

MACMUN
2023

CRISIS MANUAL

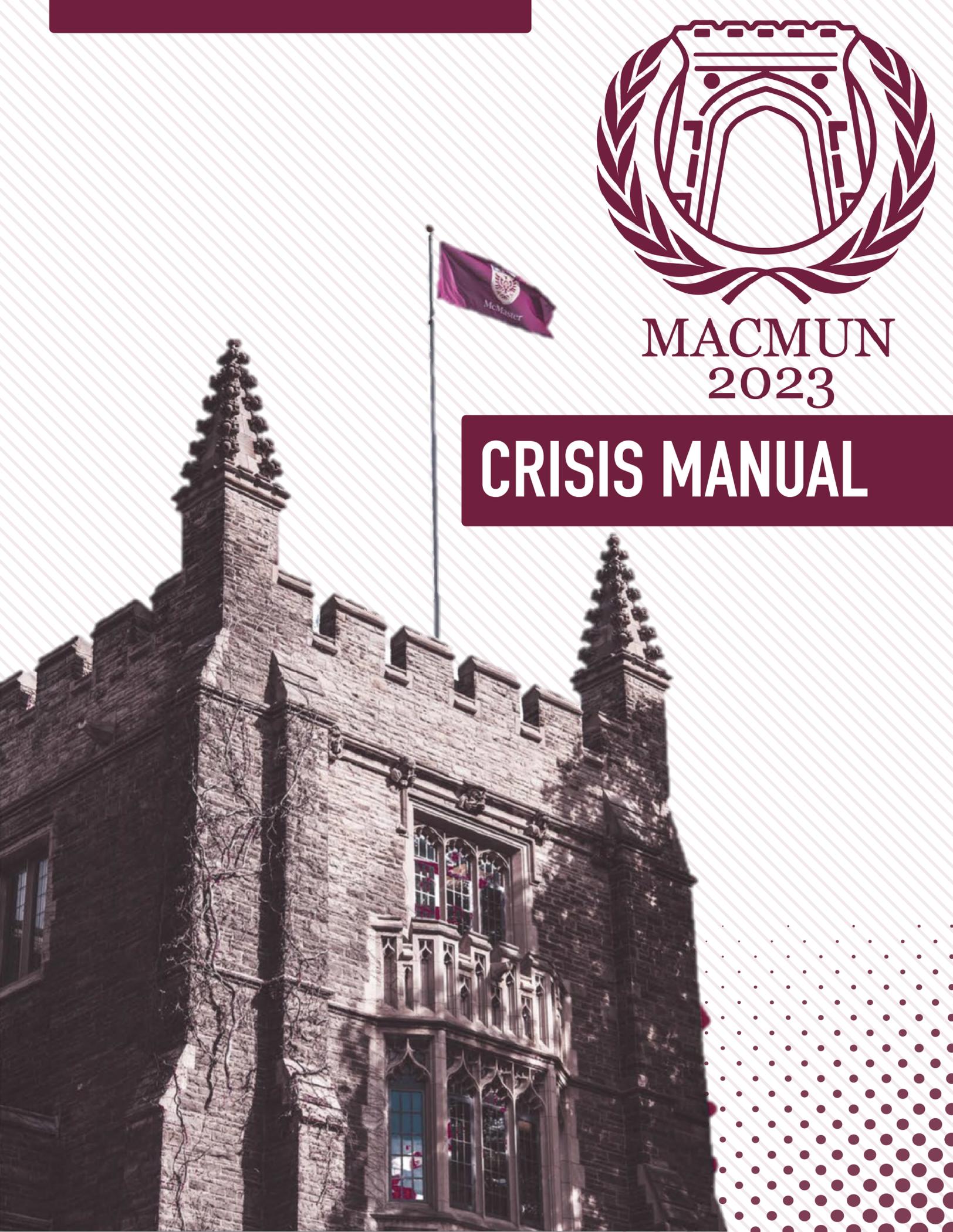




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages

4-5

1. What is a MUN crisis?

6-7

2. Crisis Committees vs Crisis Scenarios - What's the Difference?

7

3. Content and trigger warnings

4. Before the Conference -
Research and Preparation

8-11

5. Crisis Expectations

12-13





MACMUN

McMaster Model United Nations Conference 2019

Nguyễn Văn
President of Republic

Frank Corner



1. WHAT IS A MUN CRISIS?

Model United Nations is an immersive simulation of the actions of the real UN. The goal of MUN is to simulate all the inner workings of the UN, including the good, the bad, and the crises involved. Neither the world nor people are perfect, and despite how smoothly you may want your MUN proceedings to go, you may find that your country's leader has been taken hostage for questioning about corruption, or that a viral disease has shut down some of the world's major cities. In these situations, timing is of the utmost importance. Nations must be prepared to drop everything at the drop of a hat and be able to solve world-threatening issues (while holding true to their foreign policy) on the spot. MUN crisis serves to keep delegates on their feet. MUN is not just about formal language and rehearsed speeches – it is about responding to the real world and its very real threats.

In general, those who participate in MUN Crisis Committees have some previous MUN experience they can call upon when dealing with crises. Crisis committees are high up on the MUN difficulty scale. Delegates must be able to respond to situations they are completely unfamiliar with that have not been discussed in their background guides, while remaining diplomatic. Flexibility is key in a crisis committee, where a successful delegate must handle delicate situations under extreme time constraints.

However, most other MUN committees often have crisis scenarios in which delegates of all experience levels are able to get a taste of impromptu scenarios and thinking on their feet. The difference between crisis committees and crisis scenarios will be highlighted in this manual.

2. CRISIS COMMITTEES VS CRISIS SCENARIOS - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CRISIS COMMITTEES

A crisis committee is a committee in which the entirety of the session is based in solving various crises in real time. There isn't one specific topic that will be discussed. Rather, crisis staff will provide the committee with never-before-seen issues that must be resolved on the spot. Throughout the session delegates will be able to respond to each of the crises how they see fit, and crisis analysts will determine what the outcome of their decisions will be, and will update the committee in real time. Examples of crisis committees that will make use of the guidelines below include **historical**, **war**, and **ADHOC** committees.



ACTION DIRECTIVES

Action directives are what move a crisis committee forward. In order to enact any kind of change in response to a situation, action directives must be sent to the dais. There are two main types of action directives:

PERSONAL DIRECTIVES

- Personal directives are used when delegates wish to take individual action in a particular situation. These directives do not require sponsors or signatories and are not voted on like resolutions in traditional MUN committees. As soon as a directive is sent to the Dais, it will have an impact on the crisis at hand.
- Personal directives should include:
 1. Title
 2. Addressee (who are you sending the directive to?)
 3. What action you wish to take
 4. Your title (country, name, etc.)

PUBLIC DIRECTIVES

- Public directives, on the other hand, are similar to traditional resolutions in the sense that they involve the cooperation of different parties. Rather than personal action being taken, they are expressing action taken by the committee. They are voted on, require a simple majority to pass, and require signatories.
- Public directives should include:
 1. Title
 2. Addressee
 3. Actions you and others wish to take
 4. Signatories



CRISIS SCENARIOS

Crisis scenarios can happen in **any** committee. Rather than being the focus of the proceedings, they are added in as a reminder that delegates cannot be complacent. Committees that have crisis scenarios will have one or more topics that will be the focus of the discussion; however one or two crises relating to the topics may disrupt the discussion and must be solved in real time. In this situation, formal (although shorter) resolutions must be written and voted on.



3. CONTENT AND TRIGGER WARNINGS

The goal of Model United Nations is to stimulate debate as well as progressive discussion on topics that may range in sensitivity, such as dealing with genocides, atrocities, and extreme poverty. Some of these issues discussed or presented may trigger or be sensitive topics for some delegates who may have past experiences. Delegates should keep this in mind when participating in the conference as these issues may arise and be discussed with according tags.

4. BEFORE THE CONFERENCE - RESEARCH AND PREPARATION

A Model UN conference can seem intimidating, but to make your experience a little less daunting and more enjoyable, here are some general tips to keep in mind for crisis committees:

GENERAL TIPS

- Plan your time wisely - don't leave your research to the very last minute, especially if you have no experience and/or want to perform your best!
- Remember that this is a themed debate; it is important for you to conduct some research about the committee and related topics before the conference:

FACTS AND EVIDENCE

Basic facts of a country can lead to well-informed decision-making. Figures such as population, GDP, unemployment, etc. and details about governance, geography, alliances, trade, and more can form a foundation of your argument. Use sources such as the national census, the CIA Factbook, and public encyclopedias for this information. If you've been assigned a character within a crisis committee, ensure that you are well-versed with their backstory, personal powers, ulterior motives, and relationships with other committee members.

CURRENT EVENTS (if relevant)

Model UN is based in discussing real events in real time. It is incredibly useful for you to look up some recent news articles about current events concerning your country. This can include, trade deals, ongoing conflicts, or major developments, among other things. This may lead you to major historical events too, which may have shaped policy and could have sparked the current events in question. Use reliable international news sources you can search up on Google News or other search engines, and be sure to account for bias - look at all perspectives before formulating your opinions and/or arguments.

POLITICS AND POLICY

Not only is it useful to know what is happening in your country, but also understand what the current government is aiming to do to improve the situation. A simple search on your country's views on a certain topic, such as immigration, is a good start. From there, look at other political groups and their views on the topics - are certain sentiments becoming more popularized in your country? Why? How does this affect the government's aims and objectives at this committee meeting?



- After researching, consider writing up a draft resolution; think about your government's views on each clause and what it would like to change. Think about other delegate groups/countries that share similar views to form possible alliances with.
- Read the Rules of Procedure - this set of rules will be used by the chair to moderate and control the flow of the debate.
- Whenever confused during a committee session, such as about the rules, bring up a point of inquiry by raising your hand.
- Reference the following website for additional resources at www.macmun.org/resources.



Character Assignments

In MUN crisis, it is common in many crisis scenarios that delegates represent individual people, rather than entire countries. This presents some unique opportunities in the crisis landscape. When representing an individual, there are two ways to go about exercising power to accomplish a certain goal:

PORTFOLIO POWERS

Your portfolio powers are the actions you can take based on the job of the person you are representing. This could be governmental powers, military powers and many others. For instance, you, as a military general, may mobilize troops, as you, as a result of your position in government, have the power to do so.

PERSONAL POWERS

Your personal powers are the actions you can take based on your character's individual standing. Your character may have a lot of wealth, or may have pull in certain government areas. You may, for instance, use your influence in your country's legislative body to enact a particular law.



CRISIS COMMITTEE-SPECIFIC TIPS



ADHOC Committees

- ADHOC committees are a type of crisis committee. The distinguishing factor between ADHOC committees and other crisis committees is that there is very minimal information given about the contents of the committee beforehand. Delegates will walk in with nearly no knowledge of what will be discussed and will have to respond to crises on the spot using no prior information.
- When preparing for an ADHOC committee, it is important that general preparation is done. While you cannot directly prepare research for what will be discussed, it is good practice to be completely familiar with the rules of procedure and how to write directives. Practicing your public speaking is also useful. Being proficient in these parts of the conference will ensure that you can put all of your effort into responding to incoming crises.



Historical Crisis Committees

- Within these committees, it is important that you are as familiar as possible with the historical event that the committee is focusing on. Ensure you also do some research on what led up to the event, and what its main causes are.
- Familiarize yourself with the other characters in your committee. Doing this will give you a better understanding of what each person will be walking in expecting to achieve.
- Before the session even starts, you will know who to ally with and you will be prepared with knowledge of the event to engage in productive discourse with them.

5. CRISIS EXPECTATIONS

Irrespective of whether you are tackling a crisis committee, or a crisis scenario, there will be several typical characteristics of such settings that you should be aware of.



CRISIS UPDATES ARE CONTINUOUS

Be prepared to be constantly responding to crisis updates! You will not have extended periods of time between updates to respond to a particular crisis. Ensure that you are concise and take action as quickly as possible to give the committee enough time to respond to each update.



CRISES ARE A SURPRISE, BUT RESEARCH CAN STILL BE DONE

Although a key component to crisis committees is that you are not entirely aware of what is going to happen during the session, knowledge is power. Walk in armed with as much information as possible. Expect that the crises presented to you will relate directly to your research! Being prepared will make solving crises much easier and will give you an edge. Of course, this does not necessarily apply to ADHOC committees, but even in that situation, minimal research can still be done, and will help you out!

CRISES WILL NOT BE WHAT YOU EXPECT

Crises are meant to throw you a curveball. Do not set yourself on an ultra-specific course of action, because chances are, things will not go the way you expected them to. You may end up trying to force your solutions onto a situation that they do not mix well with. Walking in with a general idea is always good, but an open mind keeps you flexible.

