

THE NGO ACADEMY'S

*Advocacy
Algorithm*



with Karen Judd Smith

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3 Main Deliberative Bodies

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council

Outcomes

- Resolutions
- Decisions
- Protocols
- Treaties
- Conventions
- Covenants



EXIT





Resolutions

United Nations resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs.

- They generally consist of two clearly defined sections: a preamble and an operative part.
- The preamble generally presents the considerations on the basis of which action is taken, an opinion expressed or a directive given.
- The operative part states the opinion of the organ or the action to be taken.

Decisions

The term "decision" is used to designate formal actions, other than resolutions, dealing with non-substantive or routine matters such as elections, appointments, the time and place of meetings and the taking note of reports.

- They are sometimes also used to record the adoption of a text representing the consensus of the members of a given organ.

Each Deliberative Body...

Has their own deliberative rules and procedures:

- Organization of the Meetings
- Duties of the Secretariat
- Rights of Delegates
- Procedural Motions and Points of Order
- Overview of Voting Arrangements and Provisions
- Functions and Powers of Presiding Officers

Rules of Procedure

Rules of procedure provide structure and direction to guide deliberations and negotiation processes in formal conference settings.

“ Rules of Procedure are the backbone of a visible and open negotiating process. ”

-- Amb. Winfried Lang



General Assembly of the United Nations

- About the General Assembly
- Meetings
- Main Committees
- News
- Documents
- Past Sessions

General

Members of the

Secretariat

Rules of Procedure

Print version : [\[A/520/Rev.17\]](#)

The menu below allows navigation through the 163 rules and annexes of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly - including amendments and additions adopted up to September 2007.

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- ▶ [III. Delegations composition \(Rules 25 & 26\)](#)
- ▶ [IV. Credentials \(Rules 27 to 29\)](#)
- ▶ [V. President and Vice-presidents \(Rules 30 to 37\)](#)
- ▶ [VI. General Committee \(Rules 38 to 44\)](#)
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ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED

10th EDITION

HENRY M. ROBERT III, WILLIAM J. EVANS
DANIEL H. HONEMANN, THOMAS J. BALCH



THE ONLY CURRENT AND AUTHORIZED EDITION OF
THE CLASSIC WORK ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

at its 31st, 41st, 42nd, 44th and 48th meetings, on 9 April, 16 and 17 May, 6 and 4 January 1969; 1761st meeting, on 17 January 1974; and 2410th meeting, on 2



UNITED NATIONS

New York

The Rules of Procedure

General Assembly

— <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/index.shtml>

Security Council

— <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/scrules.htm>

ECOSOC

— <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml>



NIGERIA

PAKISTAN

If the UN Charter...

- Provides the backbone structure of authority for the global constitutive process (that is, one that has the power to establish or enact) in order to secure both minimum and optimum world order, and
- Is effectively a network of practices specialized for decision-making

With The Mission To “Unite” Nations...

- Get all stakeholders involved in policy making
- Get shared commitment to those policies
- Sustain policy decisions

Which Decision Making Process?

- Foster unity
- Address differences
- Enable best practices to evolve... etc.

What is Consensus?

- Historical Overview and Practice of Consensus Decision Making
- Merits of Consensus Compared to Alternative Decision Making Processes
- Relationship of the Decision Making System to Substantive Issues, Tactics and Outcomes of Conference Diplomacy

What is Consensus?

Consensus is a powerful process for bringing groups together to move forward with decisions that are inspired and effective.

- Consensus is (intended) to be a thoroughly cooperative form of decision-making
- It is not appropriate for all situations.

What is Consensus?

Best for:

- shared purpose
- explicit values
- some level of trust and openness to each other
- enough time to work with material in depth
- bonding people together

What is Consensus?

It relies on every person in the circle bringing their best self forward to seek unity.

- The group need not all think the same or have the same opinion, or support the same proposal in a unanimous vote.
- Rather, what is being earnestly sought is a "sense of the meeting"
- The power to listen (with the power to block as a fall-back)

But Consensus @ the UN...

- Doesn't always have every person in the circle bringing their best forward to seek unity
- A "sense of the meeting" is not always sought
- The power to block becomes a negotiating tactic in a larger chess game of politics where the "scare resource" is political support



Today's Homework ...

What might be different when you plan how to get your NGO approved by ECOSOC's Committee on NGOs if...

- You knew you had to get a simple majority vote to succeed, or
- You needed to make sure there was no-one that would stand up definitively to oppose your NGO (and table your progress, possibly indeterminately—effectively denial of status.)



Today's Homework ...

Possible action steps:

- Find out who is on the committee
— <http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=committee>
- Consider which nations may be supportive, which not.
- What are the relations like between those who are supportive and those who are not?
- Why don't they support you? Perception or substantive issues?



