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Model Arab League BACKGROUND GUIDE

Summit of Arab Heads of State

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**National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations**



Original draft by Erin Kitchenka, Chair of the Summit of Arab Heads of State at the 2022 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Hello Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the 2022 Summit of Arab Heads of State! I am so excited to see all of you (hopefully in person) at this year's conference. My name is Erin Kitchenka and I will be your chair this year. I am a junior at Converse College majoring in Politics and Psychology and minoring in Spanish and Dance. This is my third year participating in Model Arab League- in that time I have debated and chaired various models for both Arab League and NATO. I am so honored to be your chair this year and I am excited to see all the work we are able to do.

The Summit of the Arab Heads of State is a unique council in that you will be dealing with the most important and pressing topics and representing the leader of your nation. This requires you to have a deep understanding of the policy of your state, the dynamics in the League, the leader you are portraying, and current events impacting your state. I trust that each of you will come well prepared and willing to fully embody your role and debate well. This makes the debate more realistic and more fun.

This guide is intended to give background information of each of the topics and raise questions for you to examine in your research. I challenge each of you to look beyond the most obvious solutions and find creative ways to look at and solve the issues presented. Remember that as Heads of State you have more power to enact actionable solutions in your nation and the League than a delegate in any other committee- this opens up many creative options for resolutions.

I look forward to meeting each of you at NUMAL this year. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at Ekitchenka001@converse.edu. I will try to get back to you promptly. Happy researching!

Regards,

Erin Kitchenka

Topic I: Assessing the efficacy of The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism and devising counter-terrorism and counter-radicalization strategies for the League

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

There is not one universally recognized definition of terrorism, but it is usually considered to be using acts of violence an intimidation in order to achieve a political goal. One of the most well-known instances of a terrorist action was the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the United States. Since then the “War on Terror” has been a defining feature of American foreign policy specifically as well as a common theme among many global powers. This includes major military actions such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as more covert operations.¹ Large scale anti-terrorism campaigns of this nature have had mixed success as many argue that military actions have largely scattered extremist presences making them harder to track and spread fear and anti-Western (particularly anti-American) opinions in targeted areas such as the Arab world as well as the opposite effect of xenophobia in Western nations.²

The number of terrorist attacks worldwide has dropped since 2014 (to 8,302 from 13,482)³, but it remains a major issue across the globe accounting for 25,082 fatalities in 2019⁴ According to the 2019 Gallup poll 46% of people were “very” or “somewhat” concerned about becoming a victim of terrorism. In 2021 82% of people considered cyberterrorism to be a critical interest for the United States.⁵

The recent decision by the United States to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and the subsequent surge in Taliban control is a major shift in the international counter-terrorism effort and the political climate in the MENA region. There is no concrete plan in place by the United States for counter-terrorism in the region following the withdrawal.⁶ How swiftly the Taliban was able to seize control in Afghanistan demonstrates the amount of influence extremist groups hold in nations, even those with robust anti-terror measures.

B. History in the Arab World

Since its founding, the League of Arab States has had an overarching goal of safeguarding individual member states. The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism⁷ was adopted in April of 1998 to specifically address the issues of terrorism and extremism across the region. The Convention dictates what acts are and are not considered acts of terrorism and principles for

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/war-on-terrorism>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53156096>

³ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/202864/number-of-terrorist-attacks-worldwide/>

⁴ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/202871/number-of-fatalities-by-terrorist-attacks-worldwide/>

⁵ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/4909/terrorism-united-states.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.mei.edu/publications/missing-bigger-implications-us-withdrawal-afghanistan>

⁷ https://www.unodc.org/images/tldb-f/conv_arab_terrorism.en.pdf

the League to follow in suppression and prevention. It also details specifics regarding response to specific actions and against any offenders including detention and extradition. Specific member states have also introduced new counter-terrorism legislation since the adoption of the Convention.

The Arab World has often been the target of anti-terrorism actions by major global actors such as the United States- so it is a unique area to examine in regards to approaching counter-terrorism and counter-extremism. The world has a critical eye on the MENA region and often uses terrorism as a scapegoat reason to become involved in affairs. Strengthening the League's and individual states counter-terrorism activity can help decrease this scrutiny and lead to a more self-sufficient Arab world.

After the 2011 Arab spring protests, a second wave of anti-terror legislation in the Arab World targeted dissent and prevented further protests. An example of this is Saudi Arabia's legislation which was passed in 2013 that classified any behavior that undermines the state or society as a potential act of terrorism.⁸ Legislation like this is potentially well-intentioned, but has the potential to restrict the rights of regular citizens.

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

Finding a solution to this issue will require extreme care as it must tread carefully with specifics so as to not counteract legislation and opinions in specific member states. Different member states each have strong opinions regarding what actions may be considered under the umbrella of terrorism and whether certain organizations qualify as an extremist or terrorist group. Any resolution should refrain from attempting to classify or condemn any specific state or group.

It may be prudent to focus more on counter-radicalization and counter-extremism to tackle the problem at its root. Successful suppression of terrorism must run deeper than responding to actions after they occur. Prevention is critical. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy Task Force has implement working groups to address root causes of radicalization and extremism. A similar approach may be possible within the Arab League. A solution should seek to examine the way in which radicalization occurs and find methods to prevent recruitment into extremist organizations as well as finding avenues for individuals to exit extremist groups safely.

Additionally the issue of funding, including under-the-table funding, of various groups that may be classed as terrorist groups is sure to be addressed. A solution should seek to prevent terrorist activity being funded without stepping on the toes of any member states or violating the sovereignty of each member state.

⁸ <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2014-02-04/saudi-arabia-new-terrorism-law-in-effect/>

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What groups/organizations/etc. does my state consider to be an extremist group? Is this the prevailing opinion across the League?
- How has extremism and terrorist actions impacted my state and how did we respond? Was it effective? Can the response be implemented throughout the LAS?
- What anti-terror or anti-extremism legislation does my state have in place? Are there any effective programs that exist at a social or political level?
- What potential risk factors for radicalization exist in my state? How can the League as a whole seek to alleviate the impact of these factors in mine and other states?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What weaknesses or problem areas are present in The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism?
- What factor influence the growth and prevalence of extremism and terrorism across the Arab World- what mechanisms does the League already have to combat this? What mechanisms are not already in place that may be more effective?
- How can the League target extremism and radicalization at its roots to prevent terrorism more effectively?
- How can the League seek to cut off funding for extremist groups without violating the sovereignty of any member state?

IV. Additional Resources

- [The Arab Convention For The Suppression Of Terrorism](#)
This is the full text of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism adopted in 1998. It details the full position of the LAS regarding terrorism and measures for member states to take to prevent and suppress terrorist activity
- [International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation](#)
Centered out of the Department of War Studies at King's College (London, UK), this source examines radicalisation from a multi-disciplinary approach and publishes information.
- [Cooperation between the UN and the League of Arab States, January 2021 Monthly Forecast](#)
This source details the cooperation between the League and the United Nations. This cooperation includes security measures and a counter-terrorism strategy. This is a good starting point for potential solutions.
- [Counterterrorism Committee of the League of Arab States \(Arab League\) — HLS PILAC](#)
This source summarizes the Arab League's Counterterrorism wing. It explains some of the basic goals of the League as it comes to counter-terrorism. It includes a link to the official LAS website.

Topic II: Weighing how and when the League should become involved in the lives of refugees and/or internally displaced persons.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The international refugee crisis and mass migration have increased dramatically in the last several years. The world is currently in one of the largest migration flows in human history, often within international borders but occasionally crossing international boundaries.⁹ We are currently seeing levels of relocation similar to the post World War II and Cold War period. Major conflicts continue to displace civilians leading to mass migration of refugees and internal displacement.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are those individuals who have been displaced, but remain in their home country and under the protection of its government.¹⁰ It is frequently the case that the government is the reason for, or at least a factor in, their displacement so it is a difficult place for a person to be in. IDPs often settle in remote areas which are difficult to access for humanitarian aid making them one of the most vulnerable populations in the world. A refugee is someone that has left their country of origin fearing persecution, violence, or due to some conflict or other dangerous situation.

Many international non-governmental organizations exist to aid refugees such as the UN High Commission for Refugees. These organizations can work alongside governments and seek to alleviate the financial and resource strain of displaced people. Furthermore, social programs to aid healthcare, education, job training, and other services for displaced persons are necessary as a long-term solution.

Natural disasters and climate change are also major driving factors in migration events. For example, in 2019 Tropical Storm Idai made contact on the southeast coast of Mozambique, displacing 146,000 people and leaving 1.85 million people in need of assistance.¹¹ Climate change can lead to property damage, lack of access to food and water, agricultural degradation, and even conflict. Climate is rarely the only factor driving migration, but it is no less a major factor and there is very little policy in place that directly addresses this issue.

B. History in the Arab World

More than a quarter of all internationally displaced people worldwide are accounted for by the MENA region. Syria alone had almost 2 million people displaced mainly by conflict in 2020.¹² Displacements have increased since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and the ongoing conflicts in

⁹ <https://carnegieendowment.org/2017/03/29/refugees-and-displacement-in-middle-east-pub-68479>

¹⁰ <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/internally-displaced-people.html>

¹¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-climate-crisis-migration-and-refugees/>

¹² <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020/downloads/2020-IDMC-GRID-middle-east-north-africa.pdf>

Syria, Yemen, Libya and elsewhere continue to exacerbate the problem. Natural disasters and other uncontrollable circumstances can also trigger mass displacement of people.

One of the clearest examples of displacement in the Arab world is the partition of Palestine and subsequent War generated a major wave of refugees that are still displaced across Gaza, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and elsewhere. The June War of 1967 displaced many of the same individuals for a second time and created a whole new wave of displaced persons. An estimated 6 million Syrian refugees have left the country and 10 million are estimated to be displaced internally.

The refugee crisis in the Arab World has challenged areas of sovereignty across the League. Border security has been damaged in many cases as the flow of people and products has increased and improvements have not always been made. Member states have also had to accommodate mass amounts of non-nationals. This can pose some issues to sovereignty depending on how much the state wants to be involved and whether they have invited the LAS or any NGOs to assist in providing services to refugees.

Displacement also comes with a heavy economic price as it is a burden to governments to attempt to transport and house displaced individuals. The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the issue. Health services within refugee camps were already not ideal and far from equipped to handle a pandemic of this magnitude. Seeking to treat and vaccinate individuals is a cost both financially and logistically within a refugee camp where people are densely packed and thus at greater risk of infection.

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

There is no question that the sheer volume of refugees and internally displaced persons is a major issue for the League to address, the question is how. There is room for disagreement as to how much the League should be involved and how much should fall to individual member states. A resolution may address specifics as to what a response should look like for the League as a whole and recommendations for member states. Member states who are either housing displaced populations or have populations that have been displaced are likely to have existing infrastructure and frameworks in place that can serve as a jumping off point for a solution.

This problem has ramifications politically, socially, economically, and many other areas. One may look into the way refugees impact these areas of their home state as well as the area they physically occupy. A resolution may look into political and legislative means to address the refugee crises. Additionally the political issue of representation of refugees in their home nation and where they currently reside must be considered and how distinct a refugee camp is politically from the surrounding area.

The quality of life for refugees and IDPs is another area to examine. There may be space for member states or the LAS as a whole to become involved in humanitarian aid for refugees. This is also a space where NGOs can be incorporated in order to alleviate the financial burden on the League and on member states. Education and healthcare (particularly in the wake of the pandemic) are two areas severely lacking in many refugee camps. A solution may seek to bolster these areas.

Climate refugees may be another specific area to consider. Many climate and security experts believe that the severe drought in Syria that preceded the 2011 civil war is an example of the impact climate events can have on the stability of the region. A solution may address how climate issues impact refugees differently than other people groups and what role climate may have played in their displacement. As previously stated there is a lack of policy addressing this specific issue, so it is an area with potential for growth.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has my state responded to refugees and other displaced populations in the past? Has our opinion changed?
- What does border security and immigration look like in my state? How does this impact refugees across the Arab League?
- What resources would help my state deal with the refugee crisis? What resources does my state possess that may help others deal with the refugee crisis in their state?
- How have refugees and internally displaced persons changed the political, economic, or social climate in my state? Is this to the benefit or detriment of the state? The displaced peoples?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How can the League determine when to become involved in issues of displaced people and when to allow member states to deal with it themselves?
- What mechanisms and support programs have been effective in helping displaced persons? How can they be implemented throughout the League?
- What NGOs are already working in the field of displaced persons in the MENA region? How can the League bolster these efforts and support existing projects?
- What differences in policy are necessary between dealing with refugees and with IDPs? How can the League seek to address the challenges of both in a streamlined manner?

IV. Additional Resources

- [New Challenges for Refugee Policy: Internally Displaced Persons](#)
This source examines specific challenges that arise for policy due to internally displaced

persons. Much of refugee policy and humanitarian aid have been focused on those outside their country of origin- effectively leaving out internally displaced persons.

- [UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency](#)

The UN High Commission for Refugees is a major actor in the lives of refugees and IDPs worldwide. This source includes information regarding current refugee crises as well as way in which the UNHCR and their partners have intervened

- [MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA](#)

This source looks specifically at the MENA region and examines the sources of refugees and other displaced persons. It describes in detail why each country is in turmoil and how people are becoming displaced.

- [The climate crisis, migration, and refugees](#)

This source examines the intersections between climate issues and displacement in the world and provides several examples. It also suggests some legal and political actions that could be taken to help mitigate this issue.

Topic III: Devising strategies to counteract economic vulnerability in the middle class across the MENA region.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The middle class is an underappreciated aspect of a nation's economy that can have major impacts on its success or failure. A global middle class has been emerging in the past several decades due to rising incomes lifting families above the poverty line.¹³ There is no exact income bracket that defines the middle class worldwide, but in each country the middle class represents the bulk of consumers in an economy and thus has sway over the market. Furthermore the middle class is the most likely to innovate within any given industry since the rich have no incentive and the poor have too little means.¹⁴ A strong and stable middle class will in turn support a thriving and changing market, a weak middle class lacks the purchasing power to keep an economy going.

However, the coronavirus pandemic contributed to a shrink in the size of the global middle class, particularly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. This contributes to the variety in the size of the middle class between countries. Countries with stronger economies (such as oil producing countries, or any other big industry) seem to have a larger middle class than those without. The increasing poverty levels are in part due to failing support systems that force the existing middle class into poverty due to higher expenses and lower income.

B. History in the Arab World

The middle class in the Arab world is something of an enigma- it is either imperceptibly small (under 5%) or unreasonably large (more than 75%) of the population.¹⁵ Failing social support systems have contributed to this economic situation which in turn contributes to widespread political discontent. Unsurprisingly, the pandemic brought challenges in working for many middle-class individuals with economic freezes, layoffs, and unexpected expenses. Some major issues are income inequality and lack of mobility among the middle class.¹⁶

In the mid-2000s, middle-class dynamics varied across the Arab world.¹⁷ For example, the middle class grew in both Syria and Tunisia but shrunk substantially in Egypt and Yemen. Overall the regional average size of the middle class rose by about 5% from the mid-2000s to the end. Around that same time the middle class was becoming increasingly dissatisfied and unhappy- even where it was growing. This was seen especially in countries which later had Arab

¹³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2021-emerging-markets-middle-class/>

¹⁴ <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/exploring-economics-next-generation/0/steps/39243>

¹⁵ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/middle-class-dynamics-and-arab-spring>

¹⁶ <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-middle-east-and-north-africa-over-the-next-decade-key-challenges-and-policy-options/>

¹⁷ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/middle-class-dynamics-and-arab-spring>

Spring protests- it was correlated with decreasing living standards, failing public services, governance issues, and unemployment. The middle class seems to be in a similar place now- so it is critical to examine what needs to be done to prevent another wave of discontent.

Vulnerability within the middle class has contributed to growing poverty levels in the Arab World. This is illustrated by the extreme inequality and discrepancy between the rich and the poor (the top 10% accounts for 64% of wealth in the region). 41% of the total population is in poverty and another 25% are classified as vulnerable, meaning income barely covers essentials and any drop in income or increase in prices would lead to poverty.¹⁸

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

Since the middle class looks so different in different member states, a “one-size-fits-all” solution is not likely to work for this topic. Each member state will need to contribute their needs and any existing solutions to find a cohesive way to support the whole League. Member States with stronger economies may also have a system in place to counteract economic vulnerability.

Something that must be focused on is bolstering social systems for the middle class. Stronger education, infrastructure, and other mechanisms will help aid in mobility for the middle class and contribute to overall satisfaction (which in turn decreases the likelihood of protests). Political and social reforms may have more impact than expected on this seemingly economic problem. Middle class dynamics are the driving force behind political and social discontent as was demonstrated in the 2011 Arab Spring.

The rising poverty levels are another challenge to focus on. Delegates may choose to look into how to raise families from the poverty level as well as how to prevent an unstable middle class from falling below the poverty line. Again this may look more like dealing with the social support issues rather than looking at the issue from a purely economic standpoint.

The League may also choose to focus on the existing middle class and how it can be strengthened from a market standpoint. Fostering innovation and involvement in markets will grow the economy as a whole and contribute to overall middle-class dynamics. Individuals, families, and corporations may benefit from various incentives to participate in the economy in this matter.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What does the middle class look like in my state- in terms of size, average income, types of jobs, etc.?

¹⁸ <https://www.carnegie.org/topics/topic-articles/arab-region-transitions/why-mass-poverty-so-dangerous-middle-east/>

- What economic and social factors have contributed to discontent in the middle class in my state? Has there been a time in history where these factors acted in the opposite way?
- What social systems have been successful and what systems have not in terms of maintaining and bolstering the middle class in my state.
- How are different economic classes changing in size and influence in my state? Is this to the benefit or detriment of the economy as a whole?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How can the League seek to lessen the discrepancy in the size of the middle class throughout the region?
- How much should the League become involved in the failing systems that contribute to this issue and how much should fall to member states?
- What factors contributed to rising poverty levels across member states and what power does the League have to counteract these factors?
- In what ways can the League encourage innovation and involvement in the economy to contribute to the strength of the middle class? How might this differ from state to state?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Defining the middle class: Cash, credentials, or culture?](#)
This source helps explain who is in the middle class and why it matters. This will aid in understanding the needs of the middle class in the MENA region. It is primarily focused on the United States, but the general principles apply regardless.
- [Is This the Arab Spring 2.0?](#)
This source describes the similarities in the middle class now and before the original Arab Spring protests. It looks at protests that have already occurred and the circumstances that led to them.
- [Trust, voice, and incentives : learning from local success stories in service delivery in the Middle East and North Africa - overview](#)
This is a World Bank report on the rise of the middle class in parts of the MENA region and the failure of public services to catch up to the increase. It details the potential negative ramifications of this fact.
- [Growth and Stability in the Middle East and North Africa -- Economic Overview](#)
This is a general economic background for the MENA region. The region has experienced a general population surge and there are major economic changes that come along with that.

Topic IV: Examining the relationship between the League of Arab States and the African Union as a template for potential interactions with other organizations

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

An intergovernmental organization (IGO) is an entity created by a treaty that involves two or more nations to work in good faith on issues of common interest.¹⁹ Membership is usually based on some shared identity; organizations like the UN are considered global since theoretically all nations of the world are allowed to join. Others may be regional, religious, economic, or nearly any classification. IGOs can act in many capacities to aid an individual government or another IGO. IGOs will frequently work together on issues of shared concern such as the Arab League and the African Union. The largest IGO is the United Nations, which has the primary goals of maintaining international peace and security, fostering relationships between nations, dealing with international issues, and promoting human rights. The African Union (formerly Organization of African Unity, OAU) is one of the largest IGOs aside from the UN.

Beginning with the League of Nations after World War I, intergovernmental organizations have been a critical aspect of international relations. The UN, NATO, the World Trade Organization, and so many others contribute to overall global peace, international security, cooperation, and general prosperity.²⁰ International organizations can provide economic support (WTO, IMF, World Bank, etc.), help align policy (Arab League, African Union), and simply provide a space for international discussion.

B. History in the Arab World

In the Middle East War of October 1973, OAU member states were incredibly supportive of Arab states which began a very strong partnership between the OAU and the LAS.²¹ The LAS was founded in 1945 and the OAU was founded in 1963 and the two do have several states in common. There was originally not a goal to cooperate between the two organizations as the major focus for each was too disparate. The Arab League focused more on countering Israel and their Arab identity, and the African Union focused more on issues of poverty and liberation from colonialism.

During the Algerian-Moroccan border conflict the two organizations were more competitors than friends as the Arab League attempted to bar any other IGO from becoming involved- seeing it as a purely Arab affair. By 1974 there was a strong sense of Afro-Arab rivalry that permeated the

¹⁹

<https://hls.harvard.edu/dept/opia/what-is-public-interest-law/public-service-practice-settings/public-international-law/intergovernmental-organizations-igos/>

²⁰ <https://scholar.princeton.edu/hvmilner/news/why-we-should-preserve-international-institutions-and-order>

²¹ https://www.jstor.org/stable/40174026?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

two organizations. Nevertheless the Arab League persisted in attempting to establish formal ties with the OAU in order to gain support from African nations in the Middle East crisis. Eventually oil was a driving factor in the OAU changing their minds and deciding to establish formal ties with the Arab League. Formal resolutions were passed to that effect in November of 1973. The OAU was officially changed to the African Union (AU) in 2003.

The two organizations have worked together in many ways since then and have just recently reaffirmed their strong partnership. In February of 2021 the LAS and AU issued a joint statement which details the existing relationship. They expressed a desire to deepen ties between the Arab and African people and continue to hold Arab-African Summits. They reaffirmed their positions on several key issues that affect both regions and their appreciation for one another.

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

The first step in a solution will be to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the relationship between the LAS and the African Union. The two have been through ups and downs, yet have become a strong partnership in the realm of IGOs. There are many lessons to be learned from the relationship between the LAS and the AU that can be carried to a relationship with another international body

The next step will be to identify what other international organizations, if any, may be open to a similar relationship. There are several complicating factors involved. Some member states may be already members of another IGO- which would be an excellent place to start. Some IGOs may have strong opinions about international affairs (such as the Arab-Israeli conflict) that run contrary to the stance of the Arab League which may be a reason to hesitate to form a relationship. Some IGOs are larger and more influential than others and may then be a better choice for cooperation.

Then it will be up to the Heads of State to determine how to broach a change in relationship or the introduction of a new one. The developing relationship with the AU demonstrated the benefit of persistence on the part of the Arab League to form a relationship, but the same approach may not work for another organization. The League may wish to take an entirely different approach depending on which IGO they are intending to initiate a relationship.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has my state been involved with members of the African Union? Have these relationships been to the benefit of my state and the League?
- What other international organizations and foreign bodies has my state interacted with? What has succeeded and failed in these interactions and how can that be carried through the League?

- What potential risks are there for my state in becoming more globally involved? What potential benefits?
- What role will my state play in a larger Arab League partnership with another international body? What strengths can we bring to the table?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What about the relationship with the African Union is so strong? How can this be translated to a different organization?
- Which organizations should the League of Arab states consider a new or expanded relationship with? What about these organizations lends themselves to a stronger relationship?
- What provisions and protections should the League consider to protect themselves in a new partnership?
- How can the relationship with the African Union prepare the League for potential conflict with other international bodies?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Charter of Arab League](#)

This is the full text of the Charter of the League of Arab States. It describes the provisions and agreements entered into by the member states and details the way in which the LAS interacts with other actors.

- [OAU CHARTER](#)

This is the full text of the Charter of the African Union. Similarly to the Charter of the Arab League it defines the organization and its purposes and provisions. It will be critical to examine both to come to a fleshed out solution to this topic.

- [Joint Statement by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the African Union Commission](#)

The joint statement from this year mentioned above. This source details the work that the LAS and AU have done and reaffirms their relationship. It also shows how the two organizations interact with one another on an international stage.

- [Consultations between the African Union and the League of Arab States on Political, Peace and Security Issues - World](#)

Another example of work the African Union and Arab League have done together. This source looks at consultations in 2015- but there are many instances where the two organizations worked together toward peace, security, and prosperity.