

# CRISIS COMMITTEE

Information Booklet 2018





## Introduction

This year, COMUN presents to you a brand-new committee, the Crisis Committee, to give more experienced delegates an extra challenge at our conference. As the Crisis Committee does not have an issue, but, obviously, crises that need to be solved, the rules of procedures are different than those of a normal committee. Therefore, we urge all of you, delegates of the Crisis Committee, to read this booklet carefully. Even if you have already participated in a Crisis Committee before, we suggest you read this booklet as our rules of procedure might differ from those of other conferences.

The only things that will be announced to the delegates of the Crisis Committee is the country they will represent and the other countries that will be present in the committee. What the crises will be about will remain a secret until the conference, but you might be able to get an idea by the countries that are represented in the committee. The crises can be about natural disasters, economic crises or diplomatic trouble and there are multiple of them: the next crisis will not wait until the prior crisis is solved. Because it is unknown what the crises are about, the preparation for this committee is different than for other committees. Although there is a separate section about how to prepare for this committee, we want to stress that you should know as much about your country as possible, as this will prepare you for any sort of situation that might arise.

## Rules of procedure

In this section there will be an explanation about the rules of procedure, or what delegates are allowed to do when in the Crisis Committee. We would like to stress that the fact that you are allowed to do something does not always mean that you are expected to do this, therefore there will be another section dedicated to your expectations and obligations later in this booklet.

## Speeches and points

Of course, as in any normal committee, you can make speeches and ask points of information. You are allowed to ask points of information to every speaker and you can make speeches about the situation or about the proposed action. In the Crisis Committee there is no time against or in favour of an action, which might resemble an amendment. This means that you can make any speech regarding the action. There is also no closed debate on a certain action, as there is no voting procedure. The moment a country, or multiple countries, submit their action, the action happens. You can however criticise or praise the countries that submitted the action.

## Summary of points and motions

### Point of order

Directed to the chair, may interrupt a speaker. Informs about the procedure of the debate.

### Point of information to the chair



Directed to the chair, referring to something other points don't cover.

**Point of information to the speaker**

Directed to the speaker on the floor, used after the speaker has opened themselves to questions, usually about the speaker's speech, statement or the resolution.

**Point of personal privilege**

May interrupt a speaker when it concerns the audibility of the speaker. Also used for anything referring to your wellbeing. Only a 'point of personal privilege due to inaudibility' may interrupt a speaker.

**Point of parliamentary inquiry**

Directed to the chair, may never interrupt a speaker. Informs about the rules of procedure of the debate.

**Request for follow up**

Directed to the speaker, after they have finished their speech. If you have asked a point of information, you may have another question regarding the speaker's answer.

**How to take action**

In the Crisis Committee at COMUN, there are two ways in which you can try to solve the crisis, alone or together with other countries.

If you are taking action alone, you can release a written statement. This statement will be projected, and you can make a speech about why you are doing this and how you think you can accomplish this. Making a written statement does not always mean that this will happen by definition, only if you can prove that you can actually do this on your own and if another nation doesn't stop your action from happening. If the action happens this will be taken into account in the crisis and you will be able to read about it in the following news article. If the action does not happen, there will be no development in the crisis, but your position towards other delegations and your reputation in the committee might be affected.

When you are taking action together with other delegations, you can make an action plan. An action plan can be signed by as many nations as desirable, but at least two. All directly involved nations also have to sign the action plan, because it's not possible to, for example, send the army of the USA on a mission without the USA agreeing to this. An action plan, when entertained, will also be seen as something that will actually happen and will therefore influence the crisis.

Both of these ways of taking action do not have to be in a specific format, but they should be easy to understand and ordered clearly. If the Student Officer thinks it is not, they are allowed to make changes to it. As long as the content is not changed, they do not have to give you a justification.



## Discussing about the action

As stated previously, it's also possible to make an action plan together with other countries. However, to discuss the details with all the other countries note passing is a rather slow way of communicating. Therefore, we're entertaining the possibility to discuss something outside of the committee room, with all the countries involved. In order for you to be allowed to leave the committee room, only one person per delegation, you must send a note to the Student Officers, stating all the countries that will take part in the discussion. Please keep in mind that there will always be a Student Officer or staff member present during the discussion, to ensure things run smoothly.

## How to be allowed to take action

In order to take action your country should be capable of taking this action and it should be according to the policy of your country. In order to make sure you have permission to take this action you have to send a note to your government. Your government will then reply as soon as possible saying whether you can take this action or not. If you want to submit an action plan with multiple countries, you can send one note with the action plan and all the countries that are involved listed. All delegates will then receive a separate message from their government whether they are allowed to take part in the action plan.

The Student Officers also play a role in this. The fact that your government has given you permission does not mean it will certainly happen. The Student Officers can choose which action plans or written statements they would like to entertain and when.

## Obligations and expectations

What delegates are expected to do in the Crisis Committee is actually quite easy: following the orders of their government. However, executing those orders might be more difficult than it sounds.

At the beginning of each crisis delegates will receive a special letter from their government. In this letter you will be told exactly what your goals are for the debate, but how to reach those goals is up to you. One option is being open about your motives, but you could also choose to be secretive about your goals. This is entirely up to you, but we expect you to take this seriously.

If you have difficulty executing these orders or don't know what to do, we suggest that you do not support anything that is unbeneficial to your country, for example a war or sanctions, and make sure that if you know of such plans, you stop them. Ensuring that you do this can already help you to remain standing during the crises.

## Preparing for the conference

As we will not tell you beforehand what the crises will be about, preparing for them can seem rather hard. If you follow these guidelines, the debate might be a bit easier for you, but it is still not guaranteed. Do know, however, that you are allowed to look up information during the conference itself, so it might be wise to bring a device that allows you to do so, as we do



not have a computer room. There is no such thing as doing too much research, so try to look up as much necessary information as possible.

### Necessary information

The beginning of your research for the Crisis Committee is actually the same as the beginning of your research for any other committee: make sure that you know the basics about your country. This includes your head of state, the general views of the most important political party and the head of state, the capacity of your army and, if applicable, secret service, where your country is located, the demographics, and more such things. It is also always good to know about the noteworthy recent events in the country you will represent.

Once you know the basics, research that is practical in case of crises should be done, so how your country would react or has reacted in a crisis. This can be evacuation plans, how they handled economic crises or terrorist attacks if they were unlucky enough to encounter those, or how they would react on them if they have not (yet) happened in your country. It could also be practical to know how your country would be hit because of certain crises, like how would an economic crisis affect the economy.

Lastly, what is also important are your relations to the other countries in the committee. This not only helps you to find possible allies, but also makes you able to identify 'enemies' earlier. It also can't hurt to know the relations of all the countries with each other, as this information is very helpful for the course of the debate.

### Countries present in the Crisis Committee

In order for you to be able to research your relations with the other countries present in the committee, the countries of the Crisis Committee are the following:



China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States of America



Australia, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Maldives



Mauritania, The Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden