



Crisis Committee Handbook

MilanMUN 2024

Foreword

Dear Diplomats of the Crisis Committee,

We are deeply honoured to welcome you to our very first Crisis Committee here at MilanMUN 2024. As Crisis Director and Deputy Crisis Director, we spent these past few months working hard to make sure everything will run smoothly during the conference. This Handbook contains everything you need to know about the Arctic Council and the Crisis Committee, from the Rules of Procedures to the background paper for our topic.

We hope you will take upon this challenge as earnestly as we did, and that you will enjoy taking part in it too!

Margherita Rugarli, Crisis Director
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Crisis Committee

A crisis committee is a special forum mimicking international organisations or ad hoc bodies, chosen based on the Conference main topic. Delegates do not represent a country, but a specific character: this can vary from ambassadors, Prime Ministers, ministers of any sort, government representatives or even journalists and CEOs, depending on the committee. Differently from other committees, a crisis committee operates in a much quicker way and its members must react rapidly to what happens. Inside the committee, delegates behave as they would in a normal committee: the session is paced by resolutions, motions and speeches; Chairpersons moderate the debate, while the situation unrolls following the guidelines of Crisis Experts in the Backroom.

A crisis committee spans approximately 3-6 years of historical events condensed into a weekend session. Typically set during pivotal moments in history, the committee's occurrence is not assured, so it is advised not to invest excessive time in forecasting. The committee commences with a resemblance to actual events, yet as delegates choose different trajectories, the world diverges into alternative realities. The focus is on you, Delegates, shaping history according to your character's individual perspectives.

The Backroom

As the name suggests, the Backroom is a separate room from the Committee room (also referred to as Frontroom in a Crisis Committee), to which delegates send their messages, press releases and directives. Thanks to these notes, Delegates can manipulate the storyline of the topic: they can create alliances, declare wars, exploit lacunae created by other Delegates and turn them in their own favour. The Backroom Staff decide which messages or directives shall be sent back to the Crisis Committee to debate, and update the Frontroom on the most recent events (for example, if a country has decided to declare war on another country, or if there are dangers approaching). Moreover, the Backroom is also in charge of the communiqués, i.e. communications sent by delegates to the outside world.

Crisis Breaks

Crisis Breaks, also referred to as crisis updates, constitute the primary means through which the Committee gains insight into the global situation during a crisis. The Crisis Director and Crisis Experts enter the room to apprise the Committee of events occurring beyond its confines, often presenting these updates through brief skits. During these skits, Crisis Experts might assume roles as pertinent characters such as protestors, activists, military personnel, economists, or

ambassadors. The main objective of Crisis Breaks is to introduce new challenges that the Committee must address. While Backroom Staff may propose a few potential solutions during the break, it falls to the Committee to formulate and execute a resolution.

Towards the conclusion of a Crisis Break, Delegates have the opportunity to pose questions about the information presented. This is a good moment to seek clarification on any aspects of the update that may be unclear. Common topics for questions include the resources available to the Committee for crisis resolution (such as funds, military equipment, personnel, or intelligence), the extent of public awareness regarding the crisis, and external responses to the crisis from entities outside the committee. In political committees, understanding who else possesses the information disclosed in the update becomes crucial, especially when scandals are involved, and the committee may wish to prevent public disclosure. Additionally, inquiries about how neighbouring countries or potential alliances have reacted to the crisis can be relevant in exploring external responses.

Lobbying

Delegates will be given the opportunity to lobby (unmoderated caucus) at the beginning of the session, in order to facilitate the creation of blocks within the Committee. During the following sessions, delegates will generally submit proposals without lobbying them beforehand. However, the Crisis Director, in accordance with Committee Chairs, will allocate unmoderated caucus time whenever a major crisis occurs.

Drafting

In a Crisis Committee, Delegates can write two types of documents: Resolutions and Directives. Resolutions work as those of any other Model UN Committee: they shall have Sponsors, Signatories and clauses. Sponsors are those delegates that have contributed to the writing of the resolution, whilst signatories are delegates who wish to discuss the resolution.

Directives are essentially crisis notes sent by delegates to the Backroom. They can be unilateral, bilateral or multilateral.

- **Unilateral Directive:** a Directive that a Delegate wishes to execute on their own, such as invading a country, sending foreign aid, or buying/selling weapons.
- **Bilateral or multilateral Directive:** a Directive that a Delegate wishes to execute together with one or more Delegates. Examples could be creating alliances, invading a country as a multilateral operation, reaching any kind of agreement or signing a (peace) treaty.

Furthermore, directives can be either private or public.

- **Private Directive:** a Directive that a Delegate wishes to execute, but not make known to other Delegates. This kind of directive comprises of sending spies or secret services to another country, preparing an invasion or starting secret negotiations and diplomatic relations.
- **Public Directive:** a Directive that a Delegate wishes to execute and to make known to all other Delegates, such as signing a peace treaty.

Delegates shall specify if a Directive is public or private: should a delegate forget to do so, the Backroom staff will consider it as public.

When composing a Directive, it is crucial to maintain simplicity in conveying information. A strategy to achieve clarity and conciseness is to employ the Three R's: Resources, Request, and Reasoning.

- **Resources:** throughout the crisis committee, Delegates are likely to amass several significant resources. Moreover, with other Delegates present, each possessing their own resources, this statement sets your note apart. Delegates shall also remember that they can only send directives that their country would be eventually able to sustain and that follows their country's policies and agenda.
- **Request:** the next phase involves outlining the intended actions. Always opt for modest requests, as they are more likely to be approved. Seek enhancements or extensions of currently deployed resources. Whether it involves moving, transforming, or upgrading resources, the possibilities are diverse. A clear and straightforward request stands a higher chance of approval.
- **Reasoning:** this final segment holds paramount importance in notes. It provides a rationale for the request, offering the Backroom Staff deeper insight into your overarching strategy. When Crisis Experts understand motivations, they can respond more comprehensively to notes. Provide a succinct explanation of why your request aligns with your agenda or plans.

When Delegates integrate Resources, Request, and Reasoning, they establish the power at their disposal, articulate a straightforward request, and offer a justification for that request. Employing the Three R's ensures that notes are presented in an easily understandable manner, making them more appealing to the Backroom.

Delegates are also allowed to write communiqués. In this case, a delegate can decide to send a message to the representative of a country which is not part of the crisis committee. The message is sent to the Backroom and its staff will answer to the delegate's communiqué.

Arctic Council

What is the Arctic Council?

Founded in 1996, the Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum that aims to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on issues affecting the Arctic population and environment.

There are six Permanent Participants in this Council: the Aleut International Association (AIA), the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the Saami Council.

The Arctic Council discusses and deliberates on common Arctic issues only, military security is not pertinent to this Council. Its main goal of the Arctic Council is to work towards a “region of peace, stability and constructive cooperation, that is a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable and secure home for all its inhabitants, including Indigenous Peoples, and where their rights and wellbeing are respected.” - [Strategic Plan 2021-2030](#)

For the purposes of your participation in the MilanMUN 2024 Crisis Committee, it is also important to understand the working flow of the Arctic Council. As stated in the [official Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#), there are two types of meetings: Council of Ministers meetings, held biennially, and Meetings of Senior Arctic Officials (SAO). Arctic States and Permanent Participants make proposals for cooperative activities to be put in place, which are then discussed during SAO Meetings. The implementation of said cooperative activities is subjected to the decision of Ministerial meetings within the Arctic Council.

Arctic Council Crisis Committee at MilanMUN 2024

The Arctic Council Crisis Committee at MilanMUN 2024 is composed of the following members and observers:

- **Arctic States:** Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States of America;
- **Permanent Participants:** the Aleut International Association (AIA), the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the Saami Council;

- **Non-arctic States (observers):** China, France, Japan, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom;
- **Intergovernmental and Interparliamentary Organizations (observers):** International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (observers):** Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH).

The Crisis Committee will have a Backroom, composed of the Crisis Director, the Deputy Crisis Director and other Crisis Experts. As outlined above, their job is to provide updates on the development of the Crisis topic, making sure that the Committee has sufficient information to work smoothly and provide a solution to the issue. Furthermore, as the Crisis Committee is based on an ever-changing scenario, the Backroom will be constantly checking that the debate is relevant to the topic, coherent with the Arctic Council scope and solution driven.

The main difference between a regular Model UN Committee and the Arctic Council Committee is that you will impersonate characters (“Diplomats” henceforth), rather than countries. Diplomats of Arctic and Non-Arctic States will already have noticed that they represent a Minister, and will therefore be addressed accordingly; Diplomats representing Permanent Participants are also to be addressed formally with their role title and surname. We encourage all Ministers and representatives participating in MilanMUN 2024 to look through the member list (available at [this link](#)) and research on the correct way to address fellow members of the Council prior to the conference.

Because of the Arctic Council structure, based on two kinds of meetings, the MilanMUN 2024 Executive Team felt the need to adjust the structure of its own “Model Arctic Council”. Our Arctic Council Crisis Committee is modelled on the Arctic Council’s Council of Ministers meetings. Nevertheless, Diplomats are also in charge of submitting proposals for cooperative activities to the Backroom Experts, who will also act as the Approval Panel for the Committee. Once the proposals have been approved by the Backroom, they are sent back to the Committee Chairs, who decide if and when a debate on each proposal should take place. In other words, the drafting of proposals and the debate will happen in the same committee.

Proposal Structure

Resolutions are referred to as “proposals” in the Arctic Council. Their formal structure reflects the scope and purposes of the Council’s mandate. Proposals are composed of preambulatory clauses (relating about the reasons for such activities to be carried out and the relations they entertain

with other proposals) and operative clauses (outlining the work plan). All proposals should further include an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**, summing up the main risk factors of their implementation.

Proposals lacking any of these points will not be corrected by the Backroom Staff. It is crucial that all Diplomats take a moment to weigh the environmental impact of their proposal, as the Arctic Circle is a rich but precarious ecosystem, providing resources to Native Populations and ideal conditions for rare species to thrive.

Rules of Procedure

All members of the Arctic Council can submit proposals and have the floor, but only Arctic States can vote. Delegates are invited to represent their communities keeping in mind both their interests and the larger surrounding environment and populations. The Arctic Council is a forum where peace and diplomacy are most highly valued, as it brings together both countries and Indigenous populations as equals.

The Crisis Committee operates following the [Official MilanMUN Rules of Procedure](#). However, Diplomats should pay close attention to the following amendments to the Rules:

Rule 28: Quorum

Before declaring a meeting of the Crisis Committee open and permitting the debate to proceed, the Chairs of the Committee shall assess, through a roll call, that at least six Arctic States are present.

Rule 38: Voting Rights

Each Diplomat representing an Arctic Council member shall have one vote. If a diplomat answers the roll call by stating that it is present and voting, the diplomat is affirming that it is going to cast either an affirmative or negative vote, thus renouncing its right to abstain.

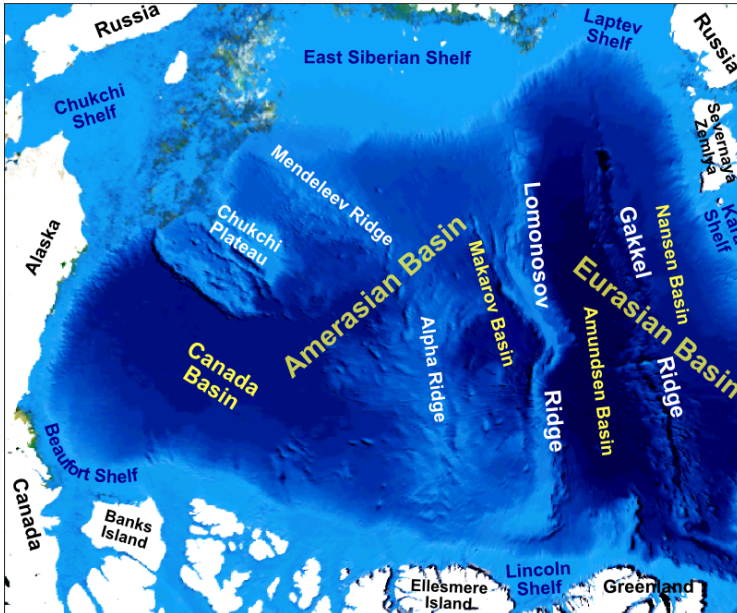
Rule 39: Majority Required

All decisions shall be by a consensus of all Arctic States.

The Crisis Committee is aligned with all other MilanMUN 2024 Committees in following the [Official MilanMUN Points and Motion List](#).

Research Report

What is the Lomonosov Ridge?



The Lomonosov Ridge is an underwater mountain chain in the middle of the Arctic. It was discovered in 1948 by the Soviet explorer and scientist Mikhail Lomonosov. From this discovery, the North Pole was split in two, with the Amerasian Basin on one side of the ridge and the Eurasian Basin on the other.

To this day, the seafloor is very poorly mapped given the extreme weather of the North Pole. The surface of this

region is purely ice, which makes commerce very difficult in this area. However, the US Geological Survey (USGS) has estimated there to be around 22% of the world's undiscovered natural gas and crude oil beneath the surface.

Key words

- **CLCS:** UN Commision on the Limits on the Continental Shelf;
- **Continental shelf:** a portion of a continent which is submerged in water, the shelf is clearly separated from the rest of the ocean because of the steep drop. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea defines it as “the stretch of the seabed adjacent to the shores of a particular country to which it belongs”;
- **EEZ:** Exclusive Economic Zone. It is the underwater area that goes from the limit of the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) to 200 nautical miles from the coast of a state, which a country can extract resources from;
- **Nautical mile (nm):** one nautical mile equals 1.852 km
- **Ridge:** A steep mountain, in this case the Lomonosov ridge is completely underwater.

Who owns the Lomonosov Ridge?

There currently is no single country that owns the Lomonosov Ridge in its entirety. Three countries have tried claiming portions of the Ridge as their own since 2001: the Russian Federation, Canada, and Denmark. These Member States have had to prove their declarations to the UN Commission on the Limits on the Continental Shelf (CLCS), which takes decisions based on scientific evidence of geological origin.

Who are the main parties involved?

The three delegations that have been the most ambitious about obtaining sovereignty over the ridge are the Russian Federation, Canada, and the Kingdom of Denmark. Their continental claims overlap by 54,850 square nm.

Russian Federation

- 1948: Mikhail Lomonosov discovers the Ridge;
- 2001: the claim that started the dispute, Russia believed that the Lomonosov Ridge was an extension of Franz Josef Land and the Novaya Zemlya archipelago and claimed 460,800 square miles of the Arctic. The CLCS disproved this claim due to a lack of evidence;
- 2007: second claim following a research to fill the gaps of the missing evidence marked by the CLCS;
- 2015: third claim in which Russia informed the CLCS that, according to the United Nations, the areas of the Lomonosov Ridge, Mendeleev Ridge, and Podvodnikov Basin are extensions of Russia's continental shelf and that, from 2019 onward, they should belong to their country.

Canada

- 2013: first claim in which they allege that the Lomonosov Ridge is an extension of the Ellesmere Island. Canada was not ambitious enough to fight for their cause at the time and pulled out the claim;
- 2019: second claim, demanding that a larger portion of the Lomonosov Ridge be considered as Canadian territory.

Denmark

2014: claim that the entirety of the Lomonosov Ridge, including parts of Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), should belong to them since they are an extension of Greenland.

Other countries, such as the United States of America and Norway, are unable to make claims due to the strategic laying of the ridge.

The Native Peoples of the Arctic have shown concern regarding the situation, mostly due to the serious effects of climate change which has caused much of the ice to melt. They have a very minimal influence on the worsening state of the planet, and yet are the ones who are affected by it the most.

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