

NATO Parliamentary Assembly North Atlantic Council

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(abridged and adapted for use at CASC Summits)

X. SITTINGS

Article 19

1. Unless the Assembly decides to the contrary, all its sittings shall be public.
2. The public admitted to the galleries shall remain seated and silent and the President shall have the power to order the withdrawal of members of the public in case of misconduct. Members of the public shall leave the galleries when the Assembly holds a closed sitting.

Article 20

1. Non-members of the Assembly may be invited by the President to address the Assembly, with the consent of the Standing Committee.
2. Non-members of the Assembly may be invited by the President to attend sessions of the Assembly as observers. Subject to the decision of the President, non-members of the Assembly shall leave the chamber during closed sittings.

Article 21

1. No delegate shall address the Assembly unless called upon by the President.
2. Rapporteurs presenting texts adopted by their Committees shall have precedence over other speakers.
3. When the time available for debate seems insufficient the Assembly may, at the suggestion of the President, decide on a time limit, which shall not be less than three minutes, for speeches. Such a proposal shall be voted upon without discussion.

4. The Chairman and Rapporteurs of the Committee whose reports or proposed texts are being debated shall have the right of reply at the end of the debate.
5. When an amendment is being debated, no speech may last for more than five minutes.
6. No delegate may speak for more than three minutes on an explanation of vote.

Article 22

1. No speaker shall be interrupted without his consent, except for the purpose of calling him to order.
2. If a speaker does not keep to the subject of the debate, the President may call him to order and, if the speaker persists, withdraw his right to speak.

Article 23

Anyone raising a point of order or moving a procedural motion may be called upon by the President to speak briefly on it. A right of reply is also permitted. The point raised, or motion made, shall then be decided upon immediately without debate.

Article 24

1. Every proposed recommendation, resolution, opinion or order shall relate to a matter placed on the agenda either by the Standing Committee or during the session, on the proposal of the President, by the Assembly.
2. A **declaration** is a formal expression of the view of the Assembly and is presented directly to the plenary sitting by a member of the Assembly upon the request of the President and with the approval of the Standing Committee.

3. A **recommendation** is addressed to the North Atlantic Council asking it to take certain action in pursuit of the aims of the Assembly and in the expectation of a reply from the Council.
4. A **resolution** gives formal expression to the view of the Assembly on a matter which does not call for action by the North Atlantic Council. Resolutions may be addressed to all or to a limited number of governments of NATO, to all or some of the parliaments of the member countries, to governments and parliaments of non-member countries which have associate delegations or regional partner and Mediterranean associate member delegations, as well as to international organizations.
5. In these Rules of Procedure, the word "text" generally covers declarations, recommendations and resolutions.

Article 25

The Assembly may ask its President to transmit any of its texts to another international assembly or organization for its opinion. The President may, at his discretion, refer any other matter to another international organization.

Article 26

1. **Amendments** to texts debated in Plenary Sitting must be introduced by the leader of a member delegation, associate delegation or regional partner and Mediterranean associate member delegation on behalf of that delegation.
2. **Amendments** shall be relevant to the text which they propose to amend. They shall be signed by the proposers and, as far as possible, shall be presented in time to be translated and distributed before the debate. The President shall judge their acceptability.
3. (omitted)
4. **Amendments** shall be put to the vote before the text to which they relate. In the event of mutually exclusive amendments being proposed to the same paragraph, the proposed amendment which, in the opinion of the President, differs most radically from the text shall take precedence in the order of voting.

Article 27

1. It shall be in order at any time to propose that a matter be referred back to Committee. Any motion to this effect shall be decided upon according to the voting procedure set out in Article 30.
2. Discussion of any proposal shall not be interrupted because any proposed amendment has necessitated its being eventually referred back to a Committee unless the Assembly decided to the contrary. The Assembly shall have the power to fix a time limit within which a Committee shall be required to report back on the amendments referred to it.

Article 29

Delegates shall speak and act on their own responsibility, and their statements shall not be binding on their governments or parliaments.

XI. VOTING

Article 30

1. Members shall vote as individuals.
2. Normally the Assembly shall vote by show of hands using placards.
3. If the result of the show of hands is doubtful in the opinion of the President, the Assembly shall proceed to vote by roll-call of member delegations. Whenever ten or more delegates so require, the vote shall be taken by a roll-call of member delegations. The President may at any time decide that a vote shall be taken by roll-call of member delegations.
4. Any delegate shall be entitled to **demand a separate vote on any or every paragraph of a draft text**. Any delegate shall be entitled to propose that any paragraph put to the Assembly be divided into parts and that a separate vote be taken on each component part. When a paragraph has been amended a vote shall be taken on the proposed paragraph as a whole.
5. (omitted)
6. The roll-call shall be called by member delegations in their English alphabetical order after an interval of five minutes to ascertain and record the individual voting figure in each delegation.

7. The President shall be responsible for the counting of the roll-call votes and shall announce the results. The number of votes shall be recorded, including abstentions, in the minutes of the proceedings of the sitting.

Article 31

1. Except as provided in Article 7, the required majority for all votes shall be a simple majority of the votes cast [USA: plurality of votes]. In the event of a tie the proposal submitted to the vote shall be rejected.
2. Only affirmative and negative votes shall count in calculating the number of votes cast.

XII. COMMITTEES

Article 32

1. The Assembly shall set up the following general Committees:
 - a) Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security;
 - b) Defence and Security Committee;
 - c) Economics and Security Committee;
 - d) Political Committee;
 - e) Science and Technology Committee.

The Assembly may appoint other Committees.

2. Members of Committees shall be nominated by their delegations.
3. Members may represent their delegation in more than one Committee.

XV. VOTES IN COMMITTEES

Article 45

1. A Committee shall normally vote by show of hands using the voting card mentioned in Article 30, paragraph 2.
2. In exceptional circumstances the Chairman may decide to hold a roll-call vote of members of the Committee by delegation.
3. [omitted]

4. The required majority for all votes in a Committee shall be a simple majority of the votes cast [USA : plurality of votes]. Only affirmative and negative votes shall count in calculating the number of votes cast.

5. A roll-call vote in Committee shall not be valid unless a third of the members of the Committee are present.

6. The right to vote is an individual one.

7. The Chairman of the Committee may take part in discussions and may vote, but without having a casting vote.

8. (omitted)

9. A record shall be kept of votes cast.

XVIII. CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Article 48

The Assembly may, on the proposal of the Standing Committee, make suitable arrangements for consultation with international governmental and non-governmental organisations which deal with matters which are within its competence. It may invite such organisations to submit written reports to it, debate such reports and hear representatives of these organisations.

XIX. USE OF LANGUAGES

Article 49

1. The official languages of the Assembly shall be English and French. Speeches in either of the two official languages shall be interpreted.
2. Any speaker wishing to use another language shall be personally responsible for ensuring its interpretation into one of the official languages.

XXII. DEROGATIONS AND REVISION

Article 52

The President may, at any time during the annual session, propose a derogation from these Rules of Procedure. Such a derogation must be approved unanimously by the delegates present.