



2024 - 2025

Model Arab League BACKGROUND GUIDE

Council on Palestinian Affairs

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**National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations**



Original draft by Noor Al-baghdadi, Chair of the Council on Palestinian Affairs at the 2025 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Model Arab League Council on Palestinian Affairs. My name is Noor Al-Baghdadi, and I am a Master's student at Georgia State University. I earned my Bachelor's in Political Science also from Georgia State University in the Spring of 2024. This is my third year participating in Model Arab league at the collegiate level. In the past, I have participated in Model Arab League all throughout high school and aside from participating as a delegate at NCUSAR's National Model Arab league, have also chaired the Council on Palestinian Affairs in 2023, and Council on Political Affairs in 2022 at Georgia State University's Model Arab League conference. It is an honor and a true pleasure to serve as your chair for this year's Council on Palestinian Affairs. I sincerely hope that your time on this committee will be as rewarding as my past experiences with the model have been.

The Council on Palestinian Affairs is distinct in its focus, with all of its objectives dedicated to supporting and elevating the State of Palestine and its people. For over 75 years, Palestine has faced enduring challenges that have profoundly affected generations of Palestinians. The council's discussions therefore encompass various issues. These include social, economic, and political issues, all concerning the Palestinian struggle and issue. Understanding these topics and engaging with them meaningfully requires you to gain a better understanding of the Palsesitnians struggle as a whole. Throughout this process, it is crucial to uphold the values of your nation and maintain a diplomatic approach, even in the face of disagreements.

I hope you will encourage everyone to enjoy their research, and broaden their understanding. For those who might be doing this for the first time, I understand it may be a lot of information and quite daunting, but take it one step at a time and do not be afraid to ask questions.

If you ever have questions, need better insight on an issue, or hit a roadblock in your research, feel free to contact me at nalbaghdadi1@student.gsu.edu. I hope to see you all ready to engage and in good spirits!

Regards,
Noor Al-Baghdadi

Topic 1: Developing a plan for the protection of Palestinians' right to identity through the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Since October 2023, an estimated 195 cultural heritage sites have been destroyed in Gaza, some dating back to 4,000 years ago¹. The Palestinian people have endured a complex struggle for self-determination, marked by occupation and displacement. Critical to this the struggle of Palestinians is the preservation of their identity, a concept deeply intertwined with cultural heritage. Constant threat of war, displacement, loss of life, and occupation puts the very existence of Palestinians in a vulnerable position. However, often overlooked is the ways in which Palestinian heritage is targeted and used as a weapon to justify crimes against humanity². The distortion of reality and justification of atrocities have occurred many times throughout history, stemming from the destruction of heritage and breaking down of identity³. This phenomenon certainly plays out in the case of the Palestinian struggle as well, happening as recently as during the events of the current genocide in Gaza.⁴ The right to heritage is fundamental to the right to identity, safeguarding the collective narratives that shape a people's existence and transcend individual lifetimes. It serves as a testament to their lives, the lives of their ancestors, and the roots they share. As entire families in Gaza are tragically lost to war, preserving their stories and heritage becomes an urgent imperative⁵. Since Israel's offensive into Gaza following the events of October 7th, more than 200 historical sites have been targeted by Israeli strikes⁶. Many of these sites date back thousands of years and hold significance for not just Islam, but Judaism and Christianity as well. This heritage encompasses tangible elements like historical sites and artifacts as well as intangible aspects such as language, music, and customs, and is more than just a collection of relics; it's a living testament to the Palestinian people's history, resilience, and aspirations.

B. History in the Arab World

¹ <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/01/widescale-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-in-gaza/#:~:text=A%20recent%20report%20by%20AI,early%20days%20of%20the%20war.>

² <https://urbansredstudies.stanford.edu/events/sahera-bleibleh-cultural-heritage-lost-impact-war-palestinian-identity-and-memory#:~:text=In%20times%20of%20war%2C%20Palestinian,national%20memory%20and%20deform%20history>

³ <https://www.getty.edu/publications/cultural-heritage-mass-atrocities/part-1/03-parzinger/>

⁴ <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-past-is-being-destroyed-in-palestine-as-well-as-the-present/>

⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-palestinians-families-israel-war-deaths-a9f8bcfe402c17f1f78903eae67b7a7d#:~:text=Nearly%20all%20of%20Gaza's%202.3,multiple%20generations%20of%20displaced%20relatives.>

⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2024/1/14/a-cultural-genocide-which-of-gazas-heritage-sites-have-been-destroyed>

The effort to protect and celebrate Palestinian identity through the preservation of cultural heritage in the Arab world has been a complex and multifaceted process. It has been particularly made difficult as a result of constant periods of unrest, displacement, and massacre in both the West Bank and Gaza. It has become increasingly difficult with these constant periods of turmoil to maintain a consistent effort to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage, especially in the face of loss of the families, and the destruction of the sites themselves. Despite this, over the years, numerous initiatives have emerged across the region, focusing on the documentation, restoration, and promotion of Palestinian cultural heritage as a means of safeguarding identity and fostering community resilience. Many projects are fostered by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), however Arab nations have also taken initiatives in different ways to protect Palestinian heritage⁷.

One significant example is the collaboration between UNESCO and international partners, which has led to the restoration of numerous historical sites in Palestine including 5 properties inscribed on the world heritage list⁸. These efforts have not only revitalized the physical structures but also reinforced the cultural and social fabric of Palestinian communities by providing spaces for education, cultural expression, and community gathering. These efforts have also aided in also reinforcing the importance of cultural heritage and identity in protecting Palestinians. The rehabilitation of sites such as the Al Khader Library in Gaza and the Tulkarem Women's Development Center demonstrates how cultural heritage projects can serve as pillars of socioeconomic development, offering both symbolic and practical benefits to local populations⁹.

In addition to these restoration projects, there has been a concerted effort to raise awareness and engage the public in the protection of Palestinian heritage. Local Palestinian organizations like RIWAQ (Centre for Architectural Conservation) and the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee have played crucial roles in advocating for legal protection mechanisms, community involvement, and the integration of cultural heritage into broader development strategies¹⁰. These initiatives emphasize the importance of preserving not only the physical aspects of heritage but also the intangible cultural practices and narratives that constitute the essence of Palestinian identity.

⁷ <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/75-steps-towards-preserving-palestinian-cultural-heritage>

⁸ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ps>

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ <https://www.riwaq.org/riwaq-register/registry-historic-buildings> and <https://www.hebronrc.ps/index.php/en>

As a whole, the Arab world's response to the preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage has also included efforts to counteract the erasure of history and identity, particularly involving efforts through education, advocacy, and in some cases legal and physical protection¹¹. One of the most significant contributions comes from Jordan, which has historically served as the custodian of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem¹². This custodianship is not merely symbolic; it involves active engagement in the preservation and protection of these sites, which are integral to Palestinian and broader Muslim identity. Under the Hashemite custodianship, Jordan has funded and overseen numerous restoration projects at Al-Aqsa, particularly in response to damage caused by conflict and neglect¹³. These efforts have included the maintenance of the mosque's infrastructure, restoration of its historic features, and safeguarding of religious practices and traditions associated with the site. Such initiatives aim to ensure that the rich tapestry of Palestinian culture is recognized and celebrated, both within the region and beyond.

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

The challenge of ensuring Palestinians' right to identity through protection and celebration of cultural heritage will certainly require a multi-faceted approach to develop a plan with the goal of the right to identity in mind. It requires consideration for prevention, restoration, and possible forms of reparation for loss of cultural heritage. It must also take into consideration the historical context, current challenges, and what is possible for future strategies. The protection of cultural heritage is not merely about preserving buildings or artifacts; it is about safeguarding the very essence of Palestinian identity, which has been under continuous threat due to displacement, conflict, and cultural erasure. This includes the protection and value of Palestinian life, as cultural heritage extends beyond tangible artifacts, and blooms into customs, values, traditions, and people. In other words, the intangible aspects of cultural heritage must also be considered in solutions¹⁴.

Historically, the protection of Palestinian cultural heritage has been a reactive effort, emerging in response to the systematic destruction and appropriation of Palestinian lands and cultural sites. Following the 1948 Nakba, Arab countries, along with international organizations, began to recognize the importance of preserving Palestinian culture as a means of maintaining national identity. Efforts in the past focused on documenting and archiving Palestinian traditions, arts, and history, often through grassroots initiatives¹⁵. The establishment of cultural institutions and educational programs aimed at preserving Palestinian heritage laid the foundation for more

¹¹ <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1155714/opinion/oman/preserving-palestinian-heritage-against-erasure>

¹² <https://jordantimes.com/opinion/mohammad-ghazal/hashemite-custodianship-binding-legacy>

¹³ [https://dpa.gov.jo/En/Pages/Jerusalem and the Hashemite Custodianship](https://dpa.gov.jo/En/Pages/Jerusalem%20and%20the%20Hashemite%20Custodianship)

¹⁴ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/what-is-intangible-heritage-00003>

¹⁵ <https://easteast.world/posts/472>

organized and institutionalized efforts in later years¹⁶. Currently, the challenge of protecting Palestinian cultural heritage is more urgent than ever given the ongoing genocide in Gaza, threatening the existence of cultural sites and practices as bombardment destroys cultural infrastructure¹⁷. Jordan's role as the custodian of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, exemplifies the active engagement necessary to preserve these critical elements of Palestinian identity, particularly within the Arab world. Other contemporary initiatives have expanded to include digital preservation, through blogs or online museums, such as palestineheritage.org where Palestinian history, art, and cultural practices are digitized and shared globally to ensure accessibility and awareness, especially in the context of the war, making it increasingly difficult to physically safeguard both tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites¹⁸. This approach helps to counteract the physical destruction of cultural heritage by creating a lasting digital record that can be used for education, advocacy, and cultural expression¹⁹.

Moving forward, a comprehensive plan to protect Palestinian identity through cultural heritage could involve a combination of local, regional, and international efforts. Any solution should also bear in mind any the Palestinian-led efforts to protect heritage, and the question of Palestinian life being constantly threatened by war and occupation. Both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have little to no maneuverability to legally protect cultural heritage sites at the hands of war, occupation, or settlement expansion. Relying on either group to implement measures to protect Palestinian heritage would prove to be fruitless. This is especially true in the context of the war on Gaza and limitations on the Palestinian Authorities in the West Bank further than they have already made effort. In such a case, regional efforts and reinforcement is vital to ensuring action is taken.

The role of international organizations like UNESCO is crucial in coordinating these efforts, providing technical support, and ensuring that Palestinian cultural heritage is recognized and protected under international law. Local organizations like RIWAQ, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, and other organizations in the diaspora also play a pivotal role in the preservation of cultural heritage.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

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https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347590789_Role_of_universities_in_preserving_cultural_heritage_in_areas_of_conflict

¹⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/14/a-cultural-genocide-which-of-gazas-heritage-sites-have-been-destroyed>

¹⁸ <https://palestineheritage.org/>

¹⁹ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2438846/amp>

- A. Has your Member State done anything in efforts to protect Palestinian heritage in either their own nation or in Palestine?
- B. What action items can your Member State put into place to take critical steps in preserving Palestinian identity and heritage?
- C. As a whole, is there anything the Arab League can do to go beyond recognizing Palestinian heritage, and take real action to protect and restore it?
- A. Does your Member State have the capacity either diplomatically or financially to facilitate rehabilitation and physical protection of Palestinian heritage, tangible and intangible?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- A. In what ways can the Arab League protect Palestinian heritage sites?
- B. What can the Arab League do to uplift and protect Palestinian heritage within their own nations, specifically in the context of the families that were forced to move into other parts of the Arab world as a result of displacement?
- C. Rather than focusing on reactive responses, are there proactive measure that can be taken to protect Palestinian heritage?
- D. How can local efforts be protected and uplifted in their preservation and documenting work?

IV. Additional Resources

1. [Palestinian heritage](#)

A website that gives insight on different aspects of Palestinian culture, both tangible and intangible. To gain a better understanding of what Palestinian culture and heritage may look like or consist of to have a better grasp on the topic, you may refer to this website.

2. [Importance of Cultural Heritage](#)

This website is an interactive read on several different pieces regarding the importance of cultural heritage. This can give you a more in-depth understanding of the value of cultural heritage, especially in the context of marginalized people.

3. [Museum of the Palestinian People](#)

An organization operating in Washington, D.C. showcasing and preserving the stories of the Palestinian people. This is a good example of how, in the diaspora, Palestinians continue to preserve their heritage.

Topic 2: Addressing challenges to sustainable development in Palestinian society to allow future progress.

Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The situation in Palestine has been and continues to be one shaped by occupation, exploitation of natural resources, war, daily tragedy, and poor quality of life. The governing bodies of Palestine are weakened by occupation and a lack of access to resources for proper development²⁰. As a result, sustainable development in Palestinian society faces numerous challenges that are deeply intertwined with the ongoing occupation, political instability, and economic constraints. Economic development in Palestine is often stale at best with little sovereignty over its own affairs, let alone any maneuverability in the international market, further exacerbating the conditions Palestinians live in²¹. The occupation and settlement expansion into Palestinian territory imposes severe restrictions on movement, access to resources, and trade, leading to high unemployment rates and widespread poverty, often times at the hand of settler private businesses in the West Bank²². In Gaza, the blockade along with frequent war, further exacerbates these issues, making it difficult for Palestinians to establish a self-sustaining economy²³. Currently, the war and genocide in Gaza completely drains the strip of any economic opportunity, as regular life has come to a halt, and death and displacement have taken over regular routines. Conditions have fallen to a level where the only need for money is for basic necessities: food, water, medicine, and a possible escape from Gaza. This has become increasingly difficult and more dire as aid is continuously blocked from getting into Gaza²⁴. In situations where Palestinians have resorted to eating grass to sustain themselves, sustainable development seems like a goal far out of reality and reach²⁵. This makes it all the more critical for the Arab world to ensure conditions suitable for sustainable development to even become a possibility.

On the other hand, in the West Bank, many struggle to find economic opportunities to support themselves or their families as a result of the occupation and the dependency on Israel that it has created²⁶. This dependency is also characterized by a seemingly perpetual state of failure of any

²⁰ <https://press.un.org/en/2015/gaef3430.doc.htm>

²¹ <https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaef3574.doc.htm>

²² <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/01/19/occupation-inc/how-settlement-businesses-contribute-israels-violations>

²³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/gaza-unrest-sends-message-about-economic-misery-under-israeli-blockade-2023-10-04/>

²⁴ <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/siege-and-starvation-how-israel-obstructs-aid-to-gaza/>

²⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/30/middleeast/famine-looms-in-gaza-israel-war-intl/index.html>

²⁶ <https://www.mei.edu/publications/palestinian-authoritys-economic-disengagement-looks-lot-status-quo>

attempt to develop an independent and stable economy in the West Bank. As a result, many Palestinians are then forced to seek employment in Israel. Palestinian workers in Israel are often subject to a multitude of abuses by their employers²⁷. Additionally, even getting into Israel to work is a challenge, with workers often having to wait for hours in queues and border checkpoints²⁸. Other challenges include the wages are often being lower than the average Israeli could expect for the same type of labor. Beyond just working in Israel, large corporations have moved into the illegal west bank settlements, forcing out local competition, and maintaining economic supremacy over Palestinians²⁹. With an occupying power bringing in their own companies and businesses, it completely undermines the Palestinian economy and also makes it difficult to build up local industry that is more suitable and sustainable.

Social challenges are also significant in the question of sustainable development for Palestine. With limited access to quality education and healthcare, compounded by a high population growth rate that strains already scarce resources, despite Palestine making education and healthcare a priority for its development³⁰. The ongoing war on Gaza has led to not only the displacement of communities and the fragmentation of social networks, but the destruction of universities, schools, and all other places of knowledge and social gathering³¹. This devastatingly undermines social stability. The West Bank, despite not being directly affected by war, still faces challenges at the hands of the occupation ranging from water insecurity, food insecurity, limited access to electricity, settlement expansion, and occupation-controlled access to other resources³².

The environmental sustainability of Palestine is also highly threatened by severe water scarcity, largely due to Israeli control over water resources and the impact of climate change³³. This scarcity affects agriculture, public health, and daily life, while environmental degradation from poor waste management and pollution poses additional risks. Furthermore, as with most areas of development, the war on Gaza has devastated the land, the impact of bombardment equalling and surpassing the effects of on Hiroshima during the bombing of it during World War II³⁴. This will inevitably have impacts on Gaza in ways that have not yet been studied.

Politically, the fragmentation between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza, in addition to the overarching Israeli occupation, creates a highly unstable governance environment³⁵. This fragmentation weakens institutional capacity and complicates efforts to

²⁷ https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_palestinereport_en.pdf

²⁸ <https://therealnews.com/israels-west-bank-checkpoints-from-the-eyes-of-palestinian-workers>

²⁹ https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_palestinereport_en.pdf

³⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20024VNR2018PalestineNEWYORK.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/24/how-israel-has-destroyed-gazas-schools-and-universities>

³² <https://brokenchalk.org/educational-challenges-in-palestine/>

³³ <https://time.com/6242238/climate-change-israeli-palestinian-politics/>

³⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/11/9/israel-attacks-on-gaza-weapons-and-scale-of-destruction>

³⁵ <https://www.cfr.org/background/who-governs-palestinians>

implement coherent development policies. Although, in the past, international aid has been crucial in alleviating immediate needs, it has also fostered dependency, limiting long-term sustainable development³⁶. Additionally, international aid is no longer a viable option as made clear by the blockade of aid into Gaza since the beginning of the war³⁷.

Needless to say, the situation in the Palestinian territories is dire in all aspects of development, making sustainable development a difficult feat to achieve. In order to develop a plan for sustainable development in Palestine, the past, current, and future contexts of political, social, economic, and environmental stability must be considered and accounted for. In order to make the goal more achievable, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has set defined directions of change, making the possibility of sustainable development more tangible with international direction and advisement³⁸. In their 2023-2025 report, the UN reported that a major goal is to shift the Palestinian economy away from traditional fossil fuels into more renewable sources. The shifting of the energy sector towards sustainable energy could positively impact the economy and provide new jobs.

B. History in the Arab World

The Arab world's contribution to the sustainable development of Palestine has recently been limited. Post-1948, the Arab world poured much effort into rejecting normalization and maintaining the self-determination of Palestine. Over the years, Arab nations' priorities have shifted, many arguing that normalization with Israel served them better as a result of Western influence³⁹. However, the Arab world has not been uninvolved in attempting to aid in aspects of stability in the Palestinian struggle. In the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the subsequent displacement of Palestinians, Arab countries provided significant support to Palestinian refugees through initiatives like the establishment of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) in 1949⁴⁰. Throughout the decades, the populations of the Arab world have sought to help Palestinians develop through grassroots initiatives, such as providing whatever financial aid they can or by sponsoring certain families⁴¹. Many of these efforts have focused on development within the diaspora in hopes of either return or aiding members of Palestinian families that remained in Palestine. Countries like Jordan and Egypt have hosted large Palestinian populations, integrating them into their societies while also supporting their cultural identity and economic empowerment mainly through those

³⁶ <https://unctad.org/news/report-unctads-assistance-palestinian-people#:~:text=Between%202006%20and%202022%2C%20Gaza's,Gazans%20depend%20on%20international%20aid.>

³⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/7/israels-blocking-of-aid-creating-apocalyptic-conditions-in-gaza>

³⁸ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-08/ppf_final_and_complete.pdf

³⁹ <https://al-shabaka.org/commentaries/arab-normalization-and-the-palestinian-struggle-for-liberation/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

⁴¹ <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/grassroots-initiatives-are-helping-gazans-build-lives-in-cairo/>

grassroots movements and initiatives. Arab League members have also played a critical role in advocating for Palestinian rights on international platforms and supporting development projects aimed at preserving Palestinian culture, economy, and social fabric. In more recent years, efforts to aid Palestine have been focused on cultural preservation projects, reflecting a broader understanding of sustainable development that encompasses not only economic growth but also the preservation of Palestinian identity and heritage.

Regardless, Arab nations have still expressed solidarity with Palestine through various political, economic, and social initiatives. These aim to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation, ranging from solutions that call for a two-state solution to halting relations with Israel⁴². Either way, the nations of the Arab world that have been involved in international efforts to promote Palestinian statehood, have seen it as a critical step towards ensuring sustainable development and self-determination for the Palestinian people⁴³. Needless to say, the Arab world has vacillated in its stance on how to aid Palestinians and to what extent, and remains divided on the issue. This has challenged the Arab world's ability to meaningfully contribute to developing a plan for sustainable development in Palestine, especially considering the significant cuts in funds and aid the Arab world provides for Palestinian development and stability. A striking example of these cuts was in 2020, when there was an 85% cut in funds from the Arab world given to Palestine⁴⁴. All of these factors ultimately have consequences on the future of sustainable development in Palestine. During periods of time where Arab nations at large have advocated for and poured resources into Palestine, sustainable development became a more tangible goal. This is especially true when looking at the impacts Arab help could have on the economic independence and stability of Palestine, which may have a spillover effect into the social, environmental, and political realms in need of further development. On the other hand, in periods of time where Arab nations have cut funding and general attention to Palestine, sustainable development becomes an even bigger challenge to address with the lack of regional support. With cuts in funds towards Palestine, Palestinian sustainable development as a goal becomes a lower priority and reality as it is replaced with making up for the loss of funds and struggle for survival and basic needs. Without basic needs addressed, sustainable development cannot have a path forward.

Sustainable development has long been a struggle for Palestine. Agencies like UNRWA are heavily limited in what can and cannot be done in their refugee camps. In Lebanon, refugees are unable to repair houses and facilities⁴⁵. Funding is largely used to meet the immediate needs of

⁴² <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2023/10/arab-perspectives-on-the-middle-east-crisis?lang=en>

⁴³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/5/24/how-the-arab-world-will-enable-palestine-to-win-its-war-of-liberation>

⁴⁴ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestinian-funding-from-arab-states-down-85-in-2020/2163509>

⁴⁵ <https://www.exploros.com/summary/What-Are-Palestinian-Refugee-Camp-Conditions-Like-4#:~:text=Living%20Conditions%20in%20Palestinian%20Refugee%20Camps&text=In%20Lebanon%2C%20Palestinian%20refugees%20are,is%20illegal%20to%20fix%20them.>

the Palestinian population, including food and water. Greater efforts to increase living conditions are of lesser priority. Education is something that UNRWA heavily prioritizes. Palestinians have a very high literacy rate and many go into secondary and tertiary education⁴⁶. The West Bank and Gaza have enough human capital and intellectual youth to build up their economies and create sustainable industries, governance, and environment policies, but other factors such as war, oppression, and blockades limit not just UNRWA, but the people from creating sustainable change.

Currently, the Arab world's stance regarding Palestine has been focused on ceasefire efforts or immediate responses to the crisis in Gaza⁴⁷. However, despite any efforts, Palestine continues to grapple with the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict, political fragmentation, and economic constraints. The ever imposing threat of the occupation and threat of constant massacre and settlement expansion poses an ever larger issue to Palestinian stability, making sustainable development a goal for the long term, survival a more immediate need.

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

The challenge to address the barriers to sustainable development in Palestinian society has certainly shifted in feasibility over time, reflecting both the changing dynamics of the Israeli occupation conflict and the broader regional and global shifts in development paradigms, particularly in regards to the relationship between Palestine and the rest of the Arab world. A plan for the sustainable development must take into consideration both the current context of the economic, social, environmental, and political instability in Palestine, threat of war or ongoing war, and regional support for sustainable development.

As with other issues encompassing the Palestinian struggle, efforts in the past have largely been reactive, mostly focused on the reaction to the creation of the state of Israel, exploitation of necessary resources for development (water, food, electricity, etc.), and displacement of Palestinians. The initial response from the Arab world and the international community focused on humanitarian aid, which, while crucial, was often short-term and insufficient in addressing the root causes of Palestinian underdevelopment. Throughout the mid to late 20th century, development initiatives were often constrained by the ongoing conflict, with limited infrastructure projects and social services provided by entities like UNRWA⁴⁸. Arab countries, particularly those hosting large Palestinian refugee populations, played a key role in these efforts, but the lack of a cohesive strategy and the persistent occupation hindered long-term

⁴⁶ <https://cupblog.org/2023/08/23/why-palestinians-are-known-as-the-worlds-best-educated-refugeesanne-irfan/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/8/qatar-egypt-us-leaders-invite-israel-and-hamas-to-resume-ceasefire-talks>

⁴⁸ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-199702/>

development⁴⁹. The occupation has made Palestine financially, socially, and politically reliant on Israel for basic development in sectors necessary for sustainable development to be possible⁵⁰. With workers moving out of Palestine and into Israel, Palestine has been driven into states of poverty as a result, greatly hindering the possibility of development at all⁵¹.

The United Nations facilitated organizations have taken note of the rapid decline in Palestinian development. Particularly, they have advocated sustainable development in Palestine through calls for a ceasefire and efforts through UNRWA for sustainable development, alongside Palestine⁵². Overall, there has been a shift towards more strategic and sustainable development efforts, despite the continued challenges posed by occupation, political fragmentation, and economic blockade especially in Gaza. The UNDP has also worked alongside Palestinian institutions to implement programs that aim to build resilience and promote self-sufficiency⁵³. At the same time, some regional actors, particularly Jordan, have made efforts to support Palestinian development through diplomatic efforts and specific projects, such as Jordan's custodianship of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, which preserves important cultural and religious heritage⁵⁴. However, these efforts are still challenged by the situation in the Palestinian territories ranging from war and genocide to social and environmental deterioration.

While a plan for viable sustainable development in Palestine may be a difficult task, it remains essential for ensuring long-term stability and prosperity for the Palestinian people. This endeavor will require overcoming significant obstacles, including political fragmentation, economic restrictions, and environmental challenges, through coordinated efforts that prioritize local empowerment, international support, and innovative solutions. For instance, the digital revolution has also opened new avenues for education and economic participation, providing Palestinians with tools to connect globally and advocate for their rights⁵⁵. Finding a sustainable solution to the challenges facing Palestinian society will require an integrated approach that considers the political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. Future efforts must prioritize not only the immediate needs of the Palestinian people but also the creation of conditions that allow for long-term stability and growth. This includes enhancing educational opportunities, promoting economic development through entrepreneurship and innovation, and ensuring the protection and celebration of Palestinian cultural heritage. Regional cooperation will be essential, with a focus on empowering Palestinian institutions to lead these

⁴⁹ <https://press.un.org/en/2017/gaef3485.doc.htm>

⁵⁰ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230919-palestine-says-israel-occupation-hinders-sustainable-development/> 4

⁵¹ <https://unctad.org/press-material/fifty-years-occupation-have-driven-palestinian-economy-development-and-poverty>

⁵² <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/may24-monthly-bulletin-31may24/> and <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/palestine>

⁵³ <https://www.undp.org/papp/publications/palestinian-programme-framework>

⁵⁴ https://dpa.gov.jo/En/Pages/Jerusalem_and_the_Hashemite_Custodianship

⁵⁵ <https://waccglobal.org/digital-technologies-in-palestine-opportunities-and-challenges/>

efforts and ensuring that development initiatives are aligned with the broader goal of achieving Palestinian self-determination.

V. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- D. Has your respective Member State aided in the sustainable development of Palestine in any way (economically, culturally, socially, environmentally, etc.)?
- E. Has your Member State implemented successful sustainable development programs that can inspire or aid in structuring a plan for sustainable development in Palestine?
- F. Are there existing initiatives in either your Member State, Palestine, or the Arab League that might already address this issue if there were more resources funneled into them?

VI. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- A. In what ways can the Arab League promote sustainable development and protect existing infrastructure, as well as support infrastructure projects through economic and political means?
- B. How can the Arab League support reconstruction efforts in Gaza relating to roads, shelter, electricity, water, sewage, and hospitals?
- C. What is the best way to get not only the economic aid needed for infrastructure, but also the capital needed for infrastructure projects?
- D. How can local efforts be integrated and amplified by outside aid and support without burdening outside nations to create entirely new programs?

VII. Additional Resources

1. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>

Reports and data on economic conditions and development in the West Bank, including impacts on refugee communities

2. <https://palestine.un.org/en/sdgs>

United Nations on the sustainable development conditions and plans in Palestine. To gain a better understanding of sustainable development as understood by the international community and contributions made to Palestinian sustainable development, you may refer to this website.

4. <https://unctad.org/press-material/prior-current-crisis-decades-long-blockade-hollowed-gazas-economy-leaving-80>

The United Nations reports on the impacts of past blockades, crises, and other challenges as well as mentions of the current war on Gaza and its impacts on economic development.

Topic 3: Ensuring the protection and dignity of refugees in the West Bank from outside forces.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

An estimated 871,500 Palestine refugees live in the West Bank, displaced from their homes and often forced to live in refugee camps⁵⁶. The life of the displaced Palestinian refugee in Palestine is one often characterized by frequent occupational military raids, destruction of camps, settler violence, and detention, among other forms of violence at the hands of Israeli occupation⁵⁷. Protection is not a guarantee for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In 2023 alone, the West Bank experienced unprecedented violence, making it the deadliest year since the United Nations began recording casualties, with 521 Palestinians killed—283 of whom were refugees, including 62 children—as Israeli Security Forces routinely conducted search and arrest operations in the 19 refugee camps, leading to frequent clashes, casualties, and extensive damage to refugee property and infrastructure⁵⁸.

Palestinian refugees reside in camps like Balata, Dheisheh, and Jenin, which are often overcrowded and lack adequate infrastructure⁵⁹. This results in substandard living conditions with limited access to sanitation, clean water, and healthcare. High unemployment rates and economic restrictions exacerbate poverty, limiting opportunities and impacting the standard of living for refugees. The West Bank is divided into areas A, B, and C. Area A is under full Palestinian Authority (PA) control. Area B is under joint Israeli-Palestinian control. Area C is under full Israeli control⁶⁰. These divisions affect the movement and access to services for refugees, complicating their daily lives and access to resources, which is exacerbated by extreme violence at the hands of settlers, military, and security forces⁶¹.

Challenges to protection and dignity include the Israeli military presence and its control in parts of the West Bank impact refugees' daily lives, restricting their access to essential services and resources. Israeli settlements, particularly in Area C, are deemed illegal under international law and contribute to land confiscation and displacement of refugees, aggravating tensions and

⁵⁶ <https://www.unrwa.org/activity/protection-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>

⁵⁷ *ibid.*

⁵⁸ *ibid.*

⁵⁹ <https://www.amera.org/blog/what-are-palestinian-refugee-camp-conditions-like/>

⁶⁰ https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/201306_acting_the_landlord

⁶¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/08/use-force-occupied-west-bank>

marginalization⁶². The PA's ability to provide services is hindered by financial constraints, political instability, and restrictions imposed by the occupation. These challenges are combined with refugees' difficulties accessing healthcare, education, and clean water due to infrastructural inadequacies and restrictions imposed by the occupation⁶³. Persistent unemployment and economic hardships undermine the refugees' ability to maintain a decent standard of living. Periodic violence and tensions between Israeli forces and Palestinian groups exacerbate the vulnerability of refugees, contributing to an unstable and precarious environment. Ongoing political disagreements and the lack of a final-status agreement create uncertainty and complicate efforts to address the needs and rights of refugees.

The protection of Palestinian refugees is therefore undeniably crucial, particularly within the context of the ongoing war on Gaza and increased tensions and pressure on Palestinians across Palestine. The protection and dignity of refugees in the West Bank are deeply intertwined with broader geopolitical issues and require an approach focused wholly on Palestinian refugees, their safety, and their needs being met.

B. History in the Arab World

The establishment of Israel in 1948 resulted in the displacement of approximately 700,000 Palestinians, during the infamous Nakba⁶⁴. The Nakba, also known as "The Catastrophe" was the mass exile of Palestinians from their land and homes. Many were forcefully removed by militias, with their possessions stolen, and forced into nearby countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. After that, many Palestinians that were affected by the Nakba fled to the West Bank, which was then under Jordanian control⁶⁵. The 1967 Six-Day War caused further displacement. During each major catastrophe of displacement, Arab countries have taken in Palestinian refugees. Established in 1949, the UNRWA provided and continues to provide critical services such as education, healthcare, and emergency relief to Palestinian refugees across the region⁶⁶. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 led to further displacement and worsening conditions for many Palestinians, leading to the establishment of 10 UNRWA camps for the displaced⁶⁷. The Arab world has been involved in the support on UNRWA and recently also reiterated their support for UNRWA as a result of accusations that staff had been involved in the October 7th attacks which led to a significant cut in funding to UNRWA by several

⁶² <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

⁶³ <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/news-releases/palestine-refugees-face-unprecedented-health-challenges-amid-gaza-war>

⁶⁴ <https://imeu.org/article/quick-facts-the-palestinian-nakba>

⁶⁵ <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/134>

⁶⁶ <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

⁶⁷ *ibid.*

international players⁶⁸. Furthermore, the Arab League has also condemned the Israeli authorities for labeling UNRWA as a terrorist agency, a form of reinforcing their support for UNRWA⁶⁹.

However, beyond support for external agencies, the Arab world's role in protecting Palestinian refugees from further attack and ensuring the right to protection has remained limited, most nations focused on ensuring the protection of Palestinian refugees in their own Member States. Most work done on protection of Palestinian refugees' rights has effectively been done through UNRWA⁷⁰. The shift in the Arab world's attitude towards the Palestinian cause has certainly contributed to the overall lack of involvement of Arab governments in protection of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, especially made evident by their cuts in funding towards Palestine⁷¹.

Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, Future

Any effort to address the protection of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank must take into consideration existing initiatives, particularly by UNRWA. This especially rings important as a result of the incredible loss of funding for UNRWA as a result of terrorist accusations⁷². Other NGOs that have contributed meaningful work should also be kept in mind when thinking of solutions to the issue⁷³. Grassroots initiatives around the Arab world to protect refugees are also crucial to the protection of Palestinian refugees. The goal of protecting Palestinian refugees, given the current situation in Palestine and cut of funding for important organizations, has become a task riddled by controversy and increased difficulty.

Beyond that, the basics of the question must also be taken into account in a solution. The basics include access to clean water, food, electricity, clothing, and protection from extreme violence, as outlined by UNRWA⁷⁴. There are several challenges already existing with the task of protecting Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, including the importance of Israel's compliance with any agreement to halt violence and random detention. With the added layer of a lack of international support for UNRWA post-October 2023, this can prove to be a challenge for Arab ministers to facilitate. The situation demands not only diplomatic efforts but also a coordinated push to secure the necessary funding and political backing to ensure that these basic needs are met and that the rights and dignity of refugees are upheld despite the complex and

⁶⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/uae-qatar-kuwait-and-saudi-arabia-reiterate-support-unrwa-enar>

⁶⁹ <https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-07/24/0060-arab-league-condemns%C2%A0israeli-knesset's-designation-of-unrwa-as-terrorist-organization>

⁷⁰ <https://www.unrwa.org/what-we-do/protection>

⁷¹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestinian-funding-from-arab-states-down-85-in-2020/2163509>

⁷² <https://time.com/6589610/unrwa-funding-cuts-gaza/>

⁷³ <https://www.anera.org/>

⁷⁴ <https://www.unrwa.org/what-we-do/protection>

volatile environment. The question of future development for Palestinian refugee communities within Palestine can also be discussed. A plan for their safety cannot be sustainable in the absence of long-term goals of maintaining a stable environment for refugees, given their already displaced state and strained mobility. A lack of long-term goals may well account for the failure of short-term solutions.

III. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. What are the legal protections afforded to Palestinian refugees under international law? What protection/legal status do Palestinians hold in your member state?
2. What are the prospects for improving the protection and dignity of refugees in the West Bank?
3. How can the international community better support the protection and dignity of refugees?
4. What is the psychological and social impact of the refugee situation?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. How can a resolution reaffirm international legal obligations regarding the protection of Palestinian refugees?
2. What measures could be included to address the psychological and social impact of displacement on refugees?
3. How can a resolution propose to manage external threats or pressures on refugees from beyond the West Bank?
4. What strategies can be developed for addressing long-term challenges and fostering sustainable solutions?

IV. Additional Resources

1. <https://www.unrwa.org/>
 - a. Reports, data, and updates on the situation of Palestinian refugees, including their living conditions, needs, and services provided.
2. <https://merip.org/>
 - a. Articles and analyses on Middle Eastern politics and social issues, including refugee conditions in the West Bank.
3. <https://pchgaza.org/en/>
 - a. Reports and advocacy related to human rights and the conditions of refugees in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.
4. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/>

- a. In-depth reports and analyses on conflict resolution and humanitarian issues, including those affecting Palestinian refugees

Topic 4: Facilitating relations between Palestine and the International Community, focusing on international organizations.

I. Introduction to the topic

A. General Background

Throughout history, the state of Palestine has had a complex relationship with the international community, often characterized by dependence and disappointment. Since 1948, Palestine was put in a situation where its very existence relied on the support of the international community, and that case still rings true today. The Arab States have a difficult task, supporting a fractured territory, with the West Bank under the limited jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, and Gaza currently governed by Hamas. These borders and political differences exacerbates the need for international recognition of either government for them to be legitimized, respected, and protected, as made apparent by the Oslo Accords' recognition of the Palestinian Authorities⁷⁵. Furthermore, as a result of the impacts of occupation and the devastating effects it has had on Palestine, reliance on the international community for aid and support almost entirely encompasses the fabric of Palestinian society⁷⁶. The international community's acceptance of blockades on Palestine also massively impacts Palestine's dependence on international aid, development, and future⁷⁷.

International organizations, responsible for providing necessities to a significant number, if not all of Palestinian society, have recently shifted focus in aid and other development programs to Gaza. Israel's Land, Sea, and Air blockade⁷⁸ has hampered growth in Gaza, requiring more International organizations to play a crucial role in the Gaza Strip. The United Nations, NGOs such as Islamic Relief and Doctors Without Borders, and various aid agencies are involved in a range of activities promoting and providing humanitarian relief, facilitating development projects, and advocating for human rights⁷⁹. Their work is vital to the day-to-day lives of many Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, almost entirely relying on them for economic assistance, medical support, food, and water.

⁷⁵ <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/oslo>

⁷⁶

https://www.google.com/search?q=palestinian+dependency+on+aid+and+internatonal+support&og=palestinian+dependency+on+aid+and+internatonal+support&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIJCAEQIRgK GKABMgklAhAhGAoYoAEyCQgDECEYChigATIJCAQQIRgK GKAB0gEINjc2NWowajeoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

⁷⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/24/impooverished-gaza-economy-struggles-under-israeli-blockade>

⁷⁸ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/14/a-guide-to-the-gaza-strip>

⁷⁹ <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/palestine>

The West Bank faces challenges of its own as the case of Palestinian sovereignty has become more and more contentious, with an increasing number of nations in the international community recognizing the State of Palestine, and others refusing to recognize them as a state⁸⁰. Currently, 146⁸¹ states recognize Palestine and Palestinian sovereignty, with Spain and Ireland recently joining the list of States that have adopted recognition. The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank gained UN non-member observer status in 2012⁸². These factors play crucial roles in the way Palestine, its struggles, and its tragedies are treated, weighted, and solved by the international community. Reiterating and understanding that the end to Palestinian struggle will not be fully realized without the recognition and support of the international community is critical to understanding the importance of its relationship with the international community.

Regionally, the Arab League largely recognizes that the issue of Palestine is a top priority. Some states differ on policies on the extent of recognition for Palestinian sovereignty. Despite this, the existence of that Council on Palestinian Affairs within itself is a means of recognizing, uplifting, and remembering the Palestinian struggle. In many ways, the Arab League and Arab nations uphold the Palestinian legacy, but many might argue that they have also failed Palestine by neglecting larger responsibilities and meaningful actions to halt Palestinian suffering⁸³. Furthermore, Palestine's relationship with the Arab world, depending on the governing body, differs by recognition of the government (i.e. Hamas or the Palestinian Authorities), their condemnation of activities they deem hostile, and normalizing efforts. This does not only divide Palestine's governance, but also its people both in Palestine and in the diaspora.

Given the current war on Gaza, the issue is exacerbated tenfold. Many argue that the world has failed Gaza and Palestinians as a whole with the passive responses from Member States⁸⁴. On the other hand, other see the most recent war and genocide as exactly what the world needed to care about the Palestinian struggle, noting new relationships between Palestine and the international community⁸⁵. Palestine's relationship with the international community began and remains a rocky one at best, but crucial to the Palestinian struggle is exactly that—the relationship between Palestine and the international community.

B. History in the Arab World

⁸⁰ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gapal1469.doc.htm>

⁸¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/22/mapping-which-countries-recognise-palestine-in-2024>

⁸² <https://press.un.org/en/2012/ga11317.doc.htm>

⁸³ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/war-gaza-arab-states-failing-palestinian-people-why>

⁸⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/2/21/the-worlds-moral-failure-in-gaza-should-shame-us-all>

⁸⁵ <https://truthout.org/articles/this-is-a-politicizing-moment-lets-spread-our-wings-and-lift-up-palestine/>

Since 1948, Palestine has been a contentious issue not just the international community, but also the Arab World. Israel and Palestine have been a flashpoint of global conflict since the founding of the Israeli state, the subsequent war against neighboring Arab countries, and the expulsion of over one million Palestinians since 1948⁸⁶. Historically, Arab commitment to Palestinian liberation was largely steadfast, however since then, and even prior to 1948, debates on what Palestinian liberation should look like, and to what extent sovereignty should be granted, plagued the discussion of Palestine amongst Arab states⁸⁷. In the aftermath of the 1967 war, the Arab League issued the Khartoum resolution, stating that there will be no peace with Israel, no negotiation with Israel, and no recognition of Israel⁸⁸. However, in recent times this resolution has not been upheld, with various Arab League members establishing diplomatic ties with Israel⁸⁹. Various summits, peace talks, and Security Council sessions have led to a multitude of accords and treaties. One of the most comprehensive international attempts at brokering peace between the Palestinians and Israelis were the Oslo Accords. The Oslo accords were seen as a monumental achievement at the time, establishing diplomatic ties between Israel and Palestine⁹⁰. The Oslo accords also saw the Palestinian Liberation Organization transform into the Palestinian Authority. Until 2006, the Palestinian Authority also controlled the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority is the main diplomatic power for Palestine, maintaining diplomatic ties with the Arab World and the international community through the United Nations and League of Arab States. However, since its signing, the Oslo Accords broke down, achieving arguably little for Palestinians, if not completely hurting them in the process of the signing and breakdown⁹¹.

Since then, the Arab states remained in a states of vacillating support for or against normalization, leading to the current landscape today where 8 Arab states have established and known ties with Israel, normalizing relations⁹². Despite these countries also claiming to support Palestinians, it all falls back on their own understanding of what the Palestinian struggle outcome should be. As a whole, the Arab League, due to differing viewpoints on liberation, normalization, and war, may struggle with the question. However, it has not been uninvolved. In the existence of the Arab League and the Council on Palestinian Affairs, a multitude of resolutions with the aim of aiding Palestinians and protecting them have been passed. In its most recent summit, the Arab League passed a resolution regarding the crisis in Gaza following the aftermath of the October 7th attacks against Israel⁹³. In this resolution, not only was the crisis acknowledged, but also wrote in action items to halt ongoing death. For instance, part of the

⁸⁶ <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>

⁸⁷ <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2023/10/arab-perspectives-on-the-middle-east-crisis?lang=en>

⁸⁸ <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/141>

⁸⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/15/map-which-mena-countries-have-diplomatic-ties-with-israel>

⁹⁰ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/13/what-were-oslo-accords-israel-palestinians>

⁹¹ <https://remix.aljazeera.com/aje/PalestineRemix/the-price-of-oslo.html#/14>

⁹² <https://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/the-eight-arab-states-that-openly-and-unabashedly-deal-with-israel-33551>

⁹³ <http://www.leagueofarabstates.net/en/summits/PublishingImages/Lists/Summits/AllItems/joint.pdf>

resolution expressed the support of the League towards UNRWA, and other international organizations that provide aid and humanitarian resources to Palestinians.

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

As a whole, the international community's relationship with Palestine is bittersweet, characterized by dependence, aid, betrayal, failure, and successes, depending on who is asked. Needless to say, the relationship is not stable. Palestinian stability relies on its relationship with the international community, especially given the current situation with the ongoing war on Gaza. Regionally, the Arab World and the League of Arab States remain committed to supporting organizations in Palestine that work towards the development, peace, and prosperity of the Palestinians, however are plagued by differences in viewpoint of what is and is not necessary in this feat. The cooperation of the international community in regards to resolving and safeguarding the Palestinian people has become necessary, especially as the Arab World continues to diversify its resources and economies. However, not all hope is lost, especially as we look into how the Palestinian struggle has developed. From being widely unknown, to gaining popular attention, and largely met with support⁹⁴. Additionally, grassroots initiatives, and collaborative activist efforts have proved fruitful in the past, as placing pressure on international organizations such as the United Nations has shown results, with the admittance of the Palestinian Authority into the UN in 2012⁹⁵. Taking from the past is crucial and necessary to achieve the goals of the League of Arab States.

Additionally, since 1948 international organizations have played a pivotal role in uplifting the Palestinian people and their struggle. Organizations including the United Nations have provided humanitarian aid, facilitated peace negotiations, and supported the recognition of a Palestinian state. However, UNRWA offers essential services to Palestinian refugees. Additionally, organizations like the European Union and various non-governmental organizations have contributed financial aid, development projects, and advocacy efforts to support Palestinian development.

Despite this, funding often fluctuates. Despite the Palestinian issue being important to the Arab World, mounting pressure from the West as well as internal political turmoil has led to funding declining. In 2020, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, funding and grants for the Palestinian authority dropped by over 85% from Arab countries. The Palestinian authority received 267 million in funding from Arab States in 2019, to just 40 million in 2020. In 2022 UNRWA

⁹⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/4/26/across-the-western-world-public-opinion-on-palestine-is-finally-shifting>

⁹⁵ <https://press.un.org/en/2012/ga11317.doc.htm>

appealed for funding in the range of 1.78 billion dollars to continue its operations, yet only received 1.17 billion in total funding from all sources⁹⁶.

A solution to this question should take into consideration all past, recent, and possible future efforts to foster a better relationship between Palestine and the international community. It should look into grassroots movements, activism, state action, United Nations initiatives, regional initiatives, and small community-based initiatives as well. Looking forward, a few questions can be considered.

III. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. Are the differences in opinion and viewpoints between Arab nations drastic enough to halt future progress towards fostering better relationships?
2. Does your Member State generally have good relationships with Palestine and Palestinians within your Member State? Furthermore, are the general populations in your Member State hostile or welcoming towards Palestinians?
3. What are Palestinians' grievances with different international organizations, if any?
4. Does your Member State work closely with any international organization that works with Palestine?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. Does the resolution adequately address this question in full, considering both present and long term goals for establishing and maintaining positive relations between Palestine and the international community?
2. How can a resolution identify gaps in the relationship that have not already been addressed by the Arab League?
3. What international organizations do not already help Palestinians when they have the resources to do so, and what can be done to foster a relationship between them?
4. What issues do Palestinians have with different international organizations and are they adequately addressed?

IV. Additional Resources

1. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/22/mapping-which-countries-recognise-palestine-in-2024>

⁹⁶ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unrwa-annual-operational-report-2022/>

Map of all countries that recognize Palestine in 2024. This will give you better insight as to what countries may need a stronger focus in regards to fostering better relationships with Palestine, especially if the nation hosts an influential international organization.

2. <https://palestine.un.org/en/about/un-entities-in-country>

List of United Nations entities in Palestine. This will give you a better understanding of what organizations already work closely with Palestine in the United Nations specifically.