



Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation 2026

University Edition

The Rules of Procedure

Middle East Peace Conference

RHODES MODEL REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

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CHAPTER 1. RULES GOVERNING THE CONFERENCE

1.1 Scope

These Rules of Procedure shall apply to the **Middle East Peace Conference (MEPC)** of Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation (RhodesMRC).

The MEPC is an ad hoc diplomatic summit hosted by Greece on the island of Rhodes and held under the auspices of the United Nations.

The MEPC brings together Heads of State and Government of key regional and international actors to address a major crisis affecting peace, security, and stability in the Middle East.

1.2 Purpose of the MEPC

The purpose of the MEPC shall be to negotiate a common political response to the crisis under discussion and, where possible, adopt a **Declaration** reflecting the understandings reached by participating States.

1.3 Language

English shall be the sole working language of the MEPC.

1.4 General Etiquette

Delegates shall maintain diplomatic decorum and conduct themselves in a manner befitting a summit of **Heads of State and Government**.

All participants shall adhere to the principles of civility, respect, and professional conduct throughout the proceedings of the MEPC.

The Board may call any Delegate to order whenever necessary.

1.5 Credentials

Delegates, members of the Board and Secretariat, Conference Staff, and other participants shall wear their approved RhodesMRC credentials at all times.

The RhodesMRC Secretary-General shall be the final arbiter of the validity of all credentials.

1.6 Dress Code

Participants shall adhere to the RhodesMRC business formal dress code. Attire that celebrates and promotes the culture of the State represented shall also be considered acceptable.

1.7 Plagiarism

Delegates shall not present as their own any material substantially produced by another individual or source.

Any suspected case of plagiarism shall be brought to the attention of the Board. The Board may investigate the matter and, where appropriate, refer it to the RhodesMRC Secretariat for further consideration and the imposition of appropriate measures.

1.8 Use of Pre-Written Material

The use of pre-written material in written proposals, including Draft Declarations or parts thereof, shall not be permitted during the sessions of the MEPC.

1.9 Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

The use of Artificial Intelligence tools, including generative AI tools, in position papers, written proposals, Draft Declarations, speeches, or other material produced for use during the sessions of the MEPC shall not be permitted.

Suspected violations shall be treated in accordance with the provisions on plagiarism.

CHAPTER 2. RULES GOVERNING THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Composition and Competence of the Board

The Board shall consist of the Chair (United Nations) and the Co-Chair (Greece).

The competence of the Board may not be questioned by Delegates.

2.2 Authority of the Board

The Board shall direct all proceedings of the MEPC and maintain order during its sessions.

The Board shall have authority to:

- interpret and apply these Rules of Procedure;
- maintain order and diplomatic decorum;
- facilitate debate and negotiations;
- rule upon procedural matters;
- determine the admissibility of Motions and Points;
- approve documents submitted to the MEPC; and
- take any other procedural action necessary for the orderly and effective conduct of the proceedings.

The Board may entertain, suggest, or rule out of order a particular Motion where necessary for the effective conduct of debate.

The Board shall at all times remain accountable to the RhodesMRC Secretary-General and the designated members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

2.3 Representation

Each participating State shall be represented by one Delegate, unless otherwise specified by the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

Each Delegate shall assume the role of the Head of State or Government of the assigned State and shall conduct themselves in accordance with the policies and interests of the State they represent.

Each participating State shall enjoy equal speaking rights and one vote on procedural matters.

CHAPTER 3. RULES CONCERNING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Quorum

The Board may declare a session open and permit debate when at least one-third of the participating States are represented.

The presence of quorum shall be established through Roll Call and may thereafter be assumed by the Board unless a Motion to Verify the Quorum is raised.

3.2 Roll Call

At the beginning of each session, the Board shall call participating States in English alphabetical order to confirm their attendance.

Delegates shall reply “Present”. As all substantive decisions of the MEPC are taken by consensus, the designation “Present and Voting” shall not be in order.

3.3 Agenda

The MEPC shall consider a single Agenda item established by the RhodesMRC Secretariat.

No Motion to Set the Agenda shall be required.

3.4 Precedence of Motions

When more than one Motion is on the floor, Motions shall be considered in order from most to least disruptive.

Where two or more Motions of the same type are proposed, the Motion proposing the longer duration shall be considered first. Where their proposed duration is identical, the Motion raised first shall take precedence.

3.5 Order of Disruptiveness

The order of disruptiveness of Motions, from most to least disruptive, shall be:

1. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting;
2. Motion to Suspend the Meeting;
3. Motion to Close Debate;
4. Motion to Approve a Draft Declaration;
5. Motion to Introduce a Draft Declaration;
6. Motion to Extend an Unmoderated Caucus;
7. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus;
8. Motion for a Consultation of the Whole;
9. Motion to Set/Alter Speakers' Time.

3.6 Crisis Updates and Statements

The Board may introduce crisis updates, reports, intelligence briefings, diplomatic communications, or other developments relevant to the crisis scenario at any point during the proceedings. The Board shall determine the format and timing of such updates.

A Delegate may issue a National Statement on behalf of their State. Two or more participating States may cooperate in issuing a Joint Statement.

National and Joint Statements shall be submitted to the Board for approval before being officially issued. At its discretion, the Board may call upon the Delegate or Delegates issuing a Statement to elaborate on the position expressed therein.

CHAPTER 4. RULES CONCERNING DEBATE

4.1 Launching Debate

Following the opening of the first session, a Delegate may raise a Motion to Launch Debate.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

Upon adoption of the Motion, introductory statements shall commence. Each Head of State or Government shall deliver an introductory statement of three (3) minutes in English alphabetical order.

Following the conclusion of all introductory statements, the Board shall declare that the MEPC has entered Moderated Caucus.

4.2 Raising Motions

The Board may open the floor for Motions at any point it deems appropriate.

A Motion requires a Second. If there are no Seconds, the Motion shall fail. If there are Seconds and no Objections, the Motion shall be accepted without a vote. If both Seconds and Objections are raised, the Motion shall be decided by procedural vote.

Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, procedural Motions shall require a simple majority to pass.

The Board may rule a Motion out of order where it considers the Motion detrimental to the effective conduct of debate.

4.3 Moderated Caucus

Moderated Caucus shall constitute the default mode of debate of the MEPC.

During Moderated Caucus, the Board shall recognise Delegates to speak from their seats in accordance with the established Speakers' Time.

No Motion shall be required to enter or continue Moderated Caucus, and no overall duration or specific topic shall be established for it.

When the Board deems appropriate, it shall open the floor for Points or Motions. In the absence of a successful Motion altering the mode of debate, the MEPC shall remain in Moderated Caucus.

Yielding shall not be in order during Moderated Caucus. A Right of Reply, as defined in Article 5.3 of these Rules, shall be in order.

4.4 Consultation of the Whole

When the Board opens the floor for Motions, a Delegate may raise a Motion for a Consultation of the Whole.

The Motion shall specify the proposed duration. It requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

During a Consultation of the Whole, normal speaking order shall be suspended. Delegates may engage in direct dialogue from their seats without being individually recognised to speak by the Board.

The Board shall continue to preside over the proceedings, maintain order, and may intervene whenever necessary.

Upon expiration of the established duration, the MEPC shall automatically return to Moderated Caucus.

4.5 Unmoderated Caucus

When the Board opens the floor for Motions, a Delegate may raise a Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus.

The Motion shall specify only the proposed duration of the Unmoderated Caucus. No purpose or topic shall be required.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

During an Unmoderated Caucus, normal procedure shall be suspended and Delegates may negotiate freely with one another.

Upon expiration of the established duration, a Delegate may raise a Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus. More than one extension may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

Following the conclusion of the Unmoderated Caucus and any extensions thereof, the MEPC shall automatically return to Moderated Caucus.

4.6 Closing Debate

A Motion to Close Debate requests the conclusion of substantive discussion and the commencement of the procedure for the adoption of the Draft Declaration.

The Motion may be raised when the Board opens the floor for Motions. The Board may rule the Motion out of order if it considers that further negotiations are necessary.

The Motion requires a Second and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of participating States present to pass.

4.7 Suspension of the Meeting

A Motion to Suspend the Meeting requests a temporary halt to the proceedings and may be raised when the floor is open.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

The Board may rule the Motion out of order or may suspend the meeting at its own discretion.

4.8 Adjournment of the Meeting

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting requests the conclusion of the work of the MEPC at the current session of RhodesMRC.

The Motion shall only be in order during the final session of the MEPC.

The Motion requires a Second and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of participating States present to pass.

CHAPTER 5. RULES CONCERNING SPEECH

5.1 Right to Speak

No Delegate may address the MEPC without having first been recognised by the Board, except during a Consultation of the Whole or an Unmoderated Caucus.

The Board may call a Delegate to order if their remarks are irrelevant to the matter under discussion, personally offensive, inconsistent with diplomatic decorum, or otherwise contrary to the rules and spirit of RhodesMRC.

No Delegate may audibly or physically impede another Delegate from speaking.

5.2 Speakers' Time

Immediately following the introductory statements and the commencement of Moderated Caucus, the Board shall open the floor for a Motion to Set Speakers' Time.

The Delegate raising the Motion shall specify the proposed time allocated to each intervention during Moderated Caucus.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

The Speakers' Time established by the MEPC shall remain in force until altered.

At any subsequent point when the Board opens the floor for Motions, a Delegate may raise a Motion to Alter Speakers' Time. The Delegate shall specify the proposed new Speakers' Time, and the Motion shall follow the same procedure as a Motion to Set Speakers' Time.

The Board may rule either Motion out of order if it considers the proposed Speakers' Time detrimental to the effective conduct of debate.

5.3 Right of Reply

A Right of Reply may only be exercised during Moderated Caucus where a Delegate considers that another Delegate has insulted the national integrity of the State they represent or the Delegate's personal integrity.

A remark concerning national integrity shall be understood as one directed against the governing authority of the State or one that calls into question its sovereignty. Mere disagreement with the content of another Delegate's intervention shall not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply.

A request for a Right of Reply may not interrupt a speaker and shall be made immediately after the speaker has concluded their intervention. The Delegate requesting the Right of Reply shall briefly explain the grounds for the request when asked by the Board.

If the Board considers the request justified, it shall recognise the Delegate for a period of time determined by the Board. The decision of the Board to grant or refuse a Right of Reply shall not be open to appeal. A Right of Reply to a Right of Reply shall not be in order.

5.4 Yields

Yielding shall not be in order during any stage of the proceedings of the MEPC.

CHAPTER 6. RULES CONCERNING POINTS

6.1 Raising Points

A Delegate may raise any of the Points provided for in this Chapter whenever appropriate, provided that the Point does not interrupt a speaker, except for a Point of Personal Privilege under the circumstances specified in Article 6.2.

A Delegate wishing to raise a Point shall raise their placard, state the Point they wish to raise, and wait for recognition by the Board before elaborating.

Points shall take precedence over Motions.

6.2 Point of Personal Privilege

A Delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege where a circumstance or personal discomfort prevents them from participating fully in the proceedings.

A Point of Personal Privilege may concern, among other matters, an inability to hear a speaker, an inability to see material being presented, or a medical or other immediate personal circumstance.

A Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt a speaker only where the Delegate raising the Point is unable to hear the speaker or where an immediate circumstance requires the attention of the Board.

6.3 Point of Order

A Delegate may raise a Point of Order to indicate an instance in which these Rules of Procedure have not been correctly observed by the Board or by another Delegate.

A Point of Order shall concern procedure only and may not be used to address the substance of the matter under discussion.

A Point of Order may not interrupt a speaker. The Board shall immediately rule upon the Point, and its decision shall not be 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 concerning these Rules of Procedure or the conduct of proceedings.

A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.

6.5 Point of Information

When the floor is open, a Delegate may raise a Point of Information to ask the Board a substantive or administrative question not pertaining to these Rules of Procedure.

A Point of Information may concern the mandate or scope of the MEPC, the crisis scenario, information provided through a crisis update, or administrative matters relevant to the proceedings.

A Point of Information may not interrupt a speaker.

CHAPTER 7. RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Working Papers

A Working Paper is an informal document created to assist Delegates in discussion, negotiation, and the formulation of a Draft Declaration.

Working Papers do not require a Sponsor or Signatories and do not need to follow the formal structure of a Declaration.

Working Papers may be shared with the Board and other Delegates in electronic form.

7.2 Draft Declaration

A Draft Declaration is a document prepared with the intention of becoming the final Declaration of the MEPC through its discussion, negotiation, and adoption by consensus.

A Draft Declaration shall follow the format prescribed by the RhodesMRC Secretariat and must be approved by the Board before being formally introduced.

A Draft Declaration shall have at least one Sponsor and may have Signatories.

Sponsors are participating States that have substantially contributed to the drafting of the Draft Declaration and support its contents.

Signatories are participating States that wish to see the Draft Declaration discussed. Being a Signatory shall not imply support for its contents.

7.3 Introducing a Draft Declaration

Once a Draft Declaration has been approved by the Board and made available to Delegates, a Sponsor may raise a Motion to Introduce the Draft Declaration.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

Once the Motion has passed, the Board shall formally introduce the Draft Declaration and may recognise its Sponsor or Sponsors to present its contents to the MEPC.

The introduction of a Draft Declaration shall not imply its adoption or the support of any participating State other than its Sponsors.

7.4 Modification of a Draft Declaration

Formal Amendments shall not be in order in the MEPC.

Delegates may nevertheless continue to negotiate modifications to the text of a Draft Declaration through Moderated Caucus, Consultation of the Whole, Unmoderated Caucus, or other consultations facilitated by the Board.

Any modifications agreed during negotiations shall be incorporated into the Draft Declaration under the supervision of the Board before it is submitted for adoption.

CHAPTER 8. RULES CONCERNING DECISION-MAKING

8.1 Procedural Voting

Each participating State shall have one vote on procedural matters.

Delegates shall express their vote by raising their placards. Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, a simple majority shall be required.

Delegates shall vote either “in favour” or “against”. Abstentions shall not be in order on procedural matters.

8.2 Consensus

All decisions of the MEPC on substantive matters shall be taken by consensus.

Consensus shall be understood as the absence of a formal objection to the adoption of the decision in question. No formal substantive vote shall be taken.

8.3 Adoption of the Declaration

When the widest possible agreement has been achieved on a Draft Declaration, the Board shall open the floor for a Motion to Approve the Draft Declaration.

The Motion requires a Second and shall be decided by procedural vote should objections be raised.

Upon adoption of the Motion, the Board shall ask whether any participating State formally objects to the adoption of the Draft Declaration.

In the absence of an objection, the Board shall declare the Declaration adopted by consensus.

Should an objection be raised, the Board shall invite the objecting Delegate or Delegates to briefly explain their concerns and shall facilitate further consultations with a view to reaching consensus.

Following further negotiations and any modifications agreed upon, the Board may again ask whether there is any formal objection to the adoption of the Draft Declaration.

If no objection is raised, the Declaration shall be adopted. If consensus cannot be reached, the Draft Declaration shall not be adopted.

8.4 Tour de Table

In the event of a stalemate during negotiations, the Board may conduct a Tour de Table.

During a Tour de Table, each Delegate shall be recognised in turn to briefly outline the position of the State they represent on the matter under consideration.

The Board shall determine the speaking time for the Tour de Table.

The purpose of a Tour de Table shall be to clarify the positions of participating States, identify outstanding points of disagreement, and determine whether a compromise capable of achieving consensus is possible.