



DELEGATE CRISIS PROCEDURE GUIDE

PROCEDURE GUIDE

CRISIS OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A CRISIS COMMITTEE?

A crisis committee consists of a small group of ministers, diplomats, and/or leaders responding to an urgent event. Rather than a UN Organ, they make up members of a cabinet, summit, or governing body. These committees can exist in real or fictional worlds from the past, present, or future. Typically, you as a delegate represent people or characters with their own agendas and powers. An example of a crisis committee is the Cuban Missile Crisis, with each delegate representing a minister from President Kennedy's cabinet.



JFK's Cabinet. In a crisis about the Cuban Missile Crisis, delegates could represent these 11 historical people, each with their own areas of power.

JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE (JCC)

Joint crisis committees are two or more crisis committees occurring in the same simulation. The committees can communicate with one another through crisis notes, but each committee is in a separate room with its own dais. When one committee takes action, the other committee is affected as well, since they operate in one world. The two committees can coordinate via the dais and backroom. In general, the different sub-committees in a JCC are opposing factions in a stand-off or conflict. An example is a JCC on the Vietnam War, with one committee representing the USA and South Vietnam, and the other North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

HOW IS A CRISIS COMMITTEE DIFFERENT FROM A STANDARD BMUN COMMITTEE?

TIME

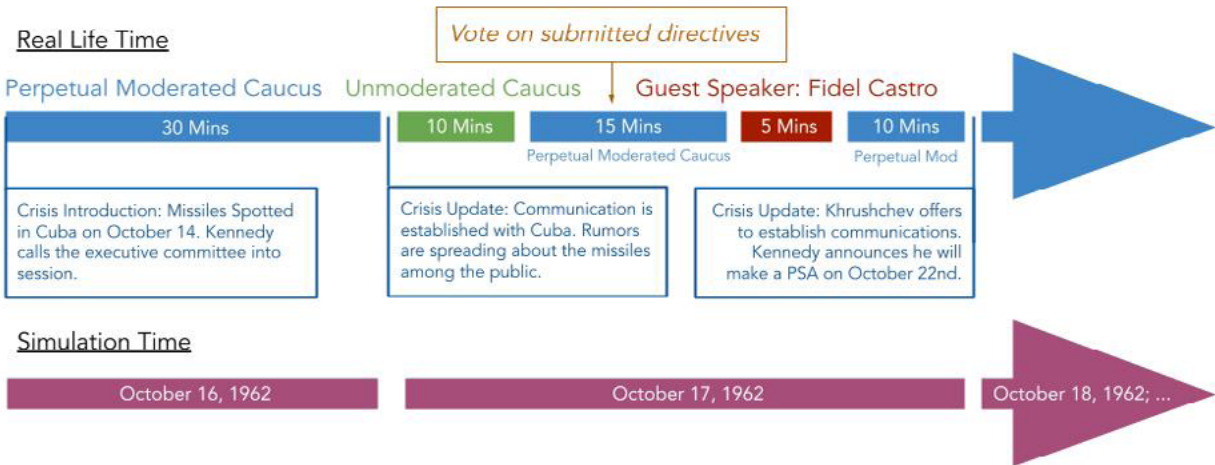
Crisis committees are different from typical committees because your actions have direct and immediate implications to the “simulation world”. A new aspect introduced in crisis is time, which typically runs faster in the simulation than in the real world. For example, one hour of debate could equate to one month passing in the simulation. This encourages more active debate and faster responses.

DEBATE + VOTING

To encourage more discussion, the default method of debate is a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that you do not need to motion for set amounts of time to discuss specific topics. Rather, the dais will continuously call on delegates to raise their placard, and you have 1 minute to speak on whatever you wish.

CRISIS UPDATES

Although you are faced with a larger overarching issue (usually just one per committee), you are presented with many smaller and immediate challenges (crises) along the way. Your solutions to these small problems impact what’s going on in the fictional “world” the committee is taking place in. When representing a historical topic, committees often diverge from the flow of real events in response to your actions.



Example timeline of the start of a crisis committee. 30 minutes of real time represents 1 day in the simulation, and a crisis update is given every simulation day.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

In general, crisis committees are less structured to allow freedom for individual action and unusual interventions by the dais. Below are some of the general rules crisis committees use. Many specifics such as speaking time, number of questions taken after a crisis update, and when voting occurs are up to the chairs' discretion.

DELEGATE COMMUNICATION

Crisis Notes: The deliverables you as a delegate make and send to the dais for approval or denial and incorporation into the world arc. Some crisis notes can take the form of questions wanting to know more about the world. For example, you might ask “how much money is in my country’s treasury” or “what is the public opinion of this figure.” Other crisis notes will be directives, which are written actions you wish to take.

Docket: Where crisis notes are turned into the dais. It helps to keep this organized to prevent any crisis notes getting lost. Some committees also use a “crisis pad” system, where you have one pad that you are able to turn in with a crisis note.

DEBATE

Perpetual Moderated Caucus: The default state for crisis committees is a perpetual moderated caucus that runs until another caucus is proposed. The dais will continuously call on delegates in the committee to raise their placard, and the delegate chosen each time has 1 minute to speak on whatever they wish.

Round Robin: You get the chance to speak once on the topic of the caucus for a set speaking time in a pre-determined order. These are useful for you to get to know everyone’s opinion on a topic. If you propose this motion, you might say “motion for a round robin with 30 second speaking time to discuss opinions on the directive that was just introduced.” If you propose the motion, you typically give the first speech, and then the committee follows a natural order to get through all the delegates (usually determined by seating).

Unmoderated and Moderated Caucuses: As in a typical committee, you can propose normal moderated and unmoderated caucuses. The procedure for proposing and voting on these motions is the same as in regular committees.

VOTING

Instead of voting on draft resolutions, crisis committees vote on action items submitted to the docket known as directives, communiques, or press releases. You can motion to introduce public directives and subsequently vote on them. This procedure is less formal than a voting bloc because many crisis notes are written and voted on in a single committee session.

As such, crisis committees don't entertain formal caucuses. Instead, you can make motions to "introduce directives" (or communiques or press releases) which, if passed by simple majority, simply entails the chair reading out all public directives/communiques/press releases received in the docket. For example, you might say "motion to vote on the directive titled 'Operation S.O.A.R.'" The motion to vote typically takes precedence over continuing debate.

ROLE OF DELEGATES

In crisis committees, you are given an individual position that can range from representing a general or minister to an organization to even a country. Unlike in most regular committees, this role comes with both a position and some portfolio powers, which you can use to influence the course of the committee individually.

GOALS

Because you have a given policy and position, your goals are simply those of the individual or entity you represent. However, because crisis committees don't represent a forum for collaboration the way more traditional MUN committees do, your goals can often be less collaboration-focused. You can instead express a tendency to achieve specifically your own goals (sometimes at the expense of others) through your position papers and actions in committee.

PORTFOLIO POWERS

Portfolio powers are defined as the abilities and influence associated with your individual position. For instance, if you are an economic minister, your portfolio powers could include setting tariffs on imports. Or if you are a general, your portfolio powers could include the ability to move troops or declare war. In most BMUN committees, portfolio powers and the different individuals or entities represented in committee are described at the end of the synopses. If you are ever unsure about your portfolio powers, you can simply write a note to the dais with a question about your power to do something and receive a response. Portfolio powers allow you to take individual or private action with a small group of delegations within the scope of your portfolio powers to achieve your goals. This means you are free to do anything within your portfolio powers without the approval of the rest of the committee. For instance, if you are a newspaper editor, you might use your portfolio powers to submit a private directive to spread propaganda through your newspaper to help sway public opinion to your side.

Sample Portfolio Power:

<p>Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard — Marquis de Lafayette</p> <p>Lafayette is a hero of the American Revolution who is highly skilled in military affairs, having been an officer since age 13. He favours a moderate path for France and, as a friend of the founding fathers of America, idealizes human rights in accordance with natural law. His position as Commander-in-Chief allows him full control over the actions of the National Guard, which numbers around 20,000 men in the Île-de-France region, as well as contact budding branches of the National Guard in other regions.</p>	<p>This tells us that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has ties to America, which can be used if he wants • He is a moderate in terms of political beliefs, and his goals would be in line with defending human rights and the natural law • He has 20 000 troops to command in the heart of France • He can potentially command more if he tries
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DELIVERABLES

You are responsible for creating deliverables, in the form of either a directive or a communique or a press release, to actually influence the direction of the committee and achieve your goals. You should always specify the deliverable type (public directive, private directive, joint private directive, communique, or press release), title, sponsor(s), and signatories (if applicable) at the top of the deliverable.

Directives

Directives are the most common deliverable seen in crisis committees. Simply put, they are a statement or plan of action, often in response to some crisis. After being passed or sent to the dais (for private and joint private directives), directives are received by the dais or backroom. The dais then incorporates the effects of the actions taken or proposed in the directive on the state of the crisis world, and responds in the form of a crisis update or a note. Because the dais controls what happens in the crisis world, the results of passing a directive may not be expected. For instance, the dais could respond to your directive detailing a plan for a naval invasion with “a massive storm sunk or damaged most of your fleet.” When writing and passing directives, you should consider all the possible implications your actions may have—just because a directive specifies some

action doesn't mean that action will have the effect you intended.

Because they are the “solutions” to issues seen in crisis committees, they do bear some resemblance to resolutions in standard committees. Like resolutions, directives have sponsors (at least one). Public directives also need signatories. Unlike resolutions, there is no need for preambulatory clauses or to use any special clause-based format since the goal of the committee is to quickly create deliverables to respond to crises.

Public Directives

Public directives are directives written and voted on by the entire committee, and are the closest thing to resolutions in normal committees. Like resolutions, they also require signatories. Most BMUN crisis committees require public directives to have 1/5 of the committee as signatories before they can be introduced, but the exact details are up to the chairs' discretion. The scope of public directives can include anything within the powers of the committee.

Sample Public Directive:

Title: Off With His Head

Sponsor(s): Marquis de Lafayette, Robespierre, Marc

Signatories: <1/5 the committee>

1. Remove King Louis from his detention and arrange a public execution via guillotine one week from now.

Private Directives

Private directives are the actions you can take as an individual. As such, they only include one sponsor. The scope of private directives can include anything within a your portfolio powers. Because they are private, you will not know about other delegates' private directives, and the response to them is often in the form of a note. However, because they do influence the course of the committee, you can try to guess if other delegates sent private directives to the docket and what those directives entail. Private directives are a great way for you to

achieve their specific goals, or even “betray” your working bloc in committee.

Sample Private Directive:

Title: Relocate National Guard to Paris

Sponsor: Marquis de Lafayette

1. Immediately move 10 000 of the National Guard to surround the Estates-General and guard the conference building.
2. Order them to eliminate any who threaten to break in.

Joint Private Directives

Joint private directives are simply private directives written and sent to the docket by a small group of delegates. The scope of joint private directives can include anything within any sponsor’s portfolio powers (or a combination of their portfolio powers). The number of people who can work on a joint private directive is typically limited (to 3 people) to encourage committee-wide collaboration.

Sample Joint Private Directive:

Title: Get money from the Americans

Sponsor(s): Marquis de Lafayette, Armand Marc (foreign affairs)

1. Reach out to Lafayette’s friends from his time helping in the American Revolution
2. Request private donations directly to Lafayette and Marc

Communiques

Communiques can also be public, private, or joint private, and are simply a way for you to communicate (privately) with relevant figures not represented in the committee, or with delegates in another committee for some JCCs. Communiques need sponsors like any directive, and public communiques need signatories. Since they are effectively a letter to another party, communiques also need a recipient and a message body. When a communique is passed or sent to the docket, it is sent to the dais, which often takes on the role of the

recipient and sends back a reasonable response. In the special case when a communique is sent to a delegate or delegates in another committee (in a JCC setting), the recipient is the one that responds. Communiques can be addressed to individuals, groups, or even countries, but their contents are not public in the crisis world, meaning if you send a communique to say the President of France, the Prime Minister of the UK is not aware of its contents.

Sample Communiqué:

Title: Contact Bagosora

Sponsor: Hassan Ngeze

Dear Theoneste Bagosora,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Hutu population. We have received correspondence that there is a coordinated attack being planned by the Rwandan Patriotic Front in two days in the Kigali province. This information has come from a trust source planted within the organization. If possible, I would like to meet with you to plan a counterattack with the resources you hold within the Rwanda defense military.

Sincerely,

Hassan Ngeze

Press Releases

Press releases, on the other hand, are public. Press releases also need sponsors, and publicly sponsored press releases also need signatories, but since they are a message to the general public of the crisis world, they don't need a recipient. They can be used to inform the public in the simulation world, or influence your public image.

Sample Press Release:

Title: Terrorism Announcement

Sponsor: Hassan Ngeze

In a coordinated act of terrorism, the Rwandan Patriotic Front has killed 100 Hutu civilians and 50 government workers on the outskirts of Kigali province in a fury of violence and aggression against the government. The attack was originally aimed at a prominent government building in the Kigali province but the explosion aftermath spread, resulting in numerous civilian casualties at a nearby shopping mall. Chaos has ensued, as the death toll continues to climb.

PREPARING FOR COMMITTEE

Writing Your Position Paper

All crisis committees at BMUN have custom position paper guidelines that are derived from BMUN's standard guidelines for position papers. Go to your committee at bmun.org/committees to find the guidelines for your crisis committee. As usual, you should do thorough research using the topic synopsis as a starting point to make sure you know exactly what your position is at the conference!

Researching Your Portfolio Powers

In BMUN crisis committees, you will almost always be representing a real person. That person's position in the committee is generally defined in the topic synopsis. Additionally, that position or person likely has quite a bit of history where you can research specific actions that were precedent setting. Overall, researching what this position formally does or did in the past should give a good idea of what portfolio powers this character has access to. All that being said, creativity is a key aspect of exercising a portfolio power in a crisis committee!

One broad goal as a delegate is to expand portfolio powers to be able to affect crises more substantially. A prepared delegate coming into committee will have a plan to use personal and committee directives to increase their scope of portfolio powers. By the end of the committee, you should try to have more portfolio powers than you started with.

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