

GROUND RULES FOR TAKING ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

(First Committee)

- During the action phase, the Committee will be guided by the Informal Papers that will be issued by the secretariat containing the draft resolutions and decisions on which action will be taken each day. The secretariat will revise the Informal Paper on a daily basis, in order to update the drafts that are ready for action at each of remaining meetings.
- The Committee's action on each cluster will have the established four-step process of: (1) general statements under each cluster, (2) explanations of vote before action, (3) action on the drafts and (4) explanations of vote after action.
- Under each cluster listed in the Informal Papers for any given day, the Committee will first hear general statements. At the same time, delegations will have a final opportunity to introduce draft resolutions and decisions ready for action on that day (including their revision or amendment, if any).
- Next, delegations wishing to explain their positions on any or all of the drafts under a cluster will have the opportunity to do so in a single intervention before the Committee proceeds to take action on those drafts, one after another and without any interruption in between.
- Pursuant to rule 128 of the rules of procedure, "After the Chairman has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting". In the case of a voting error, delegations wishing to register their original voting intension should not disrupt the voting process by taking the floor. They should instead approach the secretariat to fill a form to clarify the original voting intention, which will be reflected in the official records.
- Once the Committee completes action on all draft resolutions and decisions under a particular cluster listed in the day's Informal Paper, delegations preferring to explain their positions or votes after action is taken will also have the opportunity to do so. Similar to the consolidated explanations of vote before the vote, delegations are requested to make their explanations in one intervention per cluster.
- Also in accordance with rule 128 of the rules of procedure, sponsors of draft resolutions and decisions are not permitted to make any statements in explanation of votes either before or after action. They will, however, be permitted to make general statements at the beginning of the consideration of the drafts under a given cluster.
- Delegations seeking recorded votes on any draft resolution or decision are requested to inform the secretariat of their intention as early as possible and before the day's meeting begins.
- Sponsors wishing to postpone action on a draft are requested to inform the secretariat at least one day before action is scheduled on it. Nonetheless, delegations are encouraged to make every effort to refrain from delaying action.

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