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# CRISIS COMMITTEE GUIDE



XIV ANNUAL SESSION

April 15-16th, 2023

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Unity and Diversity: One Step at a Time  
“Be the change you want to see in the world”

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This document was adapted from the THIMUN Historical Crisis Committee and NBMUN Crisis rules of procedure.

**It is most important to note that the Crisis largely revolves around directives. Public directives, or short and straightforward operative clauses, are used for the fast-paced crisis committee instead of resolutions in conventional committees. Private directives, also known as crisis notes, are used by delegates to communicate their actions that can influence the events of the committee.**

## **TASMUN XIV: Modern Crisis**

All crisis committees at TASMUN will follow all the procedures below. However, this year's modern crisis committee will work a little differently. If you're in any other crisis committee, you may disregard whatever is said below.

This year's modern crisis committee will be a split crisis committee. At the chair's discretion or when the crisis reaches a breaking point, the committee will be divided into two groups: China's allies and Taiwan's allies. Each group will continue following the rules of the procedure below to work to solve the crisis but favor their own side. At intervals to be decided by the chairs, the two groups will reconvene to see the effects of their public directives and continue the debate. This may happen multiple times during the conference to reinvigorate the debate.

## **Powers of the Chairs**

### **1. Additional Powers**

In addition to the General Powers of the Chair outlined in the TASMUN Rules of Procedure, the Crisis Chairs shall have the power to coordinate the following activities:

- i. Set the Agenda in the Crisis,
- ii. Make statements to the Crisis, of any nature, at any time, as they deem necessary,
- iii. Call for a Recess for Caucusing or pass any caucus vote as they see fit,
- iv. Facilitate negotiations between Crisis Delegates, and
- v. Modify the Crisis Rules of Procedure, as they deem necessary.

# Order of Debate

## 1. Roll Call

Crisis proceedings will commence with the Formal Roll Call of Delegates. If any Delegates are not present during the Formal Roll Call, it will be understood that they have waived their right to vote for that session.

Those Delegates not present during Formal Roll Call may request reinstatement of voting privileges by means of a note to the Chairs.

## 2. Opening Speeches

The committee generally begins with opening speeches that last around 20-25 minutes depending on the number of delegates. Individual speaking time will be determined at the chair's discretion. Delegates take turns making previously prepared speeches that will highlight their position and solutions on the topic.

## 3. Opening of the floor

Following the opening speeches or at any time a caucus isn't in session, the chair can open the floor to any points or motions of related nature. The chair may reject a point or motion at any time at their discretion if it isn't conducive to the committee as a whole.

## 4. Moderated Caucuses

- A moderated caucus may be introduced by a motion from any delegate during an open floor
- Moderated caucus must have a set topic, individual speaking time, and caucus duration proposed by the motioning delegate, all of which will be voted upon by the entire committee.
- There is no set speaking order for this type of caucus, rather each new speaker is chosen by the chair after the previous delegate concludes their speech. Delegates may not yield their time after their speech has concluded.

## 5. Unmoderated Caucus

- During a caucus of this type, delegates may speak with each other freely to begin collaboration on working papers or exchanging ideas.
- There is no set topic or speaking time for a caucus of this type, but a duration must be set by the delegate proposing the motion, which will then be voted on.
- Unmoderated caucuses are seen as destructive to committee flow, and, should a motion for one arise amongst motions for moderated caucuses, the committee has the option to vote on motions in the order of most to least destructive, in which case the motion for the unmoderated caucus will be voted on first, no matter the order that it was originally taken in.
- If the Chair feels that having an unmoderated caucus would be counterproductive to the efficiency of the committee, they may reject any motions for unmoderated caucuses for a while. The most common reason for this occurring would be that the Chair feels there have not been enough moderated caucuses to warrant the start of working paper discussions.

## 6. Yielding

- Delegates may yield the remaining time of their speech (from a speakers' list and an authorship speech) in the following ways under the discretion of the chair:

- Yield the time back to the Chair
- If there are 30 or more seconds left, yield to another delegate:
  - Pre-yielding agreements are not required,
  - Yielding to a second degree are out of order
  - Delegates may decline a yield upon request

**7. Motions (Note: Crisis is almost completely governed by motions that will be voted on. The Chair may note which motions are favorable for the flow of the committee session).**

Motions are how a crisis committee will move forward. Delegates may raise a motion when the floor is open to do so, and multiple motions may be proposed by delegates. After all, motions that delegates wish to raise have been raised, the chair will order them by importance at their discretion. Then, the committee will move through and vote on each motion, starting with the most important. Once a motion has passed, all other motions will be dismissed and the motion will take effect.

Motion to introduce a public directive

- The director must approve a public directive before this motion is raised.
- Only the main submitter of a public directive can raise this motion.
- This motion will start a debate process for a public directive that will involve introducing, discussing, and voting.
  - The delegate who raised the motion will read their public directive to the committee, clause by clause.
  - The delegate who raised the motion will accept Points of Clarification.
  - The delegate who raised the motion will accept Points of Information in regard to the directive for a maximum of 5 minutes.
    - All delegates in the committee with a right to speak may ask a question.
    - If there are no questions, the duration for Points of Information may be reduced by the chair.
  - The chair must entertain a motion for a moderated or unmoderated caucus to discuss the implications for the raised public directive.
    - Any delegate may raise a motion for a moderated or unmoderated caucus and can set an appropriate duration.
    - Any other motions will be denied.
    - If no delegates are raising a motion, the committee will automatically move into a moderated caucus, individual speaking time of 30 seconds, and total duration of 15 minutes.
  - After the time for the caucus has expired, the committee may optionally extend a caucus once.
  - Finally, the committee will move into voting procedures for the public directive.

Motion to introduce an amendment

- Same procedure as above, but for amendments.
- POI time for the submitter of the amendment will be shortened to a maximum of 2 minutes.

Motion for a moderated caucus

- A moderated caucus serves as a method of more formal debate on any facet of the topic at hand. This caucus must have a set topic, individual speaking time, and caucus duration, all of which will be voted upon by the entire committee.

#### Motion for an unmoderated caucus

- Delegates may speak with each other freely in order to begin collaboration on working papers or exchanging ideas. There is no set topic or speaking time for a caucus of this type, but a duration must be set by the delegate proposing the motion, which will then be voted on.

#### Motion for an extension

- After either a moderated or unmoderated caucus, delegates have the option to motion for a short extension, usually for around five minutes. Extensions are viewed as more destructive to committee flow than unmods.

#### Motion to recess/close debate

- This signals the end of a particular session for a break.

#### Motion to adjourn debate

- This signals the end of the entire committee session.

## Directives

### 1. Private Directives

- A private directive consists of a submitter, recipient, and content.
  - **Submitter:** the author is the only submitter of a private directive
  - **Recipient:** the recipient may be the director or any other creative, fictional, or historical person, organization, or entity relevant to the crisis situation
  - **Content:** the content must include an actionable direction, request, or question that is appropriate and relevant for the current crisis situation
    - Content that may be illegal or highly offensive in modern settings must be filtered by the director. Such content should be forwarded to the Secretariat for review, and the director may not approve it until the Secretariat completes their review.
- A private directive must be within the portfolio power of the submitter.
- A private directive must be submitted to the director or head chair for review.
- A directive has no effect until it is approved and executed by the director, which can be in the form of a written or verbal reply or future crisis update.
- A denied directive cannot be resubmitted for reapproval unless a director requests changes.

### 2. Public Directives

- A public directive consists of a main submitter, an optional co-submitter, sponsors, and content.
  - **Main Submitter:** the primary author is the main submitter of a private directive
  - **Optional Co-submitter:** if there are co-submitters who have contributed to the creation of the directive, they may be included as co-submitters
  - **Sponsors:** delegates who support the public directive or are willing to debate on it can be listed as sponsors, given their explicit verbal or written approval
- A public directive must have at least a third of the committee's sponsorship to be submitted for review. Sponsorship should be counted by including the main submitter and co-submitters. Directives that do not meet this requirement must be denied automatically.

- A public directive must be within the portfolio power of the submitter, co-submitters, and the committee as a whole.
- A public directive must be submitted to the director or head chair for approval, after which the motion to introduce a public directive can be raised.
- A directive has no effect until it is approved and executed by the director and voted upon, which can be in the form of a written or verbal reply or a future crisis update.
- A denied directive cannot be resubmitted for reapproval.

### 3. Amendments

- Amendments work similarly to resolution amendments in regular committees and can only be applied to public directives that have been approved by the chair.
- Amendments may not be brought before the committee unless it has been approved by the chair which can be done by sending the amendment to the chair in note form, formatted like such: amendment, for what purpose, and from who.
- Amendments must contribute substantially to the public directive as a whole, by adding, modifying, or striking portions of the public directive.
  - Add: These are the most constructive types of amendments that can be made to a resolution and are thus highly encouraged. These add new content to a resolution by adding a new clause, sub-clause, or sub-sub clause.
  - Modify: These amendments replace a certain section of a clause, sub-clause, or sub-sub-clause with something else.
  - Strike: These types of amendments are discouraged due to their unconstructive nature, but can sometimes be necessary when the flaws of a clause, subclause, or sub-sub-clause are too overwhelming to be fixed.
- Moderated caucuses may be opened to discuss the amendment.

## Crisis Voting Procedure

### Voting

There are three different options when voting: for, against, or abstain. Abstain is only an option during a substantive vote.

1. Two types of voting procedures shall be recognized by the Chairs:
  - a. Procedural Vote
  - b. Substantive Vote
2. Two types of majority votes shall be recognized by the Chairs:
  - a. The Simple Majority (SM), with more than one-half of the votes in favor of a motion
  - b. The Supermajority (SSM), with more than two-thirds of the votes in favor of a motion,
3. A procedural vote pertains to all procedural matters including (in order of precedence)
  - a. Motion to adjourn debate (SSM)
  - b. Motion to extend speaking time (SSM)
  - c. Motion for an unmoderated caucus (SM)
  - d. Motion for a moderated caucus (SM)
  - e. Motion to introduce a public directive (SM)
  - f. Motion to introduce an amendment (SM)
  - g. Motion to close debate on a directive/amendment (SM)

4. A substantive vote pertains to all substantial documents including:
  - a. Public directives (SM)
  - b. Amendments (SM)
5. Abstentions on procedural votes are out of order when:
  - a. Delegates who have responded “present and voting” during the roll call may not abstain from voting
  - b. A procedural vote is occurring

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