**DEBATE RULES**

**Fall Debate, 25 November 2019, 10.00-12.00 (11.00-13.00 Chisinau time)**

***Composition of the Team***

1. Each university Team (hereinafter the Team) consists of five students. No Team can have more than five members.

2. Admission of a Team consisting of less than five members falls within the prerogative of the Organizers- MESA10 and CEAS (hereinafter the Organizers).

3. At each Debate, the Teams will answer the questions posed by the Debate Moderator (hereinafter the Moderator) and by the students from the audiences of the Debate.

***Debate Rounds***

4. There will be three rounds of questions in each Debate. Each round will begin with a different opening question posed by the Moderator.

***Seating of the Teams***

5. All the Teams will be seated. Microphone will be located in the center of the stage.

6. Team members answering the questions will be standing in the center of the stage.

***Answering the questions***

7. Questions in the Debate will be answered by all the Teams. In each of the three rounds of the Debate, the questions will be answered jointly first by two Teams, subsequently by three Teams and finally by two remaining Teams.

***Order of the Teams answering the questions***

8. The order of the Teams answering the questions will be set by the Moderator.

9. Questions in the Debate will be answered by one member of each Team.

***Drawing the names of Team members answering opening questions***

10. The names of the students answering the opening question from each team in all rounds will be drawn by the Moderator. Having answered the opening question, the Team members will return to their seats.

***Length of answer of the opening question***

11. Each Team has 2 minutes to answer an opening question.

***Follow-up questions from the audiences or from the Moderator***

12. A different member of each Team in every round will be called upon by the Moderator to provide answers to the follow –up questions from the audiences at the participating universities or from the Moderator (hereinafter follow-up questions).

The length of a follow-up question from the audience will be decided by the Moderator. Comments which are not part of a follow-up question are not allowed.

13. Each Team has 1 minute to answer a follow-up question.

***Prohibition to answer questions***

14. To secure participation of all Team members in the debate, only one member of each Team answering follow-up questions may answer follow-up questions in two rounds. For Teams having less than five members, only two members of such a Team may answer more than one follow-up question in two rounds, but not more than two follow-up questions.

15. Members of any Team answering the opening question may not answer follow-up questions. The exception from this rule is only allowed in connection with par.2.

***Preparation for the Debate***

16. Teams can prepare and train to answer the opening questions before the debate. The opening questions are announced by the Organizers to the teams.

***Prohibition to read statements***

17. The goal of the debate is a genuine exchange of view, not an exercise in reading texts prepared in advance. Answering the question means stating the Team’s position on it and then providing arguments to support the teams’ position. Team members are prohibited from reading statements during the Debate. They may, however, use brief notes to assist them in presenting their arguments. Team members are not allowed to read from their notes with the exception of quotes. A quote may be read from the notes.

***Voting on answers of individual Teams***

18. At each round, the Moderator may ask the audiences to vote by showing up paper cards of different colors. The vote will illustrate whether the audience shares the position presented by a Team or not. The vote will not be counted, it will be determined visually whether there is a preponderance of YES or NO votes.

***Recording, interpretation of the rules, decision upon the Rules, acceptance of the rules***

19. The debate is broadcast live and may be recorded or photographed by the Organizers for further use. Photo, audio and video may be recorded by the Organizers or hosting university and used by them. Participation on the team or in the audiences of the debates constitutes a consent with such a recording and use.

20. The right to interpret these rules is vested with the Organizers of the debates- MESA10 and CEAS. Their decisions are final and are not subject to administrative or judicial review. By participating in the Debate, the Teams, Team members and students in the audiences express their acceptance of these rules.