

Speeches in MUN

Making a General Debate speech

- Look at your resolution research and the topics that your committee will deal with in outline form. If the committee is discussing these topics then the debate is considered to be general. It is in these speeches that you will strive to “teach,” “enlighten,” “inform,” and communicate statistics to prove your point, etc.
- When you present general debate information, you are always giving information that is in line with your country’s policy. Include statistics, examples, facts, and ideas that extend our knowledge of the topic in a general way. Remember to always look at the topic through the lens of your country.

Making a substantive speech

Each resolution is discussed individually and this is called substantive debate. The speeches you write for substantive debate are specifically written to address each separate resolution in your packet. You might use statistics but you will also present your country’s views mostly on the operatives (solutions). You could correct information presented in the preamble but only if it is in your country’s interest to do so.

Focus on operative clauses that you like, dislike, and state the reasons. You should also make suggestions as to what you would like accomplished.

After the first hour or two, you should begin to make more substantive speeches, focusing on specific ways in which to handle

a problem. Remarks at this time should also be geared toward formulating working papers, or informal documents that suggest solutions to the problem.

The following pattern is a good guideline for making a brief but persuasive speech.

1. **If possible start your speech from a point of agreement.** Try to find an angle with which everybody in the room will agree. 'We all believe that the sovereignty of states must be respected....' This is also usually the first Operative clause
2. **Then move towards the point of disagreement.** 'However, if countries fail to protect their own populations then their sovereignty is void. Sovereignty brings with it responsibility, and if countries fail to live up to that responsibility, then the international community has the right to intervene....'
3. **To finish, request a clear-cut action.** 'Let us pass a resolution that will allow such intervention and commit the international community to preventing massive human rights violations wherever and whenever they may occur.'

Making an Opening Speech as an ambassador/start of the day

Describe your country

Location, poor or rich, special concerns or circumstances (e.g. ongoing civil war, drought, member of the EU)

Something unique about your country

Include one or two interesting facts about your country, things that make it unique

What problems are faced by your people?

Hunger, clean water, disease, global warming, refugees, aggressive neighbours, conflicts, terrorism

What help, if any, do you need from the rest of the world?

Aid, trade, support, expertise, advice, removal of debt

Why is this topic important to your country?

Destabilizes region, is a cause of poverty, kills lots of people in your country, violates principles that your country thinks are important

What do you think should be the first step to solving the problem presented by the topic?

Choose something that addresses the reasons why this topic is important to your country

What solutions can you propose?

Be creative!

Making an Opening Speech as a main submitter

This outlines background information on the issue and the current status on the global agenda

Why should the committee care about this issue? Highlight the problem really clearly

Your particular country's position and previous actions related to the issue

Explain to the committee what has already been done to solve this issue and why it didn't work out

Outline your country's current stance on the issue

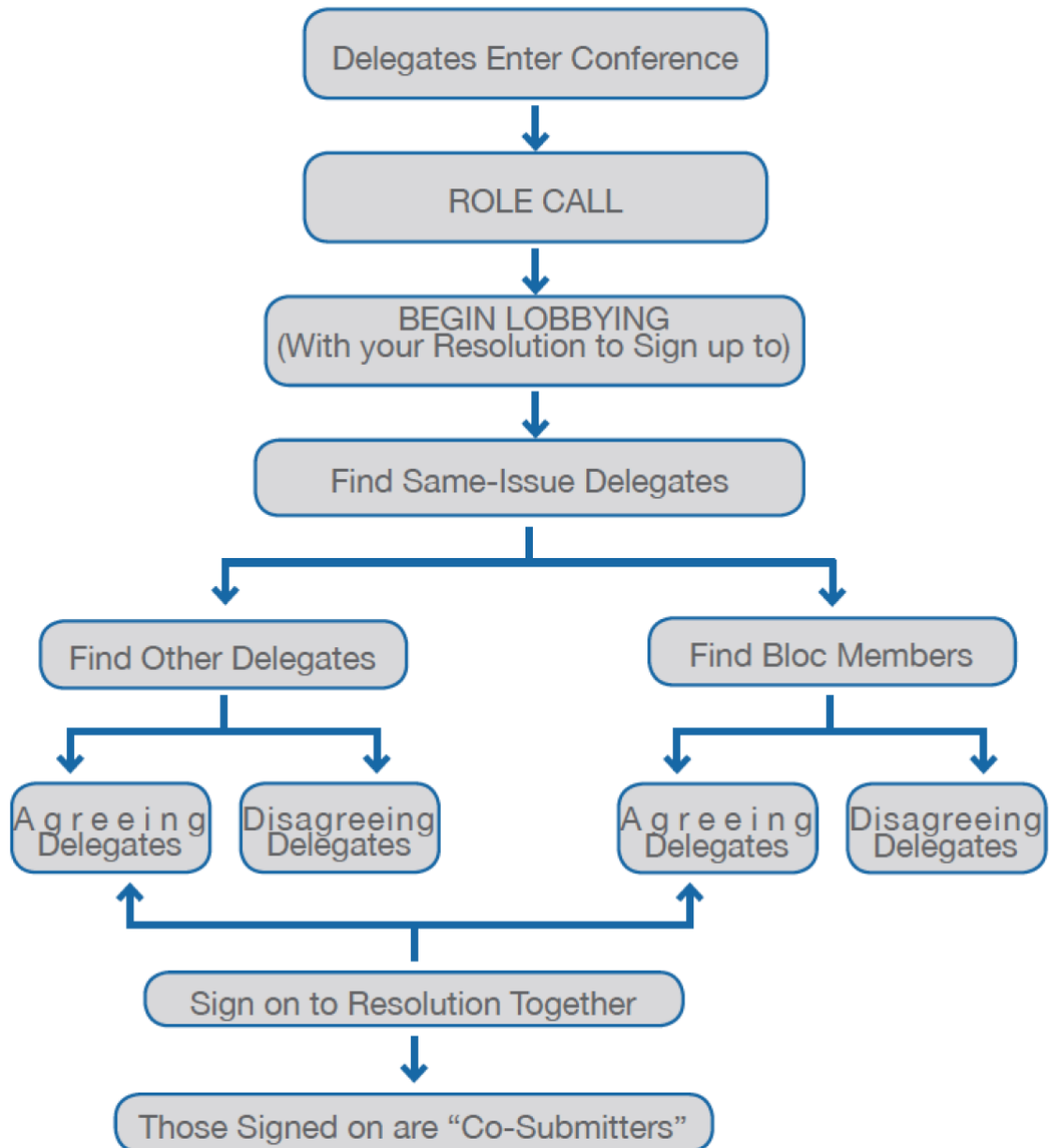
Humble brag your country's actions on this issue

Make recommendations for global cooperation

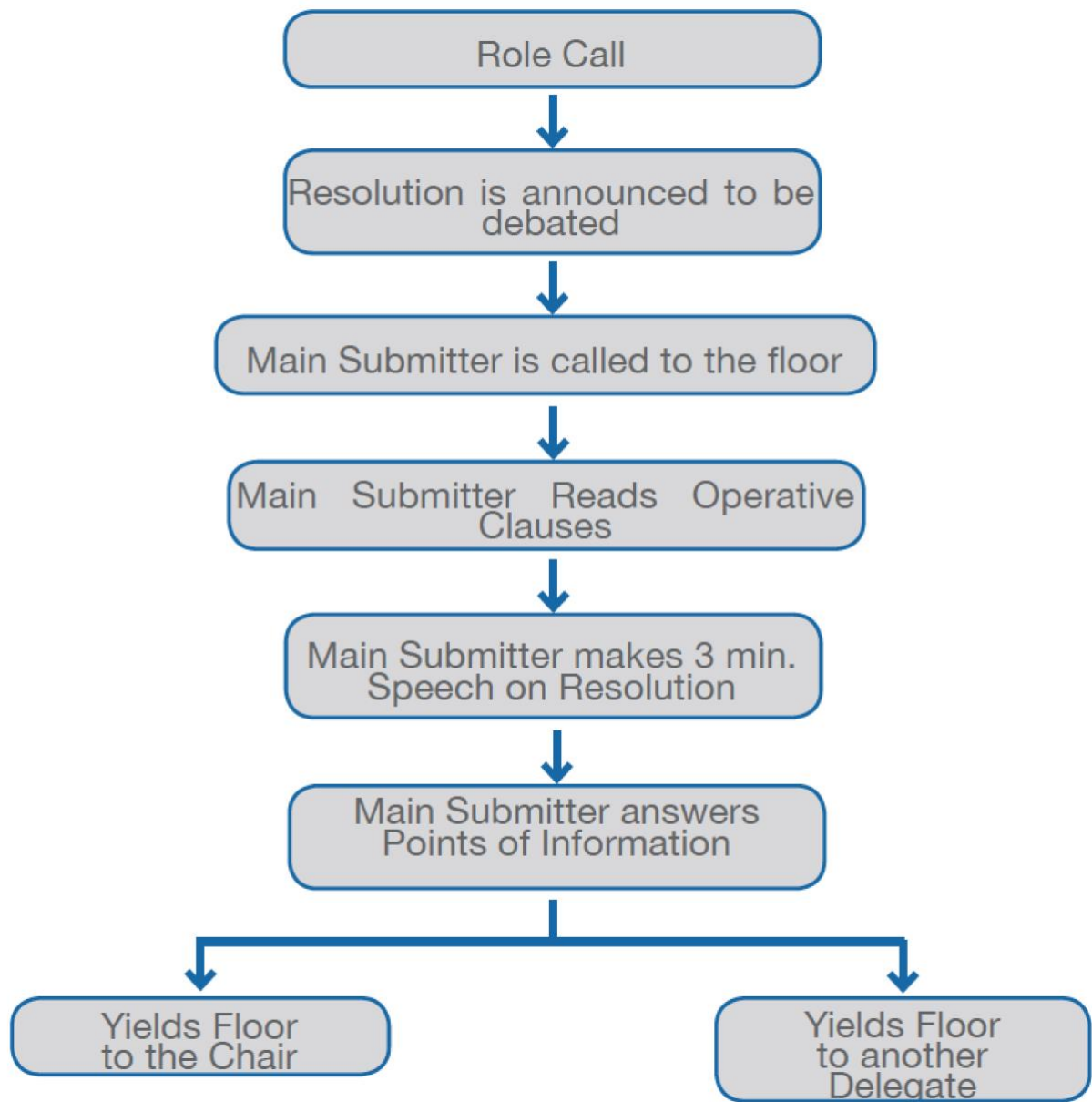
What you would like the rest of the delegations to commit to so that we can all solve this issue together

Explain your operative clauses and why they will be the most effective to solve this issue

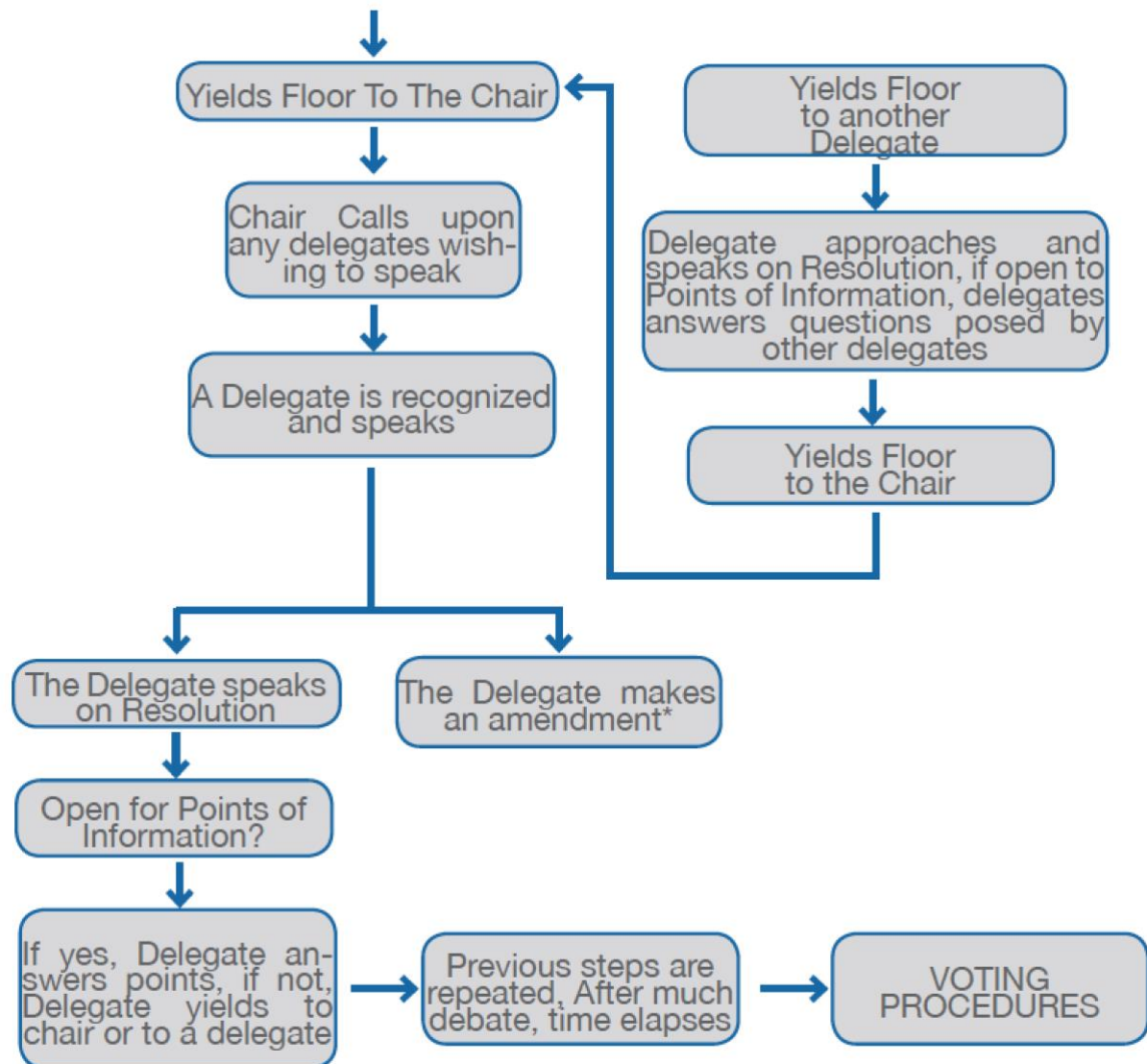
How to lobby



The Flow of Debate Pt 1



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During Debate

Below is a list of the points and motions to be used during debate

The only point that may interrupt the chairperson/speaker is a point of personal privilege due to audibility. Delegates may not immediately state their point, but wait for recognition by the chairperson. Chairpersons must repeat the point to the house.

Point of Personal Privilege:

- A comment in reference to the comfort and well-being of a delegate
- May interrupt a speaker but only if it is in reference to audibility
- May not be in reference to the content of a speech
- Is not debatable
- Does not require a second
- *Example: 'Could the AC please be switched off? It is very cold in here.'*

Point of Information to the Speaker:

- One question directed to the delegate who has the floor and who has indicated that he/she is open to points
- The delegate asking the Point of Information can only speak if recognised by the Chairperson
- The Point of Information must be formulated in the form of one question (e.g. 'Is the speaker aware that...?') although a short introductory statement may precede the question

- There is no 'Right to Follow-Up' under THIMUN Rules of Procedure and so there will be no dialogue between the speaker and questioner
- The delegate must always remain standing when the speaking delegate is replying to their Point of Information
- Be fair and treat all delegates equally when recognizing points of information to a speaker
- *Example: 'Could the honourable delegate, as she is the main submitter of this resolution, please explain to the House what she intends with and what the purpose is of Clause 3'*

Point of Information to the Chairperson:

- A question to the Chairperson (one that does not qualify as a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Parliamentary Enquiry or Point of Order - this could, for example, be a question in reference to the lunch schedule or a question related to the factual contents of the debate)
- May not interrupt a speaker
- The respective Chairperson should answer clearly with a short statement and swiftly move forward
- *Example: 'Could the Chair please explain to the House whether the Darfur Liberation Army has signed the Darfur Peace Agreement?'*

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:

- A Point of Information to the Chairperson concerning the Rules of Procedure
- May not interrupt a speaker

- *Example: 'Could the Chair please explain to the House what is meant by Open Debate?'*

Point of Order:

- An observational comment in reference to the Rules of Procedure (if the delegate believes the Chairperson has made an error concerning procedural matters).
- May not interrupt a speaker
- The Point of Order can only be in reference to something that just happened, direct referral, otherwise it is out of order itself
- The respective Chairperson should take time and clearly explain the situation so that all the delegates understand your arguments
- *Example: 'It is not out of order for the delegate to yield the floor to another delegate since the floor was previously yielded to him by the delegate of Saudi Arabia?'*

Motions

Always repeat the motion to the house. Chairpersons must note and remind their forum that abstentions are not in order when voting on procedural motions.

Motion to extend debate time:

- Needs a second if proposed from the floor
- At the Chairpersons discretion and is not debatable
- Needs a simple majority or a ruling by the Chairperson to be adopted

Motion to refer a resolution to another forum:

- This motion can be expected when a resolution includes operative phrases with no reference to the mandate of the forum and also when the resolution takes actions that can only be issued by the Security Council (such as sanctions, embargoes, sending peacekeeping troops etc.)
- Should be discouraged as other forums have enough business for their respective meetings
- Can be avoided by urging the House to amend clauses such as: 'Demands...' to 'Strongly Urges the Security Council to demand...'
- Is debatable
- Expert Chairperson can hold a speech for the forum preceding the vote for/against the vote, in which he/she strongly discourages passing this motion
- Needs a simple majority to be adopted

Motion to withdraw a resolution:

- Can be done at any time before voting has commenced if all submitters and co-submitters agree on withdrawal
- Can be reconsidered by any member of the forum

Motion to move to the previous question: *(formerly: Motion to move directly into voting procedures)*

- Calls for the closure of the debate and a vote to be taken on the motion (amendment/resolution) pending
- If called for when discussing an amendment, in time in favour, this motion means to move to time against the amendment.
- May not interrupt a speaker
- Needs a second

- Chairperson needs to ask if there are any objections
- Is quickly voted upon if any objections are raised
- Can be overruled by the Chairperson at his/her discretion

The 'Motion to adopt without a vote' (also known as a 'Friendly Amendment') is not democratic and hence will be out of order.

Motion to adjourn the debate:

- Calls for the temporary disposal of a resolution
- The submitter of this motion 'to table' a resolution needs to give a short speech on why the item should be adjourned
- The Chairperson needs to recognize two speakers in favour of the motion and two speakers against the motion
- The forum will then put the motion to vote, a simple majority is needed for the motion to pass, but tied results mean that the motion has failed
- If the motion passes, debate on the resolution will come to an immediate end - debate on the same resolution can be restarted by any member of the forum only after all other resolutions have been debated and only if there is a two-thirds majority support for the re-debate.
- If the motion fails, debate on the resolution will continue

Motion to reconsider a resolution:

- Calls for a re-debate and re-vote of a resolution that has already been discussed and adopted
- Can be called for only after all other pending draft resolutions have been debated
- Is not debateable

- Needs a two thirds majority

Objection to the main motion:

- Is in order only in exceptional circumstances - otherwise, if for only tactical purposes or if only destructive and without argument, it is out of order
- The delegate proposing the objection has one minute to explain his/her proposal
- The main submitter of the resolution in question is accorded a right of reply of equal
- Needs a two third majority