



2023 - 2024

Model Arab League BACKGROUND GUIDE

Special Council on Increasing Diplomatic Partnerships

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**National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations**



Original draft by Sasha Giniger, Chair of the Special Council on Increasing Diplomatic Partnerships at the 2024 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Honorable Delegates,

My name is Sasha Giniger and I am so excited to be a part of the 2023-2024 Model Arab League season! I hope you all are prepared to have a great year of debate. I am currently a junior at Northeastern University majoring in Political Science and International Affairs and working on a masters in Security and Resilience Studies. I am excited at the opportunity to be the Chair of the Special Topic committee and to be exploring the concept of increasing diplomatic ties. I want this committee to be heavily debate focused, with a lesser importance placed on the written resolutions. Diplomacy is an incredibly sensitive and delicate thing. Any resolution that you are to write will need to reflect extremely careful deliberation and will not only take into consideration your country's stances and your fellow Arab League members, but also who is likely to be on the other side of the negotiation table.

I originally decided to participate in Model Arab League because, although I learned debate through the Model UN format, I found that this offered more of a chance to dig into policy and cooperation, forcing me to learn both inside and out of committee. I attended both NERMAL and NUMAL as a delegate, in the Political Affairs Council and Special Council respectively, as a freshman in 2021-2022. I also chaired this committee last year, running the 2023 Special Council on Healthcare and Medicine. This will be my third year in the International Relations Council and the model debate team at Northeastern University. I learned how to chair through the various conferences that Northeastern University runs in partnership with the United Nations Association of Greater Boston and I look forward to working with you all.

Please use this background guide as a starting point for an in-depth exploration of the topics. Make sure to dig deep into your countries policies as well to deliberate during debate with the position that your country would take on these issues. Finally, both in your preparation and during debate, I expect you to display the highest level of respect for your fellow delegates, the country you represent, and all groups who may be discussed in committee. I will tolerate no ableism, antisemitism, homophobia, Islamophobia, racism, sexism, or any other form of bigotry in this committee. I look forward to seeing you all at conferences in this 2023-2024 Model Arab League season.

All the best,
Sasha Giniger

Topic I: Considering the Pan Arab Games as a method of unity building within the Arab League

I. Intro to the Topic

A. General Background

The concept of sports diplomacy has a long and interesting history. From the early example of Ancient Olympic competitors being given amnesty to travel through the city-states of Greece to Olympia to the alleged Christmas truce football match in 1914 during World War One and the more recent conversations on the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic (non) involvement of Russian athletes, sports diplomacy has long affected and influenced international relationships.¹ Sports diplomacy is a unique phenomenon due to its longstanding tradition and social conventions and there is rather limited research that has been conducted on it, but it has been shown time and again that it can positively promote diplomacy between different people, countries, and organizations. In a similar way to traditional diplomacy, true sportsmanship and collaboration in sports promote tolerance, respect, and friendship, along with many other strong, positive, values. Therefore, using sports as a tool of diplomacy is organic and valuable in creating opportunities for peaceful coexistence between nations.

Sports can also be reflective of global political situations, such as the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 1940 Tokyo Summer Olympics being canceled due to the Second World War. Along with the 1916 and 1944 Olympiads, the 1940 games are one of only three truly canceled Olympiads, all due to war.² These were all indicative of some of the most major upheavals of the last century and the fact that it was only that level of event that took precedence, is itself indicative of the importance of this kind of diplomacy.

B. History in the Arab World

The first Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria, Egypt between July 26th and August 10th, 1953. There were a total number of 650 athletes from eight Arab countries and Indonesia who participated in events in ten different sports. These games were intended to be held every four years; however, political turmoil as well as financial difficulties have made the event an unstable one. Women were not allowed to compete until 1985, and throughout its history, there have been 36 different sports competed in at the Games.³

¹ "What Do We Know and Understand about Sports Diplomacy?" *Sportanddev*, www.sportanddev.org/latest/news/what-do-we-know-and-understand-about-sports-diplomacy. Accessed 28 July 2023.

² "The Phantom Olympics: Why Japan Forfeited Hosting the 1940 Olympics." *Home*, www.historians.org/research-and-publications/perspectives-on-history/summer-2021/the-phantom-olympics-why-japan-forfeited-hosting-the-1940-olympics. Accessed 28 July 2023.

³ "Pan Arab Games." *FEI*, 7 Feb. 2020, inside.fei.org/fei/games/cont-regional/pan-arab.

The main purpose of organizing the Pan Arab Games was to achieve success for the Arab nations and to improve the overall sporting performances amongst the people. It was heavily tied to the growing Pan-Arabism movement of the time and the Pan Arab Games played a role in the unity and success of Arab nations to a great extent.⁴ After the Games that were held in Cairo in 1965, there was an eleven-year gap before they were revived in Damascus, Syria. They were then not held for another nine years before they took place in Rabat, Morocco, followed by a 7-year gap then returning to Damascus in 1992. Most recently, the 13th Pan Arab Games was to be held in 2015 in Beirut, Lebanon but had to withdraw due to internal issues. The event was then awarded to Morocco, and then Egypt was suggested as holding it. The event did not happen as expected, and it was not until the summer of 2023 that Algeria finally hosted the first Pan Arab Games in twelve years.⁵ Most recently, Qatar's hosting of the World Cup was a major example of sports diplomacy and the ability of that kind of major sporting event to reshape a country's image in the eyes of the world.

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

These games serve as an opportunity to bring the League together and improve internal ties. They also can be politically contentious, operationally complex, and economically strenuous. It is this body's job to find a way to create an action plan that will allow for future games to run on the set schedule without these major upsets, to allow for the hosting responsibilities and privileges to change regularly, with no one country bearing the burden too regularly, and ensure contingency plans for crises and turmoil that may upset the plan.

A solution that you create should play to your country's strengths and anticipate many different ways that the original plan may go wrong or have issues. What happens in the case of political turmoil? What happens in the case of a natural disaster? What happens when there is economic disturbance? What is the plan when something totally unexpected, like COVID-19, hits the country that is meant to host?

Beyond the simple logistics that need to be discussed in any resolution, you also need to look at the goals that your country has in the development of this program. How do you want this to affect your nation? Are you going to commit to sending a certain number of athletes to every Game? Do you want to commit a certain amount of financing? How often does your country want to host? Especially for nations who have had limited participation in the Games, it is important to understand how beneficial this event would be for you and, if not, what other, similar soft power diplomatic event would be more to your benefit.

⁴ "The Pan Arab Games." *Pan Arab Games*, www.topendsports.com/events/games/pan-arab/index.htm. Accessed 28 July 2023.

⁵ "The Pan Arab Games." *Pan Arab Games*, www.topendsports.com/events/games/pan-arab/index.htm. Accessed 28 July 2023.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What does my country gain from participating in this event?
- Has my country hosted or tried hosting the Games in the past?
- What is my country willing to contribute to this event?
- What have been the issues that have caused irregularity with this event?
- What are the best courses of action in order to avoid issues in the future?
- Is this event worth continuing for my country?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Have I played to my country's strengths in solving this issue?
- Have I looked at a solution that will be acceptable across different economic situations?
- Is my solution sustainable and enactable by the Arab League?
- Have I addressed all of the concerns that have caused issues in the past?

VI. Additional Resources

[Algeria's hosting of first Pan Arab Games in over a decade to coincide with Independence Day](#)

This article contains more information on the most recent Pan Arab Games and Algeria's role in their occurrence.

[Remembering the forgotten legacy of the Pan Arab Games - Doha News | Qatar](#)

Here is some more information about the legacy and effects of the Pan Arab Games on Arab relations.

[\(PDF\) Sport, Arab Nationalism and the Pan-Arab Games | Ian Henry and Dr Mahfoud Amara - Academia.edu](#)

This article contains further research on the intersection between sports diplomacy and Arab nationalism.

[Disorganized Pan Arab Games in Egypt Hit](#)

Here is a critique of past Pan Arab Games that will be helpful in your goals to create a long-term, functional, event.

Topic II: Establishing the Arab League’s relationship with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), focusing on tackling linked climate-related crises

I. Intro to the Topic

A. General Background

One of the lesser-known, but extremely important and widely encompassing international alliances, is the Alliance of Small Island States, also known and hereafter referred to as “AOSIS”. AOSIS is a multinational organization that was established in 1990 during the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva. Their focus is historically on carrying out advocacy for small island states and influencing international environmental policy. A priority area of advocacy for AOSIS has been surrounding worldwide climate change and its socio-economic and environmental effects on small island states. AOSIS has long been closely linked with climate policy and programs, specifically with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁶

AOSIS and the Arab League have not historically had specific organizational ties, but the importance of water in both regions, both in terms of scarcity as well as in terms of flooding and destruction, is an issue that could bring the two together. What one organization has too much of, another has too little. The issue continues to come back to lack of proper infrastructure, climate change causing drastic changes in how the respective populations interact with their land, and continuing trivialization of the growing environmental crisis. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) also signed a pact with AOSIS in 2021, showing continuing shared goals, as renewable energy has the potential to revitalize the MENA region, both environmentally and ecologically.⁷

B. History in the Arab World

The Arab League, much like AOSIS, has also paired with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on the Pan Arab Clean Energy Initiative. To support this strategy, IRENA partnered with the Arab League and the Cairo-based Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) to identify a series of actions to increase renewable

⁶ “Bureau of the Aosis | Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.” United Nations. Accessed July 16, 2023. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/bureau-aosis>.

⁷ “Irena Partners with Alliance of Small Island States to Accelerate Energy Transition in SIDS.” IRENA, November 8, 2021. <https://www.irena.org/news/pressreleases/2021/Nov/IRENA-Partners-with-AOSIS-to-Accelerate-Energy-Transition-in-SIDS>.

energy investments, using guidance from the Arab League and in response to their renewable energy aspirations.⁸

Within the Arab League there also exists the Arab Water Council, whose mission is to “promote deeper understanding and better management of the water resources in the Arab states in a multi-disciplinary, non-political, professional and scientific approach” as well as to “disseminate knowledge and enhance sharing of experiences to achieve integrated water resources management for sustainable development and good water governance for the benefit of the Arab people”.⁹

By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will be affected by recurring water shortages.¹⁰ Additionally, close to 90 million inhabitants of the MENA region are on track to suffer varying degrees of water stress by 2025 if the climate crisis is not immediately addressed. If ignored, the climate crisis will exacerbate long-standing governance issues, shock economies, and exacerbate health issues like malnutrition and the spread of infectious diseases. The Arab League has been taking measures, alongside the UN, to promote resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change. In addition to its partnership with the UN, the World Bank has also expanded its programs to combat environmental degradation in the Arab world

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

It is clear that the Arab League recognizes their most pressing environmental issues, and there are clear parallels in their actions and the actions being taken by AOSIS, but the next step is for the two to come together and create a solution that reaches from one extreme to the other. On the Arab League side, efforts to combat water should focus on combating two important factors: the increasing use of freshwater and the depletion of usable freshwater resources.

It is also important to note the difference between physical water scarcity and economic water scarcity. Physical water scarcity is caused when a natural water resource is unable to meet the demands of a particular region. Economic water scarcity is caused by the mismanagement of sufficiently available water resources, often due to corruption or lack of infrastructure or maintenance of said infrastructure.¹¹ These are both key factors to consider when discussing water-related issues. In addition, we need to be aware of how global warming is causing global water levels to rise, a major threat, especially for AOSIS countries. We are seeing glaciers and ice sheets melting and adding water to the ocean, the volume of the ocean expanding as the water

⁸ “Pan-Arab Clean Energy Initiative.” MMEIPA. Accessed July 16, 2023.

<http://mmeipa.africa-eu-energy-partnership.org/pan-arab-clean-energy-initiative>.

⁹ “Arab Water Council Mission Statement & Goals.” Arab Water Council. Accessed July 16, 2023.

<https://www.arabwatercouncil.org/index.php?lang=en>.

¹⁰ “Water Shortages Could Affect 5bn People by 2050, UN Report Warns.” The Guardian, March 19, 2018.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/19/water-shortages-could-affect-5bn-people-by-2050-un-report-warns>.

¹¹ Admin. “Causes of Water Scarcity - Explore How Water Scarcity Is Caused.” BYJUS, June 20, 2022.

<https://byjus.com/biology/causes-of-water-scarcity/>.

warms, and a decline in the amount of liquid water on land.¹² This shift of liquid water from land to ocean is largely due to groundwater pumping.

These two issues are heavily connected, as are they both to the necessity of clean energy initiatives. Clean energy production would allow us to generate the energy we need without the greenhouse gas emissions and negative environmental effects that come with fossil fuels, in turn helping to reduce climate change, specifically targeting much of the water-related issues that face both the Arab League and AOSIS.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What is my country doing to contribute to the issue?
- What is my country doing to combat the issue?
- Is there a point of connection that my country has with AOSIS that can help in creating connections?
- Are there any reasons my country would not want a specific solution or course of action?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Is it a multi-pronged approach?
- Have I played to my country's strengths in addressing it?
- Have I looked at a solution that will be acceptable across different economic situations?
- Is my solution sustainable and enactable by the Arab League?
- Is this solution one that would focus on collaboration with AOSIS and solving joint issues?

VI. Additional Resources

[AOSIS Document Library](#)

This is a general document library with a large amount of background information on AOSIS and their past actions.

[Arab Region at the UN 2023 Water Conference](#)

This article is from the 2023 UN Water Conference and can help you get an idea of different countries actions and stances in regards to this issue.

[Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region - Resources • SuSanA](#)

This is a comprehensive strategy put out by the Arab League as to their actions regarding the water crisis.

[Egypt Conference on Unified Water Strategy](#)

This article shows several Arab League countries pushing for greater unity in the fight for water security. It would be beneficial for you to see what your country thinks and what other countries in the room support.

¹² Lindsey, Rebecca. "Climate Change: Global Sea Level." NOAA Climate.gov. Accessed July 16, 2023. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>.

Topic III: Evaluating the efficacy of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and considering plans for the future strengthening of ties.

I. Intro to the Topic

A. General Background

Over the course of the last decade or so, China has adopted what is often referred to as the “Belt and Road Initiative”. This project is a vast array of development and investment initiatives that were originally designed to link East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure and economic ties. Since the project began, it has expanded to Oceania, Africa, and Latin America and has served to significantly widen China’s economic and political control.¹³ The Belt and Road initiative has grown exponentially with “around 147 countries—accounting for two-thirds of the world’s population and 40 percent of global GDP—[having] signed on to projects or indicated an interest in doing so”.¹⁴ These numbers worry many Western politicians and economists, who see the project solely as an attempt by China to exert influence on the rest of the world, especially the developing world.

The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum serves as the primary coordination mechanism between China and the Arab States, as well as the primary conduit through which China accomplishes its Belt and Road Initiative goals in the Arab League. This coordination allows Arab states to negotiate jointly for projects involving multiple nations in the region, such as railway projects, nuclear power projects, and Dead Sea initiatives. CASCF also more broadly aims to promote cooperation in various fields, such as “politics, trade, culture, technology, foreign affairs, as well as to advance peace and development through friendly exchanges”.¹⁵ The two largest initiatives within this program have been the China-Arab states special loans, which were two special lines of credit that were established by China in announcements in 2016 and 2018. They were worth about US\$15 billion and \$20 billion respectively.¹⁶

B. History in the Arab World

Within the Arab League, there has long been a suspicion of outside influence and meddling, including that of foreign aid and investment. A result of the history of issues brought on by foreign involvement in the region has been that many citizens are wary of new projects with external ties. There is also an issue of the combination of high volumes of aid with countries

¹³ “China’s Massive Belt and Road Initiative.” Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed July 21, 2023. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ “China Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF).” Brics Policy Center, October 26, 2018. <https://bricspolicycenter.org/en/forum-de-cooperacao-china-paises-arabes/>.

¹⁶ “China Pledges US\$23 Billion in Loans and Aid to Arab States.” South China Morning Post, July 10, 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2154642/china-pledges-us23-million-loans-and-aid-arab-states-it>.

with weak governance having been the result of state institutions being bypassed, corruption increasing, and a lack of accountability. There is also emerging evidence that shows that aid to states with both terrorism problems and an inclination towards repressive security tactics may even increase episodes of state repression.¹⁷

Between 2014 and 2019, China and the Arab League participated in frequent high-level exchanges, including President Xi's going to several successful meetings in the Middle East and visits to China by the heads of state of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Palestine. These exchanges have facilitated deep political trust and bilateral ties between China and the Arab states.¹⁸ China also established or upgraded its strategic relations with 11 Arab countries at that time. As a result, even outside of any industrial development, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has allowed the Arab world to open more to the greater international community, providing more routes for expansion and prosperity.

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

There are many facets to the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, which make it both favorable and unfavorable to the members of the Arab League. Because of this, it is very important when considering whether your country wishes to continue the cooperation and, if so, what they want to get out of it. Look at the relative strengths and weaknesses of what has been offered thus far within the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum as well as what kinds of programs and aid that China has offered in other similar alliances such as in Africa or Latin America. If your country is most in need of food supply aid, but the majority of aid that China has given is medical infrastructure aid, then the Forum is not working to your country's benefit. Research what Chinese aid is mostly going to and in what areas of the League.

Additionally, it is important to remember that this Forum is not solely an economic endeavor. Look into Chinese foreign policy on a larger scale. How they interact with allies of your country and what they say compared to the actions that they take. Feel emboldened to fold this into any resolution that might be written. If there are major conflicts between your nation's foreign policy and China's foreign policy, that might reflect poorly on your nation to your other allies and should be taken into consideration. One might also consider looking at China's actions on the United Nations Security Council, where the Arab League sees China as a large part of their representation within the Permanent Five members.

Your goal is to come up with a comprehensive proposal for the next meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum that includes what is needed for economic development, political goals, and improving or dissolving the Forum. If you find through your debate that sectioning the Forum into Gulf and non-Gulf states or Northern Africa and the Middle East would be more beneficial to the goals of the Forum, then that too can be added to a final

¹⁷ Savun, Burcu, and Jude C. Hays. "Foreign Aid as a Counterterrorism Tool: Aid Delivery Channels, State Capacity, and Ngos." SSRN, August 1, 2011. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1900690.

¹⁸ *China and Arab States: Drawing up a Blueprint for Belt and Road Cooperation in the New Era*, qa.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zkgx/201807/t20180709_1422352.htm. Accessed 24 July 2023.

resolution. Use your research, your diplomacy, and your creativity to reach the best possible agreement for mutual benefit for both China and the Arab States.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What has my country gained from the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum?
- What issues has this program caused for my country?
- Is there a specific program that has not been implemented that my country wants to?
- Are there any reasons my country would not want a specific solution or course of action?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Is it a multi-pronged approach to improving this relationship?
- Have I played to my country's strengths in addressing it?
- Have I looked at a solution that will be acceptable across different economic situations?
- Is my solution sustainable and enactable by the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum?

IV. Additional Resources

[China-Arab States Cooperation Forum](#)

Here is some more background information on the CASCF and recent actions related to it.

[The Rise and Fall of the BRI | Council on Foreign Relations](#)

This talks about debt trap diplomacy in more depth and the possible drawbacks that should be thought about when considering the CASCF

<https://academic.oup.com/isq/article-abstract/66/4/sqac068/6748236?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

This article talks more about both Arab government and civilian thoughts on external funding and foreign aid.

[China's BRI Bet in the Middle East – The Diplomat](#)

This article is an analysis of China's actions and motivations in the Middle East. This can give you an idea of what you can offer in a potential plan or what to be wary of.

Topic IV: Defining the future goals and involvement of the Arab League states in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

I. Intro to the Topic

A. General Background

The Non-Aligned Movement is an international organization dedicated to representing the interests and aspirations of developing countries without taking sides in the struggles between the major world power blocs.¹⁹ In the early 21st century, the Non-Aligned Movement counted 120 member states; their most recent summit in 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan included delegates from those 120 member states, including heads of states and governments from 60 member states. The next summit is set to be held in January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.²⁰

The Non-Aligned Movement emerged following the wave of decolonization that came about following the shift in global power at the end of World War II. In 1955, there was an Asian-African Conference called the Bandung Conference that was held in Bandung, Indonesia. Many of the attendees were recently independent nations that had been in the process of throwing off colonization and attempting to establish themselves as new nations. As such, they called for “abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers.”²¹ They saw both sides of the Cold War as damaging to their goals and development and argued that members of the new Non-Aligned Movement should avoid allying with either of the two superpowers, namely the United States and the U.S.S.R. Instead, they decided to join together in support of national self-determination against all forms of colonialism and imperialism. The Non-Aligned Movement was founded and held its first conference, the Belgrade Conference, in 1961 under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia.²²

B. History in the Arab World

The Arab world has been heavily involved with the Non-Aligned Movement since its inception in 1955, ten years after the founding of the Arab League. They have taken on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, first introduced in the context of Sino-Indian relations, but which have now become the basis of the Non-Aligned Movement’s goals, as well as the Arab

¹⁹ “Non-Aligned Movement.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 20 June 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement.

²⁰ “Non-Aligned Movement: Why Uganda Should Host Summit.” *New Vision Official*, www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/non-aligned-movement-why-uganda-should-host-s-161537. Accessed 26 July 2023

²¹ “Non-Aligned Movement.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 20 June 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement.

²² *Ibid*

League's approach to their foreign relations, such as with China. The Principles focus on mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in domestic affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.²³

Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt was one of the most influential figures in the region when the Non-Aligned Movement began, and his involvement brought along with it the rest of the League. Due to his involvement, the Non-Aligned Movement became heavily tied to the Pan-Arab nationalism that swept through the region in the mid-20th century.²⁴ There was a feeling that the Arab states, together with the rest of the Non-Aligned Movement could remain neutral in the conflict between the major world powers while still profiting from ties with both sides.

This has become more and more difficult to believe in recent years, as Russia, China, and the United States have gained more influence in the region through ties with countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Russia has, in the last 15 years, emerged as a key power broker and military actor in the Middle East. In 2015, it sent both air and ground troops to Syria, changing the course of the Syrian civil war and saving President Bashar al-Assad's regime from what looked like certain defeat.²⁵ In the military domain as well, China has increased its arms sales to the Middle East in addition to conducting military exercises with Saudi Arabia and Iran, accompanied by Russia, and promoted joint weapons production. This is alongside the economic and diplomatic initiatives that they have pursued.²⁶ The emergence of growing ties with Russia and China, paired with the simultaneous rejection of many of the United States' attempts at developing relationships, may begin to put into question the true neutrality in the great power division that the Arab League has.

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

An important condition for membership in the Non-Aligned Movement is that a member of the Movement cannot be part of a multilateral military alliance such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]) or have signed a bilateral military agreement with one of the "big powers".²⁷ This idea of nonalignment does not, however, signify that a state must remain passive or even neutral in international politics. From the initial creation of the Non-Aligned Movement,

²³ "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence." 中华人民共和国驻伊朗伊斯兰共和国大使馆, ir.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dtxw/201407/t20140702_1894012.htm. Accessed 26 July 2023.

²⁴ "The Rise and Fall of Pan-Arabism: Iheid." Title=, www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/news/rise-and-fall-pan-arabism. Accessed 26 July 2023.

²⁵ *A Brief Guide to Russia's Return to the Middle East*, carnegieendowment.org/2019/10/24/brief-guide-to-russia-s-return-to-middle-east-pub-80134. Accessed 26 July 2023.

²⁶ "China's Increasing Role in the Middle East: Implications for Regional and International Dynamics." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 30 May 2023, gija.georgetown.edu/2023/06/02/chinas-increasing-role-in-the-middle-east-implications-for-regional-and-international-dynamics/.

²⁷ "Non-Aligned Movement." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 20 June 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement.

its stated goal has been to give a voice to developing countries and to encourage their concerted action in world affairs.

That being said, increasing fears of the threat that could be posed by Iran and stronger military and economic ties to China and Russia have seemingly started turning public and government opinions. While each nation in the League is, of course, entitled to act as they see fit on this matter, it is worthwhile for the League to clarify their stances internally so as to be able to create a united front in their global relations. Has your country been making clear moves to ally with the West? With Russia or China? What direction do you see the majority of Arab League countries going in terms of their government, economic systems, and defense programs? Or do you see your country and the majority of those around you as still being very much in the middle, with interests in both the East and West? Then, what do you want to see from the next summit of the Non-Aligned Movement? Consider the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and look at how nations both within the movement and outside it have (or have not) met those principles. This is a wide look at the future and the goals of the Arab League's alliances and must be carefully considered.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What direction is my country going in terms of its West vs. East alliances?
- What does my country need from the Non-Aligned Movement?
- Would my country benefit from a clear shift in global alliances?
- Are there any reasons my country would not want a specific solution or course of action?
- Where has my country remained neutral? Are there situations where my country would not stay neutral?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How has my country's goals shifted since the beginning of the NAM and how does that affect our future involvement?
- What does my country need the most from their political alignment and what decision would be most beneficial?
- Have I played to my country's strengths in addressing it?
- Have I looked at a solution that will be acceptable across different economic situations?
- Is my solution sustainable and enactable by the Arab League?

VI. Additional Resources

[Nonalignment in the Arab World](#)

A further exploration of the NAM in the Arab World.

[The Arab World & Non-Alignment](#)

More period specific information of the initial motivations behind Arab involvement in the NAM

[Egypt Non-Aligned Movement and the Legacy of Gamal Abdel Nasser](#)

Information on Egypt's work in the NAM and its relation to Pan Arab Nationalism.

[China has a Growing Presence in Arab Hearts and Minds | Wilson Center](#)

An analysis of the shift by the Arab world to the East and away from a non-aligned status.