

# Crisis Committee Rules of Procedure

**NOTE:** This document should be considered secondary to committee-specific procedure. Should a committee chair, crisis staff, or background guide specify alternative committee procedure that should be considered superior to the default laid-out below.

## Points

Raised by delegates in order to ask a question or make a statement

- 1) **Inquiry:** Poses a question, usually procedural or logistical, of the Chair.  
Example: “Point of inquiry, how do we pass a directive?”
- 2) **Order:** Calls attention to a procedural mistake made by the Chair or by another delegate.  
Example: “Point of order, there is no speaker’s list in a crisis committee.”
- 3) **Personal Privilege:** Addresses a personal concern that hinders the progress of the committee as a whole. Should not be used to request permission to use the restroom.  
Example: Room temperature, Chair’s speaking volume, visual impairment (can’t see a visual displayed by the Dais).

**NOTE:** *Points of Information do not apply during a crisis committee as there is no speaker’s list.*

## Committee and Delegate Actions

Instead of resolutions, the following are utilized during a Crisis Committee. They are used to take action and correspond with the Crisis Staff or other committees.

### Committee Actions

*The following require a 50%+1 placard vote.*

- 1) **Directives:** Directives are closest to a standard-style resolution. However, they only contain operative clauses. These are concrete actions taken by the whole committee.  
Example: Moving troops, funding a vaccine, sending an envoy to another committee or country, etc.
- 2) **Communiques:** Communication or statements issued by the committee. For the purpose of this conference, this includes press releases.  
Example: Propaganda or statements made to the press, communication with other committees, etc.
- 3) **Straw Poll Vote:** Straw Poll Votes are informal, non-binding votes that may be requested by any delegate to get a better idea of the committee’s opinion on a topic during debate.  
Example: “May we have a straw poll vote to gauge the committee’s thoughts on peace with China before we discuss it?”

## **Delegate Actions**

Don't require a placard vote

- 1) **Portfolio Powers:** Often *private* actions taken by a delegate. These are a delegates (or a small combination of delegates') individual actions and thus, use their personal resources and power. Portfolio powers do not encompass or utilize committee resources, unless otherwise noted by crisis staff.

Unlike standard committees there are no resolutions, speaker's list, and there is no formal voting procedure (all votes done by placard).

## **Procedure of Debate**

Like standard committees, crisis committees will open with an attendance roll call and a motion to open session. From that point on, their flow of debate will be conducted differently.

By default crisis committees operate in a perpetual moderated caucus – this can either be done informally, or may require regular motions (at the Chair's discretion).

## **Motions**

Motions recommend action to be taken by the committee, either procedural or substantial. Some important motions to know are...

*All motions require a 50%+1 placard vote.*

## **Motion to Introduce and Vote on Drafted Committee Action**

To facilitate easy and quick committee action, delegates may read the clauses of any drafted committee action and immediately move into a vote, or at the chair's discretion may forego an introduction (if the Committee Action is already understood) and allow an immediate vote.

## **Moderated Caucuses**

Moderated Caucuses are the primary form of debate in any Model UN setting. In Moderated Caucuses or "Mods," delegates are called on to speak one at a time for a set amount of time. A moderated caucus is typically limited to a single, narrow topic.

**Round Robin-** A hallmark of most Crisis Committees, a 'Round Robin' may be motioned for at the start of session as an informal time for each delegate to introduce themselves in turn.

Speaking time should be set when the motion is made, and each delegate in the committee will get the chance to speak during a Round Robin.

## **Unmoderated Caucuses**

Unmoderated Caucuses or "Unmods" are the least formal form of debate in Model UN, in which all delegates are allowed to move around and converse. The Director will typically move around the committee room to listen to the discussion going on. Delegates are not allowed to leave the committee room, except to use the restroom or with permission from the Moderator, at this time.

***Gentlemen's Unmod:*** A Gentlemen's Unmod is the same as a regular Unmoderated Caucus with the key exception that delegates do not leave their seats and speak one at a time. In this way, it often can serve as a less formal moderated caucus without direction from the Chair.

*When motioned for, Moderated Caucuses must have a specified length, speaking time, and topic, and Unmoderated Caucuses must have a specified length.*

**Note:** Normal committee procedures may be interrupted for a Crisis Interruption. Crisis Committees should expect regular interruption from external actors, officials, messengers, etc. (both friendly and unfriendly) Occasionally, a message will allow for a subsequent questioning period (at Chair/Crisis discretion).