

FORUM Overview

Protocols at Council Sessions

In the Council Sessions resolutions go through the debate procedure and are found either FAVORABLE or UNFAVORABLE by the council. Favorable means that the council agrees that the resolution is good and should be given consideration by the General Assembly. The rating in the Council Sessions is an opinion of the significance or importance of the resolution to the entire world in some cases, but also how the delegates in that particular council view it in regard to the impact on their nations. Votes are tabulated by the presiding officer and announced to the council. Take notes during the debate on the back side of the resolution- you will be responsible for telling the rest of your team what happened in your Council Session. You also need to record the vote in the tally chart.

All speakers will get a 10 second warning signal and will then get interrupted when time is up.

Author's Speech limited to Three Minutes- The Author's Speech is accompanied by a Visual Presentation (powerpoint or prezi for example) at the Council Session.

The Ambassadors are to be addressed as Sir or Madame. They will ask for the first CON argument. Raise your recognition card up if you wish to speak then say, "Madame or Sir, I am name from country..." Then read/present your con argument. You are limited to 2 minutes.

All CON arguments should be followed by a PRO argument. Again the limit is 2 minutes per speaker.

At any time you may also raise your recognition card up if you wish to ask a question. Say, "Will the delegates entertain a question?" The speaker may or may not yield to your question and you are limited to one question. To avoid too many questions, the speaker will not answer more than 5 questions total.

The Ambassadors will watch the time and end the debate after no more than 18 minutes or approximately 9 speakers at 2 minutes each. If someone does not use their full 2 minutes, there could be more speakers.

Author's Closing Comments limited to Two Minutes as the final PRO speech, then the Secondary Assistant will call for a vote.

How do I decide whether to vote for or against the resolution?

Remember the UN's four main goals:

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

And their eight millennium goals:

- ❖ End Poverty and Hunger
- ❖ Universal Education
- ❖ Gender Equality

- ❖ Child Health
- ❖ Maternal Health
- ❖ Combat HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Environmental Sustainability
- ❖ Global Partnership

Look at how you rated the draft resolution prior to the forum using the Resolution Rubric. Fill out the Council Session Resolution Rating form and factor that in to your decision making as well.

Consider how the resolution affects your nation and whether your government and citizens would support the UN allocating resources (be it people resources or financial or peacekeeping, etc.) to this issue. Does your delegation think the resolution is doable and worth pursuing? And remember, the overall goal of the United Nations is to provide aid and support to its member nations. Do not vote other teams down just because you want to “win” or something. This is not about winning. It is about truly considering the proposal for its merits and feasibility weighed against its costs and other international priorities. You are performing a cost benefit analysis through the lens of your nation as you decide whether to support a resolution.

****The Council Sessions are designed for meaningful debate while the General Assembly is designed more for final decision-making. Therefore it is very important that delegates from each council accurately share information during the Team Check-IN time after the council sessions!****

Which nations will be heard at the General Assembly?

The nations with the top 10 scores will be heard at General Assembly. So it could happen that a resolution is approved at a council session but will not be in the top 10. Scores are based on four data points:

- 1) Advisor’s rating of the Draft Resolution using the Resolution Rubric.
- 2) SMUNA’s rating of the Final Resolution using the Resolution Rubric.
- 3) Advisor #1 rating of the Presentation using the Council Session Resolution Rating Form.
- 4) Advisor #2 rating of the Presentation using the Council Session Resolution Rating Form.

If there is a tie after averaging these four data points; the # of PRO votes received at the Council Sessions will be used to break the tie. If a resolution does not pass its Council Session, it will not be heard at General Assembly (there is a small chance that an exception to this last rule will be made if a particular resolution is not passed in council sessions but a group of advisors feel strongly that it should be heard in General Assembly and it is within the top 10 scores).

Debate Protocols for General Assembly

Voting in the General Assembly is by nation. Each nation must decide together how they wish to vote. A caucus is held before the vote so that the members of the nation can reach a consensus. A Favorable

Vote at the General Assembly means that the United Nations is officially adopting this resolution and will take whatever steps are necessary to make it happen.

The debate protocol is identical to the Council session but shortened. Author's speech should not be longer than 3 minutes. There will be time for a CON argument, one question, one PRO argument, a 2nd CON argument, a 2nd question, a 2nd PRO argument, and a final CON argument before the Speaker's Closing Comments which counts as the final PRO argument (all of these should not exceed 2 minutes). The Author's Speech is accompanied by a Visual Presentation (powerpoint or prezi for example) at the General Assembly. The Caucus Time will be 30 seconds.