



2014 - 2015

Model Arab League

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Council on Political Affairs

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Relations



Original draft by Stephanie Leahy, Chair of the Council on Political Affairs at the 2015 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Delegates,

Welcome to the Council on Political Affairs and to the 2014-2015 Model Arab League season! My name is Stephanie Leahy and I will be your chair at the National University Model Arab League, hosted by Georgetown University in April 2015. I am a 4th year Political Science student at Northeastern University with minors in Arabic and Criminal Justice. I have been participating in model programs since high school and have found my college experience to be one of the most formative and rewarding endeavors while in university. Since my freshman year, I have been a delegate at 9 conferences, a chair at 7, and will be Secretary General of this year's Northeast Regional Model Arab League conference in Boston this November.

With all the rapid changes in the Arab World, I find it almost impossible to not be interested in the region. While the area has always been interesting, recent developments such as the Arab Spring, ongoing regime changes and widespread instability make now a vital time to understand the factors and aspects of the conflicts. The Council on Political Affairs has widespread jurisdiction and can make impactful and needed changes to policy. As you prepare for the various conferences this year, keep in mind how your country and council are able to shape policy and what your country's vital interests are, both within each topic and overall.

I anticipate a lively and challenging debate season for all who will be participating and very much look forward to council sessions. I trust you will all be diligent and thorough in your preparations, both in terms of research and delegate skill and manner. I hope to see innovative and unique solutions to each of these problems in debate as well as development and improvement in all of you as delegates.

Wishing you all the best and looking forward to meeting you this year!

Regards,

Stephanie Leahy
Council on Political Affairs

Topic 1: Exploring the effectiveness and political feasibility of utilizing Arab League state resources or other means to assist regional states in transition with economic growth and infrastructure initiatives

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Topic 1 is multifaceted and explicit in its approach: to ‘explore’ such items as ‘effectiveness’ and ‘feasibility’ requires that delegates in the Council test the solutions they generate, or study similar measures conducted by members states, the League, or relevant outside bodies. Special attention must be paid to the terminology ‘Arab League state resources,’ as this could mean a multitude of sources—sovereign wealth funds, private sector funds, individual state funds for economic and social growth, as well as bilateral and multilateral contracts may all be ‘explored’ to satisfy the demands of Topic 1. At the same time, ‘regional’ applies to states that may be considered to receive such resources, and it will be vital for the Council to decide upon its own definition of ‘regional states in transition.’ Lastly, the outcome of applying and using Arab League state resources is only to be used for the restructuring of states in transition, namely ‘economic growth’ and ‘infrastructure initiatives.’ All other approaches may not necessarily fall within the purview of the Council.

Given the turmoil of recent times, much of the Arab world needs rebuilding and growth. The global financial crisis of 2008 hit the region hard and the situation only worsened when the Arab Spring upheaved established systems. The urgency for reforms is undeniable with six of the 22 members in extremely vulnerable economic positions – Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Libya.¹ Further, many of the economies of the region are detached from the global economy, a problem that can be solved via political channels.²

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

Much of the infrastructure and economic boom within the Arab World has occurred in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Most of them have 30-year plans detailing the states’ long-term visions for infrastructure and economic development. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the public sector cannot provide the full extent of the region’s infrastructure needs.³ The region as a whole tends to have problems with economic diversification and much of this is due to public policies that focus entirely on hydrocarbon industries.

The Arab Spring greatly impacted the economies of states in transition—which happen to be states other than those in the GCC. “[HSBC] estimate[s] the value of lost output will top USD800bn by the end of [2014]. In the [Gulf Cooperation Council], it is more indirect — increased dependence on energy revenues, rising breakeven oil prices, and a stalled reform program. For both groups, it will be hard to

¹ *The World Bank*. “Slow Growth in Middle East and North Africa Region Calls for Bold Approach to Economic Reform.” Feb. 7, 2014. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/02/07/slow-growth-middle-east-north-africa-economic-reform>

² Singh, Michael. *The New York Times*. “The Real Middle East Crisis is Economic.” Aug. 19, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/20/opinion/the-real-middle-east-crisis-is-economic.html?_r=0

³ Hawser, Anita. *Global Finance*. “GCC: Infrastructure Investment.” Sept. 3, 2013. <https://www.gfmag.com/magazine/september-2013/gcc-infrastructure-investment>

reverse."⁴ Economic costs are also reflected in the continually high rate of unemployment across the region. Specifically in Syria, the energy sector has rapidly deteriorated since the beginning of protests in March 2011 and has continued through today. The country's lack of economic diversity combined with its inability to export its approximately 2.5 billion barrels of oil reserves ensures a stagnant economy.⁵

The use of state resources to aid states in transition within the Arab League is evidenced by a 2012 pact between Qatar and Palestine, for the rebuilding of three major roads within Gaza and the construction of a hospital and residential building. Costing around \$254 million, Qatar's investment not only bolstered Gaza's waning infrastructure, but also stimulated economic growth by providing jobs within the construction business for local Palestinians.⁶ Other endeavors of this nature are much needed by and for transition states in the Arab League, for the wellbeing of its citizens.

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

The Arab League is capable of implementing widespread policy that will affect all member states. Policies implemented in countries today are keeping small business, innovation, and economic diversity from gaining ground – this topic challenges the League to create comprehensive solutions that use existing infrastructure and forums to kick-start the economy of the region as a whole.

Resolutions of this topic should address a definition of 'regional states in transition' so that proposed investments and initiatives are appropriately directed. The selected projects should be tested for feasibility and effectiveness, as suggested by the topic, so that member states' resources are used to their maximum potentials. Topic 1 also allows for investment and development not only through 'Arab League state resources' but also through 'other means,' which is important to keep in mind when faced with a setback or roadblock.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What initiatives has your country already implemented?
- How would your country contribute or use Arab League state resources to help states in transition?
- What major issues could arise from using Arab League funds for this purpose?
- Which questions need to be addressed to move forward on the subject? Similarly, what roadblocks will keep discussion from occurring?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Would the Arab League be able to partner with other organizations?
- What type of work and development would be appropriate in this context?
- How will effectiveness and efficiency of these initiatives be measured and overseen?

⁴ Calamur, Krishnadev. *NPR*. "What Did the Arab Spring Cost? One Estimate Says \$800 Billion." Oct. 12, 2013.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2013/10/12/232128320/what-did-the-arab-spring-cost-one-estimate-says-800-billion>

⁵ *U.S. Energy Information Administration*. "Syria." February 18, 2014. <http://www.eia.gov/countries/analysisbriefs/Syria/syria.pdf>

⁶ Al-Mughrabi, Nidal. *Reuters*. "Qatar Funds Major Project to Rebuild Gaza." Oct. 16, 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/16/us-palestinians-gaza-qatar-idUSBRE89F1GX20121016>

IV. Additional Resources to Review

Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development:

<http://www.arabfund.org/>

Infrastructure Data from *The World Bank*:

<http://data.worldbank.org/topic/infrastructure>

“Islamic Finance Awards: New Structures, New Markets” by Anita Hawser for *Global Finance*. June 6, 2014:

<https://www.gfmag.com/magazine/june-2014/new-structures-new-markets>

MENA Quarterly Economic Brief from *The World Bank*. January 2014:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/publication/mena-quarterly-economic-brief-january-2014>

“No Middle Road” by Tark Osman for *Foreign Affairs*. August 21, 2014.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141928/tarek-osman/no-middle-road>

Topic 2: Formulating a strategy for bringing before international judicial bodies individual and state parties responsible for violations of the rules of war, with particular consideration of the 2014 conflict in Gaza

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The language of Topic 2 is precise, yet controversial. Key attention should be paid to the word “responsible” as this designates that the individual or state parties in question are mutually agreed upon as the actual violators. Not only should that demarcation be decided upon by member states, but each must have the same definition of ‘rules of war,’ else there be discontinuity in any Council discussions.

Another question that must be satisfied by Topic 2 is the matter of ‘international judicial bodies:’ it is entirely up to the League to agree upon a body it considers the appropriate venue for a trial or proceeding. Although other conflicts may be discussed, Topic 2 calls for the focus of consideration to be on the 2014 conflict in Gaza. Delegates should be knowledgeable of any individuals or state parties that have committed violations within this conflict, but also aware that not all individuals or state parties will be open to negotiation or criticism. Therefore, it is pertinent that any ‘strategy’ produced by the League be on par with the standards and regulations of the international judicial bodies of choice.

International judicial bodies were introduced to the world in 1945 with the creation of the International Court of Justice. Based in The Hague, Netherlands, its purpose is to settle disputes between States and provide opinions on legal matters from the United Nations.⁷ International law expanded almost 60 years later in 2002 with the ratification of the International Criminal Court. Governed by the Rome Statute, the Court is meant to bring those who grossly violate international law to justice.⁸ Such a court may be used by the League in its ventures for Topic 2, however, others may be decided upon. Delegates attending a conference where the Arab Court of Justice convenes may further consider that body in their deliberations.

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

Only five Arab League member states are party to the ICC, with ten more who have signed, but not ratified, the agreement.⁹ There has been active participation from the Arab population, however, with Jordan holding the Presidency of the Assembly for States Parties from 2002 to 2005, the League of Arab States approving a model for the Arab Law on Crimes within ICC jurisdiction in 2005 and more.¹⁰ As for the ICJ, an organ of the United Nations, the relationship is a little more complicated than simply signing a treaty. To participate in proceedings, an entity must be a recognized state in the eyes of the UN.

⁷ *International Court of Justice*. “The Court.” <http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1>

⁸ *International Criminal Court*. “About the Court.” http://www.iccpi.int/en_menus/icc/about%20the%20court/Pages/about%20the%20court.aspx

⁹ *United Nations Treaty Collection*. “Rome Statute at the International Criminal Court.” https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-10&chapter=18&lang=en

¹⁰ *Coalition for the International Criminal Court*. “Factsheet: The ICC and the Arab World.” [http://www.iccnw.org/documents/Arab_States_the_ICC_Factsheet_\(EN\).pdf](http://www.iccnw.org/documents/Arab_States_the_ICC_Factsheet_(EN).pdf)

Many cases brought to international judicial bodies have resulted in real solutions for real international disputes. An example in the Arab world is the 2005 situation in Darfur, Sudan. Investigation was opened by Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the then Chief Prosecutor of the ICC, described as a collective effort between the ICC and the African Union among others. One of the results of this investigation was the procurement of two arrest warrants for President Omar Al-Bashir.

Because of the volatile and historic nature of the 2014 conflict in Gaza, it will be incredibly difficult to hold specific individuals and state parties accountable. In 2009, Palestine presented an appeal to the ICC to launch an investigation into the Israeli military's conduct of military operations in Gaza between 2008 and 2009. However, neither Israel nor Palestine are ICC member states and the 2009 probe did not gain momentum within the organization.¹¹ Recently, Hamas has made it known that its leaders are pushing for Palestinian membership in the ICC, which will open doors for a 2014 probe into Israeli war crimes. To do so, Palestine must sign the aforementioned Rome Statute.¹²

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

Abbas' government has already indicated they would like to join the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in order to "prosecute Israeli actions in the occupied territories."¹³ Since the upgrade in statehood status in the General Assembly in 2012, the Palestinian government has repeatedly made statements of joining the ICC for just that purpose. Recently, Abbas held off on a final decision to join in order to allow American-led peace talks a chance to succeed. The path to justice via the ICC is complicated, mainly because of the United States' position on the UN Security Council (a body that can refer cases to the ICC). Should the ICC begin an investigation in the region, they would have jurisdiction over all parties involved, including Israeli military and Hamas forces.

The path to ICC membership is one that will take an unspecified amount of time. Resolutions for this topic need to address what the Council considers to be the best course of action to hold individuals and state parties accountable within the 2014 conflict in Gaza. The pathway to creating a strategy is riddled with hindrances, yet its progression is of utmost importance. Should the use of the ICC as an international judicial body cease to be a viable option, other bodies can be chosen, per the language of the topic itself.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What is your country's relationship with international judicial bodies?
- Historically, how has your country responded to opinions or judgments from international judicial bodies?
- How would this League-wide strategy affect your country and the government?

¹¹ *Channel NewsAsia*. "Palestinians Want ICJ Probe on Gaza." Agence French-Presse, <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/palestinians-want-icj/1305702.html>

¹² Al-Mughrabi, Nidal. *Reuters*. "Hamas Backs Palestinian Push for ICC Gaza War Crimes Probe." <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/23/us-mideast-gaza-icc-idUSKBN0GN09320140823>

¹³ Perry, Richard. *New York Times*. "Palestinian Leaders Seek Actions in Security Council and Court." September 2, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/03/world/middleeast/abbas-plans-to-seek-security-council-help.html?_r=0

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What are the main reasons for involving international judicial bodies?
- What role would Arab League states play in the event of a case involving the Gaza Strip or Palestine?
- How would any decision in this regard affect future dealings with international judicial bodies?

IV. Additional Resources to Review

“Middle East and North Africa” from *Coalition for the International Criminal Court*:

<http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=region&idureg=13>

“U.N. Assembly, in Blow to U.S., Elevates Status of Palestine” from *The New York Times*. November 29, 2012:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/30/world/middleeast/Palestinian-Authority-United-Nations-Israel.html>

Situations and Cases in the ICC:

http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/situations%20and%20cases/Pages/situations%20and%20cases.aspx

Topic 3: Incorporating women into the political processes, with the intention to provide equal and fair representation in addressing the needs of all citizens

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Topic 3 is straightforward in its direction—although ‘political processes’ is not overtly specified, delegates may infer from ‘representation’ that women are needed in the political sphere not only in terms of ratios, but also to advocate for their constituents. ‘All citizens’ should be defined by the Council before the creation of programs or statutes instituting women in politics, as well as ‘equal and fair representation.’ ‘Needs’ is a loose term and a broad term, so it is best for the Council to be specific when determining which the tasks they set to accomplish. Overall, the goal is to increase the participation of women in political office, political groups, and non-governmental organizations, as they are a demographic missing from that role while being crucial to its success.

According to a U.N. study, women have been entering politics in force over the past 20 years, accounting for 18.4 percent of national assemblies worldwide.¹⁴ This trend has been occurring since 1995, though estimates claim “it will take until 2045 for women to reach parity in the developing world.”¹⁵ For example, in the United States, women have been gaining ground since the 1984 Vice President campaign of Geraldine Ferraro. Though still underrepresented, women have been slowly gaining ground in upper level administration. Progress remains slow, however, with women occupying only 24% of state legislature seats, 10% of governorships, and less than 20% of Congress.¹⁶

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

The MENA region currently sits at the bottom of the World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Report with women holding less than 13% of parliamentary positions.¹⁷ Scholars believe governments are more focused on security issues such as terrorism and will not turn their heads towards this problem until after they have resolved others. The Arab Spring, however, opened up channels of public movement that were not available before. Activists of both genders now have connections and will be able to cooperate and begin movements more easily.

Many League member states have been making progress with balancing the ratio of men to women in political representation. For instance, in January 2013, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia secured thirty seats for females on the Shura Council.¹⁸ Queen Rania of Jordan has been an outspoken advocate of women’s rights and female education for quite some time. Her position has always been and remains to

¹⁴ Macfarquhar, Neil. *The New York Times*. “U.N. Study Finds More Women in Politics.” September 18, 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/19/world/19nations.html>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Hunt, Albert B. *The New York Times*. “Despite Leaps, Women Lag in Politics.” March 16, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/17/us/politics/despise-leaps-women-lag-in-politics.html?_r=0

¹⁷ *Global Women’s Leadership Initiative*. January 30, 2014. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/arab-spring-or-arab-autumn-women%E2%80%99s-political-participation-the-arab-uprisings-and-beyond>

¹⁸ *Al Arabiya*. “Breakthrough in Saudi Arabia: Women Allowed in Parliament.” <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/11/259881.html>

be that women must be educated to become “empowered,” so that their representation in politics may improve.¹⁹

Panelists at the Global Women’s Leadership Initiative in January 2014 stated the main dividing issues for the lack of female representation in political processes are geographic, generational and ideological. An emphasis on dialogue is what is needed to move women’s development along. Suggestions from the panelists included benchmarks for the Arab region, protection from gender-based violence, and access to education.²⁰

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

To increase numbers of women in national assemblies, several countries have implemented quotas. “Of the 22 countries where women constitute more than 30 percent of the national assembly, 18 have some form of quota.”²¹ One of the more successful stories of this quota is that of Rwanda, where females make up 64% of the national legislature between the Lower and Upper Houses and the sub-national level.²² With this change came several other positives, including lower maternal death rate, higher literacy rate, higher levels of education and a list of gender rights in the constitution.²³

Organizations such as the World Bank state that education and access to education is one of the main roadblocks to women’s development in politics. Kuwait and other Gulf countries have already begun reforming their education systems, though there is also a lot of support and movement from NGOs. For example, the organization “I Read, I Write,” run by Laura Boushnak, gives free lessons in reading, writing, and social skills to women who often drop out of school in their early teens.²⁴ Daily life is drastically changed when these women are better able to communicate and participate in political life.

Therefore, resolutions in this topic must first have a substantial grasp on the history of the topic, as well as awareness of any common hindrances. If any solutions are offered, delegates should determine which body would enforce and regulate them. Solutions should also be evaluated on some sort of basis to determine whether or not they effectively provide for the needs of all Arab citizens.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What is the status of women in politics in your country?
- Have there been public movements that encourage women’s education and political participation in your country?
- What would a League-wide solution do to your government’s structure and policies towards women?

¹⁹ *Al Arabiya*. “Queen Rania Urges Education for Arab Women.” <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/04/04/Queen-Rania-education-best-route-for-Arab-women.html>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Macfarquhar, Neil.

²² Topping, Alexandra. *The Guardian*. “Rwanda’s women make strides towards equality 20 years after the genocide.” April 7, 2014. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/apr/07/rwanda-women-empowered-impooverished>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Macdonald, Kerri. *The New York Times*. “Empowering Arab Women Through Literacy.” September 10, 2013. <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/empowering-arab-women-through-literacy/>

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What types of policies showcased in other regions would work for the Arab League?
- What are the main roadblocks to a solution in this topic and how will the League address them?
- Who will be responsible for monitoring the success of this policy and how would it be enforced across the League?

IV. Additional Resources to Review

“The Arab States: Enhancing Women’s Political Participation.” Amal Sabbagh:

http://www.idea.int/publications/wip2/upload/Arab_World.pdf

“Progress for Women in Politics, but Glass Ceiling Remains Firm.” UN Women:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/3/progress-for-women-in-politics-but-glass-ceiling-remains-firm>

“The Women of Islam.” *Time*. Lisa Beyer:

<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,185647,00.html>

“Cairo Declaration on MDGs for Women and Girls, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the Arab Region.” League of Arab States:

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/58/CSW58-declaration-cairo-en%20pdf.pdf>

Topic 4: Developing a protocol for supporting or establishing political legitimacy in cases where the operating government faces military, security, or other existential challenges

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The Arab Spring, a time of revolution and rapid regime change in the MENA region that began in December 2010, brought many positive changes to the region, but also caused great amounts of instability and strife. The ongoing conflicts that have stemmed from the revolutionary period include the Syrian civil war and ongoing violence and government instability in Libya and Egypt. Aside from those conflicts, militarized groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have created another, more chaotic, issue for the League of Arab States. Many are questioning how such widespread violence can be stopped or stemmed while maintaining political legitimacy of sitting governments.

To ‘develop’ a protocol for the establishment or maintenance of political legitimacy suggests the creation of a new policy. However, since many League member states have been in a period of governmental and political transition for quite some time, when developing a new solution, delegates should be mindful of the flaws of past endeavors. ‘Political legitimacy’ as a term must be defined so that the League can have standards of security in instances of operating governments facing challenges. It will be relatively easy for member states to determine a ‘military’ or ‘security’ threat to an operating government, but ‘other’ should be clear if any special circumstances arise. There is a history in the League of questioning the legitimacy of operating governments in conflict zones and in periods of uprising, so it is vital for the Council to handle Topic 4 with tact and caution.

B. History of the Topic in the Arab World

Notably, protests against the Assad regime began in March 2011 and were marked by gross amounts of violence from security forces against Syrian civilians. By May, the United States had placed economic and trade sanctions on Syria in the hopes of stemming the violence. These sanctions were joined by those from the EU in September – none of the sanctions seemed to have any effect on levels of violence in Syria. November of 2011 saw the Arab League suspend Syria from the League and place sanctions on the state for violence against its own citizens. One impactful event was the Russia-U.S. effort to keep chemical and biological weapons from the reach of either the Assad regime or rebel groups – as of September 4, 2014, 96% of Syria’s chemical weapon stockpile had been destroyed, though there continues to be speculation as to whether or not all materials were disclosed.²⁵ The current situation is not much better with unfocused and dispersed opposition groups fighting the Assad government, which remains in power.

Capitalizing on the instability in Syria, Sunni militants declared a caliphate that covers territory across Syria into Iraq, calling themselves the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Among other demands, the group insists “all Muslims swear allegiance to its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.”²⁶ While the group has

²⁵ Gladstone, Rick. *The New York Times*. “Syria May Have Hidden Chemical arms, U.S. Says.” September 4, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/middleeast/syria-may-have-hidden-chemical-arms-us-says.html?smid=tw-share&_r=0

²⁶ “Times Topics: Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).” *The New York Times*. <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/i/isis/index.html?inline=nyt-org>

its roots with Al Qaeda as its Iraq branch, Al Qaeda has since disowned the group – one of the reasons being ISIS did not leave the fight in Syria to the Nusra front as ordered. This new group is now the focus of most of the Western world, especially given the extremely publicized executions of American journalists James Foley and Steven J. Sotloff in August 2014. With the group’s control of large swaths of territory that include major waterways and sources such as the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, many international entities are questioning how to ensure violence will decrease and be controlled.

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

The Arab League has set up a permanent council devoted to violence in Syria – such a model could be used for other situations. Should groups such as ISIS spread further than Syria and Iraq, the widespread regional instability will be catastrophic. Ambassadors from the League have assured their cooperation with international efforts to combat ISIS and have endorsed statements of the UN Security Council pertaining to foreign fighters and Islamist extremist groups.²⁷ The violence is not concentrated, however, and the League must also focus on violence that has been ongoing in places such as Libya, Yemen and Palestine.

Keeping that in mind, resolutions for this topic must be comprehensive and undertaken with precision. Individual member states affected by crises and instability in the past are excellent resources to study and consult with, especially those who have experienced the Arab Spring. If necessary, delegates should discuss outside bodies that could be considered mediators or observers in light of military and security threats to the League. Finally, solutions generated by the Council should have the ability to be periodically analyzed for efficiency, as defining and regulating political legitimacy is an intricate undertaking.

I. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has your country been affected by government instability or regional security challenges?
- How has your country responded to regional instability involving regime changes and governments in transition?
- What role has your country played in the discussions of this topic in other international organizations (e.g. The United Nations, African Union, etc.)?
- How will any developed strategy affect your country?

II. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- To which targets would the League want this resolution to apply?
- Will the resolution focus on military or policy changes to help the situation?
- Under what circumstances would the procedures outlined in the resolution apply?
- What would the role of international entities and other states be?

²⁷ Noueihad, Lin. “Arabs vow to confront Islamic State, cooperate with international efforts.” *Reuters*. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/07/us-iraq-crisis-arabs-idUSKBN0H20D220140907>

III. Additional Resources to Review

“Syria Civil War Fast Facts.” *CNN*:

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war-fast-facts/>

“Destroying ISIS May Take Years, U.S. Officials Say.” *New York Times*:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/08/world/middleeast/destroying-isis-may-take-3-years-white-house-says.html>

“The Arab World and the Security Crisis in Syria and Iraq.” *Foreign Policy Association*:

<http://foreignpolicyblogs.com/2014/07/29/the-arab-world-and-the-security-crisis-in-syria-and-iraq/>