



Esteemed delegates of the Arab League,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome all of you to the Arab League, at the first edition of the Eton Model of the United Nations 2019. For the next several days, we will be discussing a topic that has caused controversy in many countries all around the world that has relevance in each and every one of Member State's territory.

The members of the Arab League shall come together to try and find an effective solution to these issues and provide the entire world with a better and more secure future. To attain this goal, each and every delegate should act according to a representative of the United Nations wishing to attain a common agreement for the prosperity of all of the participating states.

The Chair looks forward to hearing each delegate's voice and expects everyone to offer extensive participation and useful insight regarding the topics. The Arab League's Directive Chair will be happy to address any inquiry or agitation about academics or any other problem regarding EMUN 2019.

Sincerely,
Isabela Arvizu

About the committee

The Arab League, formed in 1945 in Cairo, Egypt, included six original members: The Kingdom of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Iraq, Lebanon, Transjordan, and Syria. Today, the league has 22 members (listed at the bottom), with Syria's participation suspended due to the national crisis taking place in the territory. In the past decade, many insurgent groups have emerged. The group that has posed the most significant threat is ISIS: by 2014, it had occupied over half of Syria and major sections of Iraq. The influence of ISIS has largely been subdued thanks to international aid, but Syria has yet to achieve a stable situation. The current members of the league are located mainly in the Middle East and Northern Africa, though member states extend outward to the Horn of Africa. The official goal of the Arab League is to "draw closer the relations between members States and coordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries." Inside the League Council, each member state has the right to vote. The Charter of the Arab League administers the League, adopted in 1945. The League has remained important in the affairs of the region and has large economic implications worldwide. In fact, several member states decide oil prices among themselves, thus affecting the oil prices across the world.¹

The League includes Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya (contested), Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, The State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic (contested), Tunisia, the UAE, and Yemen (contested). As of today, there are large gaps in the economic capabilities of each member state; in addition to this, the infrastructure of the member States also hold large margins of difference. This displays the glaring problems in the Arab League's economic plans.²

¹ NA. "Arab League, formally the League of Arab States." One World Nations Online. One World Nations Online. February 2019 https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/arab_league.htm.

² BBC News Services. "Profile: Arab League." BBC News. 24 August 2017. BBC. February 2019 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747941>.



Topic A **Activating the Arab peace initiative and countering its violations taking place in occupied Jerusalem.**

In the twentieth century, present-day Israel-Palestine was under the Ottoman Empire's leadership. The religions that made up this territory were Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, which constituted a peaceful minority. At the time, both Palestinians and Zionists had created an identity deserving of a territory, the Middle East. European Jews began leaving their homes and looking for a new one, the historic sacred land. World War I, however, led to the end of the Ottoman Empire. Britain and France took control over the Middle East and renamed it "The British Mandate for Palestine." Conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians were common, and both sides committed acts of great brutality. Because of this, Jewish immigration was limited. As a response, Jews created militias against the Arab and British dominion. ³

The Holocaust led to the migration of many more Jews, which established themselves in British Palestine. Violent actions between these groups continued and led to the United Nations' intervention, which divided the territory into two separate states (Israel and Palestine). The Jews accepted their independence, but the Palestinians did not. Arabs supported the latter and declared war to Israel in an effort to unify Arab Palestine and create a new country, where the British Palestine had been. Israel won the war and extended the territory that had been assigned by the UN. Palestinians were displaced from their homes, creating a refugee crisis that currently affects 7 million people. Since then, Israel and Palestine have been in constant conflict.

A two-state solution to this conflict would mean that there would now be a Palestinian state and an Israeli state. Neither of them can

get what they want in a joined state mainly because of religious disagreements and race distinctions, but by dividing the land into different states, Israel would get the pieces of territory that have a great value for the Palestinians as well. A one-state solution means that Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip would come together⁴. To this solution it is possible to find two adaptations; one, by the Palestinians, which implicates creating a democratic state, and ending the Jewish state because of the majority of Arab Muslims in relation to the Jews, and another one, by the Israelis, that includes adding the West Bank and either casting all Palestinians out or taking away their right to vote.⁵

In 2002, the Arab League endorsed the Arab peace initiative, which consists on 10 proposal sentences to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israeli government then proceeded to reject the proposal because they thought it would replace the previously placed UN resolutions 242 and 338. The actual Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, commented that they agree with the general idea of this resolution but still finds conflict with other ideas that are stated. The Palestinian authority accepted the resolution and asked the USA President, Barack Obama, to add it to the Middle East policy.⁶

³ Al Jazeera. "The Arab Peace Initiative." GCC News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 28 Mar. 2010, www.aljazeera.com/focus/2009/01/200912764650608370.html.

⁴ "Israel-Palestinian Conflict: Life in the Gaza Strip." BBC News, BBC, 15 May 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-20415675.

⁵ Staff, Vox. "Everything You Need to Know about Israel-Palestine." Vox.com, Vox Media, 14 May 2018,

www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18079996/israel-palestine-conflict-guide-explainer.

⁶ Al Jazeera. "The Arab Peace Initiative." GCC News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 28 Mar. 2010, www.aljazeera.com/focus/2009/01/200912764650608370.html.



Guiding Questions

I. Would it be feasible for your country to recognize the Israeli State?

II. What has been your country's diplomatic relationship and stance with Israel?

III. What has been your country's diplomatic relationship and stance with Palestine?

IV. What motivation does your country have?

V. Does your country have any stakes in the conflict?

VI. In what way has your country been involved in the past?

VII. Which other countries share your stance? Which other countries go against your stance?

VIII. What are the possible solutions that have been proposed in the past? What has worked? What hasn't?

IX. Which is your country's position regarding the Arab Peace Initiative?

X. In what ways has the Arab League acted upon the Arab Peace Initiative before?

Topic B

Find a peaceful and long-lasting solution to the civil strife in Iraq and Syria.

With the deterioration of civil order in both Iraq and Syria due to armed paramilitary groups and over-aggressive international intervention, it is the goal of the Arab League to put an end to the conflict finally. The instability in both countries has spread to the rest of the Middle East, and effectively, the world. This has caused NATO and Russia to flood in arms and monetary support, but this influx of aid has done little to quell the problems. Although, as of 2016, groups like ISIS, which had control of nearly half of Syria, have lost prominence, there is no way of assuring the two States will have long-lasting peace. Therefore, the nations of the Arab League must work together, along with a few other countries, to find a way to stabilize the region permanently. ⁷

On January 1st, 2014, the Iraqi central government declared a state of civil strife. The ISIL or ISIS had control over strategic strongholds in Iraq and the conflict to regain these strongholds began. The conflict lasted over 3 years and was officially declared as over by the Iraqi government on December 9th, 2017. However, ISIL converted into an insurgency group and now uses guerilla tactics to disrupt the countries financial, cultural, and governmental assets. Even though, ISIL was not formed in Iraq, it was formed in Syria, and the group still holds major assets across the country. The Syrian Civil War began on June 17th, 2011 and is currently on-going. The Arab League and other international committee have looked to secure the region completely, but as of now, the remnants of ISIL have proven exceedingly difficult for the league to drive out. The Arab League has many interests in the region and permanently ending the conflict would prove greatly fortuitous for many parties involved.

Economic stability is an important point for the committee. For



decades, the economies of both Iraq and Syria have been weakened by lack of infrastructure and an inability to export effectively due to the insurgency groups that have disrupted the two nations. Crude oil is the main export and most important economic variable of both states. It is important to note that the Arab League has an important role in deciding what the costs of oil exports in member nations will be. It is the goal of the delegations to help the Iraqi and Syrian governments to find a way to direct this massive monetary capability to rebuild each nation and perhaps a way to cut dependency.

It is important to recognize that, although many of the paramilitary groups have lost influence, they are still active and causing damage. Military aid from the Arab League has already been provided, but it has worked to a limited extent. Only after members of NATO had intervened did the strife begin to lower in magnitude. It is against Arab League policy to depend on Western powers and, therefore, it would be appropriate to find another, more reaching, approach to aid Iraq and Syria.⁸

⁷ NA. "Más de 2.000 personas son evacuadas del principal reducto del ISIS en Siria." *El país*. 2019. *El país*. February 2019 https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/02/20/actualidad/1550684869_807865.html.

⁸ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Syrian Civil War." Encyclopaedia Britannica. Jan 24, 2019. Encyclopaedia Britannica. February 2019 <https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War>.



Guiding Questions

I. What is your country's relationship with Iraq and Syria?

II. What solutions have been made in the past regarding the conflict? What has worked? What has not?

III. Is your country an active member of NATO? If so, what is their official stance on the conflict?

IV. What level of influence does your country hold in the Arab League?

V. Is your country directly involved in armed conflicts? If so, does it hinder your country's ability to supply aid?

VI. Does your country have any stakes in the conflict? Any reason for which your country would like the conflict to end?

VII. What is your country's position in this situation? How has it acted upon this position before?

VIII. What is the position of your country regarding international aid in the conflict?

IX. How has your country been directly or indirectly affected by the conflict?

X. How could your Arab League allies support your country in its stance regarding the civil conflict?

References

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