

## Crisis Committees

These committees are fast-paced and ever changing. I hope this document provides you with information about parliamentary procedures, introducing crisis arcs, how to balance debate and crisis notes, and general crisis advice.

A crisis committee simulates any sort of body, cabinet, or council with some sort of political, economic, social, or other kind of goal. Delegates will work in teams here, but in different contexts than a normal Model UN committee. Delegates in other committees almost often represent countries (which is still possible in the crisis structure, but not required), whereas delegates in a Crisis Committee may be government Ministers, business executives, Senators, or cabinet members. Crisis committees respond directly to immediate issues and problems that may come up (hence, the title “Crisis Committee”).

Unlike other committees, Crisis Committees do not have delegates writing Resolutions. Instead, they can create, either on their own or with other delegates, a variety of different documents that can advance the committee or individual’s interests.

Crisis committees also follows slightly different parliamentary procedure than normal Model UN committees. There are typical points and motions such as Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Inquiry, Point of Order, Motion for a Moderated Caucus, and Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus. However, there are also some lesser used points of parliamentary procedure like:

- Motion for a Gentleman’s Unmoderated Caucus- an unmoderated caucus where delegates remain in their seat
- Motion for a Round Robin- in lieu of a speakers list everyone gets a set time to speak
- Motion to suspend the rules of procedure- pauses the use of parliamentary procedure
- Motion for a straw poll vote- causes a quick show of hands to see what the general opinion of the committee is
- Motion to vote on Directives- instead of introducing working papers and resolutions crisis committees immediately vote on directives

Crisis arcs are an integral part of crisis committees. A crisis arc is the story that you want conveyed to the crisis backroom (where crises are made) during committee. It is the delegate’s choice whether or not they want to convey that same message within the front room (where the debate is). For example, Alexander Hamilton is secretly working with the British but continuing the facade that he is pro-revolution in committee. A good crisis arc is fluid and can be followed by the crisis backroom with your goals being clear. This should be accomplished through primarily personal and committee directives.

A personal directive should be a clear and detailed plan on what actions you want done in the backroom. The more detailed a personal directive is the better so the crisis directors (CDs) have a better concept of the sequence of actions you want to take place and they can accurately come to fruition. A good format for crisis notes is through the format of a letter rather than a bulleted list of commands.

There should be a clear balance between front room and back room activity. A good delegate roughly splits their focus 50/50 between the front room and back room. However, your focus should depend on your committee, the level of debate, and your role within committee. If you have any questions on splitting your focus feel free to ask your committee's director.

Ultimately, a delegate excels in crisis committees when they balance having fun with the seriousness and depth of the topic at hand. I strongly encourage all delegates to try and make the most out of this experience and to have a great time during committee sessions.

Below are some key terms and examples relating to crisis committees:

**Committee Directive** — This is an action taken by the entire committee, and must pass by a Simple Majority vote to pass. Directives are concise, yet detailed. For example, a Committee Directive can say, "Schedule Vice President Harris to visit and give a speech at UCMUN on November 5." Directives should be specific — instead of just "move troops," it should say how many troops to move and where the troops should be moved.

**Personal Directive** — This action does not need committee support, and can be submitted individually by only one delegate. The idea behind this document is that each individual, in their unique position, also has unique powers within the committee (seen later in this background guide). For example, a social media director can say, "Tweet "\_\_\_" out of Lizzo's official Twitter account." Or the role of someone managing money can say "Set aside \$10,000 for an emergency fund related to \_\_\_\_." Often, these actions can be taken in secret and may be for personal gain of the individual delegate (the delegate may be able to use those funds for other purposes related to the committee, maybe it isn't simply an "emergency fund").

The fun part of Personal Directives is that you can use them to create more crises, or stimulate other actions in the committee.

**Press Release** — the exact name of this kind of document may change depending on your committee (for example, if your committee is an Ancient Egyptian council, you might want to change it to "A Decree from the Pharaoh" or something like that). This is a statement that the

committee releases to the public, expressing the committee's general sentiment/concern for an issue, or discussing the committee's recent accomplishments in tackling a public scandal or crisis, etc. For example, Justin Trudeau's campaign might issue a press release condemning a terrorist attack and showing sympathy for the victims and wishing to stand with their families in solidarity against hate, etc. These are voted on and passed by the committee.

For Committee Directives and Press Releases, delegates are required to serve as Sponsors and Signatories. Sponsors are those delegates who wrote the document, either one or multiple delegates in collaboration. Signatories are simply delegates who want to see it be debated, whether they agree with it or not (usually it just means that the sponsors circle their directive around and get a few other people to sign off on it before handing it in). For Crisis Committees, directives or press releases do not require collaboration, but it is expected that some should and will be the result of collaboration. The exact requirement for signatories is usually a percentage of the number of delegates in the committee, which will be updated so you know when you have to chair.

**Example Committee Directive:**

Directive 1.1 Declaration of War

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Schumer

Signatories: Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Sen. Mitch McConnell

1. Moves 180,000 American troops into Genovia immediately to fight the tyrannical rule of Mia Thermopolis:
  - a. To be lead by General Bob Duncan;
  - b. Access to unlimited defense funds.

**Example Personal Directive:**

Avatar Aang,

Zuko here. I was recently in a Fire Nation military meeting and overheard my father plan to invade the Northern Water Tribe. We must come up with a plan to prevent that. Meet me at the tree of time in the spirit world at 10:00 am to discuss our strategy. This meeting must remain confidential. In the meantime move our assets to the Northern Water Tribe to help defend it at all costs.

Best,

Prince Zuko