Universidad de Navarra | FACULTAD DE DERECHO

University of Navarra UNMUN Model United Nations

WEF RoP

World Economic Forum

Special Rules of Procedure



INTRODUCTION

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization for public-private cooperation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Founded in 1971 as the European Management Forum, it is best known for its annual meeting in Davos, where heads of state, CEOs, civil society leaders, academics, and journalists gather in the same rooms.

What sets the WEF apart from bodies like the UN General Assembly or the Security Council is that it is not an intergovernmental organization and has no binding authority. It cannot pass treaties, impose sanctions, or compel any state to act. Its power is of a different kind: it convenes, frames the global agenda, and builds coalitions. Its influence comes from putting decision-makers from different sectors in conversation, through initiatives, flagship publications such as the Global Risks Report, and private deals and partnerships formed on the sidelines.

Participation is also multistakeholder. A minister, a technology executive, a climate activist, and a university president can all hold equal standing in a discussion. Governments are only one voice among many.

Why this is new to MUN

Traditional MUN is built on state sovereignty. Delegates represent countries, speak in the name of national interest, and work toward resolutions that mirror the output of formal diplomatic bodies. The WEF turns almost all of this on its head:

- Delegates may represent people and institutions, not only states, such as CEOs, heads of international organizations, NGO leaders, and innovators.
- The goal is not a binding resolution but commitments, partnerships, and shared action frameworks.
- Negotiation is as important as debate. Real Davos happens as much inside meetings as on the main stage.
- Business, politics, and civil society interests collide, making alliances less predictable than traditional bloc politics.

For many of you, this will be a first. There is no established playbook for simulating the WEF, and that is exactly what makes it exciting. You will be pioneers of a format, not just participants in one.

Why a special Rules of Procedure is needed

Because the WEF is experimental by nature, applying standard MUN procedure unchanged would flatten what makes it distinctive. A rigid system would turn a forum of dialogue and deal-making into a traditional debate in disguise. For this reason, this committee operates under a special Rules of Procedure explained in the following document.

Guiding principles

1. Grounded in reality. The structure reflects how the WEF actually operates: open dialogue, panel-style discussion, informal engagement, and outcomes based on collaboration rather than votes.

2. Anchored in traditional MUN. Familiar elements, such as speaking time, points, motions, and a chair who maintains order, remain wherever they support fairness and clarity, so experienced delegates feel at home and newcomers are not lost.

3. Built for the delegate. Every rule exists to make the experience more enjoyable, more educational, and more enriching. The aim is for you to leave with sharper diplomacy, negotiation, and public speaking skills, and a real understanding of how global decisions are shaped outside formal institutions.

ROLL CALL AND VOTING

Substantive Voting

Within a state-centric system such as the United Nations, the right to vote is reserved exclusively for nation-states, and this principle shall be upheld in the present simulation of the World Economic Forum.

Accordingly, State Actors (SA) alone shall be entitled to vote on the substantive agreements, regulations, sanctions, or commitments reached by the committee, whereas Non-State Actors (NSA) may only subscribe to resolutions, thereby signifying their support and willingness to contribute to their implementation.

It is nonetheless acknowledged that, within the United Nations system, civil society and NSA participate extensively in multilateral processes, through consultative status, expert briefings, advocacy campaigns, and informal negotiations. This committee does not seek to disregard that reality.

NSA shall therefore serve as the principal advocates of the debate, striving to ensure that their interests are reflected in international economic policy. Their influence shall be exercised through negotiation, coalition-building, and the strength of their arguments, rather than through the ballot, and it shall be incumbent upon them to ensure that their interests are not lost in the course of deliberations.

With respect to roll call, SA may respond either “Present” (P) or “Present and Voting” (P&V), while NSA shall respond solely “Present” (P), given that they do not hold voting rights within the committee.

Procedural Voting

Notwithstanding the voting restrictions set out above, procedural motions shall be open to all members of the Forum, regardless of whether they are State Actors (SA) or Non-State Actors (NSA).

Motions such as opening or closing debate, or opening a caucus, may be proposed by any delegate and shall be put to a vote in which all members present are entitled to participate. This provision reflects the collaborative spirit of the Forum and ensures that every participant, irrespective of status, retains a meaningful say in how the committee's time and discussions are organized. The majority required for each procedural motion shall be that established in the general Rules of Procedure of UNMUN, and the present Forum shall apply those thresholds without modification.

The exclusive voting rights of SA shall apply solely to substantive matters, namely the agreements, regulations, sanctions, or commitments reached by the committee.

RESOLUTIONS AND SUBSCRIPTION OF NSA

Resolutions

The Forum shall produce resolutions modeled on the traditional MUN draft resolution, each composed of preambulatory clauses, which set out the context, concerns, and principles motivating the document, and operative clauses, which set out the concrete measures and courses of action proposed. Delegates familiar with standard MUN procedure will therefore find the format recognizable, and those who are new to it will acquire a skill that is transferable to any other committee.

The nature of these documents, however, differs fundamentally from that of their UN counterparts.

The World Economic Forum is not an intergovernmental organization and possesses no legal authority to bind states, impose obligations, or enforce compliance. Its outputs, whether the Global Risks Report, white papers, or the frameworks developed by its initiatives, take the form of analyses, recommendations, and proposals for action, whose weight derives from the credibility of the Forum and the commitment of those who choose to adopt them.

In faithful reflection of this reality, the resolutions produced by this committee are not legally binding and shall be understood strictly as recommendations. Accordingly, operative clauses shall not employ the verb "**resolves**," which implies a decision with binding force, but shall instead employ "**recommends**," together with its equivalents in the operative language of the document.

This distinction is not merely semantic; it obliges delegates to draft with persuasion and practicability in mind, since a recommendation succeeds only insofar as states, institutions, and companies find it compelling enough to implement voluntarily.

Bloc formation and Sponsors

The formation of blocs shall be open to both State Actors (SA) and Non-State Actors (NSA), reflecting the multistakeholder character of the Forum.

Blocs may thus combine governments, corporations, international organizations, and civil society in a single working group, and a draft resolution may be sponsored by either or all of

the actors. This arrangement is intended to encourage partnerships across sectors that rarely coincide in traditional MUN, and to allow NSA to take real ownership of the documents they help to shape, rather than limiting them to a supporting role.

Signatories and Subscribers

The signatories section of the draft resolution is nonetheless modified with respect to standard MUN practice. In the UN system, the concept of a signatory denotes state sovereignty, that is, the capacity of a state to formally express its consent to a given text. As this quality is not shared by all delegates in the UNMUN WEF, it would be inaccurate to extend it to NSA.

For that reason, SA may appear as signatories, whereas NSA shall be listed in a separate section designated as Subscribers. This division is consistent with the voting and participation rules set out above.

- ➢ State Actors, as the only delegates entitled to vote on substantive matters, formally sign the text,
- ➢ Non-State Actors, who may only subscribe to resolutions, signal their support and their willingness to contribute to its implementation.

Both categories remain visible in the final document, so that the full range of actors backing a recommendation is clearly recorded.