



Delegate Guide to Crisis

Delegates,

Is this your first Model United Nations Conference? Alternatively, are you an experienced delegate nervous about the unique nature of CIMUN? Fear not! Your Home Government is here to help. The purpose of this memo is to introduce you to how CIMUN conducts its crisis committees and other crisis-related elements of the conference. Additionally, this guide explains the features of our conference that are different from others you may have attended in the past.

We hope this memo helps you and your fellow delegates prepare for all CIMUN has to offer.

First of all...what's "Home Government?"

Home Government consists of CIMUN staffers who pick its committees and topics, write background guides, and create the different updates and scenarios you will respond to during the conference weekend. We fulfill the same role that traditional Model UN conferences call *Crisis Directors* or *crisis staff*.

We are called Home Government because, like our name says, we serve as your home government during CIMUN – as representatives of countries or organizations, we are the voice updating you from back home.

What is "crisis," exactly?

Traditional Model UN committees consist of delegates representing countries in UN bodies, or other international organizations. For example, you could represent Senegal in the General Assembly, or Brazil in the World Trade Organization.

These committees have *agenda items*, which are topics that are set by the conference before it begins. Throughout the conference, delegates debate these issues and form coalitions (or *blocs*) with other countries they want to work with. Then, these delegates work together to write *resolutions*, which are long-form pieces of legislation expressing policy positions and developing solutions to the issues raised in the agenda item.¹ All of the conference is spent discussing these issues, then writing and debating resolutions.

Crisis adds excitement to the mix. Crises are unpredictable, live-action scenarios that delegates must respond to immediately. For example, let's say you are the delegate from France in the UN Security Council. All of a sudden, an analyst walks in to inform your committee that China has invaded the South

¹ More information on resolutions, resolution format, and the overall Rules of Procedure for traditional committees at CIMUN can be found in our delegate guide! Last year's delegate guide can be found at the following link: <https://www.cimun.org/DelegateGuide.pdf>

China Sea. This is a *crisis update*. These crisis updates can come in many forms, from your committee's Head of Government or Moderator presenting an issue to a CNN news briefing.

Certain Model UN committees do not debate resolutions. Instead, they spend the whole conference responding to these crises, debating and creating action plans. Additionally, instead of representing countries in UN bodies, they represent specific people in smaller committees like national cabinets or corporate boards. At CIMUN, these committees are called *Cabinets*, as many of them simulate national cabinets; they can also be referred to as *continuous crisis committees* or simply *crisis committees*.

What committees at CIMUN XIX will be given crises to respond to?

Some committees at CIMUN should expect to receive minimal crisis updates, if any at all. Others should expect to receive a good number of crisis updates – however, they are still given agenda items and expected to write resolutions. Finally, certain committees should not expect to write resolutions and instead will be primarily responding to crises during CIMUN. These three different types of committees are specified below.

1. Little-to-no crisis
 - a. Present-Day: UN Environmental Agency, African Union
 - b. Historical: General Assembly, League of Arab States, British House of Commons
2. Moderate crisis
 - a. Present-Day: UN Security Council
 - b. Historical: UN Security Council
3. Continuous crisis
 - a. Present-Day: Cabinets of China, Russia, and United States; Exxon Mobil and Al Jazeera boardrooms, and The Janes
 - b. Historical: Cabinets of Iran, Iraq, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and United States

Can CIMUN committees interact with each other?

Many Model UN conferences have *Joint Crisis Committees* – continuous crisis committees that are related to each other and exist in the same universe. Consequently, the actions one committee takes directly impacts the other. Crisis updates can impact both committees at the same time.

CIMUN is special – all of CIMUN is, put simply, two giant Joint Crisis Committees. CIMUN committees are split into two groups: Present-Day and Historical. This year's historical committees all take place in 1982, with the same start date in January. Each of these committee groups all exist in the same universe. This means that what happens in one committee has the potential to directly affect others.

For example, if CIMUN XIX's 1982 Cabinet of the Soviet Union were to invade the United States, the 1982 Cabinet of the United Nations would receive a crisis update saying they were being invaded by the Soviet Union. So too would other Cabinets and even high-level committees like the Security Council; each would then determine how to respond.

Consequently, any committee or cabinet at CIMUN has the capacity to influence and even directly interact with any other committee or cabinet at CIMUN. The Security Council can try and negotiate peace talks between various cabinets. Cabinets can arrange meetings with other cabinets, try and petition other committees for help, even create unofficial agreements and official treaties with each other. The sky's the limit to how far these interactions can take you.

How much interacting your committee does with others will significantly vary depending on what committee you are in. If you are in a committee whose primary focus is writing and debating resolutions, it is unlikely you will spend much time interacting with other bodies.

I am in the 1982 British House of Commons or the 1982 Cabinet of the United Kingdom. Are there any special rules governing how we can interact with each other?

Both the British House of Commons (BHOC) and UK Cabinet will interact frequently throughout the conference. The Rules of Procedure governing these interactions will be the ultimate arbiter as to how this relationship will function, and these will be found in the CIMUN XIX delegate guide when it is released.

However, the staple features of these interactions have been laid out below so delegates in these committees can understand what they should expect:

- Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) will occur on a scheduled basis. During PMQs, Members of Parliament will have the opportunity to hear updates on what business the UK Cabinet has been conducting and ask Prime Minister Thatcher questions on said business.
- Members of the Cabinet of the United Kingdom are also members of the British Parliament. Consequently, they are required to be present for every substantive vote the House of Commons takes on resolutions and amendments. Additionally, they will be allowed to partake in BHOC proceedings if they so desire through giving speeches and participating in suspensions of the meeting. UK Cabinet members will also be able to view drafts of bills being debated in BHOC and offer commentary.

Please note that each committee has different jurisdictions as to the type of solutions it can pass for different topics and crises. The House of Commons is a legislative body – this means it cannot authorize any direct troop activity or involvement in the war. Instead, it writes laws, pieces of legislation which more broadly guide the country's government and its work. If the House of Commons or UK Cabinet attempts to take action outside its jurisdiction, this will not go ignored by the other committee.

What's a Head of Government?

One of the most distinguishing features of CIMUN's cabinets are its Heads of Government, or HOGs. A bit of background: national cabinets are advisory committees to Heads of Government, the individuals with ultimate decision-making power over a country's government. As an example, the United States' President is its Head of Government. This means that cabinets do not make decisions by majority rule, in most cases. Rather, the Head of Government gets the input of their advisors and makes a final decision.

Each national cabinet at CIMUN will have its HOG present – if you are in the 1982 U.S. Cabinet, for example, Ronald Reagan will be there to guide debate. Instead of cabinet members voting on individual solutions or directives, with the ones getting a majority vote passing and being enacted, HOGs will have final say over everything that gets done in their Cabinet. Some HOGs may take the majority opinion into account when making their choices on how to respond to crisis updates. Others may have strong opinions and go against the wishes of their Cabinet ministers.

It is up to you and your fellow Cabinet members to determine how you wish to navigate your HOGs – will you cozy up to them? Provide them with your true and honest opinions? Even attempt to undermine them? No matter what you do, this is for certain: your HOG is the one with final say.

The Heads of Government for CIMUN XIX are the following:

- Cabinet of the United States, 2023: President Joe Biden
- Cabinet of the People's Republic of China, 2023: President Xi Jinping
- Cabinet of Russia, 2023: President Vladimir Putin
- Cabinet of the United States, 1982: President Ronald Reagan
- Cabinet of the United Kingdom, 1982: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher
- Cabinet of the Soviet Union, 1982: General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev
- Cabinet of Iran, 1982: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
- Cabinet of Iraq, 1982: President Saddam Hussein

How do I pass resolutions in crisis committees?

The short answer is: you don't!

Most Model UN conferences have three types of documents that are passed in crisis committees: directives, press releases, and communiqués. However, for realism's sake, CIMUN doesn't divide its action plans into these categories. Rather, your Head of Government or some affiliated entity will typically present you with a situation and a set of choices – at CIMUN, these are called *directives*. It is your job to advise your HOG on which they should make. You will also have the option to make your own plans.

At times, instead of taking the form of a written action plan, you will simply vote to do something verbally or your HOG will make a verbal decision – the plan will be put into place without needing to pass any formal document. If you wish to create a written action plan, do something that is not explicitly stated by your HOG, or create any kind of unique substantive document or communication, you are welcome to bring it up to your Head of Government. It is ultimately their decision on how to move forward and we welcome creativity. Written documents are welcome to take whatever form you wish; they do not need to follow resolution format. However, it must be noted that your Head of Government has ultimate veto power over anything your Cabinet does.

The Security Council is a different story – since the UNSC is an official UN body, all its decisions must come in the form of a traditional passed resolution without any *no* votes from the Permanent Five countries.

What about Press Releases? How do CIMUN delegates interact with the Press?

CIMUN takes interactions with the press very seriously. At the end of every committee session, a designated member of each Cabinet (typically the person in the Press Secretary or spokesperson role) will attend a *press conference*. At this press conference, delegates in the International Press Delegation (IPD) will ask questions to the Press Secretaries who will be able to respond. IPD delegates will then use these quotes to write their news stories. The IPD is composed of other students, just like you, who are also participating in the conference.

Beyond IPD press conferences, press delegates will likely be attempting to cover all committees of interest to their publication. In the larger UN committees, for example, you may be asked by an IPD delegate to give a quote or comment on a certain issue. The same is true of Cabinets. Be prepared for press delegates to ask questions and write stories – including stories your cabinet may not want released to the public.

Does CIMUN allow delegates to write crisis notes? If so, what system does CIMUN use?

For those who are crisis committee beginners, *crisis notes* are when a delegate takes individual action using their portfolio powers in secret by writing a note to their crisis staff, the equivalent of Home Government. CIMUN does not use a traditional crisis note system, so there is no need for you to worry about what this means beyond this point!

For experienced crisis delegates, this means there is no need for you to prepare a series of crisis notes on how you plan to conquer a country, embezzle money from your entire country, and become the world's leading radio star. CIMUN is much more realistic with how it allows delegates to take individual action.

CIMUN uses a Policy Menu Item system. In this system, delegates are limited to using the various portfolio powers associated with their position, whether it be within a ministry they manage or some political appointment. Home Government will provide each Cabinet with instructions on how to submit requests to use these portfolio powers at the ministerial level. Each request will then be submitted to your Head of Government for final approval. Your HOG reserves the right to deny any request made to them.

If you are in a Cabinet and wish to take an action without your HOG knowing, you can contact your Moderator. These kinds of actions may be entertained by Home Government in very limited circumstances. However, you should be aware that your HOG may find out – and if they do, there could be significant in-committee consequences.

The following caveats must be stressed regarding the use of Policy Menu Items:

- ***PMIs should never take precedence over your in-session work.*** Your first priority should be working within your Cabinet.
- *The more realistic, relevant, specific, and justified your plan is, the more likely it is to be enacted.*
- *Heads of Government reserve the right to refuse to enact any PMI that crosses their desk. Additionally, Cabinet members may occasionally face political repercussions for PMI requests that are ill-considered or lack tact.*
- *Please try and limit the number of PMI requests you send to a reasonable amount. Your Head of Government reserves the right to limit – or cut off entirely – these requests if they prove unproductive or overwhelming.*

What is CIMUN's awards policy?

CIMUN prides itself on an objective and balanced awards policy that stresses realistic portrayal of national interest and development of political skill. Awards consist of, in ascending order, Honorable Mention, Outstanding Delegate, and Best Delegate.

The four key areas of evaluation are as follows:

1. Accuracy of Policy – Dais staff will be monitoring political and representational accuracy of delegates. This includes rhetoric in speeches and documents, as well as in caucusing and bloc formation.
2. Rhetorical Skill – The ability of a delegation to relay the message of their country's policy in the correct terms, as well as the manipulation of dialogue to persuade other delegates toward their position.
3. Substantive Development – The ability of a delegation to develop substantive documents (e.g. working papers, resolutions, amendments) with the proper structure, grammar, skill and context.
4. Procedural Manipulation – The ability to manipulate the rules of procedure and institutional legality to the advantage of your country and its policies.

Awards themselves are determined by a system of both subjective and objective measurements of these various attributes. Member States large and small, involved and distant, all have advantages in different areas of these criteria. Our staff is trained to evenly apply this policy. While those states involved directly in a topic may have an easier time articulating their policy, their policy tasks are much more difficult to achieve. For example, we do not expect North Korea to pass a resolution on nuclear weapons testing, as that would be impossible without many member states being out of character. By the same token, we do not expect strong rhetoric from Sweden, but rather a level of persuasiveness and conflict resolution.