

Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation 2025

University Edition

The Rules of Procedure



RHODES MODEL REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

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Secretary-General

Konstantinos Oikonomou

Deputy Secretary-General

Pavlos Karagiannodimas

Deputy Secretary-General

Artemis Kritikou

Deputy Secretary-General

Alexandra Moutropoulou

Deputy Secretary-General

Dimitrios Nikas

Deputy Secretary-General

Angelos Tsitiridis

Under-Secretary-General & Head of Crisis

Paris Patsis

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. RULES GOVERNING THE CONFERENCE	6
1.1 General Authority of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General	6
1.2 Languages of RhodesMRC	6
1.3 General Etiquette	6
1.4 Credentials	7
1.5 Dress Code	7
1.6 General Appeals	7
1.7 Plagiarism	7
1.8 Use of Pre-Written Material	8
1.9 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools	8
2. RULES GOVERNING THE COMMITTEE	9
2.1 Competence of the Board	9
2.2 General Authority of the Board	9
2.3 Participation of Member States	9
2.4 Participation of Observer States/Entities	9
2.5 Committee-Specific Procedures	10
3. RULES CONCERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE	11
3.1 Quorum	11
3.2 Roll Call	11
3.3 Setting the Agenda	11
3.4 Precedence of Motions	12
3.5 Order of Disruptiveness	12
3.6 Case of an International Crisis (applies to designated 'Crisis Committees')	13
4. RULES CONCERNING DEBATE	14
4.1 Open Debate	14
4.2 Raising Motions	14
4.3 Moderated Caucus	15

4.4 Unmoderated Caucus	16
4.5 Question and Answer Period	16
4.6 Tabling Debate on the Topic	17
4.7 Resuming Debate on the Topic	17
4.8 Closing Debate on the Topic	17
4.9 Suspension of the Meeting	18
4.10 Adjournment of the Meeting	18
5. RULES CONCERNING SPEECH	19
5.1 Right to Speak	19
5.2 Time Limit on Speeches	19
5.3 Yields	19
5.4 Right of Reply	20
6. RULES CONCERNING POINTS	21
6.1 Raising Points	21
6.2 Point of Personal Privilege	21
6.3 Point of Order	21
6.4 Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	22
6.5 Point of Information	22
7. RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS	23
7.1 Working Paper	23
7.2 Draft Resolution	23
7.3 Introducing a Draft Resolution	24
7.4 Amendments	24
7.5 Introducing Amendments	25
7.6 Friendly Amendments	25
7.7 Unfriendly Amendments	26
8. RULES CONCERNING VOTING	27
8.1 Procedural Voting	27
8.2 Substantive Voting	27

8.3 Definition of Majority	27
8.4 Unanimity	28
8.5 Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions	28
8.6 Motion to Divide the Question	28
8.7 Motion to Split the House	29
8.8 Motion for a Roll Call Vote	29
8.9 Order of Motions Before Voting Procedures	30
8.10 Right to Explain Vote	30
8.11 Consensus decision-making	31
8.12 Tour de Table	32
9. COMMITTEE-SPECIFIC RULES	33
9.1 Middle East Peace Conference (MEPC) Addendum (Crisis Committee)	33
9.2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Addendum (Crisis Committee)	33
9.3 European Council (EUCO) Addendum (Crisis Committee)	33
9.4 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Addendum	34
9.5 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Addendum	34
9.6 Council of Europe (CoE) Addendum	34
9.7 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Addendum	35
APPENDIX I. SUMMARY OF MOTIONS	36
APPENDIX II. FLOW OF PROCEDURE	37

1. RULES GOVERNING THE CONFERENCE

1.1 General Authority of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General

Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the RhodesMRC Secretary-General or designated members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat. The RhodesMRC Secretary-General shall rule on matters not specified by the Rules of Procedure. Any deviation from the Provisional Agenda is at the approval of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General. The RhodesMRC Secretary-General has ultimate authority over any decisions and rulings made in regard to the Conference and their decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

The RhodesMRC Secretary-General may delegate members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat to exercise their authority under this rule or any duties or prerogatives specified elsewhere in these Rules of Procedure.

1.2 Languages of RhodesMRC

The official and working language of RhodesMRC will be English. Any attempt to address a Committee or its Board in a different language will not be recognised by the Board.

1.3 General Etiquette

All attendees at RhodesMRC must adhere to the codes of civility and respect when dealing with anyone involved with RhodesMRC. All attendees are reminded that they must conduct themselves in a professional manner and accordingly should avoid attending committee sessions inebriated, intoxicated, or under the effects of drugs. Attendees suspected of violating this rule shall be sanctioned or expelled from committee rooms by the Board, following consultation with the RhodesMRC Secretary-General. Should any attendee feel endangered, insulted, or mistreated by any other participant or member of the Conference Staff, they are encouraged to address this to the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

The Board of any Committee shall call to order any Delegate who fails to comply with RhodesMRC's rules regarding etiquette. The Boards of the Committees are empowered to suspend Delegates who violate these rules. This action is open to appeal, but only to the RhodesMRC Secretary-General. Any Delegates who commit a serious breach of etiquette rules can also be permanently removed from the Committee and expelled from the Conference by the RhodesMRC Secretary-General.

1.4 Credentials

Delegates, Observers, Conference Staff, members of the Board and Secretariat and other participants must wear approved credentials at all times during the Conference. Should the participants not wear one, they shall be denied entry into the area where the meeting is held. The RhodesMRC Secretary-General shall be the final arbiter of the validity of all credentials.

1.5 Dress Code

RhodesMRC attendees will be expected to follow the business formal dress code; it is mandatory for attendees to adhere to the Western Business dress code at a minimum. Any attendee who does not adhere to the minimum dress code will be reprimanded by Conference Staff. However, the RhodesMRC Secretariat will consider any attire that celebrates and promotes the culture of the country being represented at the conference to be acceptable. Violation of this article may result in the denial of entry into an area where the meeting is held. The RhodesMRC Secretary-General shall be the final arbiter in case of a dispute.

1.6 General Appeals

All decisions of Conference Staff, Committee Boards and members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may be appealed to the RhodesMRC Secretary-General. Precedence will be given to appeals raised via Head Delegates. Decisions will be made and communicated to all concerned parties. Any decision of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General or members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat acting on behalf of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General cannot be appealed.

1.7 Plagiarism

RhodesMRC strongly condemns the passing off of another Delegate's work as that of one's own. Any accusation of plagiarism (by another Delegate) must first be brought to the Board of any Committee via a formal complaint. The Board will treat all accusations of plagiarism with severity. After the Board evaluates the situation, a decision will be made on how to proceed. Should the Board decide not to entertain this, the affected Delegate is allowed to send a petition to the RhodesMRC Secretariat through their Head Delegate. If this is by an individual Delegate attending the Conference, they are allowed to send the petition themselves.

If the Board decides that the complaint is valid, the case will be referred to the RhodesMRC Secretariat for evaluation. The RhodesMRC Secretariat will then decide if the action should require punishment. This can range from the withdrawal of all previously submitted working papers and/or Draft Resolutions to the non-consideration of the said Delegate for Awards. This decision is not subject to appeal.

1.8 Use of Pre-Written Material

The use of any pre-written material in written proposals, including whole Draft Resolutions, individual, partial, or collections of clauses, is not allowed in debate sessions hosted as part of RhodesMRC.

Utilising pre-written material constitutes a violation of the rules. Committee Boards will monitor the documents in circulation for any suspect content, and Delegates are encouraged to report any suspected violations of these Rules of Procedure to the Board. When a complaint is made, the Board will evaluate the situation, and a decision will be made on how to proceed. This decision is not subject to appeal.

If the Board decides that the complaint is valid, the case will be referred to the RhodesMRC Secretariat for evaluation. The RhodesMRC Secretariat will then decide if the action should require punishment. This can range from the withdrawal of all previously submitted working papers and/or Draft Resolutions to the non-consideration of the said Delegate for Awards. This decision is not subject to appeal.

1.9 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, in any material such as position papers, written proposals and whole Draft Resolutions, individual, partial, or collection of clauses, and in any speeches made during sessions hosted as part of RhodesMRC is strictly forbidden. Any accusations regarding the use of AI tools will be treated in line with the policy on plagiarism (Article 1.5 of these Rules of Procedure).

2. RULES GOVERNING THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Competence of the Board

The competence of the Board may not be questioned by the Delegates at any time and for any reason.

2.2 General Authority of the Board

The Board shall have complete control of the proceedings of the committee and over the maintenance of order during its sessions. In the discharge of these functions, the Board is at all times subject to the rules and accountable to the RhodesMRC Secretary-General and the designated members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

The Board may exercise its prerogative to suspend or alter the rules in order to clarify a certain substantive or procedural issue. Using its discretion and upon the advice of the RhodesMRC Secretariat, the Board reserves the right to entertain, suggest or reject a particular Motion, taking into consideration the flow of the Committee. This must be used sparingly and not repeatedly. In case of disruptive or dilatory behaviour of any participants, the Board reserves the right to take any appropriate action.

At any time, the Board reserves the right to halt the procedures within the Committee to take 30 seconds of internal Caucus.

The actions and activities of the Board are subject to the direction or instruction of the RhodesMRC Secretariat. Accordingly, the RhodesMRC Secretary-General or a designated member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may make either written or oral statements to the Committee at any time.

2.3 Participation of Member States

In each Committee simulated in RhodesMRC, Member States of the respective Regional Organization are represented by one Delegate, unless otherwise specified in these Rules of Procedure. Delegates representing full Members of a Committee enjoy full speaking rights and shall each have one vote on both procedural and substantive matters.

2.4 Participation of Observer States/Entities

Representatives of accredited observer states or entities will have the same rights as those of full members, except that they may not vote on substantive matters (Draft Resolutions or

amendments). They can, however, be sponsors or signatories on Draft Resolutions and may distribute working papers. They also must vote on any procedural matters.

2.5 Committee-Specific Procedures

Certain Committees simulated in RhodesMRC may follow rules of procedure that diverge from those listed in this document in order to better model the real-life working of those Committees. All related amendments will be included as addenda to these Rules of Procedure.

3. RULES CONCERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Quorum

The Board may declare a session open and permit debate when at least one-third (1/3) of the Committee is present. During the first session, the Board will establish the number of countries present in the Committee by a roll call. At any further sessions, the Board may declare a session open and permit debate when at least one-third (1/3) of the Committee is present. A quorum will be assumed to be present thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the Committee session unless otherwise instructed by the RhodesMRC Secretariat. At the beginning of the opening session and other sessions, following a Motion to Verify the Quorum, the Board will call on Member States and Observers in English alphabetical order to state their attendance. Members of all Committees, unless otherwise specified, will reply 'present' or 'present and voting', where 'present and voting' means the Member State declares not to abstain on substantive votes. Non-members can only state 'present' as they are not allowed to vote on substantive votes.

3.2 Roll Call

The registration of each Delegation before the start of debate sessions will serve as the formal roll call of each Delegation to the Conference. At the commencement of each Committee Session, the Committee Board will call on Member States in English alphabetical order to confirm their status of attendance. Member States have two options when voting: 'Present' or 'Present and voting'. 'Present' means the Member State is present, and 'Present and Voting' means the Member State cannot abstain on the substantive vote, which includes the final vote on a Resolution.

Observers are forced to state 'Present' in accordance with the rule on the Participation of Observers. Any Delegates not present during roll call will be considered absent until a message is sent to the Board and its receipt is formally acknowledged by the Board.

3.3 Setting the Agenda

The first order of business for each Committee will be the setting of the Agenda. Only topics set on the Provisional Agenda of the Conference may be considered by the RhodesMRC Committees.

A Motion to Set the Agenda on a Topic should be made. The Motion requires a Second and

will be subject to a procedural vote. The Motion to Set the Agenda on a Topic shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee

3.4 Precedence of Motions

Motions are voted on in order of most to least disruptive. Disruptiveness is defined by the nature of the motion (unmoderated caucuses are generally seen as more disruptive than moderated caucuses) and its length (a 20-minute moderated caucus is more disruptive than a 15-minute one).

Note: If the Motions are of the same type, the Motion with a longer proposed length takes precedence. If the Motions are of the same type and proposed length, the Motion with a longer time per speaker takes precedence. If the Motions are of the same type and same length and have the same time per speaker, the one proposed first takes precedence over the others.

3.5 Order of Disruptiveness

The order of disruptiveness of Motions, from the most disruptive Motion to the least disruptive one, is:

- i) Adjournment of the Meeting
- ii) Suspension of the Meeting
- iii) Closing Debate
- iv) Tabling Debate
- v) Resuming Debate
- vi) Introducing a Draft Resolution
- vii) Introducing Amendments
- viii) Approving a Public Statement
- ix) Introducing a Public Statement
- x) Extending the Previous Caucus
- xi) Unmoderated Caucus
- xii) Moderated Caucus

3.6 Case of an International Crisis (applies to designated 'Crisis Committees')

In the event of an international crisis, the RhodesMRC Secretary-General or their representative may call upon certain RhodesMRC Committees (designated 'Crisis

Committees' as described in Chapter 9 of these Rules of Procedure) to table debate on the current topic so that the more urgent matter may be attended to immediately. Under such circumstances, a Delegate shall raise a Motion to Table Debate on the Topic and temporarily set the Committee Agenda on the international crisis.

The Committee shall address the international crisis by adopting a **Public Statement**. Public Statements must be written in Resolution format and may be introduced to the Committee through a **Motion to Introduce a Public Statement**. Rules from Chapters 7 and 8 of these Rules of Procedure shall sensibly and logically apply to Public Statements as well.

When the widest possible agreement among the Delegates has been achieved regarding the Public Statement, the Board will open the floor for a **Motion to Approve a Public Statement**. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. After a Motion to Approve a Public Statement has passed, the Committee will hold a substantive vote on the adoption of the Public Statement, unless the Committee employs consensus decision-making.

After a Public Statement has been issued regarding the international crisis, the Committee shall resume debate on the tabled topic. Until a Public Statement has been adopted, the Committee may resume debate on the tabled topic only at the discretion of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General, their representative or the Board.

Additionally, Delegates participating in 'Crisis Committees' may issue a **National Statement**, in order to explain their position on the international crisis. More than one Delegation may cooperate in issuing a **Joint Statement**. National Statements and Joint Statements are submitted by the Delegates to the Committee Board for approval before they are officially issued. Delegates must utilise National Statements and Joint Statements sensibly and only to address issues regarding the international crisis at hand. At its discretion, the Board may call upon the Delegate(s) that issued a National Statement or a Joint Statement to take the floor and elaborate on the position they expressed. The Board shall determine the time allotted for this purpose, which shall not exceed five (5) minutes

4. RULES CONCERNING DEBATE

4.1 Open Debate

Following the opening of the session and the adoption of the Agenda, Open Debate shall be launched for the purpose of formal debate on the topic. To that end, a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the Topic under Discussion should be made. A Delegate raising this motion shall also determine the default speaking time. If more than one Motion to Launch Open Debate is made, the Committee will vote on them, starting from the most disruptive one.

The Board shall ask the Committee for those Delegates who wish to take the floor when the Open Debate is first launched and ask again from time to time. A written copy of the order of the speakers shall be kept. Any Delegate wishing to be added to the Open Debate list can do so by sending a written message to the Board or by raising their placard when the Board asks if there are any Delegates wishing to take the floor during Open Debate. No Delegate may be on the Open Debate list twice at the same time.

Open Debate shall be utilized for all debates on the Agenda item, except when superseded by procedural Motions such as those for unmoderated or moderated caucuses. Speakers may speak generally on the Agenda item being considered and may address any working papers, Draft Resolution and amendments currently on the floor.

A Delegate who has requested to take the floor during Open Debate but is not present when called upon will automatically have their time yielded to the Board, and debate shall continue unabated. Any Delegate can also ask to be removed from the Open Debate list by sending a message to the Board.

4.2 Raising Motions

The Board may ask for any Motions at any point when the floor is open. The Board may stop asking for Motions at any time and move to vote on those already raised. This is at the Board's discretion, for the purpose of moving the debate forward, and is not open to an appeal. The Board will then entertain the raised Motions one by one, starting with the most superseding one. In the case of several

The Board will first ask the Committee if there are any Seconds or Objections. A Second from the Delegate proposing the Motion does not count. If there are no Seconds to the Motion, the Motion fails. If there are Seconds and no Objections, the Motion is accepted without a vote. If there are both Seconds and Objections, the Board shall move into a procedural vote.

If the Motion fails the vote, it is discarded, and the Board shall move to the next most superseding Motion as established above. If a Motion has failed once, it cannot be raised again. This continues until a Motion is passed or the floor returns to Open Debate. If a Motion passes, all other Motions previously raised are removed from the floor and must be raised anew when the Board next calls for Motions.

Note that all procedural Motions require a simple majority of members present to pass unless otherwise specified. The procedure to raise all Motions is the same as the procedure outlined in this rule.

4.3 Moderated Caucus

A Motion for a Moderated Caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open prior to closure of debate and the Board asks for Motions. In a moderated caucus, the Board will temporarily depart from Open Debate and call on Delegates to speak at the Board's discretion. The Delegate making the Motion must briefly explain its purpose and specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes and a time limit for the individual speeches, not to exceed two (2) minutes. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. The Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board considers the Motion not to be constructive to debate at that point in time. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

The Moderated Caucus is a form of informal debate, during which Delegates shall deliver their speeches from their seat, though they may stand, with a time limit specified by the proposer of the Motion. At the start of the Caucus, the Board may ask the proposer to select whether they would like to speak first or last during the Caucus. The proposer may, however, be recognised to speak at other times during the Caucus as well. Yielding the floor and requesting a Right of Reply (see Articles 5.3 and 5.4 of these Rules of Procedure, respectively) is not in order during the Moderated Caucus.

After the total time for the Moderated Caucus has elapsed, Delegates can Motion to Extend a Moderated Caucus by a time no longer than its original length. The Board may suggest a more appropriate length for the extension and put it to a vote, or rule the Extension out of order altogether. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

4.4 Unmoderated Caucus

A Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open prior to

closure of debate and the Board asks for Motions. The Delegate raising the Motion must briefly explain its purpose and specify an overall time limit for the caucus, not to exceed 30 minutes. The motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. The Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board considers the Motion not to be constructive to debate at that point in time. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

The Unmoderated Caucus is a form of informal debate, during which normal parliamentary procedure is suspended, and Delegates are allowed to engage in free discussions with any other member of the House. The moderation of the Committee is carried out by the Committee's Delegates, but members of the Board will monitor the discussions taking place. Yielding the floor and requesting a Right of Reply (see Articles 5.3 and 5.4 of these Rules of Procedure, respectively) is not in order during the Unmoderated Caucus.

After the total time for the Unmoderated Caucus has elapsed, Delegates can Motion to Extend an Unmoderated Caucus by a time no longer than its original length. The Board may suggest a more appropriate length for the extension and put it to a vote or rule the Extension out of order altogether. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

4.5 Question and Answer Period

A Motion for a Question and Answer Period is in order at any time during formal debate when the floor is open and the Board asks for Motions. Any delegate may raise a Motion for a Question and Answer Period for the purpose of questioning any delegate on an issue relevant to the debate. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. The Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board considers the Motion not to be constructive to debate at that point in time. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

Any Delegate may pose questions to the Delegate under questioning. It is at the discretion of the Delegate under questioning how many questions they are prepared to answer. They may refuse to answer any question. Not more than five (5) questions shall be posed to the Delegate under questioning in a single Question and Answer Period. The time allotted to answering each question shall be equal to the default speaking time.

4.6 Tabling Debate on the Topic

A Motion to Table Debate on the Topic requests temporarily suspending debate on the topic under discussion and addressing a pressing matter that requires the immediate attention of

the Committee.

A Motion to Table Debate on the Topic is in order at any time when the floor is open prior to closure of debate and the Board asks for Motions. Note, however, that the Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board feels that the Motion is dilatory to the flow of the Committee. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. The Board may entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against the Motion. The Motion to Table Debate on the Topic shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee.

4.7 Resuming Debate on the Topic

A Motion to Resume Debate on the Topic requests resuming discussion on the regular topic of the Committee, which was previously suspended following a Motion to Table Debate on the Topic.

A Motion to Resume Debate on the Topic is in order at any time when the floor is open prior to closure of debate and the Board asks for Motions, if the topic of the Committee was previously suspended. Note, however, that the Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board feels that the Motion is dilatory to the flow of the Committee. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

The motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. The Board may entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against the Motion. The Motion to Resume Debate on the Topic shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee.

4.8 Closing Debate on the Topic

A Motion to Close Debate on the Topic requests ending all discussion on the Agenda item and moving into voting procedures on all substantive proposals introduced under debate, i.e., all Draft Resolutions. Once this Motion has been successfully passed, debate has been closed, and voting procedures completed, the Committee shall immediately move to adjourn the meeting.

A Motion to Close Debate on the Topic is in order at any time when the floor is open prior to closure of debate and the Board asks for Motions. Note, however, that the Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board feels that there should be further debate before moving

to voting procedures. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. The Board may entertain one (1) speaker in favour and one (1) speaker against the Motion. The Motion to Close Debate on the Topic shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee.

4.9 Suspension of the Meeting

A Motion to Suspend the Meeting requests a temporary halt to the meeting. It is usually used at the end of a Committee session. While the floor is open, a Delegate may move for the Suspension of the Meeting. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. This Motion is used to propose short breaks of the session i.e., lunch breaks or end of daily sessions.

The Board may rule the Motion out of order if the Board feels that it is not yet time for the suspension of a session. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal. The Board may furthermore briefly suspend the meeting at any time at their discretion. The meeting may be automatically suspended under the discretion of the RhodesMRC Secretary-General or a designated member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

4.10 Adjournment of the Meeting

The Adjournment of the Meeting means the end of the Committee's work at the 14th session of RhodesMRC. After adjournment, the Committee shall reconvene at the 15th session of RhodesMRC.

The Motion to Adjourn the Meeting will not be entertained until the end of the last session of the Committee. The Board's decision on whether to entertain this Motion is not open to appeal. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. The Motion to Adjourn the Meeting shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee.

5. RULES CONCERNING SPEECH

5.1 Right to Speak

No Delegate may address a session without having previously obtained the permission of the Board (except during an unmoderated caucus). The Board may, at its discretion, call a Delegate to order if their speech is not relevant to the subject under discussion, is considered personally offensive to any party, infringes upon the sovereignty of a Member State, or otherwise goes against the rules and spirit of RhodesMRC. Likewise, no Delegate may audibly or physically impede another Delegate from speaking because of their opposition to the thoughts of the other Delegate.

Delegates are required to make all speeches from the third-person perspective. The Board may call a speaker to order if their remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion, do not follow correct parliamentary convention or are otherwise discourteous.

5.2 Time Limit on Speeches

The Board may limit the time allotted to each speaker. The minimum time limit for all speeches will be thirty (30) seconds and the maximum time limit will be two (2) minutes unless otherwise specified in these Rules of Procedure. When a Delegate exceeds the allotted time, the Board may call the speaker to order.

Delegates may raise a Motion to Set Speaking Time at any time during Open Debate, should they feel that altering the default speaking time would be beneficial to the debate. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote. For clarity purposes, this does not affect moderated caucus time limits.

5.3 Yields

There are three ways a Delegate granted the right to speak during formal debate can yield the time remaining at the end of their speech.

i. Yield to another Delegate: A Delegate may give the remaining time to another Delegate, who may not, however, make any further yields to any other Delegates. A Delegate may decline a yield from another Delegate.

ii. Yield to Questions: A Delegate may submit the remaining time to Questions. This procedure will be directed by the Board. The Board will select Delegates wishing to ask a question and they will be limited to one short question. The Board will also call to order any

Delegate whose question is rhetorical, misleading, long-winded, leading or not on topic. Time taken to ask the question will not count towards the remaining time.

iii. Yield to the Board: The Delegate may yield their time to the Board if they do not wish to yield to another Delegate or to answer questions.

5.4 Right of Reply

A Right of Reply may only be exercised during formal debate in cases where the Delegate feels another Delegate has insulted their country's national integrity or the Delegate's personal integrity. A remark that insults a Delegate's 'national integrity' is one directed at the governing authority of that Member State and/or one that puts into question that Member State's sovereignty. Disagreement with the content of a Delegate's speech does not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply

Requests for a Right of Reply may not interrupt a speaker but should be raised right after the speaker has finished their speech. At that point, a Delegate wishing to request a Right of Reply should raise their placard to the attention of the Board and verbally state "Right of Reply". The Board will then ask the Delegate to briefly explain the reason they have requested a Right of Reply. If the Board deems their request valid, the Delegate may, within the time limit determined by the Board, reply and state why the Delegate feels the remark being referred to is incorrect or unjustified.

The Board's decision on whether to grant the Right of Reply is not open to appeal. A Right of Reply to a Right of Reply is out of order.

6. RULES CONCERNING POINTS

6.1 Raising Points

Any of the points below may be raised by any Delegate at any point, provided that it does not interrupt a speaker (with the exception of a Point of Personal Privilege in extreme circumstances). A Delegate wishing to raise a point shall, at the appropriate time, raise their placard and state the point they wish to raise and then wait for the Board to ask them to state it fully. The Board shall then take any action required as per the Rules below. Points supersede all Motions and shall be recognized before any Motion or speakers by the Board.

6.2 Point of Personal Privilege

If there is a circumstance preventing a Delegate from participating in the proceedings to their fullest ability, or if the Delegate is in personal discomfort, he or she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege. For instance, Points of Personal Privilege may be raised when the Delegate cannot hear what has been said, if the Delegate cannot see something being shared to the screen/projector screen, or if the Delegate is experiencing sound or video issues (if the committee is held in an online setting) and needs something to be repeated.

A Point of Personal Privilege may only interrupt a speaker if the Delegate raising the point cannot hear the speaker. This can also be used in the case of medical emergencies. If appropriate, the Board will request that the speaker raise their volume and/or speak more clearly or take any other appropriate action. Points of Personal Privilege for any other circumstance may not interrupt a speaker.

6.3 Point of Order

During the discussion of any matter, a Delegate may raise a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper parliamentary procedure either by the Board or by a Delegate that has escaped the Board's attention. A Delegate may not, in raising a Point of Order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion, and a Point of Order may under no circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow Delegate. Any questions on the order arising during a speech made by a Delegate should be raised at the conclusion of the speech. The Board will immediately rule on a Point of Order in accordance with these Rules of Procedure. This decision of the Board is not open to appeal.

6.4 Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

When the floor is open, a Delegate may raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the Board a question only regarding the Rules of Procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker. The Rules of Procedure in reference are those of this document.

Delegates with any questions not regarding the Rules of Procedure, i.e., with substantive questions related to the content of the debate, should not raise this Point, but should rather raise a Point of Information or approach the Committee Board with the question during an Unmoderated Caucus or send them a written message.

6.5 Point of Information

When the floor is open, a Delegate may raise a Point of Information to ask the Board a question on matters not pertaining to the Rules of Procedure. Such matters may be substantive questions related to the content of the debate or questions on administrative matters. Examples of questions that may be appropriately raised through a Point of Information include, but are not limited to:

- questions regarding the Committee's mandate and its scope,
- questions regarding the competence of the Committee to address an issue raised by a Delegate,
- questions regarding the budgetary restrictions that may affect the implementation of a proposed measure,
- questions regarding the views of the Committee on a matter relevant to the topic under discussion, as expressed in past documents and communications of the Committee,
- questions regarding the scheduling of the Committee meeting and,
- questions regarding other activities related to the Conference that may occur at the same time as the Committee meeting.

A Point of Information may never interrupt a speaker.

7. RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Working Paper

A working paper is an informal document that is created to assist the Committee in the discussion and formulation of Draft Resolutions. They need not be written in Resolution format and do not need a sponsor and signatories. A Delegate may present a working paper during Open Debate or during informal debate. Working papers shall be shared with the Board or with other Delegates in electronic form. The Board shall be responsible for sharing working papers on the screen or appropriately distributing the papers, following a request by the Delegates.

7.2 Draft Resolution

A Draft Resolution is a document that is created with the intention of, through its discussion, possible amendment, and possible vote, becoming a Resolution of the Committee. It may be introduced by a Sponsor. The full procedure is outlined in the succeeding Rule of this document. Draft Resolutions, however, must be submitted in the same style with regards to form, grammar, and punctuation as the formal Resolutions of the Committee being modelled. It may be introduced when it has been signed by one-fifth (1/5) of the number of members (including Observers) present at the commencement of the Committee session, having previously been approved and assigned a number by the RhodesMRC Secretariat. Observers are thus allowed to sign and sponsor Draft Resolutions. Both the Sponsor and the Signatories count towards the total number of signatories and must all be listed in alphabetical order.

A Delegate may be recognized as the Sponsor of a Draft Resolution only if they have authored or helped to write the Draft Resolution. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Resolution and being the Sponsor indicates a Delegate's support for the Draft Resolution and a substantial contribution towards its drafting. The Sponsor must be present for a Draft Resolution to be introduced to the Committee.

A Delegate may be a signatory if they have agreed to sign the Draft Resolution. Signing such a document does not indicate support, but an intent to see said document discussed. The role of a Signatory has no more obligations. A Delegate may be a signatory to more than one Draft Resolution.

The Sponsor must agree to support a Draft Resolution unless major amendments have been

made to the document, significantly altering its scope or its spirit. In that case, a Delegate may withdraw their Sponsorship of a Draft Resolution during debate, before voting on the Draft Resolution has begun.

A Delegate may request the removal or addition of their country to the list of Signatories at any time during debate, before voting on the Draft Resolution has begun. A Delegate wishing to withdraw their Signature may do so by sending a message to the Board.

If at any time a Draft Resolution loses its Sponsor, or if the total number of Signatories drops below one-fifth (1/5) of the total number of Delegates present, the document is declared withdrawn.

7.3 Introducing a Draft Resolution

Subsequent to the approval of a Draft Resolution by the RhodesMRC Secretariat and after it has been assigned a number and made available to the Committee, the Sponsor may propose a Motion to Introduce the Draft Resolution. After this, Seconds and Objections shall be heard by the Board. The Motion will then be subject to a procedural vote. Once a Draft Resolution has been introduced, the Board will call upon the Sponsor to read out the operative clauses of the Draft Resolution.

The Sponsor will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to speak in favour of the Draft Resolution. The Sponsor may yield their remaining time to questions or to another Delegate. More than one Draft Resolution may be on the floor at any one time, but only one Resolution may be passed by any committee per Agenda item. Once a Committee has passed a Draft Resolution on the topic, or after all Draft Resolutions have been put to a vote, the Committee shall move to close debate on the topic.

7.4 Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that simply adds to, deletes or revises operative clauses of a Draft Resolution. Delegates may amend any Draft Resolution that has been formally introduced.

Each amendment requires at least one Signatory. Delegates may submit amendments to the Board for approval within the time designated by the Board. After the designated time for submitting amendments has elapsed, the Board shall review all submitted amendments, assigning a number to the ones it approves. At its discretion, the Board may reject, merge or appropriately edit amendments in order to facilitate the procedure. Amendments of a non-

substantive nature (regarding form, grammar, punctuation, etc.) are automatically incorporated into the respective document.

Amendments to the second degree (i.e. amendments to a pending amendment) are out of order. However, any part of a Draft Resolution that has previously been amended successfully may be further amended, but only through a separate amendment. Amendments to a Draft Resolution may not affect preambulatory clauses. An amendment can, however, affect multiple operative clauses at the same time.

Sponsors and Signatories of a Draft Resolution are not obliged to support amendments. Votes on amendments are regarded as substantive votes. Observers can introduce or sign amendments but cannot vote on the said amendments.

The Sponsor of an amendment may request the withdrawal of the amendment before its denomination by the Sponsor of the Draft Resolution as 'Friendly' or 'Unfriendly'.

7.5 Introducing Amendments

Once the Board has finished reviewing and assigning numbers to approved amendments has been accepted, Delegates may raise a Motion to Introduce Amendments. The motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. Delegates should note that the vote on the Motion to Introduce Amendments is separate from the vote on whether to incorporate the amendment to the Draft Resolution; Thus, merely voting in favour of introducing amendments to the debate does not mean support for any of the Amendments themselves.

After the Motion to Introduce Amendments has passed, the Board will read out all the amendments it has approved and assign a number to. Following that, the Board will read out the amendments again one by one, asking the Sponsor of the Draft Resolution to characterize each amendment as either 'Friendly' or 'Unfriendly'.

7.6 Friendly Amendments

Amendments characterized by the Sponsor of the Draft Resolution as 'Friendly' are automatically incorporated into the document, requiring no vote by the Committee for their inclusion in the Draft Resolution.

7.7 Unfriendly Amendments

Amendments characterized by the Sponsor of the Draft Resolution as 'Unfriendly' require a

substantive vote on their inclusion in the Draft Resolution.

After the Sponsor has finished characterizing the amendments as either 'Friendly' or 'Unfriendly', the unfriendly amendments shall be read out one by one to the Committee by the Board. After reading out each unfriendly amendment, the Board will move into a substantive vote recognising one (1) speaker speaking in favour of and one (1) speaker speaking against the inclusion of the amendment in the Draft Resolution. Once the two speakers are heard, a substantive vote will be held on the amendment's inclusion in the Draft Resolution. All unfriendly amendments shall be discussed and voted upon in accordance with this procedure, and in the order defined by their assigned number. If approved, the amendment will be incorporated into the Draft Resolution. A failed amendment cannot be put to a vote again. Once all amendments relating to a Draft Resolution have been voted upon, the Board shall read the operative clauses as they have been modified.

8. RULES CONCERNING VOTING

8.1 Procedural Voting

Each member of the Committee, including Observers, shall have one (1) vote during a procedural vote. Delegates will express their vote by raising their placards, and a simple majority is required unless explicitly stated elsewhere in these rules. Delegates must vote either 'in favour' or 'against' in procedural votes; abstentions are not in order.

8.2 Substantive Voting

A substantive vote is taken on Draft Resolutions and amendments. The procedure to be observed is outlined below.

After closure of debate on an Agenda Item, the Board shall entertain any Motions on the floor (specifically the Motions outlined in Articles 8.5 – 8.8 of these Rules of Procedure). Then the Committee will move into substantive voting procedure on all Draft Resolutions in the order that they are introduced unless they have been reordered. In a substantive vote, members may vote 'in favour', 'against', or 'abstain'; members 'present and voting' cannot abstain. Observers may not vote on substantive matters. Delegates will express their vote by raising their placards, except in the case of a roll-call vote. Alternatively, Delegates may also vote 'with rights' (see Article 8.10 of these Rules of Procedure).

With regard to amendments, the Board shall call for votes according to the aforementioned procedures. Observers, while allowed to introduce and sponsor amendments, are not allowed to vote on them.

In the case of a Roll Call vote, Delegates may also 'pass'. The Board 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 their vote.

After the Board has announced the beginning of voting, no Delegate can interrupt the voting except with a Point of Personal Privilege or a Point of Order relating to the conduct of voting. Delegates are also not allowed to leave the Committee room while voting is taking place and note passing will be suspended.

8.3 Definition of Majority

Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority of those present during the session. In a substantive vote, abstentions are

not counted as votes for or against, so a simple majority of 'in favour' over 'against' votes is required unless specified otherwise by Committee Specific Procedures outlined in Chapter 9 of these Rules of Procedure.

A simple majority is defined as more than half of the present quorum voting 'in favour'. If the vote is a tie, the matter will be considered to have failed.

A two-thirds (2/3) majority requires at least two-thirds of the present Delegates to vote 'in favour'.

If there is either only one vote 'in favour' or only one vote 'against' and the remaining votes are abstentions, the subject is considered to have either passed or failed, respectively.

8.4 Unanimity

Unanimity or Unanimous Voting requires all Delegates to vote in favour of the matter in order for it to pass. If there is even one vote against, the matter is considered to have failed.

8.5 Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions

If two or more Draft Resolutions are on the floor, they will be voted on in the order in which they were submitted, unless the Committee decides otherwise. A Motion to Reorder will be in order immediately after the closure of debate, but before entering the voting procedure.

A Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions must specify how the Draft Resolutions are to be reordered. It requires a Second and is subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. If more than one Motion to Reorder Draft Resolutions is proposed, the Committee will vote on each of these Motions in the order in which they were introduced. Voting will continue until either a Motion passes, receiving a simple majority, or all of the Motions fail, in which case the Committee will vote on the proposals in their original order.

8.6 Motion to Divide the Question

After the Debate has been closed, a Delegate may move for specific operative clauses of any Draft Resolution to be voted on separately. This should be raised after debate has closed, but before voting has started, and should include a brief description of the specific division moved for. A Motion to Reorder supersedes the Division of the Question. Division of the question may not separate pre-ambulatory clauses or sub-operative clauses.

If there are multiple Motions for different divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the Board, where the most radical division will be voted upon first. The most radical

division is considered that which separates the proposal into the greatest number of divisions, unless the Board expressly states that another proposal would be substantially more radical. If the Motion passes, the Draft Resolution will be divided accordingly.

A Motion to Divide the Question requires a Second and is subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. The Motion to Divide the Question shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present in the Committee. The Board shall recognise one (1) speaker speaking in favour of and one (1) speaker speaking against the Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each.

If the Motion passes, the Draft Resolution will be divided accordingly. Subsequent Motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory. Then, a separate substantive vote will be taken on each divided part to determine whether or not it is included in the final draft. Parts of the Resolution that are subsequently passed will be recombined into a final document, which is then carried into the final vote on the Draft Resolution. If all of the operative parts of the Draft Resolution are rejected, it will be considered that the Draft Resolution has been rejected as a whole. If a Motion to Divide the Question fails, any remaining Motions to Divide the Question will be considered in accordance with the aforementioned procedure.

8.7 Motion to Split the House

This Motion demands all Delegates to vote, regardless of their existing voting status- i.e. whether or not they are 'present' or 'present and voting', on a Draft Resolution paper. This removes the right to abstain from the voting procedure.

Delegates may propose a Motion to Split the House if they wish that there be no abstentions during the voting procedure. The Motion has to be proposed before the Committee starts voting on any of the Draft Resolutions.

The Motion is not debatable, requires a Second and is subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised. It requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass. If the Motion passes, no Delegate may abstain during the voting procedure on any of the Draft Resolutions on the floor.

8.8 Motion for a Roll Call Vote

The Committee shall normally vote by a show of placards. During the voting procedure on a substantive matter, a Delegate may Motion for a Roll Call vote. This Motion should be put forth after the closure of debate and before moving into the voting procedure. A Motion to

Divide the Question supersedes a Motion for a Roll Call vote. The Delegate moving for a Roll Call vote should indicate which Draft Resolution(s) this Motion applies to. If there are multiple Motions for Roll Call votes on the floor, applying to different Draft Resolutions, they shall be voted on in the order set by the Board, where the Motion affecting the most Draft Resolutions will be voted on first. A Motion for a Roll Call requires a Second and is subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised.

When the Committee has entered a substantive voting procedure and has reached the point of voting on a Draft Resolution for which a Motion for a Roll Call Vote has passed, the Board will select where to begin and proceed to call on Member States in English alphabetical order thereafter. One Delegate per Member State shall reply 'In favour', 'Against', 'In favour with Rights', 'Against with Rights', 'Abstain', or 'Pass'. Only those Member States that designated themselves as 'present' or 'present and voting' at the beginning of that session or have communicated in some other manner their attendance to the Board are permitted to vote. As such, no others will be called during a Roll Call vote. Any representatives replying 'Pass' must, during the second and final round of voting, respond with either 'In favour' or 'Against' and may not pass again or abstain from voting.

8.9 Order of Motions Before Voting Procedures

The order of priority of Motions which may be raised before Voting Procedures on a Resolution, from most to least superseding, is:

- i) Splitting the House
- ii) Reordering Draft Resolutions
- iii) Division of the Question
- iv) Roll Call Vote

8.10 Right to Explain Vote

Delegates may choose to vote 'in favour with rights' or 'against with rights' and make a brief statement consisting solely of the explanation of their vote after voting has been completed. Any requests for an explanation of the vote must be submitted to the Board in writing before debate on the Agenda Item is closed, in which case the Board may use its discretion to grant the Delegate the right to briefly address the Committee immediately after voting on the Agenda Item has come to an end.

Voting with rights is to be used only in extraordinary circumstances, such as a Delegate voting

against a Draft Resolution they have sponsored or voting against their country's publicly stated policy, but in favour of their national interest.

8.11 Consensus decision-making

In certain RhodesMRC Committees, as outlined in Chapter 9 of these Rules of Procedure, all decisions on substantive matters are taken by consensus. Consensus is understood as the absence of an objection to the adoption of the decision in question, rather than a particular majority. As such, when a decision is taken by consensus, no formal vote is taken.

In Committees that employ consensus decision-making, the provisions described in this Chapter regarding substantive voting are not employed. Instead, when the widest possible agreement among the Delegates has been achieved and prior to closure of debate, the Board will open the floor for a Motion to Approve a Draft Resolution. The Motion requires a Second and will be subject to a procedural vote, should Objections be raised.

After a Motion to Approve a Draft Resolution has passed, the Board shall ask the Committee if it wishes to adopt the Draft Resolution in question and if no Delegate objects, the Board shall declare the Resolution adopted. Should any Delegates raise objections, the Board will call upon those Delegates to elaborate on their objections and will then initiate a short period of informal debate, in order to explore the possibility of reaching a consensus. At its discretion, the Board may also conduct a Tour de Table (see Article 8.12 of these Rules of Procedure). Observers, while allowed to introduce and sponsor Draft Resolutions and amendments, are not allowed to break consensus on them.

After the efforts to reach a consensus have concluded and the Draft Resolution has been accordingly modified, the Board shall once again ask the Committee if it wishes to adopt the Draft Resolution in question. If no Delegate objects this time, the Board shall declare the Resolution adopted. Otherwise, the adoption of the Draft Resolution shall be considered to have failed. In either case, the Board will then open the floor for a Motion to Close Debate on the Topic.

With regard to amendments, the Board shall ask if a consensus has been reached according to the aforementioned procedure.

8.12 Tour de Table

In the event of a stalemate during consultations to reach a consensus, a Committee that employs consensus decision-making may make use of a Tour de Table.

The Tour de Table shall be conducted at the discretion of the Board. The Board requests each delegate to give a summary of their thinking on the matter under discussion, thus ensuring that every Member State is able to outline their position and allowing the Board to determine whether a compromise is possible. The Board shall determine the time per speaker, which shall not exceed two (2) minutes.

9. COMMITTEE-SPECIFIC RULES

9.1 Middle East Peace Conference (MEPC) Addendum (Crisis Committee)

The Middle East Peace Conference (MEPC) is an ad hoc diplomatic summit, simulated exclusively in RhodesMRC. Hosted by Greece on the island of Rhodes and held under the auspices of the United Nations, this high-level gathering brings together the Heads of State and Government of the region's most influential actors, alongside key international powers. In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the Middle East Peace Conference shall aim to adopt a **Declaration** by the end of its meeting. Decisions of the Middle East Peace Conference on substantive matters require a **unanimous vote**.

The Middle East Peace Conference in RhodesMRC is a designated '**Crisis Committee**'. After tabling debate on its regular topic, the Middle East Peace Conference may issue Public Statements in order to address the international crisis at hand (see Article 3.6 of these Rules of Procedure). **Adopting a Public Statement requires the Middle East Peace Conference to vote unanimously.**

9.2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Addendum (Crisis Committee)

The NATO Committee shall simulate the work of the North Atlantic Council (NAC). Delegates representing a Member State in the North Atlantic Council assume the role of their country's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the North Atlantic Council shall adopt **Communiqués**. Decisions of the North Atlantic Council on substantive matters shall be taken by **consensus** (see Article 8.11 of these Rules of Procedure). No formal vote is taken on substantive matters.

The NATO Committee in RhodesMRC is a designated '**Crisis Committee**'. After tabling debate on its regular topic, the NATO Committee may issue Public Statements in order to address the international crisis at hand (see Article 3.6 of these Rules of Procedure). **Adopting a Public Statement requires consensus of the North Atlantic Council.**

9.3 European Council (EUCO) Addendum (Crisis Committee)

The EUCO Committee shall simulate the work of the European Council. Delegates representing a Member State in the European Council assume the role of that Member State's Head of State or Government.

In order to address the topic in its Agenda, the European Council shall adopt **Conclusions**. Decisions of the European Council on substantive matters shall be taken by **consensus** (see Article 8.11 of these Rules of Procedure), except where the Treaties provide otherwise. In those cases where, in accordance with the Treaties, the European Council adopts a decision and holds a vote, that vote shall take place on the initiative of its Board.

The EUCO Committee in RhodesMRC is a designated '**Crisis Committee**'. After tabling debate on its regular topic, the EUCO Committee may issue Public Statements in order to address the international crisis at hand (see Article 3.6 of these Rules of Procedure).

Adopting a Public Statement requires consensus of the European Council.

9.4 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Addendum

The OSCE Committee shall simulate the work of the OSCE Ministerial Council. Delegates representing a Member State in the OSCE Ministerial Council assume the role of their country's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the OSCE Ministerial Council shall adopt **Decisions**. Decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council on substantive matters require a **unanimous vote**.

9.5 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Addendum

The OECD Committee shall simulate the work of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. Delegates representing a Member State in the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting assume the role of that Member State's Minister responsible for the topic under discussion.

In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting shall adopt **Recommendations**. Decisions of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on substantive matters require a **unanimous vote**.

9.6 Council of Europe (CoE) Addendum

The CoE Committee shall simulate the work of the CoE Committee of Ministers. Delegates representing a Member State in the CoE Committee of Ministers assume the role of that Member State's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the CoE Committee of Ministers shall adopt **Recommendations**. Decisions of the CoE Committee of Ministers on substantive matters require a **unanimous vote**.

9.7 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Addendum

The UfM Committee shall simulate the work of the UfM Ministerial Meeting. Delegates representing a Member State in the UfM Ministerial Meeting assume the role of that Member State's Minister responsible for the topic under discussion.

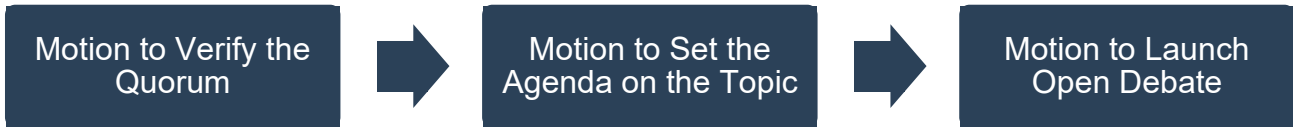
In order to address the topic on its Agenda, the UfM Ministerial Meeting shall adopt **Declarations**. Decisions of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on substantive matters require a **unanimous vote**.

APPENDIX I. SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

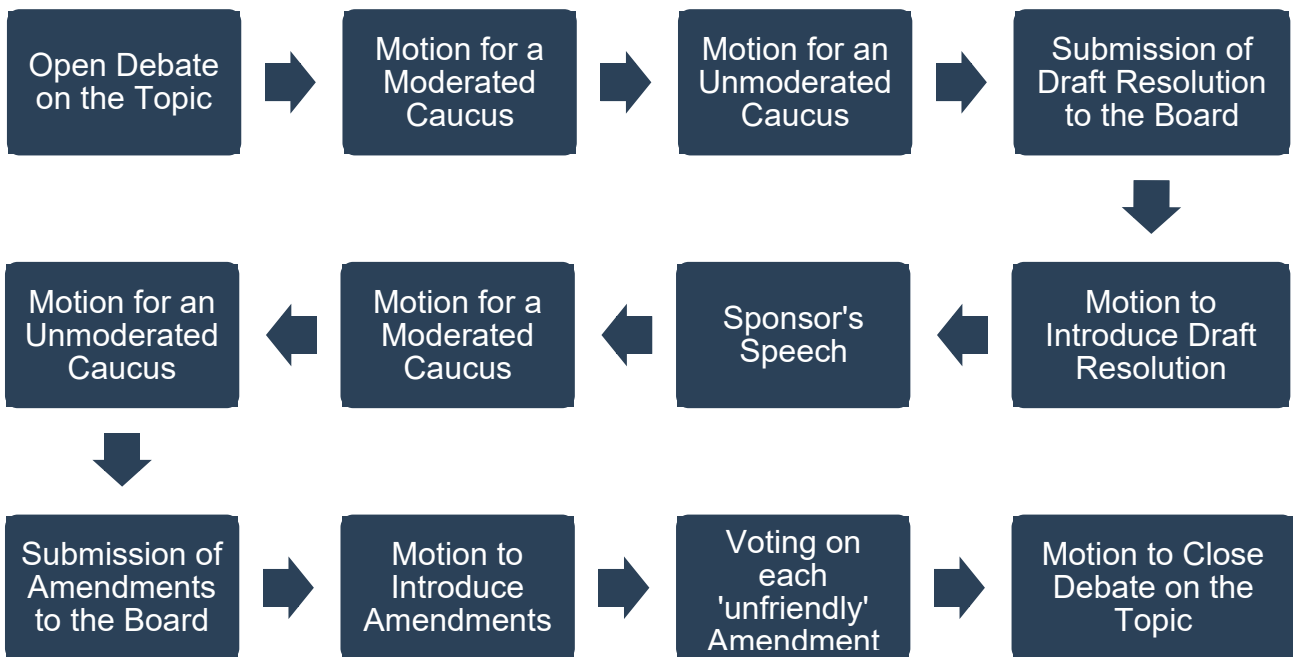
Motion	Does it require a Second?	Procedural vote with speakers?	Majority required?
Verify the Quorum	No	No	No vote
Set the Agenda	Yes	No	2/3
Launch Open Debate	Yes	No	Simple
Set Speaking Time	Yes	No	Simple
Moderated Caucus	Yes	No	Simple
Unmoderated Caucus	Yes	No	Simple
Extend the Previous Caucus	Yes	No	Simple
Question and Answer Period	Yes	No	Simple
Table Debate on the Topic	Yes	Yes	2/3
Resume Debate on the Topic	Yes	Yes	2/3
Close Debate on the Topic	Yes	Yes	2/3
Suspend the Meeting	Yes	No	Simple
Adjourn the Meeting	Yes	No	2/3
Introduce a Public Statement	Yes	No	Simple
Approve a Public Statement	Yes	No	Simple
Introduce a Draft Resolution	Yes	No	Simple
Introduce Amendments	Yes	No	Simple
Approve a Draft Resolution (Consensus decision-making)	Yes	No	Simple
Reorder Draft Resolutions	Yes	No	Simple
Divide the Question	Yes	Yes	2/3
Split the House	Yes	No	2/3
Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Simple

APPENDIX II. FLOW OF PROCEDURE

1. Opening of Committee meeting (only done during the 1st Committee session):



2. Debate on the topic and drafting of Committee documents:



3. Before closure of debate, when appropriate:



4. Substantive Voting and adjournment of Committee meeting:

