

Climate Change: A Global Crisis *



BRIEFING PAPER

February 2020 CONFERENCE

Crisis Guide **Climate Crisis**

When real-world developments outpace conventional UN procedure, delegates often have to resort to quick, decisive action to resolve an issue. Instead of debating a forced, unchanging topic, delegates in a crisis committee will be required to respond to events as they are created by the crisis staff, a group of staff members that work closely with the dais to determine the direction of the topic. Instead of acting as an Ambassador in one committee, delegates in a crisis committee will be expected to work with their own committee and one other International organisation. This could mean working with them or against them!



Rules and Procedure

All typical MUN rules and procedure apply to crisis committees, though the dais may encourage the delegates to enter caucus types that allow more frequent speaking. It is not uncommon for crisis committees to abandon the ordering of speeches for moderated caucuses.

In addition to normal rules and procedure, there are three ways in which delegates can carry out orders and obtain information in a crisis committee. They are as follows:

1. Directive - an instruction; an order

- Directives are used to direct the actions of one's own country, organisation, or affiliated body.
- It is the delegate's responsibility to know their country's position and what commands are reasonably within their country's position.
- The most common directives are those used to mobilise military forces but there are many situations in which they are appropriate.

2. Communiqués

- Communiqués are used for making inquiries and for discussions that do not involve giving direct orders. For example, if you want to ask a delegate whether or not his or her country would look favourably upon a given policy or action, you would do so by sending that delegate a communiqué.
- Communiqués can also be used to determine whether or not a delegate's own country would be supportive of an action or policy. For example, if you are representing the United States and want to form a trade agreement with China, but you're not entirely sure if US policy would permit such an agreement, you can send a communiqué to the dais to eliminate any uncertainty.

eg

Communiqué

To: France

From: The United States

**-Would France be willing to support Resolution 1B?
If not, what provisions would you like to see in the resolution?**



3. Press Release

- Press releases are used to make public statements. If you have information that you feel needs to go public, such as the denouncement of an accusation made by the UN, send a press release to the dais. Upon receiving your press release, the dais will announce the content of the press release to the committee. You may find that crisis updates are often announced in the form of press releases from the crisis staff.

Eg.

PRESS RELEASE

From: North Korea

We deny all accusations of human rights violations made by the United Nations. Our great and irresistibly attractive leader, Kim Jong Il, would like to warn everyone that foreign intervention will not be tolerated

4. Do Your Research

- Crisis committees are intensely interactive and fast-paced. Those that come poorly researched often find themselves out of step with the rest of the committee. The best way to stay conversant amid all the action is by having done an ample amount of research before the conference. Model UN is much more entertaining when you have a lot to say!



Here are the 5 research areas that will put you on the fast-track to becoming a well-prepared delegate:

Know the topic

Nothing makes a delegate stand out like well-informed ideas. Having a thorough understanding of the topic allows one to intelligently respond to crisis updates and contribute heavily to discussion.

Know your country's position

The more you know about your country, what it would agree to and what it would not, the more tools you have at your disposal. How has your country responded to similar situations in the past? What would or wouldn't they tolerate from other states? What actions would they take or disallow?

Know the remit of your committee

That is, learn what your committee can and cannot do. What does the Security Council have the mandate to order? What power does the Arab League possess? Check the UN Charter, and the AL Charter and past actions of your committee, to familiarise yourself with how things work.

Know the rules and procedures

You may be an incredibly knowledgeable delegate, but without familiarity of MUN rules and procedure, you'll never be fully aware of how you can put that knowledge to good use.

Rule-savvy delegates also have more things to talk about, as rules and procedure are brought up frequently in committee.

Be up-to-date with current events!

You never know what can come up in a crisis. Knowledge of current events could be what separates you from all of the other delegates in the room.



Conclusion

Crisis committees may have many noteworthy characteristics that make them different

from conventional UN committees, but the most important thing is that they are exciting!

Do the homework! Be active!

Know the rules! Think critically! Stay on policy!

Knowledge is power.

Nothing is as fun on the sidelines.

Procedure, procedure, procedure.

Push forward your own ideas and figure out why other ideas won't!

Though a crisis encourages delegates to be creative, it should not prompt an abandonment of your country's position, especially to benefit only yourself. It is much more likely that any sign of betrayal will be leapt upon by your fellow delegates, ending your chances of a reward.

Good luck

سرع يدحظ

Bonne chance

Buena suerte!

祝你好運

Удачи! Удачи



Climate Crisis

Introduction

“The Paris Agreement central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives.” - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This crisis takes place in 2030. The 12-year deadline - (described in a report by the IPCC) which suggests that carbon dioxide emissions must fall by 45% to prevent global temperatures from rising by 1.5 degrees Celsius - has passed. With global temperatures increased by 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial levels, the impacts of climate change on many areas of the world are being seen. Many island nations of Southeast Asia have suffered particularly severe impacts such as a drastic increase in flooding in low-lying, coastal and other vulnerable regions.

This session has been called to assess the best way to deal with this catastrophe, minimising further damage while providing aid and help to those in need, and how to prevent this global climate crisis from further escalating in the future.

Delegates represented on the Security Council

United States of America	United Kingdom
Russian Federation	Germany
People's Republic of China	Canada
France	Australia

Delegates represented in the Southeast Asian group

Indonesia	Vietnam
Malaysia	Bangladesh
Philippines	India
Myanmar	Japan

Directors: Charlie Newbold, Issy Pountney, Dani Weiss

Chair: Rudy Berman



The role of the Security Council

Maintaining international peace and security is the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council. Ideally, the Security Council will work together to provide a means to avoid conflict and violence between nation states. However, on the occasion that a dispute does lead to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring an end to said hostilities by the quickest means possible.

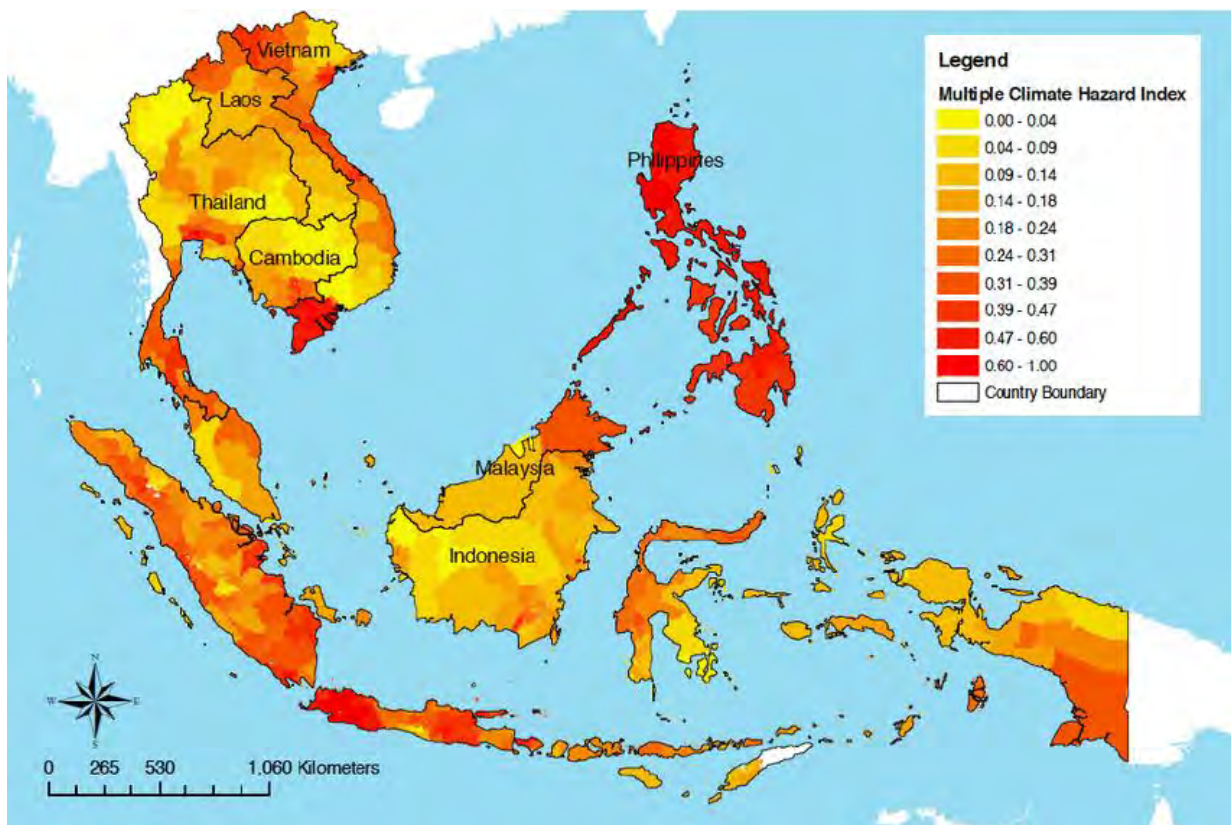
The Security Council can pass binding resolutions that all member states must follow. For substantive resolutions to pass the Security Council, there must be nine affirmative votes and no P5 votes in the negative. A resolution may pass without all P5 states voting in the affirmative, but only if that state abstains from voting. Any actual "no" vote from a P5 member effectively blocks a resolution. This is the so-called veto power. Given the requirement for nine positive votes, six non-permanent members of the Security Council can exercise what is sometimes called the "sixth veto" and block a resolution even if all P5 members vote in the affirmative. This voting structure at many times will lead to gridlock and prevent the Security Council from quick decision making.

Effective debate combined with a willingness to cooperate among Security Council members can make it the most effective body in the world to avoid catastrophe and maintain international peace and security.



Context

In the last decade, carbon emissions have not dropped as they were required to but instead have increased due to the world's failure to recognise the threat. With a global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius and a 0.5 metre elevation of sea level since 1880, many regions - particularly Southeast Asia - have faced severe flooding due to a sharp increase in frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones as well as increased vulnerability caused by rising sea levels.



As some of the poorest nations in the world, the Southeast Asian group has called upon their UN allies to provide support and aid to their citizens.

Timeline:

On the 27th August 2027, Typhoon Lupit (category 5 hurricane) hit Southeast Asia leaving 2 million homeless and 5,000 dead with areas of the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and China being affected. With new flood prevention and damage mitigation techniques, funded by regional governments and aid from the UN, damage to infrastructure, property and the death toll were minimised. The scale of Typhoon Lupit caused panic in the region as entire towns were submerged in floodwater.

In 2028 and 2029, a series of severe typhoons hit the region devastating towns and cities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Myanmar and China. With almost 60,000 casualties and over 7 million homes destroyed during the Monsoon season, these countries were destabilized by the scale of the recovery.

Throughout this Monsoon season, Bangladesh faced extreme flooding due to its location on the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta. This left 4 million people homeless and devastated agriculture, which employs 50% of the population.

So far this year, Cyclone Kyarr has hit Myanmar, Bangladesh and some rural regions of India, and Typhoon Mujigae, category 5 hurricane with wind speeds of up to 306km per hour, is forecast to hit the Philippines and Indonesia imminently, so preparation is of paramount importance. This session has been called on the 10th of August to respond to the crises which have already resulted in high numbers of casualties (number not yet known) and to plan for another series of forecasted storms.



Country Profiles

United States of America: With the Republicans still in power, the USA's emissions have seen an increase despite the growing epidemic which is spreading across the globe, giving them the highest carbon dioxide emissions per capita in the world. With ever growing storms such as Hurricane Lisa in 2027, which caused almost 3,000 deaths, areas on the Gulf Coast such as New Orleans have faced the consequences of global emissions - of which the USA highly contributes. This has caused outrage among many citizens of the country and of the world. Riots have been raging in major cities and outside the Whitehouse, growing more violent and desperate with the government's continued negligence. These riots have resulted in 26 deaths over the last 5 years. Nevertheless, many scientific advancements that have aided in reducing climate change has come from research carried out in the USA, much of which has been government funded.

Russian Federation: Having failed to respond to the threat of climate change, the Russian Federation's carbon emissions have barely decreased. Despite inland flash floods in towns and major cities including Moscow as well as large wildfires breaking out in Siberia - particularly in the summers of 2027 and 2029, critically endangering wildlife such as Siberian Tigers - the government has not recognised the global crisis. Urges from the UN are growing more and more belligerent as tensions rise.

People's Republic of China: Having produced over 13 metric mega tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2029, China has the highest emissions of any country. Despite south China being impacted by increasingly powerful Typhoons, emissions have failed to drop, however, the increase has slowed, with an increase of 30% over the last 10 years, compared to 60% increase over the previous decade. China has also restricted coal consumption to lower emissions and prevent their smog issue from worsening.

France: Having been close to meeting the targets set at the Paris Agreement for emissions, France has utilized more renewable energy sources - mainly wind and solar power. France has also contributed towards UN aid provided to countries that are currently dealing with the impacts of the powerful tropical storms.



United Kingdom: Although carbon dioxide emissions have been lowered by 19% since 2020, they have not yet reached the targets set in the Paris Agreement and the UK's carbon emissions per capita still lies within the top 20% of countries. The UK has provided aid to Southeast Asia, administered by the UN, however, the government is refusing to grant citizenship to climate refugees/migrants.

Germany: As one of the leading countries in the battle against climate change after fulfilling the "Climate Action Plan 2030" and being one of the few nations to achieve the emission reduction targets set by the Paris Agreement, Germany has set an example for the western world. With many international campaigns to reduce emissions in Europe as well as government grants being given to green energy suppliers, Germany has helped many other countries to begin to reduce their emissions. However, Germany still relies on natural gas as a significant energy source, making it a large importer of natural gas, especially from Russia.

Canada: Although carbon emissions have declined over the decade, with carbon capture technology helping to reduce the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, Canada is still exploiting its oil reserves in areas such as the Tar Sands of Alberta. This is also detrimental to the indigenous communities, with cancer rates amongst these communities remaining abnormally high due to chemicals leaching into the water systems.

Australia: Bush fires in 2020 burned down areas of forest the size of the United Kingdom, causing Australia's native wildlife to suffer - including the extinction of Koalas in the wild. As a result, the government worked hard to prevent future fires and responding more effectively to subsequent fires. For example, using helicopters and control lines to contain the fires in southern Queensland in 2029. Although this has been largely successful, there have still been a number of major fires since 2020 and temperatures in Australia this summer have broken the record, reaching 54.3 degrees Celcius. In addition, the bleaching of the coral reefs has continued, although the rate slowing after greater measures, such as introduction of particulate in the water, were used.

Indonesia: Much of the coastal regions of Indonesia are suffering from extreme flooding due to rising sea levels and more frequent and devastating Monsoons each year. With many towns and villages destroyed by flooding, leaving locals homeless, Indonesia's government - with foreign aid, particularly from Japan and Germany - has helped to relocate over 7 million citizens who have lost their homes in the floods, with many moving to the Malay Peninsula.



Malaysia: Also experiencing drastic flooding, Malaysia's government have relocated 6 million who have lost their homes in the floods. In spite of best efforts from the government - alongside foreign aid workers from Germany and Japan - to build flood defences and design evacuation plans, the nation has still faced devastating damages. Many citizens have internally migrated to the Malay Peninsula and many have emigrated to Japan.

Philippines: Over the last decade, Manila, the capital, has experienced severe flooding, with large areas permanently submerged. This has resulted in a large number of people being relocated, causing higher population density in other urban areas.

A high death toll is predicted as a result of the large typhoon, disease may also spread in overcrowded towns and cities. This will strain services and infrastructure and, with neighbouring countries incapacitated by the typhoon, there will be little rapid support. As a result, the government may be destabilized, leaving millions of citizens vulnerable and in desperate need of aid.

Myanmar: Being directly hit with many cyclones such as Cyclone Kyarr earlier in 2030, Myanmar has seen widespread flooding and property damage particularly along the east coast. With some aid from neighbours such as China, property has been repaired and large areas have been evacuated. Despite this, the ongoing Monsoon season is continuing to put stress on services and infrastructure, meaning further aid is required. These issues are enhanced by the continued control of the unpopular military regime which are unorganised and have made it more challenging for aid from western nations to be used.

Vietnam: As a largely coastal country, Vietnam has been critically affected by Typhoons over the past decade. With 5.5 million people being left homeless by the storms, Vietnam has relied heavily on the support of China, after relations have strengthened in recent years. However, Vietnam is still facing danger to life, land and industry as a result of the extreme weather events.

Bangladesh: As one of the poorest nations in the world, the government has been unable to respond to many of the impacts of the dire flooding along the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta. This has meant that over 10 million people remain internally displaced with many moving to overcrowded slums in Bangladesh, with neighbouring India unwilling to accept more refugees



India: The state of Odisha is one of the regions significantly affected by Cyclones in India, however, the total number of casualties due to tropical storms over the past decade in India is below 2,000. Although India is one of the highest emitting countries of carbon dioxide in the world, due to its rapid industrialization, it is within the lower 50% of carbon emissions per capita. India has also accepted thousands of climate refugees, with thousands more entering the country illegally.

Japan: Although hit by a series of storms, Japan's strong infrastructure and services have meant that it has been able to prepare for the storms, keep the death toll low and quickly able to repair damage. Japan has also provided aid and over \$5 billion to neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. Japan has managed to reduce carbon emissions by utilising carbon capture and storage technology. Additionally, in recent years, Japan has made efforts to reduce the burning of fossil fuels and is replacing many coal powered energy plants with nuclear power stations, however, it still relies on some coal power plants.

