

Continuous Crisis Committee

Background guide



SNISMUN 2025

**Agenda: The 2025 Iran–Israel Escalation: A Misstep
Away from World War III, Freeze Date: 23 June 2025**

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the Continuous Crisis Committee at SNISMUN 2025 - a forum where every move you make will shape the course of a rapidly escalating global crisis. We will be serving as your executive board. Our agenda places you in the heart of the Middle East on 23 June 2025, with Iran and Israel locked in a dangerous spiral: tanker seizures in the Strait of Hormuz, cross-border strikes, cyberattacks, and great powers poised to intervene.

Here, events will unfold in real time. You will respond to sudden developments, negotiate with both allies and adversaries, and make decisions that could avert war or ignite it. In this environment, information will be incomplete, time will be short, and the stakes will be nothing less than global stability.

Your success will depend on your ability to act decisively, think strategically, and anticipate the unintended consequences of your own moves. Some choices may protect your nation's interests; others may push the world toward disaster.

We expect bold thinking, sharp diplomacy, and relentless adaptability. The war room awaits history and will remember whether you pulled the world back from the brink, or pushed it over the edge.

Regards,
Abbas Ahmed
Chairperson, CCC

1. Introduction

The Middle East has long been the epicenter of geopolitical turbulence, but mid-2025 has seen an unprecedented confluence of risks. The simmering hostility between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Israel has escalated into a volatile, multi-domain confrontation involving conventional military action, proxy warfare, cyberattacks, and maritime disruptions.

While the two nations have avoided all-out war in the past, this crisis is different, military red lines are blurred, great power rivalries are deeply embedded, and the window for de-escalation is narrowing by the day.

The danger extends far beyond the Middle East. Any direct war between Iran and Israel risks triggering US military intervention (via security commitments to Israel), Russian counteractions (as Iran's strategic partner), and Chinese diplomatic or economic maneuvers to protect its energy interests. In such a crowded theater, a single misstep could ignite a cascade of retaliations dragging the world toward a broader global conflict.

2. Statement of Problem

The 2025 Iran–Israel escalation is multi-layered and high-stakes, involving:

Direct Military Engagements: Precision airstrikes on critical infrastructure, retaliatory missile launches, and the use of drones on both sides.

Proxy Warfare: Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shi'a militias in Syria and Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen intensifying attacks on Israeli and allied targets.

Maritime Flashpoints: The Strait of Hormuz, Eastern Mediterranean, and Bab el-Mandeb chokepoints facing naval harassment and tanker seizures.

Cyber & Information Warfare: Attacks on power grids, defense networks, and media channels to disrupt command structures and inflame public opinion.

Religious & Ideological Polarization: Deep-seated hostility stemming from sectarian divides (Shi'a vs. Jewish state), ideological differences, and mutual mistrust.

Economic Risks: Global oil supply disruptions driving prices past \$120/barrel, threatening inflation and political instability in energy-importing nations.

The challenge before this committee is not only to contain the crisis but to prevent the next irreversible escalation steps direct interstate war that could set off regional implosion or even great power confrontation.

3. History

1948–1979:

- Israel's founding in 1948 sparked regional wars with Arab states.
- Pre-1979 Iran, under the Shah, maintained relations with Israel.

1979 Iranian Revolution:

- Overthrow of the Shah and establishment of the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini transformed Iran into one of Israel's staunchest ideological enemies.
- Iran adopts a policy of supporting anti-Israel militant groups and rejecting Israel's legitimacy.

1980s–2000s:

- Iran arms and funds Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.
- Israel conducts covert operations targeting Iran's nuclear scientists and facilities.

2010–2020:

- Iran expands nuclear enrichment; JCPOA signed in 2015 freezes parts of its program in exchange for sanctions relief.
- US withdrawal from JCPOA in 2018 reignites tensions.
- Shadow naval warfare in the Persian Gulf; tanker seizures and mine attacks linked to Iran.

2021–2024:

- Iran deepens ties with Russia (post-Ukraine war) and China (energy and arms deals).
- Israel expands the Abraham Accords with Gulf states, isolating Iran regionally.
- Ongoing Israeli strikes in Syria targeting Iranian-linked assets.

2025 (Lead-up to Freeze Date):

April: Israeli cyberattack disrupts Iranian Khuzestan air-defense grid.

May: Iranian ballistic missile strike damages Israeli Negev Airbase.

Early June: Intensified Hezbollah rocket fire into northern Israel; Israeli retaliation in southern Lebanon.

Mid-June: Suspected Israeli airstrike kills a senior IRGC commander in Damascus.

23 June: IRGC Navy seizes two Israeli-linked tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, escalating maritime tensions.

4. Relevant UN Action

- UNSCR 2231 (2015): Endorses the JCPOA, imposes nuclear restrictions on Iran.
- UNSCR 1701 (2006): Calls for disarmament of Hezbollah and cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel.
- UNSCR 1540 (2004): Prohibits WMD acquisition by non-state actors.
- UNIFIL Presence: UN peacekeepers monitor southern Lebanon but have no mandate beyond the Israel–Lebanon border.
- Recent UN Statements (2025): The Secretary-General urges immediate de-escalation; emergency UNSC meetings held but vetoes block binding resolutions.

5. Current Situation (as of 23 June 2025)

Military Posture:

- Israel mobilizes IAF squadrons and deploys naval assets in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Iran stations IRGC missile batteries along the Gulf coast, deploys fast-attack craft in Hormuz.
- US carrier strike group stationed near Cyprus; Russian frigates docked in Latakia, Syria.

Proxy Operations:

- Hezbollah: Continuous rocket barrages on Galilee; anti-tank missile strikes.
- Houthis: Long-range drones targeting southern Israel; missile launches at Red Sea shipping.
- Shi'a Militias in Iraq: Mortar attacks on US bases.

Cyber Front:

- Israel's power grid faces rolling outages; Iranian state TV hacked to broadcast anti-regime content.
- Banking disruptions in Gulf states suspected to be spillover cyber operations.

Economic & Humanitarian Impact:

- Oil prices at \$122/barrel; shipping insurance in Hormuz triples.
- Refugee flows increase from southern Lebanon and parts of Syria.
- Food prices spike in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon due to trade route instability.

6. Possible Solutions

Short-Term De-escalation:

- Maritime Safety Corridor: Neutral naval escort operations in Hormuz (possibly led by Oman).
- Proxy Ceasefire Arrangements: Hezbollah–Israel truce with UNIFIL oversight.
- Cyber Non-Aggression Pact: Brokered by neutral mediators, enforced by UN technical verification teams.

Medium-Term Stabilization:

- Modified JCPOA+: Inclusion of missile range limits and drone export restrictions.
- Regional Security Forum: Including Iran, Israel, Gulf states, and major powers under UN auspices.
- Humanitarian Corridors: UN-managed supply chains into Lebanon and Gaza to reduce civilian suffering and political exploitation.

Long-Term Conflict Mitigation:

- Confidence-Building Measures: Gradual reopening of trade or religious pilgrimages under strict monitoring.
- Energy Interdependence Initiatives: Joint projects on desalination, renewable energy, or electricity grids.
- Permanent Deconfliction Hotline: Direct Tel Aviv–Tehran communication channel to prevent accidental escalation.

INTRODUCTION TO CRISIS

Use various crisis tools to influence the dynamics of the committee. The Executive Board serves as a link between the committee and the entire world, and the result of certain actions shall be communicated to delegates through crisis breaks, commonly known as crisis updates. Crisis tools are of the following types:

1. Crisis Notes: As a delegate in this committee, you can send in a crisis note to the Executive Board, which is a crisis tool containing the actions you want your country to take in light of the predicament. While writing crisis notes, delegates must keep the capabilities of their nations in mind.

The Executive Board has complete discretion over the status of acceptance of the crisis note, and if accepted, the EB may choose to include or exclude the results of accepted crisis notes in crisis breaks.

Practicality and Authenticity: Delegates, please note that all crisis notes or directives have to be practical and realistic.

Directive: As the representative of the state, one can send a directive to the EB highlighting what you as a delegate want your nation to do in light of the crisis at hand. This is mainly to show the plan of action of the said delegate(s).

A directive may be of two types:

- a) Covert (secret)
- b) Overt (known to the committee)

It can also be made with more than one individual delegate. This is termed as a Joint Directive with more than one delegate who drafted the same. If the entire committee wants to hear about the same and may wish to vote on it; it is a Committee-Wide Directive. The best directives are those that are not just approved by a large majority of the committee, but also prove that a representative (or a bloc) has in-depth knowledge of the situation.

2. **COMMUNIQUE:** Communiqués are messages from the entire committee/delegate to another country, organization, person or group of people. These facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis. Communiqués often include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid or support but are not limited to the above stated. They are usually utilized when a country whose consent, opinion, or stance on a particular issue is required, but whose representation does not exist in committee.

A Covert Communique is of the same nature as a communiqué except that all communication is kept private between the delegate(s) and the recipient(s) involved.

3. **PRESS RELEASE:** It is used by delegates to inform the Public about incidents that have taken place or to make an open/ bold statement to the press against some other statement.