Dear Crisis Committee delegates,

Welcome to one of this year’s new councils! This is a type of “mini-security council” with a crisis-themed atmosphere. You will soon receive your country assignments, allowing you to conduct in-depth research to gain a comprehensive understanding of your country’s history, values, and current political situation. However, you will NOT receive any specific topic-related content to research, as you will be informed of the crisis or crises on the day of the conference.

As you may be aware, there will be only one student per delegation in the Crisis Committee. It is our hope that every country will represent a different school participating in HSMUN 2018. This will set a level playing field for participants with no school having an advantage by coordinating with another student before the conference begins. In addition, every delegate of the Crisis Committee should have attended at least one previous Canisius College Model UN conference. This will ensure a faster pace for the committee as well as a common background and experience by which the committee is founded.

The council will function as a solo room Crisis Committee, meaning that the crises and its coordination to improve the situations will be limited to members within the committee. There will be no specific coordination with other councils or committees running during HSMUN 2018. The committee will run similarly to a security council, following the same LEIMUN rules as those used in the rest of the conference. Members will be allowed to communicate by written notes within the committee.

As explained by the Michigan State University Model UN, a crisis committee “is a small body, with usually no more than twenty members, brought together to deal with an issue of immediate importance.” While the other councils at the conference work to find long-term solutions to long-term problems, such as economic coordination, this Crisis Committee will mostly handle short-term issues with swift and decisive measures. Potential topics include (but are not limited to) issues like wars, revolutions, disaster control, or economic collapse.

The committee in session should be dynamic and is more involved than a normal security council. Participants are expected to be participatory and remain focused on the committee’s often time-sensitive crisis. When the body passes a resolution, known as a directive for Crisis Committees, its effects and results are brought to the body in news articles and other material means. In other words, the topics will continue to change and evolve based on the actions the body does (or does not) take.

This year’s Crisis Committee will operate in a contemporary setting. Delegates should prepare by researching their country over the past few years, up through the date of the conference (November 1, 2018). This includes keeping up with current news and their country’s reaction to these situations as the conference approaches. There will be no topic guides released prior to the conference. Preparation should be focused on knowing their country. Important factors to consider could be current government, important country-specific issues, economic standing, involvement in current negotiations or conflicts, and potential allies within and outside of the committee.

Crisis Committee delegates are also encouraged to complete a position paper. This will be different than other councils’ position papers as delegates will not know what topics or crises they will be dealing with. Instead, these position papers should focus on conveying an understanding of their country (including but not limited to the factors listed above) to the Chair. Format should be followed as outlined in the letter addressing position papers, included in this mailing. Only content should be altered for the Crisis Committee. (Organization may include political, social, and economic considerations of a country, rather than addressing three separate topics.)

In addition to the information contained in this letter, here are a few further tips about preparing for a crisis committee:

• Stay in character! The Chair and Crisis Director made your position for a reason. Acting like your country or character is a great way to stimulate debate and gain recognition.

• Be flexible! Ideas that are sound one minute can often be rendered moot the next. As topics change, so must you alter your approached to them.

• Be ready to speak! With so few delegates it is expected to speak often in a Crisis Committee.

• Participate in drafting, not just passing notes! While individual action is fun, it is not nearly as effective as drafting strong directives. Being an active participant in the committee is a good way to demonstrate leadership and clear thinking.

• Know the committee’s rules! A strong knowledge of LEIMUN rules and procedure will assist you in keeping up with how the committee is running.
• *Focus on the purpose of the committee!* War councils shouldn’t be concerned with domestic literacy rates. Election teams shouldn’t try to build spaceships. Remembering why your committee has been assembled will grant you clarity of purpose.

The staff of HSMUN 2018 look forward to meeting you on conference day, November 1, 2018. If you have any questions or concerns specific to this committee, or other, more general concerns about the conference should be addressed to Dr. Paola Fajardo-Heyward at fajardop@canisius.edu.