

LEBANESE CABINET RULES

CHOMUN XI

Committee Format

1. **Membership:** The membership of the Lebanese Cabinet will be composed of both actual ministers of the Cabinet and other important government officials. Despite the actual composition of the real Lebanese Cabinet, the committee will be simulated with a full cabinet.
2. **The Chair:** The Chair of the committee shall be Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The Prime Minister's main responsibility will be to facilitate debate; however, he reserves the right to play an active role in committee simulation. This role may include, but is by no means limited to, altering the directives and communiqués proposed by members of the Cabinet, rejecting directives and communiqués, or offering his opinions or demands on discussion.
3. **Time:** The Cabinet will convene on March 6, 2008. Once the Cabinet convenes, all events that happen in the real world are to be disregarded. At the beginning of each session, the Cabinet will be informed of the date. Time will proceed in approximate real time such that no more than a day of time will pass without prior notice. The Cabinet will be informed immediately of any major time changes. **If some event(s) were to occur close to the start of Conference that significantly altered the political landscape of Lebanon, the Chair reserves the right to change the start date of the committee before such event(s) occurred. Time permitting, the Chair will notify the Cabinet of this change in advance on the website.**

General Rules of Council Conduct

1. **Decorum:** Members of the Cabinet are to maintain themselves as befits their high offices and show due respect to each other.
2. **Attire:** All members of the Cabinet are to dress in Western business attire at all times unless given prior permission by the Chair to do otherwise.
3. **Language:** The working language of the Cabinet will be English. If another language is used, an accurate translation must be immediately provided.
4. **Roll Call:** At the beginning of each meeting of the Cabinet, roll call will be taken by the Chair. The session will formally begin whenever the Chair has determined that a quorum has been reached sufficient to address the matters facing the Cabinet. Should any member of the Cabinet arrive late, he may not participate in the Cabinet's deliberations until informing the Chair of his presence.
5. **Equity:** Should anyone at any point feel that debate has crossed the line from realistic to indecent, that committee member should immediately notify the Chair, who shall take steps to alleviate that member's concerns.

6. **Notes:** Notes must be passed to their recipient in a timely fashion. There will be no tolerance for “note stealing.”
7. **Computers:** Computers are not allowed in the committee room. All directives, both on the individual and cabinet level, must be issued by hand.

Rules of Procedure

1. **Chair’s Discretion:** As Prime Minister, the Chair shall have the ultimate authority over the Council’s rules of procedure and may at any time alter them for the sake of expediency. While any delegate may request that the Chair reverse a decision, it is ultimately the Chair’s choice.
2. **Format of Debate:** The default form of debate shall be moderated caucus. No member may speak without first being recognized by the Chair. While no time limit will be imposed, the Chair may ask a Council member to cede the floor if his comments are inappropriate or if his speech has become unnecessarily long.
3. **Points and Motions:** The following points and motions may be made during debate and will be entertained in the order the Chair deems most conducive to debate at the point in time that they are made:
 - a. *Motion to Close the Cabinet Session:* If fewer than 15 minutes remain until the end of the Cabinet’s allotted time for a given session, the Chair may entertain a motion to close the session. The Council will be out of session until reconvened by the Chair.
 - b. *Point of Personal Privilege:* This point may be made by a Council member whenever he feels that some external factor is impeding the quality of debate. While this point may interrupt a speaker, it should only do so when it is the speaker who is the subject of the point (*e.g.*, the speaker is talking too quietly to be heard).
 - c. *Point of Order:* This point may be made to suggest to the Chair that the rule of procedure have been violated.
 - d. *Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:* This point may be made to ask the Chair to clarify the rules of procedure.
 - e. *Motion to Modify the Form of Debate:* This motion may be made whenever the floor is open to change the format of debate. The member speaking may suggest an unmoderated caucus, a speaking time, or any other alteration he feels would improve debate.
 - f. *Motion to Introduce a Document for the Consideration of the Cabinet:* All actions of the Cabinet must ultimately be submitted in writing to the Chair. This motion, if accepted by the Chair, shall place a given written proposal on the table for consideration by the Cabinet. The Chair may make additional rules regarding such proposals to facilitate debate.
 - g. *Motion to Call the Question:* Whenever the floor is open, any member may motion to vote on any document on the table. The Chair will decide whether or not it would be appropriate to entertain the motion at that time. Voting rules are explained below.

Council Actions

1. **Available Actions:** The Cabinet may take any action that would be available to the Lebanese government. Actions fall into three categories:
 - a. *Directive:* The Cabinet may use a directive to direct a government agent or body to carry out a certain operation.
 - b. *Press Release:* The Cabinet may write and publish a press release to be issued to the media.
 - c. *Diplomatic Communication:* The Cabinet may write a communiqué to any government, non-state actor, NGO, or individual.
2. **Adopting a Cabinet Action:** All actions require a simple majority vote to be put into effect.

Individual Member Actions

1. **Actions of Office:** Any member may use the power of his office to whatever extent he wishes. Without the approval of the entire Cabinet, though, that member will be fully responsible for both the successes and failures of his actions. A Cabinet member may even choose to disobey a policy adopted by the Cabinet – but will have to suffer the consequences if such actions are discovered. Additionally, a minister’s office may refuse to implement a directive if it does not have the approval of the Cabinet. Members may not issue orders to departments not under their control but may author Cabinet plans of actions that affect other departments.
2. **Audiences with the Prime Minister or other Representatives:** Members of the Cabinet may at any time request an audience with the Prime Minister in order to sway his opinion or to receive his endorsement for a particular action. He will decide whether to accept such an audience based on the merit of the request. Cabinet members may also request meeting with other non-present individuals either privately or for the entire Cabinet.