



Rules of Procedure

applying to the Council of Ministers

for the Ministerial Summit of the

Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization

during RhodesMRC 2016

1. General considerations

1.1. Scope.

The following rules apply to the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation (RhodesMRC) conference for the simulation the Council of Ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC). In case of conflict of interpretation, the Committee Chair, in this case the Chairman-in-Office has the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.

1.2. Language.

English is the only official language of RhodesMRC. A Delegate wishing to speak in an official language where simultaneous interpretation is not provided will be required to provide his or her



Rules Applying to the Council of Ministers for the Ministerial Summit of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation for its simulation during the 7th Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation to be held in Rhodes, October 12-16, 2016.

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own translation. Please note that time spent in translation will be counted towards total time allotted for a given speech.

1.3. Credentials.

The RhodesMRC Secretariat has accepted the credentials of delegates prior to the opening of the conference. Actions relating to the alteration of rights or credentials of any staff member, delegate or chairperson may exclusively be initiated by the Secretary General of the conference. Representatives must wear approved credentials all times during the conference.

1.4. Dress Code.

In accordance with the delegate's diplomatic status a formal dress code is required. For male delegates a tie is obligatory and for female no revealing outfits are allowed. Informal clothing, such as jeans and trainers, also traditional or religious outfit is not in order. The secretariat reserves the right to expel a delegate due to his or her dress code.

1.5. Code of Conduct.

During committee sessions, participants are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy in all formal and informal procedures. Respect should be shown to all fellow participants, Chairpersons, members of the Secretariat and the Organizing Committee, staff members and all other participants and observers attending the conference. During sessions participants should refrain from engaging in aggressive dialogue and from using insulting or abusive language or gestures of any kind. Participants should obtain the floor from the Board before speaking and should stand when addressing the House or the Board. The Chairpersons have the authority to address diplomatic warnings to delegates who obviously violate the diplomatic courtesy. Violation of any of the above rules may lead to temporary or permanent exclusion from specific proceedings or expulsion from the conference as a whole. The Chairpersons reserve the right to request such penalty.

1.6. Statements by the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

The Secretary General or any member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may issue verbal or written statements to the Ministerial Council at any time during the conference.

1.7 Aim of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization

BSEC is a unique and promising model of multilateral political and economic initiative aimed at fostering interaction and harmony among the Member States, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity encouraging friendly and good-neighborly relations in the Black Sea region.

2. RhodesMRC Board Members

2.1. Board.

The Board of the Council of Ministers of BSEC will consist of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS). The Chairmanship of the BSEC is held by Ministerial Declaration of the Head of States and Governments Summit for a semester.

2.2. Competence of the Board.

The competence of the Board may not be questioned by delegates, at any time and for whatever reason.

2.3.1. Authority of the Chairman-in-Office.

The Chairman-in-Office shall exercise ultimate authority over his/her Council proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. The Chairman-in-Office also reserves the right to entertain a motion at any given time, which will help the work and procedures of the Committee move forward and should be taken seriously into account by the Council. In case of dilatory or disruptive behavior the Chairman-in-Office reserves the right to take any appropriate measure to address the misconduct. The Chairman-in-Office, being also a country representative, may also take the floor, given priority of any other member, and express his/ her point of view on the topic being discussed.

2.3.2. Responsibilities of the Chairman-in-Office.

The Chairman-in-Office is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the Council, including, but not limited to, moderating debate, determining the applicability of the rules and if necessary, clarifying on the meaning of the existing rules without approval from the Council. The Chairman-in-Office also holds the right to vote on all matters, both on procedural and substantial matters and is entitled to express the presiding state's policy on the topic at hand.

2.4. Authority & Responsibilities of the Secretary General.

The Secretary General can either take the floor, as any other delegate, in order to express his/her opinion or clarify the policy lines of the member states, or issue verbal and/or written statements addressed to the Council, at any time. It is within his/her responsibilities to assist in the policy planning of the Council. The Secretary General has the duty to make remarks when a member state is out of line at any given discussion. She/he shall also have a supervisory and reconciliatory role in the drafting procedure of Ministerial Declarations under the scope of protecting the general interest of states while serving the mandate of the Organization. The Secretary General assists the Chairman-in-Office with all committee presiding matters and fully substitutes him/her, if it is expressly requested and for the time period that latter expressly indicates.

2.5. Caucus of the Board.

The Chairpersons reserve the right to halt the working process within the committee for a reasonable amount of time in order to confer with each other on a Council issue.

3. Parliamentary procedure

3.1. Roll Call.

Attendance shall be conducted by the Secretary General by a Roll Call at the beginning of every committee session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the Council by raising their placards and declaring “Present”. As soon as the aforementioned procedure is complete, the Chair is obliged to announce the total number of present members and subsequently the number of votes required for simple majority.

3.2. Procedural Matters.

Procedural matters are those matters relating to the structure of the committee session as defined in the RhodesMRC Rules of Procedure. They include, but are not limited to, motions and adjournment of the committee session. All Delegates must vote on procedural matters and no Delegate may abstain.

3.3. Substantive Matters.

Substantive matters are defined as those matters relating to the specific topic at hand. Delegates that have established their presence at the initial Roll Call shall act accordingly.

4. Delegations' Rights

Each member-state is represented by a single delegate. All delegates shall have speaking and voting rights on all matters during committee sessions, except for delegates participating in the procedures of the organization having observer status. The latter are entitled the same speaking rights and voting rights on procedural matters but their voting rights on substantial matters are permanently suspended. Additionally, delegates remain responsible to ensure the progress of the debate by using options that are described below and by actively participating in the committee procedures.

4.1. Permission to Approach the Bench.

Any delegate wishing to contact the Chair for a very delicate matter may ask for permission to approach the Bench. This is a last resort exercised in case of emergency.

5. Quorum

Council activities and debate shall start when at least two thirds (2/3) of the delegates participating are present which will be verified through roll-call, carried out by the Secretary General. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the committee session, the committee shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by the RhodesMRC Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when committee activity begins. The total number of delegates will be determined by the attendance list from the most recent committee session. If quorum is in question in the first committee session, the list of delegations expected to attend will serve to determine the total number of delegates in attendance.

5.1. Motion to Verify the Quorum.

Delegates may move to Verify the Quorum, where the Secretary General will proceed with quorum confirmation by initiating a Roll Call. The motion requires simple majority to pass. The Board can rule the Motion dilatory without option for appeal.

5.2. Late arrival.

In case a member arrives at the OSCE after the Roll Call is complete, they may send a note to the Chair informing that they are present; in any other case; they will be considered as absent and won't be recognized by the Board. All participants who have not informed the Chairman-in Office of their presence until voting procedure begins are not eligible to vote.

6. Speakers

The Debate is opened following a Motion to Launch Open Debate from a delegate and a delegate wishing to receive the floor may either raise his/her placard when the Chairpersons call for Delegates to do so or send a note to the Board. A delegate may address the Council only after he/she has been recognized by the Chairpersons and for an allotted speaking time that has been predefined. Speakers must deliver their remarks in a timely manner, in relation to the subject under discussion and delegates are obliged to address their correspondents always according to diplomatic courtesy.

7. Decision making process

Unless otherwise specified, no motions are debatable and all require a simple majority vote to pass.

7.1. Simple Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that half of the quorum (delegations present) must vote in favor of the matter to pass.

7.2. Two-thirds (2/3) Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass implies that two-thirds (2/3) of the committee must vote in favor for a matter to pass. If there is at least one vote in favor or against and the remaining votes are abstentions subject is considered to have either passed or failed, unless it is a substantial matter and there has been a motion to retake the vote.

7.3. Consensus.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring consensus to pass implies that every voting member must vote in favor or to abstain for a matter to pass. If there is at least a vote against the matter is considered to have failed.

8. Agenda

The Agenda items are ordered randomly. This cannot be considered as binding for the order in which topics will be addressed by the Committee. The Chairpersons may entertain a motion to set the agenda immediately after setting the quorum so as to define which topic area takes precedent in the debate.

8.1. Selection of Topics.

Only topics set on the provisional Agenda provided by RhodesMRC Secretariat shall be considered by a committee.

8.2. Motion to set the Agenda.

Following the Motions put on the floor by delegates suggesting the order of topics on the Agenda, the Chairpersons will consider the Motions in the order in which they were proposed. The motion is considered to be debatable; it is though in the discretion of the Chairpersons to take one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion before proceeding with the vote. The Speakers will receive the floor, in order to express their view, in rotation (in favor – against). If the Motion is

accepted by simple majority, the Agenda will be set in the manner suggested by the Motion. If the Motion fails, the Chair shall consider the next Motion and repeat the process lay forward in the above sections. The order in which the Agenda is set at the beginning of the conference shall remain the same for the duration of the conference. Once the Agenda is set, the Chairpersons shall entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate

8.3. Alteration of the Agenda.

The Secretariat shall call for the immediate alteration of the agenda after updates and news arrive that need to be addressed. The committee shall return to the regular Agenda once the issue has been addressed or it has been instructed to do so by the Secretariat.

9. Debate

9.1. Formal Debate.

A committee shall by default be in Formal Debate. Open Debate considered the appropriate form of Formal Debate. Once the Agenda is set the Chair will entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the discussed Topic Area.

9.1.1 Motion to Launch Open Debate.

In order for the Council to enter formal debate there should be a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the discussed Topic Area. The motion requires simple majority to pass. While in Open Debate any participating member wishing to speak should raise their placard, upon request of the Chair, and be recognized by the Chair. The Delegate has the floor for the time being set at the beginning of each session.

9.2. Informal Debate.

Formal debate may be interrupted by informal debate which is considered a more flexible and versatile form of discussion. The two recognized forms of informal debate are moderated and un-moderated caucus. When the floor is open after the instruction of the Board, the member of the Council can propose a motion for a Moderated caucus or a motion for an Un-Moderated Caucus.

9.2.1. Moderated Caucus.

A delegation, may propose a motion for a Moderated Caucus for a specific time in order to limit the discussion in a specific aspect of the topic; in this case, the Member will be asked to designate the purpose of the moderated caucus, which is mandatorily narrower than the general agenda item, its total duration and individual speaker's time; the Chair is free to openly confer with the Member proposing a moderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned; a moderated

caucus may only be extended once, and the extension shall not exceed in total duration the initial moderated caucus, through a motion to extend a moderated caucus.

9.2.2. Tour de Table.

Tour de Table shall be conducted at the discretion of the Chairman-in-Office. The Chairman-in-Office requests each delegate to give a short summary of his/her thinking on the matter under discussion, thus ensuring that every member state is able to outline his or her position and allowing the Chairman-in-Office to determine whether a compromise is possible. The individual speaker's time is defined by the Chairman-in-Office. No motion is required for the initiation of the procedure.

9.2.3. Un-moderated Caucus.

A delegation may propose a motion for an Un-moderated caucus; the member is asked to designate the total duration of the un-moderated caucus and its purpose which should mandatorily serve the best interest of the Council; the Chair is free to openly confer with the Member proposing an un-moderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned features; an Un-moderated caucus is extended only once through a motion to extend the un-moderated caucus, but its duration should not exceed that of the initial of the un-moderated caucus. An Un-Moderated Caucus is an informal procedure where the members are allowed to move around the room, discuss, lobby, negotiate and freely draft the official document of the committee; exiting the chambers of the BSEC, without permission from the Chairman-in-Office, is prohibited.

9.3. Recognition.

A Delegate may only address the committee if he/she has received permission from the Board.

9.4. Interruptions.

A Speaker may not be interrupted by another Delegate unless the Delegate has risen to a Point of Personal Privilege. Point of order does not interrupt a speaker. Only once the Speaker has concluded and the floor is given back to the chair, a delegate may move to a Point of Order.

10. Speeches

10.1. Motion to Set Speaker's Time.

A Delegate may move to set a time limit on speeches. The Chair may either rule the Motion dilatory at his/her discretion or put it to vote. A Delegate exceeding the allotted time for speech may be asked by the Chair to come to his/her concluding remarks. The Motion to Set Speaker's Time can also be used to adjust the speaking time of the formal debate.

10.2. Time limit.

When a delegate exceeds his/her allotted time, the Chair may call the Speaker to order without delay. However, the Chair has the discretion to be flexible (within reason) about the time limit to allow a Delegate to finish his/her thought in order to account for the varying fluency of English among the Delegates.

10.3. Relevance of Speech.

A Chair may call a Delegate to order if his/her speech is not relevant to the subject matter under discussion or is not following the suggested code of conduct.

11. Yields

While in open debate, a delegation may yield their speaker's time, either the remaining or the whole, to questions, to another delegation or to the Chair, as defined below:

11.1. To Questions.

The Chair will use the remaining time to entertain questions for the Speaker from the committee. Delegates wishing to ask questions shall raise their placards and wait to be recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall rule questions that are rhetorical, leading or irrelevant to the Speaker's speech not in order. Only the Speaker's answer shall be subtracted from the remaining speaking time.

11.2. To Another Delegate.

A Speaker wishing to give the remaining time allotted to his/her speech to another Delegate can do so. The designated speaker is asked by the Board whether he/she accepts the yield. A Speaker that has been yielded to cannot yield his or her time again.

11.3. To the Board.

Speakers that do not wish to yield their time either to questions or another delegate may yield the floor to the Board. It is in the discretion of the Chairman-in-office to either give the floor to another speaker or open the floor for points or motions. The Floor will automatically be given to the next speaker that will be recognized by the Chair. If a specific yield has not been established by the Speaker, the floor will automatically be given to the Chair.

12. Points

All points listed below, except for Point of Personal Privilege, are not allowed to interrupt a speaker. Point of Order is in order both during Formal and Informal Debate, at any given time, provided that it does not interrupt a speaker. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry and Right of Reply are in order only during Formal Debate. Points of Parliamentary Inquiry can only be entertained when the Chair has opened the floor to points or motions; The Point of Personal Privilege is raised at all times and it can interrupt a speaker. The delegate may be wishing to rise a point of order shall express his/her intention verbally following the speech that he/she felt that was insulting.

During un-moderated caucus all aforementioned options are suspended. In case a delegate needs to bring an incident to the attention of the Board he/she may request permission to approach the bench.

12.1. Personal Privilege.

A delegate may rise a Point of Personal Privilege if a matter of any nature impairs the delegate's effective participation in Committee activities. The Chairpersons shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. A Point of Personal Privilege can interrupt the speaker in any case. However, this motion should be used with the utmost discretion.

12.2. Order.

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Order if a Rule of Procedure is not properly observed by a Delegate or by the Chairpersons. The Chairman in-office will rule on the validity of the point immediately. A Delegate rising to a Point of Order may not comment on the topic of the discussion. A Point of Order ruled dilatory by the Chairman in-office may not be appealed. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

12.3. Parliamentary Inquiry.

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the Chairman in-office on the Rules of Procedure. The point shall be concisely and briefly stated and shall contain a reference to the official rules of procedure of RhodesMRC. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

12.4. Right of Reply.

A Delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another Delegate's comments may rise to a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a Delegate's speech does not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply. The Chairman in-office will recognize the Right of Reply at his/her discretion as well as decide on how to resolve the motion. This point may not interrupt a speaker but should be addressed the moment he/she has finished his/her speech. Should the Chairman in-office rule the Right of Reply not in order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

13. Motions during Debate

Motions can only be entertained when the Chair has opened the floor to points or motions; a delegation may only state their motion once they have been recognized by the Chair in order to do so. After a delegate proposes a Motion, the Chair may ask for seconds, i.e. delegates agreeing with the motion. All delegates wishing to second the motion will have to raise their placards. If there are no seconds, the motion will automatically fail. If there are seconds, the Chair will ask for objections, i.e. delegates disagreeing with the proposed motion. All the delegates wishing to express their objection will raise their placards. If there are no objections, the motion will automatically pass. If there are objections, the Chair will enter voting procedure.

13.1. Motion to Split the Topic Area.

A Delegate may move to split the Topic Area in order for the Council to come up with more than one Decision so as to discuss different aspects of the same topic. The delegate who proposes the Motion to Split the Topic Area will have to provide sufficient justification for the proposed splitting of the Topic Area. A 2/3 majority vote is required to pass this motion.

13.2. Motion for a Moderated Caucus.

A Delegate proposing a Motion for a Moderated Caucus must indicate a total duration of the caucus, speaking time for each individual speaker and purpose of the Motion. The Chairperson in-office may suggest a more appropriate total duration, speaker's time or purpose, or may rule the Moderated Caucus not in order without possibility of appeal. If the Motion passes, the Committee will enter informal debate whereby the Chairperson in-office will recognize at his/her discretion Delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand.

13.3. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus.

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time benefits the work of the Council. The Delegate proposing an Extension of the Moderated Caucus must suggest duration for the extension, not exceeding the initial Moderated Caucus. The individual speaker's time and the purpose of the Caucus remain the same. The Chairperson in-office may suggest a more appropriate total duration and put it to vote or may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. Only one extension of the Moderated Caucus is allowed. Purpose and speaking time shall remain intact.

13.4. Motion for an Un-Moderated Caucus.

A Delegate proposing a Motion for an Un-Moderated Caucus must indicate a total duration and purpose for the Caucus. The Chairperson in-office may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or topic and put it to vote or may rule the Un-Moderated Caucus not in order without possibility of

appeal. Once the Motion passes, the Council will start an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

13.5. Motion for an Un-Moderated Caucus.

A Delegate may move for an Un-Moderated Caucus thereby suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. The Delegate who makes this motion must suggest the duration and purpose for the Un-Moderated Caucus. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Un-Moderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion has passed, the committee will depart from Formal Debate and Delegates will carry an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

13.6. Motion to Extend the Un-Moderated Caucus.

A Delegate may move to extend the Un-Moderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time would benefit the work of the committee. The Delegate who moves for an Extension of an Un-Moderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Un-Moderated Caucus. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without the possibility of appeal.

13.7. Motion to Table Debate on a Topic.

A Delegate may move to Table Debate in order to end debate on a substantive issue halting all procedures on the present topic area. If the Chairman in-office rules the Motion in order, one (1) Delegate shall speak in favor and one (1) Delegate shall speak against before proceeding with a vote. This Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, the Chairperson in-office shall entertain a Motion to Open Debate on the other Topic Area, on the new topic addressed by the Council. After the new topic has been discussed according the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson in-office shall entertain a Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic as defined in article 13.8.

13.8. Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic.

If a Motion to Table the Debate passes, the Chairperson in-office may entertain a Motion to return to a Dismissed Topic. In that event, the Chairperson in-office will entertain one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against. If the Motion passes, debate on the dismissed topic resumes and the Committee returns to the existing Speakers' List of the Dismissed Topic.

13.9. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Ministerial Declaration.

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end debate on a Draft Ministerial Declaration. Should there be amendments on the floor, it is highly recommended to follow the procedure regarding Amendments, as discussed in Rules 14.4-14.4.6. If the Board rules the Motion

in order, it is in his/her discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This motion requires 2/3 majority.

13.10. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion.

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion, whereby the Committee will enter immediately voting procedure. If the Chairperson-in-office rules the Motion in order, it is in his/her discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass.

13.11. Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting.

A Delegate may rise to a Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting to suspend all Council activities until the next scheduled meeting. The Chairperson in-office may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. This motion requires Simple Majority in order to pass.

13.12. Motion for the Adjournment of the Session.

A Delegate may rise to a Motion for the Adjournment of the Session to cease permanently all Council activities¹. The Chairperson in-office may rule the Motion not in order without possibility of appeal or putting it to vote. The Motion is debatable, thus the Chairperson in-office will entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against. This motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass.

14. Ministerial Declarations and Amendments

14.1. Motion to Question Competence.

A Motion to Question the Competence of the Council to consider a Draft Ministerial Declaration is in order upon introduction of the documents. The Chairperson in-office will recognize one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against the Motion. The motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes the document will be withdrawn and will not be allowed to be re-introduced.

14.2. Working Paper.

A Working Paper is an informal document used by Council Delegates to work on building a Draft Ministerial Declaration. A Working Paper will be distributed at the Chairperson's discretion if requested by a Delegate. A Working Paper can be presented by the Delegate either when it is the Delegate's turn to speak, after been recognized by the Chairperson during Open Debate or when a

¹ This motion is in order only to be used in the end of the conference.

motion for an informal debate is passed, with the purpose of discussing the working paper. Working papers shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3. Ministerial Declarations.

14.3.1. Draft Ministerial Declarations.

A Working Paper submitted to the Chair under proper Ministerial Declaration format will be referred to as a Draft Ministerial Declaration. Draft Ministerial Declaration requires approval by the Secretariat. Delegates may refer to a document as a "Draft Ministerial Declaration" in a speech only after it has been assigned a number by the Secretariat. If Draft Ministerial Declarations are complementary or fairly identical, the Chair may recommend that the Sponsor of the Draft Ministerial Declarations merge the documents prior to the end of the debate. Draft Ministerial Declarations shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3.2. Ministerial Declaration denomination.

A Draft Ministerial Declaration that has been put to a vote by the committee and passes may be referred to as a "Ministerial Declaration".

14.3.3. Format.

Draft Ministerial Declarations must be properly formatted according to the guidelines found in the "RhodesMRC BSEC Ministerial Declaration Writing Guidelines" paper.

14.3.4. Sponsor.

The sponsor is recognized as the main contributor of the Draft Ministerial Declaration. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Ministerial Declaration. The Sponsor must be present for a Draft Ministerial Declaration to be introduced to the Council. The Sponsor must agree to support a Draft Ministerial Declaration unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process.

14.3.5. Signatories.

Signatories are those countries wishing to see the respective Working Paper being introduced and discussed as a Draft Ministerial Declaration. Signatories are neither considered as supporters of the Draft Ministerial Declaration nor bear any obligation towards the sponsor. Amendments to the Draft Ministerial Declaration are not required to be approved by its Signatories. A country can be a signatory to more than one Draft Ministerial Declaration on the same topic. The required number of Signatories required to discuss a Draft Ministerial Declaration will be set by the Chairman in-office being equal to at least 1/3 of the total members present at the Council (quorum).

14.3.7. Withdrawal of Sponsorships.

Sponsorship of a Draft Ministerial Declaration may be withdrawn at any time before voting on it has begun. Sponsorship of a Ministerial declaration may be withdrawn, if the Sponsor considers that a passed amendment alters the content to such extent, that his/her Delegation can't support the Draft Ministerial Declaration as a whole.

14.3.8. Withdrawal of Signature.

Signatories bear no responsibility towards the sponsor or the signed document and they are entitled to decide free during voting procedure. If a delegate wishes to withdraw his/her signature he/she may send a written note, at any given time before voting procedure, to Chairman in-office requesting to be excluded from the list of signatories.

14.3.9. Introduction of a Draft Ministerial Declaration.

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Introduce a Draft Ministerial Declaration. Once the Working Paper submitted in proper format has been approved and assigned a number by the Secretariat, the Chairman in-office will entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Ministerial Declaration, requiring simple majority. Once the Motion has passed, the Chairman in-office shall invite the Sponsor of the Draft Ministerial Declaration to read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Ministerial Declaration to the Council. The Sponsor or one of the Signatories will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to speak in favor of the Draft Ministerial Declaration. The Speaker may yield his/her remaining time to Questions or to another Delegate if he/she wishes to do so. A new debate upon this Draft Ministerial Declaration shall begin and a new Open Debate shall be established.

14.3.7. Withdrawal of a Draft Ministerial Declaration

A draft Ministerial Declaration may be withdrawn by its sponsor any time before the Amendment procedure starts, as defined by Rules 14.4-14.4.6. This request should be submitted in written form to the Chairperson. After that point the sponsor may submit his/her request in a written form signed by all signatories of the Draft Ministerial Declaration.

14.4. Amendments.

An Amendment may add, strike out or revise a part of the Draft Ministerial Declaration. The Amendment has to be first approved by the Chairman in-office. It is highly recommended, that there is at least one co-sponsor of the Amendment. It is in the discretion of the Chairman in-office to define the allotted time, during which the floor will be open for Amendments. After receiving the Amendments, the Chairman in-office shall review them designating whether they have been accepted by the Board and subsequently assigned them with a number.

14.4.1. Motion to Introduce Amendments.

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Introduce Amendments after the time for the submission of Amendments has elapsed. If the Motion passes, the Chairman in-office will introduce to the Council all Amendments approved by the Board. During this procedure, the Sponsor will be called upon to define to the Council and the Board Which Amendments are friendly and which unfriendly.

14.4.2. Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses.

Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses are not in order. However, the President may rule such an amendment in order if serious mistakes have been noticed in the Pre-Ambulatory Clauses.

14.4.3. Substantive Amendments.

Amendments correcting grammar, spelling or formatting mistakes on Draft Recommendations will be automatically adopted without being voted upon by the Committee, at the discretion of the President. Following the initial introduction of the Draft Recommendation by its Sponsor, delegates are permitted to point out any such problems to the Chairpersons.

14.4.4. Friendly Amendments.

Substantive Amendments approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Ministerial Declaration will automatically be integrated in the Draft Ministerial Declaration without the need to be voted upon by the Council. Amendments to Friendly Amendments are not in order.

14.4.5. Unfriendly Amendments.

Substantive Amendments to a Draft Ministerial Declaration not approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Ministerial Declaration are considered as unfriendly. Unfriendly Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Draft Ministerial Declaration as a whole. Amendments to Unfriendly Amendments are not in order. The Chairman in-office reserves the right to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against each Unfriendly Amendment prior to the vote by the Council.

14.5.1 Withdrawal of Amendments

The Sponsors of an Amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its denomination by the Sponsor as friendly or unfriendly. The Sponsors of an Unfriendly Amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its adoption by the committee. In case one sponsor decides to withdraw his/her sponsorship and the designated number for the submission of an amendment as defined by the Board is not met, it is in the discretion of the Chairman in-office to provide time for the sponsor's replacement. The Sponsors of a Friendly Amendment do not have the right to request its withdrawal.

14.6. Voting on Amendments.

After all Amendments have been defined by the Sponsor as friendly or unfriendly (Rule 13.4.1.), the Chairman in-office will read one by one all unfriendly Amendments, entertaining one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against, at his/her discretion. The Council shall vote upon each Amendment separately, after finishing debating on it. All subsequent Amendments shall be discussed and voted upon in accordance with the aforementioned procedure, and in the order defined by their assigned number. If one Amendment implies the rejection of a second Amendment, the second Amendment will not be voted upon. An Amendment that has passed shall be automatically integrated into the Draft Decision. Once all Amendments relating to a Draft Decision have been voted upon, the Board shall read the operative clauses as they have been modified.

15. Voting Procedure

When the Chairman in-office announces that the Council is entering voting procedure, no entering or exiting from the room will be permitted, unless there is an emergency or until the voting procedure has come to an end. All auxiliary personnel, such as Journalists, Observers, and Advisors etc. are required to immediately exit the room. The Board may or may not allow the Administrative Staff to remain in the room. Note passing is suspended. At this time, Motions to Split the House, Divide the Question or Roll Call Voting are in order.

15.1. Order of Voting.

Draft Decisions on the same Topic Area should be voted on according to the number they were assigned by the Secretariat of RhodesMRC.

15.2. Motion to Reorder Draft Ministerial Declarations

A Motion to Reorder Draft Ministerial Declarations will be in order immediately after entering voting procedure, and before voting has started on any draft Ministerial Declarations. The delegate proposing a Motion to Reorder Draft Ministerial Declarations will have to state the order in which he/she desires the Draft Ministerial Declarations to be voted upon. The motion is considered to be debatable and it requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

15.2. Method of Voting.

Each Delegate of the Council has one vote and must demonstrate his/her voting intentions by raising his/her placard at the Chairman in-office's request unless there is a Roll Call vote (see rule 16.2). Delegates must vote "in favor" or "against" on procedural matters and "in favor", "against" or "abstain" on substantive matters. No Delegate shall vote on behalf of another Delegate.

15.2.1. Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Motions are in order primarily for substantive matters. This Motion is automatically accepted unless the Chairman in-office rules it not in order; the decision is not subject to appeal. The Roll Call starts from a Delegate, randomly selected by the Chairman-in-office.

15.2.2. Passing.

During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The Chairman in-office will place the Delegate at the bottom of the voting list. A Delegate who has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again or abstain, but must ascertain his/her vote. A delegate who has passed cannot vote “with Rights”.

15.3. Voting with Rights.

A Delegate may request a right of explanation after voting, stating in favor/against/abstain with rights. Upon completion of voting, the Delegate will be permitted to explain the reasons as to why he/she has chosen to vote a certain way. The Chair may limit the speaking time at his/her discretion.

15.4. Motion to Divide the Question.

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on a Draft Ministerial Declaration, a Delegate may rise to a Motion to Divide the Question in order to vote on an individual operative clause, a group of operative clauses or clause by clause. A Delegate must specify how he/she wishes to divide the operative clauses. Should there be more than one Motion to divide the question on the floor, Council shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The Chairman in-office shall take one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against the first Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each. The Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, subsequent Motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory and the Council will proceed to voting on the Draft Ministerial Declarations in the manner suggested by the Motion. If the Motion fails, the remaining Motions will be considered in accordance with the above procedure. The divided section that fails during voting will be taken out of the final Draft Ministerial Declaration; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the Council will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Ministerial Declaration as a whole.

15.5. Consensus.

Consensus shall be understood as the absence of any objection expressed by any member state and presented by the latter as constituting an obstacle to the taking of the decision in question. Consensus is needed in order to reach a decision and adopt a Ministerial Declaration. Each member state has one vote. Abstentions are permissible and do not count against consensus, being interpreted as an absence of the abstaining state from voting procedure. Member states shall decide by consensus when:

- a) establishing dialogue partnership and sectoral dialogue partnership with third parties;
- b) creating new organs of the BSEC; defining, modifying and terminating their mandates; and structural mechanisms;
- c) approving of cooperation projects.
- d) financial obligations affecting member states
- e) admission of a new member to the Organization

15.7. Majority Vote

When there is no consensus on matter pertaining article 15.6 of the Rules of Procedure or the nature of the Ministerial Declaration does not correspond to issues enlisted therein the Council shall decide by a 2/3 majority of the members that are present and have voting rights. In case the required majority vote could not be attained on an issue, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

15.6. Motion to Retake Vote.

In case consensus fails for one vote against, the Draft Ministerial Declaration may be adopted by 2/3 majority. The Motion to retake vote is in order when the result of the vote on the Draft Ministerial Declaration ends with one vote against. The Motion is not subject to a vote and must only be seconded in order to pass. Once the Motion passes the Council enters informal debate for a short period of time defined by the Board. After the caucus, the vote shall be retaken and the result of the second vote shall be considered as final. In case the adoption of a Declaration with a majority vote (2/3) fails for one vote, no Motion to Retake the vote may be entertained.

15.7. Adoption of a Draft Ministerial Declaration.

If the Draft Ministerial Declaration passes, it is then automatically named BSEC Ministerial Declaration and hereinafter constitutes an official document of the BSEC. Only one Ministerial Declaration shall be adopted per agenda item.