



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE PROCEDURE

A. Definitions

For the understanding of the court the following definitions will be provided:

- a. Court: Place where trials and other legal cases happen, or the people present in such a place, especially the officials and those deciding if someone is guilty
- b. Bureau: Body composed of the president, vice-president and secretary of the International court of Justice in charge of making the pertinent decisions for the correct operation of the Court.
- c. Judge: Person who is in charge of a trial in a court and decides how a person who is guilty of a crime should be punished.
- d. Lawyer: Person in charge of the guidance on behalf of the judges to ensure the sentence is fair on both parts
- e. Member of the Court: Any judge, party, lawyer, agency present in the ICJ.
- f. Parties: Each of the agencies representing both, the country accuser and the defendant.
- g. Defending Party: agency of the defending country.
- h. Accusing Party: agency of the accusing country.
- i. Judgement: the final decision of each judge.
- j. Verdict: the final decision made by all the judges.
- k. Sentence: the final decision of the case approved by the bureau.

NOTE: When a step in the procedure is marked with a “ i “, you can find its full

description at the end of the document.

B. Opening the Session

President: Members of the court, please all rise. On behalf of the Universidad La Salle Cancun and the Academy of English, we welcome you to the first session of the International Court of Justice Model United Nations “LASALLECUNMUN 2025”.

Members of the court, you may be seated.

(President's speech)

I will now introduce the members of the chairs. To my left is our vice-president.

Vice-president: (Vice-president's speech)

President: To my right is our secretary.

Secretary: (Secretary's speech). I will now proceed with the roll call, please raise your placards and state “present and voting” unless you are a party, then please just state “present”.

(Roll Call, which order will follow defending party, accusing party, lawyers and judges)

Secretary: President, we have enough quorum.

President: Thank you, I will now yield the word to our vice-president.

Vice-president: Thank you president. Judges and lawyes in order to continue with the procedure, you are asked to give your solemn declaration.

Judge / Lawyer: “I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as judge honorably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.”

(Each judge / lawyer states its solemn declaration as the vice-president name them)

President: Thank you vice-president, since there is enough quorum, I declare the court in session.

(President hits mallet)

C. Presentation of the Case

Vice-president: Members of the court, the only motion in order will be the presentation of the case. The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

In this motion, each party (*accusing and defending*) will present the case according to their position (*document that has to be previously sent to the president*). This motion can be made by any member of the court and the order is the following:

1. Accusing party (*and its session of questions*)
2. Defending party (*and its session of questions*)

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: For the parties to present the case

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion?

(Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes

(Presentation of the case by the accusing party)

Vice-president: The bureau recommends a motion for a session of questions. The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

This session of questions can only be made by the judges / lawyers.

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: To open a session of questions

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion? (*Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard*)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes

It is important to know that the order in which the questions will be asked is: first, the member of the court who made the motion, followed by the member who seconded it, and finally the member who raises their placards.

(Session of questions)

After the session of questions is over, the defending party will present the case following the same process.

D. Provisional Opinion

The provisional opinion is written by the judges / lawyers before the presentation of the case of each party, and once this motion is opened, it cannot be closed (*just as the Speaker's List in a conventional committee*). In this motion, each judge will present their opinion according to their perception of the presentation of the case. This motion can be made by any member of the court and will proceed in alphabetical order.

Vice-president: The bureau requires a motion to read the provisional opinions. The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: To read the provisional opinions

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion?

(Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes

E. Presentation of witnessesⁱ

This motion can only be made by the parties.

Vice-president: The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Party: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Party: Motion to call my witnesses to take their testimony before court

President: What witness do you want to call?

Party: The witness _____

President: That is in order, who seconds the motion?

(President recognizes any member who raises its placard)

President: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

President: Votes against?

President: The motion clearly passes / Sorry, the motion did not pass

(The president calls the page to look for the witness)

Vice-president: Please *(party who called the witness)* introduce the witness

Party: *(presentation and reading of the witness' curriculum)*

Vice-president: In order to take your testimony, witness _____, you must

state the solemn declaration.

Witness: I solemnly declare, based on my honor and conscience, that I will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Vice-president: The witness' interrogation order follows: the member who introduced the witness, the accusing party, the defending party, the lawyers and finally the judges.

If at any moment of the interrogation, a member of the court wants to present evidence, it should be established with a point of personal privilege.

Vice-president: Now (*member who introduced the witness*), you can interrogate the witness

(Witness' interrogation)

Vice-president: Thank you. (*Accusing party*), you can interrogate the witness

(Witness' interrogation)

Vice-president: Thank you. (*Defending party*), you can interrogate the witness

(Witness' interrogation)

Vice-president: Thank you. And finally, judges/ lawyer, raise your placards and I will recognize you to interrogate the witness.

(The vice-president recognizes judges/lawyers and they interrogate the witness).

(This motion is used whenever a party wants to present a witness. The length of the interrogation is left to the president's criteria)

F. Presentation of evidenceⁱⁱ

This motion can only be made by the parties.

Vice-president: The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Party: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Party: To present the evidence

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion? (*Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard*)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes / Sorry, the motion did not pass

(*This motion is used whenever a party wants to present an evidence*) **G.**

Extraordinary session of questions

This motion can only be made after an evidence presentation and is not necessary the party accept them.

Vice-president: The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: To open an extraordinary session of questions within the evidence presentation.

Vice-president: That is in order, delegate, who seconds the motion?

(*Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard*).

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against? The motion clearly passes / Sorry, the motion did not pass.

(*The length or number of questions is left to presidents' criteria*)

H. Moderated Debate

This motion can be made at any moment of the session, and every member of the court could make a motion in order to debate or ask questions without

any special order.

Vice-president: The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: Motion to open a moderated debate for the time of _____ minutes (*30 minutes maximum*)

Vice-president: That is in order, delegate, who seconds the motion?

(Vice-president recognizes any member of the court who raise its placard)

Vice-president: Votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes, we are now in a moderated debate for the time of _____ minutes / Sorry, the motion did not pass

I. Moderated Debate without the Parties

This motion can only be made by the judges/lawyers at any point of the

sessions. *Vice-president:* The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor? *Judge:* Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Judge: To open a moderated debate without the parties

Vice-president: That is in order, for how long?

Judge: For ___ minutes (*30 min maximum*)

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion? (*Vice-president recognizes any member who raisess its placard*)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes / Sorry, the motion did not pass

In this part, the parties must leave the court escorted by the pager. This moment is when judges/lawyers may discuss their point of view. In order to write a sentence, the 8 judges must be in the same position. Every time one of the judges requires it, a judge statement will be asked, if one of the judges is on disagree the moderated debate will continue, in case that the judge statement stays the same way 3 times, the parties will return, and a moderated debate will be in forced for the time between 10-15 minutes. After that, another moderated debate without the parties will be set for the time of 10 mins and when finishing, the final judge statement will be asked.

J. Judge Statement

Once each judge has a final conclusion towards the case, the bureau will enforce the “judge statement”, which will consist in the roll call of each judge stating either innocent or guilty.

After the bureau has heard all the judgements, it will give a final verdict. The judges will then be in charge of the sentence.

(During the “judge statement”, parties are not allowed to be present in the court.)

K. Unmoderated Debate without the parties

This motion can only be made by the judges. In this part, the judges work on the sentence.

Vice-president: The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Judge: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Judge: To open an unmoderated debate without the parties

Vice-president: That is in order, for how long?

Judge: For ___ minutes (20 min max)

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion? (*Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard*).

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes / Sorry, the motion did not pass

During the “unmoderated debate”, parties are not allowed to be present in the court.

L. Dictation of Sentence

Vice-president: Members of the court, the only motion in order will be the dictation of sentence. The floor is open, are there any points or motions on the floor?

Member of the court: Motion of procedure

Vice-president: Establish

Member of the court: Motion to dictate the sentence

Vice-president: That is in order, who seconds the motion? (*Vice-president recognizes any member who raises its placard*)

Vice-president: Thank you _____, votes in favor?

Vice-president: Votes against?

Vice-president: The motion clearly passes

The president reads the sentence with the presence of the Secretary General.