

The U.S. Congress Rules of Procedure



Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is:

- (1) to lay out general rules and regulations of the Congress as it will be applicable in IUMUNX;
- (2) to introduce provisions and mechanisms unique to the Congress; and
- (3) to provide information about the structural aspects of the Bill

Section 2. Definitions

In this document:

1. Bill: the term “Bill” refers to the legislative document that will be written, debated on, voted, and approved by the Congress during the timeframe of IUMUNX Conference.
2. Congress: the term “Congress” refers to the collective name of legislative chambers of the United States of America; House of Representatives and Senate.
3. President: the term “President” refers to the President of the United States of America who will be embodied in the personality of the Under-Secretary General.
4. Vice President: the term “Vice President” refers to the Vice President of the United States of America who will be embodied in the personality of the Academic Assistant.
5. Conference Chair: the term “Conference Chair” refers to chairs of chambers of the Congress who are responsible for the determination of legislative agendas and governance of chambers while in session in accordance with the rules of procedure laid out herein. They will be embodied in personalities of Committee Chairs.

Section 3. Rules governing debates

1. Unless stated otherwise, United Nations General Assembly rules governing debates will apply, which especially include:
 - a. Moderated and Unmoderated Debates,
 - b. Points of Information, Personal Privilege, Order and Congressional Inquiry,
 - c. Suspension and Adjournment.
2. Presidential Address:
 - a. At the beginning of the first session and at the end of the last session, President delivers a speech to both chambers convened in Senate room which summarises the mandate and purposes of the Congress, provides comment on Congressional actions taken – if it is not the first session, and answers questions from Congresspeople.
 - b. If deemed necessary, a non-scheduled presidential address can be requested by both chambers; however, a request should be voted by a simple majority first in the chamber that put on the request, then in the other chamber which will be notified through Conference chairs.
3. Party Affiliations and Party Dynamics:
 - a. *Party Groups*: Both parties will form party groups in both chambers. Party groups allow Congresspeople of same party affiliations to unite their endeavours and put on an organised front against rival party group and its members. Party groups may form their separate *select committees* (see section 4.1) and disperse responsibilities amongst its members while preparing a draft bill. In unmoderated debates, party groups may take decisions that would affect the Congress as a whole through a supermajority vote among their members. When offering proposals that can be given only by a party group, the group shall unanimously select a temporary speaker to deliver the proposal to the chamber. Group members who disobey a decision of party group by voting against it three times in the general voting procedure may be expelled from the party group with a supermajority of its members.

- b. *Party Caucuses:* Party Groups of the House of Representatives and Senate may form party caucuses in order to strengthen cross-chamber cooperation of the party in question. These caucuses allow party groups in different chambers to share information with each other and support each other's requests that require the vote of other chamber to pass.
- c. *Elections:*
 - i. *General Elections:* Congresspeople may change their affiliation at general elections which will be held at the end of each two sessions. On a ballot with logos of two parties, Congresspeople shall write their State at the top and mark the party they wish to be affiliated in. Conference Chairs will take each State's political stance into consideration and – if necessary – shall declare the vote that presents unacceptable noncompliance with State's political stance null and void. Votes shall be counted, and party affiliations will be shifted by Conference Chairs without the presence of Congresspeople in the room. The results shall be declared as soon as they are verified by the President. The declaration will be delivered by the Vice President in the Senate room.
 - ii. *Presidential Elections:* At the end of each four sessions, Congresspeople shall vote in a separate ballot the affiliation of the President and the Vice President. Congresspeople shall only mark the party they wish the President and the Vice President to be affiliated in and shall not write their States at the top of the ballot. Votes of both chambers will be counted together. The result shall be declared as soon as they are verified by all Conference Chairs and notified to the Secretary General. The declaration will be delivered by the Secretary General in the Senate room.
- d. *Affiliation of the President and Vice President:*

- iii. Although under the obligation of being equal to each Congressperson, the President may, if he deems necessary, put his discreet or open support to a proposal by a Congressman or party group of same political affiliation. If, in the final vote for the Bill to become law, the bill passed by the Congress is built on a draft bill proposed by his rival party, President may *veto* the bill. For more information on veto and the final vote, please see section 4.
- iv. The Vice President is also the President of the Senate. In cases of a *Senate deadlock*, in which votes against and votes in favour of a proposal that requires simple majority are equal, it is the Vice President who has the power to cast the *tiebreaker vote* to decide whether the proposal in question passes or fails. The affiliation of Vice President will affect his decision to cast the tiebreaker vote in line with the stance of party he is affiliated with on the proposal in question.

4. Congressional Meeting:

- a. In each two sessions, both chambers may request a Congress Meeting, in which Senators and House Representatives may interact and discuss on Congressional matters. Those who are aligned into same parties may form part caucuses during these meetings. Duration of Congress Meetings cannot pass 30 minutes. A decision for Congress Meeting should be voted by a majority (2/3 of Congresspeople present) first in the chamber that put on the request, then in the other chamber which will be notified through Conference chairs.

5. Special Actions of the House of Representatives:

- a. *Congressional Summit*: In cases of Congressional disagreement over contents and amendments of draft bills sent from one chamber to another, a House Representative may request unanimous consent to take the bill in question and

call a summit with the Senate to resolve disagreeing votes of the two chambers. Congressional Summit will be explained in detail at section 4.

- b. *Executive Communication*: House Representatives may, after taking approval within their party groups, call upon the House to send an invitation to the President in order to receive latest information on foreign policy and home affairs from him. The call needs unanimous consent of House Representatives present.

6. Special Actions of the Senate:

a. *Senate Hearing*:

- i. *Investigative Hearing*: The Senate shall, with the discretion of the President, entertain witnesses who will give testimony to the chamber on their areas of specialty. Senators may question, interrogate, and/or accuse witnesses within the timeframe allocated by Conference Chairs. Duration of Investigative Hearings cannot pass 10 minutes.
- ii. *Confirmation Hearing*: The Senate may, with the proposal of the President and a simple majority vote, invite delegates of the United States of America in other committees of IUMUNX. Senators may question, interrogate, and give advice to delegates within the timeframe allocated by Conference Chairs. Duration of Confirmation Hearings cannot pass 10 minutes.

- b. *Allocation of the Federal Budget*: A Senate party group may propose allocation of the federal budget for financing provisions which are included in a draft bill. The provision in question may be originated from the party group of the House and delivered via meetings under the party caucus. Existence of such a need shall be verified by Conference Chairs. The proposal needs a simple majority of Senators present to be put into force. If the provision in question is originated from the House, outcome of the vote shall be notified to the House via Conference Chairs.

Section 4. Rules governing the legislative process

1. Select Committees: Congresspeople, either individually or within their party groups, may form select committees to elaborate on findings of previous debates and formulate provisions that will eventually make their way to draft bills. Select committees may include several Congressmembers and be formed to concern a specific field. Bipartisan select committees may be formed with – if Congressmembers in question are in a party group – the consent of both party groups in the chamber. Formation of a bipartisan select committee shall be notified to the Conference Chairs by a declaration with signatures of each Congressmember included in the committee. Select committees, after their formation, shall function during unmoderated debates which will be proposed by at least 3 members of the committee in question.
2. Provisions: Provisions formulated by select committees shall include:
 - a. The committee’s findings and recommendations;
 - b. A cost estimate of the provision;
 - c. A Senate allocation of federal budget if a provision requires new budget authority;
 - d. A statement of general performance goals and objectives.
3. Draft Bill:
 - a. A draft bill may be formed either in the House or in the Senate. A draft bill cannot include any content that have not been proposed at previous debates and have not been turned into a provision in select committees. Format of draft bills shall be in line with the regular bill format of the Congress. A sample bill is provided at the end of this document.
 - b. A draft bill shall pass the chamber of origin with a roll-call vote that requires a simple majority.
 - c. A draft bill passed by the chamber of origin shall be sent to the other chamber for possible amendment. Amendment process shall be held within 40 minutes; 10 minutes of which shall be moderated. After 40 minutes, the draft bill in its amended form shall be voted with a roll-call vote that requires a simple majority.

- d. If the draft bill passes, it shall be sent to the House of Representatives once again. If the draft bill was amended in the Senate, the House shall call the Congressional Summit to resolve differences. If the draft bill was amended in the House, the House shall insist on its amendments and call the Congressional Summit to defend their amendments in front of the Congress.
4. Congressional Summit:
- a. As soon as a draft bill is amended and passed, a House Representative may invoke the right to call upon the Congressional summit as provided in Section 3.5/a.
 - b. If the House passes the call for Congressional Summit unanimously, Senate shall be informed via Vice President and shall vote upon whether to accept the call. A simple majority is required to accept the call for Congressional Summit.
 - c. The Congressional Summit takes place in the Senate room.
 - d. Right before convening in the Senate room, each chamber shall designate its speakers. Speakers of the House of Representatives shall reflect the ratio of majority party and minority party. The number of Speakers shall be determined by Conference Chairs. Speakers of the Senate shall include equal Senators from each political party. The number of Speakers shall be determined by Conference Chairs.
 - e. In the summit, all Congresspeople shall be present, and Speakers of each chamber shall deliver their arguments and rebuttals under the moderation of the President. The summit shall be held and completed within the timeframe of 40 minutes. At the end of the debate, speakers of both sides shall have one collective vote to pass or reject the draft bill in question. If a deadlock emerges, the President may – if he deems necessary – call a popular vote to help determine the outcome. If he deems unnecessary, the President may decide on the outcome with his discretionary powers as well.
5. Adoption of a Bill:
- a. If the draft bill that was debated upon in the Congressional Summit passes, this final draft shall be voted in both chambers with a roll-call vote requiring

simple majority in the House of Representatives and a special majority of 3/5 in the Senate.

- b. A draft bill that passes both chambers gets renamed into **An Act**.
 - c. Right after the adoption of the Act, a snap Presidential election shall be held to decide upon the affiliation of the President and the Vice President.
 - d. If, at the end of the election, the President and the Vice President's party affiliation turns out to be opposite of the party that sponsored the Act most rigorously, the Act may face veto action from the President.
6. The Overriding of Presidential Veto: A Presidential veto may be bypassed by the Congress with roll-call votes that require supermajority in each chamber.

Section 5. Discretionary powers of the President

All rights of the President to add, alter, or revoke rules are reserved.

Appendix. A Sample Act: Explanation of the bill format shall also be delivered by the President in the third day of the Conference.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7132/text?s=4&r=32>