



INFORMATION AND POSITION PAPER WRITING GUIDE FOR GATORMUN IX CRISIS COMMITTEES

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to GatorMUN IX, the greatest high school crisis conference in the state of Florida! You will be embarking on an epic journey as you represent a character within your dynamic crisis committee. For many of you, this will be your first crisis committee, and you will learn that it runs very differently from the standard assembly style committees you are used to in Model UN. The format for these sessions is more informal and fast-paced, and the bodies have more power, interaction, and flexibility to interact with actors outside of the room. Though the format of your committee will vary by director, this brief guide will give you an idea of what to expect within a crisis committee.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Hamati
Undersecretary General of Crisis Committees
GatorMUN IX

Crisis and Crisis Staff

The most radical difference from that of assembly is the introduction of crises during committee sessions. Crisis committees do not usually follow an agenda but rather work toward a common goal by reacting to crises. Crises are events in the outside world that affect the committee, and are presented by GatorMUN's crisis staff. Examples of crises can be a newspaper article on an issue, a communication from a neighboring government, a guest speaker, or a surveillance video. The job of the crisis staff is to present these events to the committee in creative ways. As a result, anything can happen, and delegates will have to be knowledgeable and prepared to react appropriately to further the committee's interests.

Delegates can interact with the outside world and ask questions about crisis capabilities by sending in notes to the dais. The crisis staff will answer questions through sending notes back.

Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure within crisis committees in GatorMUN will be less formal than that of our assembly committees. Normally directors choose to conduct their committee between moderated and unmoderated caucuses depending on the flow of debate. The Speaker's List may be used sparingly or sometimes eliminated completely. However, normal delegate conduct is expected within these committees; delegates are expected to set speaker times, make points and motions, and raise their placard AFTER the chair asks for those wishing to speak. Debate can be interrupted by crises put forth by the crisis staff, such as a guest speaker, video, or newspaper articles. The director will pause debate to have the committee react to the crisis (questions, etc).

Furthermore, committee directives, communiqués, and press releases will be voted on following assembly voting procedure. This means that no delegates are allowed to leave the



room, quorum will be announced, and delegates will raise their placards accordingly.

Directives, Communiqués, and Press Releases

Crisis committees respond to crises and make decisions through these three documents. As opposed to resolutions and reports in assemblies, these documents do not follow a specific format. They delegate actions on behalf of the committee and require the same amount of votes as a resolution (50% +1); however, depending on the severity of the document, the director may require a two-thirds vote to pass. Once one of these documents is passed, it is considered automatically in effect.

Although more informal, each of these documents needs to be detailed and formal enough to communicate to different channels; if they are not well-written and thorough, unintended events can result. For example, if a directive was written specifying a covert operation without specifying resources or strategy, it can go terribly wrong. Thus, specificity and diplomacy is required to get favorable results.

The following are descriptions of the different documents a committee can pass:

- *Directive*: Directives are similar to resolutions in that they are the main avenues of action in the committee. Each directive must be passed in the body by simple majority or at the director's discretion. Directives approve actions such as delegating resources, approving and passing a treaty, and changing policy, though it is dependent on the context.
- *Communiqués*: Communiqués are private communications to governments, institutions, and other bodies. These are not open to the public and can relay messages such as a request for a meeting, a question, a report, or any other communicative action between the committee and the other actor.
- *Press Releases*: Press releases relay information to the public. These include public statements, speeches, and press conferences in response to an event (such as a natural disaster, declaration of war, etc).

Portfolio Powers

Each delegate will be privileged to individual portfolio powers. Portfolio powers are the ability to take unilateral action within and outside the committee. Delegates are encouraged to research heavily into their position so that they can identify specific portfolio powers and utilize them within committee. Furthermore, the delegate can have jurisdictions, so that the committee can or cannot act without their approval. The delegate can use these powers openly with the committee and/or individually and secretly. If a director offers dossiers, they will contain information on resources and further portfolio powers; the background guides will mention if dossiers are provided.

With that said, portfolio powers offer the delegate the opportunity to be creative and strategic with their position; therefore, it is highly encouraged for delegates to take advantage of them. Examples of using portfolio powers include initiating a covert operation if the delegate is the head of intelligence, mobilizing forces if the delegate is a military general, and speaking with an enemy state if the delegate has personal connections to that state. However, a delegate's actions must be feasible in context with the committee as unrealistic requests will be ignored.

Position Papers

GatorMUNIX

Like GatorMUN's assembly committees, position papers are required and are considered in the overall scoring of delegates' progress. Furthermore, there is a position paper award for each committee based on how well a delegate can represent their character's interests. GatorMUN format are a 1-3 page single-spaced paper with 12 pt. Times New Roman font. The paper should be from the character's perspective and should illustrate the character's basic background, position on key topics, and proposed goals and solutions for the committee. Directors may have further requirements, which will be listed under the background guide.

This information should give a basic idea of how a standard crisis committee functions; however, as part of the spirit of crisis committees, anything can happen. Directors reserve the right to modify these basic standards to create a realistic and innovative experience for delegates, and delegates are encouraged to do the same. With these foundations, we hope that delegates will enjoy the crisis experience and proceed to surprise us all with their abilities to handle stressful situations diplomatically and resourcefully.