



**2012 - 2013**

**Model Arab League**  
**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**Joint Defense Council**

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

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the 2012–2013 Model Arab League and the Joint Defense Council. My name is Ashley Blount, and it is a great privilege to serve as the Chair for the Joint Defense Council at the National University Model Arab League conference. I am currently a senior at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC, majoring in Politics. This is my fourth year with the Model Arab League program and my first year serving as Chair of the Joint Defense Council at the National University Model. Thank you for seizing this opportunity to be a part of such a prestigious program that will shape the way you think and feel about the Arab world.

The Joint Defense Council is an institution created through the implementation of the *Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Between the States of the Arab League* in order to establish a protocol for collective security within the Arab region. The primary responsibility of the council within MAL is to coordinate common defense policies of member states to maintain regional peace and stability. The JDC may seek to adopt measures deemed necessary to repel an act of aggression against any of the member states.

As the Arab region is evolving with fresh, modern challenges, the agenda presented lists current topics that require considerable deliberation and insight. Delegates will find that these topics are at the utmost priority in maintaining security in the region, and resolutions introduced can foster more global collaboration within the Arab world. The caliber of this program provides for every delegate to have the opportunity to contribute in debate and resolutions. Thus, I encourage you all to devote particular attention to the depth of these topics and to arrive prepared to be productive and successful within committee. I look forward to meeting you all, and I hope that you all enjoy this esteemed opportunity to be a part of the Model Arab League program.

Regards,

Ashley Blount  
Joint Defense Council

## **Topic I: Assessing the current state of cybersecurity and its implications for regional defense and economic interests**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

Traditional forms of combat take place on land, sea, air, and even space.<sup>1</sup> However, this topic introduces a new domain of combat: cyberspace. In 2007 and 2008, cyber attacks on government websites took place in Georgia and Estonia. These attacks exposed the vulnerability of computers to weighted assault by hostile militaries, creating the idea of a new arena of warfare.<sup>2</sup> For modern militaries with power systems deeply reliant on data networking, a disruption in computer infrastructure can severely cripple a country's military capacity. For developing nations, cyber warfare can have unpredictable effects, and such effects can change the course of combat for years to come.<sup>3</sup>

The National Security Agency (NSA) defines cybersecurity through the terms of information assurance and information systems security.<sup>4</sup> Measures to protect and to defend information systems against unauthorized access are priority. Information assurance (IA) measures provide for restoration of information systems by incorporating protection, detection, and reaction capabilities. Information Systems Security (Information Security, ISS, INFOSEC) measures include protection of information systems against unauthorized access to, or modification of, information in storage, processing, or transit.<sup>5</sup>

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

Over the past year, the Middle East has suffered several malware attacks, including the Flame virus in 2012.<sup>6</sup> The Flame virus is malicious software that gains entry into Windows PCs by exploiting a vulnerability of the Windows Update Service. It bypasses a security restriction by providing a security certificate that seems to belong to Microsoft. Therefore, what appears to be an update is the actual virus being downloaded into the PC. Once the virus is downloaded, cyber criminals gain access to information through screenshots, microphones, and videos. The extent of the distribution, however, is limited.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Tom Gjelten, "Shadow Wars: Debating Cyber 'Disarmament'," *World Affairs* 173, no. 4 (2010): 33-42, GALE (A242754303).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <http://aawdc.org/cyber/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Nicolai Sollig, "Cyber attacks and their implications," <http://www.itp.net/589765-cyber-attacks-and-their-implications>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Since 2010, there has been a 40% increase in computers infected by malware in the Middle East.<sup>8</sup> The most vicious attack occurred in 2010 with the virus Stuxnet, a computer worm with highly specialized malware coded specifically to target Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and disrupt their operational activity. SCADA networks are widely used in all industrial sectors, designed to maximize functionality with little attention paid to security. Thus, with the use of interconnected networks and control systems in the Middle East (national oil, gas, power, water, and electricity sectors), there is a critical need to enhance cybersecurity.<sup>9</sup>

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

Arab companies and governments have been examining the issue of cybersecurity over the last several years. The International Telecommunications Union held a forum in 2008 in Doha, Qatar entitled the ITU Workshop on Frameworks for Cybersecurity and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.<sup>10</sup> Over 80 representatives from 18 countries in the Arab region attended. Elements of the framework include the following: developing a national strategy for cybersecurity; establishing government-industry collaboration; deterring cybercrime; creating national incident management capabilities; and promoting a culture of cybersecurity. The Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, Mr. Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, stated the following:

Global interconnectivity creates new interdependencies and risks that need to be managed at national, regional and international levels.... The formulation and implementation by all nations of a national framework for cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection represents a significant first step in addressing the challenges arising from globally interconnected ICT infrastructures.<sup>11</sup>

Therefore, security in the region will take not only an individual effort from member states but also a collaborative effort amongst members of the Arab League.

## **II. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- Has my country been affected by cyber attacks? Is it vulnerable?
- Has my country proposed any policies involving cybersecurity?
- To what international agreements has my country previously agreed regarding cybersecurity?
- Would my country be supportive of a new or enhanced treaty combating cybersecurity?

---

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.csuae.org/index\\_more.html](http://www.csuae.org/index_more.html)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press\\_releases/2008/NP01.html](http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2008/NP01.html)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

### **III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- How will the Arab League address this issue collectively as technology advances?
- How might a multi-national INFOSEC system be guarded without breaching individual nations' privacy and sovereignty?
- How can cyber-criminals be detected and prosecuted?
- Are there any international actors who can assist in addressing the implications of cybersecurity?
- Is cybersecurity clearly defined?

### **IV. Additional Resources to Review**

#### **Cybercriminals in Developing Nations**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-18930953>

#### **ITU National Cybersecurity/ CIIP Self-Assessment Tool**

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/cybersecurity/projects/readiness.html>

#### **Information on Viruses in the Arab Region**

[http://www.securelist.com/en/blog/208193767/Gauss\\_Nation\\_state\\_cyber\\_surveillance\\_meets\\_banking\\_Trojan](http://www.securelist.com/en/blog/208193767/Gauss_Nation_state_cyber_surveillance_meets_banking_Trojan)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2012/08/10/tech-ap-virus-middle-east.html>

## **Topic II: Addressing Arab League and member state involvement with multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, NATO and the African Union, regarding defense and military concerns**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

In years past, the Arab League has worked toward greater cooperation with a number of international bodies, though rarely has this cooperation been examined specifically in the context of defense and security.

The United Nations is an international body that works on a broad range of fundamental issues.<sup>12</sup> Some of these fundamental issues relating to defense and military concerns are disarmament and nonproliferation, as well as landmine clearing, in order to keep peace.<sup>13</sup> NATO is a collective defense body that partners with non-NATO members to meet their interests to maintain peace in their region.<sup>14</sup> The African Union's main objectives related to defense and military concerns involve creating a stronger African unity, safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states, and promoting international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.<sup>15</sup>

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

Member states of the Arab League have been involved with several multilateral organizations for decades. One of those organizations is, of course, the United Nations, whose founding function was to provide collective action to deal with threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, or acts of aggression.<sup>16</sup> One critical role of the UN in the Arab world has been to create a mandate for Palestine; it has been involved in an effort to contain and limit conflict, to help the victims of conflict, and to create conditions for a settlement for over 50 years.<sup>17</sup>

In 2008, in Bucharest, NATO endorsed an action plan aimed at developing and implementing a 'comprehensive approach,' including organizations such as the Arab League.<sup>18</sup> NATO is developing proposals in five areas: improved practical cooperation; the development of joint training of civilian and military personnel; regular, extensive civil-military interaction; complementary public information strategies; and improved military support for stabilization and reconstruction.<sup>19</sup> Through this proposal, NATO is seeking greater transparency and depth of

---

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.nato.int/welcome/brochure\\_WhatIsNATO\\_en.pdf](http://www.nato.int/welcome/brochure_WhatIsNATO_en.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.au.int/en/about/nutshell>

<sup>16</sup> Brian Urquhart, "The United Nations in the Middle East: A 50-year Retrospective," *The Middle East Journal* 49, no. 4 (1995): 572-581, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4328864>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Rebecca Moore, "NATO's Partners in Afghanistan: Impact and Purpose," *UNISCI Discussion Papers* 22, (2010): 92-115, <http://search.proquest.com/docview/224066388?accountid=10598>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

information in all levels of government with relevant organizations and actors. This includes several member states of the Arab League which are partners to NATO.

Africa is home to two-thirds of the world's Arabs, and formal relations between Africa and the Arab world began at the Cairo Summit in 1977.<sup>20</sup> This partnership continues to become more vital today as several shifts in power have occurred within the African member states. As economic development continues in Africa, the Arab League can play a vital role in establishing peace and order in the region through partnerships with the African Union.

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

Although the United Nations and NATO have been seen as dominant forces in establishing peace and order, the Arab League also presents prominent prospects for the future in regards to collaboration in defense and military needs.<sup>21</sup> Over the past year or more, the League has taken a more active role than it has historically, and taken bold action in a variety of crises related to the 'Arab Spring.' Thus, innovative inter-organizational cooperation, through the system of pooling and sharing (mission support and common planning frameworks; military and civilian support), can become a catalyst to implementing monumental changes in the Arab region.<sup>22</sup> The sensitive types of cooperation involve intelligence, rapid reaction forces, and political strategy, for the fear of leaked information and espionage.<sup>23</sup>

## **II. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- What resources does each organization have to offer? Which defense priorities of the League are shared with other international organizations?
- What military resources does my country have to offer? What are its military weaknesses?
- Does my country have active involvement in the UN, NATO, or the AU?
- Is my country a signatory to security-related treaties within these organizations?
- Does my country have any policies that could be an issue in collaborating with other international bodies?

## **III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- Will a new treaty establish more cooperation between these bodies? Is it necessary?
- What steps can each organization take to foster collaboration?
- How will the frameworks the council might provide be sustainable?

---

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Partnerships\\_0.pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Partnerships_0.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.cic.nyu.edu/staff/docs/gowan/peace\\_gowan\\_sherman\\_zif.pdf](http://www.cic.nyu.edu/staff/docs/gowan/peace_gowan_sherman_zif.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

#### **IV. Additional Resources to Review**

*Afro Arab Cooperation*

[http://www.au.int/en/partnerships/afro\\_arab](http://www.au.int/en/partnerships/afro_arab)

*Africa's Strategic Partnerships*

[http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Partnerships\\_0.pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Partnerships_0.pdf)

*Peace Operations Partnerships*

[http://www.cic.nyu.edu/staff/docs/gowan/peace\\_gowan\\_sherman\\_zif.pdf](http://www.cic.nyu.edu/staff/docs/gowan/peace_gowan_sherman_zif.pdf)

*The Future of NATO*

Weinrod, Bruce W., "The Future of NATO" *Mediterranean Quarterly* 23, no. 2 (2012): 1-13. <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/med/summary/v023/23.2.weinrod.html>.



### **Topic III: Considering mechanisms to regulate the flow of military goods into conflict zones and areas outside the control of member state governments**

#### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

##### *A. General Background*

The international community, and individual countries therein, deal with conflicts in a variety of ways. Naturally, this depends largely on each state's national interests. For example, Kurdish forces in northern Iraq have received military and other aid from a variety of countries at various points – Syria, Iran, the United States, and even Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist government.<sup>24</sup> In fact, the Kurds might be considered the poster child of this topic. For years a conflict zone, Kurdistan has maintained a level of independence putting it outside the control of an internationally recognized government. Other areas like this exist in the Arab world, and many more can be considered conflict zones.

But as stated, each conflict and each country's reactions vary. One method of addressing conflicts – whether to slow them down or assist the party your country most favors – is through regulating military goods. Military goods might include weapons, but also supplies, food, or cash intended to support a belligerent. This topic, then, is really about how the League can use its collective might to influence conflicts and maintain its member states' territorial integrity.

##### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

The regulation of goods within conflict zones is a matter that involves a state's sovereignty, a sensitive subject. However, the flow of military arms and other supplies to and from conflict zones is a matter of international concern. According to Article VIII of the Arab League Charter, each member state is mandated to respect the system of government of other member states,<sup>25</sup> so the issue of sovereignty not only involves a particular member state but also the Arab League as a unit and how it pertains to a state's rights. The means of regulating military goods while also recognizing the rights of nations and the citizens of those nations is vital.

Both legal sales and illegal trafficking of military goods fall under the purview of this topic. The Arab Spring, resulting from protests in Tunisia that spread across several nations in the Arab region, created a new sense of urgency regarding the regulation of the sale of military goods. Actors in conflicts in Libya and Syria have received (and are still receiving) military goods from Western governments to accommodate the transition of power in the conflict areas. Thus, these mass popular uprisings focused the public attention on the governments of the United States and

---

<sup>24</sup> Lawrence, Quil. *Invisible Nation: How the Kurds' Quest for Statehood Is Shaping Iraq and the Middle East*. 1st U.S. ed. New York: Walker & Company, 2008.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,LAS,,,3ae6b3ab18,0.html/>

Russia in particular, who for decades had been selling weapons to the dictators that they abandoned during the uprisings.<sup>26</sup> However, these two international governments were not the only nations responsible for unaccountable arms. At least 20 governments sold more than \$2.4 billion worth of small arms, tear gas, armored vehicles, and other security equipment to Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.<sup>27</sup> With this equipment, the former governments of these Arab nations violently combated popular uprisings.<sup>28</sup>

The UN has demanded access to Syria as conflict still rages there.<sup>29</sup> The UN-Arab League envoy to this region is concerned about the imminent danger to civilians in the area posed by such weapons sales. It would like to ensure the protection of civilians as well as maintain respect for international law.<sup>30</sup>

Illicit weapons sales in the Middle East have been an ongoing issue, stemming from the Cold War. Many deaths that result in conflicts in the Middle East and Africa are from small arms and light weapons,<sup>31</sup> often illegally trafficked over borders. These weapons are sought out due to low cost and wide availability from private actors from Europe, Asia, and Africa. The weaponry is simple, durable, and lethal, and can be easily concealed. This is ideal for militia groups outside the control of member state governments when recruiting combatants and even children.<sup>32</sup> These weapons are also difficult to track, in that they are traded through legal, covert (gray-market), and illicit (black-market) channels. The covert channels operate with government support while illicit channels sale weapons against international embargoes and other legal sanctions.<sup>33</sup>

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

“About 75 per cent of the global trade in conventional weapons is controlled by the five permanent United Nations Security Council members: the United States, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom.”<sup>34</sup> However, illicit weapons are seized, stolen, or looted from a variety of sources: government forces, state armories, corrupt soldiers, private owners, and even peacekeepers who are relieved of their arms.<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, rebel or militia groups often cross poorly secured borders to smuggle weapons and trade them for food, vehicles, and other consumer goods. Somali militias regularly buy and sell arms to each other on the black market.<sup>36</sup> Amnesty International stated that one of its main goals was to create a treaty where signatory

---

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2011/10/20111019152444131301.html>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/06/12/220092.html>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.armscontrol.org/print/391>

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/07/201271101738504668.html>

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.aefjn.org/tl\\_files/aefjn-files/arms/arms\\_material%20eng/1101AEFJNReportArmsAfrica\\_Africa\\_eng.pdf](http://www.aefjn.org/tl_files/aefjn-files/arms/arms_material%20eng/1101AEFJNReportArmsAfrica_Africa_eng.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

countries will have to scrutinize who will use small arms weapons and for what purposes. This goal was drafted into *The Arms Trade Treaty*. Daryl Kimball of the US-based Arms Control Association wrote the following in an email:

“The Arms Trade Treaty won’t stop all illicit arms transfers, but it has the potential to significantly and positively change behavior by requiring states to put in place basic regulations and follow common sense criteria that reduce irresponsible arms transfers and holds arms suppliers more accountable for their actions.”<sup>37</sup>

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon expressed his disappointment over the Arms Trade Treaty not being passed, but he sees it as a noble cause that states are encouraged to still pursue.<sup>38</sup> The question still remains on how to effectively secure conflict zone borders. Further, the League might consider its policy on member state involvement in various conflicts through the provision of military goods to belligerents.

## II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- Has my country provided military goods to countries or parties involved in conflicts? Has my country or parties in my country received military goods while experiencing conflict?
- What policies does my country have in place concerning military equipment or goods?
- Does my country trade in military goods with countries or groups involved in conflicts?
- Does my country serve as a transit point for illegal arms trafficking?

## III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Will a new treaty create the proper mechanisms to regulate military goods?
- Has sovereignty been maintained for all member states?
- What standards should the Arab League use when determining whether a country or a group should not receive arms
- How can supply and demand factors be mitigated to stem the flow of illegal military goods?

## IV. Additional Resources to Review

### *Tracing Middle East Weapons Flow*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2011/10/20111019152444131301.html>

---

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/07/201271101738504668.html>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42585&Cr=disarmament&Cr1>

***Small Arms as a Business***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/07/201271101738504668.html>

***Arms Trade Treaty***

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42585&Cr=disarmament&Cr1>

[http://www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1290000458265&pagename=WAM%2FWAM\\_E\\_Layout&parent=Query&parentid=1135099399852](http://www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1290000458265&pagename=WAM%2FWAM_E_Layout&parent=Query&parentid=1135099399852)

Video: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/07/201271101738504668.html>

## **Topic IV: Formulating collective agreements regarding the use of controversial new military and intelligence technology by regional and international actors, with special consideration given to unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

The unmanned aerial vehicle, UAV or drone, is a technology that has been innovated over the last century.<sup>39</sup> However, this technology has become advanced to the point where its use has become controversial. Drones/UAVs can fire missiles from thousands of feet in the air to kill selected individuals, often where no official declaration of war has been made and no official permission for operations has been given.<sup>40</sup> This has led to a variety of concerns, including the legality of what might be termed as “extrajudicial killing” or even “assassination,” the moral gray area created by using unmanned technology in undeclared war zones, and the long-term implications of technological superpowers prowling the world’s skies with armed and unarmed surveillance technology.

Drones have been widely used in the Afghanistan conflict, both in Afghanistan and in Pakistan, the latter of which has given no official permission for such operations outside an apparent unanswered fax each month.<sup>41</sup> However, drones are not relegated to South/Central Asia – both Yemen and Somalia have been subject to drone strikes.<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, the implications of Arab League member states obtaining and utilizing drone technology brings yet another controversial dynamic to an already convoluted situation.

The focus of this topic, then, is to analyze this technology, or any other military or intelligence technology the delegates wish to label as ‘controversial,’ that can interfere with the stability of the region and whether the technology is beneficial.

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

The *Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation between the States of the Arab League* provides the framework of respecting the use of proper defense measures amongst member states.<sup>43</sup> Thus, the controversy of UAV technology, better known as drones, has brought more attention to the employment of this technology and the accountability of those who have it. Particularly, “the US government’s growing reliance on aerial drones to pursue its war on al-

---

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-innovations/innovations-in-drone-technology/2012/02/02/gIQA9EmxmQ\\_gallery.html#photo=5](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-innovations/innovations-in-drone-technology/2012/02/02/gIQA9EmxmQ_gallery.html#photo=5)

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/10\\_things\\_you\\_didnt\\_know\\_about\\_drones?page=0,3](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/10_things_you_didnt_know_about_drones?page=0,3)

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-us-believes-it-has-silent-consent-to-carry-out-drone-strikes-in-pakistan-2012-9>

<sup>42</sup> [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/10\\_things\\_you\\_didnt\\_know\\_about\\_drones?page=0,3](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/27/10_things_you_didnt_know_about_drones?page=0,3)

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/treaty-joint-defense-economic-cooperation-between-states-arab-league/p25904>

Qaeda and the Taliban in Yemen, Afghanistan and elsewhere is proving controversial.”<sup>44</sup> Drone warfare is seen as giving the ‘desk pilots’ who drive the drones to be “remote from the human consequences of their actions.”<sup>45</sup> More than 40 countries are believed to have drones, leading to worries of invasion of privacy, as well.<sup>46</sup>

In September of 2012, Iran announced a new drone – the Shahed 129 – with a 1,240 mile range that “could be equipped with bombs and missiles.”<sup>47</sup> Reports state that it is unclear whether or not the development of the Shahed 129 is linked to the Iranian’s capture of a US drone – the RQ-170 – in December of 2011. Iran has created the technology for an upgraded short range missile,<sup>48</sup> though President Ahmadinejad stated that the technology was simply for defense purposes.<sup>49</sup> In another example, Hezbollah was suspected of launching the unarmed drone that entered southern Israel in October of 2012; it was shot down by Israeli defenses.<sup>50</sup>

These developments present new challenges to the Arab region, and member states need to address this issue to mitigate the potential for heightened tension around their borders.

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

Countries have dealt with the evolution of defense technologies primarily by keeping their military capabilities up-to-par with their neighbors’ developments. The uses – and subsequent reactions – of advanced technology, however, have varied. Following the downing of the RQ-170, Iran claimed to have used a cyber attack to override the system’s controls and land the plane intact.<sup>51</sup> Israel has shot down and destroyed intruding drones.<sup>52</sup> Mohammad Khazaei, the Iranian Ambassador to the U.N., addressed a letter to the Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and others that stated, “my government emphasizes that this blatant and unprovoked air violation by the United States government is tantamount to an act of hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran in clear contravention of international law, in particular, the basic tenets of the United Nations Charter.”<sup>53</sup>

At times, various actors’ rhetoric has gone as far as to hint that such cross-border threats might induce military retaliation. In the same incidents referenced above, Israeli Defense Minister

---

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thecafe/2012/07/201271872041648814.html>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19725990?cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily\\_news\\_brief-link12-20120926](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19725990?cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily_news_brief-link12-20120926)

<sup>48</sup> <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/50934/World/Region/Iran-unveils-new-missile,-starts-air-defence-site.aspx>

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19871177>

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19725990?cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily\\_news\\_brief-link12-20120926](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19725990?cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily_news_brief-link12-20120926)

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19871177>

<sup>53</sup> [http://articles.cnn.com/2011-12-11/middleeast/world\\_meast\\_iran-us-drone\\_1\\_spy-drones-rq-170-unmanned-aircraft/2?s=PM:MIDDLEEAST](http://articles.cnn.com/2011-12-11/middleeast/world_meast_iran-us-drone_1_spy-drones-rq-170-unmanned-aircraft/2?s=PM:MIDDLEEAST)

Ehud Barak hinted at extra-territorial action, saying “we will consider our response later”<sup>54</sup>; Fars News Agency – Iran’s state-run news outlet – quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Iran’s response “will not be limited to the country’s borders.”<sup>55</sup>

There are also detailed arguments from a humanitarian perspective both for and against the use of drones. The dissociation of a physically present pilot from an opposing plane gives rise to questions of ethics as well as military implications.<sup>56</sup>

## **II. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- What policies have been discussed or implemented by other countries or organizations that address this issue?
- Does the Arab League have the proper resources to implement a collective agreement?
- What other new military technology might be considered controversial that should be explored by the council?
- What international laws might apply to drone usage?
- Has my country been subject to drone strikes? Is my country threatened by drones?
- Does my country possess drone technology? Does my country want drone technology?

## **III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- Does a collective agreement appropriately address all member states?
- Are international actors involved in this collective agreement?
- Is this collective agreement sustainable?
- How does drone activity compare to other military options, particularly when determining the limits of a justified response?
- If any, which drone actions constitute acts of war?

## **IV. Additional Resources to Review**

[http://www.gulfimes.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=526588&version=1&template\\_id=37&parent\\_id=17](http://www.gulfimes.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=526588&version=1&template_id=37&parent_id=17)

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thecafe/2012/07/201271872041648814.html>

---

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19857597>

<sup>55</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/iran-says-it-downed-us-stealth-drone-pentagon-acknowledges-aircraft-downing/2011/12/04/gIQAyxa8TO\\_story.html?wprss=rss\\_national-security](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/iran-says-it-downed-us-stealth-drone-pentagon-acknowledges-aircraft-downing/2011/12/04/gIQAyxa8TO_story.html?wprss=rss_national-security)

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thecafe/2012/07/201271872041648814.html>

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/treaty-joint-defense-economic-cooperation-between-states-arab-league/p25904>

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/08/23/news/national/us-should-hand-over-footage-of-drone-strikes-or-face-un-inquiry/>