Chair” and then ask your question.

Motion to Enter Caucus: This motion requests that the debate stop for a limited amount of time so that the house may lobby. This motion cannot interrupt the speaker.

Motion to Table a Clause: This motion requests that the Chairs entertain a vote on the consideration of a clause. If the vote ends favourably; the clause is tabled to the end of the “line up” and is only to be considered after all the other submitted clauses have been discussed. If

debate stagnates on a certain subject, this is an effective way of ensuring the quality and efficiency of a committee.

Motion to Divide the House: A Motion to Divide the House is a motion to have the Chairs call out every country being represented and record their vote individually. This motion usually comes up in larger committees where people believe that not everyone voted. This motion is relatively unpopular because it is very time consuming, especially in larger committees, and is rarely entertained by the Chairs.

Motion to move to Previous question: Both of these motions request that the debate on either the resolution or amendment be terminated and move to the subsequent step in debate. One may not propose a Motion to vote, as the Chairs must see whether any delegates want to approach the floor in the next step in debate.

VII. Types of debates

Open: During Open Debate, the floor is open to amendments, speakers in favor of the subject and speakers against the subject.

Closed: During Closed Debate, the floor is only open to certain points of view. You may not introduce an amendment during Closed Debate, unless if it is a Closed Debate against a clause, in which case you may submit amendments.

Lobbying: Each issue will begin with the house going into lobbying process. The lobbying process consists of going around the house and finding delegations that have similar or complementary policies; When you find them, you work with them to create or co-sign clauses. Lobbying is an informal process.