



AFRICAN UNION

**Rules of Procedure
applying to
the Assembly of the African Union
for its simulation during
Rhodes Model Regional Cooperation 2022**

1. General considerations

1.1. Scope

The following rules apply to the Rhodes Model Regional Cooperation (RhodesMRC) conference for the simulation of the Assembly of the African (AU). In case of conflict of interpretation, the Chairperson of the African Assembly has the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.

Delegates may also refer to the “RhodesMRC Handbook”, which is available on our website and contains all the necessary general considerations and procedural rules of the RhodesMRC Conference” applicable to all Committees. The “RhodesMRC Handbook” serves both as a regulation and an interpreting tool, useful for the delegates’ preparation.

1.2. Language

English is the official language of RhodesMRC. A Delegate wishing to speak in one of the official languages of the African Union (African languages, Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Spanish) 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 sessions, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the Council, 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 Chair 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 Deputy Chairperson or any member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may issue verbal or written statements to the Council at any time during the Conference.

2. The Board

2.1. Chairpersons

The Board of the Assembly of the African Union will be composed of a Chairperson of the African Assembly, a Deputy Chairperson and a Rapporteur. The Chairmanship of the AU is held by decision of the Assembly for a calendar year.

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 Chairperson of the African Assembly

The Chairperson of the African Assembly shall exercise ultimate authority over his/her Assembly proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. The Chairperson of the African Assembly also reserves the right to entertain a motion at any given time, which will help the work and procedures of the Assembly move forward and should be taken seriously into account by it. In case of dilatory or disruptive behavior the Chairperson of the African Assembly reserves the right to take any appropriate measure to address the misconduct.

2.3.2. Responsibilities of the Chairperson of the African Assembly

The Chairperson of the African Assembly is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the Assembly, 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 Assembly.

2.4. Authority & Responsibilities of the Deputy Chairperson

The Deputy Chairperson can either take the floor, as any other delegate, in order to clarify the policy lines of the member states, or issue verbal and/or written statements addressed to the Assembly, at any time. It is within his/her responsibilities to assist in the policy planning of the Assembly. The Deputy Chairperson has the duty to make remarks when a member state is out of line at any given discussion. She/he shall also have a supervisory and reconciliatory role in the drafting procedure of Decisions under the scope of protecting the general interest of states while serving the mandate of the Assembly. The Deputy Chairperson assists the Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 have a brief caucus.

3. Parliamentary Procedure

3.1. Roll Call

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

3.2. Procedural Matters

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

3.3. Substantive Matters

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

4. Delegations' Rights

Each member-state is represented by a single delegate. All delegates shall have speaking and voting rights on all matters during committee sessions, except for delegates participating in the procedures of the Assembly 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 constitutes 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 Assembly shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by the RhodesMRC Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when the Assembly 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 the Verification of the Quorum, where the Chairpersons will proceed with quorum confirmation by initiating a Roll Call. This motion passes automatically. The Chairpersons reserve the right to rule the Motion as dilatory without any option for appeal.

5.2. Late Arrival

In case a member arrives at the Assembly 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 will not be recognized by the Board. All participants who have not informed the Chairperson-in Office 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 Assembly. The Delegates or the Chairpersons may entertain a motion to set the agenda immediately after setting the quorum so as to define which topic area will precede in the debate.

6.1. Selection of Topics

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

6.2. Motion to Set the Agenda

Being a committee with two agenda items, delegates in the African Union are expected to raise this motion at the beginning of their sessions, subsequently to the motion for the verification of the quorum. A delegate raising this motion has to state which of the 2 topics shall be addressed first. 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 absolute discretion of the Chairpersons to take one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion before proceeding with the vote. The Speakers will receive the floor for 30 seconds each, in order to express their view, in rotation (in favor –against). If the Motion is accepted by simple majority, the Agenda will be set in the manner suggested by the Motion. If the Motion fails, the Chair shall consider the next Motion and repeat the process lay forward in the above sections. The order in which the Agenda is set at the beginning of the conference shall remain the same for the duration of the conference. Once the Agenda is set, the Chairpersons shall entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate.

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 Assembly. The Assembly shall return to the regular Agenda once the issue has been addressed or it has been instructed to do so by the Secretariat.

7. Decision-making Process

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

7.1. Simple Majority

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

7.2. Two-thirds (2/3) Majority

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

7.3. Consensus

A procedural or substantive matter requiring consensus to pass implies that no delegate shall disagree with the outcome of the debate. If there is at least one vote against, the matter is considered to have failed.

7.4. Debatable matters

Where within the present rules the matter is defined as debatable, the Board shall entertain at least (1+) one speaker in favor and (1-) one speaker against the approval of the issue at hand for 30 seconds.

8. 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 Assembly only after he/she has been recognized by the Chairpersons and for an allotted speaking time that has been predefined. Speakers must deliver their remarks in a timely manner, in relation to the subject under discussion and delegates are obliged to address their correspondents always according to diplomatic courtesy. 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.

8.1. Motion to Launch Open Debate

In order for the Assembly to enter formal debate there should be a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the discussed Topic Area. The motion requires a 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 (within the range of 30 seconds to 2 minutes).

8.2. 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 Assembly 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.

9. Debate

9.1. Formal Debate

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

9.2. 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, a delegate 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 have to specify: a) the topic of the moderated caucus, which is mandatorily narrower than the general agenda item, b) its total duration and c) 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: a) the total duration of the unmoderated caucus and b) its purpose which should mandatorily serve the best interest of the Assembly; 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 chamber of the African Union, without permission from the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson of the African Assembly, is prohibited.

9.3. Recognition

A Delegate may only address the Assembly 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. Point of order does not interrupt a speaker. Only once the Speaker has concluded and the floor is given back to the chair, a delegate may move to a Point of Order.

10. Speeches

10.1. 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 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

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

11.2. To Another Delegate

A Speaker wishing to give the remaining time allotted to his/her speech to another Delegate can do so. The designated speaker is asked by the Board whether he/she accepts the yield. If he/she refuses to accept the yield the remaining time is considered to have elapsed. 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 remaining time either to questions or another delegate may yield the floor to the Board. The latter entails that the Floor will automatically be given to the next speaker that will be recognized by the Chair or will be open for any points or motions, if decided accordingly by the Chair.

12. Points

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

12.1. Point of Personal Privilege

A delegate may raise 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 a Delegate or by the Chairpersons. The Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly rule the Right of Reply not in order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

13. Motions during Debate

Motions can only be entertained when the Chair has opened the floor to points or motions; a

delegation may only state their motion once they have been recognized by the Chair in order to do so. After a delegate proposes a Motion, the Chair may ask for seconds, i.e. delegates agreeing with the motion. All delegates wishing to second the motion will have to raise their placards. If there are no seconds, the motion will automatically fail. If there are seconds, the Chair will ask for objections, i.e. delegates disagreeing with the proposed motion. All the delegates wishing to express their objection will raise their placards. If there are no objections, the motion will automatically pass. If there are objections, the Chair will enter voting procedure. The delegate that has proposed a motion cannot state “second” or “objection” regarding this motion.

13.1. Motion to Split the Topic Area

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

13.2. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

A Delegate proposing a Motion for a Moderated Caucus must indicate a total duration of the caucus, speaking time for each individual speaker and topic of the Motion. The Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Assembly will enter informal debate whereby the Chairperson of the African Assembly will recognize at his/her discretion Delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand. It is upon the discretion of the Board to recognize the Delegate that proposed the motion as the first or the last speaker.

13.3. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time benefits the work of the Assembly. 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 topic of the Caucus remain the same. The Chairperson of the African Assembly 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.

13.4. 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Assembly will start an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

13.5. 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 Assembly. The Delegate proposing a Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus must suggest the duration of the extension, which shall not exceed the time length of the initial Unmoderated Caucus. The Chairperson of the African Assembly 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.

13.6. 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly rules the Motion in order, one (1) Delegate shall speak in favor and one (1) Delegate shall speak against before proceeding with a vote. This Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, the Chairperson of the African Assembly shall entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the other Topic Area, addressed by the Assembly. After the new topic has been discussed according to the Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson of the African Assembly shall entertain a Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic as defined in article 13.7.

13.7. Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic

If a Motion to Table the Debate passes, the Chairperson of the African Assembly may entertain a Motion to return to a Dismissed Topic. In that event, the Chairperson of the African Assembly can entertain one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against. If the Motion passes, debate on the dismissed topic resumes and the Assembly returns to the Open Debate of the Dismissed Topic.

13.8. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Decision

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end debate on a Draft Decision. Should there be amendments on the floor, it is highly recommended to follow the procedure regarding Amendments, as discussed in Rules 14.4-14.4.6. If the Board rules the Motion in order, it is in his/her discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This motion requires 2/3 majority.

13.9. 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 Assembly will enter immediately voting procedure. If the Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 a 2/3 majority in order to pass.

13.10 Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

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

13.11. Motion to Adjourn the Session

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

14. Decisions and Amendments

14.1. Motion to Question Competence

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

14.2. Working Paper

A Working Paper is an informal document used by Delegates to work on building a Draft Decision. A Working Paper will be distributed at the Chairperson's discretion if requested by a Delegate. A Working Paper can be presented by the Delegate either when it is the Delegate's turn to speak, after been recognized by the Chairperson during Open Debate or when a motion for an informal debate is passed, with the purpose of discussing the working paper. Working papers shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3. Decisions

14.3.1. Draft Decisions

A Working Paper submitted to the Chair under proper Decision format, meaning, phrasing, sponsorship and the required number of signatories will be referred to as a Draft Decision. Delegates may refer to a document as a "Draft Decision" in a speech only after it has been assigned a number by the Secretariat. If Draft Decisions are complementary or fairly identical, the Chair may recommend that the Sponsor of the Draft Decisions combine the documents prior to the end of the debate. Draft decisions shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3.2. Decision Denomination

A Draft Decision that has been put to a vote by the Assembly and passes may be referred to as a "Decision".

14.3.3. Format

Draft Decisions must be properly formatted according to the guidelines found in the RhodesMRC

webpage.

14.3.4. Sponsor

The sponsor is recognized as the leading supporter of the Draft Decision. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Decision. The Sponsor must be present for a Draft Decision to be introduced to the Assembly. The Sponsor must agree to support a Draft Decision unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process. Only representatives of permanent member-states can serve as Sponsors of a Draft Decision. Delegates may proceed in an unofficial voting procedure so as to choose the Sponsor of the Draft Decision.

14.3.5. Signatories

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

14.3.6. Withdrawal of Sponsorships

Sponsorship of a Draft Decision may be withdrawn at any time before voting on it has begun. Sponsorship of a Decision may be withdrawn, if the Sponsor considers that a passed amendment alters the content to such extent that his/her Delegation cannot support the Draft Decision as a whole. In case one sponsor decides to withdraw his/her sponsorship and the designated number for the submission of the resolution is not met, it is at the discretion of the Chairperson of the African Assembly to provide time for the sponsor's replacement. If the withdrawal occurs at any point after the closure of the debate on the draft resolution the Chairperson of the African Assembly shall indicate a short period of time for his/her replacement.

14.3.7. Withdrawal of Signature

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

14.3.8. Introduction of a Draft Decision

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Introduce a Draft Decision. Once the Working Paper submitted in proper format has been approved and assigned a number by the Secretariat, the Chairperson of the African Assembly will entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Decision, requiring a simple majority. Once the Motion has passed, the Chairperson of the African Assembly shall invite the Sponsor of the Draft Decision to read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Decision to the Assembly. The Sponsor or one of the Signatories will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to

speak in favor of the Draft Decision. The Speaker may yield his/her remaining time to Questions or to another Delegate if he/she wishes to do so. A new debate upon this Draft Decision shall begin and a new Open Debate shall be established.

14.3.9. Withdrawal of a Draft Decision

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

14.4. Amendments

An Amendment may add, strike out or revise a part of the Draft Decision. The Amendment has to be first approved by the Chairperson of the African Assembly. It is highly recommended that there is at least one co-sponsor of the Amendment. It is in the discretion of the Chairperson of the African Assembly to define the allotted time, during which the floor will be open for Amendments. After receiving the Amendments the Chairperson of the African Assembly 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 Chairperson of the African Assembly will introduce to the Assembly all Amendments approved by the Board. During this procedure, the Sponsor will be called upon to define to the Assembly and the Board which Amendments are friendly and which unfriendly.

14.4.2. Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses

Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses are not in order. However, the Board 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 Decisions will be automatically adopted without being voted upon by the Assembly, at the discretion of the Board. Following the initial introduction of the Draft Decision by its Sponsor, delegates are permitted to point out any such problems to the Chairpersons.

14.4.4. Friendly Amendments

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

14.4.5. Unfriendly Amendments

Substantive Amendments to a Draft Decision not approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Decision are

considered as unfriendly. Unfriendly Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Draft Decision as a whole. Amendments to Unfriendly Amendments are not in order. The Chairperson of the African Assembly reserves the right to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against each Unfriendly Amendment prior to the vote by the Assembly.

14.5. Withdrawal of Amendments

The Sponsors of an Amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its denomination by the Sponsor as friendly or unfriendly. The Sponsors of an Unfriendly Amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its adoption by the Assembly. 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 at the discretion of the Chairperson of the African Assembly to provide time for the sponsor's replacement. The Sponsors of a Friendly Amendment do not have the right to request its withdrawal.

14.6. Voting on Amendments

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

15. Voting Procedure

When the Chairperson of the African Assembly announces that the Assembly 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, 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, Roll Call Voting or voting by Secret Ballot are in order.

15.1. Order of Voting

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

15.2. Motion to Reorder Draft Decisions

A Motion to Reorder Draft Decisions will be in order immediately after entering voting procedure, and before voting has started on any draft Decisions. The delegate proposing a Motion to Reorder Draft Decisions will have to state the order in which he/she desires the Draft Decisions to be voted

upon. The motion is considered to be debatable and it requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

15.3. Method of Voting

Each Delegate of the Council has one vote and must demonstrate his/her voting intentions by raising his/her placard at the Chairperson of the African Assembly's request unless there is a Roll Call vote or a secret ballot. Delegates may vote "in favor" or "against" on procedural matters and "in favor", "against" or abstain on substantive matters. No Delegate shall vote on behalf of another Delegate.

15.4. Roll Call Vote

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

15.4.1. Passing

During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The Chairperson of the African Assembly 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".

15.4.2. Voting with Rights

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

15.5. Voting by Secret Ballot

A Motion to Vote by Secret Ballot is in order solely for substantive matters. This Motion needs a two-thirds majority to pass unless the Chairperson of the African Assembly rules it not in order; the decision is not subject to appeal. The voting procedure will be conducted by secret ballot and delegates will only have the right to either vote "in favor" or "against" the Draft Decision, or to abstain.

15.6. Motion to Divide the Question

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on a Draft Decision, 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 Assembly shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The Chairperson of the African Assembly shall take one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against the first Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each. The Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, subsequent Motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory and the Council will proceed to voting on the Draft Decisions 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 Decision; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the Assembly will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Decision as a whole.

15.7. 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 Decision. This Motion has to be proposed immediately after the Assembly Closes Debate and enters Voting Procedure. The motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass. Once the Motion passes, delegations shall not be allowed to abstain during the voting of the Decision.

15.8. Consensus

Decisions of the Council shall be adopted by Consensus. Consensus shall be understood to mean the absence of any objection expressed by a participating State to the adoption of the decision in question. Even one vote against means that consensus has not been reached. Abstentions are not counted in favor nor do they lead to a failure of the consensus. If the Assembly fails to reach a consensus, the Decision can also be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.

15.9. Motion to Retake Vote

The Motion to Retake the vote is in order when the result of the vote does not depict a consensus. The Motion automatically passes, and the Assembly enters informal debate for a short period of time, defined by the Board. After the caucus the vote shall be retaken and the result of the second vote shall be considered as final. All motions described in the section of the voting procedure are in order, but no Motions to retake the vote shall be entertained and the result of the second vote shall be considered as final. Any decision entering a second voting process after a failed consensus, will require a 2/3 majority in order to pass as defined in the rules above.

15.10. Adoption of a Draft Decision

If the Draft Decision passes, it is then automatically named African Union Decision and hereinafter constitutes an official document of the Assembly. Only one Decision shall be adopted per agenda item.