



*Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki  
Model United Nations*

# Security Council Manual

2024 Revised version

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Introduction
2. The UN Security Council
3. Participating Member States
  - 3.1 Permanent Members of the Security Council
  - 3.2 Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council
4. Debate
  - 4.1 Quorum
  - 4.2 Draft Resolution
  - 4.3 Debate Mode
  - 4.4 Points and Motions
  - 4.5 Amendments
  - 4.6 Voting
  - 4.7 Veto Power
  - 4.8 P5 Caucus
5. Crisis
6. Closing remarks

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Dear Delegates,

The following is the Manual for the United Nations Security Council. This document strives to provide you with the basic knowledge needed for participating in the Security Council of the DSTMUN Conference. This committee is intended for experienced delegates that are willing to conduct extensive research on the topics and be very active during committee work.

We hope that this manual will be useful and practical for your preparation as delegates in the most demanding committee of them all!

We look forward to meeting you all in November!

The DSTMUN Organizing Team

## **2. THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, whose purpose is the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council is composed of fifteen Member-States, and each member state has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, the decisions of the Council are legally binding for all UN Member States. The basic structure of the Council is set out in Chapter V of the UN Charter.

## **3. PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES**

### **3.1 Permanent Member States of the Security Council**

The five Permanent Members of the Security Council are the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. These states (commonly referred to as the P5) have veto powers, which means they are able to veto clauses or resolutions from passing. For the purposes of this conference, any vote against a clause, amendment or resolution by a

P5 Member State will count as a veto. The veto power originates in Article 27 of the UN Charter.

### **3.2 Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council**

The remaining ten Members of the Security Council are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms starting on January 1, with five members being replaced each year. These Member States do not have veto powers. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.

According to Articles 31 and 31 of Chapter V of the UN Charter, additional States whose interests are directly affected by a dispute under consideration by the Security Council can participate in the discussion relating to the dispute. An observer seat is granted to those Observer States, and a vote is not entitled.

## **4. DEBATE**

### **4.1 Quorum**

In the UN Security Council, a Quorum can be achieved when at least 9 members are present, including all of the Permanent Members of the Security Council. When the Members present are less than 15, the quorum can be achieved when a 2/3 majority is reached.

### **4.2 Draft Resolutions**

Draft Resolutions are expected from all delegates coming to the DSTMUN Security Council. During Lobbying, delegates are able to move around the room and negotiate with the other fellow representatives about the matter at hand, compare a, compare and discuss their clauses, gather support from allies for their own clauses or form new clauses out of existing ones. It is typical

### **4.3 Debate Mode**

In the DSTMUN Security Council draft-resolutions are debated upon clause by clause by default. A Motion to divide the Question is welcome, but not necessary. It is up to the discretion of the Presidency to select which clauses will be debated upon and which will be discarded based on which clauses are the most constructive and original.

Every operative clause is debated and voted upon separately. Operative clauses are debated upon in open debate by default, meaning that a delegate who takes the floor is free to deliver a speech either in favour or against the clause. It is up to the discretion of the Presidency to set debate time on each clause. Clauses do not need to be debated upon for an equal amount of time. Delegates are able to use the Motion to limit/extend debate time in order to adjust the amount of time spent on any clause.

### **4.4 Points and Motions**

The Points available to the delegates in the Security Council are the same as in other committees. This includes the Right of Reply, which is to be used when the national integrity of a Member State has been impugned upon by another delegate's comment or statement.

When it comes to Motions, the Security Council operates on the same Motions as any other Committee, with the addition of the Motion to move to P5 Caucus, which is explained in section 4.8 of this Manual.

All general Points, Motions and Yields can be found in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Conference, such as also the Delegate Manual, and all of them are applicable to the Security Council as well.

### **4.5 Amendments**

Delegates are able to propose first- and second-degree amendments to the clause at hand during the debate on that clause, in order to make changes to its content. If a clause has already been voted upon, no amendments to that clause will be in order. Amendments to strike out a clause will also not be entertained. Additionally, after all initial clauses have been debated upon, delegates are able to propose additional clauses to be added to the resolution via amendments. Amendments should be submitted on the official amendment sheet and be debated upon in closed debate.

### **4.6 Voting**

When voting, delegates may vote in favour, against or abstain. In the Security Council, the voting process can be separated into three categories:

Firstly, voting on procedural matters, where a simple majority is required. In these instances, the P5 Members are unable to exercise their veto powers. Only, in this instance observer states and NGOs are also eligible to vote.

When voting on amendments, a simple majority is needed, with the P5 Members being able to exercise their veto-powers. Abstentions are in order when voting on amendments in order to avoid potential vetoes.

When voting on clauses and resolutions, a supermajority of 9 votes in favour is needed, and P5 members are able to exercise their veto power. If any P5 country votes against, this will constitute a veto, and the clause/resolution will not pass.

### **4.7 Veto Power**

In the real United Nations Security Council, P5 Member States rarely exercise their veto powers. The veto is only used when a state feels that its own national integrity is threatened by the content of the draft resolution. Delegates are expected to use this power responsibly and not hinder the work of the Security Council. If any delegate uses their veto powers to obstruct the work of the Council, the Presidency may proceed to inform the Secretariat and the delegate's MUN Advisor. A prudent alternative to a negative vote by a P5 member is an abstention, which does not constitute a veto or a positive vote.

When wishing to use their veto powers on a clause or a resolution, the delegate must either inform the Presidency via note or state their intent during a speech prior to the vote. If the veto-threat is exercised via a note to the Presidency, the Presidency will then proceed to inform the Council of this threat.

### **4.8 P5 Caucus**

After a veto-threat, a P5 member may raise a Motion to move to P5 Caucus, so that the Permanent Members may discuss the reasoning behind the use of veto powers and the possibility of an alternative solution. When moving to a P5 Caucus, the expert Chair will escort the Permanent Members to a different room, while the rest of the Council will continue with the debate. There may be no voting during a P5 Caucus.

After a P5 Caucus, the Presidency will entertain a speech by a member of the P5 on the results of said Caucus. Regardless of the outcome of the P5 Caucus, the Council will then proceed to vote on the matter at hand.

## **5. CRISIS**

The delegates of the Security Council may be asked to confront a crisis. The crisis is linked with a scathing issue, an incident or a conflict relevant to the Agenda items of the SC, which has just come up.

After the introduction of the crisis by the Secretariat and the Presidency, the Committee should immediately move into an ad-hoc session, lobbying on the just announced topic, form draft clauses and then proceed with debating on them.

### 6. CLOSING REMARKS

The Security Council is considered by many to be the most significant body of the United Nations. Delegates must always remember their obligation to work towards maintaining peace and security around the globe. Delegates must also bear in mind the weight of their decisions, which are legally binding for all UN Member States. We hope that this Manual has provided you with the essential information needed to participate in this Committee.