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ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AUSTRIA

**UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA**

EISENSTADT - GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

# **Charter of the Vienna Model United Nations Club (VMC)**

This Charter frameworks the purpose, procedures and structures of the  
Vienna Model United Nations Club (VMC).  
It further defines the exact rules of the club, which are binding for all of its members.

This document passed on 5 March 2011 by the required majority of members  
and was ratified on 7 March 2011.

## **Chapter 1 - Name and Status**

### *Article 1*

This project shall be called Vienna Model United Nations Club, herein after referred to as VMC.

### *Article 2*

It was founded within the framework of the United Nations Youth and Student Association of Austria - Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs, herein referred to as AFA, and shall therefore fulfill the requirements laid out by AFA.

## **Chapter 2 - Mission and Activities**

### *Article 3*

The VMC has been established to pursue the following objectives;

- a) To increase the understanding for the structure of the United Nations, its strengths and weaknesses, furthermore the challenges the organization is facing, as well as its contribution to global peace and order;
- b) To provide practical experience in the procedures of the United Nations and to develop the written, verbal, interpersonal and organizational skills necessary;
- c) To support the Secretary General and the organizing team of the Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN), including but not limited to the schooling of the chairing team for the upcoming conferences.

### *Article 4*

This shall be done through;

- a) Regular debates, in which any regular member of the AFA may participate, and which shall prepare them for the participation in Model United Nations conferences;
- b) Regular study trips to Model United Nations conferences all around the world;
- c) Proper training-sessions for the Chairs and Delegates of the annual VIMUN conference.

## **Chapter 3 - Club Meetings**

### *Article 5*

Regular meetings shall be held once every two weeks for at least three hours; the official language thereby shall be English and they must be conducted in accordance with the official VIMUN Rules of Procedure.

### *Article 6*

A complete session ought to consist of two consecutive meetings, in which the same topic shall be discussed and which shall be moderated by two chairpersons.

### *Article 7*

Prior to the first meeting of such a session the delegates may write position papers which shall be corrected by the chairpersons in cooperation with the VMC team, the chairs shall also give feedback to the delegates after each meeting.

### *Article 8*

Interested persons from outside shall have the opportunity to participate as observers at any given time, but they shall not be allowed to attend to more than one session without being a regular member of the AFA.

## **Chapter 4 - Membership**

### *Article 9*

VMC membership shall be open to all regular members of AFA without regard to race, gender, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or citizenship.

### *Article 10*

Persons are to be regarded as full Members of the VMC if they hold a certificate stating their membership; such certificates must be issued by the VMC team after attendance of one complete session.

### *Article 11*

All Members of VMC must adhere to the rules, of both, the VMC and the AFA.

## **Chapter 5 - Officers and Duties**

### *Article 12*

The team of the VMC shall consist of a Secretary General, a Vice-Secretary General and an adequate number of team members as determined by the Secretary General.

### *Article 13*

The Secretary General has to attend all meetings and must make arrangements when unable to take part; he shall be responsible for the following;

- a) The organization and presidency of regular meetings in accordance with Chapter 3, including the allocation of positions (chairs/countries) prior to each meeting, as well as the agenda setting and the provision of proper study guides in coordination with his team prior to each session;
- b) Coordinating the work and responsibilities of the team members of VMC and communicating all current affairs and developments to the members of VMC;
- e) Sharing information and maintaining proper and good relations with the AFA;
- g) Passing on all important information to his/her successor and creating a proper transitional schedule.

### *Article 14*

The Vice-Secretary General and the regular team members of the VMC shall be responsible for the following;

- a) The planning and organization of study trips to Model United Nations conferences all around the world;
- b) The recruiting of new members and their awarding with membership certificates in accordance with Article 9 and 10 of this charter;
- c) The representation of VMC to the public through various channels especially by regularly updating the VMC website;
- d) The creation of an adequate appointment schedule and the preparation of the meeting rooms.

## **Chapter 6 - Voting and Elections**

### *Article 15*

The VMC shall hold elections twice a year, in March and October, in order to elect a new team, whereby a single candidate needs more than fifty per cent of the votes of all members present during the voting meeting.

### *Article 16*

Each active Member shall have one vote, whereby a member shall be regarded as active if he/she had participated in at least one session during the past six months, attested by an official VMC certificate as

mentioned in Article 9 and 10 of this charter. Furthermore any member of the VMC has the right to be either put forward or to present oneself as a candidate, for the position of the Secretary General.

#### *Article 17*

Voting shall usually be done by show of hands, but voting by roll call or by secret ballot shall also be possible if wished by more than five present VMC members, in any case the former Secretary General shall record the votes and announce the outcome.

#### *Article 18*

The new Secretary General is the first person to be voted into office as he/she has to administer all further elections; he/she may put forward nominations of his desired team members, which will then be approved or declined by the members present.

#### *Article 19*

No member of the VMC shall be allowed to hold the office of Secretary General for more than two consecutive terms, but being a regular staff member shall be possible for more than two terms.

#### *Article 20*

The newly elected Secretary General has to present his/her credentials to both the President of AFA-Austria and the Chairperson of AFA-Vienna. The AFA has to accept the Vote. Only in cases of severe doubts, the AFA has a veto concerning the vote. In such cases the responsible authority of the AFA has to present these doubts at the next meeting of the VMC. At this meeting a two third majority decides if a new election procedure should take place. If the majority fails or if a new election votes for the same candidate, the AFA has to accept the decision

#### *Article 21*

In case members are heavily dissatisfied with the performance of the Secretary General, they may vote him/her out of office at any point in time, given that at least 10 members request such removal. When the Secretary General is voted out of office through a two thirds majority the removal will be directly followed by an election for a new Secretary General. In such a meeting, at least fifty per cent of the VMC members ought to be present, in order to make the removal effective. Two weeks prior a formal invitation has to be sent to all VMC members.

### **Chapter 7 - Relationship to the AFA**

#### *Article 22*

The VMC was founded within the framework of the AFA and understands itself as an integral part of the AFA; therefore the AFA will provide a corresponding room for the VMC meetings and as part of the AFA, the VMC is also allowed to use the emblem and the corporate design of the AFA.

#### *Article 23*

The VMC and the VIMUN are two separate organizational bodies with a close relationship. VMC will not organize MUN conferences and VIMUN will not organize MUN training-sessions.

#### *Article 24*

The VMC meetings follow the principle of "peer to peer group education". Therefore the invitation of external guest speakers is not designated. If the VMC deems it necessary to invite external persons or to organize any other event as stated in Chapter 2 VMC has to ask for the authorization of the President of AFA-Austria.

#### *Article 25*

The VMC is a part of the AFA-Vienna. The idea of VMC shall also be promoted in the other Austrian cities where local AFA committees are established. If MUN clubs will be successfully established in other Austrian cities, a federal framework for all MUN clubs within the AFA system shall be created.

**Chapter 8 - Miscellaneous***Article 26*

This Charter must be presented to the members of the VMC and shall be voted by a majority vote thereof, and it shall be valid until the required majority of members decide to change it.

*Article 27*

The Charter can only be amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the active VMC members, such amendments or repeals may be added at any time the required majority of members deem them as necessary.

*Article 28*

The first Charter as well as any changes of the Charter enter validation after the majority vote of its founding members and the signature of the first Secretary General, the Chairperson of the AFA in Vienna and the President of the AFA-Austria.

**Chapter 9 - Dissolution***Article 29*

The VMC can only be dissolved by a two third majority vote of its active members and by an additional decision of the responsible authority of the AFA.

Vienna, 7 March 2011



The President of AFA-Austria:

(Michael F. PFEIFER)

The Chairman of AFA-Vienna:

(Marc E. MELICH)

The Secretary General of VMC:

(Roman PABLE)