Guidelines for Chairs of Debate Sessions

SESSION OUTLINE
The time allotted for the debate is **60 minutes**, divided into:
- 5 min — Welcoming and speaker introductions by the chairperson + audience voting
- 20 min — Presentation by the first speaker
- 20 min — Presentation by the second speaker (contra-argument)
- 2 min — Rebuttal by the first speaker
- 2 min — Rebuttal by the second speaker
- 1 min — Audience voting
- 10 min — Discussion and Q&A led by the chairperson

On stage, there is a head table and two lecterns. After introducing the speakers using slides and completing the initial voting, the chairperson is kindly requested to sit at the head table and invite speakers to take their places behind each lectern. Speakers will take turns presenting with slides (20 min each) and then proceed to rebuttals and Q&A. During the 20-minute presentation slots, the speaker who is not presenting may join the chair at the head table, but for rebuttals, we kindly ask that both speakers stand behind their respective lecterns.

BEFORE THE SESSION
- Please review the debate session voting guidelines on the [congress website](#).
- Please refer to your session schedule via the CORA 2025 mobile app or [interactive program](#).
- Please arrive at the session hall about **15 minutes before the session starts**.*
  In some cases, there will be only 5 minutes before your and the previous session. In such a case, please wait for the previous session to end and then proceed to the head table.
- Please prepare your own questions for the speakers in case of lower activity from the audience.
- A technician/staff member will also be present in the hall at the AV table to assist with all technological features taking place during the session. Please notify them immediately of any equipment problems.

> **At the beginning of the session:**
> Please ask people to take their seats and encourage them to take front and center seats.
> Ask them to silence any mobile devices, and refrain from photographing/recording the lectures.

START OF THE SESSION
- **Introduce** yourself by name and affiliation.
- **Welcome** the audience in the hall.
- **Outline**, very briefly, the session content. "We are going to debate: x,y,z" and introduce the two speakers using slides (session outline will be provided on the head table).
- The final slide of your presentation will include the debate topic. **Read it out and invite** the audience **to vote using the mobile app** at the beginning of the session to express which side of the debate they agree with.
- **Encourage** the audience **to ask questions** during the final 10 min of the session.

DURING THE SESSION

> **Please follow the schedule closely and gently interrupt speakers**
> **if they exceed the allocated time for their presentation.**

- We recommend that you as a chair encourage the speakers to defend their viewpoints up to the end of the debate in order to provide a wider range of learning possibilities for the audience.
- **Invite** the audience to **vote through the app** again after the rebuttals to express which side of the debate they agree with and comment on any obvious change in preferences or lack of such.
- Please take the initiative when appropriate to help stimulate questions from the audience and lead the discussion.

TO END THE SESSION
- At the end of the session, kindly thank the speakers and the audience for their participation.

In case of questions, please [contact](#) the congress organizers or find us onsite in the Registration Area of the congress venue. Thank you for your valuable contribution to the success of the CORA 2025 Congress!