



# Rules of Procedure

## applying to the Summit of the Organization of American States 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 of the Organisation of American States. In case of conflict of interpretation, the President has the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.



**Rules of Procedure for the Summit of the Organization for the American States (OAS) for its simulation in 7<sup>th</sup> Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation to be held in Rhodes, October 12-16, 2016.**  
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**1.2. Language.**

English is the 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 own translation. 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. Diplomatic Courtesy.**

During committee session, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the Committee, the Chairpersons and the members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat, the Staff and the Organizing Committee. Insulting, abusive, aggressive or offending behavior during the conference is prohibited. The Chairpersons have the authority to address diplomatic warnings to delegates who obviously violate the diplomatic courtesy. In case that the delegate's conduct seriously hampers the process within the committee, the President reserves the right to request his/her expulsion from the conference room or suspend his/her voting and speaking rights.

**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 Committee at any time during the Conference.

## **1.7 Aim of the Organisation of American States**

The OAS' scope, according to Article 2 of the Charter of the OAS, states that: "The Organization of American States, in order to put into practice the principles on which it is founded and to fulfil its regional obligations, under the Charter of the United Nations, proclaims the following essential purposes:

- To strengthen the peace and security of the continent;
- To promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of non-intervention;
- To prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the Member-States;
- To provide for common action on the part of those States in the event of aggression;
- To seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them;
- To promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development;
- To eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere; and
- To achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the Member States."<sup>1</sup>

## **2. RhodesMRC Board**

### **2.1. Chairpersons.**

The Board of the Committee will be composed of a President and a Secretary General.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2, Charter of the Organization of American States, <http://www.oas.org/en/about/purpose.asp>

## **2.2. Competence of the Chairpersons.**

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

### **2.3.1. Authority of the President.**

The President shall exercise ultimate authority over his/her Committee proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. The President 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 Committee. The President reserves the right to assist on the drafting of the resolution and the amendments. In case of dilatory or disruptive behaviour the President reserves the right to take any appropriate measure to address the misconduct.

### **2.3.2. Responsibilities of the President.**

The President is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the Committee, 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 Committee. It is within his/her responsibilities to assist in the policy planning of the Committee and make remarks when a Member-State is out of line at any given discussion.

## **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 Committee, at any time. The Secretary General shall assist the President with his/her responsibilities. He shall also assist the President on protecting the interests of the States by supervising the drafting of the resolutions. The Secretary General assists the President 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 in order to take 30 seconds of Caucus.

## **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 Committee by raising their placards and declaring “*Present*”. As soon as the aforementioned procedure is complete, the Secretary General 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 organisation 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**

Committee 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 that will be carried out by the Board following rule 5.1. 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 2015 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. Verification of the Quorum is deemed obligatory if Committee proceedings are suspended for more than 30 minutes. In any other instance the quorum remains intact as set in the beginning of the session.

#### **5.1. Motion to Verify the Quorum.**

Delegates may move to Verification of Quorum, where the Chairpersons will proceed with quorum confirmation by initiating a Roll Call. The Chairpersons can rule the Motion dilatory without option for appeal.

## **5.2. Late arrival.**

In case a member arrives at the OAS 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 shall not be recognized by the Board. All participants who have not informed the President of their presence until voting procedure begins are not eligible to vote.

## **6. 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.

### **6.1. Selection of Topics.**

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

### **6.2. 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 favour 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 favour – 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 remaining motion shall be considered as automatically accepted. 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.

### **6.3 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 by the Committee. 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.

## **7. 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 recognised 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. When proposing a *Motion to Launch Open Debate* the delegate has to propose individual speaking time, which can be altered at a later stage of the debate by a *Motion to Set the Speaking Time*.

### **7.1. 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 to propose an individual speaking time when proposing the motion.

### **7.2. Motion to Set Speaking Time.**

A Delegate may move to set a time limit on speeches. This motion is needed in order to specify speaking time during Open Debate. It can be re-proposed by a member of the Council should there be a need to adjust speaking time of the formal debate. The Chair may either rule the Motion dilatory at his/her discretion or put it to vote.



## **8. Decision making process**

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

### **8.1. Simple Majority.**

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that more than half of the quorum must vote in favour of the matter to pass.

### **8.2. 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 favour for a matter to pass. If there is at least one vote in favour 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.

## **9. Debate**

### **9.1. Formal Debate.**

A committee shall by default be in Formal Debate. The Open Debate is the only form of Formal Debate, which shall be entertained after setting the Topic under Discussion.

### **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 unmoderated caucus. When the floor is open after the instruction of the Board, the member of the Committee can propose a motion for a Moderated caucus or a motion for an unmoderated 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 must be 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 Unmoderated Caucus.**

A delegation may propose a motion for an Unmoderated caucus; the member is asked to designate the total duration of the unmoderated caucus and its purpose which should mandatorily serve the best interest of the Committee; the Chair is free to openly confer with the Member proposing an unmoderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned features; an Unmoderated caucus is extended only once through a motion to extend the unmoderated caucus, but its duration should not exceed that of the initial of the unmoderated caucus. An Unmoderated 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 OAS, without permission from the President, is prohibited.

**9.3. Recognition.**

A Delegate may only address the committee if he/she has been recognized by the Board.

**9.4. Interruptions.**

A Speaker may not be interrupted by another Delegate unless the Delegate has risen a Point of Personal Privilege. Any other Point, Right or Motion cannot interrupt the speech of any delegate.

## **10. Speeches**

### **10.1. 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.

### **10.2. Relevance of Speech.**

A Chair may call a Delegate to order if his/her speech is not relevant to the subject matter being discussed or is not delivered according to Chair diplomatic courtesy.

## **11. Yields**

While in Open Debate a delegation is entitled to give their speaking 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 recognised 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 President 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 and Point of Parliamentary Inquiry are in order both during Formal and Informal Debate, at any given time, provided that they do not interrupt a speaker. Right of Reply is 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 raise a point of order shall express his/her intention verbally.

During unmoderated 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. Point of 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. Point of Order.**

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Order if a Rule of Procedure is not properly observed by the Chairpersons. The President 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 President may not be appealed. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

### **12.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.**

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the President 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 President 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 President rule the Right of Reply not in order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply on 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 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 President 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 President will recognise at his/her discretion Delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand.

### **13.2. 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 Committee. 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 President 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.

### **13.3. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus.**

A Delegate proposing a Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus must indicate a total duration and purpose for the Caucus. The President may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or topic and put it to vote or may rule the Unmoderated Caucus not in order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion passes, the Committee shall start an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

### **13.4. Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus.**

A Delegate may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time would benefit the work of the Committee. The Delegate proposing a Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus must suggest duration for the extension, not exceeding the initial Unmoderated Caucus. The President may suggest more appropriate caucus duration and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus not in order without the possibility of appeal. Only one extension of the Unmoderated Caucus is allowed. Purpose of the Unmoderated caucus shall remain

intact.

**13.5. 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 President rules the Motion in order, one (1) Delegate shall speak in favour 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 President shall entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the other Topic Area, on the new topic addressed by the Committee. After the new topic has been discussed, according the Rules of Procedure, the President shall entertain a Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic as defined in article 13.7.

**13.6. Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic.**

If a Motion to Table the Debate passes, the President may entertain a Motion to return to a Dismissed Topic. In that event, the President 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.

**13.7. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Resolution.**

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end debate on a Draft Resolution. Should there be amendments on the floor, it is highly recommended to follow the procedure regarding Amendments, as discussed in Rules of Procedure. 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.

**13.8. 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 President 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.

### **13.9. Motion to Adjourn of the Meeting.**

A Delegate may rise to a Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting to suspend all Committee activities until the next scheduled meeting. The President may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. This motion requires simple majority in order to pass.

### **13.10. Motion to Adjourn the Session.**

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

## **14. Resolutions and Amendments**

### **14.1. Motion to Question Competence.**

A Motion to Question the Competence of the Committee to consider a Draft Resolution is in order upon introduction of the documents. The President will recognise one (1) Speaker in favour 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. Proposal**

A Proposal is a working paper presented by the Chairpersons after the establishment of the agenda

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



and the introductory speech by the ambassadors. The proposal is drafted by the Chairpersons based on content sent upon request by the ambassadors. The presented proposal shall be considered the basis for the Topic under Discussion. The Delegates shall request for a printed version of the Proposal which is fully amendable without any prerequisites whatsoever.

### **14.3. Resolutions**

#### **14.3.1. Draft Resolution**

After the proposal has been finalized it shall be submitted in the proper form, fulfilling all prerequisites. The document shall be sent to the Secretariat for approval and will be subsequently assigned with a number and all necessary adjustments shall be made. The Draft Resolution needs no sponsors, as it is officially presented by the Presidency.

#### **14.3.2. Resolution denomination.**

A Draft Resolution that has been put to a vote by the committee and passes may be referred to as a *“Resolution”*.

#### **14.3.3. Introduction of a Draft Decision.**

A Delegate may propose a *Motion to Introduce a Draft Decision*. Once the Proposal submitted in proper format has been approved and assigned a number by the Secretariat, the President will entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Decision, requiring simple majority. Once the Motion has passed, the President shall will read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Resolution. The Secretary General will then have five (5) minutes in order to elaborate on defaults and shortcomings of the document and then will open the floor for questions for a short period of time.

**14.4. Amendments.**

An Amendment may add, strike out or revise a part of the Draft Resolution. The Amendment has to be first approved by the President. It is highly recommended, that there is at least one co-sponsor of the Amendment. It is in the discretion of the President to define the allotted time, during which the floor will be open for Amendments. After receiving the Amendments, the President 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 President will introduce to the Committee all Amendments approved by the Board.

**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. Non-Substantive Amendments.**

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

**14.4.4 Format of Amendments on Operational Clauses**

An Amendment may add/revise/strike out a clause. The Format of the Amendments shall make clear the purpose of the amendment, the clause that the Amendment is destined to alter/revise and/or the number that the Amendment shall take in case it proposes an addition to the text of the Draft

Resolution.

#### **14.4.6 Sponsor and Co-Sponsor (Signatories) of Amendments.**

An Amendment shall be sponsored by a Delegate. This Delegate is mainly responsible for reading out the Amendment upon request and for supporting the Amendment in front of the Committee.

An Amendment must have at least one Co-Sponsor, who also supports the proposed Amendment and shall assist the Sponsor on supporting the Amendment.

#### **14.4.7 Presentation of Amendments**

Each Amendment shall be officially introduced by the Sponsor of the Amendment upon request by the Chairpersons and after all the approved amendments have been read out once by the Board to the Committee. After that, the Sponsor can be recognized if he/she wishes so, as the speaker in favour of the Amendment. In any other case the Chairperson will follow the procedure indicated in 14.4.8.

#### **14.4.8 Debate on Amendments**

After the presentation and support of an Amendment by its Sponsor, the President may move on to debate on the Amendment presented. The President shall entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against on the Amendment and may specify the permitted time per given speech.

#### **14.4.9. Voting on Amendments**

After all possible tasks have been completed on the Amendments, under the discretion of the Chairpersons, the Committee shall proceed with the voting procedure on the Amendments proposed by the Delegates. 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. An Amendment requires a simple majority to be considered as a part of the Draft Resolution.

#### **14.4.10 Withdrawal of Amendments**

The Sponsors of an 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 President to provide time for the sponsor's replacement.

### **15. Voting Procedure**

When the President 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. Motion to Divide the Question**

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on the Draft Resolution, 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, the Committee shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The President shall take one (1) Speaker in favour and one (1) Speaker against the first Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each, under its own discretion. 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 Committee will proceed to voting on the Draft Resolutions 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 Resolution; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the Committee will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Decision as a whole.

### **15.3. Motion to Split the House**

The Motion to Split the House is in order when the Delegate proposing this Motion wishes to exclude abstention from the voting options during the final vote on the Draft Resolution. This Motion has to be proposed immediately after the Committee entertains a Motion to Close Debate and enters Voting Procedure. The motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. Once the Motion passes, delegations shall not be allowed to abstain during the voting of the Resolution.

### **15.4. Roll Call Vote.**

Roll Call Motions are in order primarily for substantive matters. This Motion is automatically accepted unless the Chairperson 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 Chairperson in-office.

### **15.5 Voting Methods**

Each country/delegate has one vote and a Delegate may not vote on behalf of another country than the one he/she represents; voting shall be implemented by raising placards, unless a motion for a roll call vote has been raised. A Delegate voting on a Draft Resolution may vote “in favour”, “against” or “abstain”.

#### **15.5.1. Passing**

During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The Chairperson 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”.

### **15.5.2. Voting with Rights**

A Delegate may request a right of explanation after voting, stating in favour/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.

### **15.6. Resolution**

A Resolution is a Draft Resolution, which has successfully been voted in favour by the Committee. A Draft Resolution needs to be voted in favour by a simple majority to be considered successful and be named as an OAS Resolution.