



## **2009 - 2010 Model Arab League**

### **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**Council on Palestinian Affairs**

**National Model Arab Leagues**

(i.e., the National University or National High School MAL, Spring '10, in Washington, DC)

**[www.ncusar.org/modelarableague](http://www.ncusar.org/modelarableague)**

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



## **1. Fostering dialogue and reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority and other Palestinian factions with the goal of strengthening the Palestinian state and legitimizing domestic political processes**

### **What is the Issue?**

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had been the solely recognized legitimate authority of the Palestinian people, largely led by Fatah. In the January 2006 elections, Hamas won the majority of seats (74 of 132) in the Palestinian National Authority, and in March formed a new government excluding Fatah. However, most nations including the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States and Russia) refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of Hamas as they were deemed a terrorist organization. This created a roadblock to not only political processes, but to much of the aid normally sent from various nations.

These events led to deteriorating living conditions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank as well as increased violence among factions and with Israel. In February 2007 Hamas and Fatah signed the Mecca Agreement, which formed a unity government including both Hamas and Fatah in an attempt to appease international actors. In June 2007 Hamas seized control of Gaza and President Mahmoud Abbas (Fatah) dissolved the unity government and Fatah gained control of the West Bank. In March 2009 Egypt began hosting dialogues between Hamas and Fatah to reconcile the factions. Delegates should discuss the areas of dissent and propose solutions to these disagreements.

### **Questions to Consider** -- *from your nation's unique perspective*

- What are the areas of dissent between the Palestinian factions?
- What is your nation's view on the various factions and the factions' current political positions?
- What solutions have been instituted in the past and what were their results?

### **Resources to Review**

Palestinian National Unity Government:

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/8670EE789BE79869852572C10058759A>

Article: Egypt's Current Role in Peace Negotiations:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/969/eg4.htm>

## **2. Developing an Arab League response mechanism to incursions into Palestinian territory, violations of Palestinian human rights, and destruction of Palestinian lives and property**

### **What is the Issue?**

When Palestine's territory is invaded, which occurs semi-frequently by Israel, the Palestinian people suffer. As the topic denotes they suffer violations of human rights, destruction of lives and destruction of property. Though Israel is frequently condemned for their actions, no actions are taken against Israel. Such examples are UN Security Council Resolutions 106, 237, 446, 452, 465, 468, 469, 471, 484, 592, 605, 607, 608, 641, 672, 681, 694, 726, 799, 904, 1073, 1322, 1397, 1402, 1403, 1435, 1544, and 1860. The Arab League has also condemned such actions; however they generally do not have much influence when they do so.

Delegates need to approach this topic from two perspectives. The first is to propose ideas that will create a response mechanism that will be in place so that when an incursion occurs, there will be a reaction from the Arab League immediately. The second perspective is to propose ideas that will gain more influence with the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States and Russia) and other important international actors.

### **Questions to Consider -- *from your nation's unique perspective***

- What constitutes an incursion?
- How will a response mechanism operate?
- What can be done that will garner positive attention and have an effect?

### **Resources to Review**

UN Security Council Resolutions:

<http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm>

Article: Amnesty International – Palestinian Water Needs

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/israel-rations-palestinians-trickle-water-20091027>

### **3. Assuring the flow to and from the West Bank and Gaza of capital goods, financial investment, and export products to foster economic development, protect territorial integrity, and establish Palestinian economic independence**

#### **What is the Issue?**

One of the major issues facing Palestinians is the physical and political separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Getting passage for both people and goods between the two Palestinian territories poses difficulties especially due to Israeli roadblocks and intervention. In order for a Palestinian State to arise they will need access between the territories without Israeli control. The first aspect of this topic is to find a way to assure passage of people and goods between the two territories without Israeli intervention.

The second aspect of this topic deals with economic development and economic independence of Palestine. Currently Palestine is supported almost completely by other nations. Due to Israeli occupation and the destruction of infrastructure and property, there is little economic activity in Palestine, especially in Gaza. In this area, Delegates should be addressing roadblocks to economic development and proposing ways to foster economic development in the Palestinian Territories with the end goal of establishing Palestinian economic independence.

#### **Questions to Consider -- *from your nation's unique perspective***

- What are obstacles to moving goods between the West Bank and Gaza?
- What are obstacles to economic development?
- What types of investments are necessary for Palestine to develop the economy?
- What types of investments would your nation like to facilitate?

#### **Resources to Review**

World Bank Assessment, 2004, Palestinian Economic Crisis:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/wbgaza-4yrassessment.pdf>

Article: Boosting the Palestinian Economy through the Olive Industry:

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2009/10/25/reshaping\\_olive\\_industry\\_to\\_boost\\_palestinian\\_economy/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2009/10/25/reshaping_olive_industry_to_boost_palestinian_economy/)

#### **4. Evaluating the current status of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative endorsed by the League of Arab States, and promoting immediate diplomatic steps to advance and sustain the peace process**

##### **What is the Issue?**

In Beirut in 2002, then Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia proposed the Arab Peace Initiative at the Arab League Summit. This Initiative was unanimously adopted by the League of Arab States as a two state solution for Palestine and Israel. Essentially, the Arab states agreed to recognize and normalize relations with Israel in return for Israel withdrawing to the 1967 borders, acknowledging Palestine as a State, declaring peace, and finding a just solution to the refugee issue.

Though it was adopted by the League of Arab States, it has thus far not been implemented in any sense. Also, infighting in Palestine has delayed progress with Israel. Recently US President Obama has declared his respect for the Arab Peace Initiative which may get the rest of the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States and Russia) on board. Delegates should examine the documents below which include the Arab Peace Initiative, and the UN resolutions involved with it, then discover the current state of the Initiative, and finally propose ideas to continue progress with peace, either with or without the Initiative.

##### **Questions to Consider -- *from your nation's unique perspective***

- What are the obstacles to peace?
- What do the documents (below) say?
- What is currently being done with the Arab Peace Initiative?
- Is the Arab Peace Initiative still a viable option?
- What are obstacles to the Arab Peace Initiative?

##### **Resources to Review**

Arab Peace Initiative:

<http://www.al-bab.com/Arab/docs/league/peace02.htm>

UN Security Council Resolution 242:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/240/94/IMG/NR024094.pdf?OpenElement>

UN Security Council Resolution 338:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/288/65/IMG/NR028865.pdf?OpenElement>

UN General Assembly Resolution 194:

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/C758572B78D1CD0085256BCF0077E51A>

Press Conference with Amre Moussa, Secretary of Arab League:

<http://www.english.globalarabnetwork.com/200910283396/World-Politics/arab-league-there-are-peace-efforts-but-not-a-process.html>