

Formal Expressions and Rules of Debate

Terms & Modes of Address

It is imperative that delegates maintain decorum by using formal and polite diction at all times during debate. All references should be in third person, e.g. “How does the delegate justify the clause...?” Delegates may not use first or second person pronouns during debate (e.g. “I believe that *you* have not answered my question.”) All dialogue must first go through the chair, meaning that there will be no direct conversations between the speaker and the delegate. All communication between delegates will be through note passing.

When delegates wish to make points, they must:

- 1) Raise their country placard
- 2) Wait for the Chair to recognize the placard (the Chair will call: “Delegate, to what point do you rise?”)
- 3) Reply: “This delegate rises to a point of _____”

The Chair will say “Granted” or “Denied due to time constraints” depending on the situation. If granted, delegates may go ahead and ask their points. They must remain standing while asking the question and waiting for the question to be answered. If denied, the delegates may sit back down.

When delegates feel that their questions have not been sufficiently answered, they may request for further information or clarification by expressing such concern to the Chair:

- 1) “This delegate feels that the speaker has not adequately answered the question.”
- 2) The Chair will either say “Will the delegate please rephrase the question?” or, “On the contrary, the Chair believes that the delegate’s question has been sufficiently answered.”

Points of Procedure

The points and motions listed below may not interrupt a speaker during debate, with the exception of a point of personal privilege. Delegates must raise their placards and must wait until they are recognized by the Chair to *rise and state their points*.

A. Point of information: A question directed to the speaker who has the floor for explanation, justification, opinions, or elaboration.

E.g. “May the delegate please elaborate on the advantages of the mentioned methods?”

B. Point of clarification: A question directed to the speaker who is presenting the resolution for definition of unfamiliar terms or vague wordings

E.g. “May the delegate please define what CEDAW stands for?”

“Could the delegate please clarify what he means by ‘collateral damage’ in clause three sub-clause a?”

C. Follow-up question: A follow up question may be requested to the chair at the end of the speaker’s answer to a point of information. It pertains to the first point of information and may ask for further clarification or reasoning.

E.g. *First point of information:* “May the delegate elaborate on the advantages of such mentioned methods?”

Speaker on the podium answers: “The advantages of the mentioned methods include stronger collaboration between countries and integration of local and national governmental bodies.”

Follow-up question: “Could the delegate please explain the need for such methods in countries with already existing ties between local and national governmental bodies?”

D. Point of personal privilege: A request to the chair pertaining to the comfort and wellbeing of the delegate, such as inability to hear the speaker or physical discomfort due to room temperature. It does not 1) pertain to the content of a speech, 2) is non-debatable, and 3) does not require a second. **If it refers to audibility, it may interrupt a speaker.**

E.g. “May the Chair please ask the speaker to raise his voice?” or, “Point of personal privilege, Chair, pertaining to audibility.”

E. Point of information to the Chair: A question to the Chair referring to anything that does not fall under any other category. It does not pertain to rules of procedure and is not a point of personal privilege, but it may be a question on the issue being debated, and it may also refer to the committee’s agenda. It may not interrupt a speaker.

E.g. “Point of information to the chair. Could the chair clarify on in which year the UDHR was signed?”, or, “Point of information to the chair. When will this committee be dismissed for dinner?”

F. Point of Order: An objection/inquiry regarding a breach in parliamentary procedure that was not called upon or responded by the Chair. It refers to procedural matters only, and is not debatable. It may not interrupt a speaker, and can only refer to something that happened.

E.g. “Point of order to the chair – The delegate believes that the house must now vote on the amendment at hand.”

G. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: A question to the Chair concerning Rules of Procedure. It may not interrupt a speaker. It is not a point of order (which is a question on the Chair’s rulings or mistakes) but it may pertain loosely to rules in general.

E.g. “Point of parliamentary inquiry, Chair! Could the Chair explain what is meant by a ‘follow up’?”