



The MUNISH Crisis Committee Handbook

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MUNISH Academic Advisor XXXVI

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CHAPTER I. – INTRODUCTION

01. FOREWORD

At MUNISH, the Crisis Committee has established itself as one of the most unique and advanced committees in the vast circuit of Model United Nations. This guide functions as a source and reference point for both Student Officers and Diplomats on the complex inner workings of the committee, naturally equipping them with the skills necessary to effectively operate in the room.

Crisis Committee is notorious for fast paced debate and demands quick critical thinking skills, which is all interwoven into a dynamic and rapidly evolving storyline, as the crisis can branch off into multiple different paths depending on the Diplomats' actions. This is why it is generally recommended that one wishing to participate in the Crisis Committee should already have an experienced MUN portfolio, whether that be as a Delegate or Student Officer.

Lastly, this guide is purely for the Crisis Committee and thus will not cover basic rules of procedure, points, motions, or preparations to be a chair at MUNISH. Therefore, readers are expected to have a foundational understanding of these concepts (the former or the latter depending on whether you are participating as a Diplomat or Student Officer.) If the reader is not well versed in either, it is highly encouraged to read the MUNISH Chairing Guide or MUNISH Delegate Handbook.

02. WHAT IS CRISIS COMMITTEE?

Crisis Committee is solely founded in MUN, as it is not an official UN body. Alongside this, unlike other committees which discuss real-world ongoing issues, Crisis Committee Diplomats collaborate together to solve a sudden and evolving fictional crisis. Whether that be an outbreak of a deadly unknown virus, or governments combatting espionage from a suddenly hostile nation, no one crisis is the same.

Furthermore, due to the fact that the crisis is fabricated, Student Officers of the CC don't write a research report. Instead, Diplomats get informed on the issue via news articles, social media posts, and other forms of information throughout the 3-day conference. This creates an exciting and unpredictable atmosphere for all participants, as even one piece of news can completely change the dynamics of the crisis.

CHAPTER II. – FORMALITIES

01. TERMINOLOGY

Distinctive to this committee is the way “Delegates” function, as instead they are referred to as **Diplomats**. This comes with special changes in the way they are able to operate as opposed to traditional Delegates, which will be explored upon deeper in the handbook. The main change in formality is a key aspect of the way Delegates in other committees have to refer to themselves; seeing as Diplomats act as an agent of their government rather than a proxy for its position, they are able to use personal pronouns (I, me, you, etc.) when debating with other diplomats and communicating with the Presidency.

02. TREATIES VS RESOLUTIONS

The CC does not produce Resolutions. This is due to the fact that Resolutions merely function as collective agreements which rely on trust and mutual agreement that are not legally binding; in the situation of a crisis, fast and authoritative action is necessary in order to come to a pragmatic solution. Thus, all “Resolutions” are formalised as **Treaties**, the Crisis Committee equivalent of a Resolution.

Any Diplomat who signs a Treaty is legally bound to its contents, making their respective governments take those actions immediately. This will of course influence the crisis, as solutions proposed in the Treaty will be applied in real time once debate on it closes. This makes it imperative that before signing, a Diplomat must think ahead on how this will not only affect the crisis, but their nation too. Treaties and how they are debated is discussed further in Chapter III. section 01.

03. ACCESS

Due to the unique nature of the Crisis Committee, who can or cannot enter the forum is highly controlled. The main reason for this is that the CC can quickly devolve into chaos, and any disruptions by sudden visitors can make it difficult for the Presidency to assess the atmosphere as productive or unproductive. For reference, only the following are allowed to enter:

- The President and Deputy President
- Crisis Committee Diplomats
- Admin staff assigned to the CC
- CCHQ Personnel
- Speaking representatives
- MUNISH BoD
- MUN Directors
- Individuals with explicit approval from the Crisis Committee Academic Advisor

Any visitors with unauthorized access will be subject to severe ramifications and will be treated as a serious breach of conference conduct.

CHAPTER III. – RULES OF PROCEDURE

01. GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE (RoP)

Debate in Crisis Committee follows **Ad-hoc RoP**, however the way a Treaty is introduced contrasts compared to other Ad-hoc forums. A Treaty begins when a diplomat submits an opening article which automatically gets added on to that particular Treaty (E.g. Cambodia submits an article when no Treaty is being debated, that article becomes the basis for a new Treaty that subsequently gets debated on) with the following articles being added by diplomats in the standard Ad-hoc flow of debate.

Not only this, news flashes can suddenly appear in the middle of debate, this does not mean that the Treaty being debated subsequently gets tabled. Alternatively, Diplomats must adapt and decide whether the article they want to submit fits the current situation or whether they should modify/jettison it, with Diplomats being more than able and encouraged to submit a new Treaty to address the crisis development once debate on the current Treaty concludes.

02. THE FUNCTION OF TREATIES

Treaties—as mentioned before—function as the replacement for resolutions in Crisis Committee, with Treaties coming with their very own set of rules and formatting. Treaties mainly function as decisive actionable steps to address the current crisis, therefore a Treaty should not be debated on for as much time as a regular resolution/clause. The time allocated for each Treaty is up to the Presidency's discretion, however a maximum of 10-15 minutes debate time per article is recommended to keep proceedings on track, ensure the full Treaty is signed, and allow the crisis to develop based on the content of the Treaty's articles in a timely manner. All Treaties must have a date and timestamp, this is so that the CCHQ can keep an accurate timeline of events when progressing the crisis (example in section 2.1).

Voting on Treaties operates differently from a standard committee as well, as instead of voting on “passing” a Treaty, each Diplomat is called upon one by one to independently sign it. This is due to the fact that Treaties are legally binding and each signatory must immediately take into action what the Treaty says. For example, if the Diplomat of Uganda signs a Treaty which states that “All signatories agree to halt all titanium exports to India,” Uganda as a country will stop trading titanium with India, whilst Russia who didn't sign it will continue trade.

For Student Officers, voting procedure differentiates as well, seeing as they must take into account the individual Diplomat signing rather than collectively counting the amount of signatories in total. This allows the CCHQ to take into account which country has signed a Treaty, providing indications to the effects of the Treaty on those countries and the crisis as a whole. Thus, when initiating voting procedure, the current student officer chairing must ask from the roll call sheet whether or not the stated Diplomat signs the Treaty, writing at the bottom of the Treaty the list of countries who sign it.

However, articles are voted collectively by the committee diplomats on if they are applied to the current Treaty being debated on, as articles can decide whether or not a diplomat signs the currently debated Treaty. Overall, article voting functions similarly to Ad-hoc committees; a key point being that seeing as the Crisis Committee is not a security council, an article cannot be vetoed.

2.1 TREATY FORMATTING

Treaty formatting, however daunting it may seem, is in execution rather simple. This is especially seen as articles are quite precise in wording and very rarely contain sub-articles or sub-sub-articles, seeing as Treaties must be drafted swiftly. An example of a perfectly formatted Treaty is shown below, showcasing all aforementioned contents of treaties and more minor details as stated in Chapter III. section 02:

DEBATE STARTED ON 12/02/2026 10:49

ARTICLE I.

All signatories agree to support local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), already or not already concerning themselves with the issue at hand, in providing assistance to disaster victims located in Malaysia;

ARTICLE II.

All signatories agree to create a Malaysian Health Recovery Fund (MHRF) to provide the Malaysian government with healthcare equipment and monetary funds dedicated to hospitals and doctors, the exact number being:

1. 5 Billion MYR, with contribution levels decided by a tiered contribution system being:
 - a. Member States with a GDP above \$10 Trillion contribute 15%
 - b. Member States with a GDP of \$5-10 Trillion contribute 10%
 - c. Member States with a GDP of \$1-5 Trillion contribute 5%
 - d. Member States with a GDP below \$1 Trillion contribute 2%;

ARTICLE III.

All signatories agree to expedite healthcare professionals in order to assess the levels of damage and oversee the MHRF, tasked with providing expert opinions and advice on how the Malaysian government should respond.

SIGNED BY: Argentine Republic, Canada, Arab Republic of Egypt, French Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

DEBATED ENDED ON 12/02/2026 11:24

Note that whilst it is advised to make articles as detailed as possible, they aren't necessarily required to be as extensive or prospective as resolution clauses due to the time limitations of CC; with sub-articles and especially sub-sub-articles being uncommon but encouraged. Additionally, seeing as diplomats are using the resources of their government rather than the UN's when a Treaty is taken into effect, numbered financial figures are allowed in articles unlike in standard THIMUN procedure.

2.2 TREATY RULES

Due to the unique nature of Treaties, they must follow precise rules in order to stay consistent across the conference. Each Treaty must follow these specific formatting and content rules:

- A Treaty can only be drafted and debated on once a Diplomat submits an article whilst no other Treaty is being debated,
- Although there is no minimum number of articles a Treaty can have before being signed, it can only have a maximum of 5,
- Treaty articles are debated on using Ad-hoc flow of debate,
- Only Diplomats may write articles, the use of AI or plagiarism is strictly forbidden (plagiarism includes past resolutions written by the Diplomat or external party),
- An article being debated is considered as a 1st degree amendment to the treaty. Therefore, only amendments to the 2nd degree are allowed.
- The font used must always be Times New Roman with the font size always being 12,
- Articles are always numbered via roman numerals, with the subsequent sub-articles being numbered and sub-sub-articles being listed alphabetically,
- An article can not have any sub-sub-sub-articles or further,
- An article must always start with “All signatories agree to”,
- A Treaty should be written solely in Google Docs, as this is the web-based software MUNISH Academic Advisors use,
- The presidency must add the date and time (Military time/24 hour clock) the Treaty begins debate in the top left corner, and when it ends debate in the bottom left corner,
- Spacing must be 1.15 after each part of the Treaty,
- A Treaty does not contain any preambulatory clauses,
- All articles and sub-articles cannot contain any periods, the final article is to end in a period,

See the Delegate Guide on how Ad-hoc flow of debate functions in a committee in order to be best prepared for Crisis Committee.

CHAPTER IV. – THE CRISIS COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS (CCHQ)

01. ROLE OF THE CCHQ

The CCHQ has numerous roles in the Crisis Committee, all of them being paramount in ensuring that the committee runs smoothly. The most notable role of the CCHQ with the Diplomats is acting as their government. This functions in the way that the CCHQ acts as for example both the Cambodian government and the Belgian government, depending on the Diplomat contacting them.

As mentioned before, the Approval Panel doesn't apply to CC; the CCHQ functions as the Crisis Committee's very own, communicating with Diplomats on whether or not the article they want to submit to a Treaty is approved, alongside providing constructive feedback if needed. They additionally approve any action Diplomats wish to take independent of any Treaties, overall acting as the communicators and approvers of anything and everything in the CC.

Any form of news, whether that be news articles, social media posts, videos, etc. are all produced and curated by the CCHQ. After all, the CCHQ are the ones that develop and write the overall crisis.

02. AUTHORITY OF THE CCHQ

Seeing as the CCHQ is a separate body and influences the Crisis Committee in an external way—similar to how the ICJ has judges and advocates alongside delegates and Student Officers—their function in the committee likewise affects the dynamics of the forum.

In essence, the CCHQ acts as the subsidiary of the Crisis Committee Academic advisor, who also from time to time operates as part of the CCHQ whilst overseeing his/her other committees. The hierarchical structure of the CCHQ and Crisis Committee participants is illustrated in this table below descending order:

POSITION	ROLE
Crisis Committee Academic Advisor	Encompasses all responsibility for the Crisis Committee, works hand in hand with the CCHQ to develop the Crisis and interact with Diplomats.
CCHQ Manager	The overall head of the CCHQ, manages all the logistics of the CCHQ alongside providing Deputy Managers with specific instructions.
CCHQ Deputy Managers	Manages small tasks which overall add to the crisis, answering emails from diplomats, writing news reports, and any similar task falls to them.
Crisis Committee Presidency	The President and Deputy President still maintain authority over the diplomats of the Crisis Committee. However, seeing as they have little to no information on the issue, they act more as managers of debate rather than experts on the crisis.
Crisis Committee Diplomats	The main actors of the crisis, seeing as they are the ones who collaborate together to find solutions.

03. ACTIONS

Probably what is most unique to the Crisis Committee (and the most fun) is a Diplomat's use of actions, which the CCHQ is responsible for deciding the outcome of. An action is a directive a Diplomat takes to make an impact on the crisis or for themselves, there are numerous types of actions to be taken, which will be delved on deeper.

To execute an action, a Diplomat must send their desired action to the CCHQ, as they must approve all actions before they are initiated, since they are the ones who influence the results of it. When a Diplomat wishes to propose an action to their government (CCHQ), a short justification is recommended in order to justify why this action would benefit your country/the crisis. Diplomats are still able to send notes to their fellow Diplomats as they wish.

An example of an action email to the CCHQ would be:

Dear CCHQ,

In response to the recent mysterious ship sinkings and the attack on the U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Aden, China will deploy intelligence operatives into Yemen under diplomatic cover to:

1. Gather intelligence on Houthi rebel activity and determine if they are responsible for the attacks.
2. Investigate the cause of unexplained ship sinkings, including the possibility of sabotage, underwater explosives, or advanced weaponry.
3. Engage local government officials and assets to determine if external state or non-state actors are involved in these incidents. This operation will remain covert, with China maintaining plausible deniability.

If questioned, diplomats will state that China is merely conducting routine security assessments to protect trade interests in the region. This action is paramount in further investigating the mysterious attacks on these vessels, and we await your response (and hopefully, your approval)

Glory to the CCP,
Diplomat of China Crisis Committee



The example email provided doesn't have to be the make and model of every Diplomat's email, they can be as concise or as detailed as the Diplomat wishes; it is merely a reference point for how much information an action should include for the CCHQ to proceed accordingly.

If approved, the CCHQ would send an email back acting as that respective Diplomat's government stating that said action is currently underway. Elsewise, the CCHQ would reply denying the action and possibly instead proposing an alternative.

An example of said emails are showcased below.

APPROVED:

Honourable Diplomat,

As requested, we will be deploying operatives into Houthi controlled areas of Yemen. Please wait accordingly for results.

Glory to the CCP,
Minister of State Security
Chen Yixin

DECLINED:

Honourable Diplomat,

Due to the current climate of Yemen and the Houthi relationship with China, we unfortunately do not approve of your action.

We suggest that instead we invite Yemeni president Rashad al-Alimi for diplomatic talks in Beijing.

Glory to the CCP,
Minister of State Security
Chen Yixin

Information given to a Diplomat by actions is to be treated as strictly confidential, as no Member State or the Presidency is informed of a Diplomat's actions and the result of it. If a Diplomat wishes, they can share either in a speech or in private their findings, although they will most likely have to back their claim with concrete evidence, something the CCHQ can provide on specific occasions if asked in advance

Diplomats can also request that such findings are publicised to news outlets, appearing in the following news flash; as an action doesn't have to be limited to purely just between the CCHQ and a Diplomat. Diplomats can request the leader of their country to make a statement on social media, a representative from their government to give a speech, and more which will be touched upon further and in Chapter V.

3.1 HOSTILE VS FRIENDLY ACTIONS

Although actions taken by governments in the real world aren't as black and white, a Diplomat must consider the way an action can be perceived at first glance. A hostile action would be any coercive action that would generally have a positive effect on one's nation at the cost of another; whilst a friendly action would be voluntary non-coerced positive actions towards another country or designated area, this could include anything from financial aid to provision of weapons.

Hostile and friendly actions are important to consider as actions do not only affect the executing Diplomat, they affect the crisis and Diplomats around them too. If for example the Diplomat of South Korea (ROK) finds out the Diplomat of China has just authorised naval equipment to be sent to North Korea (DPRK), the Diplomat of South Korea—despite not knowing the intentions of the Diplomat of China—may perceive the action as a direct threat against them.

This overall consideration is essential as whilst actions are indeed confidential, there is always a chance that information about a Diplomat's action gets leaked through the action of another, making it imperative that actions are thought of carefully and with deep foresight.

3.2 MEETING WITH YOUR LEADER

As an action, a Diplomat can request to meet with their government leader (or the highest authority available to you) for advice on how to proceed with the crisis or general information about their nation. A diplomat's leader (which is represented by a member of the CCHQ) is an expert on the country's perspective on the crisis, so it is advised for Diplomats to come with a set of bullet point questions to ask. Moreover, so that Diplomats don't waste the entire allocated lobbying time with their leader, a meeting with a Diplomat's leader cannot exceed 5 minutes.

CHAPTER V. – INFORMATION

01. HOW THE NEWS WORKS

As stated before, Crisis Committee Diplomats and Student Officers are not informed of the issue before the conference. Instead, Diplomats rely on “news articles” or social media to gain information about the issue and how it has developed. These sources include but are not limited to: News articles, videos, tweets, instagram posts, and radio broadcasts.

News articles are the most common way a crisis is communicated in CC, they outline the issue, the implications of the issue, and any potential action being already taken by outside bodies. An example of a news article is shown below:

NEWS PAPER EDITION

NEWS PAPER EDITION

THE MUNISH TIMES

EST 2000

THINK UNLIMITED

FEBRUARY 5, 2027

WORLD HEALTH AND CLIMATE CRISIS

MYSTERIOUS VIRUS
DISCOVERED IN ANTARCTICA



LINK TO GLOBAL WARMING

Scientists warn an ancient pathogen, released by rapidly melting Antarctic ice sheets, poses an unprecedented threat to global public health. Experts are urging immediate international cooperation as the WHO convenes emergency sessions.



A team of international researchers has identified a previously unknown viral pathogen embedded within ancient ice cores extracted from the Thwaites Glacier. The virus, provisionally named Glaciovirus thwaitensis, is estimated to have been dormant for 48,500 years. Of particular concern is its apparent ability to remain infectious after rehydration under controlled conditions.

"This is not a theoretical risk," said Dr. Yuki Tanaka, chief virologist at the ACGC. "We revived a viable, replication-competent virus from ice frozen since before modern humans left Africa. The question is no longer whether ancient viruses can survive, it is what happens when the planet's freezer begins to thaw."

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE UNDERWAY



The WHO convened an emergency committee session on Monday. The UN Secretary-General has called for urgent briefings from all member states with Antarctic research programs, citing the need for a coordinated international containment protocol.

Once a news flash has concluded, Diplomats would then enter into lobbying procedure, as they begin to draft Treaty articles or execute actions. The amount of lobbying time is up to the discretion of the presidency, however at the beginning of a crisis it is recommended to give a substantial amount in order to give Diplomats ample time to execute actions or draft effective articles.

Additionally, although rare, news flashes may occur in the middle of debate. This wouldn't necessarily mean the Treaty being drafted would be invalid, but the context would change. This in turn makes it essential for Diplomats to take into consideration the changed circumstances when deciding to sign a Treaty.

02. SPEAKING REPRESENTATIVES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Recalling Chapter IV. section 03, Diplomats can request official “speakers” (played by a member of the CCHQ) to deliver a short speech to communicate their countries viewpoint on current affairs. These speakers can range from the official leader of a Member State to a foreign affairs minister, depending on the nature of the speech and the aims of the Diplomat.

Furthermore, these very same Speaking Representatives can create a post on a social media platform of the Diplomat's choosing, operating as a quick way to concisely provide an opinion, or announce an action that the Diplomat's government is taking if the Diplomat wishes to publicise the action they take.

CHAPTER VI. – CRISIS & CONSENSUS

01. AFTERWORD

One of the principles of life you learn as a child is control. The course of one's academic life, of their future aspirations, of others, is something that humanity has historically tried to keep as grounded and controlled as possible. The nature of a crisis directly defies that notion, it forces us to confront our fear of the unknown and the consequences it may carry.

The Crisis Committee may seem daunting, and this guide aims to mitigate that, however a good Diplomat does not necessarily memorise every inkling of this handbook or know the UN Charter by heart; a good Diplomat is one that carries a deep passion for collaboration, and for inquiry. A crisis cannot be solved by sitting in uniform, meekishly raising your placard and withdrawing it once the anxiety sets in. It is solved by taking back control from the unknown in your own way.

No one necessarily has to be the “perfect” Delegate in order to be a capable Diplomat, many participating in The Crisis Committee may be like myself, somehow finding themselves in potentially one of the most demanding committees Model UN has to offer after their second or third conference, but with enough conviction and passion, anyone can excel in CC.

The committee is an empty canvas, and you, the Diplomat, function as the brush to paint the art of consensus.

— **Sebastian Mariner**, Academic Advisor, *MUNISH XXXVI*

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