

The Joint Crisis Committee

Committee Background Guide

GC: London 2014



приветствовать.

bienvenidos.

bienvenue.

welcome.

سلام.
欢迎.

Welcome Advanced Delegate!

Congratulations on being selected to take part in this year's Crisis. We hope that it will be an engaging and enjoyable experience for you all.

Sam and Silas – your Crisis Directors.

This year's Crisis is set around the contested Senkaku Islands (or called the Diaoyu Islands by the Chinese) between Japan and China and will feature a delegation from the Security Council alongside the cabinets of both China and Japan.

This style of Model United Nations may be abstract to many of you but having seen the experience and skill at the Global Classroom Conferences over the last five years, we are sure that debate will be brilliant.

The political backdrop to this conflict is REAL and you should conduct your research using the links at the end of this guide as a starting point. This historic and current conflict sees China and Japan diametrically opposed and locked in a political battle over territory.

All crisis events from this point are hypothetical yet your response to them MUST be appropriate to your delegation or character...

The Crisis:

In the light of the mysterious death of the owner of the Senkaku islands, the diplomatic conflict between China and Japan escalated over this disputed territory. Although neither country has assured diplomatic sovereignty to the islands, both countries claim the islands using different historical justifications to their legitimacy.

The deceased previous owner of the Islands prided himself on his Japanese heritage, though it appears that this was not of key importance in terms of a sale. His death was unexpected and unexplained and occurred during negotiations. Consequently, there is no clear indication of to whom the islands were to be sold.

To make matters worse the formerly peaceful 'Taiwan Solidarity Union' has split into two warring factions - the larger and more aggressive Taiwan Independence Movement (TIM), and the reformist People of Taiwan Coalition. TIM has taken advantage of the political instability and has now claimed sovereignty to the islands outright.

Though prone to violent tactics, reaching a diplomatic solution with TIM is still an option and there are talks between them and the Chinese government remains a possibility. Although Taiwan is not represented within the United Nations, representatives will be attending crisis talks at GC: London to promote their agenda should delegates entertain their visit.

Al Jazeera has alleged that TIM is engaged in bilateral talks with Japan, and that Japan has plans to establish an embassy within Taiwanese soil. This is news that has been greeted frostily by China, who have expelled the Japanese Ambassador and downgraded all diplomatic ties to the level of 'charge d'affairs'.



The Basics: Crisis Committee

When real-world developments outpace conventional UN procedure, delegates often have to resort to quick, decisive action to resolve an issue. Instead of debating a forced, unchanging topic, delegates in a crisis committee will be required to respond to events as they are created by the crisis staff, a group of staff members that work closely with the dais to determine the direction of the topic.

Instead of acting as general representatives for one country as a whole, delegates in a crisis committee take the role of specific characters from a governmental body or organization OR a member of the Security Council.

The crisis topic was related to a conflict Japan and China and therefore the committees consist of members of the Japanese and Chinese presidential cabinet. Other delegates will be asked to represent a single country of the Security Council as in conventional UN committees.

It is important to research that person's personality and history, as both are necessary for any delegate wishing to stay true to his/her character.

I. Rules and Procedure

All typical MUN rules and procedure apply to crisis committees, though the dais may encourage the delegates to enter caucus types that allow more frequent speaking. It is not uncommon for crisis committees to abandon the ordering of speeches for moderated caucuses. In addition to normal rules and procedure, there are three ways in which delegates can carry out orders and obtain information in a crisis committee. They are as follows:

1. Directive – an instruction; an order

Directives are used to direct the actions of one's own country, organization, or affiliated body. If each delegate is taking the role of a specific character as opposed to a general UN representative, it is the delegate's responsibility to know what commands are reasonably within his or her character's capabilities.

For example, it would be nonsensical for a finance minister to write a directive mobilizing troops- that would be a directive more appropriate for a president or general. The most common directives are those used to mobilize military forces, as depicted in the example below.

Directive

To: The US government

From: Barack Obama

-Send 2,000 additional troops to Afghanistan.

2. Communiqués

Communiqués are used for making inquiries and for discussions that do not involve giving direct orders. For example, if you want to ask a delegate whether or not his or her country would look favorably upon a given policy or action, you would do so by sending that delegate a communiqué. Communiqués can also be used to determine whether or not a delegate's own country would be supportive of an action or policy. For example, if you are representing the United States and want to form a trade agreement with China, but you're not entirely sure if US policy would permit such an agreement, you can send a communiqué to the dais to eliminate any uncertainty.

Communiqué

To: France

From: The United States

-Would France be willing to support Resolution 1B? If not, what provisions would you like to see in the resolution?

3. Press Release

Press releases are used to make public statements. If you have information that you feel needs to go public, such as the denouncement of an accusation made by the UN or details that may affect popular sentiment, send a press release to the dais. Upon receiving your press release, the dais will announce the content of the press release to the committee. You may find that crisis updates are often announced in the form of press releases from the crisis staff.

Press Release

From: North Korea

We deny accusations of human rights violations made by the UN. Our irresistibly attractive leader, Kim Jong Un, would like to warn everyone that intervention will not be tolerated.

II. The importance of neatness

If you have handwriting that looks a bit messy, then we can't bring your ideas to life! It may take a few extra seconds to make sure your note is neat and readable, but clarity is always a worthy investment, and the dais will love you for it.

III. Do Your Research!

Crisis committees are intensely interactive and fast-paced. Those that come poorly researched often find themselves out of step with the rest of committee. The best way to stay conversant amid all the action is by having done an ample amount of research before the conference. Model UN is much more entertaining when you have a lot to say!

Here are the four research areas that will put you on the fast-track to becoming a well-prepared delegate:

1. Know the topic

Nothing makes a delegate stand out like well-informed ideas. Having a thorough understanding of the topic allows one to intelligently respond to crisis updates and contribute heavily to discussion.

2. Know your character's role in committee

The more you know about your character, the more tools you have at your disposal. Knowing the friendships, history, personality, and political capabilities of your character allows one to be a more resourceful delegate.

Also, committee is much more entertaining when delegates know the eccentricities of their characters!

3. Know the rules & procedure

You may be an incredibly knowledgeable delegate, but without familiarity of MUN rules and procedure, you'll never be fully aware of how you can put that knowledge to good use. Rule-savvy delegates also have more things to talk about, as rules and procedure are brought up frequently in committee.

4. Be up-to-date with current events!

You never know what can come up in a crisis. Knowledge of current events could be what separates you from all of the other delegates in the room.

IV. Interacting with Crisis Staff

1. The Importance of Brevity

Whilst interacting with Crisis Staff, it is important to maintain a good relationship with them. Since you will most likely be one of only 10-15 delegates, and there will most likely be around 2-5 crisis staff per committee, you will be known to the staff.

2. Stay Realistic

Stay within the realm of both reality and your character's power. If you are the minister of health and education, and you ask to be given control of decision-making when dealing with foreign countries, the crisis staff will not respond to that well.

3. Build up your Position

When attempting to acquire more power through crisis, start small and work your way up. For example, as the minister of Health and Education, ask for power within that department, and slowly work your way up.

Also, as time goes on you can start prefacing your notes with reminders to the staff about power they have given you. E.g. 'In light of the fact that I now am Minister of Health, Education, and appointed emergency Minister of Economics, I institute....'. Essentially, remind them because sometimes they can forget.

V. Conclusion

Crisis committees may have many noteworthy characteristics that make them different from conventional UN committees, but the most important thing is that they are **exciting!** Get pumped! If you come to committee well-researched and with a positive attitude, it may just end up being the best MUN experience you've ever had!

Good luck!
Sam and Silas

Historic background

“How uninhabited islands soured China-Japan ties” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11341139>
Current news from the Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/world/senkaku-islands>

Country positions

“Obama’s statement seems aimed at reassuring Japan that the U.S. would come to its defense if China were to seize the islands” <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/23/obama-says-us-japan-treaty-applies-to-disputed-senkaku-islands-ahead-visit/>

Who really owns the Senkaku islands?

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/12/economist-explains-1>

China and the ‘Cairo Treaty’ <http://www.chinausfocus.com/foreign-policy/cairo-treaty-chinas-moral-claim-to-the-diaoyu-islands/>

China has [argued](#) that Japan seized the islands in violation of international law.

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/view_from_chicago/2014/02/the_senkaku_or_diaoyu_islands_where_world_war_iii_could_start_because_of.html

Government briefing: China Full Text: Diaoyu Dao, an Inherent Territory of China

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-09/25/c_131872152.htm

Japan (19th May 2014) “Japanese Planning to Deploy 1,050 Troops to the Senkaku Islands” <http://guardianlv.com/2014/05/japanese-planning-to-deploy-1050-troops-to-the-senkaku-islands/>

Government briefing: Japan’s position on Senkaku

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000018519.pdf>

http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/senkaku/fact_sheet.html

Some of the claims to sovereignty over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands don’t hold up well under scrutiny,”

<http://thediplomat.com/2013/11/getting-senkaku-history-right/>

International

[https://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/jil/articles/volume29/issue4/RamosMrosovsky29U.Pa.J.Int'IL.903\(2008\).pdf](https://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/jil/articles/volume29/issue4/RamosMrosovsky29U.Pa.J.Int'IL.903(2008).pdf)

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/senkaku.htm>

<http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2013/12/11/the-senkaku-islands-dispute-needs-a-diplomatic-resolution/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/24/us-japan-china-islands-un-idUSBRE90N16Z20130124>

(No progress yet in this regard but useful to understand China and UN position)

UN database

<http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=bib&menu=search#focus>

Your position paper should address the following points as well as make clear your position (as a government and individual if appropriate)

How can current tensions be de-escalated?

Should the Senkaku/Diaoyu region be demilitarised?

How should countries act in the face of provocation by another country’s military or civilian protests? Should a code of conduct be introduced to help prevent acts of conflict and provocative behaviour?

Should diplomatic talks be held? If so, are they to be bilateral or multilateral negotiations?

How can all parties ensure that shipping lanes, trade routes and other commercial activities are maintained without further interruption?

What should the role be (if any) of 3rd parties, such as regional bodies, other countries or UN Peacekeepers or monitors?

What is the best way to maintain long-term stability in the region? How can the competing territorial claims of each state be resolved (if at all)?