

HanseMUN presents: MUN Basics

Today: Voting Procedure

This week we will be dealing with the voting procedure and the motions that will be used in voting procedure. Please note that there are additional rules that apply in the following committees: UNSC, ASEAN and East-Asia Summit, UN Global Compact, ECOSOC and NATO. These additional rules will be published in the future (and are already available in our ROP).

The ultimate purpose of the sessions is the passing of resolutions, which have to be voted upon in order to be passed or rejected by the committees. In voting procedure, special rules apply. First of all, the doors of the assembly are closed during voting procedure. Cross talking is strictly forbidden, note-passing will be suspended, and all delegates must stay in their seats until voting has ended.

Any delegate not physically present when the voting procedure begins will not be able to return before voting has ended.

Going into voting procedure

The Debate will come to an end in the following cases:

When the **speakers' list runs out** or through a **motion to close the debate**.

Only those who have declared themselves 'present' or 'present and voting' before the start of voting procedure may take part in it. Those delegates who declared themselves "present" will not be able to abstain (with the exception of points of information and points of order).

However, there are additional motions that will be used only in voting procedure. These are, in no particular order, however only the last Motion requires a vote:

Motion to Adopt a Draft Resolution by Acclamation - *When you believe the entire committee is in consensus about the draft resolution*

The Chair will ask, whether there is any objection to the adoption by acclamation. If there is any objection within the body (even if it's only one delegate), the motion fails, and the draft resolution will be voted upon in a regular manner. If there is no objection, the draft resolution is thereby adopted unanimously; no further voting on that draft resolution is necessary.



Motion to vote by Roll Call – *When you are interested in each country's individual vote*

This motion will lead to the Chair reading out all countries' names in alphabetical order. Delegates, who have declared themselves 'present and voting', may answer 'Yes', 'No', or 'Pass'. Delegates who are 'present' may also abstain from voting. Answering 'Pass' will lead to the Chair asking you for your vote after the original roll call is over.

Motion to vote Clause by Clause – *When you don't agree with a clause that could not be amended*

With this motion you will vote on the resolution by each individual operative clause. After the substantial votes on all clauses, you will again have a substantial vote on the resolution as a whole.

In case of a *combination of roll call and clause by clause* vote, the procedure will be as follows: 1. The votes on the separate clauses will be taken by show of placards. 2. The item as a whole will be voted upon by roll call.

Motion to divide the question – *When you want to divide out operative clauses that are of great importance and/or on which all nations can agree*

This motion has a procedural part (*Do I want to vote on dividing operative clauses?*) and a substantial part (*Actually voting on dividing operative clauses*).

a) The procedural part

A procedural vote will take place, without commenting on the content of the clauses. There are no abstentions possible. If this motion passes, you will continue with the substantial part. If it fails, the whole motion will fail and the draft resolution stays as it is.

b) The substantial part

You will have to decide what is going to happen to the clauses which have been divided out.

Voting in favor of the clauses will result in them become an *annex* to the draft resolution.

Voting against the clauses will result in them being *deleted* completely.

If the clauses become an annex and the draft resolution fails in later voting procedure, the annex becomes the resolution. Being a substantial vote, only those delegates who are 'present' may abstain.

When to introduce these motions?

The three voting procedure motions *apply only to the next item which will be voted upon*. If a delegate wants to vote by Roll Call concerning an amendment, he or she should entertain that motion immediately before voting on this amendment. If a delegate wants to vote by Roll Call (or Clause by Clause) on the draft resolution itself, he or she shall wait until just before voting on the draft resolution as a whole. This is also the correct time to introduce a motion to divide the Question. The Chair shall ask for any points or motions on the floor at least before voting on each draft resolution as a whole.

