

HMDC Presents... FUTURISTIC SC: Sample Directives and Crisis Notes

HMDC Presents... Sample Directives: Futuristic Security Council (2100)

THIS IS A MODEL TO LEARN FROM, NOT TO COPY. We never bring pre-written directives or speeches into committee, because the crisis staff will give us a different event and our answers must fit it. We study these samples at home to learn their shape: who acts, what they do, by when, and who pays. Then we write our own, live, in our own words, in answer to whatever the crisis staff announce.

At Harvard's online conference, our committee is a Specialized Body. Harvard tells us: "Specialized bodies are directive-based and small-sized, at 20 to 40 delegates each, with no backroom elements, simulating the fast-paced and unpredictable challenges that face our global leaders" (Harvard Model United Nations, HMUN Online Committees, Last Accessed: October 2026). This means there are no secret crisis notes and no personal plans in December. All of our work happens in the front room: the crisis staff announce an update, we write directives to answer it, and we speak to win votes for them.

HOW TO READ THIS SAMPLE

Every fact in this sample is one of two kinds, and we always know which kind we are reading.

1. **REAL (CITED):** A fact from the real world of 2026 or earlier. It always carries a citation in brackets, and every one of them comes from our research report, "HMDC Presents... Futuristic Security Council: Security Council of 2100: Use of Space", from the Charter of the United Nations, or from Harvard's Guide to Delegate Preparation and its HMUN Online Committees page. We may use these facts in committee.
2. **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE:** Anything that happens in the year 2100, every name of a satellite, fund or office that does not exist today, and every date after 2026. These are marked **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE** and must never be cited as evidence.

Harvard's own guide tells us how directives work. Directives are the committee's actions; they follow the structure of a working paper, but Directors "will be generous with the format" because directives are written quickly (Harvard Model United Nations, Guide to Delegate Preparation, Rule 37, September 14, 2026). The exact rules for our committee, such as how many sponsors a directive needs and how directives are sent online, are not in our files. **Our chair will explain the exact rules**, and we follow the chair over anything in this sample.

THE POWERS THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS

Before we write a directive, we check that the Council actually has the power to do what we ask. These are real powers in the Charter of the United Nations today. We assume the Charter still applies in the year 2100 unless the crisis staff tell us otherwise.

1. **Naming a threat:** The Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" (Charter of the United Nations, Article 39, Last Accessed: October 2026).
2. **Ordering first steps:** "In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation," the Council may call on the parties to follow "provisional measures" (Charter of the United Nations, Article 40, Last Accessed: October 2026).
3. **Acting without armed force:** The Council may decide on measures "not involving the use of armed force," including interrupting economic relations and "radio, and other means of communication" (Charter of the United Nations, Article 41, Last Accessed: October 2026).
4. **Creating new offices:** "The Security Council may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions" (Charter of the United Nations, Article 29, Last Accessed: October 2026).
5. **Binding every member:** UN members "agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council" (Charter of the United Nations, Article 25, Last Accessed: October 2026).
6. **Facing the veto:** Each of the five permanent members can block a resolution alone with a single negative vote (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, April 24, 2024), and a draft needs nine votes in favour (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). Whether the veto applies to directives in our committee is a question for our chair.

SAMPLE CRISIS UPDATE

INVENTED FOR PRACTICE. NONE OF THE EVENTS BELOW HAS HAPPENED.

CRISIS UPDATE 1: THE BOREALIS BREAK-UP

December 5, 2100, 09:00 UTC. Twelve hours ago, a satellite registered as a "repair and refuelling" craft, Borealis-7, moved to within 200 metres of an old weather satellite at about 800 km altitude. It gave no advance notice. Minutes later, both satellites broke apart. Tracking stations now count more than 2,000 new pieces of debris.

Three of the pieces have already struck a disaster-warning satellite that serves flood-prone countries in South Asia and West Africa. Monsoon warnings for 40 million people have stopped. Insurance companies say they will no longer cover any satellite launched to the 750 to 850 km band.

The state that licensed Borealis-7 says the collision was an accident. Two other Council members say it was a weapons test disguised as a repair. A private company that runs 300,000 internet satellites says it will move them only if someone else pays the fuel cost.

The Secretary-General asks the Council to act within 48 hours.

SAMPLE DIRECTIVE 1: THE ORBITAL EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE

Directive title: Orbital Emergency Response in the 750 to 850 km Band

Sponsors: Japan, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the French Republic

Signatories: [signatories]

Type: Committee directive (our chair will explain how many sponsors and signatories are needed)

The Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and determining under Article 39 that the Borealis break-up is a threat to international peace and security,

1. **Orders** every state that licenses satellites in the 750 to 850 km band to share its tracking data for that band, every six hours, with the new Orbital Emergency Cell created in Action 2, starting no later than December 6, 2100, at no cost to the Cell, because each state already collects this data for its own satellites;
2. **Establishes**, under Article 29 of the Charter, an Orbital Emergency Cell inside the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), which will:
 - a. Publish a public collision-warning map of the band by December 7, 2100;
 - b. Work with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), whose members already include rival space agencies;
 - c. Report to this Council every 72 hours until the Council ends this directive;
3. **Directs** every operator in the band, through the state that licenses it, to move working satellites out of the most dangerous paths named on the Cell's map within 10 days of the map's release, with the fuel cost paid first by the licensing state and later recovered from whoever the investigation in Directive 2 finds responsible, under the Liability Convention;
4. **Requests** that states with spare satellite capacity send weather and flood data to the affected countries through the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) within 72 hours, paid for from an Orbital Emergency Fund that each launching state supports with a share set by the Cell, based on how many satellites it has licensed in the band;
5. **Calls upon** every state to stop all close approaches closer than 5 km to another state's satellite in the band for 90 days unless it gives 24 hours of advance notice to the Cell and to the satellite's owner.

SAMPLE DIRECTIVE 2: THE INVESTIGATION AND TEST-BAN DIRECTIVE

Directive title: Fact-Finding on Borealis-7 and a Ban on Destructive Tests

Sponsors: The Republic of Korea, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Signatories: [signatories]

Type: Committee directive (our chair will explain the exact rules)

The Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. **Establishes** a three-member Borealis Fact-Finding Panel, chosen by the Secretary-General within 5 days, made up of experts from states that do not operate satellites in the 750 to 850 km band, paid for from the UN regular budget and repaid by the licensing state if the Panel finds it responsible;
2. **Instructs** the Panel to judge the event by three tests, intent, behaviour and harmful impact, and to report to this Council within 30 days on:
 - a. Whether Borealis-7's approach was planned or accidental;
 - b. Whether its owner gave advance notice, as the duty of "due regard" requires;
 - c. How much damage, in satellites lost and services cut, the break-up caused;

3. **Demands** that the state that licensed Borealis-7 hand over all flight records, commands and design papers for the craft to the Panel within 7 days, at its own cost;
4. **Decides** that all states shall not conduct any test that deliberately destroys a satellite in orbit, whether by a missile fired from the ground or by another satellite, starting immediately and with no end date, and that the Orbital Emergency Cell will report any suspected test to this Council within 48 hours;
5. **Warns** that if the Panel finds the break-up was deliberate, the Council will consider measures under Article 41, such as suspending that state's licences to launch into the band, at a meeting held within 14 days of the Panel's report.

SAMPLE DIRECTIVE 3: THE FLOOD WARNING DIRECTIVE

Directive title: Restoring Flood Warnings for the Affected Countries

Sponsors: Japan, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Signatories: [signatories]

Type: Committee directive (our chair will explain the exact rules)

The Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting that the Borealis break-up has stopped monsoon warnings for 40 million people,

1. **Requests** every state that runs weather satellites outside the 750 to 850 km band to offer free weather and flood data to each affected country through UN-SPIDER within 24 hours, at the providing state's own cost, and to keep sending it whether or not that country supports any directive;
2. **Requests** that UN-SPIDER offer each affected country a two-week course for its disaster officers on using satellite data, starting no later than January 15, 2101, paid for from the Orbital Emergency Fund created in Directive 1, so that no affected country depends on any one provider;
3. **Decides** that the affected countries shall choose two of their own number, within 10 days, to send one observer each to the Orbital Emergency Cell, so that countries that launch few satellites can see the collision map and the Cell's reports as they are made;
4. **Instructs** the Orbital Emergency Cell to report to this Council within 30 days on which affected countries still lack flood warnings, and what each one still needs.

SAMPLE SPEECH IN RESPONSE TO A CRISIS UPDATE

INVENTED FOR PRACTICE, EXCEPT THE TWO CITED FACTS. In a directive-based committee, our directives only become action when they win votes. So when the crisis staff announce an update, we ask the chair for a moderated caucus and use our speaking time to win support. This sample is about 120 words, which is about one minute of speaking.

Speaker: The Delegate of Japan, in a moderated caucus on Crisis Update 1

Honourable Chair, fellow delegates. Twelve hours ago, one satellite became more than 2,000 pieces. Near 800 km, debris can stay in orbit for centuries. This is not one nation's problem. As Guyana told this Council in 2024, space is a "shared global commons." Right now, 40 million people have no monsoon warnings.

Directive 1 does three things. It builds one public collision map, so no one has to guess. It moves working satellites out of danger within 10 days. And it brings back flood data within 72 hours.

Japan will not ask others to do what we will not do. We will share our own tracking data first, every six hours.

Whatever the investigation finds, the debris is already here. Please vote yes on Directive 1. Thank you.

Sources for the two real facts: Debris near 800 km can stay in orbit for centuries (NASA Orbital Debris Program Office, Last Accessed: October 2026). Guyana called space a "shared global commons" (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). We say the source aloud in a short form, such as "NASA tells us", only when we have time.

HOW EACH SAMPLE IS BUILT

The crisis update is invented, but every part of it is built from a real trend in our report. That is how we should read any crisis update in committee: we ask which real problem the crisis staff are stretching into the future, and we answer with the real rules and facts we already know.

HOW THE CRISIS UPDATE IS BUILT

1. **The "repair" craft that breaks a satellite:** Built from the real fact that the same skills that let one satellite repair or refuel another could let it disable a rival, that two Chinese satellites appear to have refuelled each other and one Chinese satellite towed a dead satellite to a higher orbit, and that Russian satellites have made close approaches (Center for Strategic and International Studies, May 22, 2026; Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 5, 2026). Report sections 3E and 1B.
2. **The height of 800 km:** Built from the real fact that debris near 800 km can stay in orbit for centuries, while debris below 600 km usually falls within several years (NASA Orbital Debris Program Office, Last Accessed: October 2026). Report section 1A.
3. **One event making thousands of pieces:** Built from the real fact that two events, the 2007 Fengyun-1C test and the 2009 Iridium-Cosmos collision, make up about one-third of all catalogued debris, and that break-ups in 2024 alone added at least 3,000 tracked objects (NASA Orbital Debris Program Office, Last Accessed: October 2026; European Space Agency, April 1, 2025). Report section 1A.
4. **Accident or weapons test:** Built from the real fact that most space systems are dual use, so harmless activity can be misread as hostile (RAND Corporation, June 9, 2026), and that in 2024 the Republic of Korea told the Council that defining a "weapon" in space is very difficult (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). Report sections 1C and 2C.
5. **Lost flood warnings in poorer countries:** Built from the real fact that UN-SPIDER shares satellite data for disasters, especially with developing countries (UN-SPIDER, Last Accessed: October 2026), and that risk from falling rockets falls mostly on cities in the Global South (Nature Astronomy, July 11, 2022). Report sections 2F and 1A.
6. **A company with 300,000 satellites:** Built from the real fact that one company operates about 65% of the 16,988 active satellites (Jonathan's Space Report, October 12, 2026) and has asked US regulators to approve one million (Brookings Institution, June 25, 2026). The number 300,000 is **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE**. Report section 1A.

HOW THE THREE DIRECTIVES ARE BUILT

1. **Using real Council powers:** Each action uses a power from the Charter: naming a threat (Article 39), creating a new office (Article 29), and warning of non-military measures (Article 41) (Charter of the United Nations, Last Accessed: October 2026). The Orbital Emergency Cell, the Orbital Emergency Fund, the Borealis Fact-Finding Panel, the training course and the observer seats are **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE**.
2. **Filling a real gap:** The Cell answers the real fact that no international body currently monitors debris or coordinates its removal (United Nations Secretary-General, Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 7, May 2023). Report sections 1A and 2G.
3. **Working with bodies that exist:** The directives name real bodies: UNOOSA, the IADC, whose 13 members include the space agencies of the United States, China, Russia and Ukraine (Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, Last Accessed: October 2026), and UN-SPIDER (United Nations General Assembly, December 14, 2006). Report sections 3H and 2F.
4. **Answering "who pays":** The payment lines lean on the real Liability Convention, under which states are liable for damage their space objects cause (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Last Accessed: October 2026). Report sections 2A and 2B.
5. **The three-part test:** Directive 2 borrows the real proposal to define a threat by intent, behaviour and harmful impact (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, February 9, 2026). Report section 2E.
6. **"Due regard" and advance notice:** The notice rules come from Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty, which requires "due regard" and consultation, a principle experts say "has been neglected and inconsistently applied" (Brookings Institution, July 14, 2026). Report section 1C.
7. **The test ban:** Directive 2 turns a real General Assembly request into a binding order: the Assembly called on all states not to conduct destructive anti-satellite missile tests (United Nations General Assembly, December 7, 2022), but only the Council can make that binding. Report section 1D. Our sample goes one step further and covers tests by satellites too, because the 2022 resolution covers only missiles fired from the ground.
8. **Choosing sponsors who could pass it:** The sponsors of each directive mix the two real 2024 camps. Japan, France, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom voted against Russia's draft, while Sierra Leone and Guyana voted for it (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). Report sections 2C and 2H. Their seats on the Council of 2100 are **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE**.

HOW DIRECTIVE 3 AND THE SPEECH ARE BUILT

1. **Working in the front room:** Harvard says our committee has "no backroom elements" (Harvard Model United Nations, HMUN Online Committees, Last Accessed: October 2026). So everything a delegate wants to do, such as helping the affected countries, must be written as a directive and passed by a vote, not sent as a secret note.
2. **Using a real argument for fairness:** Directive 3 rests on the real finding that the countries that launch the most push risk onto countries that launch few or none (Nature Astronomy, July 11, 2022), and on the real work of UN-SPIDER, which shares satellite data for disasters, especially with developing countries (UN-SPIDER, Last Accessed: October 2026). Report sections 1A and 2F.
3. **Choosing Japan as the speaker:** Japan's real space agency, JAXA, is a member of the IADC (Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, Last Accessed: October 2026), and Japan co-sponsored the 2024 draft on nuclear weapons in orbit (United Nations Security Council, April 24, 2024). Report sections 3H and 2C. Japan's offer to share its tracking data first is **INVENTED FOR PRACTICE**.

4. **Using two real facts in the speech:** The speech uses the real fact that debris near 800 km can stay in orbit for centuries (NASA Orbital Debris Program Office, Last Accessed: October 2026), and Guyana's real description of space as a "shared global commons" (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). Report sections 1A and 2H. Everything else in the speech is about the invented crisis.
 5. **Speaking to win votes:** The speech names what the directive does in three short steps and ends by asking for a "yes" vote, because a draft needs nine votes in favour (United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, May 20, 2024). Report section 2C. Showing that Japan acts first answers the question every other delegate is asking: "Will you do this too?"
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CHECKING OUR OWN DIRECTIVE BEFORE WE SUBMIT IT

We read every action in our draft and ask these questions. If any answer is "no", we fix that action before we hand the directive to the chair.

1. **Who acts:** Does the action name exactly who must act, such as a state, an office or an operator?
 2. **What they do:** Does it say one clear thing they must do, which we could check from outside?
 3. **By when:** Does it give a date or a number of days or hours?
 4. **Who pays:** Does it say where the money comes from?
 5. **Which power:** Does the Council actually have the power to order this, and could all five permanent members accept it?
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