



**Rules of Procedure**  
applying to  
the **Our Planet Summit**  
for its simulation during  
**Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation 2022**  
**High School Edition**

## **1. General considerations**

### **1.1. Scope**

The following rules apply to the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation (RhodesMRC) conference for the simulation of the Our Planet Summit. In case of conflict of interpretation, the Our Planet Summit board members have the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.

### **1.2. Language**

English is the official language of RhodesMRC, which applies also in Our Planet Summit sessions.

### **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 Summit, 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 Directors or any member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may issue verbal or written statements to the Committee at any time during the Conference.

## **2. The Board**

The Board of the Our Planet Summit shall be composed of two chairpersons, a Director representing the United Nations and a Secretary General.

### **2.1. Authorities of the Chairpersons**

The Chairpersons shall exercise ultimate authority over the Summit. The Chairpersons reserve the right to propose a suspension of the current rules of procedure and introduce a simplified debate procedure. In case of disruptive behavior from the part of any participants, the Chairpersons reserve the right to take appropriate action.

### **2.2. Responsibilities of the Chairpersons**

The Chairpersons shall moderate the debate in an equitable and objective manner. They shall be responsible for the application of the rules of procedure. The Chairpersons shall ensure that the position of the participants is accurately represented.

### **2.3 Caucus of the Board**

The Chairpersons reserve the right to halt the procedure for a brief internal caucus.

## **3. Procedure**

### **3.1 Quorum**

The activities of the Our Planet Summit shall commence upon the presence of half of the delegates. If the quorum is not met within 30 minutes after the scheduled time of the session, the Summit shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless instructed otherwise by the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

Participants arriving after the Roll Call shall send a note to the Board upon arrival, stating their presence. Participants that haven't stated their presence will be presumed absent and will be unable to take part in the proceedings.

### **3.2 Roll Call**

Attendance shall be conducted by the Chairpersons with a Roll Call at the beginning of every session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the conference by raising their placards and declaring 'Present'.

### **3.3 Debate**

Unless otherwise decided by the Board, the debate shall be conducted in the form of a continuous informal debate. Delegations wishing to take the floor shall raise the placards in order to be recognized by the Board. No interruptions shall be permitted with the exception of rule 4.1.1. There shall be no yields.

### **3.4 Rules of Procedure**

The Secretary General may at any point during the debate, suspend the application of the current Rules of Procedure and instruct alterations and adjustments to the current rules of procedure at his/her discretion. In a similar manner, the Chairpersons may indicate a more appropriate procedure to be followed by the quorum.

Delegates may propose a change to the current Rules of Procedure. The new addition/modification requires a 2/3 majority in order to be adopted, although the proposal may not interrupt with modification instructed either by the Secretariat or the Chairpersons.

## **4. Points and Motions**

### **4.1. Points**

#### *4.1.1 Point of Personal Privilege*

A member may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege if a matter impairs the Ambassador's participation in the deliberations. 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.

#### *4.1.2. Point of Order.*

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

#### *4.1.3. Point of Procedural Inquiry*

A delegate may rise to a Point of Procedural Inquiry requesting an explanation from the Chair on the Rules of Procedure. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

#### *4.1.4. Motions*

Motions are proposed by the participants in order to facilitate the debate or the overall procedure, by raising their placards and waiting to be recognized. All proposed Motions shall be first approved by the Board, which will then ask for Seconds and Objections. 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 board will ask for objections. Delegates who wish to object will again demonstrate so by raising their placards. A Delegate cannot second his own motion. If there is more than one Motion proposed, Our Planet Summit shall vote upon them starting with the most disruptive one.

#### *4.1.5. Motion for a Moderated Caucus*

A delegate proposing a Motion for a Moderated Caucus must indicate total duration of the caucus, speaking time for each individual speaker and purpose of the Motion. The Chairs may suggest a more appropriate total duration, speaker's time or purpose, or may rule the Moderated Caucus out order without possibility of appeal. If the Motion passes, the Board will recognize at his/her discretion delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand.

#### *4.1.6. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus*

A delegate may propose a Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time benefits the work of the committee. The delegate proposing an Extension of the Moderated Caucus must suggest duration for the extension, not exceeding the initial Moderated Caucus. The individual speaker's time and the purpose of the Caucus remain the same. The Chairs 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.

#### *4.1.7. 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 Chairs may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or topic and put it to vote or may rule the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion passes, the committee will start an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

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

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

#### *4.1.9. Motion to Introduce a Draft Document*

A delegate may raise a Motion to introduce a draft document out of the documents enumerated in Rule 4, with the exception of Presidential Statements. If the motion passes, the quorum will be given a few moments to study the document, before the Chairpersons entertain a speaker in favor and against. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

#### *4.1.10. Motion to Vote on Draft Document*

After a Draft Document has been introduced and discussed, a delegate may raise a Motion to Vote on that Draft Document. This Motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass.

#### *4.1.11. Motion for the Suspension of the Meeting.*

A delegate may raise a Motion for the suspension of the Meeting to suspend all committee activities until the next scheduled meeting. The Chairpersons may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. This motion requires simple majority in order to pass.

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

A Delegate may rise to a Motion for the Adjournment of the Session to cease permanently all Our Planet Summit activities. The Chairs may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or putting it to vote. The Motion is debatable, thus the Chairs will entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against. This motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass.

## **5. Production of documents**

### **5.1. Agreement**

The Our Planet Summit shall attempt to reach an Agreement at the end of its session, in written form. The Agreement must be unanimous. All members shall have the right to vote, unless a delegation has differentiated status, which shall be specified by the Board. With the exception of the latter, all members shall vote. Abstentions are not in order. An Agreement needs **a unanimous vote in order to pass.**

### **5.2. Statements of Members**

One or more members of the Our Planet Summit are able to issue a Statement in order to clarify their position or points of differentiation with the majority of the quorum.

Members can submit Statements after requesting authorization from the Chairpersons to do so and, in all cases, in due time. At the earliest convenience of an open floor, the Chairpersons shall decide themselves to give the floor to the delegate(s) that issued the Statement for a maximum of 5 minutes to elaborate on their points. Statements of Ambassadors or Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be submitted under the title "Ministerial Statement". Delegations with a differentiated status shall be able to submit Statements under the title "Statement". While not obliged to, delegates are nonetheless encouraged to issue Joint Statements.