



Canadian High Schools Model United Nations Conference

# CAHSMUN

Vancouver, British Columbia | March 2nd to 4th, 2012

## Rio +20

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development  
Green Economy | Institutional Framework for sustainable development

# RIO + 20

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Welcome from the Dais	1	Dear Delegates,
Writing Position Papers	2	The Committee Staff for the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development would like to welcome you to the simulation of this committee at the 2012 Canadian High Schools Model United Nations (CAHSMUN). We will be going through a simulation of the actual Rio+20 Conference, which is going to be held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, from June 4 to 6, 2011. As one of the most important conferences in the world on the topic of sustainable development, the decisions you make here will have long-lasting impacts upon the future of our world. Topic A is about addressing the issue of sustainable development in our world, which will require both a strong will, and compromise in order to see a satisfactory resolution to the matter. You will be given the opportunity to improve upon the past resolutions that have been passed and solve the problems that have troubled humanity for so long. Topic B refers to the actual structure upon which all actions regarding a green world will have to be based upon. This topic will mainly focus upon establishing a new framework or possibly even a new committee in the UN that will carry out and further discuss sustainable development, even after the Rio+20 Conference ends. We wish the best of luck to all of the delegates who will be participating in this weekend's conference as part of Rio+20.
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		Signed, The Staff of Rio+20

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## Writing Position Papers

### What are Position Papers?

Position papers are a reflection of the preparation that delegates put towards a Model UN conference. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, NGO, or expert role. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee.

CAHSMUN will reward awards to delegation with the best position paper in each committee. In order for your position paper to be eligible for awards, please follow these guidelines:

- You must submit your position paper to your committee's email no later than February 24, 2012;
- Length cannot exceed two pages;
- The font must be Times New Roman, between 10 and 12 points;
- The margins must be one inch on all sides;
- The file format must be PDF or Word (.doc and .docx);
- Each topic is clearly segregated; and
- No national symbols (e.g. flag, coat of arms) can be displayed on the position paper.

Double Delegates will only need to submit one version of their position paper.

### Committee Email Addresses

General Assembly First Committee [ga1@cahsmun.org](mailto:ga1@cahsmun.org)

Rio+20 Conference [rio20@cahsmun.org](mailto:rio20@cahsmun.org)

African Union [au@cahsmun.org](mailto:au@cahsmun.org)

UNESCO Executive Board [unesco@cahsmun.org](mailto:unesco@cahsmun.org)

United Nations Human Rights Council [unhrc@cahsmun.org](mailto:unhrc@cahsmun.org)

Historical Crisis Committee [historical@cahsmun.org](mailto:historical@cahsmun.org)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization [nato@cahsmun.org](mailto:nato@cahsmun.org)

United Nations Security Council [unsc@cahsmun.org](mailto:unsc@cahsmun.org)

The following is a sample of an acceptable position paper.  
(Courtesy of the National Model United Nations Conference)



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Delegation from  
The United Mexican States

Represented by  
(Name of College)

### **Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary**

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: the Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

#### **I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion**

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

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### **II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions**

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoing Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its National Program for Human Rights or the Plan Puebla Panama. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

### **III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa**

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

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The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an institutional reform of the United Nations is crucial in enhancing durable peace in Africa. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.



# R I O + 2 0

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## Committee Background

From June 3rd-14th 1992, the original Rio summit, also known as the “Earth Summit” was held in Rio de Janeiro for the purpose of discussing climate change and its effects on the earth and various nations. 172 different countries participated in this UN Conference, along with numerous NGO. Now 20 years have passed since this historic first conference, and as the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Summit approaches, the General Assembly in the United Nations has deemed it necessary to hold another United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD).

With over 150 different nations from across the world coming to this historic anniversary, the Rio+20 conference and the decisions and consensus reached here will without doubt determine the direction the world will take regarding both sustainable development, and maintaining the delicate ecological balance in our world today. Since the first Earth Summit, in combination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the earth summits have played a key role in determining the world’s policy regarding environmental issues.

Finally Rio+20 hopes to capitalize on the previous successes at past conferences and build upon them so that the nations of the world can continue on the road to a sustainable future.

### **Topic One:** A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

#### **Introduction**

In today's fast paced world of globalization and industrialization of less-developed countries, being able to sustain a green economy while keeping in mind sustainable development goals and goals such as poverty eradication has become increasingly difficult and complex. In examining this topic, there are two key aspects: the actions that are required to keep the Earth healthy for future generations to live in, and how to balance out these actions with the needs of developing countries to industrialize and improve their standards of living.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the definition of a green economy is one "whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services." (UNEP Green Programme Website)

In short, a green economy is one that still maintains continuous growth while cutting back on the release of toxins and pollutants that could potentially lead to future generations being unable to sustain themselves due to lack of resources, climate change, or other related problems.

#### **Background**

On December 11, 1997, in Kyoto Japan, 191 states signed the Kyoto Protocol, which was aimed at fighting global warming one of the key aspects required to secure a "green economy." The participating Member States all agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 5.2% by 2012. However, while many countries in the UN came together to sign this momentous Protocol, there still remained doubts as to whether or not the Protocol would be effective. As of the years have shown, while the Kyoto Protocol was a step in the right direction, it unfortunately was not the be all and end all to solving the problem of climate change. While the majority of nations had agreed to the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, the most notable exception, was the United States of America, which emits roughly a quarter of the total global greenhouse gases that are released annually.

While the Kyoto Protocol is one of the most known environmental agreements, the concept of a "green economy" had its birthplace in Stockholm in 1972. The United Nations Conference of the Human Environment (UNCHE) first gathered Member States from across the world to discuss not only the environment, but also the need to respect the development and economic growth that developing countries need. In the 1970s there was no immediate need to discuss environmental issues as there was no information available to the international community that indicated climate change would prove to be such a severe problem.

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In 1992, 20 years after the Stockholm conference, there was another UNCHE held at Rio de Janeiro. Here Member States agreed to Agenda 21, and the Rio Declaration. It was at this conference that the problem of maintaining sustainable development while simultaneously keeping in mind environmental issues was first brought to the world's attention. Agenda 21, a blueprint, which promotes sustainable development throughout the world, was drafted and agreed upon by 178 Member States at the Rio de Janeiro conference. The 1992 Rio de Janeiro conference represented a major shift regarding development at the time. While there was initial strong support for Agenda 21, in the subsequent years the promises made by governments started to fade. Combined with accumulating debt in many countries, it would be another 10 years before commitments by countries could be re-secured.

A third conference was again held in 2002, on the tenth anniversary of the Rio de Janeiro conference, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was signed, and Member States agreed to focus on the broad general ideas from Agenda 21. This plan had set out to do what Agenda 21 had not been able to accomplish, which was to create tangible goals instead of just broad generalizations; one of these tangible goals was minimizing the loss of biodiversity.

### Current Situation

The discussion on maintaining an environmentally friendly and sustainable development plan has changed drastically from its origins at Stockholm in 1979. With large multinational companies developing clean and sustainable technology, the means to reduce carbon emissions and other such pollutants are in place. However, there still exists a gap between the developed and developing countries. At the Conference of the Parties, which was held in Copenhagen, controversy erupted after the discovery of the alleged 'Danish Text.' This secret document was originally intended to be signed by the leaders of the developed countries. The contents of this document, if passed, would mean that developed world would have been allowed to emit twice as much greenhouse gases as developing countries. The Danish Text clearly exemplifies the rift that exists currently regarding sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. On the one hand, there is the issue on whether or not poorer countries should be hampered by the cost of installing environmentally friendly technology in their developing industries when the immediate priority is to raise their standards of living. On the other hand, the question remains on who should be responsible for reducing carbon emissions and how would such reductions be enforced.

Also, many countries that have agreed to environmentally friendly and sustainable goals do not actually meet these goals.. Under the emissions trading scheme of the European Union, companies in Europe are allowed to purchase emission permits that allow them emit as much harmful pollutants as they can afford into the atmosphere. This is another problem that faces underdeveloped countries; these countries simply cannot purchase emission allowances like large multinational corporations and the developed countries.



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### Key Issues

While there have been steps taken to reduce the environmental effect of industrialization, there remains much to be done before the world's economy can truly be called "sustainable." While the technology exists to reduce the total amount of harmful emissions, not all countries are able to afford, or are even willing to buy, such technology. For example, in countries such as China and India, who are currently dealing with the effects of a large population, the cost of equipping their various factories and manufacturing plants with pollution reducing technology is quite prohibitive. As efficient and eco-friendly these new technologies are, the challenge remains to be the methods of production and distribution.

### Questions to consider

What actions can be taken at Rio+20 in order to secure the commitments of the attending states to a sustainable future?

How does your country define sustainable development, and are they willing to contribute to a global effort to change the direction of current development and industry?

Is reducing carbon emissions the only possible way to ensure sustainable development, and if not what are some other methods that your country could take to accomplish this goal?

What are some positive and negative effects that adopting ecologically friendly goals could have on your nation? (Ecological, political, financial, social)

What are some actions that your country has taken in the past in order to resolve this issue, and what will they be willing to do currently, and in the future?

With the current state of the environment, and the interactions so far between developed and developing nations, how will this play into your countries motivations and goals for the Rio+20 conference?

## Topic Two: The institutional framework for sustainable development

### Introduction

When tackling the issue of sustainable development with regards to the environment, there is no suitable forum to discuss this nexus. While the Rio Earth Summits and other summits such as the Conference of the Parties have provided a feasible forum for discussion, the United Nations does not have a deliberative body dedicated to this topic. In order for there to be progress, it has to be first determined exactly how the international community could continuously discuss sustainable development and environment. At the moment, the majority of discussions are held at United Nation Conferences on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), which are held when the General Assembly passes a resolution agreeing to hold a conference upon the topic of sustainable development.

In addition to the problems of dealing with multiple agencies that may have overlapping purposes or mandates, the question of how to implement global change in sustainable development exists. Such an endeavour will require the cooperation of all Member States and their various levels of government. Obtaining the cooperation of governments at all these levels will only be possible with a clear agenda and goals. Without the organization that could be provided by a singular group or body in the UN, being able to solve the problem of sustainable development could prove to be extremely difficult.

### History

At the moment, there are two main bodies in the United Nations who are responsible for discussing sustainable development, the United Nations Environment Programme, which was first formed in 1972 after the Stockholm Conference, and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The purpose of these 2 bodies is similar, but the deliberations vary in scope. The UNEP is responsible for setting the global environmental agenda and being one of the facilitators of discussion regarding the topic, and the CSD is more focused on reviewing the progress of the goals from Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, also the Johannesburg Plan of implementation.

### Current Situation

Currently the system for discussing sustainable development works by the General Assembly passing a resolution to approve to hold a UNCSD. After the UNCSD is held, the General Assembly receives the agreements made at the conference and vote on them to establish those agreements' authority in international law.

Despite the overlap in mandates and goals, the UNEP and the CSD conflict in terms of resources and authority, resulting in a lack of communication and a spirit of competition instead of collaboration. As an agency of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CSD is in the position where it is the only UN body that meets regularly to discuss environmental sustainability. A problem with this, however, is that the CSD has no real legal power. Without any legal power, the discussions or decisions that are reached are unable to be enforced. Being unable to enforce any of the plans that have been discussed has crippled the CSD's effectiveness tremendously; without the full cooperation of governments throughout the world, any possibility of sustainable development is untenable.

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Since the very first UNCSO at Stockholm, there has been a general increase in public awareness regarding sustainable development. While awareness of this issue has gone up, the amount of action designed to improve our environment has failed to keep up. A major reason why this has happened is because of weak international environmental governance and a lack of commitment to sustainable development. Without enforcement and accountability, many countries have failed and will continue to flout environmental agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol. Canada is an example of a country that originally agreed to meet the carbon emission reduction goals as set in the Kyoto Protocol, but as of 2011, has essentially abandoned any pretence of trying to meet those goals.

In addition to the Kyoto Protocol, there have been many other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). As of now there are currently over 500 of these, with roughly 60% having been signed and ratified after the creation of the UNEP. With these many MEAs currently existing, there exists a large amount of redundancy that needs to be streamlined in order for there to be an effective policing on who has or has not violated these agreements.

### Key Issues

As the divide grows between developed and developing countries increase, equal representation must be ensured in new deliberative bodies. For example, both sides of the discussion at past environmental conferences have traditionally been represented, with the Group of 77 and China standing firmly on one side of the issue, and the developed countries have opposed them. Maintaining good relations and determining a method of representation on a new committee in the UN is essential to the establishment of a new institutional framework.

The international regime for environmentalism and sustainable development has many redundancies and inefficiencies due to the proliferation of MEAs and agreements made under the UN umbrella. Furthermore, there are already institutionalized and ad hoc bodies that discuss these issues. Any addition to this regime would need to address overlaps in mandates and authority. Furthermore, without the full support and continued commitment of governments around the world, plans such as Agenda 21 cannot be fully executed. There needs to be a way to hold countries accountable to the various MEAs or to enforce them in order for sustainable development to succeed. On the other hand, simply establishing a list of guidelines that needs to be followed exactly one way in every country around the world is a difficult thing to accomplish.

Assuming the creation of a new UN body, the question on its financing arises. Currently the CSD is under the jurisdiction of ECOSOC, which covers the majority of the operation costs, but if a new committee were to be created, more monetary and personnel resources would be required to pay for it.

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### Questions to consider

Should a new central body in the UN be established to co-ordinate the issue of sustainable development, and if so what should be done with the current committees on the topic?

What measures can be taken to ensure that countries are held accountable to the MEAs that have been signed?

What role should nongovernmental organizations play in the event of a reorganized UN body, and if so what limitations should be placed upon them?

How does the status of your country (developing/developed) play into how your country will react regarding sustainable development?

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# Conference Rules

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

### Rule 1 – Date of Meeting

The bodies of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall meet every year in regular session.

### Rule 2 – Delegations

The delegation of each Member State shall consist of no more than two representatives in any committee.

### Rule 3 – Duties of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall act as the highest presiding officer and shall direct the staff of all bodies. The Secretary-General may designate an officer of the Secretariat to act on his or her behalf.

### Rule 4 – Duties of the Chairman

The Chairman, as a presiding officer acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the committee, enforce the rules of procedure, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. The Chairman shall rule on points of order and may propose motions to the committee. Motions shall be addressed by the Chairman upon his or her discretion. The Chairman shall accept, approve, and introduce draft resolutions to the committee.

*Comment: Working papers will be submitted to the Director of each committee, who will provide stylistic and substantive edits. Working papers will be introduced to the floor at the discretion of the Director; delegates no longer move to introduce a draft resolution.*

### Rule 5 – Invitation to a Moment of Silence

Immediately upon the opening of the meeting, a Member State may move to observe a moment of silence.

*Comment: The purpose of the moment of silence may not be directed towards a single event. For example, a delegate may dedicate a moment of silence to those affected by famine, but may not dedicate it to those affected by the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.*

### Rule 6 – Provisional Agenda

Each committee shall order the provisional agenda provided by the Secretary-General. A proposed agenda shall include all topics provided in the provisional agenda. A simple majority is required to approve an agenda order. A speakers list shall be established for the purposes of discussing the order of the agenda. Motions to set the agenda will be voted upon in the order in which they were received.

**Rule 7 – Amendment to the Agenda**

A committee may change the order in which it considers topics. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the agenda. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: A motion to amend the agenda will only be entertained after a topic has been closed and all related substantive matters have been put to a vote. A Member State may not move to amend the agenda during substantive debate.*

**Rule 8 – Quorum**

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed or a procedural vote to be taken when at least one-quarter of the Member States are present.

**Rule 9 – Speeches**

No Member State may address a committee without the explicit consent of the Chairman. Member States shall address the committee in the order of the speakers list. The Chairman shall call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chairman shall establish a time limit on speeches upon the opening of the meeting and may entertain motions to amend the time limit. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the time limit. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: Delegates may speak as often as they wish, but each country may only appear once in the active speakers list. For Member States with two delegates, courtesy dictates that only one delegate shall address the floor during substantive and procedural speeches.*

**Rule 10 – Questions to the Speaker**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may inform the Chairman that he or she will accept questions from the floor. At such time, the Chairman will recognize two Member States to pose substantive questions to the speaker in regards to the preceding speech. The speaker shall have the remaining allotted time to answer both questions.

**Rule 11 – Yields**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may yield his or her remaining time to another Member State. The subsequent speaker may not yield any additional time. Representatives may not yield to another representative of the same Member State.

### **Rule 12 – Closing of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be closed at any time upon the majority vote of the Member States present and voting.

*Comment: When a speakers list is exhausted, debate automatically ends and the committee automatically enters into voting procedure.*

### **Rule 13 – Reopening of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be reopened upon a motion from an Member State as long as there are active speakers on the speakers list at the time of the motion. The Chairman shall entertain one speaker in favour and one opposed to this motion. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

### **Rule 14 – Right of Reply**

If a speaker has impugned the national integrity of another Member State or Observer, or the personal integrity of another representative, the Chairman may allow that Member State or representative appropriate speaking time to exercise the right of reply.

*Comment: The delegate must submit a written statement to the Director at the conclusion of the remarks in question, explaining why a right of reply is warranted. The Director will approve or reject the right of reply; if approved, the Director will ask the delegate to read the same written statement to the committee.*

### **Rule 15 – Point of Order**

A Member State may rise to a point of order to bring attention to the Chairman an error in the execution of the rules. The representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

*Comment: Delegates should allow the courtesy of letting the speaker finish before rising to a point of order; nonetheless, we recognize the need to interrupt the speaker. The point of order will be the only point recognized at CAHSMUN in order to reflect the actual United Nations procedures as much as possible and to reduce the frequency of filibustering. If a delegate wishes to rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry or a point of personal privilege, he or she should communicate privately with the Director.*

### **Rule 16 – Appeal of the Chair**

A Member State may appeal a discretionary ruling of the Chairman. The representative may explain the nature of the appeal and the Chairman may explain the basis of his or her ruling. A simple majority is required to overturn the discretionary ruling of the Chairman.

*Comment: A “Yes” vote means that the delegate wants to overrule the decision of the Chairman, whereas a “No” vote means the delegate agrees with the discretion of the Chairman.*

### **Rule 17 – Suspension of the Meeting**

A Member State may move to suspend the meeting for a specific amount of time. A simple majority is required to suspend.

*Comment: Suspensions are used for caucusing and breaks between sessions. Based on his or her judgement of the committee's progress, the Director may suggest an alternative amount of time for the suspension. In order to reflect actual United Nations procedures and to reduce the frequency of filibustering, all suspensions will be "unmoderated." Provisions for moderated debate is set out in Rule 18.*

### **Rule 18 – Moderated Debate**

At any point after a draft resolution has been introduced, a Member State may move to enter moderated debate on a draft resolution. The motion to enter moderated debate must specify the draft resolution. A simple majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: During a moderated debate, the speakers list is temporarily suspended and the Director will identify each speaker from those wishing to speak. During a moderated debate, the discussion may only pertain to the draft resolution in question and should be used for clarification and discussions of amendments in a more structured setting.*

### **Rule 19 – Closure of Debate**

A Member State may move the closure of debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize only two Member States opposing the closure to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion, and if passed, the Chairman shall declare the topic closed.

*Comment: When debate is closed on a topic, the committee immediately goes into voting procedure and consider all draft resolutions and amendments on the floor. Motions to close debate are generally ruled dilatory until there has been substantial discussion on the topic.*

### **Rule 20 – Adjournment of Debate and Reconsideration**

A Member State may move to adjourn debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize two Member States in favour of and two against to speak. A simple majority is required to pass this motion. If this motion passes, the body will begin discussion on the following topic on the agenda without deciding on the adjourned topic.

A Member State may move to reconsider a topic that has been adjourned. The Chairman shall recognize one Member State in favour of and one against to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: Adjournment of debate is used to end discussion on a topic without voting and move on to the next item of the agenda. If an adjourned topic is approved for reconsideration, it shall be placed as the following topic on the agenda after the discussion on the current topic expires.*

### **Rule 21 – Adjournment of Meeting**

A Member State may move to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the body at the next scheduled date. A simple majority is required to adjourn the meeting.

*Comment: This motion can only be used during the last committee session and during the closing ceremonies.*

### **Rule 22 – Resolutions and Amendments**

Resolutions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman, who shall circulate copies to Member States upon approval. No resolutions or amendments shall be voted upon unless copies have been distributed to the body.

*Comment: All working papers must be submitted to the Director, who may provide substantive and grammatical edits on the paper and return it to the authors before approving it to be a draft resolution. The number of sponsors and signatories must add up to 20% of the quorum of the committee or five Member States, whichever number is greater. Sponsorship indicates support for and agreement with the working paper or amendment. A signatory does not necessarily support or agree with the document; this Member State simply wishes the document to be discussed. Working papers, as they are unofficial documents of the committee, will not be distributed by the Director and cannot be referred to in speeches.*

### **Rule 23 – Voting Rights**

Each Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote.

*Comment: Observer delegations may note on procedural motions but not on substantive matters. Member States with two representatives still have one vote.*

### **Rule 24 – Presence**

A Member State who is “present and voting” shall only cast an affirmative or negative vote in substantive matters. A Member State who is “present” may choose to abstain in substantive matters. All Member States may only vote in the affirmative or the negative in procedural matters.

### **Rule 24 – Method of Voting**

All motions, draft resolutions and amendments, unless specified in the Rules of Procedure, require a simple majority to pass. If a vote is equally divided, that motion, draft resolution, or amendment fails. A two-thirds majority is required for certain motions. Abstentions do not count as votes for the purposes of determining a simple or two-thirds majority. All votes shall take place by a show of placards.

A Member State may request a roll-call vote on a draft resolution or amendment. The roll-call vote shall take place in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, beginning with the Member State who requested the roll-call vote. Unless a Member State is “present and voting”, each Member State may choose to vote “yes”, vote “no”, or abstain. (continued on next page)

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All Member States may also choose to “pass” and when the Member State is called upon a second time to cast a vote, the representative may only vote in the affirmative or the negative. A roll-call vote is granted upon request and does not require a decision from the body or the Chairman. At the discretion of the Chairman, Member States may explain their vote (yes, no, or abstain) after a roll-call vote. Sponsors to the draft resolution or amendment may not explain their vote after a roll-call vote.

### **Rule 25 – Conduct during Voting Procedure**

Once the Chairman announces the beginning of voting procedure, the meeting room shall be closed and remain closed for the duration of voting procedure. Proper decorum shall be observed by Member States. Member States may only speak upon the Chairman’s request for points or motions.

### **Rule 26 – Amendments and Divisions of the Question**

Amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman before the commencement of voting procedure and shall be entertained first for each draft resolution. If there are several amendments under consideration, those that are “friendly” shall be automatically incorporated into the draft resolution without a vote. The Chairman shall order the “unfriendly” amendments in the order of most destructive to least destructive. A simple majority is required to approve “unfriendly” amendments.

After the incorporation of amendments, A Member State may move to divide certain operative clauses of the draft resolution. The intent of such a division is to highlight the operative clause(s) in question.

1. The Chairman shall recognize two speakers in favour of and two speakers against such a division. A procedural vote will take place to determine if the body wishes to proceed with such a division.
2. If the procedural vote passes, the body shall then consider the placement of the clause(s) in question in a substantive vote. If this vote passes, the clause(s) will be placed in the Annex of the draft resolution. If this vote fails, the clause(s) will be discarded.
3. If the procedural vote fails, the clause(s) in question will remain in the main text of the draft resolution and no further vote will take place on the motion.

Only operative clauses can be subjected to amendments and divisions of the question. Member States may only divide entire operative clauses.

### **Rule 27 – Voting on Draft Resolutions**

Draft resolutions for a topic shall be considered in the order in which the Chairman had recognized them as official documents of the body.

### ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Point of Order</b>	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	
<b>Appeal the Decision of the Chair</b>	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority	Applicable to the Chair's discretionary decisions
<b>Suspension of the Meeting</b>	Recess for a defined period of time	None	Majority	Go into unmoderated caucus
<b>Moderated Debate</b>	To discuss the clauses of a draft resolution	None	Majority	Moderated debate is only applicable once DRs are on the floor
<b>Closure of Debate</b>	To conclude topic by entering into voting procedure	2 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	End discussion on current topic
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude topic without voting	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Should only be used on the final day
<b>Reconsideration</b>	To reopen debate on an adjourned topic	1 pro/1 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	The reopened topic will be placed next on the agenda
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude the conference for the year	None	Majority	Can only be used during the last committee session
<b>Division of the Question</b>	To consider clauses in question separately from the rest of draft resolution	Part 1: 2 pro/2 con Part 2: None	Part 1: Majority Part 2: Majority	Motions will be voted upon in the order of most destructive to least destructive
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Vote by roll call instead of a show of placards	None	None	Automatically granted
<b>Set Speakers Time</b>	To set the time allowed for speeches	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Default is 60 seconds - should only be moved upon the suggestion of the Director
<b>Close/Reopen the Speakers List</b>	To alter the status of the speakers list	None	Majority	When closed, no additional Member States will be added and if the list exhausts, committee enters voting procedure
<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	To approve the agenda for the committee	None	Majority	Motion should include the order for all topics under consideration

## DIVISION OF THE QUESTION: A VISUAL EXPLANATION

