

THE DELEGATE'S GUIDE TO CRISIS

2023

SSI  **SIM**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The Moderated Caucus: <i>The Art of the Speech</i>	4
The Unmoderated Caucus: <i>Optimizing Chaos</i>	6
Writing an Effective Public Directive	9
A Private Directive They Cannot Refuse	10
Voting to Vote on What We Vote on	12
Crisis Update!	14
The Flow of Debate: The Essential Jargon Summary	15

INTRODUCTION

Can you make decisions on your feet, and think clearly under pressure? Can you communicate your ideas and inspire people to your cause? Can you truly listen so deeply until you truly understand the needs of others? Don't worry, most can't. But all of these abilities are pressure-tested in Model UN (MUN), the perfect training ground on which to refine your strategic thinking, your ability to articulate ideas concisely, and your capacity to inspire.

In MUN, you meet people like yourself, all eager to change the world in some way. But in the real world, an idea is ultimately only as good as the team behind it. There will be frustrations where you wish people would just see the situation as you do; if only they could think as you do, how much easier things would be!

Alas, people seem too quick, too impulsive, and too concerned with their own affairs...but if you can listen, understand the heart of their problems, you will often find that their ideas can add to yours, can actually refine your understanding of the world, and create a better reality that you didn't before think possible.

In short, succeed in your collaboration and it will reverberate in all other aspects of your life: in your careers you will gain the knowledge of others faster, in your lives you will foster deeper relationships, and integrating these, you will change the world for the better.

But enough of the lofty, how does MUN actually work? You have your committee topic, your character, and some ideas, but what actually happens in committee? We'll first discuss the main components of MUN, and finish with a scene in action so you can familiarize yourself with the jargon.

THE MODERATED CAUCUS: THE ART OF THE SPEECH

Most of the conference will be spent in moderated caucuses. Here is where you discuss the problems at hand, and come up with ways to solve them. Bring up the relevant issues that you feel need to be addressed and accounted for, and assert your position regarding them.

After a moderated caucus, it should be clearer exactly where everyone stands on the issue, and some prospective steps as to what actions need to be taken. Subsequent moderated caucuses will tend towards more specific resolutions to problems.

Listen carefully to the positions of others. Constantly feel like you've got nothing to say? Listen and try to figure out what other delegates need, start collecting these issues, and comment on them. Think of potential alliances, and write notes to them. After listening to more people speak, start proposing ideas that will help alleviate as many of the concerns of your fellow delegates as possible.

Don't hesitate to present half-cooked ideas and let your fellow delegates help complete them. Chase progress, and not perfection. If you spend too much time thinking of the perfect thing to say, you'll never get around to actually saying anything.

Pro tip: in a speech, present clearly a problem, and frame it in a way that cannot be

contested. Finish with your solution. It will be difficult to remain unmoved.

God tip: destroy your enemies by making them your friends. Observe:

"The Empire is about to destroy our fleet, do we not want our democracy to survive?¹ I know some of you may oppose me on points,² but in my eyes we are all one in this room,³ and must stand together quickly, before the Empire takes us over -- elect me as your leader,⁴ and as your servant⁵ I will [...] , before it is too late"

¹ Immediate danger. Urgency. Problem is universal. This is a loaded question: of course everyone wants the democracy to survive, no one will disagree.

² Make people forget their objections. A bigger threat is always useful to do this.

³ Show that you are listening to everyone's problems.

⁴ Voilà, the solution. Frame it as the solution to the universal problem.

⁵ Wherever possible, be of the people.

THE UNMODERATED CAUCUS: OPTIMIZING CHAOS

The moderator has withdrawn. The floor is open. What to do?

The point of moderated caucuses is to prepare for an unmoderated caucus: there we clarified everyone's ideas so that the unmoderated caucus can be smooth and productive.⁶ Now that it is clear where everyone stands and what needs to be done, we formalize those positions into action.

Write public directives that state unambiguously what you are going to do. There shouldn't be much chit-chat here, that's what the moderated caucuses are for. Here you are drafting with your factions.

Pro tip: take initiative! Lead the action, publicly involve your allies, inspire collaboration. The Dias will smile on how effective you are at involving others and moving as many as possible toward a common goal.

⁶ To this end, motions for unmoderated caucuses are found dilatory when the Moderator believes not enough substantive debate has happened in the moderate caucus and it's unclear what the committee wants or is ready to enact into action.

The Moderator may use their discretion to rule motions out of order. Some reasons to do so may be:

1. The motion does not exist
2. The motion is not recognized under SSICsim procedure
3. The motion does not fit the current state or the contents of the committee
4. The motion does not promote the flow of debate

Example: “This motion will be ruled out of order given that an unmoderated caucus may only be extended once.”

Some common motions that are not recognized under SSICsim procedure include:

- Motion to Censure Delegate X
- Motion to Change Quorum
- Motion for a Gentleman’s Unmoderated Caucus.
- Motion to Reintroduce a Directive

Note: This list is not exhaustive. The Moderator may choose to rule other unfamiliar motions at their discretion.

Motions require a simple majority of votes to pass, with the exceptions of motions to enter any type of voting procedure and motions to recess/adjourn which require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. Additionally, motions should be voted on in order of most to least disruptive (see Section 6.3).

Since SSICsim is a crisis conference, delegates will also receive Crisis Updates over the course of the conference. These are presented by the Crisis Staff which joins the committee temporarily to provide an Update on the progression of events. The Crisis

Staff will inform the Moderator in advance that an update is ready to be presented. An update may interrupt a caucus, but not a speaker (i.e. an Update may be presented in the middle of a Moderated Caucus but only in between speeches; a delegates' speech will not be interrupted).

After the Crisis Update, the Dais and Crisis Team may entertain an automatic Question and Answer Period between the Crisis Staff and delegates. The Moderator should ask the crisis staff immediately after the Update:

Example: "Would you be entertaining a Q&A Session with the delegates?" or "Will the Crisis Staff be open to questions?"

The Crisis Staff may or may not allow questions. If they do, the Moderator should set how many questions the Crisis Staff will entertain, then ask for delegates to raise their placard if they have a question. There is no time limit for asking or answering questions, provided that it is reasonable. This Q&A cannot be extended. Once the Q&A Period has elapsed, the committee may either return to the caucus where it left off, or if the Update was at the end of a caucus, they may ask for points and motions. It is also in order for the Moderator to entertain motions to exhaust a caucus (see: Section 2.4.) after the update if attention has steered away from the current topic.

WRITING AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC DIRECTIVE

First, specify exactly the sponsors and signatories at the top (check Rules of Procedure for more information). Use grammatically correct and complete sentences that clearly state what you are going to do.

Be specific. Moving troops? Ok, from where to where? How many? With whose funds?

Don't bother explaining your reasoning and motivations in the directive: that's what moderated caucuses are for.

Warning: the Crisis team may interpret vague clauses in an unfavourable way. Don't risk room for interpretation. Should your troops be sent out with no clear direction and suddenly find themselves lost at sea, you'll have no one else to blame.

Example. Do not write:

1. Attack the army from both sides
2. Send reinforcements

Instead, try:

1. Deploy 5 000 of General X's infantry troops to attack this city from the South.
2. Deploy 2 000 of General Y's infantry troops to flank the city from the North.
3. Create a diversion by starting a fire on the east of the city, forcing enemy troops to the west, where there will be a trap of ...

A PRIVATE DIRECTIVE THEY CANNOT REFUSE

For the love of all things holy, write l e g i b l y. Please.

Begin with indicating at the top who the note is from (your character name!) and to whom it is addressed (again, character name, or "Crisis"). Pretty please. Study hard these two tenets: ignoring them increases the risk that the notes will be lost in transport. It's science. As with public directives, specificity is key. The less ambiguous your use of definite resources, the more likely it is to have your desired effect.

Example. Do not write:

Spy on delegate X. – John

This may be implemented, except it will be a bumbling rookie willing to work for free (just for the experience) who is immediately noticed by your target, who then quickly calls for a press release which publicly exposes you to the whole committee. Or, has you arrested. Crisis can be cruel. Instead, try:

From: J. Edgar Hoover

To: Crisis

As Director of the FBI, deploy two of my most seasoned operatives which I will pay handsomely in cash from my personal income to follow [delegate], taking extra precautions to avoid being noticed. They are to provide me with regular updates, especially where the target appears to be corresponding privately with others in this committee.

See the difference?

At any time, you are more than welcome to ask Crisis (via a note) what resources you have access to (money, troops, etc.). Then, in subsequent requests, specify exactly *which* resources you want to allocate, and from where.

Here are some ideas of what can be done and cannot be done:

Usually Allowed	Usually Not Allowed
Use your private funds (ex. on ad campaigns, etc.)	Declaring war
Deploy troops under your exclusive jurisdiction (potentially security, etc.)	Using country's finances
Use of diplomats, assassins, or spies	What requires committee approval, or approval of certain other delegates at least

Sometimes, it is possible to write Joint Private Directives, wherein two delegates combine their personal powers privately to take some action. Maybe your character does not have access to spies, but there is a delegate who does. You could offer a trade: they lend you some of their spies in exchange for a prominent position, or money, or something else.

Be creative, and use what you've got.

VOTING TO VOTE ON WHAT WE VOTE ON

MUN is probably about 50% voting on stuff. It does get a little confusing, so in this section we will take you from the introduction of a completed Public Directive through to voting procedure and its implementation.

So you've drafted some Public Directives, and the Chair has approved them. Now what?

First, you motion to introduce the directive, which means that it is read aloud to the committee. Then the real work begins.

The next thing to do is talk about the Public Directive. This can be done in the form of a moderated caucus, or a Q&A session, speakers for and against, or some combination. The idea is to make sure everyone understands what the directive stands for and will do, and we want to allow everyone the opportunity to voice their opinions on the directive, namely whether it is a good idea or not.

We only want to enter voting procedure after some discussion of the content of the directive at some point, but this is flexible. For example, it is possible that the ideas in the directive were already discussed at length in moderated caucuses earlier, and everyone is caught up already. Or there is a time-sensitive issue, and again, everyone is on the same page. Here we can enter voting procedure right away.

However, do not try to deliberately *rush* a public directive to pass in chaotic

confusion. This is an opportunity to convince your peers of your brilliant idea. If the committee is in shambles at your behest, the moderator will be most unimpressed (and you guessed it, will not let it happen).

Once the talking is done, you can motion to enter voting procedure by a certain method. If the directive is relatively short and all the points are effective only when implemented together, you will probably vote on the directive as a whole. Else, if the directive is long and expansive, with many clauses dealing with a wide breadth of issues, it may be better to vote clause by clause. The Dias will advise you if necessary.

If the motion passes, you are now in voting procedure. You can vote for or against the directive, or abstain from voting. You can abstain only if you declare yourself 'Present' during roll call. If you declared yourself 'Present and Voting,' you are compelled to vote. See the Rules of Procedure for more.

CRISIS UPDATE!

Ok, that changes things...what now?

Look for cues from your Moderator. You may be in the middle of a moderated caucus, which they may encourage you to complete before motioning for a new caucus. In other situations, the floor may be open to points or motions.

So think: what would suit the current crisis update best? Do we need to ask someone questions, in a Q&A format? If it was a divisive issue presented, you may want to collect everyone's opinions and suggestions in a round robin or a moderated caucus. If it requires a quick solution, perhaps an unmoderated caucus is the way to go.

Brainstorm solutions you can undertake privately, as well as actions the committee needs to take as a whole to resolve this issue if it poses a threat to you all. Which delegations authorities and powers would be most helpful in implementing that committee-wide solution?

Part of the fun of MUN, and of crisis committees in particular, is that they challenge your ability to adapt to volatile situations. Working quickly but carefully, you have to make sure your private and/or public directives fully address the issue and is truly within the jurisdiction of your committee's powers.

THE FLOW OF DEBATE: ESSENTIAL JARGON

You are now acquainted with the most essential components of MUN. The more comprehensive document detailing all the things you can do is the *Rules of Procedure*. Now, we are going to provide a sample of what exactly you can expect the flow of debate to sound and feel like. Think of this section as the summary of participating in MUN. The red typeset represents what you as the delegate will say and when, and the rest will be your Dias. We begin, of course, with roll call...

1 THE OPENING

Covering the period from the start of the conference to the first moderated caucus. First committee session begins with an introduction and welcome from your Dias.

Transition into roll call.

Decorum delegates! Please take your seats. We will begin with roll call. When your country/character is called, state whether you are present or present and voting. A reminder that delegates who are present and voting may not abstain from substantive votes. No delegates may abstain from procedural votes.

[When you're called: "present" or "present and voting."]

Announce quorum.

Thank you delegates. With that, quorum is set at [QUORUM], simple majority at [SIMPLE], and two-thirds majority at [TWO-THIRDS].

Open debate.

The Dais would now look for a motion to open debate. Are there any motions on the floor? ["Motion to open debate."] That is in order, all those in favour of opening debate? [Raise placard.] This passes, debate is now open.

2 POINTS AND MOTION

<p>Seeking Motions.</p>	<p>Are there any points or motions on the floor?</p> <p>[“Motion for a 5-minute moderated caucus, 30-second speaking time, on the topic of relocating our infantry troops.”]</p>
<p>Ruling on Motions.</p>	<p>That is in order. Are there any other points or motions on the floor?</p> <p>[Other delegates motion as they wish.]</p>
<p>Voting on Motions.</p>	<p>Seeing none, we will vote on these motions from most to least disruptive, starting with the motion by the delegate of [NAME] for [MOTION].</p> <p>All those in favour please raise your placards. [Raise placard if in favour.] All those opposed. [Raise placard if opposed.]</p> <p>A reminder to delegates that no-one may abstain from procedural votes. This motion passes.</p>

3 CAUCUSING

<p>Moderated.</p>	<p>We will now be entering a 5-minute moderated caucus, with 30-second speaking time, on the topic of relocating our infantry troops.</p>
<p>Courtesy</p>	<p>Delegate of [NAME] would you like to speak first or last? [“First, please.”] You have the floor. [“Thank you, honourable chair...”]</p> <p>[NAME] = The delegate who motioned for the moderated caucus</p>
<p>At the end of speech.</p>	<p>Thank you delegate. Are there any other delegates wishing to speak?</p>

3 CAUCUSING CONTINUED

<p>If courtesy is given.</p>	<p>At this time, the Dais would like to call on the delegate of [NAME] to deliver the final speech, as they reserved the right to speak last.</p> <p>[NAME] = The delegate who motioned for the moderated caucus, and reserved the right to speak last</p>
<p>Ending the caucus.</p>	<p>We have time for one more speaker. All those wishing to speak? [...] With that, the time for this moderated caucus has elapsed. Are there any points or motions on the floor?</p>
<p>Ending Early.</p>	<p>All those wishing to speak? [Placards not raised...] Seeing none, the Dais would look for a motion to exhaust the current moderated caucus.</p> <p>["Motion to exhaust the moderated caucus."]</p> <p>That is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? This passes. Are there any points or motions on the floor?</p>
<p>Unmoderated.</p>	<p>["Motion to enter a 10-minute unmoderated caucus."] That is in order, all those in favour? This motion passes. We will now be entering a 10-minute unmoderated caucus. Delegates are now permitted to speak freely. Your time starts now.</p>
<p>Ending the caucus.</p>	<p>Welcome back delegates, this unmoderated caucus has elapsed. Are there any points or motions on the floor?</p>
<p>Round Robin.</p>	<p>["Motion for a round robin with 30-second speaking time on the topic of the update."] That is in order...all those in favour...this passes. We will now be entering a round robin with 30-second speaking time on the topic of the update. We will cycle clockwise around the room beginning with the delegate who proposed the motion until everyone has spoken. Any delegate who does not wish to speak may yield their time to the Dais. Delegate of [NAME], you have the floor. ["Thank you, honourable chair..."]</p>

3 CAUCUSING CONTINUED

Ending the caucus.

Thank you delegate. With that, this round robin has elapsed.

4 RESOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIVES

Introduction.

The Dais would like to announce to the committee that Public Directive [NUMBER or TITLE] has been approved. Are there any points or motions?

[“Motion to introduce Public Directive “Invasion.”]”

Invite to read.

...this motion passes. Would the sponsors of this public directive present it aloud to the committee? You have the floor.

[Read directive, exactly as written.]

Transition to Q&A.

Thank you delegate. Are there any points or motions on the floor?
[“Motion for an 8-question Q&A with 30-second speaking time.”]

That is in order...passes. All those with questions? *[Pose clear and concise question.]*

Amendments.

The Dias has received a proposed amendment to the directive. It has been approved and is ready to be introduced. *[“Motion to introduce the amendment.”]*

That is in order...the motion passes. Would the delegate please present the proposed amendment? *[Read proposed amendment.] (In the interest of time, the Moderator may read it aloud instead of the sponsor)*

Thank you, delegate. Sponsors, do you consider this proposed amendment to be friendly or unfriendly?

4 RESOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIVES CONTINUED

<p>Friendly amendments.</p>	<p>The amendment has now been incorporated into the public directive.</p>
<p>Unfriendly amendments.</p>	<p>The unfriendly amendment will now be attached to the public directive. It may be debated by the committee and will be voted upon prior to voting on the public directive in its entirety.</p>

5 VOTING PROCEDURE

<p>Entering Voting.</p>	<p>[“Motion to vote on the directive as a whole.”] That is in order. All those in favour? [Motion to enter voting procedure passes.] We are now entering voting procedure. Observers are asked to exit the room and all messages are suspended.</p>
<p>Commencing the vote.</p>	<p>All those in favour of public directive [NUMBER/NAME], please raise your placards now. [Count.] All those opposed? [Count.] All those abstaining? [Count and check for present-and-voting delegates.]</p>
<p>Results.</p>	<p>This public directive passes/fails.</p>
<p>Clause by Clause.</p>	<p>All those in favour of the operative clause [NUMBER/NAME], please raise your placards now. [Count.] All those opposed. [Count.] All those abstaining. [Count.] This clause passes / fails. [Repeat for each clause.]</p>
<p>Roll Call Vote.</p>	<p>We will now commence a roll call vote on public directive [NUMBER/NAME]. Delegates will be called upon in alphabetical order. When called, please state clearly whether you are in favour, opposed, or abstaining.</p>
<p>With Rights.</p>	<p>Delegate, you have [TIME] to explain your vote.</p>

6 MISCELLANEOUS

Crisis Updates.	The Dais would like to interrupt this moderated caucus for an update from Crisis.
Transition to Q&A.	<p>Will Crisis be open to questions? (If yes:) All those with questions for Crisis? [Ask clear, concise questions.]</p> <p>Thank you to Crisis for that update. With that, are there any points or motions on the floor?</p>
Reminders.	Used to remind delegates about certain procedural actions.
Lack of Motions.	A reminder that if no points or motions are raised, the committee will revert to the default rolling moderated caucus. Are there any points or motions on the floor?
Lack of Speakers.	If no delegates wish to speak, the Dais would look for a motion to exhaust the current moderated caucus. Are there any delegates wishing to speak or are there any points or motions on the floor?
Decorum and Behaviour.	<p>Delegates are reminded to use parliamentary language while committee is in session.</p> <p>Delegates are reminded not to speak unless they are recognized by the moderator.</p> <p>Delegates are reminded not to engage in cross-talk.</p> <p>Delegates are reminded to keep their comments appropriate to the committee.</p>
Suggestions.	<p>The Dais would suggest a Round Robin to encourage more delegates to speak on this topic.</p> <p>The Dais would recommend an unmoderated caucus for the drafting of directives.</p> <p>The Dais would recommend a straw poll vote to survey delegates' opinions on this topic.</p>

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