



GLOBAL TRC SYMPOSIUM MECHANICS GUIDE

NAMUN 2019



The “Global Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Symposium” is a unique type of Model United Nations simulation using novel procedures to simulate the more informal discussion of topics in a symposium. This is an opportunity for delegates of a General Assembly-style committee to engage in more informal discourse and use live testimony to inform their discussions.

Summary of Mechanics:

- **Symposium Nomenclature and Procedure:**
 - All resolutions of the Committee will be renamed “Statements of the Global TRC Symposium.” These statements will follow the standard Model UN resolution format with preambulatory and operative clauses.
 - A Statement requires a 3/4th majority to pass.
- **Speakers List:**
 - This Committee will only have one speakers list, entitled the “Speakers List,” or SL for short. Delegates will be following regular Model UN procedure to Motion to open the Speakers List and to add their delegation to the Speakers List.
- **Topics:**
 - The “Global TRC Symposium” will discuss six topics, rather than the traditional two topics in other General Assemblies. The Motion to Set the Agenda requires 1 speaker for and 1 speaker against setting the agenda to said topic.
 - The six topics are as follows:
 - Expansive Mandates
 - Selection of Commission Staff
 - Feasibility of Implementation
 - Support from the International Community
 - Political and Cultural Context
 - Types of Justice
 - Changing Topics:
 - Because there are six topics rather than the regular two topics, the procedure to change topics will be simplified. To change a topic, delegates may motion to either table the topic or close debate on the topic. Once either of these motions passes, the committee reverts to the Speakers List, and the Moderator may entertain a few speakers and then take a Motion to Set the Agenda to another topic.
 - A Motion to Table the Topic would close discussion on the topic for the time being, while a Motion for Closure of Debate on the topic is permanent.



- A motion to Table the Topic requires 1 speaker for and 1 speaker against and a 50%+1 majority to pass.
- A motion for closure of debate requires 2 speakers for and 2 speakers against and a two-thirds majority to pass.
- The Motion to Set the Agenda requires one speaker for and one against and a 50%+1 majority to pass.
- Topics cannot be changed more than two times per committee session. Thus, the maximum number of topics that can be discussed per committee session is three.
- Notably, to expedite the Motion to Set the Agenda, there will be no vote to enter voting procedure.
- **Motion to Hear a Witness Testimony:**
 - Delegates can Motion to Hear a Witness Testimony from one of the 42 TRCs. These testimonies will highlight experiences and contentions from the TRCs relevant to the topic at hand. Delegates will be provided a paper copy of available victim testimonies at the beginning of committee.
 - A motion to hear a Witness Testimony would require a 50%+1 majority to pass.
 - The symposium can only entertain 2 Witness Testimonies per committee session.
 - Once the witness testimony has been shared, the committee will immediately return to their previous discussions. If delegates wish to discuss the testimony, they may motion to do so at any time.

Full Explanation of Mechanics:

Symposium Nomenclature and Procedure:

Since this committee simulates a symposium convened by the International Centre for Transitional Justice and the Kofi Annan Society, this committee will adopt the nomenclature of a Symposium. Thus, all documents produced by the Symposium will be renamed Statements published by the Global TRC Symposium and may be referred simply as Statements. Since a Symposium needs a clear majority to publish a statement, voting to pass a statement requires a 3/4th majority. All other resolution-related procedure will be followed according to standard NAMUN General Assembly procedures, including the formatting of resolution and the introduction of Working Statements.

Speakers List:

In order to accommodate the increased number of topics and reduced procedural formalities, this committee will have a single speakers list entitled Speakers List or SL for short.



Delegates may motion to enter the “Speakers List” or send a note to the Dais to be added to the “Speakers List” according to standard NAMUN General Assembly procedure.

Topics:

This symposium includes six topics for discussion. These topics refer to the unresolved contentions in the practice and theory of truth commissions and are intended to overlap in their content. Delegates are encouraged to identify underlying themes and may motion to move between topics at their discretion. Topics may be changed no more than two times per committee session. A delegate may motion to entertain a new topic by motioning to Set the Agenda and may motion to close discussion on a topic temporarily by motioning to “Table the Topic”. Both these motions require one speaker for and one speaker against and a 50%+1 majority to pass. Topics cannot be changed more than two times per committee session. Thus a total of three topics may be discussed in a single committee session. Notably, to expedite the Motion to Set the Agenda and to Table a Topic, there will be no vote to enter voting procedure. To close discussion on a topic permanently, delegates may motion to Close Debate on a Topic. This motion requires 2 speakers for, 2 speakers against, and a two-thirds majority to pass. Details and guiding questions for the six topics may be found in the Background Guide. These topics do not follow a numbered order; delegates may motion to set the agenda to any of the six topics at the beginning of the first committee session. The topics are as follows:

- Expansive Mandates
- Selection of Commission Staff
- Feasibility of Implementation
- Support from the International Community
- Political and Cultural Context
- Types of Justice

Motion to hear a Witness Testimony:

A delegate may motion to hear a Witness Testimony from one of the TRCs. Delegates will be given a printed copy of the available Witness Testimonies at the beginning of Committee. A motion to entertain a Witness Testimony will require 1 speaker for, 1 speaker against and a 50%+ 1 majority to pass. Following a successful motion, a victim testimony will be read to committee within 30 minutes. Once the testimony has been concluded, the committee automatically returns to its previous discussion. A delegate may motion to discuss the Witness Testimony at any time, subject to the discretion of the dais. These testimonies are intended to highlight the tensions within the topics, ground discussions in factual accounts, and provoke more heated debate. Delegates may respectfully disagree with the sentiments expressed by the Witness Testimony, but should provide justification for doing so. These testimonies will be taken directly from the real TRC Victim Testimonies so delegates are encouraged to be



respectful and to use their discretion when referring to these Witness Testimonies. Any inappropriate comments directed towards these Witness Testimonies will be noted by the dais and may be subject to disciplinary action.