

Crisis Guide I

Rules of procedure and preparing for crisis



ПРИВЕТСТВОВАТЬ.
bienvenidos.
bienvenue.
welcome.

سلام.
欢迎.

Crisis Committee Guide

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 an Ambassador in one committee, delegates in a crisis committee will be expected to work with their own committee and one other International organisation. This could mean working with them or against them!

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, organisation, or affiliated body.
- It is the delegate's responsibility to know their country position and what commands are reasonably within their country position.
- The most common directives are those used to mobilise military forces but there are many situations in which they are appropriate.

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.

e.g.

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, 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 all accusations of human rights violations made by the United Nations. Our great and irresistibly attractive leader, Kim Jong Il, would like to warn everyone that foreign intervention will not be tolerated.

4. 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 5 research areas that will put you on the fast-track to becoming a well-prepared delegate:

- **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.

- **Know your country's position**

The more you know about your country, what it would agree to and what it would not, the more tools you have at your disposal. How has your country responded to similar situations in the past? What would or wouldn't they tolerate from other states? What would actions would they take or disallow?

- **Know the remit of your committee.**

That is, learn what your committee can and cannot do. What does the Security Council have the mandate to order? What power does African Union possess? Check the UN Charter, and the AU Charter and past actions of your committee, to familiarise yourself with how things work.

- **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.

- **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.

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!**

Do the homework!

Knowledge is power

Be active!

Nothing is as fun on the sidelines.

Know the rules!

Procedure, procedure, procedure

Think critically!

Push forward your own ideas and figure out why *other* ideas won't!

Stay on policy!

Though a crisis encourages delegates to be creative, it should not prompt an abandonment of your country's position, especially to benefit only yourself. It is much more likely that any sign of betrayal will be leapt upon by your fellow delegates, ending your chances of a reward.

Good luck

سعد يد حظ

Bonne chance

Buena suerte!

祝你好運

Удачи! Удачи

