



Summer Intern Model Arab League July 9, 2016

BACKGROUND GUIDE Council on Post-Conflict Recovery

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Topic 1: Considering and discussing the prospect of post-conflict fragmentation and division of states, in member states such as Syria, Yemen, and Libya

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Within this Council, the “post-conflict” period refers to the stretch of time immediately following the conclusion of open fighting within a member state’s borders. Post-conflict zones can remain tense for long periods of time, even after peace has been made. For example, the demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea has remained an epicenter of hostilities since a cease-fire was declared in 1953. The rekindling of conflict is a likely scenario during this “post-conflict” timeframe if tensions are not proactively diminished.

The “fragmentation” and creation of new governments can certainly affect regional dynamics, with the possibility of an even more hostile administration gaining power in the aftermath of a conflict. Member states should prepare for such outcomes and the resulting impact on domestic and regional problems. The aftermath of post-conflict zones can affect neighboring states economically, politically, and socially, which has already been experienced by several member states as a result of current ongoing conflicts. This Council will focus on the Arab League’s ability to limit the effects of post-conflict fragmentation while expediting the transition of post-conflict zones to states with stable infrastructures.

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

There are several local and international groups currently competing for power within conflict zones in member states. In Syria, for example, the Assad government and the multiplicity of Syrian rebel units continue to clash, each with their own goals and objectives.¹ Foreign governments and fighters have been supporting both of these factions in the form of military aid for several years, perpetuating the conflict. This support is the source of many disagreements within the international community and even amongst member states.² Without a resolution to the conflict in Syria and similar disputes in other member states, further fighting may occur, which can undermine the development of stability during a future post-conflict period.

Members of the United Nations Security Council, namely the United States, have proposed the possibility of a partition within regional conflict zones.³ However, partitioning states such as Syria and Iraq may fail to resolve the ongoing conflicts therein while diluting efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. The Israel-Palestine and India-Pakistan partitions are examples of this.⁴ Competing interests within

¹ "Guide to the Syrian Rebels." BBC News, 13 Dec. 2013. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24403003>>.

² Kholiaif, Dahlia. "Will the GCC Survive Qatar-Saudi Rivalry?" Al Jazeera English, 18 Mar. 2014. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/03/will-gcc-survive-qatar-saudi-rivalry-201431864034267256.html>>.

³ Stevenson, Jonathan. "The Dangerous Allure of a Syrian Partition." New York Times, 16 Mar. 2016. Web. 23 June 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/18/opinion/the-dangerous-allure-of-a-syrian-partition.html?_r=0>.

⁴ "UN Partition Plan." BBC News, 29 Nov. 2001. Web. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/israel_and_the_palestinians/key_documents/1681322.stm>.

conflict zones have impeded the negotiations working towards peace processes due to preconditions on either side or from disagreements over legitimacy. The international discussion on partitions is a part of an effort to resolve these conflicts; however, other measures should be explored by the Council if neither side is willing to compromise.

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

Conflicts are not new to the region, and the League of Arab States has previously taken action to assist member states in conflict, in particular, the use of a deterrent force in Kuwait in 1961 and the monitoring of Lebanon's presidential elections in 2009.⁶⁷ Without the external support of government institutions, violence is likely to reoccur; this support has taken the form of peacekeeping, mediation, and economic incentives from the within the League or by other international organizations. Currently, one of the most pressing needs is the creation of a framework to deter the resurgence of conflict between warring factions upon the conclusion of fighting.

The Arab League has become increasingly involved with the settlement of conflicts in the region with regard to international peace and security, cooperating with the United Nations, the African Union, and the European Union.⁸ By reflecting upon previous systems utilized by the League of Arab States and by examining successful courses of action taken by other international organizations, the Arab League may formulate a comprehensive approach to post-conflict recovery within states such as Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. The Council might also consider cooperation with external entities such as the African Union, United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, etc.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What impacts or threats have ongoing conflicts had on my government?
- Has my country supported any particular factions within regional conflict zones? If so, what led to and influenced those decisions?
- Is my country currently undergoing a conflict?
- How would the "fragmentation" of a state impact my country or government?
- How has the Arab League approached conflict mediation and prevention in the past?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How might previously-used peacekeeping methods be improved for current situations?
- At what capacity will international organizations or non-member states be included in recovery efforts?
- What steps should be taken to deter violence within conflict zones? Should military action be considered if violence recurs?

⁵ Dalrymple, William. "The Great Divide." *The New Yorker*, 22 June 2015. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple>>.

⁶ Mobley, Richard A. "Gauging the Iraqi Threat to Kuwait in the 1960s." Central Intelligence Agency, 27 June 2008. Web. 23 June 2016. <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/fall_winter_2001/article03.html>.

⁷ "Final Report on the Lebanese Parliamentary Election." National Democratic Institute, 7 June 2009. Web. <https://www.ndi.org/files/Lebanese_Elections_Report_2009.pdf>.

⁸ "The Global Regime for Armed Conflict." Council on Foreign Relations, 19 June 2013. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/peacekeeping/global-regime-armed-conflict/p24180>>.

- Should League of Arab States membership be granted to new governments that develop from the fragmentation of states?

Topic 2: Considering the roles of refugees and internally displaced persons in the redevelopment of post-conflict areas with a focus on job creation and reintegration

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Instability and conflict have resulted in the movement of millions of people within and outside of the region. “Internally displaced persons” (IDPs) refer to the people who have been compelled to relocate away from their home or home region, but remain within the same country. The term “refugee” refers to people who have fled their home countries out of fear of persecution.⁹ Upon the conclusion of a conflict, these populations will face the decision of whether or not to return to their state of origin to contribute to that economy’s redevelopment. However, due to the lack of stability and security within post-conflict states, many sources for investment and employment have dissipated. For this reason, there is a need to redevelop opportunities for returnees in the form of newly created jobs.

Simultaneously, communities from which refugees and IDPs departed have changed drastically and returnees must be reintegrated into a new socio-economic environment. This means that in some cases, rural refugees will return not to their former farmlands, but rather to cities in order to find employment.¹⁰ The courses that returning refugees take can significantly impact the economic redevelopment of post-conflict areas. The goal of this Council should be to produce a framework for reestablishing a diverse and stable economy within areas of post-conflict by assisting displaced populations and contributing to the creation of jobs.

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

The Arab World has seen several major conflicts within the past decades. During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Kuwait’s economy suffered major setbacks in multiple fields, primarily in petroleum production. Post-conflict, the return of Kuwaiti nationals to Kuwait did little to reestablish pre-war petroleum production as the majority of the technically skilled workers in the country were non-nationals, who were barred from returning to Kuwait.¹¹ New training programs took several years to train Kuwaitis to be proficient and fully integrated in specialized areas, e.g. teaching and health care.

It is not unexpected for post-conflict areas to reemerge with low GDPs and high unemployment, and that is likely to remain so for a number of years. This is especially true within longer conflicts because a larger portion of the displaced population, especially skilled and professional personnel, will have resettled.¹²

⁹ "Categories of Displaced People." UN News Center. UN, n.d. Web. 23 June 2016.
<<http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/background.shtml>>.

¹⁰ Weiss Fagen, Patricia. "Refugees and IDPs After Conflict: Why They Do Not Go Home." United States Institute of Peace Special Report. N.p., Apr. 2011. Web. <<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR268Fagen.pdf>>.

¹¹ "Kuwait - Reconstruction After the Persian Gulf War." U.S. Library of Congress, n.d. Web. 23 June 2016.
<<http://countrystudies.us/persian-gulf-states/33.htm>>.

¹² Panic, M. "Post-Conflict Countries: Aid Effectiveness and Permanent Peace." United Nations, 2008. Web. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf>.

Consequently, attempts to create new employment opportunities are accompanied by the challenges of finding workers that are adequately trained or training new workers to fill those positions that require a high level of skill and experience, such as medical personnel or lawyers. This concept is important to the League as the redevelopment of productive economies can benefit the region by creating new opportunities for trade and attracting foreign investment.

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

The League of Arab States should consider approaches that would involve post-conflict countries in the economic market. Investment, especially in urban areas where many refugees initially settle, can significantly enhance the opportunities available for reintegration in both managerial and entry level positions.¹³ Opportunities that refugees and internally displaced persons may receive abroad such as work experience and education can also make a considerable impact on their ability to find work and adapt to post-conflict life when returning to their home countries or settling back into their areas of origin within the same country, respectively.

Because conflict disrupts a refugee's or internally displaced person's main sources of income, member states should also consider methods of revitalizing infrastructures that were successful prior to a conflict. In Syria the primary sectors of GDP growth prior to 2011 were agriculture and industry.¹⁴ Without the recovery of essential modes of production and employment, economically weak post-conflict states will become even more reliant on imports and external aid. "Equally important ... there will be little social reconciliation and no sustainable development if inappropriate macroeconomic policies increase economic insecurity and socio-economic inequalities."¹⁵

Bearing these conditions in mind, the economic recovery of post-conflict areas and the reintegration of refugees should take into consideration long term problems including: economic inequality, sustainable development, and a lack of available resources (in the form of human capital and infrastructure).

II. Questions to Consider

- How has population displacement affected my country's economy?
- How has my country improved conditions for refugees/IDPs or assisted in the reintegration process in the past?
- Is my country capable of sending aid to assist with the redevelopment of economic infrastructure?
- Does my country have a sufficient supply of technically skilled and or professional workers?

III. Questions a Resolution May Answer

- What kind of investment should member states provide for post-conflict zones?

¹³ Altai Consulting. "Integration of Returnees in the Afghan Labour Market." UNHCR News. N.p., Oct. 2006. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.unhcr.org/45333f202.html>>.

¹⁴ "The World Factbook: Syria." Central Intelligence Agency. N.p., 16 June 2016. Web. 23 June 2016. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>>.

¹⁵ Panic, M. "Post-Conflict Countries: Aid Effectiveness and Permanent Peace." United Nations, 2008. Web. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf>.

- How can individual Arab states acting as host nations prepare refugees for reintegration?
- What types of support programs can member states provide for returning refugees?
- What forms of aid are member states capable of providing for the redevelopment of essential forms of production within post-conflict areas?
- How can member states ensure that aid is being used to its fullest potential?
- How can the Arab League assist in sustainable development?

Topic 3: Developing means to ensure the availability of goods to populations in post-conflict zones, including but not limited to humanitarian aid, building materials, food, and water

I. Intro to the Topic

A. General Background

This Council will define “humanitarian aid” as the services and logistical assistance associated with providing health care, housing, and promoting the general wellbeing of a population under duress. Access to such treatment, along with the necessary quantities and quality of food and water, are imperative to a population’s ability to live within a post-conflict zone. Building materials are also vital to the development of long-term housing structures within these areas, and can include lumber, concrete, and steel. By “developing means” this Council will be establishing approaches in which populations within post-conflict areas can be provided with these essential needs.

There are also possible obstacles that should be addressed that have the potential to prevent the flow of aid to post-conflict populations. Primarily, these obstacles are the logistical complications of funding and delivery, but also the amount of oversight that will be needed to ensure that aid is being provided effectively at all levels of society. Without understanding the political landscape of post-conflict zones, it will be difficult for the Council to prepare for further complexities that may arise. However, the Council may explore building off of and improving upon diplomatic models that have already been utilized during conflict periods.

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

The issue of inadequate humanitarian aid, food, and water is global. For example, Yemen’s population is malnourished with 55% considered food insecure;¹⁶ Palestinians, those in Gaza especially, are severely restricted as to what items can come in and out of their territories;¹⁷ and within Syria, humanitarian aid has been unable to reach the most desperate populations due to the current conflict.¹⁸ Political barriers and obstacles connected with ongoing conflicts including naval blockades and no-fly zones have made it

¹⁶ "Yemen Crisis: How Bad Is the Humanitarian Situation?" BBC News. N.p., 15 Dec. 2015. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34011187>>.

¹⁷ Booth, William. "The ‘humanitarian Aid’ aboard a Recent Flotilla to Gaza Fit in Two Cardboard Boxes." The Washington Post, 1 June 2015. Web. 23 June 2016. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/07/01/did-the-flotilla-to-gaza-have-humanitarian-aid-aboard-or-not/>>.

¹⁸ "Group Accuses UN of Favoring Syrian Regime in Humanitarian Aid." DailySabah. N.p., 16 June 2016. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/06/17/group-accuses-un-of-favoring-syrian-regime-in-humanitarian-aid>>.

increasingly difficult to guarantee the accessibility of humanitarian assistance in areas that are already resource-scarce.

Although peace may have been restored within a post-conflict zone, tensions can remain high and conflict is likely to reoccur in these areas should tensions not diminish. The possibility of violence also complicates the delivery of necessary materials, as it endangers the lives of those involved in its distribution and elevates the risk of sending assistance in the first place. It is also of note that not all member states have the same capacities needed to contribute to humanitarian aid.

C. Finding a Solution: Past, Present, and Future

The purpose of any aspect of humanitarian aid is “to save lives by providing food, medical assistance, and shelter enabling the affected area to recover sufficiently to function as a viable entity again.”¹⁹ Conflicts within member states have made this purpose even more imperative as conditions continue to deteriorate. Member nations, notably Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other GCC states have been generous in providing humanitarian assistance to areas of need.²⁰ However, due to the current needs of populations within conflict zones, the maximum efficiency of humanitarian assistance is needed to assure the availability of goods to these areas.

The Council should define the ways in which it can increase efficiency by taking measures including, but not limited to increasing oversight measures and initiating or continuing political cooperation with receiving governments. This Council might also outline whether further action should be taken as League or as an individual state. Further, the Council might also consider how its efforts can be better coordinated with other organizations or otherwise amplify existing humanitarian programs. For instance, the roles of non-government organizations like the Red Cross and Red Crescent have been vital in the distribution of aid worldwide, both in the short and long term.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What are the current difficulties in providing aid to areas in need?
- Does my country have the capacity to provide humanitarian aid?
- How has my country contributed to humanitarian causes in the past?
- What will be the needs of populations within post-conflict zones?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How can the Arab League promote efficiency in the distribution of humanitarian aid?
- Should aid be given by individual states or by the Arab League?
- How can the Arab League promote cooperation with external organizations such as the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, and the UN?
- How will aid address the specific needs of different post-conflict areas?

¹⁹ Panic, M. "Post-Conflict Countries: Aid Effectiveness and Permanent Peace." United Nations, 2008. Web. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf>.

²⁰ "Kuwait." United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, n.d. Web. 23 June 2016. <<http://www.unocha.org/romena/about-us/about-ocha-regional/kuwait>>.