

Background Guide

Crisis Committee

IITD MUN 2013

Theme:

Weapons Proliferation

What is a Crisis Committee?

A Crisis Committee is without a doubt one of the most challenging committees to be simulated at a Model UN Conference. Without any information about a fixed agenda or even the nature of the committee they will be simulating (like the UNGA/UNSC/UNHRC etc), delegates take part in the Crisis Committee solving problems much beyond their imagination. Essentially during the days of the MUN, the committee is perpetually in a state of crisis and by the end of committee session, delegates are expected to provide comprehensive solutions to every aspect of the problem. Hence, the committee deals with problems, which may involve humanitarian crisis, military tensions, violence undertaken by state and non-state actors, environmental disasters or even economic tensions. Very often one major crisis leads to several small crises, all of which need to be effectively solved by the delegates. Being in a Crisis Committee is all about being **logical, courageous, analytical, receptive, flexible** and most importantly swift in decision making i.e. **spontaneous**. A Crisis Committee needs to undertake the best possible “damage control” for the problem at hand and also needs to take crucial decisions regarding what information needs to be made public via press communiqués and what actions need to be taken in the form of resolutions or directives.

How Must Delegates Prepare for a Crisis Committee?

It is important for the delegates of a Crisis Committee to research their countries **foreign policy** and keep abreast of the latest international events concerning their assigned country. Also, by knowing the bordering countries, the military structure of their country, the dependency on other nations, membership alliances, membership of blocs, their country’s recent history etcetera; the delegates enable themselves to reply and deal with evolvments appropriately. Apart from this, as a basic essential each delegate must be thorough with the **UN Charter**, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The Rome Statute, The Vienna Convention, the jurisdiction of the ICC and the ICJ, Geneva Convention, **basic geo-political scenario of the world, conflict areas**, possible and **impending international crises** and of-course **the structure and working of the UN**, itself. Delegates must also never forget that if they are unable to apply the knowledge that they have, and then it is worthless.

Tips for Delegates in Crisis Committees

**Do the homework!* You will feel much more comfortable, and find yourself infinitely more engaged, if you prepare beforehand. Knowledge is power.

**Be active!* Nothing is as fun on the sidelines. When a situation arises, field ideas, collaborate, and always continue seeking new information. Take what you know, combine it with what is happening, and create a solution. The resolution of an international problem is in your hands; be a spectator, and nothing will be accomplished.

**Know the rules!* Crisis committees usually have their own unique rules of procedure, involving different styles of debate and voting. Knowing the intricacies of these rules is often important. At IITD MUN, Standard UNSC Rules of Procedure will be put to use.

** Be prepared to talk!* Due to their smaller size, crises give a delegate a greater opportunity to speak. Try to do so whenever possible provided you have something constructive to add to the debate.

**Think critically!* While pushing forward your own ideas is important, figuring out why *other* ideas won't work is critical. Your argumentative skills are vital; if you think a proposal will end badly, do not hesitate to tell the committee why.

**Stay on policy!* Though a crisis encourages delegates to be creative, it should not prompt an abandonment of your country's position, especially to benefit only yourself. It is much more likely that any sign of betrayal will be leapt upon by your fellow delegates, ending your chances of a reward.

**Get excited!* As a delegate in a Crisis Committee, you will have the opportunity to more truly experience the dynamic challenges and ever-changing pressures of a national or international organization.

Signing off

Rohan Dev Talwar

Abhinav Verma