



# **Standardised**

# **THIMUN**

The Official Malaysian Youth  
Association for Diplomacy  
and Policy Malaysian  
THIMUN Rules of Procedure

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## Introduction

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This document can be cited as “M-THIMUN” or “Malaysian-THIMUN”.

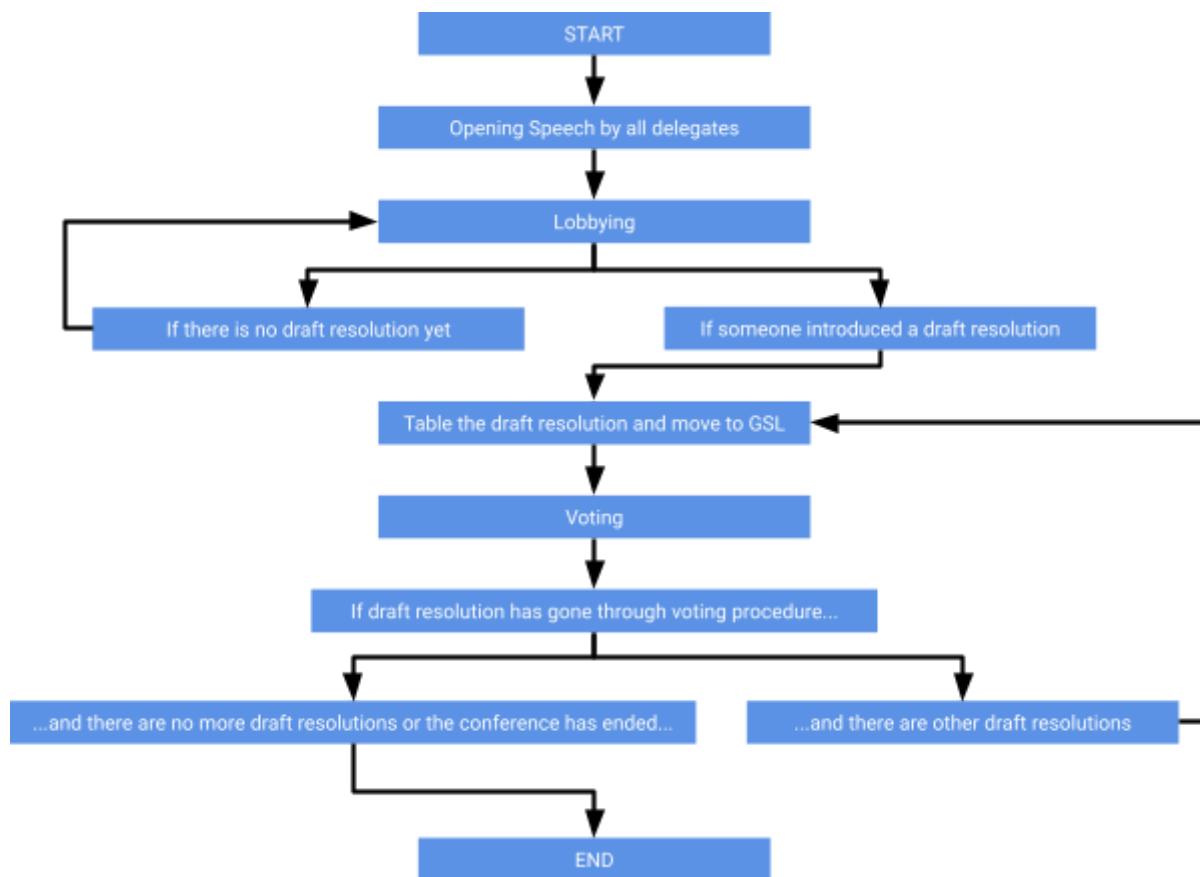
This document, or hereby “The Official Malaysian Youth Association for Diplomacy and Policy (MYADP) Malaysian THIMUN Rules of Procedure” is intended as a document to guide delegates, chairs and interested parties on the official and sanctioned edition of the Malaysian variant of The Hague International MUN (thereby known as THIMUN) Rules of Procedure.

The document is made with the intent to guide future chairs and inform delegates about the rules of procedure of the Malaysian variant of THIMUN, and also simultaneously standardising the procedure as a whole to prevent ambiguity or confusion surrounding the rules of procedure during debate.

MYADP recommends that the Malaysian-THIMUN standard is utilised to its fullest extent possible. However, if any chairs or conferences wishing to utilise a more realistic approach to their council or conference, they can refer to council-specific ROPs instead, which MYADP will publish soon.

The Hague International MUN-ROP system focuses on a delegate’s ability to critically debate on solutions drafted by individuals after the course of a period of free time given to delegates. It uses a structured and utilitarian approach to debate that models an education experience and focuses almost entirely on the amendment of resolutions created during lobbying. Note that THIMUN-ROP favours more on spending more time on the discussion on the content of the draft resolution, of which may result in numerous draft resolutions created, while HMUN-ROP favours more on spending time to discuss potential solutions which would eventually lead to one or two draft resolutions.

In THIMUN-ROP, the flow of the debate can be summarised in the flowchart in the following page:





## Pre-Debate Procedures

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### *“Debate is now in session”*

The chair at their discretion will start the Council and all delegates should be seated and decorum maintained.

## Roll Call

At the beginning of every committee session and after the Motion to open debate, the Dais will hold a rollcall of all present nations. The Chair will call each nation Alphabetically and they will respond with either *“Present”* or *“Present and Voting”*.

Present

Delegates who are *“present”* are permitted to vote **for, against** and **abstain** from voting on all substantive votes.

Present and Voting

Delegates who are *“present and voting”* are only permitted to vote **for** and **against** when voting on all substantive votes - they are not permitted to **abstain**.

For any delegates arriving after the roll call has concluded, they shall send a note in writing, or any other measures deemed convenient by the chair, to state their presence in the debate. If delegates do not do so, they will not be formally recognised to be present in the debate.



## Flow of Debate

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### Opening Speeches

The Opening Speeches are the first opportunity for delegates to make speeches, the speeches will usually be short and bring a brief statement of the Delegate's position on the issue and future solutions. Delegates will be added to the **Opening Speeches** by the chair and they will call them alphabetically, all delegates must speak. Once called, the Delegate will be able to speak for a set period of time (of a period between 60 to 120 Seconds at the discretion of the Chair). Once finished, the chair will ask the delegate "how do you wish to yield?", to which the delegate should respond with "back to the chair" as POIs are not permitted.

Note that during the course of the Opening Speeches, any motions will not be permitted.

### Lobbying

Lobbying will likely take up the bulk of the opening of the Conference, an estimation of time spent lobbying will be between 5 and 8 hours however this can change depending on how fast delegates are at writing resolutions. The purpose of Lobbying is to build blocs and write resolutions, usually multiple, to tackle both issues. Delegates will tend to form small working groups to work on whichever issue they choose to tackle first. The idea behind Lobbying is it allows delegates to interact in a non-structured format - delegates are permitted to walk around and speak freely - and can freely work.

### Draft Resolutions

Draft resolutions should be seen as the final goal of the committee. It should contain the actions that the council will take in order to combat the issue at hand. A draft resolution should have a specific format, with an example and further explanations added in the appendix. In short, it should have preambulatory clauses and operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses serve to set the premise and recognise the past work done in regards



to the issue, whereas operative clauses are actions that the committee would take in regards to the issue.

A draft resolution needs to have a single main submitter and multiple co-submitters. There can only be one main submitter, but an unlimited number of co-submitters. There is a requirement to have at least 3 co-submitters (at the discretion of the chair according to committee size). It is recommended that any and all resolutions go through a review panel where Chairs and administration go through the resolution and vet it according to their standards and communicate with the submitters about any issues that may arise. The Chair will decide which resolution is debated first (usually the first submitted).

## **Introduction of Draft Resolution**

### **Main Submitter Speech**

The main submitter of the resolution will approach the podium and read out all the operative clauses of the resolution. After all operative clauses are read, points of clarification will be entertained. Following this, the Main Submitter is free to make a 120-second speech on the resolution, he will be asked after this how he wishes to yield and he can choose to yield to the chair, to POIs, or to another delegate.

### **Points of Clarification**

Points of Clarification are strictly not questions. They are clarifications on the resolution if there is any wording that cannot be understood or is unclear or any concepts that need further explanation. Delegates should not be asking POIs in any way.

## **General Debate**

Delegates will now enter Open Debate. In this section of debate, delegates are free to debate on the resolution and propose motions, points and amendments freely. Delegates should have 60 to 90 seconds speaking time (at the discretion of the chair) and should be asked after the finish how they wish to yield. All delegates are permitted to yield to the chair, to POIs or to another delegate. When indicated by the Chair, any delegates who wish to speak should raise their placard and the chair will pick according to their discretion. There is no speakers



list in THIMUN Open debate and each new speaker is picked immediately after the last one by the Chair.

## Documents

### Amendments

Amendments serve to change operative clauses in the draft resolution after it has been introduced. In general, amendments can be to add, strike, or amend a clause. Adding a clause means that there is a completely new clause or sub-clause being added into the draft resolution; amending a clause means that a clause that is currently in the resolution would be changed; striking a clause means that a clause that is currently in the resolution would be removed.

There are two types of amendments.

#### 1. Friendly Amendments

These amendments are agreed upon by the sponsors and signatories and require no votes to pass. As long as there is a unanimous decision from the submitters, the amendment passes immediately. The Chair should be notified of the friendly amendment so they can inform the council of the change.

#### 2. Unfriendly Amendments

The procedure for unfriendly amendments is more complicated. Anyone can submit unfriendly amendments by sending them to the Dias. There is no minimum number of delegates required to submit an amendment, and neither is there a maximum. A delegate can also submit more than one amendment. After the Dias approves the amendment, delegates that wrote the amendment can call for a motion to introduce the amendment when picked on in Open debate, they should say something along the lines of “this delegate believes they have submitted an amendment” (If a delegate has submitted more than one they can choose which one to debate first).

The council will then move into debate time for the amendment. The chairs will then set a closed debate time for the amendment. Chairs will set a certain time to speak for



the amendment, where you can persuade other delegates to support your amendment; chairs will also set a certain time to speak against the amendment, where other delegates can persuade other delegates to oppose your amendment. The submitter of the amendment is traditionally the first one to speak however this is not a hard and fast rule. During time against, you are allowed to introduce amendments to the second degree. Amendments to the second degree are amendments to amend an amendment. The way it is introduced and debated on is exactly the same as how a normal amendment is submitted. After debate time for an amendment has elapsed, delegates will move into voting procedure for that certain amendment. If it is passed, the resolution will be amended accordingly, if not, no changes will be made. Delegates can quicken this process using the “motion to move into the previous question” motion, which requires no objections. If passed, it oxymoronically moves to the next stage of debate ie. if motioned for in the “for” phase of an amendment, it will move time to the “against” phase and if motioned for in the “against” phase of an amendment, it will move into voting procedure.

## **Voting**

All motions are passed Procedurally (ie. through a simple majority with no abstentions).

Once the time for amendment debate has elapsed, the chair will move into voting procedure. Delegates can also force this by making a “motion to move into the previous question” which requires seconds and no objections (at the chair’s discretion). The Chair should vote on the amendment to the second degree first, if it passes, the original amendment is changed accordingly, if it fails, the amendment will stay as it is. The final amendment (with all amendments to the second degree having either passed or failed) should be voted on with for or against (or abstentions depending on roll call answer), if it passes, the resolution will be changed accordingly, if not, time will revert back to open debate.

At any point during debate on a resolution (ie. Once a resolution has been introduced and some debate has been conducted), a delegate may wish to pass the resolution. This delegate should motion to “*vote on the resolution as a whole*”. The Chair will then gauge support with seconds and objections, it is up to the chair’s discretion whether they will allow this. This vote



will pass by a simple majority of  $\frac{1}{2}$  and following this, the resolution will no longer be able to be debated on - in this vote delegates may vote for or against (or abstain depending on their roll call answer). Keep in mind that this vote should only be moved for once an appropriate amount of debate is entertained, including amendments, whilst it is possible and permitted for this vote to be conducted immediately, it would be inadvisable as the resolution would not be criticised and amended. If this vote fails, the time will revert to the and the debate will continue. If the vote passes, the Chair is recommended to call for an unmoderated caucus or suspend debate to allow delegates to prepare themselves for the next topic. Following this, the council will revert to the next resolution and the process repeats itself.

## **Points**

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Delegates please take note that all of these points cannot be used when a delegate is delivering his/her speech unless it is a point of personal privilege or a right to reply).

### **Point of clarification**

This point is only raised after the main submitter of a resolution has finished their opening speech. Delegates are reminded that points of clarification can only ask for clarification of certain words or certain phrases that delegates do not understand, and must not engage in debate.

### **Point of parliamentary inquiry**

This is used when delegates are confused or unsure with the rule of procedure and wishes to ask for clarification from the Chair.

### **Point of personal privilege**

As the name of the point itself states, this point deals with issues that are interfering or disrupting the delegate's ability to debate such as the temperature of the room or the delegate is unable to hear the delegate speaking. The audibility point is the only point which can interrupt a speaker.



## **Point of order**

Delegates can raise this point if they feel that the Chair or a delegate have made a mistake regarding the rules of procedure.

## **Point of Information (POI)**

A point of information can be entertained after any speech, unless the delegate who delivered the speech does not yield to any points of information. Points of information are raised to ask about certain aspects and details regarding the speech that the delegate made. If the delegate that asked the POI felt that the response wasn't thorough enough, they may request for a follow up to ask the delegate another question (Delegates should ask through the Chair). Delegates to be reminded that they can only have one follow up after every POI they raised. If any delegate wants to ask a question just now but has missed the opportunity, they may request a motion to increase the number of POIs. The motion will pass depending if a simple majority vote succeeds in which case the Chair would ask for all those wishing to speak.

## **Right to reply**

If a delegate feels that another delegate has personally insulted his/her country, they will be given the right to reply where delegates can respond to the speech in which he/she felt insulted in. Delegates are to produce a brief justification before the Chair decides to entertain the right.



## **Motions**

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Delegates please take note that all of these points cannot be used when a delegate is delivering his/her speech and can only be brought up when the Chair asks.

### **Motion to suspend/adjourn debate**

This motion is usually done at the end of the day or before a break. The suspension of debate pauses debate temporarily for a break however the adjournment of debate stops it indefinitely, to be done at the end of the conference.

### **Motion to resume debate**

Raised when delegates wish to return to formal debate when they return from break, lunch or at the start of the committee session on the second and third day of the conference.

### **This delegate believes they have submitted an amendment**

Whilst not strictly a motion, this is said when a delegate wishes for their amendment to be debated, see the section on amendments.

### **Motion to move to the previous question**

Used when delegates wish to conduct a vote on any or amendment that has been introduced in order to pass it when in against time. Please refer to the resolution voting section. The motion to move into the previous question can also be used if delegates wish to jump to the 'against' section of amendment debate, it should have no objections.



## **Motion to move to vote on the resolution as a whole**

Used when delegates wish to conduct a vote on any draft resolution that has been introduced in order to pass it. Please refer to the resolution voting section.

## **Motion to vote clause-by-clause (or divide the question)**

This motion should be done after moving into voting procedure, if it passes through procedural vote, the resolution would be voted on in order, with individual votes on each clause. If any clause fails to receive the majority vote, it would be removed from the resolution. After all clauses are voted on, the whole resolution is voted on in complete (without the clauses that had already been struck) and passed or failed as usual.

## **Motion to divide the house**

Done after a vote where, if all abstainers were to vote for one side or another, the outcome of the vote would change. Ie. If there were 5 votes *for* and 4 votes *against* and 2 votes abstaining. This would force the house (if passing procedurally) to waive the right to abstain and the vote would occur again but with no abstentions (forcing all delegates to vote either for or against).

## **Motion for a roll-call vote**

This motion is not usually used by delegates and is usually invoked at the discretion of the chair only. However, delegates can motion for each vote to be tallied individually going down the roll-call. As in, the chair would read out a Country and that country would indicate for or against, and so on.



## **General rules**

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- I. English is the recommended official working language for MUN debates
- II. Each member nation will be represented by one or two delegates (joint delegation) and should be pre decided before the Conference.
- III. Each member nation has one vote.
- IV. Delegates should always refer to themselves, the chairs and other delegates in the third person during formal committee sessions (Ex: This delegate, the delegate of Sweden etc.)
- V. For delegates whose countries are given observer status at the UN, delegates are given the same rights as full members. The only exception, however, is that they are not allowed to vote.
- VI. Always strive to be respectful, diplomatic and cooperative with other members of the committee, your chairs, admin staff and all other individuals who are within your committee.
- VII. Be reminded that you are a diplomat serving the highest honour of your country, representing both its foreign policy and its people.
- VIII. The use of technology during committee sessions is determined through chairs' discretion.
- IX. The chair is the ultimate arbiter of the debate, any issues are decided finally by the Chair and their decision is always final generally unless Secretariat are involved.
- X. The chair can, at any time, intervene by asking a POI (through the deus/dais) to the delegate speaking, delegates do not have the right to deny the chair this right.
- XI. The chair can, at any time, intervene and speak at any point regardless of any current situation and the delegate must cease speaking.





## Appendix

### Draft Resolution Format

Council: [Full name of council; unabbreviated]

Agenda: [Title of the council's agenda that this draft resolution is regarding]

Main Submitter: [Full names of country]

Co Submitters: [Full names of countries in alphabetical order, separated by a comma]

The [council name],

Preambulatory Clauses

*Preambulatory phrase* has to be italicised, and each clause ends with a comma

Operative Clauses

Operative phrases have to be underlined, and each clause ends with a semicolon. If there is an introduction of a sub-clause, it has to begin with a colon. The last operative clause ends with a full stop. There should only be one full stop in the entire draft resolution. These also have to be numbered.

### Example

Council: United Nations Security Council

Agenda: The Question of Intervention in the Rohingya Crisis

Main Submitter: Federal Republic of Germany

Co Submitters: The Dominican Republic, United States of America

The United Nations Security Council,

*Noting* the urgent need for relocation or repatriation of refugees from refugee-rich regions such as Bangladesh,

*Recalling* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, passed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the subsequent 1967 Protocol, which defines a refugee accordingly,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Myanmar;
2. Stresses that humanitarian access remains insufficient to adequately cover the growing needs of these vulnerable communities given:
  - a. A rapid growth in economically vulnerable communities either directly or indirectly by conflict and instability within the region,



- b. Current shortfall of aid workers and humanitarian agencies capable or willing to work in the haphazard conditions of the Rakhine,
- c. The continued and strict restrictions the Government of Myanmar has placed on the number of organizations allowed to operate within The Rakhine and the areas in which they are allowed to operate,
- d. Disruption of existing aid efforts by the ongoing conflict between military forces carrying out anti-militia operations or raids by the Arakan Army;

3. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.