# IBERIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## *CRISIS COMMITTEE PROCEDURAL GUIDE*

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# CRISIS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Crisis Committee is a unique, story-driven stimulation that challenges students to think creatively and fast. Unlike regular Model United Nations (MUN), including General Assembly, Human Rights Committee, and ECOSOC, in the crisis committee delegates must respond to rapidly changing situations and adapt their strategies. **Delegates do not represent a country, but individuals**.

The shift from the traditional, procedure structure of General Assembly committees often makes it more approachable and engaging—encouraging creativity and fast-paced problem-solving. However, Crisis Committee is recommended for experienced delegates and the fast-paced debates requires experience and creativity.

Unlike regular MUN, where power is dictated by a country's global standing, Crisis empowers every delegate equally. All delegates can achieve their objectives with the right strategy, use of resources, and effective communication.

In this committee, delegates will be divided into select **cabinets**, each representing distinct political ideologies and agendas. This structure allows for meaningful alliance-building, dynamic debate, and impactful decision-making.

Within each cabinet, delegates are expected to submit concise yet detailed **directives** that help move them closer to their objectives. These directives are sent directly to the **backroom**, where the **Crisis Staff** (or **"backroomers"**) will **review, revise if needed**, and decide whether to **approve or deny** them based on logic, feasibility, and creativity. Keep in mind: Delegates must both pursue their character's personal goals and to support the broader interests of the Cabinet.

Each delegate will receive a personalized **portfolio**, which includes information about their character's background, potential allies, resources, and specific objectives to guide them throughout the debate. Information can and will change throughout the debate, so delegates are advised to be prepared to think fast.


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# KEY ROLES

## *CABINETS*

Cabinets, like political parties, are groups of characters based on political stance which work together to draft **Cabinet Directives** and strategize against enemy cabinets. There are multiple cabinets, and their strength can determine the result of a debate.

## *CHAIR/MODERATOR*

**Every cabinet has at least one Chair** that helps to keep everyone on track, managing the flow of debate, and guiding procedure. Cabinet members can approach Chairs for help and ask questions throughout debate.

## *BACKROOM*

The backroom officer team **reviews all the directives** sent in by delegates. They decide which ones get approved, make changes, create press releases, or adjust the storylines to make the debate more exciting and dynamic.

## *CRISIS STAFF*

Crisis Staff operate within the backroom and take the floor to **share updates**. Breaking news, intelligence reports, and unexpected plot twists keep the debate moving forward. There shall be **no direct dialogue** between delegates and Crisis Staff.


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## *DELEGATES*

Delegates are responsible for shaping the direction of the committee through your speeches, negotiations, and actions. Their main tools are directives which help to achieve their Cabinet's character's personal **goals.**


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# DELEGATE ACTIONS

## *PUBLIC DIRECTIVES*

Public directives are addressed by any number of delegates from any combination of cabinets **available for public viewing**. Public directives can be group directives, personal directives, and cabinet directives. What differentiates between those directives to a public directive is that public directives will always be revealed to the rest of the delegates.

## *GROUP DIRECTIVES*

Group directives are written by several members of a cabinet and have optional visibility. Unlike individual directives, group directives must be co-signed by more than one delegate. It is recommended however to have multiple members of a cabinet or committee. Group directives are an efficient way to form alliances, propose a larger strategy or action, and gain more control.

## *PERSONAL DIRECTIVES*

Personal directives are written by individuals, mainly to achieve their **goal**, with optional visibility. Personal directives can be secretive, press releases, security directives, etc. The goal of personal directives is to allow delegates to execute their personal plans, drive their strategy, and work towards achieving their goal as an individual character.

## *CABINET DIRECTIVES*

Cabinet Directives are written by an entire cabinet, discussed, and voted on if necessary. Cabinet directives can be written at any time throughout the debate, if cabinets feel that they wish to take collective actions to support their mission. At times, cabinet directives will be written in moderated caucus, and or unmoderated caucus. Bear in mind that cabinet directives play a crucial role in the debate and significantly impact the balance of power between cabinets. The result of a


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directive will always be **read aloud** by the Crisis Staff in the Press Release. They should reflect the perspective of the cabinet as a whole, and, as such, hold more power.

## *SECRET DIRECTIVES*

Secret directives are **top secret**. They are usually written with members of the other cabinet, or when delegates have a secret mission. That said, secret directives will never be shared with third parties. They serve as a form of communication, and strategizing platform for delegates who have secret goals.

## *VOTING PROCEDURE*

While voting is uncommon in the Crisis Committee, disagreements, such as a cabinet being unable to agree on a Cabinet Directive or trial, can be settled through a vote. In such cases, procedure requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

## *PRESS RELEASES*

After debate time, the Crisis Staff will present the results of directives, news flashes, and keep the debate moving. Press Releases are the core of the debate, as while a situation may start one way, it will slowly veer into a completely ulterior direction.


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## *MOTION TO OPEN PROCEEDINGS*

In moderated caucus, if a delegate suspects a **misrepresentation of justice**, they may call for a motion to open proceedings, requesting a **trial to be held** against a delegate.

A delegate can be tried for the following reasons:

- **Sabotage** (High Treason / Conspiracy Against the State)
- **Espionage** (Spying or providing classified information to another state or Violation of Confidentiality)
- **Corruption** (Bribery)
- **Perjury** (Misrepresentation, False Testimony, Forgery)

Delegates may refer to the: TRIAL FLOWCHART for standard procedure.

"Motion to Open Proceedings against the delegation of [*name*] for [*reason*], would that be in order?"

If the motion passes, they will be asked by the chair if they have a **speech** prepared, in which case, they may take the floor and present a case against a delegate. Points of information will be entertained, and the defendant will be provided a **rebuttal**.

A simple **2/3 majority vote** of the cabinet will be required to find the delegate guilty. If the motion passes, the delegate can be sent to another Cabinet or even forced to change their character (they will be informed of the possibility beforehand).


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# DIRECTIVES

## *DIRECTIVE WRITING*

A directive is a message—like a letter, email, or memo—that is sent to the back room for review. But this is the key: **delegates do not write to the back room**. Instead, it is written "addressing" a character or association within the world *represented* by the back room. This could be a government agency, a private contractor, a military officer, a banker, or anyone the character would realistically contact to carry out a task.

The only case in which a directive should be aimed at the back room is if a delegate is arranging a private meeting with another delegate.

(There shall be **no direct dialogue** between delegates and the Crisis Staff otherwise, cabinets can interact with their Chairs instead)

Think of writing directives like telling a story—one that unfolds step by step. If a delegate wants to do something big, like build a missile or launch a business empire, they must lay the groundwork first:

1. Secure funding
2. Purchase land for development
3. Hire and train engineers.
4. Acquire materials.

Only *then* can the missile be built.

The more **realistic and logical** the plan, the more likely it is to be approved. If delegates skip these steps and write "I want to build a missile," the directive will likely be rejected. Directives have to be **concise** but **detailed** so that the backroom approves.


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## *BASIC DIRECTIVE STRUCTURE*

**What**: What do you want to do?

**How**: How will you make it happen (step by step)?

**Why**: Why does it make sense for your character, and how does it help the overall debate or storyline?

*EXTRA INFORMATION*

- Directives have three paragraphs **maximum.**
- Directives are meant to be engaging and spark debate.
- The back room may choose to approve a directive, but change the storyline, or add additional events, delegates should be ready to **adapt.**
- Delegates are encouraged to create **creative** directives to get out of their comfort zone and keep the debate engaging.

## *SAMPLE DIRECTIVES AND ANALYSIS*

Dear Finance Minister Smith,

The organization of … requests a 20-million-euro fund to purchase a strategic plot of land intended for the construction of a military supply equipment factory.

Thank you,

James

While acceptable at first glance, once deconstructed using the **What–How–Why structure**, it is clear that the directive is lacking crucial information.

James says he wants to buy land for a factory, but he is not specific. James does not mention:

1. Where the land is located and who controls it.


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2. What are the parties and beneficiaries.
3. Who owns the land.

A strong “how” should include:

1. How funds will be circulated and where they will come from, e.g., government taxes, loans, shares/board,
2. How this will benefit the finance minister
3. How will building procedure be delt with e.g., design, workers, timeline.

This part of the directive should show that the plan is **well thought-out** and **realistic**.

The most important part of a directive is the **why**. To convince the back room, the delegate must explain:

1. Why they deserve the funds.
2. Why this action is important to their character or mission.
3. How it will benefit the debate or the cabinet as a whole.

Similar to applying for a bank loan:

1. Say **how much** money is needed.
2. Provide **proof** of how it will be used and where current finances stand.
3. Justify how it will bring value back if approved.

James’ directive would not pass, but below is a directive with a similar goal, rewritten, that would pass.


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Dear Minister of Finance Smith,

I am requesting a 20-million-euro fund to buy a large plot of land in Paris, France. This will be used for the construction of a military equipment factory. The factory would be owned by my company “greatness” and would be ran by me and a local franchisee.

I would like to specify that the requested funds will be used specifically towards the purchase of the land. Once the land is secured, I will use the rest of the funds to cover recruitment, training, and construction of the facility itself. The actual acquisition of the land will be between the local French company “royalty”, and my company.

The reason I wish to purchase this land is due to rising tensions, therefore, a need for better military readiness. This factory will allow the nation to act independently, create jobs, and maintain domination.

Thank you,

James

Why is this directive good?

1. It states a clear goal, and request, leaving no doubts as to **what** will happen.
2. It states **how** this will happen, in this case, through company funds.
3. It states **why** this would be beneficial for the individual to be remained safe.

Essentially, when writing directives, like a resolution, there should be **no room for doubt** for the back room to make changes to a request, maintaining formality and proper MUN debate.

Below is another well-written example of a personal, security directive.


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Dear Head of Security Department,

I am requesting the immediate implementation of several personal security measures. Specifically, I would like to have five covert, professionally trained bodyguards to accompany me during work hours. I also need the addition of a food taster to inspect each of my meals before I eat them to eliminate the risk of poisoning. Lastly, I request the use of a bulletproof car driven by a personal driver who is also a certified boxing trainer.

These security measures should cost approximately €100,000 per month. That said, they will be covered through company funds. The reason for this request is due to recent targeted assassinations of high-level CEOs, including individuals linked to the FBI. As my secret activities continue to serve national interests, it is crucial that I remain safe safety in order for our operations to remain stable and successful.

Thank you,

Donelly.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for directive writing is not permitted. The backroom can and will identify AI use and turn directives against delegates if AI use is found.

## *SUBMISSION OF DIRECTIVES*

Directives are submitted via email to the Backroom. The relevant emails are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Email for information | imun@caislisbon.org |


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# CRISIS COMMITTEE DEBATE PROCEDURE

## *DEBATE TIME*

After roll call, delegates proceed into debate time. Debate time is split into either **Moderated**, or **Unmoderated Caucus**. After debate time concludes, delegates will submit their directive which the Chair will pass, block, or amend upon. The Crisis Staff then may announce an event in the Press Release.

## *MODERATED CAUCUS*

Within Moderated Caucus, the **Chair leads the debate**. A moderate caucus takes place mostly when writing cabinet directives, or when strategizing as a cabinet. Delegates who wish to take the floor will suggest a directive, and or a strategy (like regular MUN) which will be discussed, amended, and voted upon. This is **not** the time for submitting personal/group directives to the back room. In moderated caucus, the chair will give speaking permission to each delegate, while granting every delegate the ability to express their opinions, thoughts, and asking questions to other delegates.

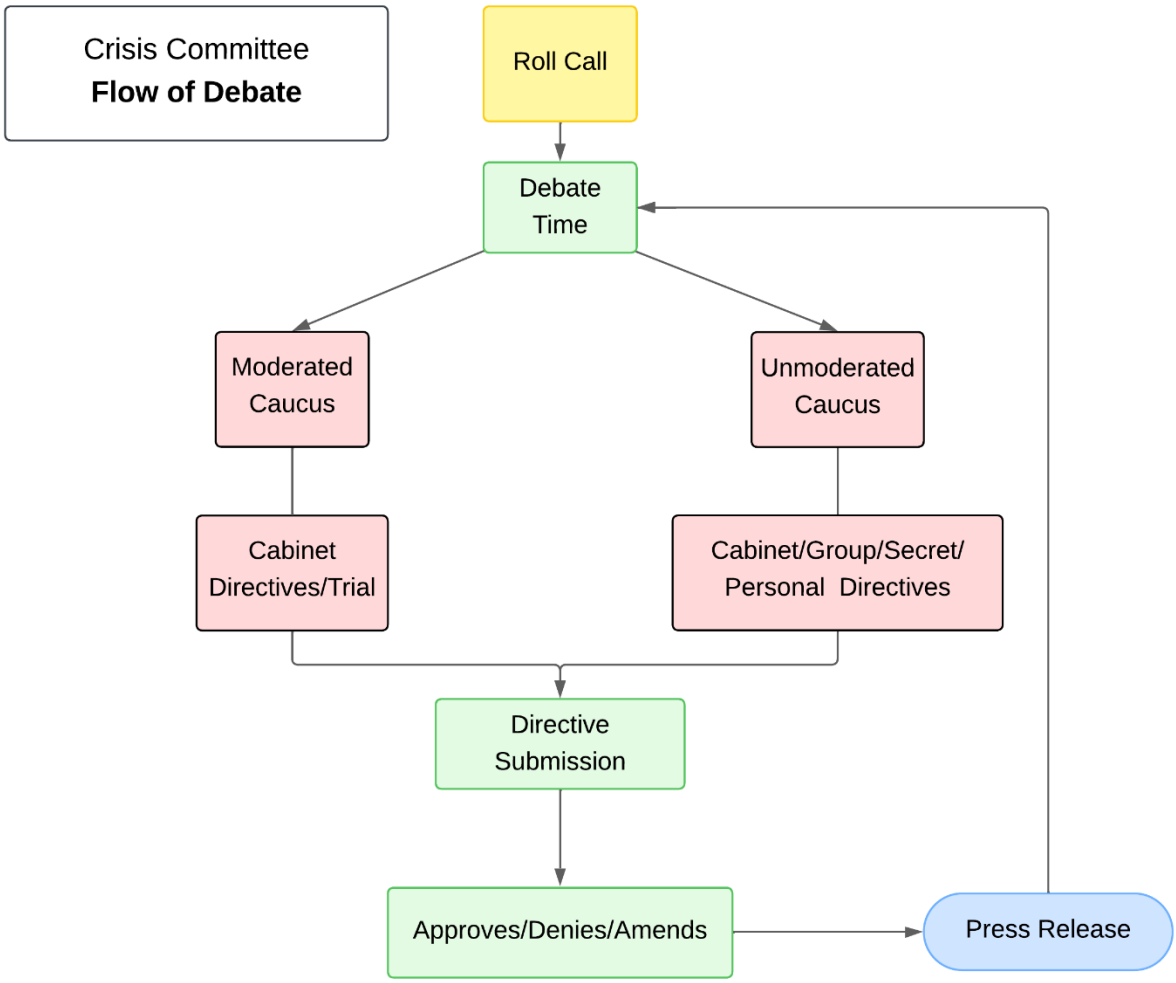
Moderated Caucus is also the time for **trials.** Similar to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), if delegates are caught violating international law, they can be brought to court.

## *UNMODERATED CAUCUS*

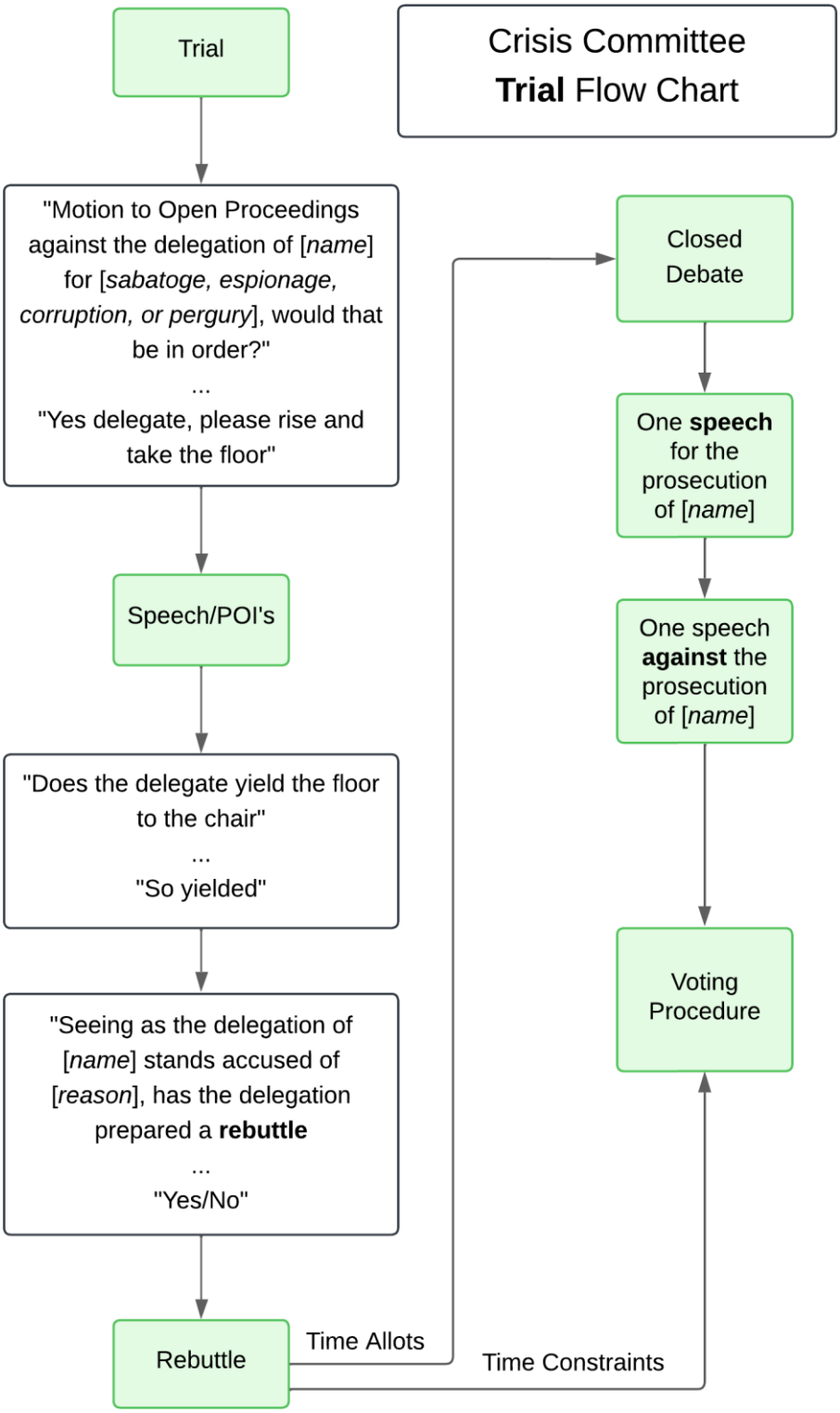
Within Unmoderated Caucus, **delegates lead the debate**. Delegates will draft, push, and discuss **all types of directives** while conversing between cabinets. The crisis committee is structured around an unmoderated caucus, allowing delegates to speak freely while maintaining a certain level of formality. It is worth emphasizing that for a fruitful and dynamic debate, delegates are encouraged to openly engage socially and actively participate during this time. This is the time for alliances and diplomatic tactics in which delegates can achieve their character's goals.


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*DEBATE FLOWCHART*



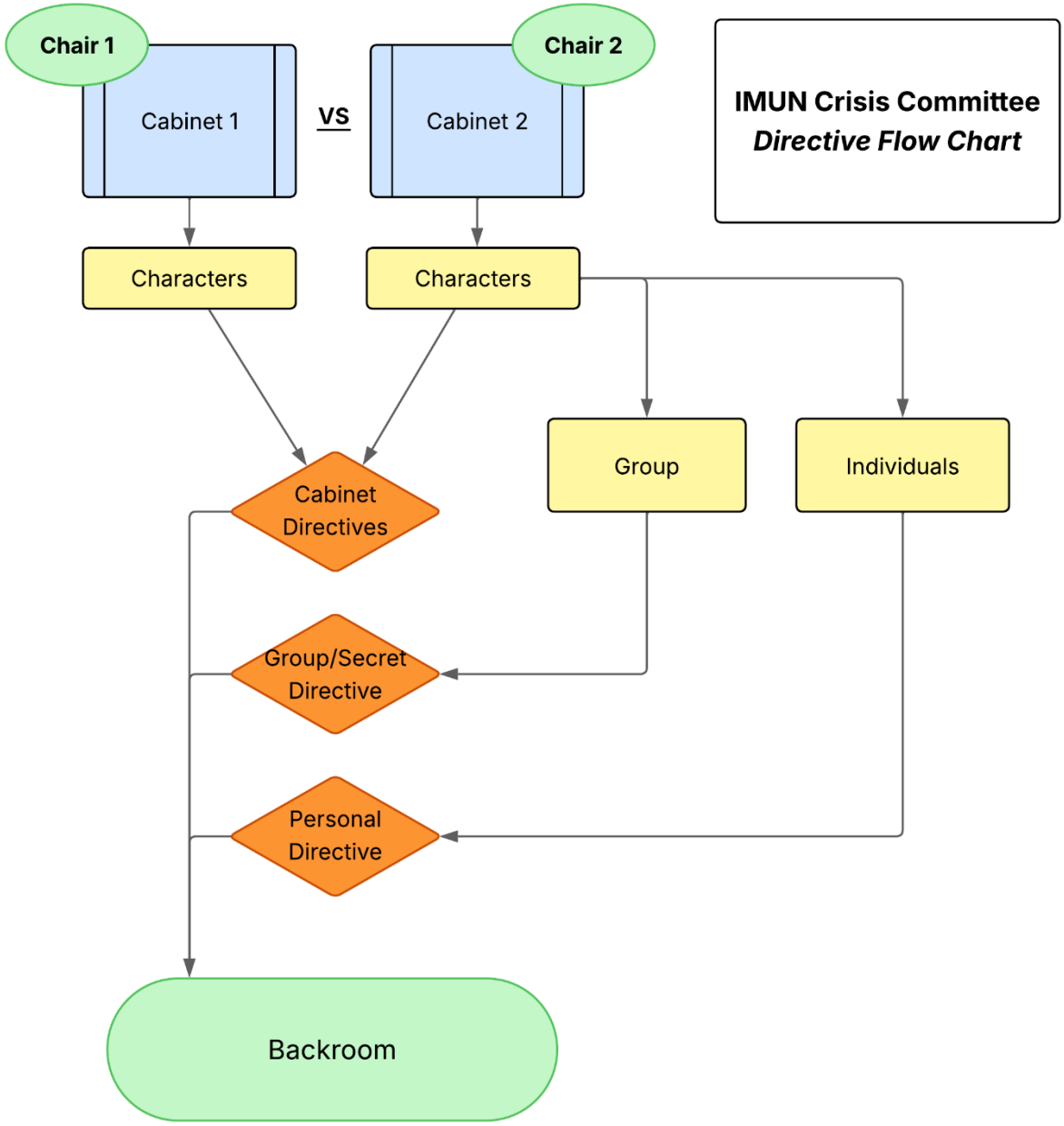
*TRIAL FLOWCHART*





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*DIRECTIVE FLOWCHART*



# CHARACTER PORTFOLIO

Approximately one week before the conference, each delegate will receive their character portfolio. These characters can be based on **real people** e.g., political figures, prime ministers, business leaders, etc. (characters will be relevant to debate). Unlike regular MUN, delegates **are** these characters, not their representatives.

All characters have **unique traits**. For example, delegates can be spies from another cabinet or connected with the black market.

Each character portfolio will contain a clear **goal.** Their portfolio will contain **specific information** which they will act upon in debate to achieve their **goal.** The goals are abstract, leaving room for delegates to improvise and interpret their directives. The backroom knows the characters and expects directives to represent the characters' goals just as good resolutions represent national political stances.

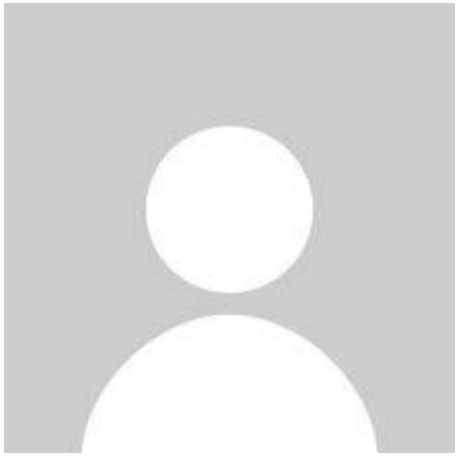
Throughout debate, **new information will be revealed** about certain characters which may influence debate.


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*PORTFOLIO EXAMPLE*

Document Pertaining the individual [Roman Abramovich]

*Access restricted to individuals: [Roman Abramovich]*



Name:

Born:

Citizenship:

Background Information:

Political Stance:

Political objectives (Goals):


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## WINNING

The primary goal for each delegate in the Crisis Committee is to lead their cabinet to victory. The committee is divided into cabinets to allow for a comparative evaluation at the end of the debate, during which the officer team will determine which cabinet performed better.

This decision will be based on several factors:

1. Collaboration within the cabinet.
2. Power and influence compared to the opposing cabinet.
3. Effectiveness in achieving political objectives.

In addition to selecting the winning cabinet, the officer team will also recognize individual delegates who demonstrated outstanding participation.

Please keep this information in mind during cabinet discussions. Collaboration is a crucial part crisis, and working collaboratively as a team is key to achieving success.


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