

13th CONGRESS

Rules of Procedure of Congresses – Proposal

19.10.1

Article 10
Discussion

CHINA, NEW ZEALAND

Amend as follows:

2005 Seoul Text

Delegates may not take the floor until they have been giving permission to do so by the Chairman of the meeting. They are urged to speak slowly and distinctly. Delegates should be afforded the opportunity of freely and fully expressing their views on the subject under discussion so long as that is compatible with the normal course of the debate.

Proposed Text

1. Delegates may not take the floor until they have been /... /**given** permission to do so by the /... / **Chair** of the meeting. They are urged to speak slowly and distinctly. Delegates should be afforded the opportunity of freely and fully expressing their views on the subject under discussion so long as that is compatible with the normal course of the debate.

2. To the extent possible, speakers should not exceed the time allocated to them by the Chair or the Secretariat, or the time limit agreed by a majority of the members present and voting. The Chair shall be authorised to interrupt any speaker who exceeds an allocated or agreed time. The Chair may also ask a speaker not to depart from the subject.

3. The Chair may also, with the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting:

(i) close a list of speakers;

(ii) limit the number of speeches by any one delegation on a proposal or a certain group of proposals; or

(iii) limit the number of speeches on a proposal or a certain group of proposals provided that this limit is not less than five for and five against the proposal under discussion.

4. For situations not specifically covered in this Rule of Procedure, the Chair may take guidance from the UPU Rules of Procedure if a particular matter is covered there.

Reasons. – the UPU RoP covers:

- (i) the Chair's permission being required for a delegate to speak, slow and clear speaking, having the opportunity to freely and fully express views that are in line with a topic being discussed;
- (ii) setting a limit of five minutes for a speech, and giving the Chair the right to direct a speaker to not depart from a topic;
- (iii) closing a list of speakers;
- (iv) limiting the number of speeches from the one delegation; and
- (v) limiting the number of speakers to no less than five for and five against a proposal or group of proposals.

The APPU RoP has only one provision i.e., the first paragraph of the UPU RoP as summarised in (i) above.

The Sub-Group made the following observations.

1. As with some other UPU rules, the APPU RoP is less detailed and specific, partly because the issues that arise in the APPU, and the management of them, are much less in significance and scale than in the UPU. Hence the APPU would seldom have a need to refer to the procedures set out in UPU RoP 15.
2. However, the significance and scale of issues are not the only factors that require rules to be specified for discussion / debate. In any meeting it is possible for a speaker to exceed a reasonable period of time and / or to stray from the subject being dealt with.
3. Efficient management of a meeting requires good planning, rules for use as judged necessary by the Chair, and cooperation between the Chair, Secretariat and speakers.

The Sub-Group is of the view that the APPU RoP should be supplemented with some additional material that will enhance the efficiency of managing meetings.