

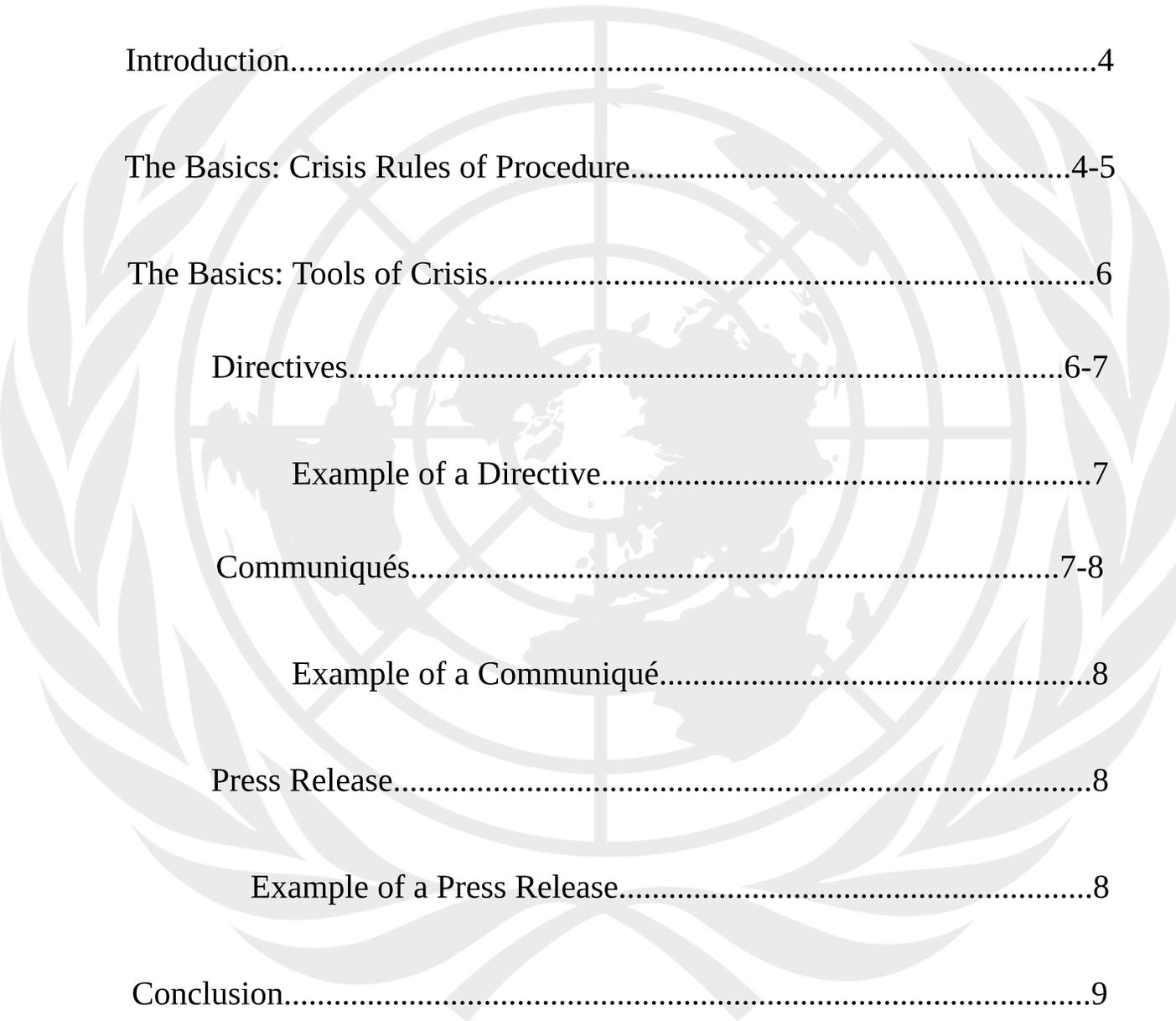
Seventh Annual
SBIMUN



Preparation Materials for Delegates

Guide to Crisis

Table of Contents



SBMUN Secretariat.....	3
Introduction.....	4
The Basics: Crisis Rules of Procedure.....	4-5
The Basics: Tools of Crisis.....	6
Directives.....	6-7
Example of a Directive.....	7
Communiqués.....	7-8
Example of a Communiqué.....	8
Press Release.....	8
Example of a Press Release.....	8
Conclusion.....	9

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Introduction

If you would like to learn how crisis-based committees work, please read on to familiarize yourself with procedure and the intricacies of this fast-paced environment. If you're a seasoned veteran of crisis committees, go ahead and read it anyway for fun, you may learn a thing or two.

Crisis committees, in many respects, compose the upper echelon of the Model United Nations circuit. While General Assembly committees can be equally difficult, the difficulty in a Crisis committee resides in the more research-oriented setting rather than the low probability of being called on in a large body. In a General Assembly, you must know how to get your point across quickly and effectively, in the limited time that you are given to speak; it is quite the opposite in crisis committees. You will have many opportunities to speak; therefore, the quality of your speech must maintain strength or you risk invalidating your own points.

For those of you that are scared don't worry! Crisis committees also differ from GAs because they are far more volatile and ever-changing; lost momentum can easily be regained as crises develop. This is what can make the experience of Crisis Committees exciting and entertaining for delegates, regardless of your experience levels.

The Basics: Crisis Rules of Procedures

Crisis Committees at SBMUN Conferences (SBIMUN & GauchoMUN) follow a slightly modified set of rules from other committees. Below is a brief explanation of how the rules of procedure for these committees differ from those of more traditional committees.

Topics: Once the crisis begins, Crisis Committees will not move from topic to topic or set the agenda. Instead, the committee will debate the crisis until it is resolved (usually only at the end of the conference).

Perpetual Moderated Caucus: Because of the dynamic nature of the crisis, the committee will not rely on a Speaker's List and instead conduct debate through a perpetual moderated crisis.

Two main effects result from this arrangement:

- 1 – Debate is more free-form and reactive to events
- 2 – The committee does not enter voting bloc when the Speaker's List is exhausted

Despite being a perpetual moderated caucus, delegates may make motions. The following points and motions are permissible (in order of precedence). Please refer to the conference rules of procedure for more details on what each motion does, the debate allowed, and the required vote.

- Point of Order
- Point of Information/Inquiry
- Appeal of the Chair
- Suspension of the Meeting**
- Adjournment of Debate
- Closure of Debate
- Division of the Question
- Roll Call Vote
- Vote by Acclamation
- Setting the Speaker's Time
- Inviting a Guest Speaker

** Although in a perpetual moderated caucus, delegates may call for both an unmoderated caucus and a moderated caucus to focus on a specific subtopic or draft directive.

Voting: A given Crisis Committee will likely vote on several directives over the course of the conference. These votes should occur when the directives are ready, but it is up to the committee to choose to move into voting bloc. There is only one-way to move into voting bloc: "the motion to close debate" [on such directive, etc.].

Inviting Guests: The Crisis Committee may call for external speakers to address the body. To do so, a committee member must move to invite the guest; that motion requires a majority vote in the committee to pass. For instance, in a hypothetical Security Council, the State of Utopia could make the following motion:

“The State of Utopia moves to invite the Nation of Bliss to the Security Council.”

If the motion passes, the Dais will then pass this request to the crisis staff. If available, a representative will be summoned to the committee chambers, where she will give a brief statement and then answer questions. Any delegate wishing

to ask a question of the speaker must be called upon by the Dais and must direct the question to the Dais. After answering a few questions, the invited guest will depart from the committee.

The Dais may also at times inform the committee of available speakers; however, the committee does not have to invite representatives from that list and can invite other guests, but those individuals may not be available.

The Basics: Tools of Crisis

Throughout the course of the simulations in your respective Crisis Committees here at SBMUN, the teams of crisis staff will be working to develop a storyline that your committee must tackle and take action toward. Your reaction to a situation will often express itself through one of three tools as you navigate the rapidly paced environment of the crises that are introduced.

In order to effectively react to the various events that you encounter, there are three tools, which are as follows, that you can use: **Directives, Communiqués, and Press Releases**

Directives

Instead of resolutions, the delegates in Crisis Committees write, debate, and vote upon directives – also known as action plans – which are the main form of writing in a crisis committee, or the most widely recognized. Often, these are messages to the world communicating the intent of the Committee regarding any current crisis that has been introduced by the Crisis Director and their staff. Each directive consists of the actions and orders that the committee as a whole wants to take.

Directives are often written in resolution format, but are not expected to include the extensively detailed preambulatory clauses or the flowery language that a GA working paper may include. Frequently, they will incorporate just a few preambulatory clauses addressing the current situation and its historical and legal contexts. Directives, however, will often consist of bullet points that delineate specific actions to be taken by the appropriate body.

While in GA delegates only have the power to suggest and recommend, Crisis Committees give you power to take action. You will not necessarily have time specifically to write directives, as the pace of committee moves quickly. You will need to balance writing and speaking since committee does not stop to wait for you to finish a response.

NOTE: Directives NEED to be specific: vague orders can result in a variety of problems for the writer of 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. An example of a directive is below. Note the specificity. This is what we expect.

Example of a Directive:

New orders for Minuteman III ICBM silo operators

- Arm 50% of missiles in silos within 100 miles of the United States Eastern seaboard
- No fire unless fired upon
- Scramble 35 B-2 Spirit stealth bombers for additional stealth reconnaissance missions over Russian airspace.

Communiqués

Communiqués are messages that delegates in a Crisis Committee can send on behalf of the entire committee to another country, organization, the Dias, or more importantly to the external world. These often facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis. Communiqués may include negotiations, threats, as well as requests for aid or support, but are not limited to those topics. In fact, the crisis staff may send communiqués to individual delegates with new information or intelligence, with directions on how to use that information.

Keep in mind that a communiqué needs to be just as well worded as a directive. Moreover, this can be where your inner linguist shines since the tone of a letter or communicate can absolutely change the meaning of it, and affect the outcome in the overall scope of committee.

An example of an effective communique can be found below:

Example of a Communiqué:

Dear Mr. Phillip Hammond,

It has come to our attention that British naval forces are currently forming a blockade across the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea, and blocking United States naval vessels. This is a threat to both our national security as well as economic security and we will not take it lightly. We expect full compensation for damages to trade, as well as full reversal of the blockade. In your capacity as the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defense, stop this nonsense or face consequences.

Sincerely,

The United States Cabinet

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 even provoke public reactions to crises at hand. This could range from civil unrest over issues of human rights committed by a member state, corruption discovered that engages a member of the cabinet, or even the possible calls for a presidential or executive resignation. An example of a press release is provided below:

Example of a Press Release:

Recent reports from news sources indicate that an alien spacecraft crashed through our atmosphere and landed somewhere in the desert near Las Vegas, Nevada.

After investigation, the Department of Defense has issued a statement that the downed craft was a prototype Air Force research project. Unfortunately, it still needs some work. The Cabinet would like to extend regrets over the lives lost in the crash and dispel rumors of alien landings.

Conclusion

To "succeed" when in a crisis committee, means that you have successfully represented your character throughout the simulation. In some cases, you will need to focus purely on one of the three types of reactions/actions; however, you will most likely need to utilize all three in some combination to have the greatest influence on the committee. And that's it! You now have a command of the basic tools that you will need to function in a crisis-based committee!

One more thing you should know for all crisis simulations is that the crisis staff acts as the response team for every action you or a member of the committee could take. Every time one of the three above actions takes place, the crisis team responds according to the direction of the storyline as well as the numerous other actions being taken by the rest of the committee.

As you, as a delegate, input the specific decisions and actions you would like to carry out, the crisis team will counter back with a reaction from the bodies, actors, and others beyond the walls of the committee room. All of these will require your rapid and thoughtful response as you continually navigate the terrain of the various Crisis Committees at SBMUN Conferences.