BUCHAREST MODEL NATO CONFERENCE

14th EDITION

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Foreword

By the rules expressed below, you ought to embark in a rich, maturing experience through Model NATO. For it, your rationality must succumb to all emotions in order to complete the journey we all embarked on. I shall now thank and applaud the actions taken by the reader in order to enlarge their perspective about the world we find ourselves in. May this conference awaken your interest in politics and diplomacy and, furthermore, guide you in these domains.

On behalf of the Secretariat and the Executive Board,

H.E. Luca Ghencea,
The President of the Councils

Chapter I
Committees and Councils within the Conference

The rules stated in the Rules of Procedure are to be applied to:

I. North Atlantic Council (NAC)
II. Crisis Council (CC)
III. Military & Aviation Committee (MAC)
IV. Resilience Committee (RC)

Specific rules and requirements are to be respected regardless of the general provisions, if such specific measures exist.

Chapter II
Presidents, Executive Officials, and Chairpersons

Chapter II. I – The President of the Councils: The President is the person presiding over the Councils, Committees, and Boards as a whole.

Article II. I. 1 They hold full power of decision over the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure and Treaty.

Article II. I. 2 They may appoint any Executive Official to temporarily represent the Presidency with full power.

Article II. I. 3 All Chairpersons are to report to them.

Chapter II. II - The General Manager: The General Manager is the person in charge of all organizational matters.

Article II. II. 1 The General Manager may overrule the President of the Councils and

Article II. II. 2 All Executive Officials, unless otherwise declared, are to report to them.

Article II. II. 3 They can appoint any other Manager to act on their behalf.

Chapter II. III - Other Officials: Are to be presented in an official Communique on either of the formal platforms of the Bucharest Model NATO Forum. The full chain of command of the Executive Board is internal and will not be addressed in the Rules of Procedure.

Chapter II. IV - Chairpersons: A chairperson is the person presiding over one of the Councils, Committees or Boards.

Article II. IV. 1 A Chairperson has the duty to moderate the debate in order to reach coherent and substantial documents.

Article II. IV. 2 A Chairperson has the power to rule over points and motions, take proceedings to moderate the discussion, in accordance with these rules.

Article II. IV. 3 Any decision of a Chairperson can be overruled by the President.

Article II. IV. 4 If a situation yields a Chairperson outside the scope of the Rules of Procedure, it is their responsibility to call upon the President to decide on the matter. The decision is final and must be respected.

Article II. IV. 5 Chairpersons have the power to stray away from the Rules of Procedure with the pre-approval of the President.

Chapter II. V - Staff members: Staff and Volunteers are to report directly to the Chief of Staff. Staff may not leave their assigned room without an adequate replacement and without approval from the Chief of Staff.

Chapter III
Representative

Chapter III.I – Credentials

Article III. I. 1 Credentials shall be distributed at the beginning of the conference to all Representatives.

Article III. I. 2 After the Opening Ceremony, access to the venue will be permitted exclusively upon proof of possession of appropriate credentials.

Article III. I. 3 Credentials ought to be worn above the waist, enabling visibility, during the conference.

Article III. I. 4 The loss or damage of credentials is to be promptly reported to staff members.

Chapter III.II – Dress Code

Article III. II. 1 During the formal conference sessions at the venue, all Representatives are expected to use formal business attire, including a mandatory collared top.

Article III. II. 2 Casual attire is strongly looked down upon and The Bucharest Model NATO Conference reserves its right to act appropriately upon violations of the dress code.

Chapter III.III – Official Language

Article III. III. 1 The official language of the conference is English.

Article III. III. 2 The use of an academic register of language during formal conference sessions is mandatory.

Article III. III. 3 All Representatives are expected to engage in speech with diplomatic courtesy.

Article III. III. 4 All documents pertaining to the Conference produced by Representatives, including the Communiqués, are expected to correctly and thoroughly follow the grammatical and orthographic convention of English.

Chapter III.IV – Addressing the House

Article III. IV. 1 When addressing the House, all Representatives are expected to do so with diplomatic courtesy and respect.

Article III. IV. 2 All Representatives ought to address members of the House using the correct, preestablished titles.

Article III. IV. 3 Representatives must await recognition from the Chairpersons before taking the Floor.

Article III. IV. 4 The use of First-person singular pronouns and Second-person pronouns ***is strictly prohibited***. Disrespect of this procedural requirement shall be managed by the Chairpersons of the respective committee as appropriate.

Chapter III.V – The Floor and Speeches

Article III. V. 1 Representatives are to remain standing while speaking and receiving answers.

Article III. V. 2 There shall be no dialogue between Representatives on the floor. The only way in which Representatives can communicate directly is by using official notepapers. See

Chapter III.VII for rules on submitting notepapers.

Article III. V. 3 If a Representative wants to raise a point or motion, or wants to be recognized to take the floor after a Chairperson indicates the floor is open for speeches, they may indicate so by raising their placard.

Article III. V. 4 The Chairperson may, in the interest of the debate, or in order to work towards a consensus, call upon a particular delegation to speak, even if they have not requested the floor.

Article III. V. 5 The Chairperson can restrict the speaking time of a Representative.

Article III. V. 6 All speeches must be related to the matter under discussion.

Article III. V. 7 Representatives are required to yield the floor back to the Chairpersons when being requested to do so.

Chapter III.VI – General Rights and Duties

Article III. VI. 1 All Representatives have the right to respectful interactions, as well as the duty to conduct themselves respectfully towards all fellow Representatives and members of the staff and press.

Article III. VI. 2 In the case of sound reason, Representatives are permitted to withdraw from attending the conference. All absences or delays must be announced to the staff in due time.

Article III. VI. 3 All Representatives are required to be well-informed of the subject matter as well as the policies of their country, and ought to participate in formal conference sessions.

Article III VI. 4 All Representatives shall be held accountable in instances in which they cause harm to another individual or to the venue. The Bucharest Model NATO Conference reserves its rights to address such instances accordingly.

Chapter III.VII – Rules Governing the Submission of Documents

Article III. VII. 1 Notepapers, working papers, and amendments shall be submitted via email, or any other predetermined channel, to the Rapporteur. It is the duty of the Rapporteur to then redistribute notepapers and present the working papers and amendments to the Chairpersons.

Article III. VII. 2 Notepapers will be determined valid only if they are adequate, in accordance with Chapter IV.III on Official Language, and if they present the name of the sending and receiving country.

Article III. VII. 3 Working papers will be deemed valid only if they have at least five

signatories, three co-submitters, and one main-submitter. No Representative shall hold two distinct functions and no country shall sign or submit more than one working paper. See Annex 'A' for a model of each document.

Article III. VII. 4 If a working paper is approved, it will be introduced as a draft document. The discussion of draft documents is in order of co-submitters. The flow of debate proceeds in accordance with Chapter III on the Flow of Debate. Chairpersons can choose to discuss only a set number of draft documents if time constraints exist.

Article III. VII. 5 Amendments will be deemed valid only if they include the name of the country, the nature of the amendment, and the degree of friendliness.

Chapter III.VIII – Plagiarism

Article III. VIII. 1 Plagiarism is strictly prohibited throughout the conference, in any form it may take.

Article III. VIII. 2 Plagiarism is considered theft of intellectual property and appropriate measures, including expulsion, will be taken if such violations occur.

Article III. VIII. 3 All Representatives have the obligation to cite respective sources of information.

Article III. VIII. 4 No Representative may claim the work of another individual or institution as their own and are obligated to give due credit.

Chapter IV
Points and Motions

Chapter IV.I - Points

Regarding the general procedure of addressing certain points throughout the committee session, the conference attendees must:

a) bear in mind that all points, with the exception of the Point of Personal Privilege, should not, by any means, interrupt the speaker who has the floor,
b) be aware of the fact that all points, except for the Point of Information, should be directly addressed to the Chairpersons of the Board or to the President,
c) take account of the fact that the points do not require any voting procedure whatsoever.

Article IV.I.1. Point of Personal Privilege:

a) is used in order to bring to the attention of the Chair/President an urgent matter of personal comfort or well-being of the Representative,
b) may interrupt the speaker under the aforementioned circumstances.

Article IV.I.2. Point of Information:

a) is used in order to address a question to the speaker, related to their speech,
b) brief introductory or explanatory statements are allowed,
c) must be stated as a question,
d) granted by the Chair/President with the prior accord of the speaker in question.

Article IV.I.3. Point of Order:

a) is used with the purpose of underlying a breach of the Rules of Procedure either by Representatives or by the Chair/President.

Article IV.I.4. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:

a) is used with the aim of asking the chairs for information related to any procedural matters.

Chapter IV.II. - Motions

Regarding the general procedure of raising certain motions throughout the committee session, the conference attendees must:

a) bear in mind that, unless stated otherwise, any motion should be seconded at least twice and not objected in order to pass,
b) be aware of the fact that if there is any objection to the motion being raised, the Representative in question should expose the basis for their decision; if the Chair or President considers the reason for objecting to be self-explanatory, the clarification of the Representative will not be compulsory; conversely, if there is a sound parliamentary reason for overruling any motion, the Chair or president is rightfully entitled to act accordingly.
c) Representatives should propose motions by raising their placards.

Article IV.II.1. Motion to Go into Q&A Session:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to enter a Questions & Answers session directly addressed to the speaker holding the floor. The Q&A session accounts for a dialogue between the speaker in question and the Representatives who expressed their wish to join the session,
b) should be entertained with the prior consensus of the speaker,
c) the question limit will be set by the chairpersons after its approval,
d) if objected, it requires a simple majority to pass.

Article IV.II.2. Motion to Move Directly into Voting Procedure:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to vote upon the Amendment/Resolution, b) fails if objected.

Article IV.II.3. Motion to Adopt the Amendment by Acclamation:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to pass an amendment without proceeding with the entire General Debate,
b) fails if objected.

Article IV.II.4. Motion to Table the Amendment:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to end the General Debate on the amendment by

automatically declaring it failed,
b) fails if objected.

Article IV.II.5. Right of Reply:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes the speaker to apologize in front of them for statements that blatantly and severely offend or denigrate the Representative's country,
b) the accused Representative is allowed a time to reflect,
c) is not seconded or objected,
d) requires the permission of the Chair or President in order to be entertained.

Article IV.II.6. Request for a Follow-up:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to obtain the approval of the Chair or President to address another question to the speaker,
b) strictly one Follow-up per Point of Information should be granted,
c) is not seconded or objected,
d) requires the permission of the Chair or President in order to be entertained.

Article IV.II.7. Motion for a Moderated Caucus:

a) is proposed if a Representative wishes to enter a form of informal, but moderated debate on a specific matter in regards to the Agenda item that is being discussed,
b) the speakers' list is set aside,
c) the proposal shall specify the topic, total duration, and individual speaking time for the motion,
d) it requires a second and a simple majority in order to pass.

Article IV.II.8. Motion to Extend/Elapse the Moderated Caucus:

a) can be proposed if a Representative wishes to extend or completely elapse the moderated caucus,
b) in case of extension, the time proposed must be shorter than the original time,
c) requires a second,
d) fails if objected.

Article IV.II.9. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus (Lobbying time):

a) is enacted by the Chairpersons if it is decided that Representatives should write on working papers or amendments, or if the Chairpersons want to have a Representative approach their desk,
b) is proposed if a Representative wishes to move and act freely in the committee room, as to talk to other Representatives directly or to work on documents to be submitted,
c) when stating the motion, it requires a set duration and an adequate explanation for its need,
d) is not seconded or objected,
e) requires the permission of the Chair or President in order to be entertained.

Article IV.II.10. Motion to Extend/Elapse the time of an Unmoderated Caucus:

a) can be proposed by a Representative who wishes to extend, or completely elapse, the time of an unmoderated caucus,
b) requires the approval of the Chairpersons or President in order to pass,
c) in the case of an extension, the time settled upon must be shorter than the original time of the caucus,
d) fails if objected.

Article IV.II.11. Motion for a Home Government Caucus:

a) is enacted when a Representative proposes military intervention or aid in any of the committees,
b) is enacted when a Representative wishes to give a directive in the Crisis Council, c) is not seconded or objected,
d) a member of the Home Government shall exit the committee room and give a decision on whether the action is approved or not, followed by a short explanation on the decision made,
e) the Representative in question shall act in accordance with the decision made by the Home Government,
f) when re-entering the committee room, the Home Government representative shall summarize the caucus.

Article IV.II.12. Motion to Adjourn the Session:

a) suspends all Committee's work until the next scheduled session and is usually used for coffee breaks, lunch breaks, or the end of a conference day,
b) the Motion may be ruled out of order by the Chairpersons or President,
c) cannot be seconded or objected,
d) requires the approval of the Chairpersons or President in order to pass.

Chapter V
Documents

Chapter V. I – Communiqué, Fact Sheet, Pledge:

Article V. I. 1: This type of document is non-binding and has the purpose of summarizing the position of the alliance on the topic at hand, thereby informing the public.

Article V. I. 2: These documents are not to be formatted by Representatives. If appropriate, they will be drafted by the Secretariat.

Chapter V. II – Treaty:

Article V. II. 1: The Treaty accounts for a binding document between two or more parties. It

functions just as any international Treaty, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations (1986) and the constitutional works of every member state.

Article V. II. 2: It requires the signature of any party involved. The signature of the President of the Councils shall be held as binding for the whole North Atlantic Organization if need be.

Chapter V. III – Internal Action Plan:

Article V. III. 1: The Internal Action Plan represents a document detailing all provisions that will be taken by members and the organization to contain a threat or prevent it altogether. This document is internal as it is not released to the public.

Article V. III. 2: A Fact Sheet, Communiqué or Declaration is drafted separately and vaguely summarizes the steps that were agreed, with the purpose of informing the general public.

Chapter V. III – On final versions of documents:

Article V. III. 1: All final communiqués, with the exception of the Crisis Council Action Plan, have to be approved by the North Atlantic Council. They are to be voted upon, in accordance with the Consensus Rule, in the Open Session of the North Atlantic Council. The document presented in the North Atlantic Council Open Session will be in English, having adequate grammar and coherent ideas presented in Operative Clauses.

Article V. III. 2: Communiqués may be translated in other languages with prior approval from the President.

Article V. III. 3: The Council shall be bindingly represented by the signature of the presiding President after consensus is reached. Treaties cannot include other countries if not approved and signed by the appropriate government official empowered by the respective state to act as such.

Chapter VI
Amendments

Chapter VI. I - General Acknowledgements

Article VI. I. 1 Amendments can change, strike, or add onto all non-preambulatory parts of a draft document.

Article VI. I. 2 Amendments shall be submitted by email. See Chapter III.VII on the Rules Governing the Submission of Documents for more details.

Article VI. I. 3 The order of discussion of amendments is determined by the level of disruptiveness. Most disruptive amendments are discussed first and least disruptive last.

Article VI. I. 4 The Representative who submits the amendment is required to hold a speech in which he reads it out loud and offers an explanation of the proposal.

Chapter VI. II - Friendly and Unfriendly Amendments

Article VI. II. 1 A friendly amendment is one that changes grammatical and orthographic errors. It is automatically introduced.

Article VI. II. 2 All amendments that are not friendly are classified as unfriendly. Unfriendly amendments are to be voted upon in accordance with the Consensus Rule. See Chapter VIII on Voting.

Article VI. II. 3 The friendliness of amendments is decided by the Chairpersons.

Chapter VI. III - Secondary Degree Amendments

Article VI. III. 1 Secondary degree amendments are amendments to amendments.

Article VI. III. 2 If a secondary degree amendment is passed, the original amendment, or the first-degree amendment, also passes.

Article VI. III. 3 If a secondary degree amendment fails, and there are no more secondary degree amendments to be discussed, the debate shifts to the unchanged first-degree amendment.

Chapter VII
Voting

Chapter VII. I - Substantial Voting (The Consensus Rule): on amendments and draft documents;

Article VII. I. 1 A vote of silence shall be the main way of agreement upon a clause, amendment, communiqué, or action plan.

Article VII. I. 2 There is no 'formal' voting process or quorum.

Article VII. I. 3 The chairpersons of a committee will entertain a short lobbying time before making a decision. When the time elapses, if any objections are raised, amendments shall be introduced or the clause shall fail altogether. If the council reaches silence, the subject of the decision passes. See Chapter VIII on the General Flow of Debate for a visualization of the mechanics of the Consensus Rule.

Chapter VII. II - Procedural Voting: on all matters that are not substantial;

Article VII. II. 1 Delegations physically present may not abstain on procedural votes.

Article VII. II. 2 Generally, a simple majority is required for a non-substantial matter to pass. There are cases where a two-thirds majority is required. See Chapter IV on Points and Motions for more details.

Chapter VIII
General Flow of Debate

Chapter VIII.I – Regular Committees:

1. General Debate on the topic,
2. Lobbying time,

3. Draft to Approval panel,
4. Introduction of draft document (Repeat until left with no draft documents; second document discussion can be skipped if time constraints exist),
    a. General Debate on it as a whole,
        i. Introduction of unfriendly amendments (Repeat until left with either no time or no amendments),
            1. General debate on first-degree amendments,
            2. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed without objections),
            3. Introduction of friendly amendments,
            4. Consensus vote,
                a. If silence is reached, the first-degree amendment passes,
                b. If objection arises, secondary-degree amendment (picked in order of biggest impact) is introduced,
                    i. General debate on the amendment,
                    ii. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed if without objections),
                    iii. Introduction of friendly amendments,
                    iv. Consensus vote,
                        1. If secondary-degree passes, the first-degree amendment passes,
                        2. If secondary-degree fails, the first-degree amendment is discussed further, and the cycle goes back to "general debate on first-degree amendment",
        ii. Introduction of friendly amendments (including a reordering of clauses), b. Consensus vote on the Draft as a whole (in theory this should be merely procedural, no objections should exist at this point)
5. Discussion of the final document by the North Atlantic Council in the Open Session;

Chapter VIII. II – Crisis Council (CC):

1. General Debate on the topic,
2. Lobbying time,
3. Introduction of clauses (Repeat until left with no time),
    a. General debate,
    b. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed without objections),
    c. Introduction of friendly amendments,
    d. Consensus vote,
        i. If silence is reached, the clause passes,
        ii. If objection arises, first-degree amendment (picked in order of biggest impact) is introduced,
            1. General debate on the amendment,
            2. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed if without

objections),
3. Introduction of friendly amendments,
4. Consensus vote,
a. If silence is reached, the first-degree amendment passes,
b. If objection arises, secondary-degree amendment (picked in order of biggest impact) is introduced,
i. General debate on the amendment,
ii. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed if without objections),
iii. Introduction of friendly amendments,
iv. Consensus vote,
1. If secondary-degree passes, first-degree amendment passes,
2. If secondary-degree fails, first-degree amendment is discussed further, and the cycle goes back to "general debate on first-degree amendment",

4. First-degree unfriendly amendments (in the case of now irrelevant clauses or changes needing to be enacted due to updates) and friendly amendment of clauses.

Chapter VIII. III – North Atlantic Council (NAC):

Article VIII. III. 1 regarding the Closed Session of the NAC:

1. General Debate on the topic
2. Lobbying time
3. Draft to Approval panel
4. Introduction of Draft Communique/ Draft Action Plan
a. General Debate on it as a whole
i. Discussion of each clause
ii. Introduction of unfriendly amendments (Repeat until left with either no time or no amendments)
1. General debate on first-degree amendments
2. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed without objections)
3. Introduction of friendly amendments
4. Consensus vote
a. If silence is reached, the first-degree amendment passes
b. If objection arises, secondary-degree amendment (picked in order of biggest impact) is introduced
i. General debate on the amendment
ii. 2-5 min lobbying time (can be skipped/elapsed if without objections)
iii. Introduction of friendly amendments

iv. Consensus vote

1. If secondary-degree passes, first-degree amendment passes

2. If secondary-degree fails, first-degree amendment is discussed further, and the cycle goes back to "general debate on first-degree amendment"

iii. Introduction of friendly amendments (including a reordering of clauses)

b. Consensus vote on the Draft as a whole (in theory this should be merely procedural, no objections should exist at this point)

Article VIII.III. 2 regarding the Open Session of the NAC:

1. Document Read (Repeat until all committees have been discussed -Military and Aviation Committee, Resilience Security Committee)
   a. General debate
   b. Friendly amendments from the public and council
   c. Consensus vote
      i. If objected, a strike-out amendment can be submitted orally
         1. If there is an objection, the whole document fails
         2. If silence is reached, a Consensus vote on the new document is taken d. If the document is not a Communiqué, the president signs the document

2. Document Read (Crisis Council, North Atlantic Council).

Chapter IX
Closing Remarks

We extend the opportunity for amendment of these Rules of Procedure. If any changes are made subsequent to the release of this document online, an Annex 'B' will be added, in which all amendments made to this document will be outlined.

Annex A
Document Formatting

Chapter 1: Official Notepaper

"
From: (Insert Delegation, Committee)
To: (Insert Delegation, Committee)

Message:
"

Chapter 2: Amendment Submission

"
From: (Insert Delegation)
Nature: (Change/Strike/Add)
Friendliness: (Friendly/Unfriendly)
Regarding which part: (Clause/Article Number)

Body:
"

Chapter 3: Treaty

Begins with a Preamble, in which the objective of the treaty is stated. Preamble encompasses verbs in the present continuous form.

The body is split into chapters, further broken down into articles. The contents of the articles is not fully standardized, but at least one must be regarding: "General Provisions", standard text that restates basic treaty rights and duties; "Use of Terms", in which specific terms will be defined for further use in other articles; the "Scope" of the treaty; the "Withdrawal" process from the treaty; the "Entry into Force" of the treaty; the "Reservations" of the treaty. The other articles can be on any topic, as long as they are pertaining to the topic and in accordance with the NATO Treaty, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations (1986) and the constitutional works of every member state.

The treaty ends with an eschatocol article, signaled by the phrase "in witness whereof", which states the time and place where it was signed.

Articles are numbered in roman form.

See link for a treaty that exemplifies the procedures above.

Chapter 4: Internal Action Plan

There are no public official NATO Action Plan, they are commonly released in a summarized form - communiqués and fact sheets. Therefore, we will follow the general format of UN resolutions. Please see below a brief explanation. For concrete examples, see this list.

Part 1: Preambulatory clauses - Informative restatements of treaties, previous action plans, and other general acknowledgements. They are sentence-long, starting with a verb in the present continuous tense.

Part 2: Operative clauses - Substantial components; start with a verb from the following list, in the present simple tense. Subclauses (a, b, c, d, etc.) and sub-subclauses (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.) are in order.

For the Crisis Council, the Internal Action Plan is only composed of operative clauses.