



**GUIDELINES
FOR
SECURITY COUNCIL**

A short explanation including advice for delegates and Student Officers

May 2014

The Security Council – a short explanation including advice for delegates and student officers:

The THIMUN Security Council aims to give students a realistic experience of what it is like to be in the United Nations Security Council. The Security Council consists of 15 members: 5 permanent members with veto powers (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected to serve for two years – without a veto-power. The non-permanent members are elected from the countries in their respective regions to ensure that views of all geographic regions are heard in decision making. THIMUN employs a double delegation Security Council, with both delegates from each delegation being from the same school.

The Security Council aims to deal with Peace and Security issues at different levels. One will therefore find that both long term trend issues and current political crisis situations are debated in the Council.

For a more comprehensive guide on purpose and history, see the updated booklet by Hylke Hoekstra and Dirk van Leeuwen, 2006.

Guidelines for delegates

Preparation:

Research the issues on the agenda very carefully. There are many valuable resources, but after finding general information, please find out more about what the United Nations have done so far (if anything). The resolutions you will help create, are intended to help solve the issue. Frequently there will be a UN context: what are previous resolutions saying; what has been attempted before; are there UN reports/General Secretary reports on this issue? Aside from reading the research reports provided by your Student Officers, also take note to watch the news prior to the conference – for many issues, progress will take place in the run-up to THIMUN because of the issues immediacy.

Due to the urgency of the issues discussed (mostly very topical) and the binding nature of the resolutions produced by the real SC, it is imperative that delegates in the THIMUN SC are competent and experienced.

Resolutions:

- 1) **Draft resolutions:** draft resolutions are expected from all delegates coming to the THIMUN conference. This is an absolute necessity to ensure a realistic experience in the Security Council also. Knowing that The United Nations Security Council debates draft resolutions, presented in writing at the start of a debate, THIMUN Security Council aims to offer the same experience to their delegates.
- 2) **Lobbying/Merging:** In the real UN informal meetings precede debates. The equivalent of informal meetings is what THIMUN sets as lobbying time. During this time delegates will be expected to merge their pre-written draft resolutions. In the process allied countries can align their drafts, potential veto-threats can be discussed informally and removed from draft resolutions, grammar issues can be fixed etc. The Expert Chair will interact with, and assist, all delegates in this process as a resource on the topic, on the rules of procedure, on

resolution writing. Also at this stage, duplicates and directly contrasting clauses should be removed from a merged resolution – this ensures a high quality document comes to the start of debate.

- 3) Debate: In cases where more than one resolution has been merged and presented to the forum, the chair will select based on the THIMUN SC Rules of procedure.

The Security Council will debate clause by clause. Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree to a clause will be entertained during the debating time on the relevant clause only. After the Council has voted on a clause, the Council will not return to said clause. If a delegate feels more time is needed before a clause is passed they can either ask to extend debate time, or ask to table a clause until the end of the debate on that issue.

When all clauses in a draft resolution have been debated, additional clauses can be added as amendments, and if passed, will be added to the resolution.

When all operative clauses have been debated and voted upon, the Council will debate the pre-ambulatory clauses en-bloc. The pre-ambulatory clauses are essential to the resolutions as they set the context for the issue. Frequently an operative clause will have one or more pre-ambulatory clauses explaining the issue the operative clause aims to solve.

In regards to motions and general rules of debate, the forum will follow THIMUN rules of procedure. The Security Council Presidency will clarify these rules at the beginning of the conference.

- 4) Voting: The Security Council is different from other THIMUN forums in regards to voting: since the resolution is legally binding on membership countries to act, the responsibility on the 15 members is very high.

VETO: Warning to P5 countries: despite the veto power granted them, **veto is almost NEVER used. It is the delegate's responsibility to respect and reflect this realistically.** The following statistic has been taken from www.un.org:

In 2013: 47 resolutions passed, 43 unanimously, 0 vetos

In 2012: 53 resolutions passed, 49 unanimously, 2 vetos

In 2011: 66 resolutions passed, 63 unanimously, 2 vetos

In 2010: 59 resolutions passed, 53 unanimously, 0 vetos

To help confusion regarding this THIMUN SC votes are as follows:

When voting on amendments to clauses: simple majority vote. All nations vote yes/no/abstain. The majority decides if an amendment is accepted. If the amendment seems to be absolutely unacceptable to a P5 member's foreign policy, they need to warn the President of a potential veto-threat. This can be done verbally or by sending a note to the chair.

Voting on a clause and a resolution:

Since the SC resolutions are legally binding, a supermajority is required for a clause/resolution to pass. This means: Minimum 9 votes for/6 votes against/abstaining will be needed.

If any P5 country votes no, this will constitute a veto, and the clause/resolution will not pass.

NOTE: P5 members can only do this in a situation where the country they represent would do this. Abusing the veto power is a very serious threat to the realistic experience of the THIMUN Security Council, and a warning to the student can be issued as a result. A report to the delegate's MUN-Director of this abuse should be expected.

For non-permanent members: it is expected that they observe alliance/allegiance politically and economically towards the main powers. Any anti-P5 movements where non-P5 "gang up" on the P5s are highly discouraged and should lead to a warning from the chair. A report to the delegates' MUN-directors regarding inappropriate representation of country policies should be expected.

Additional guidelines for President/Vice Presidents

Referring to statistics above: the goal of the student officers should be to assist the Council in getting a unanimous vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Preparation

In-depth research should be conducted, and a research report written on the agenda topics for the conference.

Outstanding knowledge and understanding of rules of procedure is an expectation. Make sure to read the Rules of Procedure manual!

At the start of debate:

Introductory comments to delegates, where rules of Security Council procedure will be explained. Delegates' questions will be entertained in order to bring the forum to a common understanding of the process of the week.

During this introductory session it should be ensured that delegates of the P5s are aware of the responsibilities as a veto-power, and how important it is that they do not misrepresent their country's policies. Also using veto is almost non-existent in the real United Nations. This should be reflected in debates and voting procedures. Issues that could lead to veto should be worked on outside the public debate through subtle diplomacy: lobbying; note-passing; P5 caucus etc.

Lobbying and merging:

For the first debate:

An appropriate amount of time needs to be given to lobby/merge draft resolutions into one draft resolution which will be presented to the Council for debate. If alternative draft resolutions are presented, please refer to the rules of procedure for selection. Clauses from draft resolutions not chosen can be submitted as amendments when debate of the draft resolution has been carried out.

For debates on the later topics:

When it is deemed appropriate, student officers should ask one delegate per country to start lobbying, while one delegate remains in the forum to continue the current debate. A merged draft resolution on the next topic should then be presented immediately following the end of the debate and final vote on the previous agenda topic. In this manner there will be few unnatural breaks in the deliberations of the Council.

During all lobbying, the expert chair on the topic needs to be heavily involved as an advisor to the lobbying group(s). In this way, overlapping clauses, logical order, potential veto threats, grammatical errors etc., will be treated informally before it reaches debate.

Once a draft-resolution is ready for debate 2 parallel things will happen, as the resolution will:

- 1) Be presented to the Council for debate,
- 2) Be presented to the Approval Panel to ensure the quality of the content.

The approval panel will make corrections regarding any grammar or logical issues that were not caught by the chairs. Should any content issues (misrepresenting policies, factual errors etc.) be discovered by the approval panel they will make the Student Officers aware of these, but the responsibility and choice of action rests with the President/Deputy Presidents. (Potential solutions for chairs would be to communicate with delegates through notes, meet informally with delegates while the forum debates other clauses.) The Approval Panel and the Student Officers share a responsibility in that no resolution consists of factual and grammatical errors.

As soon as the Approval Panel has completed the corrections, these will be passed on to the Student Officers and they can amend grammatical, spelling and potential overlap errors on the spot, while the Expert Chair leads the debate on the first clauses at the same time. This should ensure both quality and the expedient nature of the Council.

The debate

The debate will be carried out clause by clause in the order of the draft resolution's operative clauses.

Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree are encouraged from delegates, however, should grammar or content be poorly phrased, chairs could accept non-debated oral amendments in order to remedy these issues. This should only be done to aid the debate, not obstruct. Should a grammatical change lead to disagreements or lead to longer discussions the Student Officers could reverse the decision and ask that the oral amendment be submitted as a full amendment at a later stage.

When the list of operative clauses has been completed, new additional clauses can be introduced by delegates. These clauses will be debated of equal value to the clauses in the draft resolution.

When all operative clauses have been debated and voted on, the Council will debate the pre-ambulatory clauses (not clause by clause). Any SC member can introduce new clauses, or move amendments to the draft resolution's pre-ambulatory clauses. The Council will vote on the pre-ambulatory clauses en-bloc.

Finally a vote on the resolution as a whole will take place.

Voting

See the guidelines for delegates.

Be aware of the possible confusion regarding voting on amendments/amendments to the 2nd degree versus voting on Clauses and Resolutions: simple majority for amendments; minimum 9-6 (2/3) majority on clauses and resolutions.

The intention behind this is to avoid mistaken vetoes or veto-threats on amendments. As stated in the introduction to this document, veto is an anomaly in the SC, and THIMUN intends to create a realistic debate.

Realism/quality

The Student Officers have a large responsibility to keep the delegates accountable, and to ensure a realistic debate where voting reflects unanimous votes and very few public veto threats. The Student Officers together with Teacher appointed advisors need to monitor both the verbal and written product to ensure quality.