

# Crisis Committee ROP for GECMUN VI

## What is a crisis committee?

A crisis committee is a type of simulation where the delegate represents a person. The type of committees can vary greatly. For example, for the Global Education City Model United Nations (GECMUN), in the past, we have had committees such as Yugoslavian Cabinet 1948, Disney Corporation Board of Directors, The Hunger Games Committee, EXCOMM 1962, Scotland Yard, The Founding Fathers, and the Jurassic World Corporation. As the list reveals, there are no constraints when it comes to time periods or whether or not the committee is fictional or real. Due to the fast pace of a crisis committee, they are often smaller than standard committees. For example, in GECMUN, the standard committee is around 25-delegates, while the standard crisis committee is around 11-delegates. Furthermore, because crisis committees require quick thinking, drafting, strategizing skills, often more aggressive, talented delegates join it.

## What is a joint-crisis committee (JCC)?

A joint crisis committee is pretty self-explanatory. Joint crisis committees have 2 or more crisis committees (usually 2) working against each other. The actions each one of these committees takes effect one another; for example, if in a WWII JCC's Germany side of conflict decides to send its troops to Poland, the British side of conflict should decide what to do to oppose the action of the opponent. The delegates are allowed to send notes to the other committee, and has much freedom in regards to play their role. Usually in a normal crisis committee delegates contacted enemies through the director; in a JCC, your enemy is right next door. And thus. JCCs require even more quick thinking and strategizing skills.

## What are the major differences between a crisis committee and a general/specialized assembly?

### 1. Personal Pronouns

You are representing an individual in a crisis committee, therefore, personal pronouns are acceptable in a crisis committee.

### 2. Note Passing

Note passing directly from delegate to delegate **is sometimes permitted** in a crisis committee. The reason being that notes are much more abundant in crisis committees, and there is sometimes not enough time for a staff member to help pass out all notes in a timely manner. In GECMUN, please check in with your chairs in advance to see if they permit direct note passing.

### **3. No Resolutions**

There are no resolutions in crisis. Instead, there is a series of private and public directives (explained later). This can be intimidating at first because instead of a few resolutions, there could be as many as hundreds of personal directives and dozens of public directives passed by the end of the day. It's the combination of these successful and failed attempts which will lead to the ultimate conclusion of the committee.

### **4. Private Directives**

Each delegate has the ability to suggest a personal directive through writing notes directly to the director. A personal directive refers to an action an individual, or several individuals in a committee would like to make independent of the rest of the committee. Since these actions are taken independently, the action does not have to be shared with the other delegates. For example, if a delegate is part of the "Founding Fathers Committee," a delegate representing the local government of Massachusetts may choose to independently use his local militia without permission from other delegates. Private directives must be passed to the director in a note form. The director then decides whether or not to allow directives to be implemented. For students new to crisis committees, the idea of having "private powers" is an often exciting idea. At the same time, be tactical and wise with how you use your independent powers. You want to be careful not to become isolated from the rest of the committee, or even worse, lead your entire committee towards disarray because of selfish decision making. Delegates are encouraged to be as specific as possible when proposing the private directive by stating the purpose and the exact action they want to be carried out.

### **5. Public Directives**

Public directives are similar to resolutions, but much different when it comes to pace. Unlike a standard committee, it is very simple to draft and introduce a resolution. To "introduce a resolution" a delegate must have a specific number of sponsors and signatories, and a proper format of different clauses. Public directives are also drafted by the main submitter, and they have to be signed by 33% ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) + 1 of the committee (signatories). However, they do not require a specific format such as preambulatory or operative clauses; instead, the delegates can simply write a public action agreed by the others (or the whole committee) in full sentences. Public directives should align with the committee agenda and must have stated purposes to support the course of action. Then, public directives will be sent to the Director in a note form, through a staff. If the Director rejects the Public Directive, signalling the lack of specificity. This is usually because it is an irrelevant action or distracting factor to the flow of the discussion. If the Director approves (also in a note form), the delegate can

raise a motion to introduce a public directive and read out the directive (after the motions before the motion to introduce public directive in the order of precedence have been entertained). Then, the committee will be given the opportunity to ask the sponsor 2 Points of Clarification, then a chance for an authorship speech for a maximum of 2 minutes (POIs, Yielding will be entertained afterwards). After the Public Directives are introduced, delegates can raise other motions to discuss further on the directives. Public Directives remain on the floor until a Motion to Close Debate passes. Then, similar to the regular ROP, the chair will invite two speakers against this motion (60 seconds, yielding not allowed). To pass, this motion requires a procedural vote ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ). If the motion to close debate passes, the committee automatically moves onto the voting procedure on the public directive itself, which requires a substantive simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) vote.

#### **6. Crisis Updates:**

A key component of a crisis committee is that the actions of the delegates are immediately taken into account by the director and shown as a result. Once some of the private and public directives are passed, the director creates corresponding results and announces a crisis update in which the director delivers the delegates new information. For instance, when delegates pass a public directive that initiates an attack on their enemies, the director announces through a crisis update whether or not the attack has been successful (or whether the public directive is in progress). Crisis updates can be announced at any time in the session, and the average is around 2~3 per session. When they are announced, the delegate must plan and take responding actions, through a public or private directives.

## **A Usual Crisis Committee Procedure:**

*\*Remember, this is only a typical and usual crisis committee, and after the opening speech it is the choice of the delegates, as each committee has different situations and discussions; the order below is simply a 'usual' procedure\**

### **1. Round Robin Opening Speech (90 Seconds/Delegate)**

- a. The delegate delivers a 90 second speech that introduces their position on the crisis, and their role in the committee. It is important to deliver a strong opening speech, not only to leave a good impression on the chairs but to introduce what your role is to the committee for further discussions.

### **2. Crisis Update #1**

- a. The first crisis update starts the committee off; it is less disruptive than other crisis updates that follow as the crisis (from the Background Guide) opens up the committee and introduced the committee to the initial problem.

### **3. Unmoderated/Moderated Caucus**

- a. An unmoderated caucus allows for the delegates to freely discuss various solutions in a quick, timely manner as they are not 'moderated' by the chair. It is a useful period of time to draft public directives, or discuss solutions to the crisis update.
- b. A moderated caucus allows for the delegates to discuss a specific topic in a moderated period of time. It is easier to settle arguments or opposing discussions between delegates. It is recommended that the delegates switch between a unmod and a mod, usually in a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2, respectively.

### **4. Introduce Public Directive**

- a. The delegates introduce the public directive (which was approved by the director after it was signed by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the committee). The delegate comes up to the podium (or stands up depending on the committee room) and reads out the public directive. The committee is given a chance to ask 2 POCs, and the chair will then allot 2 minutes for the sponsor to deliver an authorship speech for 2 minutes.

### **5. Unmoderated/Moderated Caucus/Close Debate on Public Directive**

- a. The delegates then have 3 choices to proceed, after the public directive. They may put aside the public directive for later, when more discussion is needed on the public directive; otherwise, when the delegates feel like the public directive is a pressing issue and

should be passed immediately (in a consensus), then the motion to close debate on public directive is held. It closes debate on the public directive and the chair invites 2 delegates against to speak the directive. Then, the committee votes on the motion ( $\frac{2}{3}$ , procedural), and on the public directive ( $\frac{1}{2}$  substantive).

## **6. Other Bizarre Stuff**

- a. Crisis committees are bizarre and are ridiculously pressing on the delegates, and in between, under the discretion of the director, a trial may be held for a spy, or a surprise event may happen. Be ready for a lot of nonsense in the committee.

## Crisis Committee Jargon and Overview for GECMUN V

- **Public Directive:** An equivalent of a resolution. It contains an action plan agreed by the members of the committee. No certain format is required.
- **Private Directive:** An action plan a single delegate can propose independent of the rest of the committee. A delegate must write his/her plan in a note and pass it to the director, who will then either approve or reject it.
- **Round Robin Voting:** A voting method in which each delegate take turns and vote one by one (this is when the vote count does not match up with the delegate count 2 times in a substantive vote).
- **Round Robin Speaking:** A debating method in which each delegate take turns and speaks in either alphabetical or seated order.
- **Crisis Update:** An update of new information made by the director at any point of the committee. The results of the previous actions (private/public directives) are announced for delegates to reflect and plan their next steps.

## **Crisis Tips:**

### **1. Understand the Era**

For historical committees, make sure that you know the exact date and year your committee starts. For example, if you are part of a committee that is looking at the American Revolution, make sure you know the exact month. It would be embarrassing to assume that a major event like the Boston Massacre had already occurred when it had not happened yet.

### **2. Research “the future”**

Connected to 1. **Still, be knowledgeable about future events.** Although you should be mindful about events that “have not happened yet”, it will serve as an asset to know how events played out in the actual historical timeline. These events may or may not occur in your committee, but helps you get an idea of what to do, and in what to potentially avoid.

### **3. Immerse yourself in character**

What makes a crisis committee especially interesting is seeing delegates become their character. Like a general assembly, the delegate is expected to stay “on-policy”. In this case, though, you are playing a person, so this may also include staying not only “on-policy” in regards to resolutions, but how you portray your character as well.

### **4. Don't take things personally**

This, of course, applies towards general assemblies as well, but it is something to be more mindful about in crisis committees. The major reasons being that one, you are playing individuals as opposed to countries so it may feel more personal when someone disagrees with you. Depending on the committee, it is possible that one delegate may try to remove another delegate in the committee. This can sometimes cause personal resentment, but keep in mind that at the end of the day, it is all a fictional game.

### **5. Work with the crisis arch/Do not get distracted by sub-plots**

The directors will be flexible and be willing to change the storyline based on actions taken by delegates. With that said, do not deviate too much from the goal at hand based on subplots and subtopics. For example, if the committee is EXCOMM 1962, the primary goal is to achieve peace and/or

defeat the Russians. Throughout this process, tensions may boil and disagreements may occur within the committee. Although assassinations and betrayals sometimes help spice up and make committees interesting. Do not get overly engaged in subtopics and personal subplots, that you are focusing more on assassinating other delegates instead of focusing on the greater issue at hand.

## **6. Be ready to improvise**

A major difference one will notice between a crisis committee and a standing committee is the need to improvise. The crisis arch moves fast, and delegates are often required to come up with 30-60 second impromptu speech on a regular occasion based on new information they had only received minutes ago. **Therefore, we often recommend crisis committees only for the most advanced MUN delegates.**

## **7. Multi-task**

In order to do well in a crisis committee, you must become a multi-tasking master. A top-level crisis committee delegate should never stop writing. Constantly writing notes to other delegates to persuade them, constantly writing private directives to the director to help move the committee forward in their favor, and constantly suggest public directives for major issues at the table. All of this writing is going on, while the very same delegate is raising his/her placard to speak on a regular basis during moderated. Keep in mind that small. Therefore, it is not uncommon to sit in on a 10-minute moderated caucus with 12-students and see one delegate speak for 2-3 minutes of that 10-minute caucus. A master crisis delegate is not only a dominant speaker but also a dominant writer and a risk-taker, advocating for the group to take actions via public directives.

## **Order of Precedence in Crisis Committees**

1. Point of Personal Privilege
2. Point of Order
3. Point of Inquiry
4. Motion to Suspend the Rules ( $\frac{2}{3}$ )
5. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
6. Motion for a Moderated Caucus ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
7. Motion to Introduce Public Directive ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )
8. Motion to Close Debate on the Public Directive ( $\frac{2}{3}$  then  $\frac{1}{2}$ )
9. Motion to Adjourn the Session/Meeting ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

## Useful Resources for Crisis Committee Delegates

Arora, Rohan. "How To Do Well In a Model UN Crisis Committee." *Best Delegate*, Best

Delegate, 29 Nov. 2017,

[bestdelegate.com/how-to-do-well-in-a-model-un-crisis-committee-2/](https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-do-well-in-a-model-un-crisis-committee-2/).

Hammond, Kaitlyn. "How To Survive Your First Crisis Committee." *Best Delegate*, Best

Delegate, 27 Aug. 2018,

[bestdelegate.com/how-to-survive-your-first-crisis-committee/](https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-survive-your-first-crisis-committee/).

KFC. "5 Mistakes Model UN Delegates Make in Crisis Committees." *Best Delegate*,

Best Delegate, 13 Jan. 2016, [bestdelegate.com/5-mistakes-model-un-](https://bestdelegate.com/5-mistakes-model-un-delegates-make-in-crisis-committees/)

[delegates-make-in-crisis-committees/](https://bestdelegate.com/5-mistakes-model-un-delegates-make-in-crisis-committees/).

Mari. "Crisis 101: 5 Strategies for the Crisis Newbie." *Best Delegate*, Best Delegate, 21

Apr. 2017,

[bestdelegate.com/crisis-101-5-strategies-for-the-crisis-newbie/](https://bestdelegate.com/crisis-101-5-strategies-for-the-crisis-newbie/).