

# MASTERS MODEL UN

MASMUNC III

# A Letter from the Secretariat

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Dear Delegates, Advisors, Staff, and Friends of MASMUNC II I,

Greetings from Dobbs Ferry, New York! As this year's Secretaries General, we are honored to share the second iteration of the Masters School Model United Nations Conference with you at the beautiful Masters School campus on December 7, 2024. After a successful MASMUNC III, we hope to grow the conference even more. Throughout MASMUNC, we aim to cultivate thoughtful and meaningful debate and compromise in committees spanning current UN bodies to fictional crises.

We've spent our spring and summer preparing and planning for you, and we hope you enjoy the committees our delegates have to offer! As a team, we've been inspired by the many conferences we've attended, and hope you will grow, learn, and have fun at MASMUNC II I. This conference is truly the work of our entire team, whether that be brainstorming, writing background guides, or serving as pages and crisis staffers. We look forward to seeing everyone represent world powers, Shakespearean characters, and even spies in our 'Spy School' committee!

Our dedicated staff of students spanning from grades 8-12 and our devoted faculty advisors are eager to welcome you with open arms to ensure the best experience possible. We hope that you will leave MASMUNC II I with lasting skills to use in more conferences in the future and throughout everyday life.

Thank you.

Jesse Gelman  
*Secretary General*

Sophie Moussapour  
*Secretary General*

# A Letter from the Dais

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Hi, Delegates of The Mount Saint Helens Disaster!

Hello everyone, my name is Knox and I am so excited to be one of your co chairs at this conference. This is my fourth year doing MUN and it is by far my favorite club. I had so much fun writing this committee and I hope you enjoy it double that of how much I do. I cannot wait to see how everyone portrays their positions and how y'all make your own, unique crisis arc.

Hello, my name is Talia and I can't wait to be a co-chair for this conference! I am a sophomore and this is my second year doing MUN, it is definitely the best club. I did not know much of the Mount Saint Helens eruption at first, but as I did more research I realized how interesting the topic is. I hope you have as much fun during this committee as I did working on this background guide!

Thank you.

Knox Gary, Co-Chair

Talia Hird, Co-Chair

# A Note on Cultural Sensitivity

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While at MASMUNC, we encourage delegates to bear full participation, tackle their topics with full force, and embrace the dynamics within the international community; it is vital to recognize that the topics and issues being debated influence real places and people. This recognition is crucial to developing a culturally aware mindset that will contribute to an impactful committee. Delegates representing countries, leaders, and governmental figures must acknowledge the cultural aspects that determine the nature of their position.

In addition to maintaining cultural sensitivity, we recognize that we live in a world that is filled with bias. While it may be impossible to completely separate ourselves from our worldview and the many factors that influence us on a daily basis, we can make a concerted effort to minimize the way our personal biases impact the way that we interact with each other within this activity. To that end, please remember that:

- Accents do not reflect intelligence;
- Race does not indicate socioeconomic status;
- Gender is fluid;
- Positions that delegates take while competing do not necessarily equate to their personal beliefs;
- Words do not exist in a vacuum. Avoid using charged language toward delegates.

Thank you all for abiding by these guidelines. We look forward to seeing you all on conference day!

Jesse Gelman  
*Secretary General*

Sophie Moussapour  
*Secretary General*

# MASMUNC III Crisis Procedure

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## Structure of Committee

Crisis committees use three primary tools for discussion about the topic at hand:  
**Moderated Caucuses, Unmoderated Caucuses, and Round Robins:**

### Moderated Caucuses

- Most crisis committees conduct debate through a series of rolling moderated caucuses.
- The Dais will call on delegates to give brief speeches about the topic proposed.
- The delegate proposing a moderated caucus should specify a topic of discussion, the duration, and speaking time per delegate.
  - *SAY: "Motion for a six-minute moderated caucus with a 30-second speaking time to discuss the latest crisis update."*

### Unmoderated Caucuses

- Delegates may leave their seats and discuss the topic freely in groups of their selection.
- Topics/goals of the unmod can be suggested by both Dais and delegates but are not necessary.
  - *SAY: "Motion for a ten-minute unmoderated caucus to merge directives on the table."*

### Round Robins

- A round robin is a variation of the moderated caucus, where every delegate in the committee gives a speech in order of chairs around the room.
- The delegate proposing a round-robin also specifies the speaking time per delegate, which is usually not more than one minute.
- Round robins are especially useful at the very beginning of a committee since they allow each delegate to lay out their position and discuss what issues they believe to be most worthy of further discussion.
- They can also be useful after a major crisis update to allow all delegates to give their opinion on how to resolve the latest crisis.
  - *SAY: "Motion for a 30-second round robin about [topic]."*

## Directives

- Directives are similar to resolutions in traditional committees, with the notable exception that they do not include preambulatory clauses and are much shorter and more concise.
- Directives are generally written in response to a specific crisis update and can be as short as two or three clauses.
- Once a directive has collected the required number of signatories, it is sent to the Dias. A delegate can then motion to introduce all directives on the table. Some Chairs may elect to set a cap on the maximum number of directives, in which case, an unmoderated caucus will often be necessary for delegates to compare similar directives and merge them.
- Once a directive has been introduced, a delegate may motion to enter into the voting into procedure. It is also possible to combine the two if the directives have broad support: a delegate may motion to introduce each directive and immediately enter into a voting procedure after introduction.
- If a directive faces no opposition, it automatically passes (in for and against)
- During the for and against speeches, or if a moderated caucus occurs after a directive is introduced, a delegate may raise an objection that the sponsoring delegate may wish to address with an amendment.
- Amendments are similar to how they operate in traditional committees, but are more loosely structured — verbal agreement from all the sponsors is enough for it to be considered a friendly amendment.
  - *SAY: Motion to introduce directive [Name].*
- Occasionally, the crisis staff may introduce a “timed crisis,” where delegates have a limited amount of time to address a problem. In those cases, the Chair may further relax parliamentary procedure rules and skip parts of the formal voting procedure or allow a directive to be presented verbally without first being written.

## Arcs and Backroom

**Crisis arcs** are essentially the storyline for your character in Model UN crisis committees. Most importantly, they should detail a vital end goal for your personality and the various methods and steps you will take to get there. Strong crisis arcs will consider the committee's topics, period, character's persona, and portfolio powers. The most important part of having a good crisis arc is fluidity from one action to the next.

The two most significant pieces of arc development that delegates often forget about are:

- **Protection:** You should always establish security within one of your first few correspondences with crisis staff.
- **Money:** Money is one of the essential resources in crisis committees.

Crisis notes are the tools used to act “behind the scenes” during committees. Crisis notes are written as letters to a real or fictional character we imagine to be outside the committee in the setting of the committee’s universe. Crisis notes must address the who, what, where, when, why, and how of each action you plan. Make your notes clear and easily understood so crisis staff knows what to do and has no room to mess up your plans or reveal them to the rest of the committee. When writing crisis notes, ensure you are working with the backroom instead of against it. Crisis staffers will then respond to your notes as the character you are writing to with a response, usually confirming or denying that the action was completed.

# Current Overview

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Our crisis will focus on a disaster set in and around Mount Saint Helens, Washington, United States. In our committee, you will represent a person from the President's cabinet, a senator, other government officials, environmentalists, scientists, or local townspeople. Your goal in this committee is to deal with the current disaster(s) while also working towards the best long-term outcome for the people you represent.

Our committee is set in 2024, although many characters are from past governmental administrations or have moved on to other occupations. We will be mainly focused on the Mount Saint Helens area, although disasters may occur anywhere in the United States during the timeline of our committee. Your job will be to keep civilians safe all whilst new disasters occur.

Earthquakes began on May 18th, 2024 around the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and subsequently landslides were triggered, burying 15 square miles of land around the mountain. At the same time scientists were alerted about P-waves via seismographs, a tool used to measure seismic waves of an earthquake, in the area. P-waves are the fastest shockwave that an earthquake releases and thus is the first one to arrive at a seismograph. All of this activity has led scientists to believe that the volcano may erupt soon.

Based on the information observed and the last eruption, which occurred on March 27th, 1980, and lasted through May 18th, 1980, scientists are estimating that the eruption may be anywhere from a four to a five on the Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI). That range means that anywhere from an eruption similar to that of Vesuvius in Ancient Rome or that of the 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens, in other words, one that releases around 0.1 cubic kilometers of ash, rock, and smoke - an example of which is the 2020 eruption of Taal in Indonesia up to one that releases a full cubic kilometer of debris.

Results of these eruptions could be anything from relatively minor lava flow only burying the nearby area to significant flow, burying the whole area around the park and scattering ash throughout the Northwest United States, covering lands as far east as central Montana and as far northwest as Seattle.

You should be prepared to combat a minor to major eruption and evacuate people from the surrounding area ASAP, as well as provide medical, housing, and financial aid.



# Historical Background

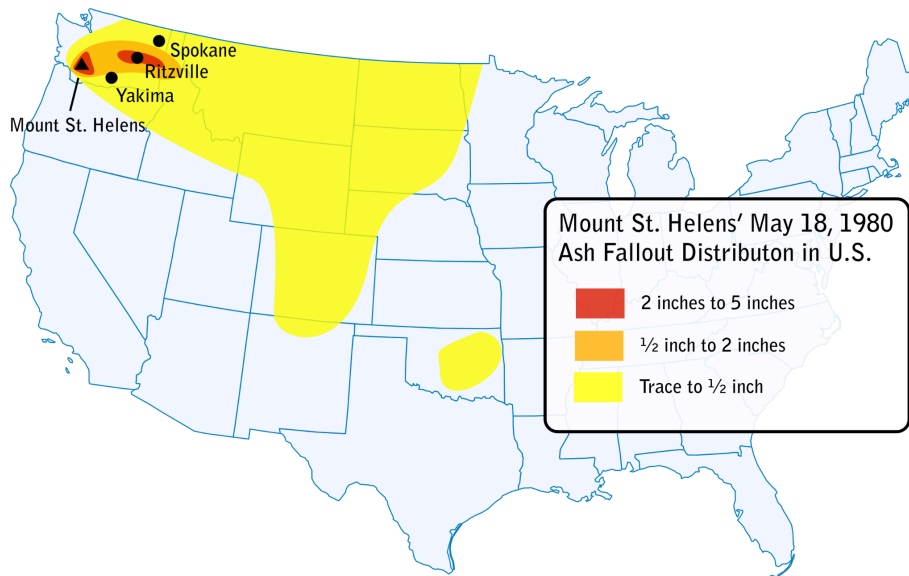
The March 27th, 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens in Washington was the first eruption of a volcano during the scientific era in the United States, meaning it was significant for the advancement of knowledge on volcanoes. The fallout from the eruption was quite unprecedented, with ash spreading across the northwestern United States and Canada. The eruption began with a landslide, the largest in recorded history. The eruption itself covered 230 square miles of land in volcanic debris and blew down 4 billion board feet of timber, among other things.

While scientists had assumed that an eruption would be a vertical eruption like that past and cause minimal fallout, the mountain contrarily exploded laterally (sideways), exploding debris at up to 400 miles per hour. The eruption was extremely harmful to wildlife, the economy, and the surrounding area.

The eruption also had effects on the people nearby and far away, the town of Spokane, Washington, located around 250 miles away from the volcano was covered in complete darkness from the ash cloud.

A full recovery took many years as ash, while containing necessary minerals, covered too much of the land to plant anything, so the plants had to get there themselves. The first signs of life were seen just a few weeks after the eruption with hardy plants such as prairie lupine and fireweed. Small animals, such as beetles, also began to emerge, and even bigger animals, which all had likely died in the eruption, probably migrated back to the area.

All in all, while the eruption had a lasting effect on the area around it, and it is still not fully recovered today, life always begins to heal and flourish over time.



information from the USGS map of the same title.

# Topic A: Infrastructure

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The infrastructure in the United States is sub-par and, in the words of President Biden in a 2021 memo from the White House, “long overdue.” Since the 1960s, the percentage of the United States’ GDP invested in public infrastructure has declined by 40%, leading to frequent issues with travel and transportation today.

1 in every 5 miles of road in the United States is in poor condition, and more than 45,000 bridges are in need of repair. The economic cost of commuters sitting in traffic in 2017 alone was \$160 billion, but commuters still find cars more reliable than public transportation options like trains and buses.



In 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed, aimed at improving roads, bridges, public transportation, railroads, ports, airports, access to clean drinking water and high-speed internet, and facilitating the transition to clean energy. While funding has already been distributed

to states for highway and road repairs, longer and more complicated projects will take more time to complete due to the time it takes to negotiate the scope and price of each project.

The recent increase in extreme weather events in the United States has complicated and slowed down the process of repairing critical infrastructure, halting projects for months and diverting resources toward new, urgent problems. For example, after Hurricane Helene swept through North Carolina earlier this month, the US government spent \$474 million in disaster relief to clear debris, repair roads, and ensure access to electricity, beyond the infrastructure improvements that were already happening in North Carolina prior to the damage inflicted by the hurricane.

The issue of outdated and fragile infrastructure in the United States is only getting more dangerous and more expensive for the government and for citizens because of extreme climate events like hurricanes, flash floods, blizzards, and earthquakes. Our committee must consider climate change and extreme weather when deciding how to fix the failing infrastructure around Mount Saint Helens and throughout the United States

## Topic B: Mount Saint Helens

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On May 18, 2024, earthquakes began in the Mount Saint Helens region of Washington, reaching as far south as Portland and as far north as Mount Rainier. The range of these earthquakes has provoked speculation that volcanic eruptions may begin shortly. Scientists are predicting a possible eruption from Mount Saint Helens and Mount Rainier. We know from the devastation last time Mount Saint Helens erupted in 1980 that even if an eruption is not on the horizon, the other possibility is too dangerous to overlook.

Since these tremors began, the people in surrounding communities have been hoping there would be some discussion in Congress. However, no such thing has happened. Rather than conversing about the possible risks that could arise from these tremors, Congress has completely

overlooked this looming threat. This neglect has the population of the state of Washington questioning if their Congress representatives have the community's interest in mind, in turn threatening negative views from the populace. If the topic of eruption continues to be disregarded, it may result in the population electing different candidates next term or even the expulsion of representatives from the senate due to neglect.

Emergency plans need to be developed to protect civilians. These plans should include evacuation routes along with recommendations for recovery. Avoiding the eruption does not mean this crisis will be over for civilians. Homes will be destroyed, families separated, and ash will linger in the air, making it hard to see merely a few feet in front of you. Solutions will need to be discussed.

# Questions to Consider

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- How can we relieve congestion in U.S. cities?
- How can we replace our aging infrastructure?
- What solutions will mitigate the infrastructure problems in the future?
- What are the steps we have to take to solve this crisis?
- What are some solutions to this threat?
- How can you use your powers to the advantage of the populous?
- How can you protect yourself while protecting the populous?
- What can we be doing, what are other countries doing to solve similar situations?

# Positions

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## **Senator Patty Murray:**

Patty Murray is a senator in the state of Washington. She is the president pro tempore and has served in the Senate since 1993. Notably, she is the first woman to be the president pro tempore. Murray attended Washington State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in physical education in 1972. While she was at university, she worked as an intern at a Veterans Administration psychiatric hospital. After Murray got married, she taught a course in parenting skills at a community college. She was later elected to a seat on her school board. Murray is a democrat who usually voted with her party but has been known to break off.

## **Senator Maria Cantwell:**

Maria Cantwell is the other senator from Washington state. She has served since 2001 and aligns with the democratic party. She went to Miami University of Ohio, where she earned a bachelor's degree in public administration. Cantwell worked in public relations before she ran for the Washington State House of Representatives in 1986. However, when she ran for reelection in 1994 and was defeated, she started working for a Seattle-based internet company called Progressive Networks. In 2001, Cantwell entered the senate. She is a Democrat who generally sides with her party.

## **Dr. Janet Yellen:**

Dr. Janet Yellen is the 78th serving secretary of treasury, her position grants her the power to overrule some decisions made by other delegates she also has the power to allocate money to causes. Yellen graduated from Brown University with a degree in economics. She also received a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University. Then she served as an assistant economics professor at Harvard University. Yellen has focused her writings on macroeconomics and unemployment dynamics.

## **Deb Haaland:**

Deb Haaland serves as the 54th secretary of the Interior of the United States. The department is responsible for most of the country's federally owned lands and resources. She has made many decisions in the past and continues to make decisions regarding Native American land and politics. She has told the cabinet members of the looming threat. Haaland has a

bachelor's degree in English and a graduate degree in American Indian studies. Haaland went to law school and became active in Democratic politics.

**Charles F. Sams III:**

Charles F. Sams III is the 19th director of the National Parks Service. Before serving as the director of the National Parks Service he worked in the tribal and state governments. He has made it clear to the representatives of Washington state that the eruption of the volcano would be devastating to the Wildlife and the people nearby.

**Xavier Becerra:**

Xavier Becerra is the 25th Secretary of Health and Human Services and the former attorney general of California. He has voiced concerns over the fact that the ash from a volcano may affect the residents of certain areas and towns nearby to the eruption zone. Beceraa earned a bachelor of arts in economics from Stanford and a doctorate from Stanford Law School. Beceraa started his legal career in 1984 when he worked in a legal services office representing the mentally ill.

**Al Gore:**

Al Gore is an environmental activist who served as VP under Bill Clinton. He is the 2007 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. He was a U.S. representative from Tennessee from 1977-1985. From 1985 to 1993, he was a U.S. senator for the state. He ran for president and focused his campaign on the economy, health care, and education. He favored abortion rights more significant restrictions on guns, and supported the death penalty. Gore is in favor of protecting the environment and has many ideas, which he explains in a book he wrote. Gore has devoted much of his time to environmental issues.

**Pete Buttigieg:**

Pete Buttigieg is the 19th secretary of transportation and, thus, the head of transportation in the United States. His connections within the cabinet give him some power to authorize command over emergency services. Buttigieg has a degree in history and literature from Harvard University. He entered the 2020 presidential race and called for an increase in federal funding for renewable energy development and stronger gun control laws. Buttigieg also proposed a new healthcare plan. As secretary of transportation, Buttigieg plans to rebuild roads, bridges, railways, and other transportation infrastructure across the country.

**Robert E. Jordan:**

Robert E. Jordan is the CEO of Southwest Airlines. The airline's fleet reaches the edges of our nation and serves as one of the top domestic airlines in terms of fleet size. His fleet's operation size means that he has operations in most regional airports.

**Gail J. McGovern**

Gail J. McGovern is the CEO of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross Association is the leader in the nation's emergency response and blood services. They helped with the aid during Hurricanes Irma and Sandy, as well as assisted in the many floods, tornados, and severe storms that afflict our country and others each year. Her previous actions in the U.S. and other countries have granted her some autonomous power over rescue operations and aid in the U.S.

**Kenneth Berlin:**

Kenneth Smith is a resident of the town of Toledo, Washington. He is a large landholder and a mayoral candidate in his town. He has voiced concern over the lack of action being taken by his senators and other representatives over the growing concern of eruption. He serves as a liaison between the people of his town and the representatives of Washington state.

**Tom Rollie**

Tom Rollie is a resident and park ranger who works at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center. There, Rollie leads a walking tour at the Wetland Haven Trail across the road from Mount St. Helens. Rollie is very involved in taking care of the environment. When it comes to political representatives, he supports those who are interested in protecting the environment and will vocally support candidates who take the issue of climate change seriously.

**Randy Moore**

Randy Moore is the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. He has many environmental issues to worry about, including sustainably managing 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. However an eruption of Mount St. Helens is a concern, especially considering the widespread environmental impact the eruption had in 1980.

**Jacqueline Buchanan**

Jacqueline Buchanan is the Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region. She leads management for two National Volcanic Monuments within the states of Oregon and

Washington. As a Regional Forester her main concern is the overall forest health. She also prioritizes fire management, range, wildlife, wilderness and Wildfire Crisis Response.

### **Charlie Crisafulli**

Charlie Crisafulli is a scientist who got to see the devastation Mount Saint Helens caused when it erupted for the first time in 1980. He provides essential scientific information to bring awareness of what would happen if Mount Saint Helens erupted again. Crisafulli is an ecologist who has worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Pacific Northwest Research Station and has worked to develop the field of volcano ecology over recent decades. Crisafulli's connection to Mount Saint Helens and his leading expertise in the volcanic field give him essential perspectives that should be listened to.

### **Deanne Criswell**

Deanne Criswell is the 12th Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA supports citizens and first responders in building, sustaining and improving the nation's capability to prepare, protect, respond, and recover from different hazards. Criswell has served 21 years in the Colorado Air National Guard. She has a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado – Denver, and a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Support from FEMA is essential in the case of a volcanic eruption, especially since they manage the Disaster Relief Fund.

### **Jonathan Reckford**

Jonathan Reckford is the CEO of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization that works across the U.S. to make sure everyone has a decent place to live. In the event of a volcanic eruption, many homes would be destroyed. But Habitat for Humanity can give displaced peoples a decent place to live.

### **Brig. Gen. Ken Borchers**

Brigadier General Ken Borchers is the commander of the Washington Air National Guard. He has responsibility for the 2,100 citizen-airmen in the Washington Air National Guard's 141st Air Refueling Wing, 194th Wing and the Western Air Defense Sector. The National Guard does many things, among them are assisting during state emergencies.

### **Jay Inslee**

Jay Inslee is the governor of the state of Washington. The governor has the power to declare emergencies such as a disaster emergency. This is a crucial step if an eruption of Mount



Saint Helens occurred. Inslee has been working in public service and climate issues for a long time. He is the longest-serving governor in the United States and has worked hard for better conditions for the people in Washington, and an immediate reaction to Mount Saint Helens erupting won't be any different response.

**Jacob B. Lowenstern**

Jacob B. Lowenstern is a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Vancouver, Washington. He is the Chief of the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program. The Volcano Disaster Assistance Program is a part of USGS and USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance. The Volcano Hazards Team at USGS has experts doing volcano hazard assessment, monitoring, spreading information, and volcano-emergency response. The Volcano Science Center is based in Anchorage, Alaska. Field stations include the Volcano Observatories located in California, Hawaii, and Washington.

**Colonel Scott L. McLaughlin**

Colonel Scott L. McLaughlin is the commander of the 446th airlift wing in the state of Washington. They operate up to 40 C-17 Globemaster III and are staffed by nearly 2,400 people. As commander of this airwing, you have full command of the 40 aircraft and may operate them at will under the go-ahead of SECDEF Lloyd J. Austin III.

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