

Points & Motions in MUN

Points and motions are one of the basic tools delegates use to **participate in and control the flow of committee**.

You don't need to memorise every point and motion before your first MUN. The important thing is to understand **what they do, when to use them, and how to phrase them correctly**.

What is a Motion?

A **motion** is a formal proposal made by a delegate to change what the committee is doing.

For example, if the committee is on the General Speakers' List and you want to start a Moderated Caucus, you would raise a motion for one.

A motion usually sounds like:

"The delegation of ____ motions for a 10-minute Moderated Caucus, with a speaking time of 45 seconds, on the sub-topic of ____."

The Chair will then decide whether the motion is in order and, depending on the Rules of Procedure, the committee may vote on it.

Common Motions

1. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Used when you want the committee to have a focused, structured discussion on a particular sub-topic.

Example:

“The delegation of Japan motions for a 12-minute Moderated Caucus, with a speaking time of 60 seconds, on the role of international organisations in addressing the crisis.”

Remember: A Moderated Caucus needs:

- Total duration
- Individual speaking time
- A specific sub-topic

2. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Used when delegates need time to **discuss, negotiate, form blocs, and work on Draft Resolutions.**

Example:

“The delegation of Brazil motions for a 15-minute Unmoderated Caucus.”

During an Unmoderated Caucus, delegates can move around the room and communicate freely, subject to the conference's rules.

3. Motion to Open the General Speakers' List

At the beginning of debate, the committee may need to establish the **General Speakers' List (GSL).**

Example:

“The delegation of France motions to open the General Speakers' List.”

Once opened, delegates can be added to the list and called upon to deliver speeches.

4. Motion to Close the General Speakers' List

This motion is used when delegates believe the committee should stop adding new speakers to the GSL.

Example:

“The delegation of Germany motions to close the General Speakers’ List.”

This does **not necessarily mean debate immediately ends**. It means no new speakers can be added to the list, subject to the committee’s Rules of Procedure.

5. Motion to Extend a Caucus

If a caucus is productive and delegates want more time, they may motion to extend it.

Example:

“The delegation of Kenya motions to extend the current Moderated Caucus by 8 minutes, with a speaking time of 45 seconds.”

Whether a caucus can be extended, and how, depends on the conference's Rules of Procedure.

6. Motion to Introduce a Draft Resolution

Once a Draft Resolution has been submitted and approved according to the conference's procedure, a delegate may motion to introduce it to the committee.

Example:

“The delegation of India motions to introduce Draft Resolution 1.1.”

The Chair may then allow the document to be formally introduced and discussed according to the Rules of Procedure.

7. Motion to Move into Voting Procedure

Once debate has concluded and the committee is ready to vote, a delegate may motion to move into voting procedure.

Example:

“The delegation of Canada motions to move into voting procedure.”

Once the committee enters voting procedure, delegates generally must follow the rules regarding communication and movement established by the conference.

Points

Unlike motions, **points are generally used to raise a question, concern, or procedural matter**, rather than to change the direction of debate.

Here are some common points:

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Used when you have a question about the **Rules of Procedure or the procedure currently being followed**.

Example:

“Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Could the Chair please clarify whether motions can be made at this stage of debate?”

This is **not** the place to ask questions about the topic itself.

Point of Personal Privilege

Used when something is preventing you from participating properly in committee.

For example:

- You cannot hear the speaker.
- The room is too noisy.
- There is a technical issue affecting your participation.

Example:

“Point of Personal Privilege: Could the delegate please speak louder?”

A Point of Personal Privilege should address a genuine issue affecting your ability to participate.

Point of Order

Used when you believe that a **procedural rule is being violated or incorrectly applied**.

Example:

“Point of Order: The delegation believes that the current procedure is inconsistent with Rule 12.”

Use this carefully. A Point of Order is about **procedure**, not whether you agree with another delegate’s argument.

Point of Information

Some conferences allow a **Point of Information**, while others do not.

Where permitted, it is generally used to ask a question about information presented during debate.

Example:

“Point of Information: Could the delegate clarify the source of the statistic mentioned in their speech?”

Always check your conference’s Rules of Procedure before using this point.

Points vs. Motions — The Easy Way

Think of it like this:

POINT = “I have a question/issue.”

MOTION = “I want the committee to do something.”

If you want to...

You might use...

Ask about procedure

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

Report a procedural issue

Point of Order

Fix something affecting your participation

Point of Personal Privilege

Start a focused discussion

Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Give delegates discussion/lobbying time

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Extend a productive caucus

Motion to Extend

Introduce a Draft Resolution

Motion to Introduce

Begin voting

Motion to Move into Voting Procedure

How Do I Raise a Point or Motion?

When the Chair opens the floor for points or motions, raise your placard and wait to be recognised.

Once recognised, **state the point or motion clearly and concisely.**

Don't give a speech before your motion.

 **“Honourable Chair, the delegation of India believes that the committee has discussed this issue extensively and that we should now...”**

 **“The delegation of India motions for a 10-minute Unmoderated Caucus.”**

Short. Clear. Done.

Pro Tip: Don't Motion Just to Motion

One of the biggest mistakes beginners make is throwing out motions constantly just to look active.

A good delegate uses motions strategically.

Before raising your placard, ask yourself:

- What does the committee need right now?
- Will this motion help advance the debate?
- Is this the right time for a moderated or unmoderated caucus?
- What specific sub-topic should the committee discuss?

The goal isn't to make the most motions.

The goal is to make the right motion at the right time.