



Specialized Committees: What are they?

Hello, delegates! We hope you are as excited about YMUN 50 as we are. We wrote this document to clarify a bit more about YMUN's most nebulous committee organ, Specialized. Below are the characteristics that make Specialized committees so unique and exciting.

Small Rooms

- Specialized committees are very small, with around 20 delegates per committee. While there exists some variation depending on the committee, 20-22 is a good number to expect per committee. The small size of these committees means that they are quite conducive to a dynamic and lively debate!

We use Directives, Not Resolutions

- Specialized committees are similar to Crisis committees in that delegates enact policies and actions through Directives.
 - Directives are shorter than Resolutions, which are typically seen in General Assemblies, ECOSOCs, and Regional Bodies.
 - Unlike Resolutions, Directives aren't voted on at the end of a topic's discussion; they are drafted and passed several times per session.
 - Directives influence the course of the committee and will impact the world that the committee is taking place in, meaning you will get to observe the actual consequences of your policies and react to them over the course of the conference, keeping debate dynamic and fresh.
 - No Crisis Notes
 - A major distinction between Specialized and Crisis committees is that we do not use Crisis Notes: the ability for each delegate to privately influence the conference by sending notes to the "back room".
 - Because Specialized does not have this component, our committees see increased cooperation and more substantive debate on the issues and solutions they are addressing. It also allows for a larger number of more complex Crisis Updates to take place. These updates are inspired by the flow of debate and help push (and create) narrative arcs within the debate!



Unique Structures

- Our committees reserve the right to incorporate variations of parliamentary procedure and the typical UNA-USA MUN format over the course of the conference.
- These changes may vary in magnitude: some committees, like the International Court of Justice, are a completely different procedure that is explained to delegates prior to committee.
 - Other committees may incorporate smaller changes, like adapted voting procedures, time warps, and more. These changes may or may not be disclosed prior to the conference (keeping you on your toes!)
 - This year, all Specialized Committees will have some “special” element that can’t be found in any other YMUN committee. We’re excited to make Specialized more Special (and engaging) than ever.

I hope that this will be helpful in your preparations for the conference, and I urge you to reach out to me or your committee chairs if you’ve got any questions. I am always more than happy to answer any questions you all may have. On behalf of the chairs and the Specialized team, I want to emphasize how excited we all are for YMUN 50 to begin!

See you soon,

Benjamin Sanchez Pla
Under-Secretary-General of Specialized Committees
he/him/his
specialized@ymun.org

