

## Points and Motions

Motions	Description	Vote to Pass
<i>Suspend Debate</i>	Suspending debate means calling for a moderated or unmoderated caucus. When moving to suspend the meeting, delegates should specify the purpose for and length of the suspension. This motion requires an immediate vote.	Simple majority
<i>Adjourn Debate</i>	Adjourning the meeting ends the committee session until the next session, which may be held the following year. The motion is most commonly made to end a committee session for the purpose of lunch or Closing Ceremonies. It requires an immediate vote.	Simple majority
<i>Close Debate</i>	Closing debate allows the committee to move into voting procedure. Once a delegate feels that his or her country's position has been made clear, that there are enough draft resolutions on the floor and that all other delegates are ready, he or she can move for the closure of debate. Two delegates usually speak against the closure of debate, but none speak for it.	Two-thirds majority
<i>Appeal the Chair's Decision</i>	This motion is made when a delegate feels that the chairperson has made an incorrect decision. The appeal must first be made in writing.	No vote
<i>Point of Order</i>	Points of order are used when delegates believe the chair has made an error in the running of the committee. Delegates rising to points of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. They should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure.	No vote
<i>Point of Inquiry</i>	When the floor is open ( <i>i.e.</i> no other delegate is speaking), a delegate may rise to a point of inquiry in order to ask the chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.	No vote
<i>Point of Personal Privilege</i>	Points of personal privilege are used to inform the chairperson of a physical discomfort a delegate is experiencing, such as the inability to hear another delegate's speech.	No vote
<i>Point of Information</i>	After a delegate has given a speech in formal debate, he or she may yield time to points of information, or questions from other delegates concerning the speech.	No vote

## Debate Vocabulary

Terms	Definition
<b>Dais</b>	The moderators in control of the committee who direct the procedures, content, and voting of the committee.
<b>Director</b>	A member of the dais who monitors the substantive content of debate, edits and approves resolutions, and keeps members informed of committee happenings.
<b>Rapporteur</b>	A member of the dais who keeps track of who is present in committee and who is speaking, keeps time and runs voting procedures.
<b>Placard</b>	A piece of cardstock with a country's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.
<b>Agenda</b>	The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed.
<b>Chair</b>	A member of the dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure.
<b>Formal Debate</b>	The "default" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers list.
<b>Moderated Caucus</b>	A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be possible in formal debate.
<b>Motion</b>	A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something.
<b>Point of Personal Privilege</b>	A request raised by a delegate to address any personal discomfort (e.g. can't hear).
<b>Point of Order</b>	A request raised by a delegate to address a procedural matter.
<b>Point of Inquiry</b>	A request made by a delegate to address any clarification of procedure needed by the delegate.
<b>Point of Information</b>	A request made by a delegate to ask questions in relation to speeches and working papers.
<b>Speakers List</b>	A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak.
<b>Unmoderated Caucus</b>	A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus.
<b>Yield to Chair</b>	A request made by delegate to give remaining time back to the Chair.

**Yield to Questions** A request made by delegate to give remaining time to other delegates for points of information.

**Yield to another delegate** A request made by delegate to give remaining time to another delegate who is prepared to speak.

### Debate Vocabulary

Terms to be Familiar With	Definition
Dais	
Chair	
Director	
Rapporteur	
Placard	
Agenda	
Formal Debate	
Moderated Caucus	
Motion	
Point of Personal Privilege	
Point of Order	
Point of Inquiry	
Point of Information	
Speakers List	
Unmoderated Caucus	
Yield to Chair	
Yield to Questions	
Yield to another Delegate	



## Quick Reference Guide for Points and Motions

All procedural matters in committee are subject to the discretion of the Chairperson. The Chair may undertake any action that is not covered in the Rules of Procedure in order to facilitate the flow of debate at the conference. The following motions are in order of precedence.

Motion or Point	Rule #	Second Required	Debatable	Interrupt Speaker	Vote to Pass	Notes
<b>Points</b>						
Point of Personal Privilege	13	No	No	Yes	None	Addresses any personal discomfort (e.g. can't hear, too hot/cold, etc..)
Point of Order	14	No	No	Yes	None	Addresses a procedural matter. Doesn't allow delegate to speak on topic of debate.
Point of Inquiry	16	No	No	No	None	Addresses any clarification of procedure needed by a delegate.
Point of Information	15	No	No	No	None	Addresses other delegates to ask questions in relation to speeches and draft resolutions.
<b>Motions</b>						
Suspend Debate (Caucus)	17	Yes	No	No	Simple majority	Enters into informal debate. A specific length of time must be included.
Closure of Debate	18	Yes	2 Against	No	Two-thirds majority	Ends debate and moves into voting procedures on current topic.
Adjourn the Meeting	19	Yes	No	No	Simple majority	Ends the meeting for the day.
<b>Other</b>						
Right of Reply	11	No	No	No	None	Must be submitted in writing to the Chair. Addresses the need to rebut derogatory remarks.
Appeal the Chair's Decision	12	No	No	No	None	Must be submitted in writing to the Chair. Addresses what a delegate feels is an incorrect decision by the Chair.
Yields	10	No	No	No	None	Can be done after a delegate speaks. Can only yield to questions, another delegate, or to the Chair.