



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference III  
Saturday, January 31 to Sunday, February 1, 2015  
Boston University Academy  
Boston, MA*



***Joint Committee Crisis 2  
(JCC2):  
Morocco***

***Background Guide***

## ***Welcome to Joint Crisis!***

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jason Silvestri and I am a senior at BU Academy. At last year's BUAMUN, I very much enjoyed playing the role of fate as the Chief of Joint Crisis Committees, and I'm very excited to continue working in the same role this year!

For those of you who don't know what a "joint crisis committee" is, it is essentially a fast-paced, more action-oriented version of a Model UN committee. The idea of a Joint Crisis Committee was first pioneered in collegiate-level Model UN conferences and is now implemented on a large scale throughout many college and high-school level MUN conferences worldwide to provide both a more intense and competitive arena for debate among delegates and an opportunity to simulate the inner workings of individual countries' cabinets and smaller-scale international relations. In a Joint Crisis Simulation, there are several committees that are all linked through some common issue. Each delegate represents a specific member of his/her country's cabinet and works both on an individual level, making use of the crisis staff for anything that is tangentially pertinent to the crisis simulation (be it anything from direct orders for the delegate's ministry within the simulated government to written "points of information" to request more detailed facts and figures about the rapidly-changing situation in the simulation). I myself have participated in several crisis committees at collegiate high-school level conferences and have run many crisis-committee simulations for BU Academy's Model UN travel team, in addition to running our (infamous) South America JCC last February. I hope you all enjoy this year's BUAMUN JCC, and on that note I'm proud to present this year's JCC scenario.

The BUAMUN 2015 JCC will be centered on the Maghreb: that is, Morocco, Algeria, and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (also known as Western Sahara, or the SADR for

short). The area of Western Sahara is a highly-contested territory on the Atlantic coast, south of Morocco and north of Mauritania. It, along with much of Morocco, was colonized by the Spanish until the 1975, when, during an international initiative to decolonize Africa, Spain left the two colonies to their own devices; Morocco almost immediately annexed the colony of *Rio de Oro*, or Western Sahara, as it had an official claim to the land since 1957, and an unspoken ancestral claim to the land before then. Then, in the 1990s there was an intense military conflict between Morocco and the ethnically Sahrawi rebels in the south of Morocco. The Polisario Front, which was the leading paramilitary militia group of the Sahrawi rebels was largely funded by the neighboring nation of Algeria. This caused tensions to build between Morocco and Algeria, and a proxy war was fought between them over Western Sahara until peace was brokered by the international community in the late 1990s. Ethnic tensions still are present to a high degree in the area, and one small act of aggression could spark conflict in this tumultuous corner of the world. To make matters worse, around 90,000 Sahrawi refugees still remain in refugee camps in Algeria, awaiting a window for safe return to their homeland in Western Sahara.

Best of luck and happy researching, and as they say in the Maghreb, *incha'*

*Allah* (hopefully) you will find a way to keep the delicate peace in this year's JCC simulation!

Sincerely,  
Jason Silvestri  
Director of JCCs  
[jcc@buamun.org](mailto:jcc@buamun.org)

## *A Welcome from the Chair*

Hi, delegates! My name is Maddy Joung, and I will be chairing JCC Morocco at BUAMUN 2015. I am a junior at Boston University Academy, and this is my third year as a member of their Model UN team. Aside from Model UN, I help run the literary magazine, play both doubles and singles for the tennis team, and do classical violin and music theory.

Hello from the vice chair! I'm Amrita Sridhar, and I will be supporting Maddy as we create an absolutely amazing committee. I am currently a sophomore at Boston University Academy, and this is my second year as a part of BUAMUN. Outside of school I enjoy singing (especially riffing), classical Indian dance, and doing flips off the diving board.

We're looking forward to overseeing the committee as we look for solutions to real-world problems in what is sure to be a fast-paced, exciting simulation with interactions between the countries in joint crisis. The development of Morocco will be an interesting shift away from the American perspective. As Morocco looks inward, specifically to improve its poverty, education, and women's and minority rights issues, and deal with the region that calls itself Western Sahara, it must also look outwards due to disputes with Algeria and Mauritania.

In committee, we will operate under a modified version of parliamentary procedure, reverting to a moderated caucus rather than the speaker's list. We will review this—as well as all other procedural matters—for all delegates at the beginning of committee. If you have any questions about research, writing a position paper, or anything else, please don't hesitate to email (address below).

See you in committee!

Maddy Joung, Chair  
Amrita Sridhar, Vice-Chair  
[morocco@buamun.org](mailto:morocco@buamun.org)

## ***Crisis Committee Flow of Debate:***

*Adapted from Phill Giliver, 2013*

Crisis committees at BUAMUN and other conferences work differently from “regular” General Assembly (GA) committees. Crises follow a less formal flow of debate, and generally remove many of the elements of parliamentary procedure. Delegates must still raise placards to speak, and must follow the standards of diplomatic politesse; however, elements of debate such as speakers’ lists and moderated/un-moderated caucuses are mostly done away with. Motions for caucuses on specific topics are encouraged, but crisis debate generally runs like a never-ending moderated caucus. This structure is adopted because during a crisis simulation, events and crises can progress rapidly, and a full implementation of parliamentary procedure would only slow delegates’ ability to respond to fast-paced happenings.

There are 3 general measures that delegates in a crisis committee can perform:

1. **Directives:** formal action undertaken by a committee or an individual on a committee.

Directives can contain any *reasonable* action and may be drafted by any delegate on a crisis committee (for example, a directive can declare war on another nation; however, it may also ask the other nation to attend bilateral treaty negotiations). After a draft is written, delegates submit directives to the chair. The chair will then read the directive, at which point delegates can motion to alter the directive or to vote on it.

In some cases, delegates may send private directives to the chair, also known as **portfolio action**. This type of directive depends on the purview of the delegate’s position. For example, the chief of a nation’s intelligence agency may order the secret detainment of a known terrorist. Likewise, the minister of energy for a nation may choose to cut energy agreements with another nation. Conversely, a minister of culture may not unilaterally

declare war, nor may the minister of education impose economic sanctions on another nation, etc.

2. **Press Releases:** formal statements from a committee detailing an action or a committee's stance or opinion. For example, if a committee representing the United States decided to attack Canada (absurdity intended), the committee could issue a Press Release telling the world that they have chosen to break all economic and trade ties with Canada and launch full scale war. Similarly, if the US waged war on Canada, a committee representing the United Kingdom could issue a Press Release condemning the US's action.
3. **Communiqués:** informal communication between individuals or committees. For example, if a committee representing Iran chose to send information to the leader of Hezbollah (a terrorist organization represented on a Lebanese committee), it could do so in a communiqué, and only the addressee would receive the information. Similarly, two economic ministers (for example, of Australia and the UK) could be communicating without anyone else's knowledge through communiqués.

The crisis chairs and crisis staff will inform you of any additional actions that you may take; they will also make sure that no delegate's actions are out of order.

Crises occur rapidly and often throughout the course of crisis simulations—be prepared to think on your feet and to enact whatever measures you and your fellow delegates feel are necessary, and most importantly, have fun!

## ***Introduction to Committee***

The crisis simulation will be run through BUAMUN's Joint Crisis Room, and will feature three separate cabinets: Morocco, Algeria, and the region of Western Sahara, each represented in our simulation by a committee. This committee will be representing Morocco; as the chair, I will be assuming the role of the Moroccan king, Mohammed VI. Although debate will consist of cooperative discussion that leads to unified decisions, each delegate will be a member of the cabinet who possesses unique portfolio powers that can independently move the simulation forward. Delegates should look to the end of the background guide for portfolio powers. Most of our debate will take place in a moderated caucus.

## ***Position Paper Information***

All of the BUAMUN joint crisis committees require position papers from each delegate (one for each topic). Position papers are short pieces of writing indicating a delegate's stance which contribute to a chair's perspective regarding awards. A position paper should be approximately 1-2 pages, double spaced, and should include a short introduction to the topic, the delegate's past and present positions on the topic, and proposed solutions. Please label the position paper with the following header format:

Delegate: Madeleine Joung  
School: Boston University Academy  
Committee: Guyana Joint Crisis  
Position: President/Donald Ramotar  
Topic I: Essequibo Valley Dispute

But please make sure to change the header so it is appropriate to you and your committee.

Please choose one topic and write one position paper. Thanks!

## ***Country Background***

The Kingdom of Morocco is a constitutional monarchy in northern Africa consisting of 15 geographical regions. Previously a French colony, Morocco gained its independence in 1956, and still retains French influences in its government and culture. More recent political reforms due to the Arab Spring resulted in a new constitution in 2011 that gives more power to Parliament, which is headed by the Prime Minister. Elections now determine the political party of the Prime Minister, but he or she is still appointed by the king. The king is also the head of foreign affairs and security, as well as religion. The current king, in power since 1999, is Mohammed VI.

The vast majority of people in Morocco are Muslim and of Arab-Berber descent. The official languages are Arabic and Tamazight, a Berber language. French is also commonly spoken in administrative, business, and government settings. 57% of the population is urban; the largest city is Casablanca, and the second-largest is the capital, Rabat.

Morocco borders Algeria, shares a short border with Spain, and claims the territory of Western Sahara. Some within Western Sahara have failed to recognize Morocco's claim, however.

### ***Topic I: Domestic Issues***

Poverty is more than twice as prevalent in rural areas as in urban areas. An estimated 8% of children are child laborers. On the flip side, youth unemployment is high, at 18.1%. Most, but not all (83.6%), of the population has access to drinking water.

The literacy rate for the population is 67.1%, with men having a much higher rate (76.1%) than women (57.6%). Children can follow a twelve-year curriculum that prepares them



for a tertiary education (college or university). Morocco currently spends 5.40% of its GDP on education, a percentage that is identical to that of the United States.

Regarding women's rights, reforms have been made as recently as 2004 to the Mudawana, or the family code, in keeping with modernization. Morocco also struggles to control sexual exploitation (it is a Tier 2 Watch List country, meaning its efforts are insufficient).

Focus Questions:

1. How would this cabinet address poverty and the disparity between urban and rural areas?

How will this cabinet balance more traditional sentiments with modernization? What are the costs of modernization and how will the government compensate for it?

2. What would be the best way to reform the education system? Does the system even need reforms? How much of the government's resources should go towards these reforms? Is it a worthwhile investment? What parts of the education system need reforming the most? Is it in the Moroccan government's interests to try and address the gender gap in education? If so, to what degree? And how would those systems be implemented in the more conservative, traditional regions?

3. Should the Mudawana be reformed further? If not, what other improvements can be made for women's rights outside of the Mudawana? How will this cabinet deal with more traditional members of society? What role should the government have in marriage contracts and other family matters? If any, how will this be enforced and implemented? What sort of resistance to progressive thinking might be encountered, and how would the cabinet deal with this?

## ***Topic II: Integration of Western Sahara***

Historically, the area called Western Sahara was claimed simultaneously by Spain, Mauritania, and Morocco. This led to the formation of an organization called the Polisario Front. The goal of the Polisario Front was initially to secure Moroccan independence, but after it became evident that their initial goal was not possible, they shifted gears and moved their operations to the west, an area that was not a part of Morocco at the time. On February 27, 1976, the Polisario Front proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and waged guerrilla war against both Morocco and Mauritania. The conflict caused many civilians to migrate to Algeria and Libya. Both of those countries supplied the front with arms and funding, presumably an attempt to weaken Morocco.

The weak Mauritanian regime, which had an army of under 3000 men, was unable to fight the guerrilla attacks. Furthermore, the loyalty to the Moroccan-Mauritanian cause was not strong amongst the citizens of Mauritania. The war caused a lack in funds and broke the government system, and the Mauritania regime fell to a coup d'état. When a successful raid killed the Polisario leader, the group's morale did not collapse as expected. Instead, a man named Mohamed Abdelaziz replaced him and continued pushing the attacks. A deal was made with the group on August 5, 1979 in which the new government of Mauritania allowed the Western Sahara region to be taken over by the Polisario. Mauritania then withdrew all its forces and formed an alliance with the group, which renamed itself the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. In response to this illegal seizure of land, Morocco claimed the portion of Western Sahara evacuated by Mauritania.

Around the mid-1980s, Morocco was able to block the Polisario troops by building a huge sand wall (the Moroccan Wall). The wall was guarded by an army the same size as the

rebellious Sahrawi population, which allowed Morocco to keep control of the region for the remainder of the war.

Finally, on September 6, 1991 a cease-fire was put into effect and was monitored by MINURSO (in the UN). It was put in with the promise of a referendum on independence within a year. However, the referendum was delayed over disagreements on voter rights. Morocco wished to include all people living in the territory and several thousands of people living in southern Morocco. The Polisario Front insisted that only those found in the 1974 final Spanish census and their descendants (a biased fraction of the population) should be included.

There have been several attempts to allow the citizens in the region decide their form of government, most notably the Baker Plan of 2003, but they have all failed. The first draft of the plan, by UN envoy James Baker in 2000, was never presented to Security Council. This meant that Western Sahara would become integrated with Morocco, and would be able to make decisions at the level of the local government. Both Algeria and the Polisario Front rejected this plan. Algeria then suggested that the territory be divided between parties. Following another failed plan known as Baker II, Polisario threatened to break the cease-fire and start another war, but never followed through with its threats.

In April 2007, the Polisario Front had submitted their own proposal that suggested returning to the previously unenforced idea of a referendum, but allowing for negotiation regarding the status of Moroccans living in the Western Sahara territory if the referendum was in favor of independence. The government of Morocco suggested in turn that a self-governing body through the Royal Advisory Council for Saharan Affairs should govern the territory, but allow for some autonomy for the region. This plan quickly gained French and US support. Per the suggestion of the UNSC, Morocco entered into direct negotiations with the

Polisario to reach a mutually accepted political solution, but no progress was made.

The main point of disagreement was whether or not to put independence as an option on the voting ballot. Morocco would not sign any plan that allowed it and the Polisario Front would not sign any plan without it. Finally, in May 2010, Polisario Front suspended contacts with the MINURSO because they were unable to implement the self-determination referendum. Despite being technically under the administration of Morocco, the territory has been recognized by 84 UN states.

In conclusion: since 1991, Morocco has retained control of approximately two-thirds of the land, while the rest has been taken over by the Polisario Front-linked Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. The SADR has strong ties to Algeria, which has caused some tensions between Algeria and Morocco. Although some have proposed a referendum within Western Sahara to determine its political future, Moroccan policy clearly states that this is not a possibility. King Mohammed VI has said, “We shall not give up one inch of our beloved Sahara. Not a grain of its sand.” Thus, one of the cabinet’s goals is to assert control over Western Sahara and further integrate it into the country.

*Focus Questions:*

1. What can Morocco do to gain further control of Western Sahara? Why is it politically important that Morocco succeed in this endeavor? How much control should the Moroccan government give to the Western Saharan government? To what degree is this Morocco’s choice?
2. How will Morocco’s actions in Western Sahara affect relations with Algeria? With Mauritania?
3. What sort of consequences might be expected if Morocco uses excessive force against

Western Sahara? What constitutes excessive force? How much can Morocco do without risking backlash? What sorts of backlash can be dealt with, and how?

4. Consider Moroccan public opinion on Western Sahara. How might this affect national unity?

Is it more advantageous to promote or discourage anti-Western Saharan sentiment within

Morocco? Is it possible to maintain an autonomous Western Sahara if that sentiment is strong?

### ***Topic III: Border Disputes with Algeria and Mauritania***

Algeria's border with Morocco has been disputed, at times causing violence along the border. Additionally, Algeria's backing of the Polisario Front in Western Sahara has caused Morocco to question its motives.

Western Sahara's border with Mauritania causes tensions between Morocco and Mauritania. The Moroccan government suspects that Mauritania is, like Algeria, aligned with the SADR, because they have cut deals with the Polisario Front in the past and undermined Moroccan efforts to integrate the Sahara region into the country.

#### **Focus Questions:**

1. How do Algerian relations with Morocco affect the ongoing problem in Western Sahara (see Topic II)? How can Morocco manage this conflict? To what degree will diplomacy be effective? What are its limitations? What are alternative solutions?

2. How do Mauritanian relations differ from Algerian relations? Should the approach used with Algeria also be applied to Mauritania? Would that tactic further unify the two countries against Morocco? Would it make Morocco's actions too predictable for other countries? Would diplomacy be better for this scenario, or would another approach be preferable?

## *List of Positions*

King, Mohammed VI (Chair)

1. Prime Minister, Abdelillah Benkirane
2. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Aziz Akhannouch
3. Minister of Communications and Gov't Spokesperson, Mustapha El Khalfi
4. Minister of Economy and Finance, Mohamed Boussaid
5. Minister of Energy, Mines, Water, and Environment, Abdelkader Amara
6. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Salaheddine Mezouar
7. Minister of Habous and Islamic Affairs, Ahmed Toufiq
8. Minister of Health, El Hossein El Ouardi
9. Minister of the Interior, Mohamed Hassad
10. Minister of Justice and Liberties, Mustafa Ramid
11. Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Abdesslam Seddiki
12. Minister of Moroccan Expatriates and Migration Affairs, Anis Birou
13. Minister of National Education, Rachid Belmokhtar
14. Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family, and Social Development, Bassima Hakkaoui
15. Governor, Bank al-Magrib, Abdellatif Jouahri

### ***Further Reading***

- <http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/>
- <http://www.maroc.ma/en>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture\\_of\\_Morocco#Ethnic\\_groups\\_and\\_languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Morocco#Ethnic_groups_and_languages)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\\_in\\_Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Morocco)
- <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20208632~menuPK:435735~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367~isCURL:Y~isCURL:Y,00.html>
- <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/morocco>
- <http://borgenproject.org/poverty-in-morocco/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudawana>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Morocco)

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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudawana>
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- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania-Morocco\\_relations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania-Morocco_relations)