



JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

DELEGATE GUIDE



What is a crisis committee?

Crisis Committees are a type of Model UN committee, where delegates react to unexpected events in real time. Instead of resolutions, they send **directives** to take action. With unique powers and secret negotiations, quick thinking and strategy are key in crisis - you never know what will happen next.

There are three main categories of crisis committees, which you may encounter in the future.

- Fictional
- Concept
- Historical - this is the type of committee we are!
- + more unique kinds!

How does a crisis committee work?

Crisis committees have a **backroom**, which is just some people in a room that is separate from the committee that works to introduce new twists to the committee. They deliver crisis updates that are geared toward the committee's happenings. They change the story and force the delegates to problem-solve.

Delegates are able to solve problems by debating, and eventually writing **public directives** (essentially the crisis version of a resolution paper), which are explained in more detail below. Delegates are even able to send notes to the backroom, called **private directives**, that allow them to change the story themselves. Both types will be explained in further detail below.

Additionally, each delegate has **special powers** (determined by their role), which they use to influence the situation. You will be given your character and a short guide about them, but you must research more. The more you research, the better you will understand your character.

The key to a crisis committee is working with other delegates and working with the backroom to twist the story to your character's liking. Remember, if you don't agree with something, your character still might, and you must debate through the lens of your character.

What is a joint crisis committee (JCC)

Joint crisis committees are slightly different from regular crisis committees. While all of the same rules and procedures still apply, JCCs are made up of two or more committees, often representing different sides in a conflict. You will not be directly interacting with the opposing committee, other than through information passed between committees from the backroom. This means it is extra important to work with the delegates on your side because your enemy is not them - it is the delegates in the other committee.



How are they different from normal committees?

Both crisis & joint crisis committees are different from regular committees in that the final goal is different. In a normal committee, the goal is to write a resolution paper to conclude the topic. This paper will sum up the committee's ideas on how to solve the problem with correct MUN formatting. However, in a crisis committee, public directives are the goal to complete, and the formatting of them will be discussed below.

- The goal of normal mun committee -----> resolution paper
- Goal of crisis committee -----> public directive(s)

Additionally, normal committees don't have curveballs being thrown at them, while crisis committees do - this makes the main facet of a crisis committee to problem-solve.

Video - demonstrates the flow of a committee!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xs7IsGuaSzU>

Types of directives

Public and private directions are continuously being mentioned, so what are they, and what are the other forms of communication and expression in a Model UN crisis committee?

Before we get into that, it's important to note that all directives need a certain amount of **sponsors** and **signatories** for it to be considered. The number of sponsors and signatories is determined by the committee size and will be introduced at the beginning of the committee session after roll call.

- **Sponsors:** The delegates that formed the idea behind the directive and put the most effort into writing it.
- **Signatories:** The delegates who want to hear what the public directive has to say. Anyone can be a signatory on a paper - it doesn't mean you agree with what the paper says, but instead that you would like to hear it presented. Once presented, you can then ask questions, ask to make **amendments** (changes to the paper), and vote.

After that, the question of whether the directive passes is determined by the committee's vote.

- **Public Directives:** A public directive is an official action or decision made by the entire committee in a crisis session. It is written, debated, and voted on by delegates, outlining a collective response to the crisis. Once passed, it becomes public knowledge and is implemented by the crisis staff. Public directives can include military actions, diplomatic negotiations, or economic policies.
 - a) Begins with a short, concise title
 - b) **Sponsors and Signatories** (explained above)



- c) **Preambulatory clause** (optional - your chair will tell you if this is necessary): Short few sentences about what the directive is about
- d) **Action clauses:** numbered list of clauses, or actions that need to be taken
- 1) Each clause should begin with an operative phrase - a verb or action
 - 2) Be specific: instead of, “Send army forces,” say “Send 6000 soldiers to [whatever location] for [whatever time period].”

Title: Emergency Peace Talks

Signatories: Delegate of Japan, Delegate of United States, Delegate of Indonesia

Sponsors: Delegate of Russia, Delegate of Japan, Delegate of United States, Delegate of Panama, Delegate of China, Delegate of Indonesia, Delegate of Ukraine, Delegate of Israel

Action Clauses:

1. **Initiates** diplomatic negotiations with the opposing committee to discuss a ceasefire.
2. **Sends** a delegation of three representatives to propose terms.
3. **Requests** crisis staff to facilitate the meeting within the next session.

- **Private Directives:** A **private directive** is a confidential action or request made by a delegate to address a crisis. Unlike public directives, private directives are not debated in front of the whole committee. They are sent directly to the crisis staff and are usually not revealed to other delegates unless approved. If approved, they are usually presented during a crisis update and add a twist to the story.

They do not need to be formatted specifically as a public directive, since they are not being presented. Instead,

1. Use a sheet of paper to write the note.
2. Address it: To Back Room/To Crisis Room
3. Add: From [your character name]
4. Write your crisis update. Use clear handwriting so the back room can read it.
5. Give your note to the page, who will pass it to the back room.
6. They will respond to your note shortly, and it will be given back to you. You can now ask questions and continue to build an idea with the backroom.

- **Joint Private Directives:** Joint private directives are the same as regular private directives, with one twist - multiple delegates work together to create it, and all sign off on it. You can work with others to write a private directive that makes sense for your characters.



To: Back Room
 From: Delegate of Russia

The president of Russia is assassinated by the president of Mexico. Huge riots start and social media goes crazy. This causes many Mexican citizens in Russia to be unsafe.

Dear Delegate,
 This has happened now and you may share with your committee.

Regular Private Directive

To: Back Room
 From: Delegate of Russia, Delegate of Spain, Delegate of Japan

The president of Russia is assassinated by the president of Mexico. Huge riots start and social media goes crazy. This causes many Mexican citizens in Russia to be unsafe.

Dear Delegate,
 This has happened now and you may share with your committee.

Joint Private Directive

- **Communique/Press Release?**

Rules & procedure

In committee, things tend to flow a certain way. This is a rough outline of how things may go, with explanations of procedure along the way.

1. Motion to open debate
2. Role call
3. **Opening speeches:** Each delegate can choose to speak, and if they do, they discuss their point of view on the topic at hand and how they believe they can solve it. This is everyone’s first impression of you. This speech is usually pre-prepared.
4. **Moderated Caucus:** This makes up most of the committee. Each delegate can, again, choose to speak, but this time on a specific topic. This topic will be defined when the caucus is motioned for (motions are explained below).
5. To join a moderated caucus, raise your placard when the chair asks who would like to speak.
6. A timer will be put up, and you must finish speaking within the time.
7. Once you are finished with your speech, you may **yield** any remaining time to another delegate or the chair.
8. **Unmoderated Caucus:** Used to speak to other delegates one-on-one to hear their point of view. Then, used to work on forming public directives. Free form - you can stand up and walk around the room.



9. **Passing notes:** You can pass notes to communicate with other delegates in the room by giving your note to the page, who will then deliver it to the delegate. If you have a private directive/note for the back room, you can send it there as well. Make sure you write it's from you and who you want to send it to, otherwise the page cannot send it.
10. After some more moderated and unmoderated caucuses, public directives will likely be complete and ready to present. Someone may motion to **present all directives**.
 - a. The sponsors of the directive will come to the front and read the clauses of their directive.
 - b. Any delegates can motion for a **Q&A period**, where they ask questions.
 - c. If they feel the need to change something, they can request an amendment to be made to the directive.
 - d. Then, someone will motion for a **voting procedure**, where delegates choose if they believe the directive should pass or not by raising their placard.

The cycle repeats itself until most of the problems of the committee are solved. However, since it's a crisis committee, a crisis update can come at any point. Be prepared to solve more and more problems!

Types of motions you can use

- **Motion to open/close debate**-> used at the start of every committee session and the end of the committee.
- **Motion for a 10:1 Moderated Caucus on [Topic of Choice]**
 - 10 - represents the total time the caucus will take (10 minutes)
 - 1 - represents the time each delegate gets to speak (1 minute)
 - These numbers can be altered to your preference. (Ex - 9:45, 6:30)
- **Motion for a 10-minute Unmoderated Caucus to do [Whatever you need to do - discuss, work on public directives, etc.]**
- **Motion for a 30-second Round Robin on [Topic of Choice]**
 - **Round Robin:** In moderated caucuses, speaking is optional. In a round-robin, it is mandatory. Everyone goes around the table and gives a typically very short statement about their feelings on the topic.
 - Speaking time is adjustable, but is usually around 30 seconds
- **Motion to present public directives** (this is usually preceded by....)
- **Motion to go into voting procedure**
- **Motion for a 2-minute Q&A period**
- **Motion to extend [Whatever you were just doing]**



There are also points you can use

- **Point of Inquiry** - Used to ask a question
- **Point of Personal Privilege** - Used to ask to go to the bathroom, get water, etc.
- **Right of Reply** - Allows a delegate to respond immediately to a statement made by another delegate that they believe is offensive, incorrect, or directly attacks their country or position. The chair has to approve it first.

Other Lingo

- **Clause-by-Clause Vote:** A vote where each clause of a resolution is voted on separately, allowing delegates to approve or reject individual points.
- **Dais:** The group of chairs and staff who manage the MUN session, including the chair and crisis staff.
- **Quorum:** The minimum number of delegates required to conduct official business or make decisions in a committee.

If you find yourself still confused about the rules and procedures during a crisis, YouTube has many videos that can help!

