



2009 - 2010 Model Arab League

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Council on Political Affairs

ALL Regional Model Arab Leagues

(i.e., not the National University or National High School MAL, Spring '10, in Washington, DC)

www.ncusar.org/modelarableague

National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations



1. Strengthening the relationship between the Arab League and international institutions including, but not limited to, the United Nations, the African Union, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

What's the Issue?

For the Arab League to be recognized as a contributing international member to the world, it is imperative that they collaborate and work with international institutions. This is useful in larger attempts for development of countries as well as regions. Many organizations such as the United Nations, African Union, or European Union may have members from the Arab League in them as well. This can be an advantage for those of you that are one of these member nations. This would be useful for international collaboration on a larger level.

Things to Remember:

I would encourage you to also look at the efforts of each of the international institutions and compare it to the agenda of the Arab League. These may already be joint initiatives but it's also important to find alternative options in which to more effectively achieve these goals together with the organization.

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

- What is your country's role with international organizations as a whole?
- What has your country done with the European Union, African Union, or the United Nations?
- What specific collaborate efforts has your country contributed toward with international organizations?
- How can this involvement be achieved by the League as a whole?
- How can the League go about creating a relationship with these organizations?
- How can your membership in one or more of these organizations help you serve as a liaison to the League?

Useful Sites:

- United Nations-<http://www.un.org>
- African Union-<http://www.africa-union.org>
- European Union-<http://europa.eu>
- Islamic Conference-<http://www.oic-oci.org>
- Arab League-<http://www.al-bab.com/Arab/docs/league.htm>

2. Deepening diplomatic relations between member states with special regard for states weakened by conflict and/or internal strife

What's the Issue?

Article two of the Arab League Charter states that,

“The purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member States and coordinate their political activities with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.”

The Arab league aims to strengthen ties among member states, coordinate their policies and direct them towards the common good. However The Arab League's effectiveness has been severely hampered by divisions among member states. The league of Arab States is a unified diplomatic body. The Arab League was formed in 1945, based on the resolutions of the *Alexandria Protocol* , to protect Arab interests, and in particular to obtain greater freedom from foreign rule. In the Arab League Charter, member states vowed to “strengthen[ing] the close relations and numerous ties which bind the Arab States,” as well as “direct their efforts toward[s] the goal of the welfare of all the Arab States, their common weal, the guarantee of their future and the realization of their aspirations.

Why is this important?

The deepening of diplomatic relations between member states is very important during this time of trial and conflict that plagues some of the fellow member states of the Arab league. Without a proper foundation, the League as whole can no longer effectively work as a body. Thus, looking at more diplomatic relations with one another is the first order of business before any other issues are brought before the body. It is also important to understand the history of each member state and respect one another. Strengthening the relations with member states doesn't necessarily allude to every state having the same opinion, but as a body that looks the best interest of all member nations. Collaboration and communication is key in this topic.

Things to Remember

I would encourage you to look at past efforts your nation has made in order to work with the league as well as present or future plans of action/statements that are or will occur. Also, find things that your member nation has done for other member nations experiencing weakness due to conflict or internal strife. If you are the country experiencing these things, find out what the league has done for your country and brainstorm some suggestions of how it can further help you.

It is important also to consider Article 5 of the Arab League Charter regarding disputes:

“The recourse to force for the settlement of disputes between two or more member States shall not be allowed. Should there arise among them a dispute...the Council shall mediate in a dispute which may lead to war between two member States or between a member State and another State in order to conciliate them”

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

- What countries have been/are experiencing internal strife? How has the League handled it in the past?
- How does your country handle relations with countries weakened by conflict?
- Is your country experiencing conflict? How has it reacted to diplomatic relations from the League as a whole in the past?
- What can the League do to instigate a more diplomatic relationship between all member nations?
- What is your country's relationship with the League as well as the individual member nations? How can this be improved?

Useful Sites:

- Important Arab League Documents-<http://www.al-bab.com/Arab/docs/league.htm>
- BBC News Arab League Profile-
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm
- Charter of the League of Arab States- <http://www.mideastweb.org/arableague.htm>

3. Facilitating administrative efficiency and transparency by modernizing and strengthening core government functions

What's the Issue?

Determining the core governmental principles in which your governing body is centered upon is essential in any country. A government needs to have a specific outlined role and the purpose of that role. Once that is established, one can more effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the governing body. We can increase the effectiveness of each government by facilitating administrative efficiency as a league and encouraging transparency among member states.

Things to Remember

Member nations should keep in mind the sovereignty of each state and respect each country's form of governance. Research your representing country and their form and function of its government. Secondly, I would encourage you to think creatively ways in which to more efficiently carry out the policies that it is charged to do.

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

- What should a government do?
- What should a government stay away from?
- How much power should a government have?
- What should it preside over?
- What role should the government have in the citizen's everyday lives?
- Is the government in your country truly working as it was intended to when it was formed?
- What can we as a League to do aide in helping facilitate administrative efficiency?

Useful Sites:

- <http://www.effwa.org>
- The Arab Administrative Development Organization- <http://www.arado.org>
- The Arab Administrative Development Organization- <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/arado/unpan028735.pdf>

4. Considering amendment of the Charter of the League of Arab States

What's the Issue?

The Charter of the League of Arab States is a pact stating the purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate their political activities with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.

In the past, the Arab League has been a decisive cohesive body. However, like any other international organization of nations, the League must adjust to the changes of society. It is important to make sure that the Charter of the League of Arab States is a document that reflects the League's endeavors and processes to carry out those endeavors. The charter is useless if it no longer embodies the pact between all of the member Arab States.

Things to Remember

There are two types of amendments that can come in committee. Substantial amendments dealing with the content of the Charter, and the procedural aspects of amending the charter are including voting processes. Considering reform of the Charter is very important so that the League may maintain efficiency. Members must keep in mind the procedures in which this is to occur, if there are any major amendments proposed: "This Charter may be amended with the consent of two thirds of the states belonging to the League...If a state does not accept such an amendment it may withdraw at such time as the amendment goes into effect, without being bound by the provisions of the preceding Article" (Article XIX Arab League Charter).

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

- What specifically, if any, changes does your country as well as other member nations aspire to change in the Charter or the League?
- What processes can be changed without amending the document?
- Does the majority wish to amend these issues?
- How will these amendments better the charter?

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http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm
- Charter of the League of Arab States- <http://www.mideastweb.org/arableague.htm>
- Article: "The League of Arab States and the Arab Charter on Human Rights"-
http://www.acihl.org/articles.htm?article_id=6