



A NOTE ON THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING THE GLOBAL ENERGY PARLIAMENT

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Seating Arrangements:

The Chamber may be in a semi-circular hall with the Speaker placed conspicuously at the centre of the diameter connecting the two ends of the Members' seats in a semi-circle. The dais and chair of the presiding officer should be on the straight base of the semi-circle. Lightly raised above the Chamber of the Parliament is the gallery for the visitors, the press, distinguished visitors, etc.

The Procedures for Conducting the Parliament:

The Global Energy Parliament follows a simplified pattern of the Westminster system and the Indian Lok Sabha. The main difference is that there are no opposition or ruling parties.

The parliamentary business is arranged in the order in which it is shown in the 'Direction by the Speaker'. The order in which various items of business are taken up in the House is as follows:-

1. Oath of affirmation (Collectively)
2. Founder's Address
3. Vote of thanks on Founder's Address
4. Questions
5. Call-Attention Motion
6. Submissions
7. Resolutions
8. Moving of Bill(s)
9. Formation / Presentation of Committees

1. Oath or Affirmation by Members

The GEP starts with the arrival of the Speaker. As soon as the Speaker arrives in the Chamber, the marshal announces his/her arrival with the words "Hon. Members, the Hon. Speaker."

Thereafter the entire House stands up. The Speaker before taking his/her seat first bows to his left, then to his right and then in front of him. The Members from the respective sides also respectfully bow to the chair before taking their seats.

The Speaker takes up the business of the House in the order in which it is printed in the list of business. The first item on the agenda is Oath or Affirmation by the new Members. Before taking the seat in the House every new Member is required to make or subscribe an Oath or Affirmation.

2. Founder's Address

The Founder is not a Parliamentarian, but a witness to it. He will enter the premises and assume a seat near the Speaker. He provides an Address at the beginning of the Parliament to discuss the purpose of the parliament and some commentaries about its agenda for the current session.

He may be called upon at any time to provide answers or guidance throughout the parliament.

3. Motion of thanks on the Founder's Address

This is a formal motion moved in the House expressing its gratitude for the address delivered by the Founder. It provides an opportunity for the discussion of the matters referred to the address. The Motion of Thanks is moved by a senior member.

Another member seconds the motion.

4. Question Hour

The first part of a sitting in the Global Energy Parliament should be devoted to oral questions. It is a popular hour for the Members of Parliament. The question has been defined as instruments whereby a Member can elicit, describe and get information on any aspect from a Minister.

Normally, GEP allows one question for each Minister, according to the time. Questions have to be given in advance by Members. Those which are selected will be printed separately in the 'List of Questions.'

The Speaker will call out the name of a Member in whose name the question stands. When the Speaker calls on the name of the Member, he/she rises in place and asks the question mentioned against his/her name on the printed list of questions.

When asking, the Member addresses the Hon. Speaker but indicates to which Minister the question is asked. For example, "Honourable Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Environment...."

Thereafter, the Speaker calls the Minister concerned to answer the question. The Member should read out the entire question, so that the others may know the subject matter of the question. After the Minister's reply the Member putting the question is entitled to the first supplementary if s/he wishes, and other questions one by one, but not more than 4 with the permission of the Speaker to elucidate any matter of fact regarding the answer given. There should be no discussion on questions, nor lengthy supplementaries be made by the Members.

5. Call-Attention Motions

A member may, with the prior permission of the Speaker, call the attention of a Minister or the House to a matter of urgent public importance and request him/her to make a statement thereon.

The test of admissibility decided by the Speaker is urgency and public importance of the subject matter. Its notice should be given preferably on the same day on which the subject matter of the motion has arisen.

When the Member is called by the Speaker, s/he rises in his place and calls attention of the Minister concerned to the matter and requests him/her to make a statement. The Minister reads out the statement or in case the statement is a lengthy one, he may lay the same on the table of the House. In the latter case the Members are given time to study the statement and ask questions to seek clarification, which the Minister replies to on the spot. There is no debate on the statement.

The Call-Attention Motion is an important item in the GEP and it should be seen that it does not degenerate into a long-winded debate. After the Minister had read out his/her statement, the first opportunity to seek clarification or elucidation of a point is given to the Member who tabled the notice of the Call-Attention Motion. Thereafter, other Members in whose names the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask questions or seek clarification, one by one. When all the Members have made their points, the concerned Minister is called by the Speaker to reply to the points raised by the Members.

The entry with regard to this item is given in the following manner:

“To call the attention of the Minister of Peace and Diplomacy to the increasing acts of violence against refugees and immigrants occurring in the U.S., Europe and South Asia, and the steps which should be taken to balance the energies of all concerned, including the offenders, the refugees and the public.”

6. Submissions & Discussion

A statement made by a Member on an important issue. Oral submissions in the GEP are in the form of a prepared brief speech (5-7 minutes), expressing one particular issue and proposing a solution.

A submission may be in the form of:

- an opinion
- recommendations
- recording either approval or disapproval by the House of any policy
- conveying a message or amend, urge or request action or call attention to a matter or situation for consideration of national Governments, international organizations, or the GEP itself.

The submissions are followed by discussion by the Members. A Member may add an amendment, raise a concern, etc.

After discussion, a Member may decide to move a resolution based on the submission.

7. Resolutions

Resolutions may be made based on the submissions and discussions throughout the day. They may also be collected and presented before the House in the final session. All resolutions will be put to a vote by the Speaker.

If a resolution is to be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions:

- Raises one definite issue;
- Proposes substantially one definite solution;
- Focuses on solutions instead of problems;
- Is based upon scientific facts and the science of the I-Theory;
- Maintains the integrity and discipline of the parliament and its members and does not defame or make arguments against any nation or person.

It is hereby noted that all Resolutions passed by the House are subject to approval by the GEP Cabinet and Founder.

A Member in whose name a resolution stands on the list of business shall except when s/he wishes to withdraw it, when called upon, move the resolution, and shall appear in the list of business.

After a Resolution has been moved, any Member may, subject to the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment to the Resolution.

After the member has moved the Resolution, other members shall speak one by one as and when the Speaker calls them to speak on the subject matter of the Resolution. Thereafter, the concerned Minister will intervene in the debate which will finally be replied to by the mover.

In case the mover in his/her reply presses for a decision on the Resolution, the Speaker will then take the decision of the House by voice vote.

8. Moving of Bill(s)

A Minister can move a draft Bill. The written text will be prepared in advance and put on the table of the House. An oral summary is delivered by the Minister when called by the Speaker.

Bills are longer than Resolutions and generally encapsulate a wide viewpoint of the theme of the Parliament, concerning a large number of portfolios, including the I-Theory perspective.

The summary of the Bill is followed by discussion by the Members. Members may propose amendments to the Bill.

After the discussion is concluded, the Speaker will call for a vote whether to pass the Bill or not.

9. Formation / Presentation of Committees

Committees of the GEP carry out the work of the Parliament throughout the year through in-depth consultations and research. They make recommendations for implementation and present them at the annual sessions of Parliament.

Members will be appointed or may volunteer to serve on a committee. In 2023, four committees will be formed: Education, Global Science Ethics, Sustainable Economy, and Integrated Healthcare.

Each Committee Chair shall report their outcomes at the next year's session of parliament.

Dress Code:

For Members of Parliament and organizers, a dress code is required during the entire event fixed in order to demonstrate our respect for the democratic process and to show the seriousness with which Members of Parliament deserve to be treated by the greater community.

Men: Formal pants and shirt, or traditional Indian style kurta. Jeans, T-shirts, shorts and sneakers are not acceptable. White or cream colour shirt is preferred.

Women: Business attire. Either dress pants/skirt with button-down collared shirt, or sari. Colours and patterns may please be simple and modest. White or cream colour is preferred.

Do's and Don'ts for the participants:

All participants in the GEP should so conduct themselves in a dignified manner and remember their role as a model human being..

1. The participants of the GEP should bear in mind that this parliament is unique. It is not a mock or a model parliament, but in fact a continuing body of volunteers who are empowered with the knowledge and resources to hold sessions and pass Resolutions that will be recommended to the Governments of every nation, United Nations and other important agencies. Activities of the GEP are conducted year-round, outside of the annual session of parliament.
2. There are no politics in the GEP, no ruling party and no opposition. The GEP emphasizes cooperation and dignity, while encouraging each individual to express their ideas in a respectful way.
3. A Member's duty is to represent a real human being and to consider the good of the whole world.

4. The subject matters put before the GEP should be presented with consideration of the greater good and how to find solutions, not to make complaints or arguments, with the higher vision of energy balance and the I-Theory in mind.
5. Members should show utmost respect to the Speaker. They should abide by the decisions of the Speaker and should have faith in his/her impartiality and judgment.
6. Members should not say or do anything on the floor of the House that is not warranted by rules of procedures or by the ruling or precedence or by the accepted and established customs and conventions of the House.
7. There should be no discussion on sensitive policy matters affecting the international relations of any country or which would prove sensitive or embarrassing for the host country and its present-day government.
8. A member should never cross the floor while the House is sitting ,i.e., s/he should never pass between the Chair and any member who is speaking. Violation of this rule is regarded as a breach of Parliamentary etiquette.
9. Members should not sit with their backs to the Speaker. When a Member wants to speak, s/he should raise hand to attract the attention of the Speaker. No Member should speak unless he or she has 'caught the eye' of the Speaker and has been permitted by the Speaker, by name or by a sign, to speak.
10. Every Member should resume his seat as the Speaker rises to speak or calls out "order", and also when any other member is in possession of the floor. Two or more Members should not stand at the same time.
11. No Member should rise or leave the House when the Speaker is addressing the House. "The Speaker is always to be heard in silence."
12. No Member should read out a written speech. However, a member any feel free to consult his notes whenever s/he losses track of his or her prepared speech or text.
13. A Member must not address individual members of the House. S/he should always address the Speaker and make all remarks to other Members through the Speaker.
14. Members should not distribute within the precincts of the House or inside the legislature questionnaires or pamphlets not connected with the business of the House.