Different Phases in Implementing Main Committee Work Plans

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Work cycle of the GA

1. Inclusion of the item in the agenda

2. Opening of the agenda item

3. Debate

4. Consideration of draft proposals

5. Closing of the item

Request for reports

Submission of reports
Conduct of business

Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly:

Section XII. Rules 63 ~ 95 applicable to plenary meetings

Section XIII. Rules 96 ~ 133 applicable in Committee meetings
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Request for reports
Submission of reports
list of speakers

• Rule 68 [109] of the rules of procedure:

  “No representative may address the General Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak...”

• Opening the list of speakers
  – Delegates wishing to deliver statements should inscribe on the list of speakers
  – Order of speakers: first-come-first-serve subject to protocol
Requesting the floor

• Raise your name plate to request the floor;
• A point of order is usually signified as a T
• Closing the list of speakers
  – Rule 73 [115] of the rules of procedure:
    “During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers, and, with the consent of the General Assembly, declare the list closed...”

• Time limit on speeches
  – Rule 72 [114] of the rules of procedure:
    “The General Assembly may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question...”
Different types of statements

1. Statements in debate
2. Statements to introduce draft proposals/amendments
3. Explanation of vote before the vote
4. Explanation of vote after the vote
5. Right of reply
6. Point of order
Explanations of vote (EoV)

• Limited to 10 minutes and is delivered from the delegate’s seat;
• Can be made either before or after the vote/adoPTION;
• Rule 88 [128] of the rules of procedure: “The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain his vote on his own proposal or amendment”.
Before giving the floor to the speaker(s) in explanation of vote before the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

[statement]

We have heard the only/last speaker in explanation of vote before the vote.
Right of reply

- A Member State can request to exercise its right of reply to the statement of another Member State;
- Only twice per agenda item – first intervention is limited to 10 minutes and the second intervention is limited to 5 minutes;
- Right of reply is exercised at the end of the consideration of the item;
- No oral right of reply to a Head of State;
Letter dated 22 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic, on 21 September 2011 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Mark Lyall Grant
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Point of order

- Rule 71 [113] of the rules of procedure:
  “During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure...

  ... A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.”
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Request for reports

Submission of reports
Taking action

- Member States must submit draft resolutions and decisions under a specific agenda item;
- “24-hour rule” requires the draft proposal to be circulated to all Member States a day prior to its consideration (rule 78 [120]).
Consideration of draft proposals

• **Introduction of the draft proposal**
  – Usually introduced by the “main sponsor”, summarizing the content and purpose of the draft resolution.
  – It is possible to orally **correct or revise** the draft resolution at this stage. Note that this is different from an amendment.
to vote or not to vote?
Just before taking action...

• Any explanations of position or explanations of vote?
  – Statements are limited to 10 minutes, made from delegations’ seats
  – Remember rule 88!
    “The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain his vote on his own proposal or amendment.
Action on draft resolution

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/67/L.1 entitled “------”.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.1?

It is so decided. [gavel]
EXAMPLE FROM PRESIDENT’S NOTES:

A vote is requested

A recorded vote has been requested.

We shall now begin the voting process.


[PAUSE for voting]

The result of the vote is as follows:
In favour ____; Against ____; Abstention____.

Draft resolution A/67/L.1 is/is not adopted.
Required majority: how many votes?

• Simple majority of Member States “present and voting”
  
  – The phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered not as voting: Rule 86 [126].

  → A drastic example: a draft resolution is adopted if 2 vote *in favour*; 1 vote *against*; 190 abstain

• Rule 83: Decisions of the General Assembly on *important questions* shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
Tie vote?

• In plenary meeting, Rule 95 applies:
  “...a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting which shall be held within forty-eight hours of the first vote...”

• In the Main Committees, Rule 133 applies:
  “If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.”
Voting on parts of a draft proposal

- Rule 89 [129] of the rules of procedure:

“A representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon...”
Amendments

– Rule 78 [120] of the rules of procedure:
  “Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations...”
- But can be proposed orally during the meeting
Amendments

• What is an amendment?

Rule 90 [130] of the rules of procedure: “A motion is considered an amendment if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of the proposal.

→ Therefore, a proposal that would completely change the sense of a previous proposal cannot be an amendment but rather a separate proposal.
Adjournment of debate

• Also known as the “No action motion”;
• Rule 74 [116]:
  “During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under consideration...”

  ➔ Established practice that the motion to adjourn the debate includes the motion to take no action on an item or on draft proposals.
other procedural contingencies

• **Postpone** the consideration of the draft proposal;

• **Suspend the meeting** for a set time to allow for informal consultations;

• Proposer may **withdraw** the draft proposal
after taking action on draft proposals ...

Return to the list of speakers to hear, if any:

- Explanations of vote after the vote/ after adoption (positions of delegations)

- Rights of reply
1. Inclusion of the item in the agenda
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Thank you for listening!

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