

MOAS RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING DEBATE AND VOTING: X. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEBATE

Article 49

All aspects of debate will be conducted according to these instructions. Any changes adopted during the First Session of the MOAS Permanent Council, and/or any amendment adopted during the First Session of any of the Preparatory Committees, must be taken into consideration by the Chairs when conducting the sessions. To ensure continuity of work in the committees the MOAS Coordination may assign crisis scenarios, as necessary.

Order of Precedence

Article 50

The Order of Precedence during the Model is established by lottery at the Opening Session of the MOAS Permanent Council, and will be used for:

- a. Determining the order in which the delegates present their general statements (both delegates from the same country one after the other).
- b. Determining the provisional President of the Model, among the Chiefs of Delegation, in the event that the post is vacant. In this case, the MOAS Permanent Council is convened immediately for the sole purpose of electing a new President.
- c. Determining the Vice Chair, in the absence of the elected Vice Chair in any of the committees.

Official Language

Article 51

The official language of the Model OAS General Assembly is the language of the host country, or as determined by the MOAS Coordination.

Quorum

Article 52

Quorum is reached when the majority of the registered delegations representing the OAS Member States are present at any of the sessions of the Model OAS. For a vote to be taken, the presence of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegations is required in any of the MOAS sessions. If one or more delegations must leave prior to the conclusion of the General Assembly, the number of attendees must be adjusted when considering quorum. Plenary sessions of the Model OAS General Assembly require full participation of delegations, which should not leave prior to the Closing Ceremony.

Withdrawal of Proposals and Amendments

Article 53

The proponent of a motion or amendment may withdraw it before it is voted upon. Any delegation may present again a draft resolution or amendment that had been withdrawn, as long as it is consistent with the schedule of activities of the respective Model.

Debate

Article 54

Draft resolutions will be debated in the order in which the Working Groups presented them. The debate of each draft resolution is conducted as follows:

- a. The Committee Secretary reads the proposal's title, the countries presenting it, and the operative clauses.
- b. The representative of the working group presenting the proposal offers a speech to introduce it.
- c. The Chair opens the floor for the intervention of the delegates, who can ask questions, offer comments (either for or against the resolution), or propose amendments.
- d. The Committee Secretary drafts a speakers list of the delegations that requested the floor.
- e. The Chair calls and gives the floor to the speakers as they appear on the List. However, in order to provide continuity to the debate, the Chair may alter the order of the speakers in the list to finish the discussion on a given clause. Once that discussion is finished, the floor is given to the next speaker.
- f. When applicable, the Chair calls for a vote on the proposed amendments.
- g. The Chair calls for a vote on the proposal being debated (as amended or as originally presented).
- h. The Chair announces the result of the vote, which determines whether the proposal passes or is rejected.

Questions, Speakers List and Closing of a Debate

Article 55

All questions, answers, comments and arguments must be conducted through the Chair. There is no limit on the number of delegates to be included in the Speakers List for questions or comments on a draft resolution being discussed.

Article 56

Only one delegate from a country can debate a point at a time. If the head delegate wishes to let an alternate delegate speak, he must announce it to the Chair and yield the floor accordingly. The delegates must present a congruent position during their interventions. Only the Head Delegate may vote to approve or reject a resolution, unless he/she informs the Chair of a delegation of authority in favor of the Alternate Delegate.

Amendments

Article 57

If a delegate wishes to propose an amendment to a draft resolution he must be on the speakers list to present a motion to amend it. A motion for amendment is acceptable only when it adds, eliminates or changes part of a draft resolution; if the motion seeks to totally replace the original proposal or is not directly related to the point made in the resolution, it is not considered to be an amendment and cannot be accepted. The Chair will decide on this matter.

Reconsideration of Decisions

Article 58

To reconsider a decision that has been reached by vote at the sessions of the MOAS Permanent Council or any of the committees, a motion to change that decision must be approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegations.

Points of Order

Article 59

During the discussion of a topic, any delegate may raise a point of order to immediately address a procedural error. A point of order does not apply to a matter of substance during a debate. The Chair must urgently act upon points of order. If any delegate appeals a point of order, this motion needs to be seconded in order to go to a vote. The vote of the majority will approve the motion as appealed.

Closing of debate on a topic or draft resolution

Article 60

The President, Chair, or any delegate may propose the closing of debate if they consider that a topic or resolution has been discussed sufficiently. This motion closes the debate and moves to an immediate vote on the resolution being considered. This motion must be seconded and voted by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates in order to pass. If nobody seconds it, the motion may not proceed.

Suspension of a Session or Meeting

Article 61

During the debate of any topic, the President, Chair, or any delegate may propose that the session or meeting be suspended. A motion to suspend should indicate the period of time the session will go into recess. It needs to be seconded and will be decided by a vote of the majority of the delegations. If the motion is not seconded, it may not proceed to voting and the debate will continue. A motion to suspend the meeting may not be proposed during the process of voting for a resolution or a motion.

Order of Procedural Motions

Article 62

The following motions have precedence, in the order set forth below, over all other proposed motions:

- a. Point of Order
- b. Suspension of the session
- c. Closing of debate on the topic under consideration

Common Provisions to all Committee and Plenary Sessions

Article 63

The provisions regarding voting procedures contained in Chapter XI of these Rules of Procedure will apply to all the sessions that take place during the MOAS.

XI. VOTING

Right to Vote

Article 64

Each country delegation has the right to one vote. A Head Delegate may delegate the authority to vote in favor of the Alternate Delegate, as long as it is made public to the Chair and other delegates, before the vote has been called upon.

Consensus

Article 65

One of the main goals of the MOAS exercise is that the delegates reach consensus through negotiation and compromise. If this is not possible a vote will be taken by a show of the country placards.

Majority Required

Article 66

At the Model of the OAS General Assembly, majority means the vote of half of the delegations present at the moment of voting plus one (as a minimum). In certain cases, as specified in these rules, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegations present will be required.

Article 67

If consensus is not reached, either in the Plenary Sessions or the Committee sessions, decisions will be adopted by a vote of the majority of the Member States, except in those cases where the rules of procedure determine otherwise.

Voting Procedure

Article 68

When calling for a vote on a motion or resolution, the MOAS President and Chairs will ask ***“if any delegation objects”*** to the issue being debated. If no delegation raises its placard, then the motion or resolution will pass by **consensus**. If even one delegation raises its placard, the Chair must proceed to call for a vote by a show of placards.

During the vote by a show of placards, the Chair will ask for “those in favor,” “those opposed,” and “if there are any abstentions.”

Roll call vote

Article 69

Any delegation may present a motion for a roll call vote, which will be automatically granted, using the established order of precedence. When named in a roll call vote a delegate will answer “yes,” “no,” or “abstain.” However, this motion can be appealed and must be seconded before being put to a vote, which requires a majority.

Article 70

Votes by secret ballot are conducted only for the election of MOAS authorities.

Article 71

No representative may interrupt the voting, except for a point of order relating to the manner in which the voting is conducted. The voting is final when the President or Chair announces the results.

Voting on draft resolutions

Article 72

Once the debate is closed, the draft resolution being considered, along with any approved amendments, are put to a vote immediately. The draft resolutions are debated and voted upon in the order in which they are presented. A majority vote is required to approve the draft resolutions.

Voting on Amendments

Article 73

A proposal for amendment must be submitted in writing to the Committee Secretary and will be debated and voted before a vote is taken on the proposal that it is intended to modify. A majority vote is required to approve draft amendments.

Article 74

When several proposals for amendment are presented, they will be considered and voted according to the order in which they were received.

Article 75

When the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another, the latter will not be put to consideration or to a vote. If one or more amendments have been approved for a draft resolution, the complete resolution is then put to a vote as amended.

Article 76

All delegations, regardless of their status as co-sponsors or co-signatories may vote in favor of proposed amendments. The adoption of an amendment to a draft resolution releases its co-signatories from their obligation to vote in favor of the resolution.

Voting by Parts

Article 77

Any delegation may request that a draft resolution or amendment be voted upon by parts. If another delegation opposes such a request a vote will be taken, in which case a majority vote is required to decide if the motion proceeds. If voting by parts is accepted, each clause of the proposal is voted upon individually. Then the resulting proposal, which will consist of operative clauses approved individually by majority vote, is put to a final vote. If all the parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, such a proposal or amendment is considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Explanation of a Vote

Article 78

After the voting has ended, except when it has been by secret ballot, any delegate may request the floor to give a brief explanation of his vote. The President or Chair will limit the time of the explanation to one (1) minute.