

RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

(Abbreviated)

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX

Deliberations

Every member state may take part in the deliberations of the Council and its sub-committees in the manner prescribed in these Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN

The Chairman shall direct deliberations on matters on hand in the order they are listed on the Council's agenda.

The Chairman shall give the floor to speakers in the order of their requests. Priority may be given to the chairman or reporter of a particular committee to present its report or explain certain points therein. The floor shall be given to the Secretary-General or his representative whenever it is necessary.

The Council Chairman may, during deliberations, read the list of the names of members who have requested the floor, and with the approval of the Council, close the list. The only exception is exercise of the right of reply.

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT

The Council shall decide whether the meetings shall be held in open or closed session.

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE

Every member state may raise a point of order, on which the chairman shall pronounce immediately and his decision shall take effect unless vetoed by a majority of the member states.

A member who raises point of order may not go beyond the point he has raised.

ARTICLE THIRTY

Every member may, during discussion of any matter, propose the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or discussion of the matter on

hand, or closure. The Chairman shall in such cases put the proposal to the vote directly, if the proposal is seconded by another member. Such proposal requires the approval of the majority of the member states to pass.

With due regard to the provisions of the preceding paragraph proposals indicated therein shall be submitted to the vote in the following order:

1. Suspension of meeting.
2. Adjournment of meeting.
3. Postponement of discussion of the matter in hand.
4. Closure of discussion of the matter in hand.

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE

Member States may suggest draft resolutions or recommendations, or amendments thereto, and may withdraw all such unless they are voted upon.

Drafts indicated in the preceding item shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat General for distribution to delegations as soon as possible.

Except for proposals concerning formulation or procedures, drafts indicated in this article may not be discussed or voted upon before their texts are distributed to all delegations.

A proposal already decided upon may not be reconsidered in the same session unless the Council decides otherwise.

ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO

The Chairman shall follow up the work of the committees, inform the Council of incoming correspondence, and formally announce before members the resolutions and recommendations arrived at.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE

Voting

The Council shall pass its resolutions with the unanimous approval of the member states

present and participating in the vote, while decisions in procedural matters shall be passed by a majority vote. Any member abstaining from voting shall record the fact that he is not bound by the vote.

If members of the Council should disagree on the definition of the matter being put to the vote, the matter shall be settled by majority vote of the member states present.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FOUR

Every member state shall have one vote. No member state may represent another state or vote on its behalf.

ARTICLE THIRTY-FIVE

Voting shall be by the names in the alphabetical order of the states' names, or by show of hands.

Voting shall be by secret ballot if so requested by a member or by decision of the Chairman. The Council, however, may decide otherwise. The vote of every member shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting if voting is by calling the names. The minutes shall indicate the result of voting if the vote is secret or by show of hands.

Member states may explain their positions after the vote and such explanations shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Once the Chairman announces that voting has started, no interruption may be made except for a point of order relating to the vote or its postponement in accordance with the provisions of this article and the next.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SIX

The Council Chairman with the help of the Secretary-General shall endeavour to reconcile the positions of member states on disputed matters and obtain their agreement to a draft resolution before submitting it to the vote.

The Council Chairman, the Secretary-General or any member state may request postponement of a vote for a specific period during which further negotiations may take place on the item submitted to the vote.

ARTICLE THIRTY-SEVEN

If a member requests amendment of a proposal, voting on the amendment shall be carried out first. If there is more than one amendment, voting shall first be made on the amendment which the Chairman considers to be farthest from the original proposal, then on the next farthest, and so on until all proposed amendments have been voted upon. If one or more amendment is passed, then voting shall be made on the original proposal as amended.

A new proposal shall be deemed to be an amendment to the original proposal if it merely entails an addition to, omission from, or change to a part of the original proposal.