

**Rules of Procedure  
and  
Handbook of the  
Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union  
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## 1. Roles & Characters

### 1.1. The General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

The General Secretary of the Central Party of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (in Russian: Генеральный секретарь ЦК КПСС - General'nyy sekretar' TSK KPSS) was a leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). From 1924 until the country's dissolution in 1991, the Secretary General was the recognized leader of the Soviet Union.

Officially, the General Secretary solely controlled the Communist Party directly. However, since the party had a monopoly on political power, the Secretary General de facto had executive control of the Soviet Government. Because of the office's ability to direct both the foreign and domestic policies of the state and preeminence over the Soviet Communist Party, it was the de facto highest office of the Soviet Union.

The General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has some important main roles and responsibilities:

- **Party Leadership and Control:** The General Secretary managed the entire party apparatus, setting the agenda for meetings and controlling the Secretariat.
- **Nomenklatura System:** The role held authority over appointments and assignments for key positions within the party and government, ensuring the loyalty to the leadership.
- **Policy Formulation:** They dictated the direction of both domestic policy (economic, social and cultural) and foreign affairs.
- **Ideological Oversight:** They enforced strict adherence to Marxist-Leninist principles and controlled the party line and propaganda.
- **Command of the Power Structure:** As the leader of the party, they held overall control over the Soviet state apparatus, including the armed forces and security services.

In our committee, the General Secretary of the CPSU will be Mikhail Gorbachev and it will be represented by the Under Secretary General.

### 1.2. Board of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

- The Board Members of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union consists of the Chairman of the Presidium (*Predsedatel' Prezidiuma*), Secretary of the Presidium (*Sekretar' Prezidiuma*) and the Clerk of the Supreme Soviet. The Board is responsible for presiding over the proceedings.
- The member of the board who at a moment presides over the Supreme Soviet is acting chairman. Members of the Board may hand over the acting chairman duty to one another.
- Members of the Board have the right to vote in both substantive and procedural votes, but they are not obligated to cast a vote. Members of the Board may also participate in
- any discussion by taking the floor, express their opinions or even can draft directives and bills.
- The Board reserves the right to alter or suspend the rules of procedure partially and reserves the right to bury proposals that were not submitted in an appropriate way.

### 1.3. Deputies

- Deputies are individuals elected by the people of regions to represent them and serve in the Supreme Soviet
- As members of the legislature, deputies are responsible for preparing legislation, which shall be voted upon by their respective institutions.

- If any Minister gets dismissed through any means, such as a vote of no confidence, these Ministers shall resume their duties as deputies.

The representatives of the Supreme Soviet is divided into 2:

#### 1.3.1. Representatives of the “Soviet of the Union” (The Ministers/Apparatus)

The Representatives of the Soviet of the Union (Ministers/State Apparatus) in the SSUSSR were closely connected to the executive government, mainly the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Soviet Union. Their job was to run the administration of the country and implement state policies that were approved by the Supreme Soviet and guided by the CPSU.

Their main goals are:

- implementing government policy
- managing the national economy
- preparing the Five-Year Plans and state budget
- ensuring state security and defence
- managing foreign relations and international cooperation
- issuing government decrees and resolutions
- coordinating ministries and republic governments

#### 1.3.2. Representatives of the “Soviet of Nationalities” (The Republic Leaders)

The Soviet of Nationalities was one of the two chambers of the SSUSSR. While the Soviet of the Union represented the population proportionally, the Soviet of Nationalities was designed to represent the ethnic and territorial diversity of the USSR. It ensured that Union Republics, Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Oblasts and Autonomous Okrugs had a voice in national legislation. The representatives are generally senior political leaders from the Soviet Republics.

Their main goals are:

- Representation of Soviet Republics
- Protection of Ethnic and National Interests
- Participation in National Legislation
- Coordination Between the Republics and the Central Government
- Managing Regional Development

PS: You will provide Character Sheets that you can check your own character's role, learn the representation or the ideology of your character.

## 2. Cabinet of Ministers

The Cabinet of Ministers consists of 9 members in our committee: Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of KGB, Minister of Defence, Minister of Construction of the Oil and Gas Industries, Minister of Finance, Minister of Internal Affairs, Head of General Staff and Minister of Culture.

- The chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers is Nikolai Ryzhkov and he is responsible for the decisions made and actions taken. He has the privilege to introduce a vote of no confidence to the ministers.
- Its members are elected individually and immediately assume their post after they are directly elected to the Cabinet of Ministers.
- For the position of a minister, the Cabinet can put forward as many as two candidates, with at least seven sponsors each; if there are more candidates for the election, the one who has more sponsors is the most disruptive for the election.
- The General Secretary of the CPSU, Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium have the privilege of introducing one more candidate (if they introduce a candidate, there can be three candidates for the ministry).

- After the selecting candidates, a placard voting procedure is conducted to decide upon the new minister.
- In the same matter, a vote of no confidence is given to individual ministers, continuing its work regardless of a vacant seat.
- Ministers are deputies who are assigned to carry out certain duties of the executive branch and therefore ministers have every right to enjoy rights and privileges granted to deputies.
- As such, it is the task of the Soviet Union to clear this issue.
- Each session, the cabinet may decide to take a 10 minute meeting outside of the Supreme Soviet. To do this, it is required that the chairboard is informed via message paper of a consensus in favor of this meeting.

### 3. Working Committees

Working committees are groups made up of members of the Supreme Soviet aiming to create legislation under a specific agenda. Instead of all members of the Supreme Soviet working toward the same agenda, working committees allow multiple sectors of the nation to be covered in the legislative structure.

- There are 6 working groups in total with each of them composed of at least 4 deputies of the Supreme Soviet (besides ministers). Each working group creates legislation under the leadership of its head.
- These committees are: Budget Committee, the Internal Security and Logistics Committee, the Chernobyl and Crisis Committee, the Judicial Committee, the Labour and Social Committee, and the Constitutional Committee. The Supreme Soviet may decide to establish a new committee and reconstruct the current committee.
- Each working committee must and only create legislation regarding its own agenda.

- After their establishment, the Heads of Committees may change their composition once every session.
- The procedure for the change and election of a Head of Committee follows the same process as ministers.

#### 4. Flow of the Sessions

##### 4.1. Roll Call

At the start of each session of the Supreme Soviet, deputies are obliged to send a message paper to the Chairboard of the Supreme Soviet stating their presence, otherwise they cannot join the debate, exercise their rights as deputies, or enjoy their privileges as ministers or working committees members.

There is two thirds majority needed to reach a quorum for sessions of the Supreme Soviet. Only at the beginning of the first official session, all members of the Supreme Soviet who wish to do so may give opening speeches

##### 4.2. General Speakers List (*Spisok osnovnykh dokladchikov*)

Following opening speeches, the Board shall establish the General Speakers List (GSL). Duration of the GSL speeches or when the Supreme Soviet shall entertain a GSL speech is at the chairman's discretion.

##### 4.3. Caucuses

The Supreme Soviet has two types of caucuses:

- 4.3.1. Semi-Moderated Caucus: Semi-moderated caucus is similar to a moderated caucus in its nature; however, there is a fixed duration for the caucus though, not for the individual speaking. Moreover, there are no lists determining the order of speech and the acting chairman may interrupt and terminate speeches. Otherwise, rules which apply to a moderated caucus are observed in a semi-moderated caucus as well.

4.3.2. Unmoderated Caucus: Relevant provisions of the Conference's Rules of Procedure shall be applied, except that deputies may not use electronic devices such as telegraph.

#### 4.4. Documents

##### 4.4.1. Directives

- Individual directives (*individual'nyye direktivy*): allow the deputies to take action within their sphere of influence. What they can do depends on their personal lives and actions.
- Ministerial directives (*ministerskaya direktivy*): Ministerial directives are directives written by individual ministers in their own capacity. As such ministerial directives are limited to the ministers' jurisdiction.
- Working groups can write directive in their own interests and capacities. It can be written by all deputies in the relevant working group. While sending the directive, it need the signature of the Head of Committee.

##### 4.4.2. Bills (*schet*)

- Legislations are substantive documents which regulate certain aspects of state affairs. Also, in order for international treaties and all legislations to come into effect, a legislation has to be issued by the Supreme Soviet. Legislation proposals are called bills.
- Bills may only be presented by working groups, with the sponsorship of Head of the Committee and its drafters, with a single deputy chosen as the main submitter.
- Bills must have the simple majority of the Supreme Soviet to pass.
- In case of conflicting bills, the Board reserves the right to alter the bills or overrule one of them.
- Bills may receive various amendments.

#### 4.4.3. Press Releases (*press-relizy*)

Press releases are substantive documents which state the official opinion of the Supreme Soviet to the public. Press releases have to be submitted by individual delegates. A press release has to have only one submitter and at least three sponsors. Press releases need the simple majority of the Supreme Soviet to pass.

#### 4.5. Substantive Voting Procedure

The following documents of the Supreme Soviet are subject to substantive voting procedure: Legislations, press releases, international treaties, presidential decisions.

- a. Proposals must be voted according to the following priority list:
  - i. Overrule bills
  - ii. International treaties
  - iii. Bills
  - iv. Press releases

Voting procedure on substantive documents proceeds as follows:

- First, the Board calls for a motion to initiate a voting procedure. This motion passes with a simple majority and does not need to be raised for every individual proposal.
- Once a substantive voting procedure is initiated, it lasts until the acting chairman terminates it, a motion is given to terminate the voting, the session ends, or the substantive document proposals are exhausted.
- The Board calls the main submitter of the proposal to present the proposal. The submitter reads the proposal in exact wording as it was submitted to the Board.
- The Board calls for in favour and against speeches. The number of rounds to be entertained is at the acting chairman's discretion; however, the number of in favour and against speeches must be equal.

- Listeners may propose amendments until this stage. If an amendment is submitted, the Board may entertain up to one in favour and one against speech per amendment. This is highly encouraged for the purposes of the Supreme Soviet, as a possible way of interacting with bills presented by other working committees.
- Before the proposal itself, the Board puts amendments to a vote. Amendments must have the simple majority of the Supreme Soviet. After the amendments, the Board puts the proposal to vote.
- After the speeches, the chairman puts the proposal to vote. If the proposal passes, the chairman sends the proposal to the related person or institution. The ministers are tasked with the execution of these bills.

#### 4.6. Vote of Confidence / Vote of No Confidence

A deputy may raise a “Motion for a vote of no confidence” if they believe that a minister is not capable of fulfilling their duties.

- Motion for a vote of no confidence has to be submitted to the Board in written form. The motion has to include the deputy’s/deputies’ reasons for believing that this minister is not competent.
- After the motion is submitted to the Board, the Board announces that there is a motion for vote of no confidence and asks for sponsors to the motion. Deputies who want to be sponsored for the motion raise their placards. The motion requires being sponsored by at least 5 deputies to be in order.
- If the motion is in order, the chairman introduces the motion to the Supreme Soviet and calls the submitter to give a speech against the minister, which shall be followed by the speech of the minister to defend their position. Both the minister and the

submitter give their speech from their seats for 1 minute. Following the speeches of the submitter and the minister, the Board proceeds with the voting.

- In a vote of no confidence, the Board shall ask the Supreme Soviet “All deputies who have no confidence in the minister”

#### 4.7. Motions

The following motions may be raised:

- Motion to initiate a moderated caucus
- Motion to initiate a semi-moderated caucus
- Motion to initiate an unmoderated caucus
- Motion to extend the previous caucus
- Motion to terminate the caucus
- Motion to initiate the substantive voting procedure
- Motion to terminate the substantive voting procedure
- Motion for a vote of no confidence
- Motion to introduce an amendment
- Motion to suspend the Supreme Soviet
- Motion to adjourn the Supreme Soviet

#### 4.8. Fields that are not Regulated by the Rules of Procedure

In all fields that are not regulated with the Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference shall be applied.