

PRAMUN Order of Debate

Dear delegates and chairs, please find below the basic outline of the order of debate at PRAMUN. Please note that it does not include all the possible events and only concerns the **closed debate setting** that is used as a default at PRAMUN. Chairs are welcome to switch to open debate setting any time (i.e. by opening a speakers' list) if it is in the interest of debate.

I. The Chair calls the house to order.

II. The Chair calls upon the submitter of the resolution to read the resolution aloud to the House.

The submitter is the author, or one of the co-authors of the resolution, and its main proponent. When they have finished reading the resolution, the Chair asks if anyone seconds the motion. Any member of the House can simply call out: "Second!" Note that unseconded motion cannot be debated.

III. The Chair fixes the time e.g. 10 minutes for the motion (resolution) and 10 minutes against the motion.

This is a norm for a 45-minute debate if one takes into account procedural matters such as reading the resolution, points of order and other points, or voting procedures. For a more substantial debate, at least double is recommended.

IV. The Chair gives the floor to the submitter, who delivers a speech in favor of the motion after which they may be open to points of information (i.e. questions) from the members of the House who have been recognized by the Chair.

Points of information must be in the form of questions, not comments. The time taken for the question is generally not included in the debate time but the time taken for the answer is included. The speaker may retain the floor for the whole duration of debate time or they may yield the floor to the Chair.

Alternatively, they may yield the floor to another member of the House to speak in favor of the motion. Once the speaker has yielded the floor, no more points of information may be addressed to them.

V. If a speaker yields the floor without nominating another member of the House, the Chair will recognize any member of the House who wishes to speak in favor of the motion.

This procedure is followed until debate time for the motion has been exhausted.

- VI. When the debate time for the motion has been exhausted, the Chair calls upon the speaker to yield the floor. **The Chair then declares the floor open to members of the House who wish to speak against the motion.**
- VII. **The Chair recognises a member of the house to speak against the motion.** The same procedure is followed for the opponents as for the proponents.
- VIII. When the debate time has been exhausted, the Chair may, according to circumstances, propose **an extension of time or suggest to move to the amendments session** for the debated motion.
- IX. **Amendments: Any member of the House may propose an amendment to the resolution. A resolution may be amended by adding, striking, inserting or striking and inserting any word, phrase or clause in the operative clauses.**

A copy of the proposed amendment has to be submitted in writing to the Chair before it is proposed. The Chair usually grants a dedicated informal caucus for drafting amendments.

Only authors and co-authors of the debated motion may submit so-called **“friendly” amendments** which do not require a vote. However, if that is the case, the general purpose and intent of the amendment must be within the general purpose and intent of the original resolution and should seek merely to improve or clarify something in the resolution.

The Chair will decide on the propriety of the amendment and, once the speaker has formally proposed it, ask for a “second”. **The amendment is then debated as a subsidiary motion**, in the same way as the main motion (the resolution) i.e. the Chair fixes a debate time for and against the amendment, recognises speakers, closes debate on the amendment, conducts a vote on the amendment, which, if it carries becomes part of the resolution. Please note that there are no abstentions when voting on an amendment.

Once an amendment has been proposed, debate on the main motion is suspended until the amendment has been debated and voted upon, after which the House either jumps into debating another proposed amendment or the debate on the main motion continues.

- X. **After the amendment session, the Chair may decide to go back to debating the main motion or to close the debate.** Once the Chair has closed the debate, all points, except points of order relating to the conduct of the voting, are out of order. Voting is normally by means of a show of hands.
- XI. **The Chair conducts the vote by counting the number of votes in favor, the number against, and the number of abstentions.** Normally, a simple majority of those voting either for or against is required for the passing or failing of a resolution, abstentions being simply disregarded. (Other voting requirements should have been agreed on by the whole house before the debate commences.) The Chair announces the result of the vote.