



2018 - 2019
Model Arab League
BACKGROUND GUIDE
Council of Social Affairs Ministers

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Original draft by *Erin Bradley*, Chair of the Social Affairs Council at the 2019 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 season for Model Arab League and to the Council for Social Affairs Ministers! My name is Erin Bradley and I have the joy and honor of drafting the topics that follow, as well as serving as your chair at the 2019 National University Model Arab League Conference. I am a senior at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and I am pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a minor in Arts Management. Participating in Model Arab League is something not typically expected of someone in my field, but it is a program that I have found fulfilling and inspiring in my reach with the world beyond music (though I have included a topic pertaining to the arts). This will be my fourth year participating in MAL and my third year serving as a chair at regional and national conferences. I encourage you all to seek to gain as much as you can from the experiences offered by Model Arab League and the National Council on US-Arab Relations.

In general, this committee poses the unique situation wherein you not only need to represent your country's government, but also your people. It is my hope that any resolutions passed will be drafted with human needs placed at importance. In your preparation, try to seek answers to the topics that represent the people of your state, but which could also be implemented League-wide. You should also try first to discover what is currently being done for that issue, so that you don't try to create something that already exists, and then ask yourself, "Is that enough? Did it work in the past - why or why not? Could that program/framework/conference be applied to regions beyond my state?" The most important factors for a solution in this Council are: does this help my people, and is this the most effective solution?

I look forward to meeting you all, and happy researching!

All the best,

Erin Bradley

Topic I: Encouraging artistic and cultural pursuits within Arab youth, including those that seek to preserve Arab cultural histories and identities.

I. Introduction

A. General Background

The MENA region is rich with cultural history, but unfortunately these works of art, music, dance, architecture, cuisine, and other cultural creations often lack protection from outside forces. These forces could be environmental, social, political, or any other number of detrimental circumstances. By encouraging and promoting pursuits which aim to protect and preserve artistic and cultural identities, member states can find continued cultural integrity and, as a result, increased hope and sense of belonging.

Museums are often the first to offer preservation of artifacts, but other organizations can offer protection of the things which do not need to be dusted and cared for meticulously, like dance, cuisine, architecture, literature, music, fashion, television and film, and societal norms. Organizations can preserve these forms of culture through larger platforms like workshops, conferences, and expos, but smaller platforms are just as effective. Pursuits such as local schools providing after-school art or dance classes are especially effective at including youth in the preservation and continuation of local culture. In general, this topic can be largely described as a grassroots-based plan with goals to affect the MENA region.

B. History in the Arab World

The Arab world has been largely built on a history of colonialism, which leads to outside forces affecting local culture. While this is not inherently a bad thing, member states may have legitimate reasons to associate outside (often Western) influences with detrimental effects. More recent forms of media, like television, film, and popular music, are the most common forms of non-Arab art in Arab regions. However, more historic cultural and artistic pursuits are often more indicative of Arab identity.

There are a few artistic pursuits in the region which combine historic and modern art forms. One is “calligraffiti,” which combines traditional Islamic calligraphy with modern artistic expression (and, sometimes, vandalism).¹ What is remarkable about this visual combination of the two artistic styles is its accessibility. Traditional calligraphy has strict confines and requires special training; calligraffiti has no rules and can use an artist’s individual handwriting, allowing for a

¹ “Calligraphy, Meet Graffiti: Calligraffiti at Leila Heller Gallery.” *Arctcritical*, 24 Dec. 2013, www.arctcritical.com/2013/09/16/calligraffiti-at-leila-heller/.

deeply personal artistic expression. There are, of course, other pursuits in the region which combine modern art forms with the historic, but it would be remiss of me to not bring attention to this specific form, due to its ability to speak to sociopolitical issues.

Currently, there are a number of arts organizations seeking to preserve Arab identities. One of these is the Misk Art Institute in Saudi Arabia, which was just recently established in 2017 “to encourage grassroots artistic production in Saudi Arabia, nurture the appreciation of Saudi and Arab art and enable international cultural diplomacy and exchange.”² The Misk Institute operates under the Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Foundation (Misk), a non-profit organization devoted to cultivating learning and leadership in youth. Other important regional pursuits are museums, such as The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, The Jordan Museum, and the Djerba Traditional Heritage Museum in Tunisia, and others.

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

Once delegates have determined their country’s individual goals and how they might coincide with League-wide objectives, they should try to draft resolutions which follow that same ground-up approach to incorporate those pursuits throughout the region. As mentioned in the General Background section, a grassroots approach would likely prove to be very effective. Since cultural traditions are often preserved in rural areas, I encourage delegates to make a focus on rural youths in any drafted resolutions. Attempts to include youth by incorporating “newer” art forms, though often Western-influenced, would be fine as well, provided they are used as platforms to explore Arab cultural avenues.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What is my country currently doing to encourage cultural pursuits? If there are current programs/organizations in place, do they encourage youth participation?
- How does my country prioritize the arts? If it doesn’t prioritize the arts, why not? What is considered a more important pursuit?
- What types of cultural pursuits are most important to the demographics of my country, and what is their effect on Arab historic and cultural identities?
- What can be gained by youth participation in arts and culture? What will be lost if they do not participate?

² “A New Cultural Organization Established under the MiSK Foundation.” *Misk Art Institute*, miskartinstitute.org/.

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Does this solution ensure protection from various outside elements? What can be done for elements which are out of our control (environmental, etc)?
- How can we improve youth participation in the arts to ensure a continued Arab identity?
- How can preservation happen in areas of conflict? Should efforts be continuous or should there be plans for post-conflict restoration?
- Is this solution accessible to youth in rural areas?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Cultural heritage and identity in the Arab region – young people’s views](#)

Published following the UNESCO conference, “Cultural heritage and identity: an Arab youth perspective.” Valuable resource for this topic, answering the question, “In a region where conflict and violence are pushing communities and societies to the edge, how are young people using the power of culture and arts to resist, preserve and rebuild their society and its diverse identities?”

- [Middle East Institute - Arts and Culture](#)

Arts and culture homepage for the Middle East Institute. The links on this web page update constantly, providing examples of current art programs in the region, as well as articles and publications.

- [Arab American Institute](#)

This resource is similar to the Middle East Institute link, but is good for delegates who would like to preserve Arab culture by bridging it with Western, rather than separating from it. This page has links to Arab-American museums, galleries, organizations, publications, and articles.

- [Middle East Studies Association - Resources and Opportunities](#)

Lengthy resource listing various cultural organizations in the Middle East. This link is similar to the previous two, in that it is a good starting point for finding organizations and programs that currently exist and could be used as models. This site also includes information about funding agencies, research institutes, and various cultural societies.

Topic II: Exploring the role of media outlets in public opinion, including state-sponsored news outlets and social media, and addressing the issue of digital rights.

I. Introduction

A. General Background

Media - television, press, and online - plays a central role in communicating to the public what is happening in the world. In the cases where audiences do not have direct knowledge or experience of what is happening, they become particularly reliant upon the media to inform them. This is not to say that people uninhibitedly and uncritically accept all news, but it is to say that media has a special power in affecting public opinion. If the sources of the media exhibit bias, then that has an effect on public opinion, to the benefit of the media source. This often shows up in social and state media. (It is important to make the distinction between state-sponsored and public sector media. State media is controlled both financially and editorially by the state; public sector media is funded directly or indirectly by the state, but wherein the state does not have tight editorial control.³)

Digital rights is a wide-encompassing topic, and one that is not given lots of attention. Digital rights include intellectual property, such as film, music, and publications, but also include the access and control of this digital information. Another difficult aspect of digital rights is internet privacy, freedom of information, and piracy.⁴ This is a topic which is unique to the current age of technology, and because of its newness, is somewhat lacking in legislature and programming. Encryptions and watermarking are the most common technical protections, but more should be done to determine where digital protections should be enforced, while defining technology's relationship to national security.⁵

B. History in the Arab World

Due to the unique cultural identities within the Arab world, Arab newspapers and publications have been around since the beginning of the 19th century, beginning with *Journal Iraq* in 1816.⁶ Newspapers and other news outlets have existed on government funding for years, often leading to controversial levels of involvement. For example, Doha-based Al Jazeera is a popular regional news outlet, whose parent company the Al Jazeera Media Network, is owned by the government

³ "Freedom Paper No. 1: Free & Independent Media." *Timeline -- B.C.*, ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation Washington DC., www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/state/freedom1.htm.

⁴ "What Is Digital Rights? - Definition from Techopedia." *Techopedia.com*, www.techopedia.com/definition/24928/digital-rights.

⁵ "Digital Rights Protection - a Great Challenge of the New Millennium - IEEE Conference Publication." *Design and Implementation of Autonomous Vehicle Valet Parking System - IEEE Conference Publication*, Wiley-IEEE Press, ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/1572094/.

⁶ "Journal Iraq." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 July 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_Iraq.

of Qatar. Al Jazeera has stated that they are editorially independent from the government of Qatar, but this assertion has been disputed.⁷

Arab nationals are avid social media users. WhatsApp tops the list of social media platforms used across the region with two-thirds of nationals using it, compared to a marginally lower rate for Facebook and only one-half using YouTube (67% WhatsApp, 63% Facebook, 50% YouTube). Tunisians, however, prefer Facebook and YouTube (57% Facebook, 41% YouTube vs. 7% WhatsApp). Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter form a second tier, with usage rates between 20% and 35% (33% Instagram, 23% Snapchat, 20% Twitter).⁸ There is also the recent advent of the aptly named “social media influencer.” Common influencers in the MENA region include Huda Kattan of Huda Beauty fame, and Hayda al Ghazal, a UAE-based YouTube personality who was recently named a UN Ambassador.⁹ In regards to digital rights, because this is a very recent topic, there is little current programming in the Arab world that looks at, or develops this field. There is also little MENA-specific research into the topic and more can be done in council to formulate a League backed vision for the future of digital rights.

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

In searching for a solution for this topic, delegates must first of all be careful in respecting state sovereignty. Next, delegates should seek to recognize which sources of media have the strongest effect on popular opinion in their nations, and through the League as a whole - is there any overlap between platforms? Why or why not? Delegates can also endeavor to analyze the content of the media which is so heavily affecting public opinions. Is the content powerful because of repeat exposure? Appealing to popular beliefs? Is this a corrupt form of bias, or just a form of bias which can occur naturally based on region? Then, there is the issue of digital rights - how can states be convinced to create legislature for digital protection? Is legislature needed, or would another means of solution be more effective? This topic lends itself to many questions, which can be both an asset and a detriment when it comes to formal debate - so come prepared to discuss multiple avenues.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What are the main media outlets used by the people of my country? Why are those more popular than others?
- What are the difficulties with social media acting as a news outlet? How does this affect

⁷ Sabbagh, Dan. “Al-Jazeera's Political Independence Questioned amid Qatar Intervention.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 30 Sept. 2012, www.theguardian.com/media/2012/sep/30/al-jazeera-independence-questioned-qatar.

⁸ “Social Media.” *Advertising · MENA Media Industry*, www.mideastmedia.org/survey/2017/chapter/social-media/.

⁹ Amro. “Arab Women - Top 10 Social Media Influencers.” *Forbes Middle East*, www.forbesmiddleeast.com/en/list/top-10-arab-women-social-media-influencers/.

the popular opinion?

- What are the difficulties with news outlets having severe bias? How does this affect the popular opinion?
- Does my country or other countries in the League have frameworks or programs that protect digital rights?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- In what ways have current plans of analysis been successful? Should a solution to this topic be based upon those, or will the League need to try a different avenue in order to discover the best possible solution?
- Does this resolution create a plan of protection for digital rights which does not infringe upon state sovereignty?
- Is this resolution creating a framework of analysis which may be implemented across various forms of media, or is it specific to one type?
- Does this resolution analyze media while still maintaining some freedoms of press?

IV. Additional Resources

- [The Role of the Media in the Construction of Public Belief and Social Change](#)
This is a very valuable resource in the analysis of media on popular opinion. This study by the Journal of Social and Political Psychology provides an in-depth look into why and how media affects public belief and how it can bring about social change. The study is not specific to the MENA region, but is more of a general study of human behavior in response to popular media.
- [Digital rights protection - a great challenge of the new millennium](#)
This resource is a publication following the International Conference on Telecommunication in Modern Satellite, Cable and Broadcasting Services, and provides an in-depth overview of the difficulties and intricacies of digital rights in the modern era.
- [Middle East Social Media Usage Trends Revealed](#)
This resource is an article by the Arabian Gazette which provides an easily digestible

report of social media trends. There are also some pretty graphs.

- [Social Media in the Middle East - The Story of 2017](#)

This resource is a published report of the effects of social media in the Middle East throughout 2017. Discusses marketing, site-specific demographics and reports, the impact of social influencers, the escalation of political conflicts via social media, and also discusses social media censorship.

Topic III: Discussing means by which the League can prevent the onset of and provide aid to victims of human rights violations in areas of conflict.

I. Introduction

A. General Background

Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations in 1948, all people are promised “the economic, social, political, cultural and civic rights that underpin a life free from want and fear.”¹⁰ Unfortunately, violations exist in all parts of the world, especially in places of conflict. Violations are often especially heinous for women and children.

Human trafficking is one such crime that primarily affects women and children. Human trafficking for sexual exploitation may immediately come to mind, and is something that is difficult to combat due to a lack of regulations and often a lack of legislation. In fact, many nations have no laws which explicitly prohibit sex trafficking.¹¹ In addition to sex trafficking, human trafficking can also include migrant workers who are forced to labor under duress, children who are forced to work without protection of labor laws, domestic servitude, children who are trained in combat or petty theft, and other forced labor.¹²

B. History in the Arab World

The Arab world, due to a history of uprising and invasion, expansion and diaspora, has unfortunately had more than its fair share of human rights violations. In Algeria, refugees and asylum-seekers were frequent victims of detention, expulsion or ill treatment. Twenty-eight individuals from sub-Saharan African countries with official refugee status from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were deported to Mali without food, water or medical aid after being falsely tried, without legal counsel or interpreters, on charges of entering Algeria illegally.¹³ In Somalia, prominent human rights defender Abdi Farah Dhere was

¹⁰ United States, Congress, “The United Nations and the Human Person: Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” The United Nations and the Human Person: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Project Gutenberg.

¹¹ Dudley, Schuyler. *Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region*. Topical Research Digest, www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/trafficking/MiddleEast.pdf.

¹² UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.V.10) http://www.unodc.org/res/cld/bibliography/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons_html/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

¹³ “Human Rights No Slavery: UN Universal Declaration Violations & Abuse, Torture & Slavery.” United for Human Rights, www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/violations-of-human-rights/slavery-and-torture.html.

murdered,¹⁴ and countless other activists and journalists have lost human rights and/or their lives.

The Arab Human Rights Committee was established to serve as a body to supervise the implementation of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which was entered into force in the Arab League in 2008. This committee monitors states' human rights performance, reviews reports, requests information from Arab League bodies and institutions, and submits annual reports to the League. Unfortunately, the committee does not offer a mechanism for complaints.¹⁵ As it stands, the Arab Charter on Human Rights has only been ratified by 13 member states: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the UAE and Yemen. Additionally, then-UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour said that the Arab charter was "incompatible" with the UN's understanding of universal human rights, including with respect to women's rights and capital punishment for children.¹⁶ ¹⁷There are several human rights programs and initiatives currently operating in the Arab world, including the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, and the Arab Master's in Democracy and Human Rights. There are also NGOs such as the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information which are attempting to similarly combat human rights violations, the former of which collects publications, campaigns, reports, and statements from almost 140 Arabic human rights organizations across the region for a daily digest.

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

In search of a solution to this difficult topic, delegates may need to take a two-pronged approach or a similar multifaceted method. Because the victims of human rights violations would not need aid if the human rights violations did not happen, delegates should aim to find preventative solutions first, but not neglect the need for aid. A resolution could focus on specific issues, such as human trafficking, or try to create a framework that could be applicable to human rights issues in a broad sense. Delegates should also be sure to create solutions that are accessible to those in conflict areas, without disrupting individual state sovereignty.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What frameworks are already in place in my country to help prevent human rights violations? What type of measures do they take - punitive, preventive, rehabilitative, etc?

¹⁴ "Somalia: Investigate Killing of Puntland Human Rights Defender." *DefendDefenders*, www.defenddefenders.org/press_release/somalia-investigate-killing-of-puntland-human-rights-defender-2/.

¹⁵ "Arab Human Rights Committee." *USAPP*, 18 Oct. 2016, blogs.lse.ac.uk/vaw/regional/arab-league/arab-human-rights-committee/.

¹⁶ "The Arab Charter on Human Rights Is Incompatible with International Standards - Louise Arbour." *IHEU*, 11 Mar. 2008, iheu.org/arab-charter-human-rights-incompatible-international-standards-louise-arbour/.

¹⁷ "Arab Charter on Human Rights." *The Helsinki Final Act - Humanrights.ch*, www.humanrights.ch/en/standards/other-regions-instruments/arab-charter-on-human-rights/.

- From where does aid come for victims of human rights violations in my country? Government welfare programs? NGO's? Nowhere?
- How do conflict areas deal with human rights violations versus non- or post-conflict areas?
- What demographic is most targeted and affected by human trafficking and other human rights violations in my country?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Will all countries in the League be able to benefit from this solution, regardless of conflict status? If not, then what are the incentives to contribute?
- Does this solution respect member states' individual sovereignty while still posing a solution to the topic?
- Is an actionable plan set forth to prevent human rights violations? Does it coincide with an actionable plan to provide aid to victims of human rights violations, or will that need to be a separate resolution?
- Does this resolution provide means for preventative measures in a way which doesn't take away resources from the needs of the victims?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

Complete text of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations, with a foreword by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the UN, and an introduction by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Also has some happy illustrations for each Article.

- [Arab Charter on Human Rights](#)

Complete text of the 1994 Arab Charter on Human Rights, translated from Arabic to English.

- [Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region](#)

This resource is an essay detailing various types of human trafficking and how each of those types are being dealt with in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Also includes a lengthy annotated bibliography which may prove helpful to researchers.

- [Human Rights Watch - Middle East/North Africa](#)

Website for NGO Human Rights Watch, with articles specific for the MENA region. The links on this web page update constantly, providing current and accurate accounts of human rights violations, as well as news and reports.

- [Human Rights: A Reference Guide](#)

Cornell University Library homepage for human rights reference guide. From here, links direct to encyclopedias, databases, reports by country, country profiles, news sources, primary sources, and archives, and encyclopedia of human rights organizations. This resource is an excellent starting point.

Topic IV: Analyzing the social and health concerns that arise with climate change and water/ food scarcities.

I. Introduction

A. General Background

Due to the climate and geography of the Middle East and Northern Africa, this region is naturally prone to water-scarcity and dry land, often leading to agricultural difficulties, which in turn can lead to food scarcities. On the other hand, there are also many cases of politically- or economically-caused food/water scarcities. In these events, since the cause is bureaucratic, solutions are often even more difficult than in the event of environmentally caused scarcities.

With climate change, the cause is almost always human/industrial. With climate change comes increased heat, decreased rainfall and raised sea levels, which not only affects agriculture and food security, but also water management systems such as hydroelectric dams, flood control and drainage, and irrigation systems. The direct effect on agriculture has an immediate effect on public health, as well as social well-being.

B. History in the Arab World

Population increases have a direct strain on resources. In the last century, the region with the highest rate of population growth was, in fact, the Middle East and Northern Africa, with an overall rate of 3.7% from 1950 to 2000.¹⁸ At the beginning of 2018, a study was produced to see which countries had the greatest population growth in 2017. Of the top 20 countries, 5 Arab states were represented, with 4 of those being the top 4. Oman was #1 (8.45% increase), followed by Lebanon (5.99%), Kuwait (4.81%), and Qatar (4.72%), with Jordan at #16 (3.06% increase).¹⁹ These increases have had direct strain on resources like food and water, which has innumerable social effects, such as decreased access to medical supplies, overcrowded schools and workspaces, depletion of natural resources, decreased life expectancies, and continuous climate change.²⁰

Climate change has not excluded the MENA region in its rampage. Yemen, amid its conflict, has felt the effects of climate change especially hard. Underground water reservoirs are being used up at an unsustainable rate, and rising sea levels are leading to brackish drinking water and soil.²¹

¹⁸ Roudi-Fahimi, Farzaneh. "Population Trends and Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa." Population Reference Bureau, www.prb.org/populationtrendsandchallengesinthemiddleeastandnorthafrica/.

¹⁹ Dillinger, Jessica. "Countries With the Highest Population Growth." WorldAtlas, WorldAtlas, 8 Jan. 2018, www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-20-countries-with-the-highest-population-growth.html.

²⁰ "Overpopulation Effects." Everything Connects, www.everythingconnects.org/overpopulation-effects.html.

²¹ "Future Impact of Climate Change Visible Now in Yemen." World Bank, www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/11/24/future-impact-of-climate-change-visible-now-in-yemen.

Young children are sent out with a jerry can to get clean drinking water (“street water”) from mosques and charities, and are often hurt or killed in the effort.²² Yemen is especially affected by climate damages due to its faltering stability, but offers a glimpse as to what could happen to the rest of the region if climate change is not mitigated.

Lack of clean water, proper sanitation, or hygiene poses as much danger as starvation does. At a makeshift camp near Baidoa, Somalia, a mother named Sangabo Moalin said, "Even if you can get food, there is no water," and described a "burning" feeling in her body. Deadly waterborne diseases like cholera also spread rapidly through camps, and can kill adults and children quickly through dehydration.²³

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

Water and food scarcities can be caused by environmental concerns, but are often also the result of political interference, especially in conflict areas, notably such as Palestine. Delegates should be able to find solutions which address the various causes of drought and famine, and should attempt to find solutions which specifically address these different causes. One effort on which others could be modeled is the Gaza Emergency Water Project by the World Bank.²⁴ Climate change is another concern which is most often the result of human (over-)interaction. In the analysis of how these environmental concerns affect people’s health and social well-being, delegates should try to focus more on the social aspects and less on the environmental, though requesting assistance from the Environmental Committee would not be inappropriate.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What are the largest causes of climate change and water/food scarcities in my country? Are those causes environmental or human?
- Does my country already have frameworks in place for analyzing the social and health concerns of these environmental factors?
- What form of research would be most beneficial for my country? Why that type?
- What demographics in my country are most severely affected by water/food scarcities? Is

²² Al-Kamali, Farouk. “Yemen: so Critically Short of Water in War That Children Are Dying Fetching It.” Governance for Development, 23 Mar. 2016, blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/yemen-so-critically-short-of-water.

²³ “Famine Threatens 2.5 Million Children in Africa and the Middle East.” UNICEF USA, 21 June 2017, www.unicefusa.org/stories/famine-threatens-25-million-children-africa-and-middle-east/32005.

²⁴ World Bank. 2003. *West Bank and Gaza - Emergency Water Project (English)*. Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/202661468781767641/West-Bank-and-Gaza-Emergency-Water-Project>

anything currently being done for them?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Will this solution be fiscally feasible given what my country's budget allows for social assistance and health care?
- Are there any programs or organizations similar to what this solution establishes that are already taking place? If so, should the League use them as a model or attempt to reinstate them?
- Is the solution accessible to those who most need it?
- Does this resolution remain under the purview of the Social Affairs Committee, or does it too closely resemble one that should belong in Environmental?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Climate change impacts in the Middle East and Northern Africa \(MENA\) region and their implications for vulnerable population groups](#)

An overview of how certain population groups are especially vulnerable to climate change impact. This resource analyzes in-depth the effects of climate change on agriculture and the overall strain on resources. There are also discussions about what makes the Middle East particularly susceptible to climate change damage, both geographical and sociopolitical.

- [Water, Drought, Climate Change, and Conflict in Syria](#)

Journal article detailing how the Syrian conflict has directly escalated the effects of climate change, and how water scarcity issues are especially severe from both environmental and political causes. This resource gives an overview of the history of water violence and shortages in Syria, and offers possible solutions that could be applied to Syria and to the greater region.

- [Adaptation to Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa Region](#)

Very extensive World Bank article detailing social effects of climate change in the MENA region. The most applicable section of this article are the parts wherein the World Bank offers possible solutions.

- [Climate change and drought in the Middle East](#)

This resource details the results found from reports on the effects of climate change and drought in the Middle East specifically. There are also findings about the effects of

overusing fossil fuels, as well as the effects of rainwater and rainwater evaporation on water availability. This resource focuses mostly on the economical effects of these conditions, but can still be used to determine social effects.

- [Emergency Relief Famine Threatens 2.5 Million Children in Africa and the Middle East](#)

UNICEF article detailing the severe effects of food scarcity. This article largely focuses on sub-Saharan non-Arab African nations, but also discusses war-affected Arab states Yemen, Djibouti, Sudan and Somalia. Nevertheless, the effects of famine are universal, even if the causes are different.