

IEMMUN 2026

Rules of Procedure (RoP)

for the Knesset

Speaker: Shounak Banerjee Chowdhury

Co-Cpeaker: Rohnit Pandey

Deputy Speaker: Tamal Sikdar

Chapter I: Initial Procedures

1. Seating of Members

- The side able to command a majority forms the Coalition.
- The Coalition sits to the right of the Chair; the Opposition and unaligned factions sit to the left.

2. Language

- English is the working language of the committee.
- Hebrew terms used in this document (Knesset, She'ilta, Histayagut, etc.) may be used in debate, but should be briefly explained the first time a Member uses them.

Chapter II: Session Procedure

3. General Procedure

- The session will follow, as closely as practicable, real Knesset procedure, adapted for a time-bound simulation.
- The Chair has discretion to adjourn or suspend sessions, discontinue motions, moderate procedure, censure participants, and resume the next session from any point.
- Legislative business takes precedence. If no Bill is on the floor, the session defaults to General Debate.

4. Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of MKs who must be present for the committee to validly conduct business or hold a vote. For this simulation, quorum is set at a simple majority of the committee's registered MKs, and must be confirmed by the Chair before the first substantive vote of each session.

Real-world aside: the actual Knesset sets no such minimum by default. Basic Law: The Knesset provides that the Knesset may hold debates and pass decisions 'whatever the number of members present,' unless a specific law requires otherwise - as with the 61-seat threshold for certain votes described elsewhere in this document. This simulation sets a working quorum purely for practicality; the real institution largely does not require one.

5. Coalition Politics

Coalition and Opposition are the baseline political structure of this committee for the entire simulation (see Section 1). Coalition MKs are presumed to vote with the Coalition on ordinary business, reflecting real Knesset whip discipline.

- The single stated exception is the Executive Board Bill on Haredi conscription (Sections 11–12): that Bill, and only that Bill, is designated a free vote. Coalition discipline does not apply to it, and any MK may vote according to their own or their faction's genuine position.
- Outside of that one Bill, Coalition politics apply as normal. A Coalition MK wishing to break ranks on other business should flag this to the Chair before the vote, as a deliberate roleplay choice rather than a default.

6. Opening Statements

- After quorum is established, the Chair shall call for opening statements from all MKs.
- The Coalition Chair and the Leader of the Opposition speak first, by default.
- All participants must deliver this statement. Each is limited to 90 seconds.

7. General Debate and Motion for the Agenda

Open floor debate on a Bill or a general political matter is described loosely in real Knesset usage as *Vikuach Klali* ('general debate') - it is a descriptive term, not a single formal procedural category, and this document uses it the same way: as the committee's default, unstructured mode of discussion. Debate on a Bill ends in a vote; debate on a general matter need not.

- The real formal mechanism for putting a specific issue on the floor is a Motion for the Agenda (*Hatza'a LeSeder HaYom*). In the actual Knesset these are submitted in advance through the Speaker's office, in ordinary and urgent categories with their own requirements. For this simulation that process is compressed: any MK may raise one from the floor, explained in no more than one minute, then put to a simple-majority vote on whether to take it up - a simplified, live version of the same real mechanism, not a faithful reproduction of its paperwork.
- This is the committee's primary tool for moving between the two agenda items, and for delegates to raise sub-issues the Dais has not already scheduled.

8. Public and Private Sessions

- Public: proceedings are on the record and open to media and outside observers.
- Private: may be motioned for at the Chair's discretion. The real Knesset has narrower, more specific rules governing when plenary or committee proceedings may be closed to the public; this simulation uses a broader, simplified version for playability. When granted, proceedings are off the record and confidential, the same standards on unparliamentary language still apply, and outside observers/media are not permitted.

9. Parliamentary Questions (She'ilta)

A written *She'ilta* may be addressed by any MK to a Coalition minister on that ministry's affairs. In the real Knesset this is a formally submitted process - an ordinary written question gives the minister up to 21 days to respond, with the Speaker overseeing timing. This simulation compresses that considerably: the minister must reply within the period set by the Chair, and Members should treat this as a simplified stand-in for the real timeline, not an accurate reproduction of it.

- Oral *She'ilta* are also permitted and must be answered within the same session; once answered, MKs from other factions may ask brief follow-ups.
- This replaces a generic 'Question Hour' with the real Knesset mechanism's name and spirit, and ministers should expect to be held to their answers later in debate.

10. Legislative Business: Three Readings

- All proposals - including the Executive Board Bill described in Section 11 - are introduced as Bills and undergo three readings:
 1. First Reading - the Bill is introduced and debated in Plenum; the Knesset then votes on whether to advance it for committee preparation ahead of Second and Third Readings.
 2. Second Reading - the committee's report (including resolved reservations, see Section 12) is debated; further amendments may be moved.
 3. Third Reading - a final vote to pass the Bill, ordinarily held immediately after the Second Reading.
- An ordinary Bill requires a simple majority. A Bill amending an entrenched clause of a Basic Law requires the special majority specified for that clause - the Chair will confirm the threshold case by case.

11. The Executive Board Bill

To anchor Agenda Item 1 in a concrete, competitive exercise rather than open-ended discussion, the Executive Board will itself introduce a Bill: a proposal for the universal application of Israel's conscription law to all Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) men, with no blanket religious exemption. Delegates should treat this as a deliberately maximalist opening position, not a claim about what any real Israeli party currently proposes - the real debate is over degrees of exemption, not its total abolition. Your task as MKs is to push, pull, and rebuild that text through the process below.

- The Bill enters through First Reading like any other, moves to Committee Stage for reservations, and returns for Second and Third Readings.
- This Bill is a free vote (see Section 5) - Coalition discipline does not apply to it.

12. Reservations (Histayagut)

At Committee Stage, any MK who objects to part of a Bill - rather than its entirety - may file a formal reservation: a specific proposed change (an exemption threshold, a phase-in period, an alternative civilian-service track, and so on). This is the real Knesset's central negotiating and obstruction tool, and will be the main scored activity during the Executive Board Bill's committee stage.

- Reservations must be submitted in writing to the Chair, with the MK's name and the precise text of the proposed change.
- Each reservation is voted on individually before the Bill returns for Second Reading; a reservation that passes is folded into the Bill's text.
- MKs are encouraged to negotiate support for their reservations across factions - cross-bloc alliances (for instance, between an MK from a Haredi party and an MK from an Arab-majority party who objects to expanded conscription for different reasons) are realistic and will be recognised as strong play.

13. Motion of No Confidence

- MKs may move a 'constructive' motion of no confidence in the Coalition, mirroring real Knesset practice: the motion must name a proposed alternative Coalition leader, including its composition, within the same motion. Requires written notice to the Chair.
- Mirroring Article 28 of Basic Law: The Government, this motion requires an absolute majority of all sitting MKs (61) to pass - not merely a majority of those present and voting.
- See Section 5 for how Coalition discipline (and its one exception) applies to ordinary votes; a no-confidence vote is not itself an exception to that discipline.

14. Privileges of MKs

Point of Order is genuine Knesset terminology, used by the institution itself. Point of Information (POI) and Breach of Privilege (BOP) are this committee's own defined tools, set out below. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry and Right of Reply are standard Model UN conventions, kept for a familiar, workable toolkit alongside the more authentic mechanics elsewhere in this document.

- Point of Order - may be raised if a Member believes the rules are being violated. The Chair rules on it immediately. May interrupt a speaker.
- Point of Parliamentary Inquiry - requests an explanation of the Rules of Procedure from the Chair. May not interrupt a speaker.
- Point of Information (POI) - used to ask an interrogative question of the Member who has just spoken. May be raised verbally or in writing, but only after that Member's speech has concluded. May not interrupt a speaker.
- Breach of Privilege (BOP) - used to clarify a factual inaccuracy in another Member's speech. May be raised verbally only, and only after that Member's speech has concluded. May not interrupt a speaker.
- Right of Reply - available to a Member whose personal integrity has been impugned by another's remarks (disagreement with content alone is not grounds for one). Raised immediately after the speech concludes; the Chair's ruling on it cannot be appealed.

15. Important Points

- Formal attire (Indic or Western, per the venue's norms) is mandatory.
- Internet usage is forbidden and is permitted only at the Chair's discretion.
- Respect for, and adherence to, the Chair's rulings are mandatory.
- Unparliamentary language is prohibited and may lead to an apology, censure, or suspension.
- Parliamentary immunity: within this simulation, MKs may speak freely on committee matters without being held to outside standards of liability - except where personal integrity is impugned (see Right of Reply) or decorum is breached.

16. A Note on Antisemitism

This committee will debate real, sensitive, and sometimes painful subjects - Zionism, Israeli government policy, religious conscription, and the war in Gaza among them. Vigorous political disagreement with the Israeli government, criticism of specific policies, or a critical view of Zionism as a political ideology is legitimate debate, and delegates roleplaying MKs who hold such views should feel free to argue them honestly and forcefully.

That is a different thing from antisemitism, and this committee draws the line firmly. Language that relies on antisemitic tropes or conspiracy theories, that dehumanises Jewish people as a group, that denies or trivialises the Holocaust, or that uses slurs or hateful caricature has no place in this room - in character or out of it - and will not be tolerated regardless of the political point being made.

- The Chair will intervene immediately if this line is crossed, and repeated breaches may lead to censure or removal from the committee, consistent with the conduct standards in Section 15.
- If you are ever unsure whether something crosses this line, a useful test is: am I criticising a government, a policy, or an ideology - or am I making a claim about Jewish people as such? The former is fair game for debate. The latter is not.

Chapter III: Order of Proceedings

This is the intended shape of the committee's flow. Exact timings will depend on how many sessions the conference schedule actually gives this committee - treat the phases below as sequence, not a fixed clock, and expect the Dais to compress or extend a phase on the day.

Phase	Mechanic	What Happens
1	Opening Statements	Every MK delivers a 90-second statement; Coalition Chair and Leader of the Opposition go first.
2	General Debate	Open floor debate to set the room's tone and surface each MK's starting position on both agenda items.
3	First Reading - EB Bill	The Executive Board introduces the Haredi conscription Bill. Simple-majority vote to send it to committee.
4	Committee Stage - Reservations	MKS file and negotiate reservations (Section 12). This is the core competitive phase for Agenda Item 1.
5	Parliamentary Questions	She'ilta to Coalition ministers on the Bill's implementation, enforcement, and cost - written and oral.
6	Second Reading	Debate on the amended Bill, incorporating reservations that passed. Further amendments may still be moved.
7	Third Reading	Final vote on the Bill. This is a free vote - Coalition discipline does not apply.
8	Motion for the Agenda - Item 2	The floor moves to Gaza governance & security policy via a Motion for the Agenda, opening General Debate on the second item.
9	General Debate - Item 2	Discussion of governance, withdrawal, and the Stabilization Force; MKs may raise their own Motions for the Agenda on sub-issues.
10	Closing	Final statements and any outstanding votes; the Chair closes the session.

Note for participants: The Order of Proceedings table is tentative. The Executive Board reserves discretion to reorder, compress, extend, or skip phases as the committee's actual dynamics demand, and unforeseen developments - a stalled vote, an unexpected alliance, a motion the Dais didn't anticipate - may shift the session into a more free-flowing, dynamic mode at any point. Treat the table as a guide to the shape of the debate, not a fixed script.

Disclaimer

The Executive Board has drafted these Rules of Procedure by adapting the actual Rules of Procedure of the Knesset and the relevant Basic Laws of the State of Israel, simplified to allow the simulation to run in real time at IEMMUN 2026. The legislative process (three readings, committee preparation, and reservations), Motions for the Agenda, Parliamentary Questions, coalition dynamics, and the constructive no-confidence mechanism are grounded in genuine Knesset procedure and law. Certain elements - including the mandatory 90-second opening statement, the fixed working quorum, the generic private-session motion, and most of the Points taxonomy in Section 14 (Point of Order excepted, which is genuine Knesset terminology) - are procedural conventions adopted or adapted for playability rather than reproductions of actual Knesset practice. Any discrepancies with the real Knesset's procedure exist to enhance debate and ensure the simulation is playable within conference time.