



International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



Mexican Chamber of Senators of the H. Congress of the Union

Rules and Procedures

The Mexican Senate is the upper legislative body of the country, along with the Chamber of Deputies, these individuals are in charge of reforming and restructuring the country. Elected to serve 6 years, hundreds of amendments and resolutions have passed through the hands of Senators, with them having the power to dictate policy for the entire presidential term.

Delegates in this special committee will need to learn about creating collateral agreements with multiple parties, as well as knowing how to navigate through debates and votes in order to pass something that is beneficial for the greatest amount of Mexicans.

Your job is to represent your constituents and your party as well as you possibly can, without impeding discourse between aisles; always fostering healthy debate.

The process under which this body presides in is long and complex; in IMMUNS, we will provide a comprehensive guide to the twists and turns a delegate will face when debating on the coveted podium of the Mexican Senate (M.S.)

Notice: The following rules will dictate how the committee is to proceed. Unless otherwise noted standard IMMUNS Parliamentary Procedure shall be assumed.

I. Basic Rules and Terms:

- **Absolute Majority:** (50% + 1) Used for most voting procedures, unless otherwise noted
- **Classified Majority:** (2/3) of the chamber, reserved for reforms on the existing Political Constitution of the United Mexican States
- **Motion to proceed to:** Delegate will say this as they raise a vote for debates and a speakers list (ex. Motion to proceed to an unmoderated debate).

II. Speakers List (S.L.)

This portion of IMMUNS' parliamentary procedure will virtually remain the same, though there are few changes in format.

- After the session is called to order, and before the speaker list made, delegates need to vote on the issue that will be discussed. This means that a Senator will need to make a **Motion to Commence Debate**, after which said individual will state the name of the issue programed to be discussed in IMMUNS 2018. Vote should pass, and the delegate either motions to begin the S.L., or promptly takes their seat.
- After debate officially begins, normal IMMUNS procedure will take over for the introduction and implementation of the S.L.

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- Time will be limited to 2:30 minutes, with only 5 questions/comments being observed. There is no need to state time and questions, they are pre-established.
- 2 other Senators need to ‘second’ the motion just before all delegates vote, they will be listed after the submitter in the list.
- In order to stop a speakers list and move into another procedure, a Senator has to make a motion to end such, with 3 other senators “seconding” such motion. Said list will end with a vote shortly after.

III. The Debate

Due to the fact no party currently holds a working majority in the Mexican Senate, compromise and across the aisle cooperation needs to occur in order for anything to pass. Individual parties cannot go ahead with their own resolution, due to the fact none will get through a vote.

We recommend that the standard **Moderated Debate** takes place in order to foster healthy debate across party lines, senators will try to find common ground in order to find the best possible solution. 2 Senators need to ‘second’ a motion to open a moderated debate, these delegates will go after the Senator who proposed such procedure takes their seat (assuming it passed a vote).

In order to stop a moderated debate, a Senator has to make a motion to end such, while 3 other senators “seconding” such motion. A vote to end said debate will follow accordingly.

Unmoderated Debates will also be observed in the Mexican Senate, serving as an opportunity to form coalitions between parties and ideologies.

IV. Resolution Writing

The Chamber will write a resolution with the standard IMMUNS format, with preambulatory and operative clauses. Typically, the Senate would divide their operative clauses in the following 3 categories:

- Warrant: Order for information from any of the 3 powers of government
 - This one is the least used, and only suits certain topics at hand
- Pronouncement: Action in general interest that will affect social, economic, or political matters.
 - The standard solutions established by the committee will be written here.
- Recommendation: Recommend to States, bodies of government, and agencies actions they can partake in order to improve a specific situation related to debate.
 - After a call to action, the Senate will recommend any part of the government the implementation of similar reforms in their department, state, or jurisdiction.

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V. Voting in the Senate for Final Resolution

Voting procedure in the Mexican Senate is unique in IMMUNS, due to the strict rules tied to such event by Mexican authorities. Delegates will need to motion a speaker list with the purpose of reading the resolution, along with the final opposing arguments (if any). The motion will go through a normal vote, from which the Senator will choose 3 other people to accompany him/her to the podium. They will proceed to read out the entire resolution for as long as they need to, with a maximum time of 5 minutes.

The chair will then call upon 2 delegates that would like to oppose said bill. They will stand up by their desk, and give the reasons as to why they disagree. The Senators proposing the resolution will have a chance to make a rebuttal, one at a time. No questions or comments will be observed after that. All Senators will take their seats; a motion to vote for the Final Resolution will now be in order.

VI. Voting Procedure for Final Resolution

After a vote to proceed to the final vote, a voting urn will be introduced. The chairs will read out the names of Senators in alphabetical order, each will write either Yes, No, or Abstention, in a paper provided to them, and insert it into the urn. Once all votes are placed in, the President of the Senate will place his/her own vote. He/she will now read out the title of the resolution turned in, after which he/she will count the votes. Voting cannot be interrupted under any circumstance. A count of the current voting will be shown in the projector, as they come in.

If the resolution passes, the President of Mexico will come in and oversee the Chamber. He/she will sign the bill into law, and debate on the Senate floor will conclude.

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