



Old Dominion University Model United Nations Conferences  
Rules and Procedures

General Assembly

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## **I. SESSIONS**

### *Rule 1 Opening Date*

The Old Dominion University Model United Nations General Assembly shall meet in regular session commencing and closing on the dates designated by the ODU Model United Nations Society.

## **II. LANGUAGES**

### *Rule 2 Official and Working Languages*

English shall be the official and working language of the General Assembly of the ODU Model United Nations, its committees and other bodies. Use of any other official UN language is permitted if simultaneous translation into English is provided by the Delegate. All resolutions and other documents shall be published in English.

## **III. SECRETARIAT**

### *Rule 3 Duties of the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General chairs plenary sessions of ODUMUN, directs the operations of the ODUMUN staff, and insures the effective conduct of all meetings of the General Assembly, its committees, and other bodies. The Secretary-General may designate a member of the Secretariat to act in their place at these meetings. The Secretary-General or a person designated by them may at any time assume the role and duties of the Chair in any ODUMUN body.

### *Rule 4 Staff*

The Secretary-General provides and directs ODUMUN staff required by the General Assembly and any committees or subsidiary organs, which it may establish. The Secretary-General may suspend and substitute staff at ODUMUN with due cause, with the approval of the Director of ODUMUN.

### *Rule 5 Duties of the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall receive and distribute official documents, reports, and resolutions of the General Assembly, its committees, and other ODUMUN bodies; and generally perform all other support each ODUMUN body may require, as determined by ODUMUN staff.

## **IV. COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

### *Rule 6 Chair*

At each session of an ODUMUN body, the Chair designated by the Secretary-General shall preside. The Chair exercises their functions under the authority of the Secretary-General.

### *Rule 7 Acting Chair*

If the Chair finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chair, or another member of staff designated by the Chair or Secretary-General, shall preside as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair shall have the same powers as the Chair.

#### *Rule 8 General Powers of the Chair*

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the session, direct debate in meetings, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, rule on points of order, and maintain decorum.

The Chair shall maintain the list of speakers either by taking placard requests or by requiring requests in writing. The Chair may, in the course of the discussion of an item, limit the number of times each member may be placed on the speakers' list and limit their speaking time. The Chair is authorized to ask Delegates to focus their remarks on topics under discussion.

The Chair may invite motions, judge the suitability of Draft Resolutions (Working Papers) and proposed Amendments, declare motions dilatory, and limit caucusing.

#### *Rule 9 Voting*

Only official Delegates vote. The Chair shall not vote on any matters concerning procedural or substantive issues.

### **V. DELEGATIONS**

#### *Rule 10 Composition*

Delegations to a committee or other body shall have not less than one and no more than two representatives.

### **VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

#### *Rule 11*





must be part of the motion. The Chair may, at their discretion, move the body back to debate before the time limit has expired.

*Rule 26 Suspension of the Rules*



## **VIII. VOTING**

### *Rule 35 Voting Rights*

Each Member State of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

### *Rule 36 Questions Decided by a Simple Majority*

Unless provided otherwise in these rules, Decisions of the Body shall be determined by a simple majority.

### *Rule 37 Important Questions*

An issue may be designated upon majority vote of a committee as an Important Question if it relates specifically to recommendations on the maintenance of international peace and security, suspension of the rights and privileges of a member or membership, expulsion of members, and budgetary questions.

A matter designated an



*Rule 42 Division of the Question*

At ODU Model United Nations Conferences there is no Division of the Question. The same goals can be achieved by amendment.

*Rule 43 Equally Divided Votes*

If a vote is equally divided, the proposal fails.

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