

ISRMUN 2021



NC

Nordic Council

Committee: Nordic Council (NC)

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I. Crisis Committee

A. What is a crisis committee?

A crisis committee differs greatly from traditional Model United Nations committees; they follow different protocol and participants have no previous knowledge of the topics being discussed. Typically, a crisis committee consists of 8 to 10 participants and is led by two Chair members who are responsible for monitoring the flow of the debate.

Unlike traditional committees, crisis committees are affected by real-time decisions and events that take place in the outside world. While in session, the debate may be interrupted by breaking news bulletins, special guests or the introduction of new evidence. Participants must be able to utilize their critical thinking, leadership and speaking skills because a decision made during one session could alter the course of the debate and create new problems.

During ISRMUN, participants in crisis committees are referred to as representatives. These participants represent their nation and take into consideration the country's culture, economy, religion and foreign policy.

B. How does a crisis committee work?

A crisis committee is divided into two types of sessions: moderated and unmoderated. Crisis topics are introduced and built upon during the moderated caucus. Representatives have the opportunity to view and question evidence and resources during this time. This part of the committee is moderated by the Chair and representatives must raise their placards to speak. Proposals to solve a crisis are negotiated during the unmoderated caucus. This section of the debate is timed but allows representatives to speak freely amongst themselves to reach a consensus.

II. History of the Nordic Council

A. What is the Nordic Council?

The Nordic Council was founded on March 16th, 1952. It is currently composed of 87 representatives from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden and autonomous regions such as the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and the Åland Islands. The Council was established in order to support and maintain co-operation between the countries in the Nordic region. All of the representatives that serve in the Nordic Council are elected members of parliament in their respective countries or regions (Sampson, Sweden.org.za, 2015). In order to complement the work of the organization, the Nordic Council of Ministers, an intergovernmental forum, was established in 1971. Most of the Nordic Council of Ministers' work focuses on fostering positive relations with the European Union and countries located within Eastern Europe such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The organization meets every October and November and holds emergency meetings as required. The Council is based in Copenhagen, Denmark and

its official languages are Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish (The Nordic Council, Norden, 2021).

B. The Nordic Council's relationship with the United Nations

The Nordic Council has described itself as “outward-looking and works closely with a range of international, regional and national parliamentary organizations.” The Council has called its relationship and cooperation with the United Nations (UN) as one of its top international priorities. The Nordic Council has been a vocal supporter of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those related to the environment and combating climate change. Moreover, the Council and its individual members are parties to the Biodiversity Convention and the Paris Agreement. Representatives from the Nordic Council regularly attend UN-organized international meetings and summits (Co-Operation, Norden, 2021). For instance, at the 2018 edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the Council hosted the Nordic Pavilion which “highlighted and discussed Nordic climate solutions and challenges and drew parallels with the global Sustainable Development Goals” (COP24, Norden, 2018).

C. The Nordic Council's current issues

Sustainability and the impact of climate change are the two main focuses of the Nordic Council. In 2015, the Council launched the Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges initiative which aims to promote six “Nordic solutions to global societal challenges.” The six main challenges addressed by the initiative relate to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and focus on gender equality, employment

opportunities, food waste, nutrition, sustainable cities and energy reform. The initiative was established by a “wide range of policy experts, researchers, private-sector players as well as Nordic embassies, export councils and international stakeholders” and has been praised by the UN for its innovative ideas (Nordic Solutions, Norden, 2021).

Much of the land occupied by the Nord Council members include the Arctic Circle. This area of land has been significantly impacted by climate change. It is warming at twice the global average. As a result, the sea-ice and permafrost have begun to melt, damaging the unique ecosystems of the region. Due to this increasingly pressing issue, the Council created Vision 2030, an action plan that aims to protect and preserve the natural environment (Action Plan, Norden, 2021). In relation to climate change, around 10,000 people in the Nordic region die prematurely each year because of air pollution. This is mostly caused by the manufacturing industry and infrastructure development. According to Nord Forsk, air pollution “can lead to respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as further complications for those already suffering from other illnesses” (Nord Forsk, 2019). This challenge has resulted in the creation of fossil fuel-free energy production initiatives at a regional level. Proposals included harnessing the North Sea and Baltic Sea to produce hydroelectricity and the construction of large-scale wind turbine farms in unpopulated areas (Fossil-Free Future, Norden, 2021).

III. Quorum

- Åland Islands
- Denmark
- Faroe Islands

- Finland
- Greenland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden

IV. Topics of Interest

Formal position papers are not required of crisis committee participants. However, in order to prepare for the simulation, representatives are encouraged to research the following topics:

- The rights of Sámi people in Nordic Council member states
- The Nordic Council's diplomatic relations with Russia
- The militarization of Nordic Council member states
- Far-right groups in Nordic Council member states
- The impact of climate change on Nordic Council member states

V. Resources

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