



Genoa Model United Nations (GeMUN) - www.gemun.it *Security Council Rules Of Procedure*

General considerations

The Security Council has a primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It is tasked with identifying potential threats to international security and calls upon disputing parties to reach a peaceful resolution.

The Security Council is a **non-GA** committee, meaning it works clause by clause. It is the only UN body capable of issuing **legally binding clauses**.

There are 15 member countries, of which five are permanent members, commonly referred to as the **P-5**: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The remaining 10 **non-permanent members** are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

English is the official working language of the Security Council, and the use of any other language is prohibited.

Procedures

For the meeting to begin, all P-5 members must be present, along with at least two-thirds of the house. Once the chairs have introduced themselves, a roll call will be held: the co-president will call the names of the delegations, who should respond with "present."

- **Veto Power:** ANY OF THE P-5 can exercise their veto power only during open debate by raising their placard and saying "Veto power!" aloud. When the veto power is invoked, all delegations, except the P-5, must leave the room after being informed by the chairs. Officers may remain but cannot interfere with the P-5 unless directly addressed. Veto power allows the P-5 to discuss the current clause freely and decide whether to amend, table, strike, or leave it unchanged. Once the P-5 reaches a decision, the chairs will invite the other delegations to return and call one of the P-5 to explain the decision. Vetoing amendments is not allowed.
- **Amendments to the Second Degree:** In the Security Council, amendments to the second degree are permitted. Therefore, during close debate, any delegation can submit an amendment to the amendment under discussion. It is up to the delegate to write the amendment on an official GeMUN amendment sheet (specifying that it is a second-degree amendment) and request the floor to present it once it has been approved by the officers. During voting procedures, abstention is permitted, as it is in regular amendment voting.

Officers

The Security Council is led by two **main Presidents** and two **Deputy Presidents**. One of the main Presidents may declare the meeting open once all the P-5 members and two-thirds of the Council members are present.

When one of the P-5 invokes veto power, the officer in charge will ask all delegations, except the P-5, to leave the room. During the P-5 discussion, the chairs do not manage the debate but must ensure that all discussion is conducted in English. After the debate, the chairs will invite the other delegations to return and will yield the floor to a P-5 member to summarize the decision.

When the chairs receive a second-degree amendment, they must ensure it is in order and send a note to the submitter confirming its approval and readiness for discussion. **Close debate Rules of Procedure** apply, but after voting procedures, the chairs must remember that the house remains in close debate. During voting, all UN member states have three options: they can vote in favour, against, or abstain.