



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

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



## **1. Developing Arab League election observance procedures**

### **What's the Issue?**

According to the American Bar Association, "The right to genuine elections gives rise to four fundamental rights relating to recounts (and election disputes in general). These rights are: (i) to transparent and open procedures<sup>10</sup> (ii) to the timely decision of a recount<sup>11</sup>; (iii) to an impartial arbiter; and, (iv) to remedies that are measured and enforceable."

### **Relevance to the Arab World**

Developing Arab League election observance procedures is of the utmost importance in today's global society. Some of the Arab League's member states have conducted elections before. In the past, the Arab region has suffered from improbable election returns due to a lack of transparency.

### **Things to Remember**

We recognize that you cannot force observation on any sovereign state. Each state must invite the AL to observe their election. Developing Arab League election observance procedures can only help the Arab region.

Please take into account your member state's past present and future relationship with elections as well as their involvement with other member nations. It's important that we as a body look to work together to find a comprehensive solution. I would encourage you to also look at any specific Non Governmental Organizations the specialize in this area such as the International Foundation of Election Systems as well as Election Observance efforts in the EU and UN.

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

- How are elections conducted in your country?
- Do you have election observance procedures set in place?
- What measures are taken to prevent bias?
- What can your country do to improve the efficiency and privacy of elections?
- How can your election observance procedures help other countries despite the differences?

### **Useful Sites:**

- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>
- <http://aceproject.org>
- <http://www.un.org>
- <http://www.arab-hdr.org>
- <http://www.osce.org>
- <http://www.electionguide.org>
- <http://www.ifes.org/mena.htm>

## **2. 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>

### **3. 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](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>