

Background Guide - Israel Cabinet, Oak MUN

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Message from the Executive Board	

Greetings, dear delegates.

This is a **concise** guide designed with the purpose of providing you a **basic** understanding of the agenda and the conduct of the simulation. Note that the perusal of this guide's content will be **insufficient** if you wish to enjoy a healthy and competitive debate. Use the information you find between these pages as **just an accompaniment** to your research efforts.

I shall be available to clarify any and all of your doubts before the conference. However, I would suggest you consider querying me as an option to be exercised as **last resort**, not first move.

Regards,

Executive Board,
Israel Cabinet, Joint Crisis Committee,
Oak Model United Nations 2025

Contact information:

Ishaan Poddar, Chairperson

Foreign Policy basics

What is foreign policy?

Foreign policy, in simple terms, is what your country aims to achieve with regards to the issue at hand or in general with its relations with other countries.

What role must foreign policy play in your research?

Understanding the foreign policy of your country must be a checkbox that you tick off at the very beginning of your research.

Your foreign policy should dictate everything from the arguments you make, the reasoning you give for making those arguments, and the actions you take in the Council.

Where do I look to find foreign policy?

Most of the time, foreign policy is not explicitly stated. It must be inferred from the actions and statements issued by the country.

Pro tip: start reading the meeting records from previous meetings of UNSC (or any other UN body where your country might have spoken on the issue). If such records are unavailable, look for statements from your country's Foreign Ministry (or equivalent like Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs etcetera) and top leadership (PM, Pres., Secretary

Directive writing basics

What is a directive?

A directive is a document formatted in a particular manner that provides instructions to your government on a specific plan of action or set of actions. These plan or set of actions must be aimed primarily at advancing your foreign policy and secondarily at resolving the crisis at hand.

The best directives are those that can achieve both the advancement of foreign policy and the resolution of the crisis at the same time. However not all portfolios or States would be in a position to aim to write such directives due to their position(s), stakes, and objectives in the given crisis.

Directives can be sent in by an individual delegate or by a group of delegates. When sent in by a group of delegates, it is called as a joint directive.

Overt directive

All directives are by default considered overt in nature. Information on both the execution and outcome of such directive shall be communicated to the committee.

Covert directives

If you want your government to take certain actions but do not wish to have the involvement of your government in taking such actions disclosed, you should send covert directives. Only the outcome - if any - of such directives will be communicated either to the delegate from whom the directive was received or to the committee as a whole.

Such directives are usually used for espionage, sabotage, intelligence, and other such operations the details of which should ideally not be disclosed to the public.

If an action is conspicuous and cannot be carried out covertly, it would not matter if it was enclosed within a covert directive, its execution and outcome will be communicated to the entire committee.

Portfolio requests

These are communications from individual delegates to their respective governments seeking information unavailable to them at the moment based on which they can decide to take action. Such requests are encouraged only when the information sought is publicly unavailable.

Press releases

These are public statements that the delegate(s) want their government(s) to issue. These can be sent in by individual delegates or a group of delegates. If passed, these shall be publicly displayed in the committee.

Enclosed epistle

These are secret communications that delegates can individually or collectively send to other delegates not present in their cabinet, their own government, or governments of States that may or may not be present in the committee. The content of these can include, but are not limited to, negotiations, requests, threats, or demands.

Modes and formats

Mode of directives

Usually in MUNs, depending on the discretion of the Executive Board, directives can be sent via either of the two modes:

1. Digital mode (i.e a directive in .pdf or .docx sent via electronic means)
2. Physical mode (i.e a directive written in a paper with a pen or pencil and given to the EB physically)

Delegates from the Capitalist cabinet must note that the Chairperson of their cabinet shall accept directives **via both the physical and digital mode.**

Format of directives

Title: [Any title for the operation/mission - required only in case a series of directives from a single operation/mission]

Type: Covert/Overt Directive

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Designation of the person within your government who has the authority to authorise or operationalise this directive's plan of action.]

Primary objective: [A one to two line description of what you wish to accomplish using this directive.]

Secondary objective (if any): [Any objective that may also be achieved while executing this directive.]

Mission brief: [A three to four line description of how the aforementioned objective(s) will be accomplished.]

Plan of action: [A detailed description of what you wish your government or its specific agency(ies) to do to accomplish the aforementioned objective(s).]

Additional information (if any): [Any additional details that you wish to convey.]

References (not mandatory): [Sources of information using which you suggested the above plan of action.]

Format of Portfolio Requests

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Designation of the person within your government who has the authority to provide you the information you are seeking.]

[Question or query]

Format of enclosed epistle

From: Delegate of _____

To: [Name of the country to which you wish to send the communiqué]

[Message]

Press release/statement

From: Delegate of _____

[Statement]

Tips on directive-writing

- Each directive must be aiming to **achieve one specific, well-defined objective using the most effective and resource-efficient means**. There may be secondary objectives for each action taken but the achievement of secondary objective must always be seen as an added benefit, not an absolute requirement for the plan of action mentioned in the directive.
- Directives must **be as detailed as possible**. However, **details that are redundant and superfluous must be avoided**. For example, if a directive's aim is to buy your President a burger, it can have details with regards to what kind of burger to buy, where and when to buy it, etcetera. Details such as which service executive to buy it from, the clothing of the person buying the burger, the payment method etcetera would not be required.
- If you require your government to initiate a complex mission or set of actions, divide the mission or set of actions into sensible composite parts and write a directive for each composite part separately. All the directives aimed at accomplishing said mission must be sent together or must have a mention of the name of the mission they are a part of.
- The nature of the directive (cover/overt) must be mentioned clearly. In absence of any mention of the nature of the directive, the Executive Board will assume and evaluate the directive as an overt directive.

Agenda: Situation in the Middle East

Israel Government Briefing Report

Freeze Date: 1st August 2024

Executive Summary

Israel in 2024 confronted a volatile, multi-front threat environment marked by war with Hamas in Gaza, escalating hostilities with Hezbollah in Lebanon, direct clashes with Iran, and broader destabilization across the region. The IDF prioritized degrading enemy capabilities while mitigating existential threats to the Israeli state and population. The strategic landscape was complicated by unprecedented humanitarian crises, shifts in regional and global alliances, economic shocks, and diplomatic pressures—especially from Western partners.

Detailed Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event Description (Israeli Security and Strategic Perspective)
7 Oct 2023	Hamas launches “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood”—a historic cross-border assault on Israel, killing 1,200+, 253 hostages. Israel initiates Operation Swords of Iron.
Oct–Dec 2023	Israel conducts massive aerial bombardment and ground operations in Gaza. Hamas and allied groups launch coordinated attacks from Lebanon (Hezbollah), Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Humanitarian crisis in Gaza begins.
Jan 2, 2024	Mossad/IDF assassinate Hamas deputy Saleh Al-Arouri in Beirut—widening conflict with Hezbollah.
Jan–Mar 2024	IDF intensifies focus on North Gaza and West Bank (Judea and Samaria). Israeli intelligence thwarts 1,040 significant terrorist attacks inside Israel and detains over 1,350 suspected militants in Gaza; major operations disrupt Hamas and PIJ infrastructure.
Apr 1, 2024	Israeli precision airstrike destroys Iranian consulate in Damascus, targeting IRGC leadership and further triggering Iranian retaliation.
Mid-Apr & Oct 2024	Iran launches unprecedented missile barrages on Israeli territory; IDF and US air defenses intercept majority. Israel retaliates with strikes on Iranian assets in Iran and Syria, targeting military and nuclear infrastructure.
May–July 2024	Major IDF offensive in Rafah (southern Gaza) to neutralize final Hamas battalions. Hostage missions and complex rescue operations are conducted; humanitarian crisis escalates with widespread famine and destruction in Gaza.
June–July 2024	Lebanon front intensifies: Hezbollah launches cross-border barrages; IDF seizes initiative with targeted airstrikes and commando raids, killing senior Hezbollah leaders, including Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah. Over 1.2M Lebanese displaced; UNIFIL sites targeted.
July–Aug 2024	Ceasefire negotiations in Lebanon falter despite mediation. IDF establishes limited security zone; sporadic fighting persists along the border.
Dec 2024	Assad regime topples in Syria after rapid rebel offensive, ending decades of dynastic rule and producing new uncertainties along Israel’s northern front.
Throughout 2024	Attacks from Iranian proxies continue in Syria, Iraq, Red Sea (Houthi-sourced), and Iranian cyberattack attempts multiply; Israel counters with intelligence and preemptive strikes and international maritime patrols.
As of 1 Aug 2024	Gaza: Hostilities remain, humanitarian access almost nonexistent, over one million Palestinians displaced, and famine declared ⁴⁵ . Lebanon: Displacement and warfare persist. West Bank: Violence, settler–Palestinian clashes, and IDF operations against militant cells escalate. Iran: Direct and proxy attacks continue; ongoing campaign to contain nuclear threat.

Multi-Front Security Threats and Operations

Gaza and the Palestinian Arena

- **Ground and Air Operations:** IDF dismantled most of Hamas’s infrastructure, eliminated senior leadership including Yahya Sinwar and Ismail Haniyeh, and disrupted arms smuggling. Over 2,500 operatives interrogated and hundreds of significant plots foiled.
- **Humanitarian Toll:** Catastrophic civilian casualties (estimated 39,000–52,000+ Palestinians killed, majority civilians), vast displacement, famine, health system collapse, and systematic obstruction to humanitarian aid—intense international scrutiny of Israeli conduct.
- **Hostages:** Multiple, high-risk rescue attempts resulted in successful extractions but with continued failure to secure a comprehensive exchange deal.

Northern Front: Lebanon and Hezbollah

- **Escalation:** Massive sector-wide rocket, UAV, and missile strikes by Hezbollah; IDF ground incursions and targeted assassinations, including elimination of Hezbollah's secretary-general and dozens of field commanders.
- **Civilians/Internal Displacement:** Over 1.2M Lebanese displaced; Israeli border communities under constant evacuation orders.
- **Strategic Impact:** Israeli pressure severely weakens Hezbollah, disrupts Iranian supply chains and creates power vacuum in South Lebanon; however, full disarmament not achieved.

Iran

- **Direct Clashes:** Iranian ballistic missile/drone attacks on Israel in April and October. Israeli air and cyberstrikes target Iranian military infrastructure, including nuclear assets, with significant impact.
- **Proxy Activity:** Iran remains undeterred in mobilizing proxies in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Gaza. Espionage activity in Israel rises sharply; 400% increase in related arrests and plots foiled.

Syria

- **Regime Collapse:** The sudden downfall of Assad's regime fundamentally shifts northern border security, disrupting Hezbollah/Iranian supply lines but creating risk of jihadist and factional violence.
- **Military Actions:** Israel continues to interdict arms shipments, strike Iranian/Syrian military sites, and conducts high-frequency surveillance.

Geopolitical Dynamics

- **Israel–US Relations:** Fractious but essential. While US supplies weapons and blocks anti-Israel measures at the UN, there are sharp tensions (especially over humanitarian issues and Rafah operation). Still, American military and intelligence support for Israeli defensive and preemptive actions against Iran and proxies remains foundational.
- **Arab Neighbors:** Jordan and Egypt destabilized by refugee flows and internal dissent. Both oppose further Israeli west bank annexation or sustained Gaza occupation.
- **Regional Power Competition:** Iran, Turkey, and Russia each seek influence. Russia and China publicly oppose Western support of Israel but avoid military entanglement. Israel's expanded operational envelope draws condemnation but also demonstrates strategic dominance.
- **Security of Maritime Routes:** Houthi/Iranian threats severely hamper Red Sea shipping, raising channeling and insurance costs, and threaten vital trade for Israel and global markets.

Economic and Societal Impacts

- **Israel:** War-time economy persists; reserve mobilization strains budgets but resilience remains high. Population grapples with repeated trauma, sporadic border attacks, and continued uncertainty.
- **Gaza and West Bank:** Gazan economy in collapse (86% contraction Q1-2024), catastrophic unemployment, almost total infrastructure loss¹⁶. West Bank faces recessions, violence, and escalating repression.
- **Lebanon/Syria:** Humanitarian disaster due to internal and cross-border conflict, displacement, and destruction of basic services.

Humanitarian Crisis in Detail (as of late July 2024)

- **Gaza:**
 - 86% of population under evacuation or forced displacement.

- Starvation: 470,000 people at catastrophic food insecurity levels.
- Drinking water supply down 94% from pre-October levels.
- Mass casualties, attacks on aid convoys, medical collapse, and near-total siege.
- **Lebanon:**
 - 1.2M+ internally displaced; one quarter of territory under risk or evacuation.
 - Infrastructure targeted; UNIFIL peacekeepers repeatedly attacked.

Intelligence, Cyber, and Counterterror Trends

- **Counterterror Operations:** 1,040 major attacks foiled, 700 major cyberattacks intercepted, 20 internal Israeli Arab terror cells identified (five with car bomb plots).
- **Hostage and Rescue Missions:** Multiple high-profile rescues and intelligence-led missions demonstrated capabilities but highlighted ongoing severe risks.

Strategic Risks and Outlook

- **Wider Regional Escalation:** Risk of major Middle East war remains acute—cycle of Israeli-Iranian retaliation, possible further breakdown in Lebanon, Syria instability, and persistent Iraqi/Yemeni proxy attacks.
- **International Isolation/Humanitarian Pressure:** Mounting criticism and legal challenges (ICC arrest warrants, UN condemnation) isolating Israel on humanitarian standards, yet with uncertain enforcement capability.
- **Two-State Solution:** Now more distant than at any time since Oslo; Israeli and Palestinian leadership both constrained, with regional states pushing for Palestinian statehood.

Sources

Specific contentious rules

This section covers the Executive Board's views on some of the contentious rules that usually create confusion, conflict, and consternation when not explicitly stated in advance. The judgement and scoring during the MUN will be based on the views expressed here.

Regarding this guide and evidence

Just because a resource has been mentioned in the background guide, ***does not mean that it can surely be used as evidence to your argument in the Council.*** Why? Because:

Eclectic nature of the resources:

The guide has resources of wide variety. Some of the resources could be opinion-based articles, some may be from sources sympathetic to one party in the conflict, some could be outdated (we will try our best to not share such resources but we cannot control for things such as emergence of new facts post guide publication).

Foreign policy commitments:

To explain this point, we'll be using an example. Pakistan claims Kashmir is legally theirs. India claims, contrary to Pakistan, that Kashmir is theirs. Both sides, many-a-times, use the same evidence to argue their case but still derive completely different conclusions. In such cases, the Executive Board cannot accept the claims of one country while rejecting the claims of the other when both of those claims are backed by acceptable and equivalent evidence.

Hierarchy of evidence

Evidence can be presented from a wide variety of sources but not all sources are treated as equal. Here's the hierarchy in which evidence is categorised:

Tier 1:

Includes: any publication, statement, resolution, or document released by any of the United Nations' official organs or committees; any publication, statement, or document released by a UN member state in its own capacity.

The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.

Tier 2: Includes: any news article published by any official media source that is owned and controlled by a UN member state. E.g.: Xinhua News (China), Prasar Bharti (India), BBC (United Kingdom) etcetera.

The evidence falling in this tier is considered sufficiently reliable in case no other evidence from any Tier 1 source is available on that particular fact, event, or situation.

Tier 3: Includes: any publication from news sources of international repute such as Reuters, The New York Times, Agence-France Presse, etcetera.

The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation. Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

Plagiarism and machine-generated content

Under no circumstance shall the Executive Board accept any documentation that is plagiarised or written using Artificial Intelligence technology. Detecting either is not very difficult.

Personal pronouns

This particular Executive Board does not care very much about whether a delegate uses personal pronouns to refer to herself/himself. As long as the language employed by the delegate is diplomatic in both tone and content, we will not mind the usage of personal pronouns.

Cheat-sheet on ROP

For the purpose of making the simulation easier to the procedurally-unacquainted, the following ROP cheat-sheet is being made available.

Motions

Setting the agenda

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to set the agenda as _____.

Establishing a GSL

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to establish the general speakers' list with an individual speaker's time of ____.

Moderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic _____ for a total time period of __ minutes with individual speaker's time being __.

Unmoderated caucuses

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of __ minutes.

Extension to informal debate

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to extend the current moderated/unmoderated caucus by _____ minutes.

Introduction of documentation

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to introduce draft resolution/press statement/Presidential statement [number].

Voting on introduced document(s)

Delegate of _____ would like to raise a motion to table formal debate and move into voting on [document name].

Points

Point of personal privilege

- Personal inconvenience e.g. inaudibility of some part of the speech of another delegate
- CAN interrupt an active speaker

Point of parliamentary inquiry

- Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure
- CANNOT interrupt a speaker

Point of information

- Used to ask questions to other delegates on their speeches
- CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

Point of order

- Used to point out inaccuracies in procedure and if allowed, even on factual inaccuracies within the speeches of other delegates
- CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

Yields

Yield to points of information

Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you on the speech

you made.

Yield to another delegate

Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech.

Yield to the executive board

Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time's usage is upto the discretion of the EB.

