

Guide to the Security Council

BIGMUN 2018

General overview

The BIGMUN Security council aims to provide delegates with a realistic experience of what it is like to be in the United Nations Security Council. Differing from the real SC in the United Nations, the BIGMUN SC consists of 16 non-permanent members and five with veto powers (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States of America). Because the SC aims to deal with peace and security issues at various levels, both long-term and current political crises will be debated in the council.

Procedure

The BIGMUN Security Council is an ad-hoc council, meaning that there are no pre-ambulatory clauses in the resolution is nor any lobbying time. Instead resolutions are created from scratch, one Operative Clause after another, in open-debate.

Voting

As resolutions are legally binding, the responsibility of the 21 members in the Security Council is very high. Because of this there are certain rules in regards to voting that differ from other BIGMUN forums.

- *Veto*: Veto power is granted to P5 countries, these are: China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Despite being granted this power, **veto power is used extremely sparingly** in the Security Council. This does not mean, however, that P5 nations are forced to agree with everything – P5 members are encouraged to abstain should they not agree with an amendment. A veto is only used when a country's national benefits are extremely threatened.
- *Amendments*: Voting on amendments is done by a simple majority vote. Abstentions are not allowed.
- *Voting on the resolution*: Seeing as SC resolutions are legally binding, a supermajority, or 2/3 of the council, is needed for a resolution to pass. If a P5 country votes no, it constitutes as a veto and the resolution will not pass. It should be emphasised that abusing the veto power is a serious threat to the realism of the BIGMUN Security Council, and a warning will be issued if misused.

P5 caucus

As the use of the veto power is an anomaly in the Security Council, a motion to initiate a P5 can be conducted in case of a veto threat. A P5 caucus is a private talk between the P5 nations and Presidents of the SC that aims to find a solution that avoids a veto.