



AtidMUN VII



Arab League Study Guide

AtidMUN VII



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Chair Letters

Idan Avni

Dear delegates,

I'm happy to welcome you to the Arab League ATIDMUN VII Committee!

I am a senior at Ben Tzvi High School in Kiryat Ono. I'm majoring in diplomacy and history.

I've been in MUN for 5 years and have participated in many unique conferences and committees, namely Security Council and Crisis committees.

During the conference, we will be debating special challenges that are present in the Arab World today. The experience you will get from participating and writing amazing resolutions will only enhance your diplomacy, rhetoric, and academic skills.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me by mail:

zvikorn2@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely Yours,

Idan Avni





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Neomy Mamorsky

Dear delegates,

It's a pleasure to have you in AtidMUN VII Arab League Committee!

My name is Neomy Mamorsky and I will be your chair for this upcoming conference (super excited!).

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I joined MUN when I was in the 9th grade, and since then, I have participated in numerous conferences. I'm currently 17 years old, and this is my high school senior year.

In terms of academics, I chose diplomacy and theater as my two majors (be ready for some crazy and creative punishments!)

I love learning new things, so I hope we'll expand our knowledge together!

I'm honored that my very first chairing experience is in AtidMUN with all of you.

Let us join hands for a wonderful experience!

I'll be happy to answer your questions and hear your suggestions:

neomimamorsky@gmail.com

Sincerely yours,

Neomy Mamorsky





Steven Aiello

Hi, my MUN journey began back in 2011 when I represented Saudi Arabia in the Human Rights Council. I was a delegate in Dubai, the Netherlands, and NYC, a chair at many MUNs in Israel, and an advisor for MUN delegations to Cyprus, Kosovo, Romania, Sweden, the UK and US. I love reading, playing sports, and of course anything involving MUN.





Introduction to the Committee

The Arab League: History and Structure

The Arab League is a regional organization in the Arab world, comprised of countries in Asia and Africa. The Arab League was formed in Cairo on March 22, 1945, initially with six members but has grown to 22 members. Syria's participation has been suspended since November 2011. In addition, Armenia, Brazil, Chad, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela are recognized as observers. South Sudan has applied for membership as recently as 2018 but the issue has not been debated upon. (Masters, 2020)

The aim of the Arab League is to strengthen ties among the member states and coordinate politics. The league has a number of different committees debating several topics such as Economics and Science. The main body of the Arab League is the Arab Council. Each country has one vote and during summits is represented by their leaders. Delegates will be representing countries in double delegation in a stimulatory 2021 summit of the Arab Council.

According to Article II of the Arab League:

“The League has as its purpose the strengthening of the relations between the member-states, the coordination of their policies in order to achieve co-operation between them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty; and a general concern with the affairs and interests of the Arab countries. It has also as its purpose the close co-operation of the member-states, with due regard to the Organization and circumstances of each state, on the following matters:

- A. Economic and financial affairs, including commercial relations, customs, currency, and questions of agriculture and industry.
- B. Communications; this includes railroads, roads, aviation, navigation, telegraphs, and posts.
- C. Cultural Affairs.



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- D. Nationality, Passports, Visas, Execution of Judgments and Extradition of criminals.
- E. Social affairs.
- F. Health affairs.

Article III of the Arab League Charter outlines the rules of the Arab Council. Resolutions must be voted for by 50+1% of the attendees and the resolutions are only binding for the countries that voted for them. It shall be the task of the Council to execute the objectives of the League and to supervise the execution of agreements.”

These two articles outline the functions of the Arab League most succinctly; however, throughout its existence, the Arab League has been weakened by internal dissensions on political issues, especially those concerning the Jewish State, the Gulf, and members' economic situations. In the recent decade, the Arab Spring and the ensuing civil wars in multiple countries weakened even further the political power of the Arab League.

(refworld, 1945)

Establishment of the Arab League

1942- The idea of the Arab League is first brought up by Britain in an attempt to unify all Arab states alongside her, against Germany. Britain's attempt fails.

1944- Official representatives from 7 Arab states meet and agree to form the league of Arab states.

1945- The Arab League pact is signed.

1958- The Arab League is officially recognized by the UN, and becomes the UN's organization for education, science, and culture in the Arab world. At the time, the issues that dominated the league's agenda were freeing Arab countries still under colonial rule, and aiding the Palestinians in their efforts against the Jewish State.



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Topic A: The Question of Arab Unity

Background to the Topic

Arab Unity has been a debate for thousands of years. Even in the year 1000 AD, the ideology of Arab unification was floated by Islamic scholars who called for unity by religion.

Advocates of greater Arab Unification propose a single sovereign state stretching from North Africa and Western Asia to the Arabian Sea. This area of the world, located in the Middle East, is already known as the Arab world. The idea of unification is closely connected to Arab nationalism, which asserts the view that the Arabs constitute a single nation.

In modern times, the question of Arab Unity only first came to play in 1915. The Hussein-McMahon Correspondence resulted in an agreement between the United Kingdom and the Sharif of Mecca that if the Mashreq Arabs revolted successfully against the Ottomans, the United Kingdom would support claims for Mashreq Arab independence. However, these promises were broken soon after when in 1916, the Sykes-Picot Agreement between the United Kingdom and France determined that parts of the Mashreq would be divided between those powers rather than forming part of an



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independent unified Arab state. After the Ottomans surrendered in 1918, the powers split the Arab World between themselves.

There have been several attempts to bring about a Pan-Arab state by many well-known Arab leaders, all of which ultimately resulted in failure. Throughout the 1940s, Syrian and Jordanian thinkers wanted to unite because of their “racial purity.” While the plan was supported by British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Said, the plan was not popular among the majority of Arabs and eventually led to the assassination of Jordanian King Abdullah I in Jerusalem in 1951.

Egypt also proposed a unified Arab state through the cause of Arab Nationalism. Eventually, Egypt's advocacy for a broader grouping of independent Arab states prevailed with the establishment of the League of Arab States (now the Arab League), a regional international organization, in 1945.

In part, due to Egyptian President Nasser's popularity, the United Arab Republic (UAR) was founded in 1958. The UAR was a sovereign state, consisting of Egypt and Syria. The UAR was the first case of an actual merger of two previously independent Arab countries. The union was formed under President Nasser's leadership but on the initiative of Syrian leaders who feared a takeover by communists. Shortly after the creation of the UAR, North Yemen joined to create the United Arab States. Though Yemen stayed mostly independent, Yemen joined the initiative due to feeling threatened by its neighbor Saudi Arabia. This move is part of the broader Arab Cold War. Both the UAR and the UAS lasted until 1961 when Syrian army officers carried out a coup d'état and withdrew from the union. Egypt did not change its name back officially until 1971.

As a response to the 1958 creation of the UAR, Iraq and Jordan created the Arab Federation. The union lasted only six months, being officially dissolved after King Faisal II of Iraq was deposed by a military coup on 14 July.



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Beginning in 1969, Egypt led numerous other merger initiatives. Egypt, Libya, and Sudan became a federation between 1969-1971. Syria joined in 1972. The initiative lasted for some time as a union or a federation until 1977. Unlike the UAR, it is not considered a real merger.

Another successful merger that took place is the merger of the seven Trucial Emirates into the United Arab Emirates in 1971. At one stage, it seemed likely Bahrain and Qatar would also join the Union of Arab Emirates, but both eventually decided on independence after the British left.

In 1990, the final real unification we know of took place when the area of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (also known as South Yemen, a British administered territory) was united with the Yemen Arab Republic (also known as North Yemen, an Ottoman state), forming the Republic of Yemen. Both Yemens had been independent countries for decades after their independence.

Other plans for unification included the Arab Islamic Republic, a proposed unification of Tunisia and Libya in 1974, agreed upon by Libyan head of state Muammar Gaddafi and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. Morocco and Algeria were later included in the proposal, which was never implemented.

Throughout the 20th century, the leaders who advocated for unity believed in socialist principles and strongly opposed Western political involvement in the Arab world. They also sought to empower Arab states against outside forces by forming alliances and, to a lesser extent, economic cooperation.

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, pan-Arabism declined for a number of reasons, such as include Islam (secular vs religious) and different factions inside the Muslim faith including Shia and Sunni. In addition, nationalism in each country including social and economic differences within the different Arab societies and the competition among different Arab leaders to be the leading voice for the Arab and Islamic worlds were the main forces behind the defeat of the idea of unification. Western intervention in the Middle East also caused the defeat of unification.



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The latest proposal for some kind of unity among the Arab countries occurred in the 2004 Arab League summit in Cairo and was voiced by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. However, the proposal failed to reach the Arab League's agenda.



Figure I – The Arab World.



Figure II - United Arab Republic (1958-1961)

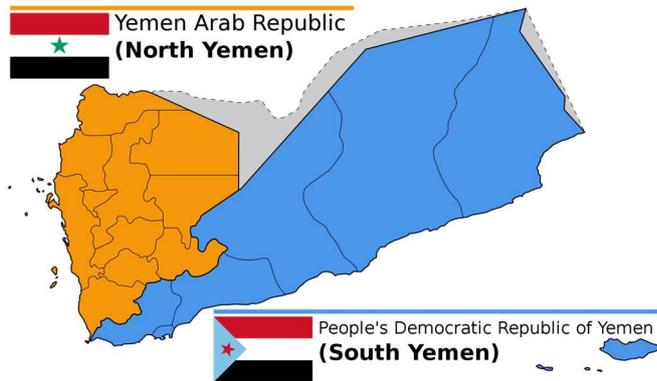


Figure III - The Two Yemens (before unification).

Current Situation and Possible Solutions

In today's Arab world, the idea of Arab Unity doesn't necessarily mean Arab unification. Some proponents of unity believe that closer cooperation on multiple issues should be the main focus of Arab Unity.

There are a number of organizations and committees tasked with this. The Arab League passed a resolution in 1957 creating the Council of Arab Economic Unity. The committee calls for organized economic relations across the Arab League on bases that are consistent with the natural and historical links among them; and to provide the best conditions for flourishing their economies, developing their resources, and ensuring the prosperity of their countries.

Currently, most economic relations among Arab League countries not located in the Gulf have deteriorated due to the situation since the Arab Spring. The protests across the Arab World which accumulated in 2011 started a chain of events that left multiple countries in western Asia, such as Iraq and Syria unable to control some of their own territories and thus unable to participate in economic unity.

Some believe that Arab Unity should be demonstrated by shared power across the region. These thinkers believe that if the Arab world unites on the world stage, its platform would have a larger effect. Unity across platforms can be represented by shared success in Sports, Culture, Defense, Foreign Affairs, the Environment, Justice, and other spheres.



Internal divisions caused by religion and language among the Arab nations have made this idea difficult to achieve.

However, Arab states have been united in some aspects such as culture and sports. The Pan Arab sports games were held every two years between 1953 and 2011. However, the demise of greater unity across the Arab World also impacted the Games. Political turmoil and the issue of women's participation eventually caused the Games to be canceled after 2011.

In recent years, the United Kingdom has mainly pushed the idea of strong economic relations among the poorer Arab States. A number of economic unions and agreements exist for this purpose including the Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions among others.

Delegates must decide what actions should be taken by the Arab League Council and what issues they deal with. The Council must also decide what Arab Unity is.

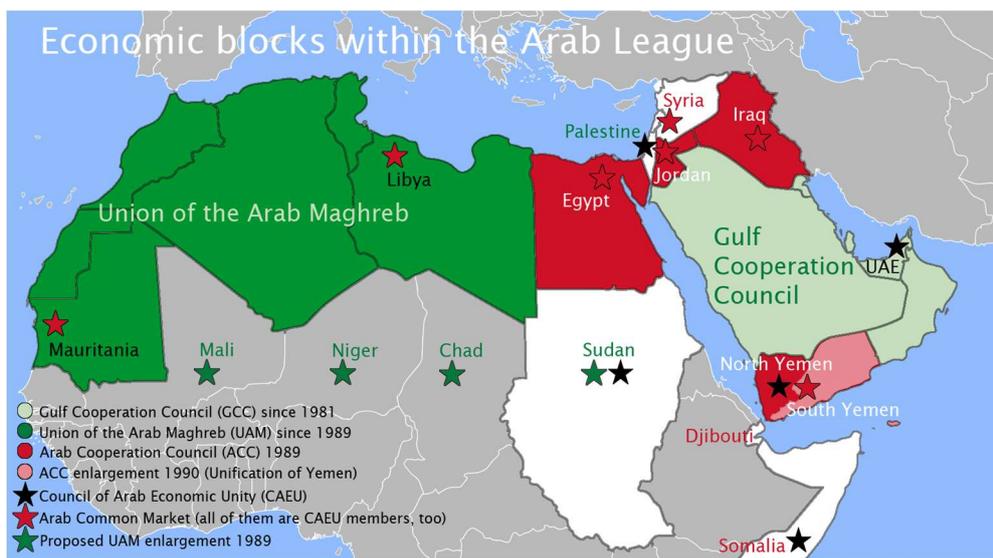


Figure IV – Economic Blocks within the Arab League.

Questions to Consider

Note: While these are guiding questions, we highly recommend all delegate to do their own research on the topics at hand.



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- What has been your country's role on /attitude towards the issue of Arab Unity?
- In which spheres does your country cooperate beneficially with other Arab League members? How?
- Which areas of cooperation need to be improved?
- How should the concept/idea of Arab Unity be revisited, and which current schemes should be prioritized regionally, in the Middle East, and globally?
- What is the general stance of the Arab League on international terrorism? What are the roles of local and regional capacities in combatting terrorism?
- How should the League of Arab states move towards an Arab security community?
- How to avoid any further terrorist attacks that might take place within the lands of Arab League nations?
- What are the Arab League's stand and policies on the situations in the hotbeds of the conflicts among the Arab nations?
- How can the Arab League's future be different in terms of unity and cooperation both regionally and globally?

Suggested Reading

- [Arab League Summit | UN News](#)
- www.cfr.org/background/arab-league
- [The Difficult Tasks for the Arab League](#)
- [The League of the Arab States and Regional Security: Towards an Arab Security Community?](#)
- [Arab League | Today's latest from Al Jazeera](#)

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Topic B: The Development of Health and Infrastructure for Epidemic Resilience Throughout the Arab League

Background to the Topic

Originally, the Charter of the Arab League, clearly states that Health Affairs are a topic of Arab League interest and responsibility. However, the entirety of the Arab world has never been on the same page regarding public health. It is a very precarious situation, because there are differences between member states, in economic stability, in political and social stability, in demographics, and that doesn't even include the plight of displaced populations into the mess.

According to a WHO report regarding Eastern Mediterranean health statistics in 2019:

“...The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region comprises nearly 9% of the world's population. The Region is experiencing protracted humanitarian crises that have led to the forced displacement of millions of people, the weakening of health system structures, and the reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases. In five countries, more than 25% of the population are living below the international poverty line. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in the region are lower than the global averages. “

“... The Region is a low investor in health, accounting for less than 2% of global health expenditure for close to 9% of the world's population in 2015. Furthermore, public health expenditure accounts for a consistently low proportion of current health expenditure – around 50%...”

Already we can see a problem emerging. This of course is exacerbated by the fact that some countries are lacking even the most basic necessities, barely having a primary care facility for every 10,000 people, and only worsened by the public opinion of the health



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care facilities and the attacks on them as a result of which, 137 staff were killed, in over 700 attacks. While not all Eastern Mediterranean countries are like this, some are much worse.

This alone raises a few issues to look at. The first is why the Arab world spends so little on health. While none of the Arab League countries make the standard set by European countries, several have universal healthcare and do spend plenty on healthcare expenditures; yet, those is a small proportion of member states, treating an even smaller portion of the population in the region.

Others, on the other hand, are dealing with refugee crises (Lebanon), civil war, and famine (Yemen), and others still are facing a myriad of issues (Palestinian Authority and Gaza Strip). It is no surprise that these areas do not spend much on building healthcare programs. They are facing immediate threats that are a minefield to navigate. The next question becomes whose job it is to help them.

The truly low-income countries in the Arab League are currently facing severe political unrest, which has led to the weakening of progress and financial stability nationwide, including real problems regarding refugees, because even if the healthcare systems were consolidated (which they are very far from), do those healthcare benefits extend to people who aren't citizens? How about refugees? Just imagine what that would do economically to the already unstable countries.

The second issue is between the higher income member states. It appears that in spite of the existence of public health care programs, most healthcare expenditures actually go to private organizations. In fact, the private sector accounts for around 40% of total health expenditures, and individuals' out-of-pocket spending comprises around 30%. This is manageable, because the higher income countries have higher income citizens who can afford to pay, but this means that even the richest countries aren't particularly prepared in case of an epidemiological emergency.

Another issue that arises is that health insurance schemes do not cover the unemployed or workers in the informal sector, which is translated to paying out of their own pockets



on health care. Ranging from almost 40% of health care cost to more than 80% in poorer countries the price of health care threatens the ability of families to meet their basic needs and increases the potential of transmission and illness.

The last issue is, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to an Al Sharq publication:

“The Arab world is particularly vulnerable to outbreaks of disease and public health emergencies. The Global Health Security (GHS) Index is a measure of capacity and preparedness that aims to mobilize the necessary financial and political resources to respond to outbreaks. According to the GHS Index results, Arab states are among the least prepared in the world, and rank last in terms of “epidemiology workforce” and “emergency preparedness and planning measures.” In addition, information systems and data sharing infrastructures, which are crucial for guiding and informing public policies and public health responses, are insufficient.”

This means that the Eastern Mediterranean was unprepared when COVID-19 hit. As a result, countries are facing severe shortages in healthcare services in everything from vaccines to staff to facilities. The pandemic has caused an acuteness of all the other issues previously discussed, and the beginning of the unravelment of health infrastructure in general.

As we can see, the Arab League has a long way to go to overcome the challenges of addressing the following areas: a) the preparedness for pandemic emergencies b) mobilizing the necessary resources to combat current and future pandemic outbreaks c) efficiency, clarity, and transparency in the spheres of informing public policies and public health responses.

Current Situation and Possible Solutions

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the serious vulnerability of the spheres of physical and emotional health care systems, in the Arab region (MENA-Middle East & North Africa). Many Arab countries with fragmented health care and insufficient primary



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care should prioritize urgent life-saving medical care to COVID-19 victims. More than 60% of the Arab League population can access health services without being compromised financially (almost 80% in Kuwait and 22 % in Somalia).

With the existing emergency, health response and enhanced efforts to provide access to COVID-19-related information, testing, and health care, the system lets the poor (unemployed, migrants, forcibly displaced, etc..) down,

pushing tens of millions of people into poor health and poverty. Moreover, efforts to contain outbreaks often divert resources away from routine health services, such as pre- and post-natal health care and sexual and reproductive health services, significantly impairing the physical and mental health of the population.

Additionally, there are 32 million older persons in the Arab region who are at risk of complications from COVID-19 and very often don't have comprehensive old-age pensions and health insurance, which forces them to remain financially dependent on family members...

Special measures should be taken to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and treatment reach the most vulnerable individuals, refugees, internally displaced persons, and their host communities.

So, it is clear that something must be done about the catastrophe that has become the health infrastructure of the Eastern Mediterranean region. But whose responsibility is it to fix this? Here once more we can see the disparity between the Arab League countries; is it the richer countries responsibility to pay for their financially challenged neighbours? Should a solution include pledges, donations, or maybe a united approach? Or should the Arab League as a whole act against this phenomenon? If the Arab League chooses not to, how can individual states enforce the resolution? Suddenly this topic appears to be a question of how united should the Arab League be? How would a united attack against the pandemic work? What would it say about the sovereignty of each member state? It might be interesting to make sure delegates' policies for each of the two topics don't accidentally clash...



So, in order to strengthen the capacity of the region's health care systems and to provide integrated health services and better planning for potential future pandemics, one should examine how states can improve the capabilities of their healthcare systems to create effective solutions. Delegates are encouraged to explore their state's policies concerning vaccines and other public health measures, and ensure that everyone within a community is supported. Even with COVID-19 being a significant portion of this issue, it will also be necessary to look at the issues that plague the system as it stands today regardless of the pandemic, and recognize ways that future pandemics and endemics can be restrained via better response capabilities.

Questions to Consider

- How is the healthcare system functioning within my state? Are there certain populations that struggle to receive access to healthcare, and are there areas of health that are overlooked?
- How has my country responded to the COVID-19 pandemic? Have there been other diseases of concern in recent years?
- Is my country prepared to handle potential future epidemiological outbreaks? (sufficient reserves of vaccines and other necessary medical equipment; a standard schedule for immunizations?)
- How can League members work with one another to improve pandemic preparedness and response?
- In what ways can AL members cooperate with one another to increase epidemiological surveillance capabilities?
- How can members of the League of Arab States better combat pandemic outbreaks in areas of conflict?
- How can the League of Arab States work to build partnerships with other organizations focused on epidemiology and global health?



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