

ACADEMIC GUIDE



Arab League

Arab League



Level: High

Language: English

Topic A: Israeli blockade of the socio-economic development of Palestine and exploitation of Resources.

Topic B: Discussing the suspension of Syria from the Arab League (Historical)

Welcome letter:

Hello and Welcome! First of all, we want to welcome you to the 13th Model of the United Nations of Marymount. We are glad to see you all joining the Arab League. We believe that our committee will be filled with knowledge, and a lot of learning experiences. This model is an opportunity for learning, as well as being able to understand the world we live in, and perhaps, make new friends. Hopefully, this committee will change the course of your MUN experience, improving it and making you more competent participants and ones that are prepared and ready for any committee and/or position. Many 'experts' in this MUN world that we are immersed in have passed through this committee, and we hope that you can find it here. More than anything, we want you to have fun exploring different points of views and opinions. Also, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, suggestions or doubts at all.

Kind regards,

Antonia Romero and Jaroslav Vlasak.

Antonia Romero Forero

The Victoria School

aromerof@tvs.edu.co

+57 3054186964

Jaroslav Vlasak

Colegio Los Nogales

jar-vlasak@nogales.edu.co

+57 3154178298

Introduction to the committee

The League of Arab States, better known as the Arab League, is a union of Arabic-speaking African and Asian countries. The main purpose of this merger is to promote values such as independence, sovereignty, affairs, and interests, including political stability in the region of its member countries and observers. The 22 members of the Arab League as of 2022 are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The five observers are Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela. As of 2022, The Arab League's highest body is the Arab League council, which is composed of representatives of member states, typically foreign ministers, their representatives, or permanent delegates. Each member state has one vote. The general secretariat manages the daily operations of the league and is headed by the secretary-general. The general secretariat is the administrative body of the league, the executive body of the council, and the specialized ministerial councils.

Israeli blockade of the socio-economic development of Palestine and exploitation of Resources.

Introduction to topic A

Key Concepts:

- Blockade (Economic and Social): Total blockade of economic resources and trades (From country A to country B) with the intention of disrupting a state's economy.
- Socio-Economic Development: the process of social and economic development in a society. Socio-economic development; can be measured by indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment or by indexes like Gini Coefficient, HPI (Happy Planet Index), HDI (Human Development index), etc. Socio-Economic development addresses processes by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region, local community, or an individual are improved according to targeted goals and objectives.
- Exploitation of Resources: The overuse (negative connotation)^{img1} of natural resources for economic growth, usually accompanied by environmental degradation, pollution and other environmental hazards, mangrove forests are in danger of extinction worldwide.
- Palestine Territories: Two regions of the former British Mandate for Palestine that have been militarily occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War of 1967, namely: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- West Bank: Land area of 5,640 km² plus a water area of 220 km², consisting of the
- Gaza Strip: On the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine.

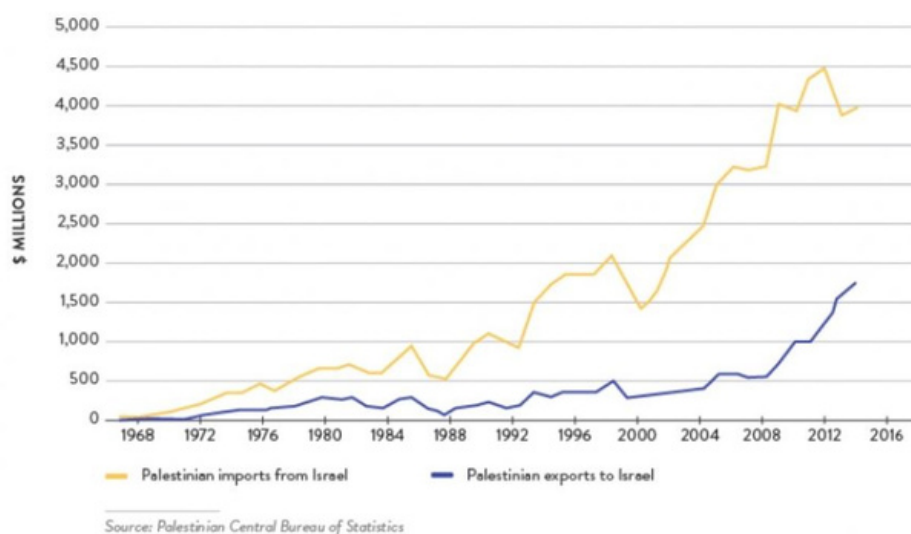


Historical Context

The conflict dates back to 1947, when the United Nations adopted Resolution 181: Partition Plan for Palestine, which called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, with the city of Jerusalem as a corpus separatum (Latin: “separate entity”) to be governed by a special international regime. Since that time, Jewish immigration to the region had increased, with the rise of national movements, including Zionism and Arab nationalism. Among the first recorded violent incidents between Arabs and the newly immigrated Jews in Palestine was the accidental shooting death of an Arab man in Safed, during a wedding in December 1882 (Britannica Learning) After this incident, around 200 Arabs descended on the Jewish settlement throwing stones and vandalizing property. Zionist ambitions were increasing and were later identified as a threat by the Arab leaders in Palestine region.

Present Situation

Palestine’s economy continues to deteriorate as the levels of poverty keep rising, In 2018 and early 2019, the Palestinian economy stagnated, per capita income further fell by 1.7% according to a 2019 report of the UNCTAD on its assistance to the palestinian people. Also, in 2018, its local economy contracted by 7%, leading to a 10% decline in its per capita income. The Palestinian economy has been isolated from international markets, which leads to an economic dependance on on Israel, which accounts for 80% of Palestinian exports and supplies 58% of its imports. The dependence blocks Palestine from any economic progress as seen in the numbers of exports and imports between the two states.



(Institute Global - Israeli-Palestinian Trade: In-Depth Analysis 2018)

The UNCTAD 2019 report suggests that occupation has prevented the Palestinian people from developing their oil and natural gas resources in Gaza and the West Bank.

In social terms, violence and conflict between the two countries coerces the Palestinian people to leave their homeland and relocate. The United Nations resolution for West Bank and construction of illegal Israeli settlements, 2018 reported the highest number of incidents of settlers’ violence since 2014. The destruction and demolition of the sanitation infrastructure in Gaza now concerns an environmental breakdown.

Now in the 2021, reports by the United Nations on Israel and Palestine, describes 2020 as a year of setbacks for the Palestinians, their institutions, and their economy owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and an unprecedented fiscal crisis.

On an important note, the UNSCO reports that more than half of the palestinian population is in need for humanitarian aid in 2021, as the pandemic strike directly on the social and economic aspects of the country. The Special Coordinator said, “The PA and the Palestinian people have been hit hard in 2020, with more than half the population in need, but I’m hopeful that donors will step up and provide much needed support.”

“The international community should do more to promote responsible and sustainable industrial practices in Palestine, and to protect the public health of the Palestinian people,” UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said.

Relevant Approaches

Economic Approach: Focusing on the interrelationships between countries involved in the issue, as well as regulation of resources, imports and exports from the countries. It is important to take into account all economic theories of regulation, public policies and the way economics has been used to design and evaluate regulation in order to favor the situation in Palestine and Israel.

QARMAS

- What authority does my delegation/country have within the Arab League?
- What is the main purpose of the role of my delegations within the committee?
- What are the flaws in current resolutions proposed and applied by organizations and states like the United Nations or the Arab League member governments?
- What is the most effective way to regulate exports and imports between the two countries?
- How will I employ the Arab League’s resources to the best of my ability?
- How can the committee target the main aspects that negatively impact socioeconomic development in both Palestine and Israel?

Discussing the suspension of Syria from the Arab League (Historical) .

Introduction to Topic B

In November 2011, the Syrian government agreed to an Arab League peace plan that consisted on preventing the Syrian army engaging in violent activity against peaceful demonstrators. The peace plan included tanks being withdrawn from the cities, all political prisoners to be released, a dialogue with the opposition, and Arab League and foreign media allowed to monitor the situation. However, after the negotiation of the Peace Plan on November 2nd, at least 23 demonstrators were killed, furtherly, the Arab League considered this a first warning of suspension because of a promise by Syria on the Peace Plan.

On November 13 2011 threatened to suspend Syria's membership of the Arab League, since the agreement consisted on executing the plan before November 16, and during that week many demonstrators were killed.

On November 16, the suspension was made formal and official by the Arab League after the failure to end bloodshed caused by government crackdowns on pro-democracy demonstrations. Additionally, the league also concreted an agreement in which economic sanctions and political sanctions would be imposed on the Syrian Government.

Key Concepts

Charter of the Arab League: The Charter of the Arab League, also known as the Pact of the League of Arab States, is the founding treaty of the Arab League. Adopted in 1945, it stipulates that "the League of Arab States shall be composed of the independent Arab States that have signed this Pact."

Arab Spring: The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s. It began in Tunisia in response to corruption and economic stagnation. From Tunisia, the protests then spread to five other countries: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain.

Authoritarianism: Authoritarianism is a political system characterized by the rejection of political plurality, the use of strong central power to preserve the political status quo, and reductions in the rule of law, separation of powers, and democratic voting.

Historical Context

Syria and Arab region historical context:

Syria is a country that lies in the middle east bordered by five other countries. This general area east of the Mediterranean that Syria lies in is historically known as the levant, making Syria a levantine country. Syria's boundaries today are essentially the byproduct of post-ottoman era delineation lines created by the Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 allocating the boundaries of modern-day syria to france, the last country to hold the area under mandate status. Syria and France negotiated a treaty of independence in September 1936, and Hashim al-Atassi was the first president to be elected under the first incarnation of the modern republic of Syria, however it was only after World War II that Syria got full independence from Europe. Upheaval dominated Syrian politics from independence through the late 1960s. In the 8 March 1963 Ba'athist coup, a takeover was engineered by members of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, led by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din al-Bitar. Eventually in 1970, the then Minister of Defense Hafez al-Assad became the effective ruler after a bloodless coup called the 1970 Corrective Revolution.



map of Syria(Rotary action group for peace 2020)



Hafez al -Assad (Wikipedia)

On 31 January 1973, Hafez al-Assad implemented a new constitution which brought crisis to the country. For almost thirty years, al-Assad ruled in an authoritarian manner disallowing any form of political opposition. He largely modernized the country but at the cost of repression and the end of democracy. Critics of the regime have pointed out that deployment of violence is at the crux of Ba'athist Syria and describe it as "a dictatorship with genocidal tendencies".

Upon Hafez al-Assad's death in 2000, his son Bashar al-Assad was elected as President of Syria. The new ruler once raised hopes amongst Syrian intellectuals and outside Western observers as wanting to implement economic and political reforms. However, Bashar failed to deliver on promised reforms; instead crushing the civil society groups, political reformists and democratic activists that emerged during the Damascus spring in the 2000s. This coincided with the most intense drought ever recorded in Syria, which lasted from 2006 to 2011 and resulted in widespread crop failure, an increase in food prices and a mass migration of farming families to urban centers. The political, social, and economic situation of the country was the perfect context for an uprising to emerge, and the regional situation caused precisely that.

Arab spring:

Arab Spring, wave of pro-democracy protests and uprisings that took place in the Middle East and North Africa beginning in 2010 and 2011, challenging some of the region's entrenched authoritarian regimes. The wave began when protests in Tunisia and Egypt toppled their regimes in quick succession, inspiring similar attempts in other Arab countries.

As we have established, The civil uprising phase of the Syrian Civil War, or as it was sometimes called by the media, the Syrian Revolution, was an early stage of protests, with subsequent violent reaction by the Syrian Arab Republic, lasting from March to 28 July 2011, as part of the wider spread Arab Spring in the Arab world. The uprising, initially demanding democratic reforms, evolved from initially minor protests, beginning as early as January 2011 and transformed into massive protests in March.

Present Situation

Arab League peace plans for Syria:



(Syrian peace process flag)

In September 2011 – January 2012, the Arab League tried to mediate in the Syrian civil war, without much success.

The Arab League presented for the first time a plan to resolve the crisis in Syria on 6 September 2011. Its provisions stipulate the holding of multi-candidate presidential elections in 2014, the date of the end of the current president's term. It also calls on the Syrian government to immediately stop acts of violence against civilians and to withdraw military manifestations from the cities. It also demands compensation for those affected, reparation for all forms of harm to citizens, and the release of detainees who did not participate in the violence. The initiative calls for launching a political dialogue between the president and Syrian opposition forces, such as the National Coordination Committee.

On 2 November 2011, the Syrian government agreed to an Arab League peace plan to the effect that its army would no longer be deployed in violent crackdowns against peaceful demonstrators, tanks would be withdrawn from the cities, all political prisoners be released, a dialogue with the opposition begun within two weeks,[4] and Arab League and foreign media allowed to monitor the situation. When on 6 November at least 23 demonstrators were killed, the Arab League considered this a first breach of promise by Syria.

On 12/13 November Syrian opposition groups counted 300 demonstrators and other opponents of the government allegedly killed since 2 November. The Arab League therefore threatened to suspend Syria's membership of the League if it wouldn't execute the peace plan before 16 November.

On 16 November, the Arab League formally suspended Syria's membership of the League.

The date for the committee will be November 16, 2011. However, Syria has not yet been suspended from the league as that discussion is still to be held by the delegates.

Relevant Approaches

For this topic it is very important that delegates understand that as it is historical, they will be the ones writing history. Therefore, they shouldn't allow the events that really happened to interfere in a way that they see themselves restricted by them. The approach of the topic will be to determine if Syria should be suspended from the Arab League following the League's charter procedures. However, delegates must consider that their objective does not rely on simply an affirmative or negative verdict. They must be very specific in establishing the conditions, reasons and agreements surrounding the decision. The debates should not only be restricted to giving the same arguments used in real life, delegates are expected to use their creativity and negotiation skills as well as a variety of strategies to facilitate the reaching of a decision with the best interests for the League at heart.

QARMAS

- Will Syria be suspended from the Arab League?
- Which political and legal arguments justify this decision?
- Will any agreements be reached?
- If Syria stays, will there be any conditions for this to happen?
- What will happen if the conditions are not met?
- If on the other hand Syria is suspended, how will the effects of the decision in the league be treated?

Bibliography Topic A

- Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). United Nations resolution 181. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Resolution-181>
- Kenton, W. (2022, September 15). Arab League. Investopedia. Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/arab-league.asp#:~:text=The%20Arab%20League%2C%20officially%20the,there%20were%20six>
- United Nations ECOSOC . (n.d.). Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation - ECOSOC ... Economic and social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation. Retrieved August 8, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-176417/>
- United Nations. (2020). Annexing parts of West Bank Will 'grievously harm' two-state solution, secretary-general says, Addressing Security Council on Israeli-palestinian conflict | UN press. United Nations. Retrieved July 20, 2022, from <https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14225.doc.htm>

Bibliography Topic B

- "Pact of the League of Arab States, March 22, 1945". Yale Law School. Retrieved 9 July 2016 – via law.yale.edu.
- Fox news (2012) "Rebels in Syria's largest city of Aleppo mostly poor, pious and from rural backgrounds".