

Parliament Simulation – Components and Steps Followed

1. Opening and Organization of Parliament

- Opening of the mock parliamentary sitting.
- Temporary presidency by the eldest member, assisted by the two youngest participants.
- Opening of nominations and conduct of elections.
- Election of a Vice-President and two Secretaries.
- Transition from the organizational phase to the substantive parliamentary sitting.

2. Legislative Simulation

- Presentation of two government legislative items:
 - Abolition of the death penalty.
 - Lowering the voting age.
- Parliamentary debate on both proposals.
- Identification and discussion of the constitutional implications associated with lowering the voting age.
- Submission by ten MPs of an initiative concerning constitutional amendment.
- Debate and vote on the proposed change.
- Distribution of legislative proposal/amendment forms.
- Submission of participant-generated legislative initiatives, particularly around youth, education, and health.
- Presentation, debate, and voting on participant-generated proposals.

3. State Budget Simulation

- Distribution of a simplified state budget.
- Examination of expenditure allocations and competing public priorities.
- Submission and discussion of proposed reductions and reallocations.

- Consideration of the consequences of increasing expenditure in one area while reducing another.
- Examination of state revenues and available resources.
- Discussion of the relationship between expenditure, revenue, and deficit.
- Negotiation and prioritization of competing public-policy objectives.

4. Parliamentary Oversight – Questions and Answers

- Introduction to parliamentary questioning as an oversight mechanism.
- Participants addressed questions to the simulated government.
- The moderator assumed the role of the government for the purposes of the exercise.
- Questions were linked to issues raised during the budget discussion in order to demonstrate the relationship between parliamentary approval of expenditure and subsequent oversight of government action.
- This component was condensed to approximately 15 minutes because of the extensive interaction generated during the preceding exercises.

5. Overall Learning Approach

Throughout the session, participants were encouraged to move beyond general policy preferences and formulate concrete parliamentary positions. They were required to justify their choices, respond to opposing arguments, seek support, participate in voting, consider constitutional and procedural constraints, and assess the financial implications of policy decisions.

The simulation therefore integrated legislative procedure, negotiation, public finance, and parliamentary accountability within a single practical exercise.