



GUIDELINES
FOR
SECURITY COUNCIL

A short explanation including advice for delegates and
Student Officers

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For a more comprehensive guide on purpose and history, see the booklet by Hylke Hoekstra and Dirk van Leeuwen, 2006.

About

The THIMUN Security Council aims to give students a realistic experience of what it is like to be in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The mandate of the Council focuses on maintaining international peace and security, as stated in Chapter V of the United Nations Charter. An exclusive and primary responsibility of the Council is to determine the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

The THIMUN Security Council, like the UNSC, consists of 15 members: 5 permanent members with veto powers (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected for a two-year term – without a veto-power. The number of members may vary in the Historical Security Council, depending on the year being simulated, as the UNSC did not always have 15 members. The non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly with equitable geographical distribution. This ensures that the views of all regions of the world are considered during decision making. Issues with historic origins and contemporary political crises are debated in the Council.

At THIMUN, the Historical Security Council is also simulated. This aims to provide students a chance to assess the past actions of the UNSC and change the course of history by improving the role of the UN in solving conflicts. The time-frame is strict and delegates are usually given a key date/event of historic significance which requires UN intervention. Delegates are not allowed to use any information made available after the time-frame which is being simulated. For example, if the delegates are in session on October 14, 1962 debating the Cuban Missile Crisis, they are not allowed to discuss any information/events that developed after October 14, 1962.

The rules of procedure of the Historical Security Council are identical to that of the Security Council.

THIMUN employs a double-delegation (Historical) Security Council, with both delegates from each delegation from the same school. Due to the urgency of the issues discussed (mostly very topical) and the legally-binding nature of the resolutions produced by the UNSC, it is imperative that delegates in the THIMUN (Historical) SC are competent and experienced.

Preparation

Research the issues on the agenda very carefully. There are many valuable resources, but after finding general information, we advise you to find out more about what the United Nations have done so far (if anything). The resolutions you will help create are intended to help solve the issue and the more research you have done, the more comprehensive your debate and resolutions will be.

The following questions are **things to consider** while researching the UN context of the issues:

- What do previous resolutions say?
- What has been attempted before?
- What are the successes and failures of the international community?
- Are there UN reports by a Special Rapporteur, the Secretary General or other UN committees?

Please remember that the Research Reports provided by the Student Officers are exhaustive and should not be the only means of research. Frequently, the issues debated in the THIMUN Security Council are contemporary, pressing and in the news, therefore, being up to speed with current events until THIMUN SC commences will help you formulate strong, action-oriented solutions.

It is STRONGLY recommended that delegates create **draft resolutions** including preambulatory and operative clauses on every issue before coming to the conference. This will help the lobbying and merging become more effective and ensure a realistic experience, knowing that UNSC delegates submit draft resolutions at the start of a debate.

Conference Proceedings

Lobbying/Merging: In the real UNSC, informal/unmoderated meetings precede formal debates. This unmoderated time of informal dialogue is known as lobbying time. During this time, delegates will be expected to merge their pre-written draft resolutions, deliberate on solutions according to their foreign policies and reach consensus. This is also the chance to discuss potential shortcomings in the clauses that will result in veto threats and address these by negotiating. The expert chair will be involved in the lobbying session for their respective issue and will be available to advise and guide delegates.

Unlike other THIMUN committees, the THIMUN SC usually produces one draft resolution where clauses by all delegates are grouped in one document during the lobbying session. This document is then sent to the Student Officers for vetting and finally, to the Approval Panel for corrections. In cases where more than one resolution has been merged and presented to the forum, the Expert Chair will select one resolution based on the THIMUN SC Rules of Procedure and in consultation with the SC MUN Advisor.

Vetting: Student Officers and the Approval Panel of the THIMUN SC have limited time for vetting resolutions due to the hectic schedule of the committee. Delegates are strongly recommended to fix obvious grammatical and formatting issues. In addition, it is imperative that delegates do not submit a resolution with duplicate/identical or directly contrasting clauses. This will save the committee time and ensure efficiency.

Process: The President will inform the delegates of the committee's schedule. The Student Officers and delegates will decide on the order in which the issues will be debated.

Delegates will get 3 sessions to lobby – one for each issue. Both delegates of a delegation will lobby for the first issue together however, this will change from the second issue onwards. At THIMUN SC, we debate and lobby simultaneously to make the most out of the conference and give both the delegates a chance to proactively participate. This is explained thoroughly below:

1. Lobbying - 1st issue: All delegates of the forum (or both delegates of all the double-delegations) lobby together.
2. When formal debate on the first issue commences, one delegate of the delegation will debate

the first issue and concurrently, the other delegate of the delegation will lobby for the second issue.

3. When the formal debate on the second issue commences, one delegate will debate this issue while the other delegate will lobby for the third (or last) issue.
4. Finally, all delegates of all double delegations will debate the third (or last) issue on the agenda together.

Delegates of the double delegation should decide on their roles with the idea that both delegates get an equal opportunity to lobby and debate.

Debate: Clause by Clause

The debate will be carried out clause by clause in the order of the draft resolution's operative clauses. Thus, the committee will mostly be in closed debate on clauses. Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree to a clause will be entertained during the debating time on the relevant clause only. After the Council has voted on a clause, the Council will not return to said clause. If a delegate feels more time is needed before a clause is passed they can either ask to extend debate time, or ask to table a clause until the end of the debate on that issue.

When all clauses in a draft resolution have been debated, the house will resume to open debate. This is an opportunity for proposing additional clauses that can be submitted as amendments, and if passed, will be added to the main resolution. When all operative clauses have been debated and voted upon, the Council will debate the pre-ambulatory clauses en-bloc. The pre-ambulatory clauses are essential to the resolutions as they set the guidelines, recognize previous action and context for the issue. Frequently, an operative clause will be supported by one or more pre-ambulatory clauses to explain terminology or a course of action suggested by the operative clause. In regards to motions and general rules of debate, the forum will follow THIMUN Rules of Procedure. The Student Officers will clarify these rules at the beginning of the conference.

Voting in the Security Council

The Security Council is different from other THIMUN forums in regards to voting. The resolutions passed by the Council are legally binding, thus Member States have a responsibility of heavy importance while making decisions and voting. Below are the requirements of voting:

Clauses and resolutions: minimum 9 - 6 (supermajority)

→ 9 votes **FOR** / 6 votes **AGAINST** or **ABSTENTIONS** for a clause/resolution to pass.

Amendments (including amendments to the 2nd degree): **the (simple) majority vote**

→ more than half of the committee's vote for an amendment to pass

The intention behind this is to avoid mistaken vetoes or veto-threats on amendments.

*ABSTENTIONS DO NOT COUNT AS VOTES IN FAVOUR

Veto power: If a clause/amendment seems to be absolutely unacceptable to a P5 member and against their policy, they need to warn the President of a potential veto-threat. This is done by sending a note to the chair. If any P5 country votes no, this will constitute a veto, and the clause/resolution will not pass.

Warning to P5 Member States: As stated in the introduction to this document, veto is an anomaly in the SC and THIMUN intends to create a realistic debate. Delegates of these delegations are responsible to respect this privilege and reflect it realistically.

The following statistics have been taken from Chart 13: Voting on Resolutions 2011-2020
[Highlights 2020 | United Nations Security Council Highlights Of Security Council Practice 2020](#)

Year	Resolutions Adopted	Unanimously Adopted	Vetoes
2017	61	59	6
2018	54	45	3
2019	52	44	3
2020	57	44	3

Abusing the veto power is a very serious threat to the realistic experience of the THIMUN SC and a warning to the student may be issued as a result of unjustifiable use of veto power. A report to the said delegate's MUN-Director should be expected.

For non-permanent members: it is expected that they observe alliance/allegiance politically and economically towards the main powers. They have a crucial role in regulating and controlling any vote on any matter in the forum. Any anti-P5 "movements" are highly discouraged and shall lead to a warning from the chair. A report to the delegates' MUN-directors regarding the inappropriate representation of country policies should be expected.

Specific guidelines for Student Officers

Referring to statistics above: The goal of the Student Officers should be to assist the Council in getting a unanimous vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Preparation

Each Student Officer should conduct research on each issue on the agenda. The Expert Chair will be the one who will write a research report on their issue of expertise and therefore, should conduct in-depth, thorough research on their respective issue. Outstanding knowledge and understanding of Rules of Procedure is an expectation. Make sure to read the Rules of Procedure and the Student Officer manual!

The President/Vice Presidents should discuss and agree on a clear division of roles during the debates: it is recommended that one should lead the debate, one should do the clerical work, and the third should observe the interaction between delegates to detect potential inter-personal issues that could complicate the progress of the forum. These roles should be alternated through the week based on who the expert chair for the topic is. At conferences with 2 delegates per country, one can start lobbying the next topic during the last hour of debate of the preceding topic with one delegate, while debating continues in the forum. This maximises the debating time.

At the start of the conference:

Introductory comments to delegates, where rules of Security Council procedure will be explained.

Delegates' questions will be entertained in order to bring the forum to a common understanding of the process of the week. Quick introductions/ice-breaker activities are recommended.

The first order of business will be to decide on an Agenda for the conference - the order of the topics will be discussed and decided by the forum, but can be advised by the SC President.

During this introductory session it should be ensured that delegates of the P5s are aware of the responsibilities as a veto-power, and how important it is that they do not misrepresent their country's policies. Also using veto is almost non-existent in the real United Nations. This should be reflected in debates and voting procedures. Issues that could lead to veto should be worked on outside the public debate through subtle diplomacy: lobbying; note-passing; P5 caucus etc. The role of the Approval Panel should also be explained.

Lobbying and merging:

For the first debate:

An appropriate amount of time needs to be given to lobby/merge draft resolutions into one draft resolution which will be presented to the Council for debate. If alternative draft resolutions are presented, please refer to the rules of procedure for selection. Clauses from draft resolutions not chosen can be submitted as amendments when debate of the draft resolution has been carried out.

For debates on the later topics:

When it is deemed appropriate, Student Officers should ask one delegate per country to start lobbying, while one delegate remains in the forum to continue the current debate. A merged draft resolution on the next topic should then be presented immediately following the end of the debate and final vote on the previous agenda topic. In this manner there will be few unnatural breaks in the deliberations of the Council.

During all lobbying, the expert chair on the topic needs to be actively involved as an advisor to the lobbying group(s). In this way, overlapping clauses, logical order, potential veto threats, grammatical errors etc. will be treated informally before it reaches debate.

Once a draft-resolution is ready for debate 2 parallel things will happen, as the resolution will:

1) Be presented to the Council for debate,

2) Be presented to the Approval Panel to ensure the quality of the content. The approval panel will make corrections regarding any grammar or logical issues that were not caught by the chairs. Should any content issues (misrepresenting policies, factual errors etc.) be discovered by the approval panel they will make the Student Officers aware of these, but the responsibility and choice of action rests with the President/Deputy Presidents.

→ Potential solutions for chairs would be to communicate with delegates through notes, and meet informally with delegates while the forum debates other clauses. A motion to table such clauses can be advised. The Approval Panel and the Student Officers share a responsibility that no resolution consists of factual and grammatical errors.

As soon as the Approval Panel has completed the corrections, these will be passed on to the Student Officers and they can amend grammatical, spelling and potential overlap errors on the spot, while the Committee Chair leads the debate on the first clauses at the same time. This should ensure both quality and the expedient nature of the Council.

The Debate: clause by clause

Amendments and amendments to the 2nd degree are encouraged from delegates, however, should grammar or content be poorly phrased, chairs could accept non-debated oral amendments in order to remedy these issues. This should only be done to aid the debate, not obstruct. Should a grammatical change lead to disagreements or lead to longer discussions the Student Officers could reverse the decision and ask that the oral amendment be submitted as a full amendment at a later stage. When the list of operative clauses has been completed, new additional clauses can be introduced by delegates. These clauses will be debated of equal value to the clauses in the draft resolution.

When all operative clauses have been debated and voted on, the Council will debate the preambulatory clauses – not clause by clause. Any SC member can introduce new clauses, or move amendments to the draft resolution's preambulatory clauses. The Council will vote on the pre-ambulatory clauses en-bloc. Finally a vote on the resolution as a whole will take place.

Realism/Quality

The Student Officers have a huge responsibility to ensure a realistic session where delegates are held accountable for following their country policy during lobbying, voting and debate. Generally, as a result of effective lobbying and negotiations, voting reflects unanimous votes and negligent public veto threats. Thus, the Student Officers have an instrumental role in facilitating lobbying in addition to monitoring verbal and written content by the delegates. The appointed MUN advisors will be there to assist – especially with the content of draft resolutions.