

Security Council Process Proposal

The Security Council has a different mandate than the rest of the UN bodies. The Council also has different rules because of the Council's make-up (limited membership, veto powers for the Permanent Five, etc.). Consequently, the debate process is also a bit different.

Instead of Member States forming alliances and merging resolutions that they can collectively support (and try to get passed with a majority of countries in the Council), as is done in other committees, the Security Council has the luxury of smaller membership and thus more intimate debate. Thus, the debate format will be as follows:

1. Each country will bring in 2-3 preambulatory clauses and 2-3 operative clauses that focus on the most pressing issues they would like to see addressed on a given topic.
2. At the start of the first debate day, each country will make an opening statement not exceeding two minutes, outlining their perspective and goal(s) for the day's session. Other countries are given the "Right to Reply" to these statements (but no more than one reply to each country's statement will be permitted).
3. The delegates then submit a preambulatory clause to the chair in writing, if they feel strongly enough that it should be included in the resolution. The chair (or a scribe) writes these clauses out and they are projected on to the wall at the front of the room.
4. One by one these clauses are briefly debated (no more than 5 minutes debate for each clause (the chair sets a guillotine time by which point the clause will be voted on, only minimal amendments allowed, no abstentions).
5. The same is then done with the operative clauses, although more substantive amendments are permitted and abstentions are permitted. If one of the Permanent Five vetoes the clause, caucuses may be held or in-room recesses, where lobbying can occur to coax those threatening a veto to change their mind or abstain.
6. There will be a guillotine time set for each topic, by which point those clauses that have received a plurality of votes are part of the document and that's that. If delegates are still unsatisfied with the clauses at the end of the guillotine time, the resolution can be tabled to be revisited on the second day
7. On the second day, the Council meets again to wrap up any unfinished business and revisit previously tabled resolutions, in the hope that a complete resolution for each topic has been agreed upon.
8. The resolutions in their entirety are then reported to the General Assembly just prior to the Closing Ceremony, with a set number of countries (perhaps three altogether) being given a brief opportunity to explain their support or reservations of the resolution.