



**FLORIDA HIGH  
SCHOOLS MODEL  
UNITED NATIONS**

**GULF COAST 8 JOINT  
COMMITTEE RULES OF  
PROCEDURE**

## Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure contained in this packet are specific to the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Committee during the FHSMUN October Conference *only*. Only changes made for the Joint Committee will be outlined. For the comprehensive Rules of Procedure for FHSMUN conferences, please refer to the Delegate Rules of Procedures on the FHSMUN website.

## Changes to Committee Sessions

The second committee session of day one through the afternoon session of day two for both the GA3 and UNHCR committees will be joint committee sessions. The two committees will be separate only for the first and last committee sessions.

## Background Guide/Committee Brief

The committee topic for the joint sessions will be The Protection of People from Enforced Disappearances. Each committee's background guide features a section on enforced disappearances that delegates will utilize during these sessions.

During the joint committee, delegates will **NOT** be drafting resolutions. Instead of drafting resolutions, during the joint committee sessions delegates will work on drafting committee statements, a shorter, less formal list of recommendations based on the findings of debate and research during committee sessions. Any committee statement drafted must pertain to the joint committee topic. Further information about committee statements can be found in this document and on the FHSMUN website.

## Speaker's List

The Speaker's List will operate as it does in normal committee sessions, with one exception. The list must alternate between members of the two committees. For example, below is an acceptable list:

1. India (GA3)
2. Canada (UNHCR)
3. Algeria (GA3)
4. United States (UNHCR)

## Joint-Committee Directors

The joint committee will have two Directors, namely the Directors of the GA3 and UNHCR committees. They have all of the powers expressed in the general Rules of Procedure.

### **Voting Procedures**

A simple majority of the delegates present during voting (50% plus one) must assent to a committee statement for it to pass. If a committee statement passes unanimously, it will be stated at the beginning of the statement that "*the statement was endorsed by **all** of its members.*"

All other voting rules and procedures are the same as the general rules of procedures.

### **Committee Statement Writing**

The committee statement writing process heavily mirrors that of resolutions, with working ideas, working papers, and draft committee statements being required steps in the writing process. A template and example of the committee statement format and required information are on the FHSMUN website and included below for reference.

### **Sponsors and Signatories**

There must be at least one sponsor from each committee on each draft committee statement.

There must be at least one more signatory than sponsor for each draft committee statement.

FHSMUN XX

**[Committee]**

Committee Statement X.X [will correspond to the bloc's resolution number]

*The below statement was jointly issued by a group of UN member states to call on states to adopt measures ensuring [insert overall topic/goal of the committee statement]*

*Developed at the [specific FHSMUN conference and committee], the statement was endorsed by [some/all] of its members.*

**[Section 1: Summarize the situation described by the topic and its gravity]**

**[Section 2: Reference and connect existing international and UN legislation]**

With this in mind, the below-mentioned organizations:

**[Section 3: Recommendations and list of assenting committees]**

- Recommendation 1
- Recommendation 2
- Recommendation 3
  
- Assenting Committee 1
- Assenting Committee 2

*Tips on next page*

Plagiarism:

- Each piece of information used **must** be cited as a footnote in Chicago format. No committee statement will be voted on with uncited outside information.

Section 1 tips:

- This section should introduce the problem the committee is trying to solve
- In 1-2 paragraphs, briefly summarize the current circumstances surrounding the topic, then describe how the topic's current circumstances relate to the theme.

Section 2 tips:

- This section should find the root of the problem and explain how responses to this problem have or have not actually gotten to where the problem originated.
- Note 1-2 significant laws/resolutions that the United Nations or international community has already passed to try to improve the situation using specific examples.
  - Try to find pieces of legislation that relate to the conference theme as well as the topic.
- Then, explain where these actions have succeeded, where they fall short, and what is necessary to make these international laws as effective as possible.
  - Be sure to note *why* the laws are ineffective or effective.
- It is better to be more in-depth with one law or resolution than brief with multiple examples.

Section 3 tips:

- This section should include at least three general recommendations that the Member States can commit to to improve the current situation and/or strengthen the legislation mentioned in the previous section.
  - **Operative clauses are required for each recommendation.**
- The recommendations should, if every nation adheres to them, solve the root cause of the problem posed in the topic.
- The committee statement does not have the force of a resolution, so recommendations can be more general and enforceable by the international community.

FHSMUN 44  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Committee Statement 1.3

*The below statement was jointly issued by a group of UN member states to call on states to adopt measures ensuring the protection and assurance of the human rights of refugees and migrants retrieved at sea.<sup>1</sup>*

*Developed at the Florida High School Model United Nations Gulf Coast 8 Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the statement was endorsed by some of its members.*

Migrants and refugees take to the seas in search of dignity and safety, refuge, or otherwise across all regions worldwide. The drivers of this mobility are complex and without safe and legal alternatives people are increasingly compelled to turn to smugglers and traffickers who facilitate this irregular migration across the seas without any regard for human life. Migrants and refugees are often exploited, abused, or beaten by traffickers and smugglers. Thousands have died, washing up on shorelines or disappearing into the sea unidentified. This phenomenon raises serious humanitarian and policy issues related to the protection of migrants and refugees and their families and the responsibilities of relevant stakeholders.

International law requires that everyone rescued at sea be promptly disembarked and delivered to a ‘place of safety.’ The International Maritime Organization’s MSC.167(78) - Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea (MSC.167(78)) define a place of safety as a location where rescue operations are considered to terminate; where the survivors' safety of life is no longer threatened and where their basic human needs (such as food, shelter, and medical needs) can be met, taking into account the particular circumstances of each individual (MSC.167(78)). The below-mentioned organizations underscore that saving lives and preventing deaths and injuries must remain States’ collective priority. The law of the sea requires that persons in distress at sea be rescued and assisted. While recognizing that the State responsible for the Search and Rescue (SAR) region in which the rescued persons were recovered is primarily responsible for providing a ‘place of safety’ or ensuring that such a ‘place of safety’ is provided, the ‘place of safety’ concept should be interpreted in light of international law, so that when migrants and refugees are rescued at sea, international human rights and refugee law and transnational criminal law norms are to be taken into account in identifying and deciding where they may be disembarked. All States’ proactive engagement is paramount to create conditions that can ensure respect for human rights principles including access to relevant procedures, the

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<sup>1</sup> Format and information from UNHCR’s May 2022 joint-committee statement <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/joint-statement-place-safety>. On delegates’ committee statements, footnote citations are required on each sentence containing information found externally.

prohibition of refoulement, and avoiding serious harm or other risks, to ensure that persons rescued at sea, including on the high seas, are quickly disembarked in a place of safety and afforded safe and humane treatment irrespective of their legal status and in line with the law of the sea and other international law obligations.

With this in mind, the below-mentioned organizations:

- Encourage States to consider the need to further develop, in line with international law, the requirement to deliver the persons retrieved at sea to a place of safety as elaborated upon through the Guidelines contained in Resolution MSC 167(78).
- Encourage States to enhance efforts to strengthen international and multilateral cooperation to dismantle organized criminal networks facilitating irregular migration.
- Call upon States to effectively investigate and prosecute abuses committed against smuggled migrants, including in transit and destination countries, through the prosecution of offenses related to aggravated forms of smuggling.
- Encourage States to give special attention to the recovery of dead bodies as well as efforts directed at determining their identity, providing their families with information on their fate and whereabouts, and preventing them from becoming missing persons;
- Encourage States to take measures to prevent family separation during rescue operations at sea and disembarkation procedures, in line with international human rights law;
- Encourage States to ensure the swift identification of all persons in vulnerable situations, in particular children, and adopt child-sensitive disembarkation procedures including assessment of children's best interests and provision of adequate non-custodial care and reception. For unaccompanied children, immediate initiation of family tracing and unification with family must be prioritized. They should be provided safe, temporary alternative care and protection while family tracing is ongoing, preferably with extended family or in a family-based setting and
- Call upon States to work together, guided by the spirit of responsibility sharing and solidarity, to ensure that longer-term solutions consistent with international law can be found for rescued refugees and migrants post disembarkation

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees