

Motions

A motion is used in committee when a delegate wants to have an action passed that affects the entire committee. Like the name suggests, "motion," as in "moving," means that you are "moving" towards an action (this may help you remember).

Motion to Open the Speakers List

- **Context:** This motion is used when a delegate wants to start a new speakers list; the chair will then call on delegates who want to be added to the list.
 - **When:** This is used at the beginning of the conference when a speakers list has to be opened to set the agenda; it is also used to create a new speakers list after the agenda has been set (and for every new topic up for discussion thereafter).

Motion to Set the Agenda

- **Context:** This is used to set the order in which the topics will be debated; there will be two speakers for and two speakers against the motion.
 - **When:** The motion is used after there has been sufficient debate upon which of the topics on the agenda is more important and will be entertained at the discretion of the chair.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus

- **Context:** This motion is employed when one wants to start a moderated caucus.
 - **When:** A moderated caucus can be called for anytime during organized debate (when the chair asks if there are any points or motions on the floor), or after a previous caucus is finished.
 - **Comment:** When a delegate calls for a moderated caucus, they also must specify the length of the caucus, the length of each speaking time, and the purpose of the caucus; for example "motion for a ten minute moderated caucus with a thirty second speaking time for the purpose of discussing education within the field of child labor."
 - **Best used for:** A moderated caucus is best used for relatively fast paced discussions about a specific subtopic. It is sometimes used to hear the opinions of many nations in order to focus what the committee will talk about.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

- **Context:** This motion is utilized when one wants to start an unmoderated caucus.
 - **When:** An unmoderated caucus can be called for anytime during organized debate (when the chair asks if there are any points or motions on the floor), or after a previous caucus is finished.

- **Comment:** When a delegate calls for an unmoderated caucus, they also must specify the length of the

caucus.

- **Best used for:** An unmoderated caucus is best used for informal debate. If a delegate wishes to have a discussion with another delegate, or if a delegate wishes to collaborate with others in writing a resolution, then an unmoderated caucus would be appropriate.

Motion for a Right of Reply

- **Context:** If a member of the committee makes a personal attack on another delegate, then the offended delegate is permitted to reply to the delegate. However, if an attack is made on a delegate's position, the delegate does not receive a right of reply, meaning "Country A is stupid..." would deserve a right of reply, while, "Country B's idea of satellites is idiotic..." does not deserve a right of reply.

- **When:** A right of reply is requested directly after the personal attack is made

- **Comment:** The chair makes the ultimate ruling as to whether or not the delegate in question deserves a right of reply.

Motion to Introduce Working Paper/Resolution/Amendment

- **Context:** This motion is used when a delegate wants to introduce (meaning read it to the committee and make it an official document) a working paper/ resolution/amendment.

- **When:** This motion is used after the dais staff has handed out the working paper/resolution/ amendment to the committee.

- **Comment:** When you move to introduce the document, you also must specify the number (ex: motion to introduce resolution 2.3).

Motion to Table the Topic

- **Context:** This motion is used if a delegate wishes to immediately end debate on a topic and move to the next item on the agenda; if this motion is employed, then there will be no vote on the topic or any resolutions introduced on the topic; there will be two speakers for and two speakers against this motion.

- **When:** The motion can be used any time.

Motion to Close the Speakers List

- **Context:** Closing the speakers list means that no more countries will be added to the speakers list; when all the names on the speakers list have been exhausted, then the committee immediately moves into voting procedure.

- **When:** This motion can be used any time during formal debate.

Motion to Close Debate and Move into Voting Procedure

- **Context:** This motion is used if a delegate wants to end debate on a topic and move into voting procedure; there will be two speakers against this motion.
 - **When:** This motion can be used any time (but it will not be taken seriously unless an ample amount of debate on the issue has occurred).

Motion for a Roll Call Vote

- **Context:** During voting procedure, as oppose to raising one's placard to vote, a delegate can motion for a roll call vote, which means that each country will be called on individually to cast its vote.
 - **When:** The motion is used during voting procedure and automatically adopted, with the chair's approval.
 - **Comment:** The ways one can vote during a roll call vote are yes, no, yes with rights, no with rights, abstain, and pass. If a delegate votes yes, it means he/she is in favor of the resolution. If a delegate votes no, it means the delegate is against the resolution. If a delegate abstains, it means he/she does not wish to cast a vote on the resolution. If a delegate votes yes/no with rights, it means the delegate wishes to explain his/her vote. The delegate, upon completion of the roll call vote, will receive a thirty second speech. If a delegate votes yes/no with rights, it usually means that the delegate would like to explain why he/she is voting against their country's position or against what the country was arguing for during debate. If a delegate passes, it means that the delegate is unsure of how to vote, and will be called upon at the end of the roll call vote. Please note that if a delegate passes, he/she cannot vote with rights.

Motion to Divide the Question

- **Context:** This motion is used if a delegate wishes to divide out a portion (certain clauses) of a resolution; each portion of the resolution will then be voted on separately. This requires two speakers for and two speakers against the motion to divide, not the individual divisions.
 - **When:** This motion is used during voting procedure.
 - **Comment:** A delegate would use this motion if the he/she agrees with the majority of a resolution but cannot or will not vote for it because of a certain clause.

Motion to Recess

- **Context:** This motion is used to suspend debate at the end of each committee session.
 - **When:** At the end of each committee session, once the chair says that he/she would take a motion to Recess.

Motion to Adjourn

- **Context:** This motion is used to end the last committee session, ending the conference.
 - **When:** The motion is used at the end of the last committee session, once the chair says that he/she would take a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Question the Competence of the Committee to Discuss...

- **Context:** This motion is used if a delegate believes that a topic either in a resolution or discussed in committee is out of the jurisdiction of charter of that committee. For example, if a resolution on the Commission on the Status of Women had a clause which discussed Iraq's nuclear disarmament, that would merit a motion to question the competence because CSW does not have the ability to disarm Iraq. When someone uses this motion, there will be two speakers for and two speakers against the topic/clauses at hand followed by a vote; if the vote passes, then the topic at hand will be removed from the resolution/discussion.
 - **When:** The motion can be used any time during formal debate.
 - **Comment:** This motion is a very serious motion that drastically changes the course of debate. Accordingly, it should only be used if you and your fellow delegates believe there is a serious problem and the topic of discussion is fully outside the scope of the committee.

Motion to Question the Competence of the Chair

- **Context:** This motion is used if a delegate believes that the chair of the committee is not versed in CHMUN conduct or procedure or if a delegate believes that the chair is doing a poor job in running the committee. If this motion is brought to the floor, the vice chair will determine whether or not the motion is in order; if the vice chair finds the motion in order, he/she will continue the procedural process of questioning the competence of the chair.
 - **When:** The motion can be used any time during formal debate.
 - **Comment:** This motion is very serious and should be considered very carefully before use.