2024 - 2025
Model Arab League
BACKGROUND GUIDE

Political Affairs Council

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Esteemed Delegates!

Hi y'all! Welcome to the Political Council! My name is Marin Hulse, and I will be chairing the 2025 National University Model Arab League. I am from Texas and am a senior at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, studying Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic. This is my third and final year in Model Arab League, and I am so excited to spend it with y'all in the Political Council!

First and foremost, decorum. We all must interact with the highest form of respect for each other, both in and out of session. This means both parliamentary procedure and mutual respect. I will absolutely not tolerate any kind of aggression or bigotry in this council. We cannot let our passion and excitement lessen our respect for each other. Besides, we will be too busy working together and appreciating each other's perspectives. There's so much to enjoy!

The experience you will get from Nationals depends on the effort you put into research. This year's topics are so new and different from each other that the research will take you all over the web. This background guide includes foundational context, starting points for research, and personal advice that will help organize your research and streamline the resolution process.

Whether this is your first time at Nationals or your umpteenth time, know that each of you bring unique strengths and skills to the discussion. Part of the fun is learning from others and taking home each other's examples. I know it can be challenging to balance parliamentary procedure, speaking time, note-passing, and writing all at once. My advice is when it gets stressful, take a deep breath and focus on one thing you can enjoy for the next 30 seconds. If you make a mistake, let it roll off your back and keep having fun. I have made mistakes in every session of every conference to date. I promise it's okay, and it alleviates the pressure when you notice that we all are making mistakes and progressing at the same time.

As chair, I promise to do all in my capacity to make your work as smooth as possible. I will be diligent in making your debate sessions run smoothly, doing all I can to support your creativity and productivity with every need taken care of. But you will be the ones that make this year's nationals incredible. You will be the one to open polls and make elections accessible to youth and minorities. You will be the ones to shake hands and forge space deals. You will be the ones to create councils, expositions, coalitions, and deepen trust amongst the Arab League. You will be the one to draw an unprecedented line on AI and navigate countries through disinformation. Most importantly, you will be the ones to leave Nationals with all these ideas and walk into new doors of opportunities with articulation, experience, and confidence. Delegates, you make it happen!

I hold each of you delegates in high regard. I am seriously so excited for your experience this year. Please don't let any question hold you back from fully enjoying the Political Council. My email is marinhulse@gmail.com and I'm eager to answer any question or find the answer with you. I can't wait to meet y'all in person and learn about each of your ideas and contributions to the 2025 National University Model Arab League.

Wishing you the best of luck,

Marin Hulse

Topic I: Exploring space diplomacy as a possible opportunity for both Inter-League and foreign partnerships

I.   Introduction

A. General Background

Space diplomacy has become increasingly significant in the modern era due to the rapid advancements in space technology and the growing interest in space exploration. It facilitates international cooperation, allowing nations to share resources, knowledge, and expertise to achieve common goals in space. This cooperation is crucial for addressing global challenges such as climate change, disaster management, and scientific research, which require collaborative efforts beyond national borders. By fostering peaceful and collaborative use of outer space, space diplomacy helps to ensure that space remains a global commons, accessible and beneficial to all humankind.

The roots of space diplomacy can be traced back to the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s. This period of intense competition led to significant achievements, such as the launch of Sputnik 1 by the Soviet Union in 1957[1] and the Apollo 11 moon landing by the United States in 1969.[2] These milestones underscored the strategic and scientific importance of space exploration. However, the competitive nature of the Space Race also highlighted the need for international agreements to prevent conflicts and promote peaceful collaboration in space.

The Outer Space Treaty, signed in 1967, was a pivotal diplomatic agreement that laid the foundation for international space law. It established that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is free for exploration and use by all countries and prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons in space.[3] This treaty is rooted in the concept of the global commons, which views outer space as a shared domain that is not subject to national appropriation and is meant to benefit all of humanity. However, as space exploration and commercialization advances, this principle may face increasing challenges. The Artemis Accords, initiated in 2020, are another significant set of agreements aimed at fostering cooperation in the exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond.[4] These accords outline principles for sustainable space exploration, including the sharing of scientific data and the responsible use of space resources. While they promote collaboration, they also reflect the growing interests of individual nations and private entities in space, which could potentially lead to tensions over resource utilization and territorial claims.As

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[1] Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Sputnik". Encyclopedia Britannica, 18 Jun. 2024, https://www.britannica.com/technology/Sputnik. Accessed 27 July 2024.

[2] National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Apollo 11 Mission Overview." *NASA*, https://www.nasa.gov/mission/apollo-11/. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[3] United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. *International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*. United Nations, 1966, https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_21_2222E.pdf. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[4] National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *The Artemis Accords*. 2020, https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Artemis-Accords-signed-13Oct2020.pdf?emrc=653a00. Accessed 28 July 2024.

space becomes more accessible, the challenge will be to secure the global commons framework in future international space activities and prevent the monopolization of space by a few powerful countries.

Furthermore, space diplomacy plays a vital role in maintaining global security and preventing conflicts in space. As more countries and private entities enter the space domain, the potential for disputes over space resources and territory increases. Diplomatic agreements, such as the Outer Space Treaty and the Artemis Accords, help to establish norms and guidelines for space activities and reduce the risk of conflicts. These agreements promoted a legacy of transparency, trust, and responsible behavior among space-faring nations, contributing to the stability and sustainability of space operations.

Space diplomacy is also essential for advancing scientific and technological progress. International partnerships, such as the International Space Station (ISS), demonstrate the power of collaboration in achieving remarkable scientific breakthroughs.[56] By working together, countries can pool their resources and expertise to tackle complex space missions that would be difficult to undertake individually. This collective effort not only accelerates technological innovation but also fosters a spirit of unity and mutual understanding among nations, reinforcing the importance of peaceful coexistence and shared progress in space exploration.

Namely, the United States, China, Russia, the European Union, and India are leading powers in space advancement and space diplomacy.[7] While delegates are encouraged to further research into each power's space, economic, and political agenda, it is important to briefly note an appeal and hindrance member states may experience when forging space relations with these powers. One appeal is access to space technology. The United States surpassed China in having the most space launches in 2022, thanks to the surge of rocket launches in the private sector.[8] However, a risk would be increasing dependence on the foreign power for support. For example, China has launched Pakistan's rockets for them, but this has increased Pakistan's dependence on China for technical support.[9]

Additionally, space is a critical component of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in its deterrence and defense capabilities, which plays a vital role in navigation, communication, missile detection, command, and control. Over half of the active

[5] National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "International Space Station Overview." *NASA*, https://www.nasa.gov/reference/international-space-station/#hds-sidebar-nav-5. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[6] Harvard Gazette. "Lessons on Diplomacy, Sustainability of International Space Station." *Harvard Gazette*, 3 May 2022, https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/05/lessons-on-diplomacy-sustainability-of-international-space-station/.

[7] Seibert, Julia. "Countries with Space Programs: An Overview." Space Impulse, 27 Nov. 2023, https://spaceimpulse.com/2023/11/27/countries-with-space-programs-an-overview/.

[8] U.S. Private Space Launch Industry is Out of This World. U.S. International Trade Commission, https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/executive_briefings/ebot_us_private_space_launch_industry_is_out_of_this_world.pdf.

[9] "Pakistan Signs Space Cooperation Agreement with China to Enable First Pakistani Astronaut." SpaceWatch.Global, 20 May 2019, https://spacewatch.global/2019/05/pakistan-signs-space-cooperation-agreement-with-china-to-enable-first-pakistani-astronaut/.

satellites orbiting Earth are owned by NATO members or companies within their territories.[10] This emphasizes NATO's dependence on space for national security and military operations worldwide. It is evident that the world is taking greater interest in space, and space diplomacy is vital in perpetuating the global common and prioritizing humanity.

B. History of the Arab World

The history of space diplomacy in the Arab world is marked by both cooperation and competition among regional powers. Such regional powers include Middle Eastern nations not part of the Arab League, though their mention here will be included to contextualize the broader geopolitical dynamics of the region. The Middle East's journey into space diplomacy began in earnest in the late 20th century. The first satellite to launch from the Middle East was France's satellite Astérix on rocket Daiman in 1965.[11] [12] In the early 1980s, Israel launched its first satellite, Ofeq-1, making this the first Middle Eastern satellite and rocket to launch from Middle Eastern soil. Both Asterix and Ofeq-1 made significant milestones in the region's space endeavors. These launches highlighted the strategic importance of space in national security and scientific advancement.

As the new millennium approached, the Gulf states, particularly the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, began to invest heavily in space programs. The UAE emerged as a regional leader in space diplomacy with ambitious projects like the Mars mission, Hope Probe, launched in 2020.[13] The Hope probe successfully captured the first "complete picture of the Martian atmosphere and its layers," and this data advanced the Mars Exploration Advisory Group (MEPAG) in its efforts to understand Mars and its atmosphere.[14] This data marks the UAE's contribution to a global analysis of Mars and interplanetary exploration. The UAE space agency published their partnership with experts from various American universities and recognized a partnership with JAXA by launching the Hope Probe from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan.[15] The data contribution to MEPAG and partnerships with JAXA and American universities demonstrated the UAE's commitment to international collaboration through scientific research. Space partnerships like the one between the UAE's space agency and JAXA emphasize international cooperation in the scientific realm by achieving space exploration

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[10] "NATO's Approach to Space - NATO's Act." *NATO's Approach to Space*, NATO Allied Command Transformation, 2024, www.act.nato.int/our-work/network-community/natos-approach-to-space/.

[11] "1965-096A." *NASA*, https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1965-096A.

[12] Technically, France launched its first satellite, Astérix, with its own rocket, Daiman, from Algeria in 1965. Algeria was under French rule when the spaceport was built, but Algeria gained its independence in 1962. This made Asterix and Daiman French-owned, but the soil on which it launched was Algerian.

[13] Emirates Mars Mission. "Home | Emirates Mars Mission." *Emirates Mars Mission*, https://www.emiratesmarsmission.ae/. Accessed 30 Aug. 2024.

[14] "Emirates Mars Mission Publishes Observations across a Full Martian Year." *Emirates Mars Mission Publishes Observations Across a Full Martian Year*, UAE Space Agency, 9 Feb. 2024, space.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/9/2/2024/emirates-mars-mission-publishes-observations-across-a-full-martian-year-5181fa49. Accessed 30 Aug. 2024.

[15] Emirates Mars Mission. "Home | Emirates Mars Mission." *Emirates Mars Mission*, https://www.emiratesmarsmission.ae/. Accessed 30 Aug. 2024

goals. These partnerships often share resources, offer launch locations, and invite representatives from different countries as a token of respect towards the common scientific pursuit.

Iran has also been an active player in the Middle East's space diplomacy. Despite facing international sanctions, Iran has made significant strides in its space program, launching its first domestically produced satellite, Omid, in 2009.[16] Iran's space ambitions have involved collaborations with Russia, which has provided technical assistance and expertise.[17] This cooperation highlights the geopolitical dimension of space diplomacy, as Iran and Russia invest, "deeper scientific cooperation between the two U.S.-sanctioned countries."[18] These launches demonstrate how countries in the region leverage their space programs to enhance their strategic alliances and influence.

In the context of the Arab League, this development raises important questions for debate. Member states need to consider whether aligning, or other countries aligning, with Iran in space diplomacy could offer strategic advantages, or if it would further complicate existing political tensions. Member states who engage in space diplomacy with Iran might view collaboration in space technology as an opportunity to bolster their own economic and political capabilities. However, this potential cooperation could be controversial, particularly in the eyes of member states that prefer Western alliances or have strained relations with Iran. When debating the advancement of space diplomacy and foreign influence, delegates may need to debate on how the League will address Iran's place in the world's space stage.

In recent years, the Arab world has witnessed increased collaboration in space diplomacy, driven by a shared vision of technological advancement and economic diversification. The Arab Space Cooperation Group, established in 2019, is a testament to this collective effort. Comprising fourteen countries–all members of the Arab League–the group aims to foster regional collaboration in space research and technology.[19] Initiatives like the Arab Space Cooperation Group reflect the growing recognition of space diplomacy as a tool for regional integration and development. By leveraging space technology and partnering with foreign powers such as the United States, Russia, and European countries, Middle Eastern nations are not only advancing their scientific and technological capabilities but also contributing to global efforts in space exploration and sustainable development.

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

Space investment also provides opportunities for non-oil revenues.

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[16] "2009-004A." *NASA*, https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=2009-004A. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[17] Reuters. "Iran's Pars 1 Satellite Enters Space after Russian Launch." *Reuters*, 29 Feb. 2024, https://www.reuters.com/technology/space/irans-pars-1-satellite-enters-space-after-russian-launch-2024-02-29/. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Iderawumi, Mustapha. "Egypt Signs Arab Space Cooperation Group's Basic Charter." *Space in Africa*, 29 Oct. 2021, https://spaceinafrica.com/2021/10/29/egypt-signs-arab-space-cooperation-groups-basic-charter/. Accessed 28 July 2024.

While the investment in space is already set in motion by some member states, other member states may view space investment as lofty or frivolous compared to their present agendas. First, be aware that space investment can be viewed as valuable beyond scientific pursuit. Space investment provides opportunities for non-oil revenues and expands job opportunities for young adult unemployment, which also combats unemployment and brain drain. Thus, space investment improves upon multiple issues that the Middle East currently faces. Second, although not every member state will be able to invest, other members' investments have an effect on the Arab world's future geopolitics which affect all the member states. The following aspects of space diplomacy are ways in which each delegate can weave their country's perspectives and needs into space diplomacy.

It is also important to acknowledge a competitive motive in space diplomacy. Some member states may have greater interest than others in competing for an influential stronghold in space. Such strongholds may include increased relations with foreign powers. Traditionally, the Arab League collaborates to unite on common goals before considering foreign invitations. While not every member state has a current space strategy, every member state will have an opinion on which foreign powers increase influence in the region via space support. This is because space initiatives can have consequential implications for national security, economic development, and political leverage. For instance, a country that partners with a space-leading country might gain access to satellite technology, space research, or even potential defense collaborations,which could shift the regional power balance. As such, delegates need to scrutinize and form opinions on which foreign powers are expanding their influence through space and weigh the potential benefits and risks of such engagements.

An extension of this topic involves weaponizing missiles and satellites. Delegates must be aware that this is a valid concern or fear of member states that can be present in debate or when collaborating on working literature. However, writing about weaponizing missiles or satellites falls into the Joint Defense Realm and would be better suited for the Joint Defense Council, which specializes in security and defense issues. Even though the Political Council will not write working literature on space weaponization, it is important to bear in mind when debating and negotiating as a League. This balance is crucial because it addresses the dual objectives of advancing technological capabilities and confirms that such advancements do not lead to increased militarization or conflicts in space. The debate and working literature can reflect avenues to expand space technology. Space weaponization is important to bear in mind, but the Council's working literature for the Political Council must stay focused on diplomatic strategies and inter-League and foreign partnerships. This means that the working literature should concentrate on strategies including, but not limited to, cooperative space missions, joint research, and shared benefits of space exploration.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What are your country's economic and political relations to the leading global space powers? (Russia, Iran, USA, India, etc.) How would space relations affect current relations with these foreign powers?
- What are your country's objectives in regard to space diplomacy?
- Which member states share similar objectives to your country?
- What does your country need that can be gained with space exploration and technology?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer
- What measures can be taken to promote transparency amongst the League's member states in their space endeavors and partnerships?
- How can member states with little or aspiring space diplomacy share their voice on space diplomacy within the League?
- What strategies could be implemented to prioritize space relations within member states in the League?
- How can member states counter the dangers of space tech-based alliances? What strategies can reinforce the Arab League's values within these alliances?

IV. Sources:
Middle East's space economy could surge to $75 billion by 2032 | The National Argues the economic potential of space industry in Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region

Why Middle East Space Geopolitics are Back in the Spotlight. Addresses foreign powers interested in the Middle East's space advancements

Arab Space Group Official website of the Arab Space Group, relevant to know the members and their developments. Heads up: website name is in Arabic so I recommend a translation extension like Google Translate.

Charter-Arab Space Group
The official charter of the Arab Space Group, also good to use a translation extension like Google Translate, reflects prior agreements to parameters that countries already adhere

Topic II: Assessing and increasing election accessibility for youth and vulnerable citizens

I.   **Introduction**

    A. **General Background**

        Vulnerable communities face significant barriers to election accessibility. These groups often find themselves marginalized in the political process, which inhibits their needs from reaching the government's ear. Furthermore, it exacerbates exclusion and disunity, which weakens a democratic process like elections. Washington Post and Club de Madrid found in their research that youth who are excluded from civil processes like voting and elections become politically marginalized, which makes them vulnerable to radicalization and exposed to extremist ideology.[20] However, this topic steps back from the radicalization discussion and broadens the focus on elective accessibility to all marginalized communities. This topic includes communities that struggle to get accessibility which may include youth, people with disabilities, refugees and internally displaced people, rural or nomadic communities, and communities that speak languages other than the government's official language.

        Statistically, youth under eighteen and young adults under twenty-five have a lower voter turnout than other demographics.[21] In Canada's 2011 and 2015 general elections, voters aged 18-24 were slowly increasing their voter turnout but remained the lowest percentage of turnout compared to the other age groups.[22] These trends match the World Values Survey research in 2016 that covered 59 countries and was cited by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance–voters aged twenty-five and younger have lower voter turnouts.[23] The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) also acknowledges that women, minorities, and youth face obstacles in voting that governments can address to increase voter turnout.[24] By addressing their needs and involving them in peace-keeping and constructive social activities, governments can help foster political and societal stability.

        Similarly, the electoral accessibility of other vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons, is critical for inclusive governance. These individuals often encounter physical, logistical, and systemic barriers that prevent them from fully participating in elections. For instance, inaccessible polling stations, lack of appropriate voting

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[20] Norman, Julie M, and Drew Mikhael. "Youth Radicalization Is on the Rise. Here's What We Know about Why. - The Washington Post." *Youth Radicalization Is on the Rise. Here's What We Know and Why.*, The Washington Post, 28 Aug. 2017, www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/08/25/youth-radicalization-is-on-the-rise-heres-what-we-know-about-why/.

[21] Elections Canada. "Voter Turnout by Age Group." *Elections Canada*, 27 Aug. 2018, www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rec/eval/pes2015/vtsa&document=table1&lang=e. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[22]Ibid.

[23] International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. *Voter Turnout Trends Around the World*, p. 39. International IDEA, 2016, www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/voter-turnout-trends-around-the-world.pdf. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[24] International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. *Voter Turnout Trends Around the World*, p. 40. International IDEA, 2016, www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/voter-turnout-trends-around-the-world.pdf. Accessed 28 July 2024.

materials, and insufficient legal protections disenfranchise these populations. A case study in Ukraine's 2015 local elections highlighted that while IDPs were granted the right to vote, their change of permanent residence and inconsistent rulings from district courts locked IDPs from actually casting their ballots.[25] Additionally, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) claims that "over 800,000 EU citizens could not vote in the 2019 European Parliament elections because of their disability."[26] Enhancing electoral accessibility for these groups not only promotes their civic engagement but also ensures that their unique needs and perspectives are represented in policy-making. Inclusive electoral processes can empower vulnerable communities, reduce marginalization in the country's politics, and foster a more equitable and just society. By prioritizing the electoral inclusion of all citizens, governments can strengthen democratic institutions and promote greater social cohesion.

B. History of the Arab World

The history of elections in the Arab world reflects a gradual warming toward electoral accessibility and political inclusion. During the late Ottoman Empire, elections were introduced as part of broader reforms aimed at modernizing the state. Between 1876 and 1919, the Ottoman Empire implemented an electoral process, albeit controlled by the elite, which laid the groundwork for future democratic practices in the region.[27] This period demonstrated an early recognition of representative governance, setting a precedent for later developments in electoral inclusivity. Several countries in previous Ottoman territory including Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt adapted elements of the Ottoman electoral system into their governments. Although these countries also hold remnants of colonial structure under Britain or France mandates, the remnants of the Ottoman system of representation are embedded in these countries' histories. By the mid-twentieth century, early constitutions documented an emerging recognition of human rights and established equality, which made electoral advancements possible. Lebanon, under French rule, referred to Article 7 of the 1926 constitution as equality before the law, although the article does not specify women and their voting rights were limited. In 1952, Lebanon passed an Electoral Amendment which clarified that women had the right to vote in the 1952 Parliamentary Elections. Granted, they required an elementary education, a stipulation not enforced on the men. However, this amendment was later changed to drop the education requirement for women.[28] Additionally, the 1956 Constitution of Egypt was a landmark in this regard, granting voting rights to women

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[25]Stainer, Franziska. "Women and Leadership in the UN: A Case Study of the Implementation of Gender Equality Policies in Peacekeeping Missions." *European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation*, p. 53-54. Global Campus of Human Rights, 2016, repository.gchumanrights.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c5a44b2d-d6be-4e5c-abbc-13b3f488eaa8/content. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[26] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. "More People with Disabilities Can Vote, but Barriers Remain." *European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*, 2024, https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/more-people-disabilities-can-vote-barriers-remain. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[27]Kayali, Hasan. *Elections in the Ottoman Empire*. 1995, https://psi203.cankaya.edu.tr/uploads/files/Kayali,%20Elections%20in%20the%20Ott%20Empire%20(1995).pdf. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[28]Inter-Parliamentary Union. "Historical Data on Women in the Lebanese Parliament." *Parline*, Inter-Parliamentary Union, https://data.ipu.org/parliament/LB/LB-LC01/elections/historical-data-on-women/. Accessed 28 July 2024.

alongside men. This move was encapsulated in Part 3, Article 61, which stated, "Elections are a right for all Egyptians in the manner determined by law. And contribution to public life is a national duty."[29] By enshrining the right to vote for all citizens, Egypt promoted civil cohesion and a more equitable political landscape, empowering previously marginalized groups to participate in the electoral process.

Similarly, the Provisional Constitution of Iraq in 1958 provided the legal framework for the new republic following the revolution. Articles 7 and 9 emphasized equality in public obligations, and Article 26 underscored the importance of accessibility by mandating that laws be published in the Official Gazette.[30] Despite the instability that followed the 1958 Revolution, the new republic initiated a dialogue on expanding electoral rights and increasing societal accessibility to political involvement.

From a modern and American lens, these legislations are small steps. Nonetheless, they are the catalysts for current efforts in the Arab world to broaden electoral inclusivity. The presence of suffrage on a constitutional level proves that the regional trajectory has room for greater political engagement. Building on this trajectory, modern efforts to further enhance election accessibility, particularly for youth and other vulnerable communities, are essential for fostering a more inclusive and representative political environment in the Arab world.

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

Accessibility to electoral processes for vulnerable communities has been a topic of evolving concern. The Arab League has made notice of the general concern for people's rights and drafted The Arab Charter on Human Rights.[31] It is important to note that the original Arab League Charter does not mention human rights. Therefore, the Arab League significantly advanced its purposes through The Arab Charter on Human Rights. To list a few, Article 24 mentions that every citizen has the right to political activity and "stand for elections and to choose his representatives in free and fair elections…"[32] Article 25 highlights the rights of minorities; Articles 26, 27, and 28 detail rights of movement, which is applicable for IDPs and refugees; Article 40, especially clause 6, specifies the rights of people with disabilities. The caveat is that not every member state signed The Arab Charter on Human Rights, let alone ratified it.[33] Nonetheless, The Arab Charter on

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[29] Zipp, Andrew. "The Roman Senate: Representation and Administration." *Macalester College Classics Honors Projects*, 2014, p. 51,
https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1023&context=classics_honors. Accessed 3 July 2024.

[30] Central Intelligence Agency. *Intelligence Report: Analysis of Political Movements*. 1980,
https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP09T00207R001000100002-2.pdf. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[31] The original draft was made in 1994, but after criticisms was rewritten and presented in 2004.

[32] Read the rest of the article, as there are clauses which allow for restrictions for national and public security, for example.

[33] Human Rights Centre, Università di Padova. "Ratification and Signature Status of the Arab Charter on Human Rights (2004)." *Human Rights Centre - Università di Padova*, 2013, https://unipd-centrodirittiumani.it/en/spilli/Ratification-and-signature-status-of-the-Arab-Charter-on-Human-Rights-2004/147.
Accessed 5 July 2024. Information on signage is as of 2013, and information on ratification is as of 2011

Human Rights affirms that human rights of the people addressed in this topic are of concern for the Arab League and therefore aligned with its agenda and open for discussion.

Recent years have seen significant strides towards enhancing electoral accessibility in the region. The Arab League has deployed election observation missions, such as the 2018 mission to Egypt with 80 observers from 19 member states, to monitor and assess electoral processes.[34] These missions aim to provide critical feedback to improve transparency and inclusivity. On one hand, observation missions can keep countries accountable to uphold elections fairly and equally to their citizens. On the other hand, observation missions can risk voters' anonymity, privacy in voting, or overall attendance due to an awareness that representatives from other countries are present at elections. Delegates can suggest improvements to refine this method in retrieving accurate information without risking the security of voters during elections. Organizations like the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and the Egyptian Association for Comprehensive Development (EACD) have been pivotal in advocating for inclusive policies and providing support services in countries like Tunisia, Kuwait, and Jordan.[35] [36]

Looking ahead, there is a growing momentum towards implementing more robust solutions to enhance electoral accessibility. This may include expanding the reach of election observation missions to ensure comprehensive coverage and impartial analysis. Collaborations with international partners could provide technical expertise and resources for improving infrastructure and policies that cater to multiple needs. Local organizations and civil society groups play an important role in advocating for legislative reforms that prioritize inclusivity and address the specific challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Future efforts could focus on sustained engagement, public awareness campaigns, and leveraging technology to make electoral processes more accessible and transparent for all citizens.

There are a plethora of angles one could approach this in working literature. I recommend a two-fold approach–bear in mind whom the literature is about and what method will the literature improve their accessibility. The FRA comments that their report, "Political participation of people with disabilities in the EU," highlights four sections of improvement: legal restrictions, accessibility[37], rights awareness, and political participation.[38] These four sections are a good way of organizing the ideas coming from yourself and other delegates. applied in debate when discussing various methods of election accessibility. Following the two-fold thinking with the

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[34] League of Arab States. *Arab Charter on Human Rights*. 2004, https://www.eods.eu/library/LAS_Arab%20Charter%20on%20Human%20Rights_2004_EN.pdf. Accessed 5 July 2024.

[35] "Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities." *International Disability Alliance*, Ethical Studios,https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/AODP. Accessed 5 July 2024.

[36] developer@hamdyworld.com, Eng/Hamdi -. "Welcome to the Website of EACD." *Egyptian Association for Compreheasive Development*,http://www.eacdonline.org/?lang=en. Accessed 5 July 2024.

[37] To clarify redundancy, the FRA's distinction of accessibility here means tangible accessibility, such as the physical standards of polls, translations, equipment, broadcasts, and websites.

[38] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. "More People with Disabilities Can Vote, but Barriers Remain." European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2024, https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2024/more-people-disabilities-can-vote-barriers-remain. Accessed 5 July 2024.

FRA's four types of improvements can streamline communication and expedite the writing stage of working literature.

As for each member state, the demographics and human geography of these vulnerable communities will vary between each state present at debate. It is encouraged to find context from organizations, advocacies, and past projects of your country to understand the specific needs to bring to the discussion.

III. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What local nonprofit or advocacy programs are in your member state, and what have they accomplished and/or addressed? What policies could address similar needs or fill in the gaps that these programs cannot meet?
- Based on the demographics of your country, what vulnerable communities are there, and what is your country's history and relations with these communities?
- Consider the physical and human geography of your country. What factors inhibit voting access in your country?
- What are legal and institutional barriers that youth in your country face in voting and political participation? How do these barriers and processes compare to other member states' political systems and election processes?

VI. Questions a Resolutions Might Answer

- What past partnerships and relations could be improved to benefit your country's needs? What new partnerships and relations could be made to support this common goal?
- Based on the four sections mentioned in section C (legal restrictions, accessibility, rights awareness and political participation), what are your country's strengths and weaknesses? What resources or abilities could they contribute? Where will they need support from others?
- What long-term solutions can be strategized in ensuring that changes stay implemented, and how will these long-term strategies be monitored fairly?
- Based on your country's interest, what ways can your country expand elections accessibility, and in what ways must it remain resolute? How could these measures differ from other member states, and how can you prepare for negotiating these differences?

V. Additional Sources

Constitute Project A project that archives current constitutions and compares them by regions and topics

UN Youth Guide

Good for understanding youth participation specifically in the electoral process

[Accessible voting around the world | CNIB](#) Inspiration from 24 countries and how they are making changes

[Recommendations for Accessible Elections in Europe](#) An example of how organizations advocate for accessible elections

Topic III: Creating a League-wide policy to combat the usage of AI to spread disinformation and propaganda

I. Introduction

A. General Background

By the 2010s, engineers and researchers from leading institutions such as DeepMind, OpenAI, and Google Grain achieved breakthrough advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in image recognition, speech recognition, and natural language processing. This broadened its application into multiple fields including healthcare, gaming, vehicles, and finance. More recently, AI has been used to make advertisements and media content creation. However, AI has progressed so far that it can blur the line between reality and fiction. This has caused the use of AI in disinformation, deep fakes, and propaganda across social media. A study by Freedom House called Freedom on the Net found that at least forty-seven governments employed AI-generated content to influence online discourse in their favor–this number has doubled in the last decade.[39]

Governments must combat misinformation and propaganda against themselves in an unprecedented manner from an intangible source–one that anyone can use to produce hyper-realistic content almost instantaneously. At the core, computers only do what their programmers tell them to do. Misinformation comes into the picture through people supplying a computer with false, unethical, or immoral data. Using AI in propaganda has proven to be effective, arguably more so than human-made propaganda[40][41] . The impact of AI-driven misinformation and propaganda is far-reaching. It can undermine democratic processes by influencing elections, polarizing societies, and eroding trust in legitimate news sources.[42] Moreover, it can incite violence, fuel discrimination, and exacerbate social divisions. As such, combatting AI's use in misinformation and propaganda is essential for maintaining social cohesion, protecting democratic institutions, and ensuring an informed public.[43]

B. History of the Arab World

[39] Funk, Allie, Adrian Shahbaz, and Kian Vesteinsson. Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence. Freedom House, 2023, https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2023/repressive-power-artificial-intelligence Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

[40] Walsh, Dylan. "The Disinformation Machine: How Susceptible Are We to AI Propaganda?" *Stanford HAI*, 1 May 2024, https://hai.stanford.edu/news/disinformation-machine-how-susceptible-are-we-ai-propaganda. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[41] "Crown Conversations: A Weapon of Mass Distortion? AI, Media, and Misinformation." *Brandeis University*, 21 June 2023, https://www.brandeis.edu/crown/publications/crown-conversations/cc-20.html. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[42] Panditharatne, Mekela. "How AI Puts Elections at Risk and Needed Safeguards." Brennan Center for Justice, 21 July 2023, https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/how-ai-puts-elections-risk-and-needed-safeguards. Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

[43] Liedtke, Michael. "AI-Driven Disinformation Targets Upcoming Elections." *AP News*, 24 July 2023, https://apnews.com/article/artificial-intelligence-elections-disinformation-chatgpt-bc283e7426402f0b4baa7df280a4c3fd. Accessed 28 July 2024.

The Arab world, like many regions globally, has been significantly impacted by the rise of AI-driven disinformation and propaganda. Social media platforms have become fertile grounds for the spread of false information, often with severe consequences. The Arab Spring, which began in 2010, demonstrated the power of social media in mobilizing populations and spreading information. However, it also highlighted the potential for these platforms to disseminate propaganda and false narratives.[44] The accelerating capabilities of AI today may be derailing these movements by amplifying the reach and sophistication of propaganda, thus making it even harder for activists to distinguish between genuine information and state-sponsored or external information. In the future, AI's ability to create hyper-realistic fake content, as seen with deep-fakes, and to tailor misinformation campaigns to specific audiences poses a threat to the success of grassroots movements in the Arab world. This growing challenge reinforces the need for heightened media literacy and more robust measures to counteract the potential disruptions that AI could cause.[45]

While some nations in the region have recognized the transformative potential of AI and are heavily investing in its development, this has created a stark contrast between countries that are embracing AI advancements and those that lack regulation or oversight. For instance, the UAE has become a regional leader in AI adoption, even establishing the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence: the first graduate-level, research-based AI university.[46] Such an accomplishment reflects the UAE's ambition to harness AI for economic growth and governmental efficiency. However, AI's expansion also raises concerns about the misuse of technology in the absence of a strong, regulatory framework. Without comprehensive regulation, the same AI tools that progress sectors like healthcare and transportation can be weaponized to spread misinformation and deepen societal divides.

Conversely, in recent years, several Arab countries have faced challenges related to AI-driven misinformation. During times of political unrest, such as the conflicts in Syria, Libya, and Yemen, misinformation campaigns have been used by various actors to manipulate public opinion, both domestically and internationally. These campaigns have utilized AI technologies to create convincing fake content, spread rumors, and distort facts, further complicating efforts to resolve conflicts and achieve peace.[47]

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

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[44] Walsh, Dylan. "The Disinformation Machine: How Susceptible Are We to AI Propaganda?" *Stanford HAI*, 1 May 2024, https://hai.stanford.edu/news/disinformation-machine-how-susceptible-are-we-ai-propaganda. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[45] Northwestern University in Qatar. Media Use in the Middle East, 2019: A Six-Nation Survey. Pages 67-81, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2019, https://www.qatar.northwestern.edu/docs/publications/research/NUQ_Media_Use_2019_PrintVersion_v10_FINAL.pdf Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

[46] "Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence." *MBZUAI*, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, 27 Aug. 2024, https://mbzuai.ac.ae/ Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

[47] "Crown Conversations: A Weapon of Mass Distortion? AI, Media, and Misinformation." *Brandeis University*, 21 June 2023, https://www.brandeis.edu/crown/publications/crown-conversations/cc-20.html. Accessed 28 July 2024.

Addressing the challenge of AI-driven disinformation and propaganda requires a multifaceted approach involving technological, regulatory, and educational measures. To be clear, this topic does not involve cyberattacks or cyber-hacking and defense mechanisms against them. To keep alignment with the Political Affairs Council, the solutions should focus on combating the effects of AI's output (misinformation, deep-fakes, propaganda, etc.). Historically, efforts to combat disinformation have focused on enhancing media literacy, promoting fact-checking, and implementing legal frameworks to hold perpetrators accountable. These approaches remain relevant in the age of AI but must be adapted to address the unique challenges posed by advanced technologies.

 While the Arab League has no working body to oversee these challenges, some member states have already implemented laws and regulations aimed at curbing the spread of false information online. These efforts highlight the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by AI technologies.[48]

In the present, technological solutions play a critical role in combating AI-driven misinformation and propaganda. AI itself can be harnessed to detect and counteract false information. Machine learning algorithms can be trained to identify deep fakes, recognize patterns of bot activity, and flag suspicious content. Social media platforms and technology companies are increasingly leveraging AI to enhance their content moderation capabilities and prevent the spread of misinformation.[49]

Regulatory measures are also essential in addressing AI-driven misinformation and propaganda. Governments can implement laws and policies that require transparency in AI-generated content, mandate the labeling of deep fakes, and hold platforms accountable for the spread of false information. Collaboration between countries is crucial in establishing international norms and standards for the ethical use of AI in information dissemination.[50]

Looking to the future, education will remain a cornerstone of efforts to combat AI-driven misinformation and propaganda. Enhancing media literacy among the public can empower individuals to critically evaluate information and recognize false content. Educational initiatives should focus on raising awareness about the capabilities and limitations of AI technologies, as well as the tactics used in misinformation campaigns.[51]

As mentioned previously, the Arab League currently does not have a specific body or committee exclusively tasked with enhancing media literacy and combatting AI-driven misinformation or propaganda campaigns. The Arab Information Ministers Council plays a crucial role in addressing broader media and communication issues, including countering

[48] Ibid.

[49] Walsh, Dylan. "The Disinformation Machine: How Susceptible Are We to AI Propaganda?" *Stanford HAI*, 1 May 2024, https://hai.stanford.edu/news/disinformation-machine-how-susceptible-are-we-ai-propaganda. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[50] "Crown Conversations: A Weapon of Mass Distortion? AI, Media, and Misinformation." *Brandeis University*, 21 June 2023, https://www.brandeis.edu/crown/publications/crown-conversations/cc-20.html. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[51] Walsh, Dylan. "The Disinformation Machine: How Susceptible Are We to AI Propaganda?" *Stanford HAI*, 1 May 2024, https://hai.stanford.edu/news/disinformation-machine-how-susceptible-are-we-ai-propaganda. Accessed 28 July 2024.

misinformation. However, it does not possess the specialized needs required to tackle rapidly advancing AI and subsequent challenges. To address this gap in the Arab Information Ministers Council, it is appropriate to form a committee to advance the League's action. This committee could promote media literacy across member states, develop strategies to counter misinformation from AI, and allow collaboration among member states to safeguard the region's information landscape. By taking proactive measures now, this committee could help the Arab League address these emerging threats and strengthen each member state's resilience against the growing influence of digital misinformation.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has your country responded to the challenges posed by disinformation or propaganda attempts? What laws, regulations, or technological measures have been implemented?
- What role do social media platforms and technology companies in your country play in combating AI-driven disinformation? Are there any notable collaborations with international organizations or companies?
- How aware is the general public in your country about the dangers of AI-driven disinformation and propaganda?
- What is your country's history on censorship and government intervention on information? What is its current stance and implementation?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer
- What measures can be taken to enhance regional cooperation among Arab League member states in combating AI-driven disinformation and propaganda?
- How can the Arab League promote the development and implementation of AI technologies to detect and counteract false information?
- What regulations can be established to ensure transparency in AI-generated content and hold perpetrators accountable for spreading misinformation?
- What services can be implemented across Arab League member states to raise awareness about AI-driven disinformation and enhance media literacy among the public?

VI. Additional Resources

[Constitute Project](#) Great for scrutinizing your country's constitution and to apply your country's standards to the context of AI and combating its disinformation

[Principles and Guidelines for the Use of Digital and Social Media in Elections in Africa](#) 3 member states are also part of this organization that made guidelines for countries dealing with digital disinformation in relation to elections

Topic IV: Formulating strategies to build trust coalitions and open dialogues between the Arab League's member nations

I. **Introduction**
   A. **General Background**

In the political and international relations realm, a coalition is a group of two or more individuals or organizations that temporarily work together towards a common goal. Coalitions are distinctly short term, voluntary, and achieve more work than if individual participants made efforts alone.[52] Trust coalitions play a critical role in the international arena, serving as essential mechanisms for cooperation, conflict resolution, and collective security. These coalitions, often formed through common values and goals, enable states to address global challenges that no single nation can tackle alone. Where the Arab League operates on a broad platform to promote unity and cooperation among all member states, coalitions serve targeted, specialized approaches to issues that affect either certain regions or needs that require particular expertise and resources. In an increasingly interconnected world, trust coalitions facilitate coordinated responses to transnational issues such as terrorism, climate change, and pandemics, which keep trust buoyant between regions.

The strength of trust coalitions comes from their ability to build and maintain international norms and rules. By uniting countries around common principles, these coalitions help to establish frameworks for behavior and cooperation that are respected globally. This normative power is vital for maintaining a rules-based international order, which in turn supports global governance and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Moreover, trust coalitions enhance the strategic capabilities of their members. Through collective defense agreements and shared intelligence, coalition members can deter potential aggressors and respond more effectively to security threats. The Arab League is a prime example of such a coalition, where mutual trust and shared objectives have created a powerful alliance that aided member states for decades.

Finally, trust coalitions play a pivotal role in economic development and prosperity. By creating stable and predictable environments, these coalitions attract investment and facilitate trade. Economic cooperation within trusted coalitions can lead to significant growth, reducing poverty and improving living standards for millions.[53] Overall, there is so much potential for progression through trust coalitions that the Arab League must consider creating them to sustain the Arab League's main objectives.

   B. **History in the Arab World**

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[52] Fogarty, Edward A. "Coalition." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 25 Aug. 2024, www.britannica.com/topic/coalition.

[53] Canada, Global Affairs. "Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy." *GAC*, Government of Canada, 29 Feb. 2024, www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/indo-pacific-indo-pacifique/index.aspx?lang=eng .

The need for trust coalitions in the Arab world has evolved since the formation of the Arab League in 1945. Initially, the League focused on collective action against colonialism and external threats, reflecting the shared aspirations and trust among its members.[54] Since its establishment, the Arab League has navigated various conflicts and political dynamics, often relying on coalition-building to address regional crises. For instance, during the Kuwait-Iraq crisis of 1961, the League played a crucial role in facilitating diplomatic efforts and deploying peacekeeping forces to deter aggression. This intervention highlighted the importance of trust and cooperation among member states in maintaining regional stability.[55]

Another significant example is the establishment of the Arab Deterrent Force during the Lebanese civil war in 1976. This coalition was instrumental in managing the complex and multi-faceted conflict, demonstrating the League's capacity to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts among its members. Despite facing challenges such as perceived biases and political rivalries, the League's interventions proved the need for trust coalitions to address regional security issues.[56]

More recently, the Arab Spring uprisings in 2010 and 2011, followed by subsequent conflicts, have shown room for improvement of trust coalitions within the Arab League.[57] The organization's responses to these crises have varied, from Qatar shifting its foreign policies to embrace the transitions[58] to the League suspending Syria and imposing sanctions.[59] For instance, Qatar's shift in foreign policy in the previous decades led to tensions with its neighbors, which lef to the Qatar Blockade in 2017.[60] This blockade, imposed by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt, exemplified the breakdown of trust within the League and the difficulties in sustaining coalitions when geopolitical interests diverge sharply. The blockade revealed how trust coalitions can quickly unravel when member states perceive threats to their security or sovereignty, which lead to deep diplomatic rifts within the League.

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[54] "The Arab League." Council on Foreign Relations, https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/arab-league. Accessed 28 July 2024.

[55] Youssef, Hanan. "The Arab League: A Regional Organization in Crisis." OSCE Yearbook 2006, edited by Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, 299-302. Hamburg: Nomos, 2006. https://ifsh.de/file-CORE/documents/yearbook/english/13/Youssef-en.pdf

[56] "Telegram 1617 from Beirut, March 24." *National Archives, RG 59, Central Foreign Policy File*, D780136–0779. https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v08/d237

[57] Anderson, Lisa. "Arab Spring." Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 20 May 2019, https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring

[58] Kamrava, Mehran. "Qatar and the Arab Spring: Policy Drivers and Regional Implications." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Sept. 2014, https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2014/09/qatar-and-the-arab-spring-policy-drivers-and-regional-implications?lang=en

[59] Black, Ian. "Syria Suspended from Arab League." The Guardian, 12 Nov. 2011, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/nov/12/syria-suspended-arab-league

[60] Al Jazeera. "Qatar Blockade: Five Things to Know about the Gulf Crisis." Al Jazeera, 5 June 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/5/qatar-blockade-five-things-to-know-about-the-gulf-crisis. Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

When reporting on the Arab League's drastic actions in response to the Arab Spring, BBC remarked, "The diplomatic map of the Middle East is being redrawn almost as quickly as governments and regimes are falling."[61] The reinstatement of Qatar into the fold in 2021 marked a potential turning point, which suggested a willingness to rebuild these fractured relationships.[62] While the Arab League has since recovered and reinstated Syria in 2023, tumultuous events like the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, the Lebanese civil war, and the Arab Spring show the need for long-term building of trust in the Arab League, especially through trust coalitions. However, the ongoing challenges in the region, such as the events and aftermath of October 7th, raise questions about whether efforts to rebuild trust coalitions will endure the present tension.

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

Although the Arab League has been united on many fronts since 1945, there are gaps of disunity and lack of trust which weaken the League's effectiveness. To address these issues, it is crucial to develop a strategic approach to building trust among member states. The USC Center on Public Diplomacy stresses the importance of international exchange programs as a means to build trust. They comment, "Building that trust does not need to be the exclusive domain of state-to-state relationships, but can also include the myriad of other people-to-people connections and the unofficial, non-government networks that are vital to sustaining trust between people and nations, long after political leaders hand over power and responsibilities to their successors."[63] Following this advice, trust coalitions within the Arab League can begin by focusing on specific projects such as expanding international exchange programs to include students, professionals, and civil society leaders, as well as organizing cultural and economic expositions. Details like frequency in meetings, allocating hosting responsibilities, and numbers of representatives are all opportunities for the member states to start the coalition with confidence from the Arab League. These focused coalitions allow for direct collaboration and peaceful exchanges, which strengthens personal and group relations, thereby improving member state relations as a whole.

In structuring these trust coalitions, a subregional focus could be particularly effective. Coalitions could be based on geographical groupings–the Arabian Peninsula, the Levant, North Africa–allowing states with shared regional challenges to collaborate more effectively on issues pertaining to their area. Alternatively, Thematic coalitions could be formed around specific issues like economic development, security, and cultural heritage, which enables member states to

[61] "Syria Crisis: Arab League Votes to Suspend Syria." BBC News, 13 Nov. 2011, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15714771

[62] Riedel, Bruce. "Saudi Arabia Just Lifted Qatar's 43-Month Blockade. How Did This Rift End?" The Washington Post, 8 Jan. 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/01/08/saudi-arabia-just-lifted-qatars-43-month-blockade-how-did-this-rift-end/. Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.

[63] Brown, Katherine A. "Face-Time: Building Trust in International Affairs." *USC Center on Public Diplomacy*, University of Southern California, 27 Feb. 2020, uscpublicdiplomacy.org/blog/face-time-building-trust-international-affairs. Accessed 21 July 2024.

concentrate on shared priorities. Routine meetings ensure consistent dialogue and collaboration. Organizing hosting rotations encourages participation and investment from all participating member states. Establishing a permanent secretariat to organize meetings and coordinate projects further solidify continuity and completion of goals.

It is important to note that the anticipated trust coalitions must compliment, not supersede, the existing framework of the Arab League. Coalitions created under the League do not have the authority to create new councils in the League or to alter the League's structure. Rather, they are meant to enhance cooperation between member states on specific issues. By operating within the guidelines of the Arab League, these coalitions reinforce the League's authority while giving the flexibility needed to concentrate on specific challenges. To ensure these coalitions remain in the guidelines, clear benchmarks and indicators should be established to measure the effectiveness of these coalitions, such as the number of joint initiatives launched or improvements in bilateral relations. As these coalitions demonstrate success, their models could be expanded to address other challenges, thus strengthening the bonds between member states and enhancing the Arab League's overall unity and influence.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- Are there stipulations that your country has before entering a trust coalition?
- What image does your country want to display when discussing disunity in the Arab League?
- What does your country focus on when making and strengthening alliances?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Are these solutions durable for short-term crises or long-term relations?
- Does the solution give equal voice to the participating member states?
- Does the solution influence public policy, change behavior, and/or strengthen the member states?

VI. Additional Sources

Mediation and Conflict Resolution in the Arab World: The Role of the Arab League Critiques the Arab League's blind spots in conflict resolution, helpful for coming up with functions of trust coalitions

The Arab League | Council on Foreign Relations Good analysis on the strengths and weaknesses that the Arab League experienced in its duration, which is good for recognizing what a trust coalition can remedy.

[Basic Steps & Tips to Building a Coalition | Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) Includes tips that can strengthen a coalition and extend its lifespan