

American College of Sofia Model United Nations

Historical Crisis Committee

I. Nature of the Committee

The Historical Crisis committee runs in a fast-paced manner often pushing delegates to think, react, and speak on the spot. Due to the abrupt nature of events, a crisis committee cannot function like a regular GA committee. The structure of debate will largely be determined by crises introduced by the Crisis Staff. Delegates will not be adding themselves to a speakers' list, giving opening speeches, setting the agenda or writing resolutions. Instead, they will have the opportunity to motion for round robins, moderated or unmoderated caucuses in order to discuss the crisis at hand. Resolutions will be replaced by much shorter directives or crisis notes addressing the most recent crisis. To inform the public of recent updates regarding the situation at hand, the committee will also issue press releases formulated and agreed upon by delegates.

A Crisis Committee provides much more freedom to its members than a regular one. If it corresponds with their power, delegates can attack territories, assassinate officials, create new countries, start wars, etc. Delegates should, however, keep in mind that each action they take has the power to alter the makeup of the committee and the course of history. Caution is advised.

II. Directives, Crisis Notes, and Press Releases

A. Directives

Directives are essentially mini-resolutions addressing the most recent crisis update. They do need to include preambulatory clauses and consist of a small number of points outlining a particular action which the delegates wish to take. They are, at all times, open to the committee and need to be signed by at least one-third of the delegates to be introduced to the Chair. Directives are passed at the Chair's discretion. If a directive passes, the steps outlined in it take action immediately and the committee as well as further directives need to adjust accordingly.

Example Directive:

From: Angela Merkel, Theresa May, and Emmanuel Macron

1. Sends a task force of 5,000 German personnel to aid civilians trapped in deadly earthquake in Iraq and Iran. The task force is to be protected by British forces in the region and supplies will be delivered by the French government

B. Crisis Notes

Crisis notes are the only form of secret communication between a single delegate or multiple delegates and the Chairs. They are a way for delegates to attempt individual action which they do not wish to announce before receiving approval. Crisis notes are passed at the Chair's discretion and rejections are not subject to feedback or objections.

Example Crisis Note:

From: Emmanuel Macron

1. Launches an invasion into Germany to capture Berlin.
2. Deploys 100,000 troops along with 250 tanks and 500 fighters and support aircrafts.
3. Blockades German naval ports by deploying 30 ships.

C. Press Releases

Press Releases are the committee's means of communication with the public. Delegates should remember that they are discussing and influencing the outcome of critical events. Through these press releases they are able to sway public opinion and form the popular view on the crisis at hand as well as on their competence and capabilities as representatives of their respective countries. Media is a powerful tool and delegates are advised to tread carefully.

A press release is structured similarly to a directive, however, it states the committee as its source, rather than the block of delegates who formulated it initially. It provides information about the committee's work as well as the majority of the delegates' views on the issue. Press releases are passed by a simple majority. While important, press releases should not become the focus of the committee, rather, focus should remain on actual response to the crisis.

Example Press Release:

The Ad-hoc committee issues a press release that states:

1. The Russian Security Services have successfully managed to foil a terrorist plot that was planned to take place in Berlin. The plot was to bomb the German Parliament while the Chancellor was

present there. The suspects have been apprehended and are awaiting trial.

III. Rules of Procedure

A. Opening the Session

1. Roll Call

At the beginning of each committee session, the chairs will conduct a roll call of the delegates. In alphabetical order, each delegate will be asked to state if they are “present” or “present and voting.” Delegates that are marked “present and voting” will not be able to abstain from voting on directives and press releases. Abstaining on procedural matters is not allowed.

2. Quorum

For a committee to begin a session, there must be a quorum of delegates present. The required quorum is half the committee plus one. Quorum is automatically presumed unless a delegate asks for it to be verified. In case a quorum is not present, the chairs must immediately inform the Secretary-General or another member of the organising team.

B. Points

Points remain largely the same as in any other committee. In order to raise a point a delegate still needs to be recognised by the chair.

Per the ACS MUNC III rules of procedure, the plausible points in this committee are:

1. Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

A point addressed to the chair, which is to be used if a delegate has a question regarding the rules of the conference or the method of a specific procedure. Once the delegate has been recognized, they may state their question. This point may not interrupt a speaker.

2. Point of Information to the Chair

This point is similar to the Point of Parliamentary Enquiry; however, it only concerns matters not related to the rules of procedure, such as the status of a working paper or whether a particular delegate was “present” or “present and voting.” This point may not interrupt a speaker.

3. Point of Information to the Speaker

As explained above, this point is to be used for a delegate to ask a question to another delegate who has just delivered a speech. It may only be raised after the chairs have asked for Points of Information at the request of the speaker.

4. Point of Personal Privilege

This point may be used if a delegate is feeling uncomfortable, and would like the chair and/or committee to accommodate and/or excuse them. This point may not interrupt a speaker unless it is referring to the audibility of their speech.

5. Point of Order

A Point of Order is to be raised by a delegate if they believe the chairs to have committed a mistake in regard to the procedure of the committee. This point may not interrupt a speaker.

6. Right to Reply

A delegate may exercise their right of reply after a speech that has been harmful to their personal or state integrity. They must say what the speaker before them said to cause offense in the speech itself and may not use it just to disagree with the contents of a speech. If the chair believes that the latter is the case, this may be ruled out of order. A delegate may raise it in the same manner, as they would any other point.

C. Motions

1. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Delegates may motion for a moderated caucus on a specific topic. The delegate must state the exact topic, number of speakers as well as the duration of the caucus. If the motion passes, the delegate who proposed it will be asked if they wish to speak first or last. The maximum length of a moderated caucus is 20 minutes. No delegate may speak more than once. This motion requires a simple majority.

2. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Delegates may motion for an unmoderated caucus, during which they may work together with their blocs on directives or press releases. The delegate must specify the length of the unmoderated caucus in their motion. The maximum length of an unmoderated caucus is 40 minutes. Delegates are not expected to talk formally.

amongst each other, but common courtesy is still advisable. This motion requires a simple majority.

3. Motion for extending a Caucus

Immediately after a caucus has elapsed, a delegate may motion for an extension. The extension must be at most half the time of the original caucus. Delegates may not motion for an extension more than once. This motion requires a simple majority.

4. Motion for a Round Robin

Delegates may motion for a Round Robin on a specific topic. The delegate will be asked to name the topic and duration of the Round Robin before proceeding. In this mode of debate, all delegates will be asked to speak on a topic set by the motioning delegate going in alphabetical order. This motion requires a two-thirds majority.

5. Motion for a Consultation of the Whole

Delegates may motion for a Consultation of the Whole for a duration of up to 20 minutes. In this debate form, the delegate who motioned will have the floor for as long as they need it, provided it is within the bounds specified in the motion. The delegate may choose to use the entire time in a speech or yield the floor to another delegate, who will then have the same options. When taking the floor delegates are not required to address the chairs. This motion requires a simple majority.

6. Motion to Divide the House

Immediately after a particularly close vote, or one which had a large number of abstentions, a delegate may move to divide the house. The vote will be retaken, this time with no abstentions allowed. This motion requires a second and is at the chair's discretion.

7. Motion to Suspend the Meeting

Delegates may move to suspend the meeting by specifying a time during which the committee session will resume. This motion requires a two-thirds majority.

8. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Delegates may move to adjourn the meeting once either all topics have been exhausted, or there is little time remaining, and the delegates and chairs have deemed it unnecessary to continue the committee session. This motion requires a two-thirds majority.

9. Motion to Appeal the Chairs' Decision

If a delegate believes the chairs have made a decision that impacts the work of the committee negatively, they may move to appeal the decision. This does not apply to procedural mistakes, in which case a Point of Order must be used. This motion must be made right after the chairs' decision. The chairs may not rule it out of order. This motion requires a two-thirds majority.

10. Motion to Censure

If a delegate is acting blatantly against their nation's policies or is being a serious impairment to the work of the committee, another delegate may move to censure them. Should this motion pass, the delegate will be removed until the start of the next committee session. This motion requires a two-thirds majority.

D. Voting

1. Motion to Introduce a Press release

After a press release has been formulated, one of its sponsors may move to introduce it. This motion is at the discretion of the chair and is not voted on.

2. Motion to Introduce an Amendment

After proceeding to the amendment phase, a delegate may introduce an amendment by reading the proposed change to the press release.

3. Motion to Move to the Previous Question

If a delegate believes a press release possesses nothing further to be discussed, they may motion to Move to the Previous Question, thus bringing them to an immediate vote. This motion requires a second. If there are any objections, it fails automatically.

4. Motion for a Vote by Roll Call

A delegate may motion to vote by roll call on the press release. In this case, the chairs will call upon every delegate individually to state if they vote "for," "against," "abstain," or "pass." If a delegate passes, they will be called to vote again after everyone else has voted, this time without the option of passing. The motion requires a second.

5. Motion to Reconsider

A delegate may move to reconsider a previously discussed press release regardless of whether it was successful or not. This would entail a new round of amendments and speeches for and against. This motion requires a second and a two-thirds majority.