

# MEGA

Model United Nations

## Points and Motions MUN Terms and Phrases



# Points and Motions

In order to raise a point or motion, a delegate has to raise their placard, which they will find in front of them with their country's flag and name on it, and wait to get recognized by the Chairs. Upon recognition, the delegate states their point or motion.

## Motion :

The formal means by which you request something using the official request form. Various motions can be proposed to steer the debate in a particular direction. Examples include motions for different types of caucuses, to proceed to a vote, or to conclude the committee session entirely. (To raise a point or motion, means to ask for permission to start a specific action or disruption/change of the flow of the committee session).

## Seconds and Objections :

Seconds serve to express support for any proposed motion. In order to pass, every motion needs to be supported by a second from at least one other delegate. The Chairs will ask if there are any seconds, if a motion or point is made, and the delegates who want to „second“ it, allow the point/motion to take place, by raising their placard.

Objections serve to express refusal or opposition towards a proposed motion. If any delegate raises an objection towards a motion, a procedural vote takes place and a simple majority is required to either pass or fail the motion. In case there are no objections to a motion it passes automatically.

## Different Points :

(If there are any words used to explain the points/motions that you do not understand, have a look at the MUN terms and phrases section below)

### Point of personal privilege due to audibility

To notify the Chair that you can't hear the speaker. **This is the only point that may interrupt the speaker.**

### Point of Personal Privilege

To notify the Chair that you are experiencing discomfort (using the restroom, opening the window etc.).

### Point of information to the Chair

To ask the Chair a question about something not concerning the Rules of Procedure.

### Point of parliamentary inquiry

To ask the Chairs about the rules of procedure or if a point / motion would be in order.

### Point of Information

You may raise a Point of Information after another's delegate speech to clarify or ask a question related to the speech. Points of Information must always be phrased as a question.

### Motion for a Follow-up

This motion is tied directly to a Point of Information. If you were the delegate to raise a Point of information and feel that your question has not been answered sufficiently, you may raise a Motion for a follow-up, in which you shall briefly provide the necessary information. A follow up has to be phrased as a declarative sentence. There are no follow-ups to a follow-up. This Motion is not to be voted upon and may or may not pass under the discretion of a Chair.

### Right of Reply

A right to reply is given to a delegate to respond to a serious insult against their country. It is granted at the discretion of the Chair. Disagreement with the content of a delegate's speech is not a reason for a Right of Reply. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply on a Right of Reply.

### Motion to Establish the Quorum

When the session starts after the Motion to Establish the Quorum the Chairs will clarify the quorum by a roll-call procedure.

### Motion to Set the Agenda

This motion is initiated at the outset of the session to establish a specific topic as the primary focus of the committee's discussion.

### Motion to be Added to GSL

The delegate presenting this motion conveys their intention to be included in the General Speaker's List and to deliver a speech.

### Motion to Set Speaking Time

You may set or change the time limit on speeches, during GSL or Moderated Caucus. A delegate exceeding the given time for a speech may be called to order by the Chair. (Which means the Chair reminds them that they have run out of time and have to end their speech).

### Motion for a Moderated Caucus

A moderated caucus is an intense debate lasting for a specified amount of time, with a specified time for one speaker, to discuss a specific aspect of the overall agenda. Speeches are shorter than in the General Speaker's List. It is run under discretion of the Chair. If the Motion passes, the committee will enter an informal debate where the Chair will recognize delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue. The delegates are added to a Speaker's List, different than the GSL but necessary to uphold order, and may present their point of view on the topic. If no delegate wishes to speak

during a moderated caucus, the caucus will immediately elapse.

There are no Points of Information and no yielding in the Moderated Caucus.

#### Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus

If you feel that a longer Moderated Caucus will benefit the committee's work, you may raise this motion. The time extended cannot exceed half of the original caucus' time.

#### Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

A delegate may move for an Unmoderated Caucus by suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. You may move around the room freely, talk to other delegates and work on your Draft Resolution Leaving the room is only allowed under the Chair's discretion. This caucus should not exceed 30 minutes.

#### Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus

If you feel that a longer Unmoderated Caucus will benefit the committee's work, you may raise this motion. The time extended cannot exceed half of the original caucus' time.

#### Motion to Introduce a Draft Resolution

When the floor is open, the main submitter of a draft resolution may entertain a motion to introduce it. If the Chairs approve the motion, the sponsor has 5 minutes to present the draft resolution to the committee and answer points of information if open.

Following this, the Chairs will entertain speakers expressing both support and opposition to the resolution.

#### Motion to Make an Amendment

A motion designed to examine and vote on the amendments submitted to the Chair.

### Motion to Vote Point by Point

This motion requests the committee to cast separate votes on each individual operative clause of the resolution rather than voting on the resolution as a whole

### Motion for a Round-Table

If you wish to know other delegate's points of view on a certain subtopic, you may raise a Motion for a Round-Table. You shall state a single speaking time and a specified topic.

During this Motion, all delegates shall give a brief speech regarding their standpoints and policies regarding the selected topic. The members shall deliver their speeches in alphabetical order upon being given the floor by their Chairperson.

### Motion for a Q&A Session (rarely used)

Any delegate may raise a motion for a Q&A Session with another delegate. Upon being raised, this Motion requires a simple majority to pass. The delegate raising this Motion shall also state the number of questions that may be asked during the session and the main topic.

During the Q&A session, the selected delegate will be open to the exact number of questions stated by the delegate raising the motion.

These questions can be asked by any of the present members. There are no extensions of a Q&A session.

### Motion for a Straw Poll

A simulation of a voting procedure serves only for informational purposes. During this motion, the Committee will take an informal vote on any matter currently being discussed with the votes having no impact on the result of the matter being discussed.

### Motion to Censor a Delegate

This Motion may be raised by any delegate and imposed on any other member of the Committee in case of any member being vulgar, or deliberately sabotaging the Committee work. If this Motion passes, the

selected delegate shall lose their right to deliver speeches or raise Points or Motions other than the Point of Personal Privilege for a duration of time specified by the delegate raising the motion. This Motion requires a simple majority, as well as the direct consent of the Chairperson.

#### Motion to Suspend the Meeting

To propose a break, usually for the purpose of lunch or coffee break. The Chair may rule the Motion out of order without the possibility of appeal or put it to an immediate vote.

#### Motion to Adjourn the Session

This motion is invoked once all resolutions have been voted upon and signifies the completion of the committee's work, calling for the formal conclusion of the session.

#### Motion to Move into the Voting Procedure

This motion requires a simple majority to pass. If the motion passes, the committee will skip the part dedicated to speeches and debate and proceed directly with a voting procedure on the matter.

#### Motion to Move into Time Against

This motion is to be made when those planning on speaking against a resolution wish to speak.

#### Motion to Move into Time For

This motion is made when those planning on speaking in favor of a resolution wish to speak.

#### Motion to Table a Resolution (rarely used)

This motion is to put aside the resolution at hand to discuss it at a later time. This is normally done if the resolution isn't producing debate or if the committee is running out of time and you want your resolution to be discussed

### Motion to Divide the House

This motion is granted by the Chairs if voting by placards seems inaccurate or if the vote was very close. Delegations vote one-by-one and abstentions are not in order.

### Motion to Table the Topic (rarely used)

Tabling the topic ends the debate on one topic, it is not rejecting it but simply postponing the discussion, delegates can table debate, move onto another topic and return to the first topic at a later time.

### Motion to Reconsider (rarely used)

Reopen debate on a topic that has previously been tabled.

### Motion to Fact Check

The delegate that has raised this motion is obliged to provide a source in which it is clearly stated that the information presented by another delegate is incorrect. The delegate needs to do so by delivering the source to other committee members via Discord server and reading the incorrect part out loud.



## MUN Terms and Phrases :

### Delegate :

In a Model United Nations (MUN) committee, a delegate serves as the representative of a country. The primary goal of the delegate is to present policy recommendations in a written form known as a draft resolution and work towards securing its adoption with a majority vote from fellow committee delegates. Advocating for their policy proposals involves delivering speeches, engaging in lobbying efforts, negotiating, and drafting documents, all with the aim of shaping the committee session's outcome in their favor.

### Debate :

Is what goes on in the committee. Formal debate is governed by the Speakers' List and moderated by the Chairperson. Debate is regulated by official Rules of Procedure.

### Chair :

The person who is responsible for the smooth running of the Committee. They write the study guides, moderate the entire proceedings of the Committee, decide on some matters that are at their discretion and generally do everything to keep the debate smooth and productive.

### Dias :

Refers to the combined term for the Chairs or the assembly of individuals who are guiding the committee.

### Admin :

A volunteer who has the role of passing notes between the delegates and also helps with other tasks around the committee.

### Placard :

The sign that has the name of the country you are representing on it. You raise your placard to vote or to propose a point or motion - it is a way for the Chairperson to see you have something to say.

### To be in Order :

If a type of a point or motion is said to be "in order" it means that the rules allow you to make such a point or motion. E.g. "a motion for a roll call is in order only when voting on draft resolutions" means you may only move for a roll call during the final voting procedure, but not when voting on amendments or other motions.

### Out of Order :

Actions that are not allowed according to the Rules of Procedure.

### Discretion (of the Chairs) :

At the Chair's discretion means the Chair may decide based on the Rules of Procedure, fairness and the flow of debate.

Chairs will state if a motion raised is either in or out of order regardless of the motion.

### Policy Statement (Position Paper) :

A concise overview outlining a country's perspective on the topic under discussion, including their stance, connection to the issue, and proposed policies. delegates are required to submit their Position Papers to the Chairs prior to the commencement of the conference.

### Simple Majority :

A vote that requires more than 50% of the vote to pass. Most procedural votes require a simple majority. Abstentions are not counted when calculating a simple majority.

### Roll Call :

A process conducted by the Chairs at the beginning of each committee session to ascertain the number of delegates present in the room, essential for determining simple majority and 2/3rds majority voting requirements. Additionally, it helps identify which delegates are „present“ and which are „present and voting“. Delegates, who are „present and voting“ may not abstain during substantive votes.

### General Speakers' List :

Serves as the default structure of the committee. It comprises a roster of delegates who have been acknowledged to speak in a predetermined sequence. The General Speaker's List is temporarily halted when the committee approves a motion for an alternative action, such as initiating a moderated caucus or transitioning to a voting procedure.

### Yield :

"Yield" is employed when a delegate ends their speech in the GSL with time left and must decide how to allocate it. The delegate has the option to yield, relinquishing their remaining time to:

- The Chair: Surrendering the rest of their allocated time.
- Another delegate: Granting another delegate the opportunity to use the remaining time in their speech.

### Caucus :

Is an opportunity for a less formal debate for a duration of the caucus delegates

are not according to the speakers list. There are two kinds of caucuses:

- Unmoderated Caucus (or Lobbying) - delegates are free to discuss without the guidance of the Chairperson or the formal
- Moderated Caucus - Speakers' List is abandoned; delegates raise their placards to speak and the Chairperson chooses the next speaker.

### Procedural Voting :

Voting on something that does not impact the world outside. A Motion for a Moderated Caucus is an example of a procedural vote.,

### Substantive Voting :

When the vote does have real-world impact. The vote on the draft resolution (which if passed is considered adopted and represents the committee's decision) is a substantive vote.

In short, procedural votes decides how the committee works, while substantive votes decide what the committee decides

### Voting Procedure :

A systematic method wherein each country verbally declares their stance as either "In favor", "Against", "Pass" or "Abstain" regarding a motion.

- In Favor : The action of a delegate casting their vote in support of the motion.
- Against : The act of a delegate casting their vote in opposition to the motion.
- Abstain : When a delegate formally opts not to vote either for or against the motion.
- Pass : The act of abstaining from casting a vote in the initial round, opting to observe how others vote. However, in the second round, the delegate is obliged to vote either for or against and can no longer abstain

### P5 :

The term referring to the Permanent Five members of the Security Council, who retain their seats without rotation. These members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### Veto :

The act of a P5 member country casting a negative vote against a draft resolution or motion. A P5 veto results in the automatic failure of the resolution or motion. Can be used only in the Security Council.

### Working Paper :

The initial written compilation of ideas by different delegates, serving as the first draft. While not required to be in resolution format, working papers often include complete clauses.

### Draft Resolution :

The final version of a working paper where combined policy ideas are properly formatted and approved by the Chair for both content and structure. Once approved, they can be discussed and, after the debate is closed, voted upon.

### Main-Submitter :

The delegate who made the most significant contributions to the draft resolution. There can only be one Submitter.

### Co-Submitter :

The delegates who made significant contributions to the draft resolution. There can only be two Co-submitters.

### Signatories :

The delegates who support a draft resolution or wish to see it discussed. There is no limit on the number of signatories.

### Preambulatory Clauses :

The clauses explaining the reasons behind implementing policies described in the Operative Clauses. They provide background to the problem, legal precedent, and supporting data. Preambulatory Clauses are italicized and not numbered

### Operative Clauses :

The clauses detailing the policies and explaining what the draft resolution intends to accomplish. Operative clauses may include detailed sub-clauses to convey ideas, with the first word italicized and each clause numbered.

### Amendment :

A written change made to an operative clause.

Amendments can alter an existing clause, add a new one, or delete a section or an entire clause.

- **Friendly** : a change to a clause that is approved by all the Main-and Co-Submitters. These amendments are automatically added to the resolution.
- **Unfriendly** : a change to a clause that at least one of the Submitters does not agree to. These amendments go to a vote and are only added to the draft resolution if passed with a majority in favor of the amendment.

(Whether an amendment is friendly or unfriendly depends solely on the submitters' approval, not on the committee's opinion).