

Crisis Committee Rules of Procedure

CTMUN

Note: This document is secondary to committee-specific procedure. The following may be superseded by procedure as specified by the committee chair, crisis staff, or background guide.

Points

Raised by delegates in order to ask a question or make a statement.

- 1) **Inquiry:** Poses a question, usually procedural or logistical, of the Chair.
Example: "Point of inquiry, how do we pass a directive?"
- 2) **Order:** Calls attention to a procedural mistake made by the Chair or by another delegate.
Example: "Point of order, we forgot to vote on the motion for an unmoderated caucus."
- 3) **Personal Privilege:** Addresses a personal concern.
Example: Room temperature, Chair's speaking volume

Note *Points of Information do not apply during a Crisis committee as there is no speaker's list.*

Committee and Delegate Actions

Instead of resolutions, the following are utilized during a Crisis Committee. They are used to take action and correspond with the Crisis Staff or other committees.

Committee Actions

The following require a 50%+1 placard vote. Every delegate must vote during committee actions, and there shall be no abstentions as per crisis rules. If numerous abstentions hold back the committee from having a decisive vote, make the committee re-vote after reminding that everyone must vote during committee actions.

1. **Directives:** Directives are closest to a standard-style resolution. However, they only contain operative clauses. These are concrete actions taken by the whole committee.

Example: Moving troops, funding a vaccine, sending an envoy to another committee or country, etc.
2. **Communiques:** Communication or statements issued by the committee. For the purpose of this conference, this includes press releases.

Example: Propaganda or statements made to the press, communication with other committees, etc.

3. **Straw Poll Vote:** Straw Poll Votes are informal, non-binding votes that may be requested by any delegate to get a better idea of the committee's opinion on a topic during debate.

Example: "May we have a straw poll vote to gauge the committee's thoughts on peace with China before we discuss it?"

Delegate Actions

- 1) **Portfolio Powers:** Also known simply as "Action Orders". Often private actions taken by a delegate. These are delegates (or a small combination of delegates') individual actions and thus, use their personal resources and power. Portfolio powers do not encompass or utilize committee resources, unless otherwise noted by crisis staff. Delegates may wish to enact their portfolio powers through sending notes to crisis or by adopting them into directives if they choose to disclose such private information.
- 2) **Joint Action Orders:** Joint Action Orders are actions that the committee as a whole votes to take collectively. Delegates should:
 - a) Move to introduce the action order (simple majority), upon passage of the motion it will be read to the committee, then
 - b) The committee will vote to approve or reject the joint action order. (simple majority)

Unlike standard committees, there are no resolutions, speaker's list, and there is no formal voting procedure (all votes done by placard).

Procedure of Debate

Like standard committees, crisis committees will open with an attendance roll call and a motion to open a session. From that point on, their flow of debate will be conducted differently.

By default crisis committees operate in a perpetual moderated caucus – this can either be done informally, or may require regular motions (at the Chair's discretion). Like committee actions, every delegate must vote on procedural motions.

All motions require a 50%+1 placard vote except when specified otherwise. Every delegate must vote. Motions cannot be amended, a separate motion should be made if a delegate is not satisfied with other present motions. All Pro/Con speakers have 1 minute.

Motion to Introduce and/or Vote on Committee Documents

To facilitate easy and quick committee action, delegates may read the clauses of any drafted committee action and immediately move into a vote, or at the chair's discretion may forgo an introduction (if the Committee Action is already understood) and allow an immediate vote. Additionally, having a 2 for/2 against or a 1 for/1 against is smiled upon to allow more pro/con discussion before voting on the directive.

Motion to Table Debate (or Specified Documents)

Sometimes, delegates will send up many committee actions to discuss all at once. A motion to table committee actions sets aside specific directives that appear irrelevant to the current debate.

Moderated Caucuses

Moderated Caucuses are the primary form of debate in any Model UN setting. In Moderated Caucuses or “Mods,” delegates are called on to speak one at a time for a set amount of time. A moderated caucus is typically limited to a single, narrow topic.

Round Robin

A hallmark of most Crisis Committees, a ‘Round Robin’ may be motioned for at the start of session as an informal time for each delegate to introduce themselves in turn. Speaking time should be set when the motion is made, and each delegate in the committee will get the chance to speak during a Round Robin.

Unmoderated Caucuses

Unmoderated Caucuses or “Unmods” are the least formal form of debate in Model UN, and need no topic. All delegates are allowed to move around and converse. The Director will typically move around the committee room to listen to the discussion going on. Delegates are not allowed to leave the committee room, except to use the restroom or with permission from the Moderator.

Gentlemen’s Unmod

A Gentleman's Unmod is the same as a regular Unmoderated Caucus with the key exception that delegates do not leave their seats and speak one at a time.

Motion to Summon Individuals

In some crisis committees, it will be possible to summon non-delegate individuals (ex: Secretary of State summoned by the US Senate) to provide the committee with information on a specified topic.

Motion to Enter Trial Proceedings

Requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ Supermajority, and a reason to hold trial.

- Identify Prosecutor and Defendant
- 3 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking time
 - Prosecutor first, Defendant last
- 1 minute closing statements (Prosecutor, then Defendant)
- Verdict ($\frac{3}{4}$ required to convict)

Note Normal committee procedures may be interrupted for a Crisis Interruption/Update. Crisis Committees should expect regular interruption from external actors, officials, messengers, etc. (both friendly and unfriendly) Occasionally, a message will allow for a subsequent questioning period (at Chair/Crisis discretion).

Order of Disruption

Many delegates may wish to motion for various motions to advance the committee. All chairs must know what motions the committee must vote on from most to least disruptive. The following motions are ordered from most to least disruptive along with rationale for the order of disruption:

Motion to Suspend Rules of Procedure This motion halts the governance of Parliamentary Procedure in the committee, only accepted when approved by the chair. The chair will decide when the rules of procedure are reinstated.

Motion to Adjourn/Recess This motion suggests the cessation or adjournment of the committee and should only be used to go on break or to end committee by the end of conference.

Motion to Table Topic/Debate This motion temporarily closes a topic of debate, allowing for a new topic to be selected. The topic can be reopened. (2 Pro, 2 Con speakers required)

Motion to Introduce and/or Vote on Committee Documents This motion suggests that the committee shall interrupt debate on a given subject and enter proceedings to vote on the submitted action order, communique, and or press release.

Motion to Enter Trial Proceedings This motion suggests the committee try a delegate for crimes against the committee. Depending on the committee, the outcome of trials varies.

Motion to Extend This motion can be used only once for unmoderated or moderated caucuses and will halve the time of the previous caucus upon extension. *Extended motions may not be extended again.* For example, an extension of a 10 minute unmoderated caucus is a 5 minute extension; an extension for a 10 minute moderated caucus with a 30 second speaking time will be a 5 minute extension to the moderated caucus.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus Disruptiveness of numerous unmoderated caucuses depends on the length of the caucus. For example, a 10 minute unmoderated caucus is more disruptive than a 5 minute unmoderated caucus.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus When having numerous moderated caucuses, the more disruptive moderated caucus has more total speakers than a less disruptive caucus. For example, a 10 minute MC with a 30 second speaking time would have about 20 speakers, whereas a 12 minute MC with a 45 second speaking time would have about 16 speakers, meaning that the 10 minute MC would take precedence as the more disruptive moderated caucus.

Types of Voting

Motion to Vote by Roll Call This motion passes automatically, unlike any other motion. The chair will then individually ask each delegate to vote yes/no.

Motion to Vote by Acclamation This motion suggests for a vote on a directive or amendment that has widespread support (usually a voice vote; if there's a single nay, it fails)

Motion to Reorder This motion is suggested right after entering voting procedure, and votes to reorder the directives in an order specified by the delegate.

Motion to Introduce and Vote on Unfriendly Amendments Unfriendly Amendments are amendments submitted by other delegates to attach onto directives whose sponsors disagree with the content of the amendment. A vote then determines whether the unfriendly amendment will change the directive.

Motion to Divide the Question A Division of the Question separates a draft resolution into separate units for passing and requires four separate votes. Approved through 50%+1.

1. Vote on the motion to divide the question.
2. Single out clauses.
3. Vote on the singled-out clause(s).
4. Vote on the directive as a whole, taking into account any changes made.

Documents

Throughout the course of simulation, crisis staff will create a storyline for your committee to react to. Typically, most of the time in a crisis committee is spent in either moderated or un-moderated caucus, debate formats that are more conducive to the small number of participants and the rapidly changing nature of the situation. Speaker's lists are rare and, usually, if a dais would like to hear the various points of view on certain topic, they will ask for it during a moderate caucus. Your reaction to the various situations crisis staff throws at you expresses itself through four tools that you can use: Directives, Communiqués, Press Releases, and Portfolio Power Requests.

Directives

Directives – also known as action plans – are the main form of writing in a crisis committee, or the most widely recognized. They consist of orders and actions that the committee as a whole wants to take. Unlike resolutions frowned upon because the point of an action plan is quite clear, to take action and not waste time with verbiage. While in GA you only had power to suggest and recommend, crisis committees give you power to take action. the directive. These include looking ridiculous in front of your committee,

miscommunication leading to consequences that were not intended, and more. The best directives are those that are not just approved by a large majority of the committee, but actually those that also prove an in depth knowledge of the situation at hand.

Communiqués

Communiqués are messages from the entire committee to another country, organization, person or group of people. These facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis. Communiqués often include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid or support but are not limited to those topics. Keep in mind that a communiqué needs to be just as well worded as a directive; furthermore, this is the place for your inner linguist to shine! Seriously, the tone of a letter can absolutely change the meaning of it. See an example of a communiqué below:

Press Releases

Press releases are similar to communiqués in the fact that they are sent from the committee as a whole; the difference lies in the fact that a press release is addressed to the public. Press releases can help sway the opinions of the public or provoke public reactions to crises at hand. In some committees, press releases take on different forms. These include propaganda, public announcements, and publication

Portfolio Power Requests

Portfolio requests are actions taken unilaterally by members of the committee. For example, if the committee failed a directive, or if you did not want the committee-at-large knowing what was done, then you could send in a portfolio request detailing the same orders. You could only do that if you had the power to do so; in other words, the Portfolio requests should not be limiting; they are a chance to show your creativity!