

## Rules of Procedure for Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

### **I. POSITION PAPERS**

In an effort to expand upon the high quality of debate at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons hereinafter referred to as NPTRC being simulated at Techfest World Model United Nations 2020, delegates are required to submit position papers prior to the conference by IST 11:59 PM, November 5th, 2020.

Each position paper should reflect the policy adopted by the Member State with regards to the given agenda. Additionally, it should be an amalgamation and summarization of the previous proposal and working paper submitted by the Member state prior to the conference. A comprehensive list of the aforesaid can be found in Annexure-II of the Final Report of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The relevant documents listed in the said annexure have been included in the Delegate resources folder.

#### **Length**

Position papers should not exceed 300 words for the topic being discussed in the said committee.

### **II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

#### **Rule 1: Roll Call**

The Chairperson will announce each country's name. After delegates hear their country called, they should answer "present."

#### **Rule 2: Quorum**

1. A majority of the States parties to the Treaty participating in the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
2. To determine whether the Committee is quorate, any State party may call for a roll call at any time.

### **Rule 3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The first order of business for the committee shall be the adoption of the agenda. The only motion in order at this time will be in the form of “The nation of [country name] moves that [topic area x] be placed first on the agenda.”

- The motion requires a second and is debatable.
- A provisional speakers list shall be established with two people speaking for and two people speaking against the motion (speaking time for these remarks shall be one minute).
- After the provisional speaker’s list is exhausted, the committee shall move into an immediate vote.

A simple majority is required for the motion to pass.

### **Rule 4: General Speakers List (Formal Debate)**

The Chairperson will ask all of those delegates who would like to make a speech and be on the General Speaker’s List to raise their placards (or the raise hand icon). The Chairperson will then choose delegates to be placed on the speaker’s list. A country can only appear on the speaker’s list once. After a country has spoken, they may be added to the speaker’s list again by sending a note to the Chairperson saying: “the delegation of [country name] would like to be added to the speaker’s list. Speaking time is set through a motion from a delegate. If no motions are made, the default time is 90 seconds. When the committee is an informal debate all Rules of procedure are enforced. Once the speaker’s list has been exhausted, the committee will automatically move to immediate voting procedures

### **Rule 5: Yields**

A delegate may yield their time upon the completion of their speech. Yields may be made in three ways: to another delegate, to points of information (questions), or to the Chair.

- Yield to another delegate. His/her remaining time shall be given to another delegate.
- Yield to points of information. Delegates shall be selected by the Chair to ask one question per speech. The Chair has the right to call order to any delegate whose question is, in the opinion of the Chair, not designed to elicit information. Answers to questions are limited to the time remaining

- in a delegate's speech.
- Yield to the Chair. Such a yield should be made if the delegate does not wish his/her speech to be subject to comments. The Chair shall then move on to the next speaker.

### III. POINTS

#### **Rule 6: Point of Personal Privilege**

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege and the Chair shall immediately address the point. A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort, safety, and/or well-being of the members of the committee. The Chair may refuse to recognize a Point of Personal Privilege if the delegate has not shown proper restraint and decorum, or if the point is dilatory in nature

#### **Rule 7: Point of Order**

A representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the Executive Board in accordance with these Rules. A Point of Order must relate to the observance of the Rules of the committee or to the way the Chair is exercising his or her power. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Executive Board. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the Executive Board's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. The Chair may refuse to recognize a Point of Order if the delegate has not shown proper restraint and decorum governing the use of such a right, or if the point is dilatory in nature. A Point of order may never interrupt a speaker.

#### **Rule 8: Point of Information (question to other delegates)**

After a delegate gives a speech, and if the delegate yields their time to Points of Information, Points of Information (questions) can be raised by delegates from the floor. The speaker will be allotted the remainder of his or her speaking time to address Points of Information. Points of Information are directed to the speaker and allow other delegations to ask questions in relation to speeches and resolutions. The number of Points of Information to be recognized is subject to the

discretion of the Executive Board.

### **Rule 9. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**

If there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to request clarification of the present procedural status of a meeting. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker.

### **Rule 10: Right of Reply**

Notwithstanding Rule 8, the Executive Board may accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Committee. The Chair may recognize the Right of Reply only in instances of a grave personal insult. Such statements shall be as brief as possible and shall, as a general Rule, be delivered at the end of the last meeting of the day.

### **Rule 11: Order of Points**

The Points raised by Delegates before the committee in order of precedence i.e in the order in which they are received by the Executive Board.

## **IV. SPEECHES**

### **Rule 12**

1. No one may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Executive Board. Subject to Rules 11, 13, and Part V, the Executive Board shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the subject under discussion and the Executive Board may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant thereto.
3. The Executive Board may limit the time allowed to speakers and the number of times the representative of each State may speak on a question; permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favor of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, the Executive Board shall limit interventions on procedural questions to a maximum of five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Executive Board shall call him to order without delay.

**Rule 13: Precedence**

The Chair of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by his committee.

**Rule 14: Closing of the list of speakers**

During the course of a debate the Executive Board may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. Alternatively, the Committee may via a majority vote, close the list of speakers if consensus cannot be achieved. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no more speakers, the Executive Board shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure pursuant to Rule 19.

**V. MOTIONS****Rule 15. Suspend Debate (Motion to Caucus)**

Upon the recommendation of the Chair or any delegate, the committee may consider a motion to Suspend Debate for the purpose of a moderated or unmoderated caucus. This motion requires a simple majority vote.

- **Moderated Caucus:** The recommendation for a moderated caucus must include a time limit for delegate remarks and a time limit for the entire caucus (e.g. “The nation of [country name] moves for a five minute moderated caucus with a 30 second speaking time.”). During the moderated caucus, the chair shall recognize delegates for remarks without the use of a speaker list and yields shall be out of order.
- **Unmoderated Caucus:** The recommendation for an unmoderated caucus requires a time limit to be made (e.g. “The nation of [country name] moves for a ten-minute unmoderated caucus.”). Unmoderated caucuses allow delegates to have informal discussions.

**Rule 16: Provisional Speakers List**

Upon the recommendation of the Chair or any delegate, the committee may consider a motion to establish a Provisional Speakers List for the purpose of discussion on a specific topic. This motion requires a simple majority vote.

**Rule 17: Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting**

A representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the

meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to Rule 23, be immediately put to the vote.

### **Rule 18: Adjournment of Debate**

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

### **Rule 19: Closure of Debate**

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak, after which debate will end and all draft resolutions and amendments will be put to an immediate vote. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to Rule 23, be immediately put to the vote. This motion requires a two-thirds majority decision. Upon passage of this motion, the Chair shall declare the closure of debate and immediately move into the voting procedure on the substantive proposals introduced and pending before the committee. The committee shall also close debate and move into the voting procedure when the speaker's list has been exhausted.

### **Rule 20: Order of Motions**

The motions shall be taken up for a vote before the committee in order of precedence i.e. in the order in which they are received by the Executive Board.

### **Rule 21: Submission of Proposals and Substantive Amendments**

Proposals and substantive amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board of the Committee, who shall circulate copies to all delegates.

### **Rule 22: Withdrawal of Proposals and Motions**

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

### **Rule 23: The Decision on Competence**

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be decided upon by the Executive Board in

consultation with the Secretary General of the Conference before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

#### **Rule 24: Reconsideration of Proposals**

Proposals adopted by consensus may not be reconsidered unless the Committee reaches a consensus on such reconsideration. A proposal that has been adopted or rejected by a majority or two-thirds vote may be reconsidered if the Committee, by a two-thirds majority, so decides.

Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

## **VI. RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Rule 25. Submission of Working Papers, Draft Resolutions, and Amendments**

Working papers, draft resolutions, and amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Board, typed and with the proper number of signatures for ratification. For any of the aforesaid documents, 1/10th of the Committee's Members, Present and Voting, must provide their signatures, prior to submission of the said documents for Ratification.

#### **Rule 26. Introducing Draft Resolutions**

Once a draft resolution has been ratified by the Executive Board, a delegate may raise a motion to introduce the draft resolution, which is automatically approved and does not require a vote. The content of the introduction shall be limited to summarizing the operative clauses of the draft resolution. Such an introduction shall be considered procedural in nature, hence yields and comments are out of order. Additional questions and comments regarding the resolution are encouraged to be raised through the speakers list and yields.

#### **Rule 27: Amendments**

Both friendly and unfriendly amendments require the approval of the Executive Board. An amendment is considered friendly if all of the sponsors of the initial draft resolution are signatories of the amendment. Such an amendment is adopted automatically. Unfriendly amendments are a decision of the Committee. An unfriendly amendment must have the approval of the Executive Board and the signatures of 10% of the committee. Amendments to amendments are out of order.

**Rule 30: Order of Draft Resolutions**

If two or more draft resolutions relate to the same question, the committee shall vote on the resolutions in the order in which they have been ratified.

**Rule 31: Voting on Unfriendly Amendments**

During the voting procedure on a substantive proposal, unfriendly amendments to a resolution shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are proposed to a resolution concurrently, the committee shall first vote on the amendment in the order in which they were submitted to the Executive Board. This process continues until all amendments are voted upon. Where, however, the adoption of the amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment (as decided by the Chair), the latter amendment shall not be put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. Amendment voting is a substantive procedure and adoption requires the simple majority consent of the delegations present.

**VII. VOTING****Rule 28: Adoption of Decisions**

1. The task of the Committee being to review, pursuant to paragraph 3 of article VIII of the Treaty, the operation of the Treaty with a view to ensuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized, and thus to strengthen its effectiveness, every effort should be made to reach agreement on substantive matters by means of consensus. There should be no voting on such matters until all efforts to achieve consensus have been exhausted.
2. Decisions on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of representatives present and voting. Delegates physically present in the committee may not abstain on procedural motions
4. If the Committee is unable to achieve consensus on a substantive matter, voting shall take place and decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, provided that such majority shall include at least a majority of the States participating in the Committee.
5. If the question arises whether a matter is one of a procedure or of substance, the Executive Board of the Committee shall Rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall immediately be put to the vote and the Executive Board's ruling



shall stand unless the appeal is approved by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

6. In cases where a vote is taken, the relevant Rules of procedure relating to the voting of the General Assembly of the United Nations shall apply, except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

### **Rule 29: Voting rights**

Every State party to the Treaty shall have one vote.

### **Rule 30: Meaning of the phrase “representatives present and voting”**

For the purposes of these Rules, the phrase “representatives present and voting” means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

### **Rule 31: Method of Voting**

Delegations may vote in favor of or against a proposal or may abstain from voting. The committee shall normally vote by show of placards, but any delegate may request a roll call vote on substantive matters. The roll call vote shall be taken in alphabetical order of the English names of the countries present.

During a roll call vote, delegations may answer with an affirmative vote, a negative vote, an abstention (when appropriate) or may pass. Delegations passing in the first round of voting will be called upon alphabetically in a second round, at which time they may only answer with an affirmative or negative vote. Delegations that appear to be voting out of policy, while casting an affirmative or negative vote, may reserve the right to explain their vote by Voting with Rights. Delegations must announce that they are Voting with Rights at the time they cast their vote. The Chair may permit delegations Voting with Rights to explain their votes after voting has concluded but before the decision has been announced.

### **Rule 32: Conduct while in Voting Procedure**

After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting, no representative may enter or leave the room, nor shall any representative interrupt the voting except on a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Inquiry or a Point of Order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Communication between delegates is strictly forbidden.

## VIII. GENERAL POWERS OF Executive Board

### Rule 33

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the Executive Board shall preside at the meetings of the Committee; he shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, ascertain consensus, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall Rule on points of order. The Executive Board, subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The Executive Board may propose to the Committee the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each State may speak on the question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The Executive Board, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

## IX. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### Rule 34

The Committee may establish subsidiary bodies so as to provide for a focused consideration of specific issues relevant to the Treaty.

As a general Rule, each State party to the Treaty participating in the Committee may be represented in the subsidiary bodies unless otherwise decided by consensus.

## X. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

### Rule 35: Languages of the Committee

English shall be the official language of the Committee.

**Rule 36: Interpretation**

A representative may make a speech in a language other than the language of the Committee if he provides for interpretation into one such language.

**Rule 37: Language of Official Documents**

Official documents shall be made available in the language of the Committee.

**Rule 38: Sound Recordings of Meetings**

Sound recordings of meetings of the Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of a subsidiary body thereof.

**XI. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS****Rule 39**

The meetings of the Committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

**XII. PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE****Rule 40****1. Observers**

(a) Any other State which, in accordance with article IX of the Treaty, has the right to become a party thereto but which has neither acceded to it nor ratified it may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for observer status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Executive Board. Such a State shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Main Committee other than those designated closed meetings and to receive documents of the Committee. An observer State shall also be entitled to submit documents for the participants in the Committee.

(b) Any national liberation organization entitled by the General Assembly of the United Nations to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and all international conferences convened under the auspices of other organs of the United Nations may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for observer status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Executive Board. Such a liberation organization shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Main Committee other than those designated closed meetings and to receive documents of the Committee. An observer organization shall also be entitled to submit documents to the participants in the Committee.

## **2. The United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or their representatives, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Main Committee and to receive the Committee documents. They shall also be entitled to submit material, both orally and in writing.

## **3. Specialized agencies and international and regional intergovernmental organizations**

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific Forum, other international and regional intergovernmental organizations, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and any specialized agency of the United Nations may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for observer agency status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Executive Board. An observer agency shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Main Committee, other than those designated closed meetings, and to receive the documents of the Committee. The Committee may also invite them to submit, in writing, their views and comments on questions within their competence, which may be circulated as Committee documents.