

General Assembly

Ad Hoc Debate Format



Introduction

This year the Felsted MUN General Assembly emergency debate¹ we will be conducted in an Ad Hoc format.

Ad Hoc debate is a format used to produce resolutions quickly and fairly. In a normal debate one member state proposes a resolution which is debated, amended and voted on by the committee. However in an Ad Hoc debate member states submit clauses individually which are debated, amended and then rejected or added to the resolution based on a vote. The advantage of this is that delegations are not required to write entire resolutions and more delegations are given the chance to submit material for debate.

The Format

1. The debate begins with a resolution consisting of a set of pre-ambulatory clauses (In this case provided by the chairs) and no operative clauses. It has not been submitted by any nation but is open for debate in the same way that any other resolution is.

The Chair will open the floor debate in the same way that they would for any other resolution by asking whether any delegation would like to take the floor to speak for/against or submit an amendment to the resolution. Of course the resolution at this point has no operative clauses so speaking for/against it would be futile. Instead to build up the resolution delegates need to submit clauses as amendments.

2. To add an operative clause to the resolution it should first be submitted in writing in a message to the chair. Then when in debate on the resolution as a whole the delegate

¹ This will be for the emergency debate only, whole resolutions will be debated for the regular GA session.

should raise their placard and state that they have submitted an amendment. If this is in order then the chair will invite them to take the floor, read out their amendment and then give opening remarks. The speech is like any other in that the delegate will speak, and may be open to points of information (questions). They will then yield the floor (finish their time on the floor and allow the chair to continue with debate).

3. Once the delegation submitting the amendment has yielded the floor to the chair, the chair will enter open debate on the amendment. This gives you three options:
 - Speak for the amendment (this can include points of information)
 - Speak against the amendment
 - Submit an amendment to the 2nd degree (make a change to the clause that has been submitted) which will be voted on or can be passed as a friendly amendment by the delegation that submitted the main clause in the first place

All of these take place in the same way that they would in a normal debate.

4. Once debate time on this amendment has elapsed the chair will move to voting procedures on it, which takes place like any other vote. If the amendment passes then it is added to the resolution, if not then the resolution remains blank. N.B.
5. The chair will then allow open debate on the resolution as a whole and the process starts again of trying to add clauses, building up a resolution collaboratively.
6. As more clauses are added to the resolution it may become appropriate to speak for or against the resolution as a whole, and this is done in the same way that it would be in a normal debate.
7. Once debate time on the resolution has elapsed the committee will move to voting procedures on the operative clauses of the resolution. This is done in the same way as any other debate.
9. The pre-ambulatory clauses provided plus the operative clauses is the completed resolution.

Don't worry if this seems complicated or you don't understand some of it. There is no need to prepare for this debate and each section of the procedure will be explained as we move through the session. We have chosen this debate format so as to reduce the pressure of writing a whole resolution in a lunch time as has been the case in the past, and to ensure that every delegation is able to take an active role in the debate.

The Felsted MUN chairs.