

Southern Regional Model United Nations XXII
Addressing the global financial crisis:
Restoring economic stability through international solidarity
November 17-19, 2011. Atlanta, GA
Email: las@srmun.org



Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Twenty-Second Annual Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) Conference, and to the League of Arab States (LAS)! My name is Brian Ruscher and I will serve as your director for this committee, and I look forward to this highly educational experience for you and me. I have served on secretariat, board, and directorate positions for Model UN Programs for over Five Years now. Model UN for me is a highly educational tool for both directors and delegates alike; we both do extensive research, writing, and practice the many skills that these conferences allow us to in session. I will be joined by my Assistant Director Matt Smither and together we hope to provide you with a challenging committee.

The LAS, as you will come to know very well is an organization aged as old as the United Nations, serving as a political forum for the Arab Region, and allowing for a unified voice in the world. The LAS serves more than political objectives of its members, it also serves social, economic, militaristic, and other goals to achieve a more unified Arab World. We hope that you enjoy the topics that the LAS must address this year, and encourage you to take into consideration the theme of this year "Addressing the Global Financial Crisis: Restoring Economic Stability through International Solidarity" when researching these three topics:

- I. Diversifying Investments in Alternative Energy Resources;
- II. Addressing Human Trafficking through the Arab Region: Protecting Human Rights During times of Crisis and Revolution; and
- III. Examining the Arab States Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

I would also like to say that the League is undergoing an extremely troublesome time; many of its Member States are undergoing revolutions, violent protest, or civil wars as we write this document. That being said, I sincerely hope that you take the actions of your Member States into serious account when researching for our topics and let the committee take into account to demands of the Arab People.

Every delegation must submit a position paper which addresses each of the topics listed above and only those listed above. These papers should adhere to SRMUNS guidelines on position paper format and style. The position paper objective is to convince and persuade delegations of your committee that your recommendations on each topic are the prime courses of action to address the issue. Taking the objective of position papers into account, a proper position paper should also provide insight into your countries position, history, and statement of goals for the topic. Finally, each position paper should also take into consideration how the committee should address the issue as a whole.

Because your position paper should do everything listed above, it is an excellent opportunity to give the myself and our assistant director an idea of what you expect to do in committee. We expect well developed position papers which will serve as a foundation for an excellent session for all delegates, and well rounded intensive debate. While your countries position is what you represent, please remember that you may also want to research the other side of the issue, and address it in your research and position paper, as this can prove positive to your knowledge in committee. If you have questions about the details of the position papers, please visit the SRMUN website (www.srmun.org). **Please note that all position papers MUST be submitted to the SRMUN submission system by October 30, 2011, at 11:59 EST. Details can be found at www.srmun.org.**

Matt and I are thrilled to serve as your staff this year. With all the events and turmoil of the region, we expect every delegate to come in with an open mind, and ready to engage your co-delegates. We are both looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, and ask that if you have any issues, questions, comments, or concerns about this year, to please contact us and we will be thrilled to answer your inquiries.

Best of luck in your preparation and welcome to the League of Arab States!

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Committee History of the League of Arab States

In 1945, a historic meeting occurred between heads of state and respective representatives of the Arab World in Cairo, Egypt. Dignitaries and diplomats from the Kingdom of Egypt, Transjordan, the Kingdom of Iraq, the Kingdom of Yemen, the Lebanese Republic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Republic signed into effect the Pact of the League of Arab States (also called the Charter of the Arab League), outlining the duties and responsibilities of each Member State. The League of Arab States was effectively born on 22 March 1945 with the ratification of the Pact.¹

The idea of a regional Arab body came out of the Second World War in which the British supported a pan-Arab movement to oppose the active Axis forces in the region.² It would not be until 1944, however, that Arab States began to move toward a true regional structure with the Alexandria Protocol, a document that would become the basis for the creation and realization of the League of Arab States. The Alexandria Protocol states that the *Council of the League of Arab States* shall be charged to, "strengthen the relations between those states; to coordinate their political plans so as to insure their cooperation, and protect their independence and sovereignty against every aggression by suitable means..."³ This statement remains the League's mission to this day.

Arab leaders signed into effect the Pact of the League of Arab States in 1945, ushering in a new era of pan-Arab cooperation and regional unity. Yet the League was born out of a turbulent time in regional and international relations. European colonial powers were unable to continue an effective rule, as the Second World War had devastated their economies and hampered security activities. At the same time Arab peoples began to push for independence and free rule.⁴ It was not until the conclusion of World War Two that the League came into being, at which time the issues of freeing Arab countries still under colonial rule and non-intervention of foreign powers; preventing the Jewish minority in Palestine from creating a Jewish state; and Arab social, economic and cultural unity dominated the league's agenda. The League was also careful to constantly reassure its members that sovereignty and political free will would never be taken from individual Member States as the League would progress in the future.⁵

The League, since its inception has played a critical role in backing Palestinian statehood, and as such the League regards Palestine as an independent state with full authority in Arab League matters.⁶ The issue of Palestine has been central to the League of Arab States since the Alexandria Protocol and has retained a unique status within the League to the present. Member States have been active in uniting, at times, for the common interest of the Palestinian Diaspora, Israeli settlement projects, Palestinian nation building, and security concerns in the territories and its borders. Notably the League produced the *Arab League Declaration on the Invasion of Palestine* on 15 May 1948, outlining League and Member States efforts to halt the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine and initiated an economic boycott of Israel that has lasted over 40 years.⁷

The Arab League is a voluntary association consisting of Member States in the Arab world and observer States with particular interest in Arab affairs. Today the Arab League has its permanent headquarters in Cairo, Egypt and consists of 22 Member States covering the Middle East and North Africa and 4 Observer States: India, Venezuela, Eritrea and Brazil.⁸ Without rigid geographic borders, the League of Arab States is open to Member States that share a sense of common 'Arabness' in terms of language, cultural unity, economic interdependence, historical and

¹ *The Pact of the League of Arab States*. League of Arab States. 22 March 1945.

² "Profile: Arab League." Overview Section. *BBC Worldwide*. 9 March 2011.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm

³ *The Alexandria Protocol*. Pan-Arab Preliminary Conference. 8 October 1944.

⁴ "Profile: Arab League." Introduction Section. *BBC Worldwide*. 9 March 2011.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm

⁵ "League of Arab States." International Democracy Watch. 2009.
<http://idw.csfederalismo.it/index.php/arab-league>

⁶ *The Pact of the League of Arab States*. League of Arab States. 22 March 1945.

⁷ *Arab League Declaration on the Invasion of Palestine*. League of Arab States. 15 May 1948.

⁸ "Profile: Arab League." Overview Section. *BBC Worldwide*. 9 March 2011.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm

traditional ties, as well as ethnic and religious similarities. Identifying the members of the League of Arab States as a single homogeneous society, however, is to underestimate the rich diversity that exists within the Arab World and among its people. The League encompasses approximately 5.25 million square miles and represents a diverse group of over 300 million people.⁹

The Pact of the League of Arab States declares that the following is the central foci of the League:

“strengthening the close relations and numerous ties which bind the Arab States...concern for the cementing and reinforcing of these bonds on the basis of respect for the independence and sovereignty...[a]nd in order to direct their efforts toward[s] the goal of the welfare of all the Arab States, their common wealth, the guarantee of their future and the realization of their aspirations.”¹⁰

In a more general sense the league has worked for more than sixty years to strengthen ties among Member States and coordinate policies that would better Arab life and the region as a whole.

The principal institutions of the Arab League are the Council of the League, the Joint Defense Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Committees and the Secretariat General. The Council, composed of representatives of Member States, is the highest body of the Arab League. Each Member State has one vote within the Council, irrespective of its size in population or geographical land mass, similar to that of the United Nations General Assembly. The council meets formally twice a year, but convenes special sessions at the request of two Member States. The Council also has the task of directing all external activities of the League, including the cooperation with relevant international bodies.¹¹

The Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty (JDECT) in 1950 established the Joint Defense Council. It is composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense from all Member States, and remains active in matters of League security and military affairs.¹²

The Economic and Social Council is the current body charged to promote the means for the economic and social development of the Arab world and coordinate the activities of specialized agencies of the League of Arab States. Among the most important of the agencies are the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Fund for Assistance to Arab and African Countries, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Council for Civil Aviation, the Arab Postal Union, the Arab Telecommunication Union, the Arab Labour Council, and the Council for Arab Unity.¹³

The Pact of the League of Arab States also outlines the many subsidiary bodies or committees in Article IV of the Charter of the Arab League that may also be created.¹⁴ These small bodies have the ability to affect a particular area of concern amongst Member States and in the Arab World. These subsidiary groups have been able to tackle specific issues of concern.

The Secretariat General is the institution of the League of Arab States responsible for implementing decisions, headed by the Secretary General. The current Secretary General is Nabil Elaraby, elected in May 2011, and was formerly Egypt’s foreign minister. Secretary General Elaraby’s role is key because he represents the Arab world at the international level.¹⁵

⁹ “Profile: Arab League.” Facts Section. *BBC Worldwide*. 9 March 2011.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm

¹⁰ *The Pact of the League of Arab States*. League of Arab States. 22 March 1945.

¹¹ *The Pact of the League of Arab States*. Article 3. League of Arab States. 22 March 1945.

¹² *Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty*. League of Arab States. 17 June 1950.

¹³ “League of Arab States.” International Democracy Watch. 2009.

<http://idw.csfederalismo.it/index.php/arab-league->

¹⁴ *The Pact of the League of Arab States*. Article 4. League of Arab States. 22 March 1945.

¹⁵ Sarah El Deeb. “Arab League selects Egyptian as secretary-general.” Associated Press. 15 May 2011.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/arab-league-selects-egyptian-secretary-g>

Important documents of the Arab League include: the Cultural Treaty of the Arab League (1946), The Arab Charter on Human Rights (1994), and the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism (1998). The Cultural Treaty promotes the cooperation of Arab States in various cultural aspects such as arts, sports, sciences, and academia. The treaty also encouraged the advancement of literacy rates, cultural preservation, joint sporting events, keeping pace with global intellectual movements, and cultural development.¹⁶ The Arab Charter on Human Rights, ratified in 1994, is the foundational building block for human rights within Arab States recognizing “the close link between human rights and world peace” as well as the “principles established by the Islamic Shari‘a and other religions...” by promoting brotherhood and equality amongst human beings.¹⁷ The Arab Charter follows similar pre-existing models in identifying the innate right to life, liberty, and security of person and the ability to freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development under protection of law.¹⁸ The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism dedicated Member States to the eradication and global fight against terrorism in all forms. The document also outlined the League’s political and judicial commitment to combat international terrorism.¹⁹

Today, the League is active in matters that range from security issues to cultural activities, economic development to educational access and beyond, yet the League's effectiveness has been severely tested by divisions among Member States both politically and socially.²⁰ While the League has little direct contact with the citizens of the Member States, the League’s activities are felt by nearly all within its respective Member States. In particular the League has been successful in promoting the Common Market (1965) and moving towards a Greater Arab Free Trade Zone (GAFTA) in which nearly all of the Arab World would be able to trade without barriers. GAFTA is extremely important in evaluating the League’s effectiveness in economic matters, as the agreement relies on political institutions to reshape Arab trade policies. The agreement keys in on the issues of trade liberalization; reduction of agricultural subsidies; removal of tariff, monetary, administrative quotas; and intellectual property rights as central points in the Arab effort to move forward into the global economy.²¹

In addition to the League’s economic activities, the peace initiatives that have come out of the Arab League have had particular significance globally. The Arab Peace Initiative, a Saudi designed resolution to the Question of Palestine and road map for a just peace with Israel, has seen much international spotlight. The comprehensive peace initiative was first put forward in 2002 at the Beirut Summit and then re-affirmed at the Riyadh Summit in 2007. The initiative calls for a delicate normalization of relations between Arab States and Israel, just settlement to the Palestinian refugee situation, and an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territories by Israel.²²

The Arab League remains a body in motion. Since its beginning, the issues of Israel and Palestine, colonization and economic development have haunted its diplomats, yet as the League has began new work in the twenty-first century, opportunities present themselves at every turn. Projects initiated by the Arab League have been successful in raising literacy rates, reducing crime and drug usage, and enacting a regional telecommunications union. The Arab World is experiencing some of the greatest economic and social growth of our time, cultural and political awareness are at the forefront of Arab citizens’ conscience, and the ability of the Arab League to effectively represent the aspirations of all Arab peoples has never been greater.

The current members of the League of Arab States:

ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, COMOROS, DJIBUTI, EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, OMAN, PALESTINE, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, YEMEN

¹⁶ *Cultural Treaty of the Arab League*. League of Arab States. 20 November 1946.

¹⁷ *Arab Charter on Human Rights*. The League of Arab States. 15 September 1994.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ *Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism*. League of Arab States. 22 April 1998.

²⁰ “Profile: Arab League.” Issues Section. *BBC Worldwide*. 9 March 2011.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550797.stm

²¹ Javad Abedini and Nicolas Péridy. “The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA): An Estimation of the Trade Effects.” University of Nantes, France. <http://economics.ca/2007/papers/0300.pdf>

²² *The Arab Peace Initiative*. League of Arab States. Adopted by the Arab summit in Beirut, 2002.

Topic I: Diversifying Investments in Alternative Energy Resources

“To address the current and potential crises, in particular those of concern to us in new areas such as climate change and, renewable energy as well as the water and food crisis, we need to revive our solidarity ... based on a realistic and well-defined and agreed upon programs of action that take into account our common Interest...”
-H.E. Amr Moussa²³

Introduction

The League of Arab States (LAS) has been called upon numerous times to become a viable investor in alternative energies by international and regional actors.²⁴ The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change by the LAS is a response to those calls, encouraging targets which hope to limit climate change. Those targets include actions such as: adaption of national and regional policies to curb climate change, action plans on sub regional and country levels to coordinate efforts on a bilateral and multilateral basis, promotion of cleaner fuels, working with other agencies and actors to provide economic incentives to the LAS for the development of the Arab World, and improving infrastructure to accommodate new technologies.²⁵ The declaration also called upon developed Member States to be more committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions; provide more incentives for the developing world by abiding to the mechanisms and targets already in place; and provide a transfer of technologies, capacity building, and financing, in particular to the Arab Region to identify priorities and implement programs to curb climate change.²⁶

The Arab League has produced numerous treaties on the issue of solidarity, in particular its Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty. In this treaty the LAS recognizes the need to exploit its natural resources and coordinate activities on economic development.²⁷ Article 7 of the LAS’s Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty states *“In An Effort To Raise The Standard Of Living In Them Undertake To Cooperate In The Development Of Their Economies And The Exploitation Of Their Natural Resources..”* and *“...To Organize And Coordinate Their Economic Activities And To Conclude The Necessary Inter-Arab Agreements To Realize Such Aims”* as goals for the organization.²⁸ In December 2010, the LAS met with the Arab World Initiative (AWI) of the World Bank (WB) to discuss human health, infrastructure, and education.²⁹ The AWI brings to the Arab World a number of WB projects, as well as a network of eligible infrastructure partners and medium enterprise development through technical and financial support.³⁰ One specific aspect of the AWI is the concentrated solar plan, which hopes to implement projects across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to provide jobs and economic development to the area.³¹

²³ H.E. Mr. Amr Moussa. *Secretary General of the League of Arab States at the Opening of the Joint Meeting of Africa-Arab Foreign Ministers Preparatory to the Second Africa-Arab Summit.* .8 October 2010. <http://www.afro-arabsummit.com/SpeechList.aspx?ID=14>

²⁴ Adel Abdellatif. *Climate Change Impacts in the Arab Region: Toward Sustainable Energy – Resources, Challenges, and Opportunities.* United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 06-07 October 2010. https://docs.google.com/a/dougryanconsulting.com/viewer?url=http://arabclimateinitiative.org/knowledge/sustainable_energy/Adel%2520Abdellatif-ACRI%2520presentation.pptx

²⁵ *The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change.* The League of Arab States. 2007. <http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDPD/1164/MinisterialdeclarationonCC.pdf>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Between the States of the Arab League.* The League of Arab States. 17 June 1950. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arabjoin.asp

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “World Bank’s Managing Director Discusses the Arab World Initiative during Cairo Visit.” The World Bank. 2010. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/EGYPTXTN/0,,contentMDK:22798395~menuPK:50003484~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:256307,00.html>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ “Concentrated Solar Power Plan.” Arab World Initiative. World Bank. 2011. http://arabworld.worldbank.org/content/awi/en/home/initiatives/solar_power.html

LAS Member States are falling behind in many developmental goals; resource abundant Member States have underperformed in growth and trade, while other Member States with numerous labor resources have also underperformed.³² Long term success must come from the liberalization of certain sectors, investing in public private partnerships, and the building up of nonexistent or new infrastructure.³³ Even though many Member States have had a constant flow of revenue streams from Oil, many members suffer from “Dutch Disease” where natural resource exploitation within a Member State brings up the cost of other goods, and makes other products unattractive economically to buyers and investors. Over 50% of the worlds traded energy comes from the MENA Region, while 35% of the world’s oil comes from this area. On top of suffering from Dutch Disease, the expected revenues of the industry are expected to dip substantially following the pattern of the previous two decades having an extremely adverse affect on the regions income patterns.³⁴

Oil’s Importance in the World

One of the reasons for subpar development in the Arab Region, particularly in areas of alternative energies can be found in the historical development of the MENA Region.³⁵ After WWII, there were numerous obstacles to regional integration, such as a rise in tariffs as a result of nationalism and the abuse of Member States in the area by international powers at the time. Along with tariffs, there were differences in the industrial development of the areas, different economic systems, and a shortage of foreign exchange.³⁶ The MENA has been a very politically contentious area since WWII because of the influence oil has had on the regions energy sector, revenue, and infrastructure.³⁷ This development can be seen through the political situations and oil institutions investments in the area.

The birth of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) started with the goal of preventing current oil prices from falling and preventing major oil companies from creating a monopoly. However by OPEC’s second meeting in 1961, it had been considered a failure because of the fist fight which broke out between negotiators over who would be able to export more oil, in turn receiving the most revenue. Originally comprised of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Venezuela, the OPEC organization finally took on the role it carries out today by controlling oil prices through limiting production.³⁸ In 1961 the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) formed as a regional inter-governmental organization by Kuwait, Libya, and Saudi Arabia.³⁹ OAPEC is concerned with “building an integrated petroleum industry as a cornerstone for future economic integration amongst Arab countries” and since its inception has grown to eleven members. The organization’s monthly report for May listed a severe rise in prices for oil over the past few months.⁴⁰ OAPEC’s intention was not to undermine OPECs efforts or credibility, but instead to strengthen it through Arab Unity, and appeal to members to halt the abuse of using oil for political purposes.⁴¹ OPEC and OAPEC could not contend with oil companies to control the price or production of oil until the mid 70’s due to the turmoil in the region. This changed as the importance of oil grew. Since the realization of oils importance in MENA by its leaders, it has become a tool in the fight against Israel. The first time oil was used as a political tool was against Israel and her allies during the Six-Day War, when the oil producing Arab World placed an embargo on any State which directly or indirectly supported her.⁴² This embargo did not last

³² *MENA Development Report: Trade, Investment, and Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Engaging with the World.* World Bank. Washington, D.C. 2003, p. 67.

³³ Ibid. pp. 159-161.

³⁴ Ibid. p. 27.

³⁵ El Mallakh, Ragaei. et al. *Capital Investment in the Middle East: The Use of Surplus Funds for Regional Development.* Praeger special studies in international economics and development. New York. 1977. pp. 3-5.

³⁶ Ibid. p. 4-6.

³⁷ Nersesian, Roy. *Energy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide to Conventional and Alternative Sources.* M.E. Sharpe, Inc. New York. 2007, p. 133.

³⁸ Ibid. p.145.

³⁹ “OAPEC Establishment.” Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). June 2nd, 2011.

<http://www.oapecorg.org/en/aboutus/establishment.htm>

⁴⁰ “Monthly Report on Petroleum Developments in World Markets and Member Countries.” Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. May 2011.

<http://www.oapecorg.org/publications/Economic%20Monthly%20Reports/English/May%202011.pdf>

⁴¹ Shwadran, Benjamin. *Middle East Oil.* Schenkman Publishing, Inc. Cambridge, Mass. 1977. p. 6-8.

⁴² Ibid. p. 7.

long, as some states refused to let their oil become a tool for political agendas, and soon thereafter, many Member States resumed oil production for those not abiding by the embargo.⁴³

OPEC's first victory was with the Tehran agreement of 1971, where if companies refused to abide by the demands of the producing countries, then supply would be cutoff. This agreement came with stipulations, such as raises in oil prices per barrel, more compensation to producing governments, and allowed for prices to inflate when necessary.⁴⁴ Leading into 1973 another embargo was placed on non-Member States supporting Israel by OAPEC and in response to the crisis OPEC decided to raise posted oil prices 400% due to the ongoing production crisis.⁴⁵ OAPECs credibility at the time was challenged due to some Member States not abiding by the 5 month embargo, and a special meeting had to be called to save the organization.⁴⁶ These embargos caused worldwide oil price hikes, and lead to many people being left without food and other necessities as oil causes the cost of most commodities to rise.

MENA holds much of the gas and oil reserves in the world, 60% of the world's conventional oil reserves and 40% of the world's gas reserves.⁴⁷ Experts speculate that Member States within MENA will need to maximize exports in natural gas and oil to meet demands based on future reserves and current state usage. The expected rise in oil and natural gas energy consumption is based on research of India's and PR China's population growth rates over the next thirty years. However, the current models, which base the need for energy increases do not include security of the region, energy importers switching to alternative energies, and internal socioeconomic changes of the region.⁴⁸ One important factor of the regions reliance on oil for income over the past century has been the revolutions ongoing in the Middle East. Member States, even though many have cross cutting social cleavages, are not limited to peaceful means to solve issues.⁴⁹ The diversity within LAS boundaries and technological advancements being shared with Member States and inhabitants has lead to revolutions and crises.⁵⁰ The major revolutions of the region have occurred in Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia, with Libya having an ongoing civil war during the drafting of this document. Because of the civil war in Libya, the oil exports within that country have plummeted. The certainty of oil and natural gas being exported from the region is unknown as other possible revolutions and regime changes are ongoing.⁵¹

Implications of Oil and Alternative Energies Opportunities

The LAS has seen a number of conflicts arising because of its oil abundance. The situation in Libya has been no different from the historical wars fought over the regions resources. The International Energy Agency (IEA) was established in response to the 1973/4 energy crisis, and assists Member States in responding to disruptions in oil by releasing emergency oil stocks.⁵² The IEA, in response to the ongoing crisis in Libya has recently released 60 million barrels of oil to the Market in hopes of keeping prices on commodities low, and in hopes of giving the world a "soft landing" in this crisis.⁵³ Opposition to Gaddafi has urged the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to protect oil interest in the country as it could be vital to the rebuilding of Libya after the war.⁵⁴ The UN has noted that the sporadic cost of oil impacts the cost of foods and fertilizers substantially, which greatly affects the world's poor.⁵⁵ Other issues have arisen, such as the situation in Sudan, where a successful referendum has resulted in the

⁴³ Ibid. p. 8

⁴⁴ Ibid. p. 19

⁴⁵ Ibid. p. 73

⁴⁶ Ibid. pp. 73-74

⁴⁷ Anthony H Cordesman, et al. *The Changing Dynamics of Energy in the Middle East*. Praeger Security International. Westport, Ct. Vol. (1). 2006, p. 2.

⁴⁸ Ibid. pp. 2-5

⁴⁹ Ibid. pp. 2-5

⁵⁰ Garry Blight and Sheila Pulham. "Arab spring: an interactive timeline of Middle East protests". The Guardian. June 8th. 2011. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline>

⁵¹ Lisa Anderson. "Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya." *Foreign Affairs*. 2, 2011.

⁵² "About Us." International Energy Agency (IEA). 2011. <http://iea.org/about/index.asp>

⁵³ "IEA makes 60 million barrels of oil available to market to offset Libyan disruption." International Energy Organization. 23 June 2011. http://iea.org/press/pressdetail.asp?PRESS_REL_ID=418

⁵⁴ "Rebels urge safeguard over Libya's oil fields." BBC. 8 April 2011. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13021014>

⁵⁵ *Global Issues: food*. United Nations. June 5th, 2011. <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/food/index.shtml>

splitting of the Member State.⁵⁶ While there are substantial profits to be made in both states once they are successfully split, the South has a substantial amount of investment and development to complete before a standard of living which mirrors the North half of the country is possible.⁵⁷ The League has seen numerous conflicts between Member States and internally because of oil, and while the conflicts listed above and others show the region's instability can be linked to such causes; the benefits can be prevalent if correctly taken into consideration.

The current energy system in place is built and has not changed much over the past few decades.⁵⁸ However the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has noted in the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation Report (SRREN) that there are substantial benefits that come from investment in Renewable and Alternative Energy. The current energy system is built in such a way that it can evolve to adapt and incorporate new technologies.⁵⁹ Many actions must happen if investment risk is to be mitigated, such as local government involvement in the process, improving access to finance, as well as increasing transparency in the markets in place.⁶⁰ Finally, stakeholder involvement is essential, as investors that do not receive returns on the project are likely to turn away from the region, and dissatisfied governments are likely to avoid the market and return to conventional forms of energy.⁶¹

Saudi Arabia is an excellent example of oil being used for profit and to enrich its people, as an example, 90% of its exports and nearly 75% of the government's revenue are from oil. The state absorbed the company which dealt with most of the oil business in 1993 and is now a national company. During times of war, Saudi Arabia has seen substantial revenue, following the Six Day War, it became one of the fastest growing economies in the world.⁶² The Member State was pivotal to OPEC as a member in raising gas prices higher than they had ever been in 1999 by controlling supply and production.⁶³ Even though Saudi Arabia has proven successful in industrializing its economy, it does lack the diversification that it desires for its up and rising population, namely those graduating from higher education.⁶⁴

Alternative Energy

Because of oil's unknown security in the region, the LAS can look to alternative and sustainable energy as a means of providing energy to the region, as well as making the region more suitable for foreign investment. Sustainability has a variety of meanings in each society. For the environment, it means involve maintaining the planet's ability to preserve human life.⁶⁵ The Arab League's Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change determines the organizations goals to preserve the planet by using cleaner forms of energy, cleaner production techniques, and holding developed Member States accountable.⁶⁶ Alternative energy is a double edged sword for the Arab League; producing as much as 40% of the oil, and 30% of the gas in the world, while in turn that energy system can account for 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions.⁶⁷ The Arab Climate Resilience Initiative also notes that the Arab World will be called upon to meet the electricity demands of its citizens, through improving its energy infrastructure.⁶⁸

⁵⁶ "Southern Sudan's Milestone Referendum." Council on Foreign Relations. 7 January 2011. <http://www.cfr.org/democracy-and-human-rights/southern-sudans-milestone-referendum/p23754>

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "SRREN: Policy, Financing, and Implementation." Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. New York. 2011, p. 78. <http://srren.ipcc-wg3.de/report>

⁵⁹ Ibid. p. 78

⁶⁰ Ibid. pp. 78 - 80

⁶¹ Ibid. pp. 78 - 81

⁶² "Background Note: Saudi Arabia". US Department of State. 6 May 2011. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3584.htm>

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Anthony H. Cordesman, et al. *The Changing Dynamics of Energy in the Middle East*. Praeger Security International. Westport, Ct. Vol. (1). 2006, p. 304.

⁶⁶ *The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change*. The League of Arab States. 2007. <http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDPD/1164/MinisterialdeclarationonCC.pdf>

⁶⁷ "Arab Climate Resilience Initiative: Toward a Unified Response." United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 3-5 November 2010, p. 13. <http://www.arabclimateinitiative.org/Countries/morocco/Arab%20Climate%20Resilience%20Initiative%20Eng.pdf>

⁶⁸ Ibid.

Almost each form of alternative energy is sustainable, meaning that it has a nearly unlimited source if used correctly; however each form also has its weaknesses.⁶⁹ For example, wind, solar, and other forms of energy depend on the weather. If there is the right amount of wind, or solar energy in a particular area, then energy can be harnessed; however if there is too much or too little from the source, it cannot produce energy because the technology is built to receive a specific input from the source.⁷⁰ Biomass gives a brighter outlook, it is sustainable if a crop is grown, burned for its energy and replaced by another crop, the cO2 emissions are eliminated by the newly planted crop, and a cyclical process takes place.⁷¹ Geothermal also is showing a positive outlook, but the region is not a primal target for this particular investment scenario.⁷²

While wind and solar have their disadvantages, the organization should note the LAS geographical significance for investment in these fields will be significant for the development of Africa, the European Union, India, and PR China.⁷³ Energy has been harnessed from wind as early as 2,500 years ago on farms and is now being harnessed from the sea; it is currently being used in many regions to power localities, especially in Member States with coastal boundaries.⁷⁴ Wind energy is most effective when produced from a farm, as opposed to single turbine sites.⁷⁵ There are many Member States that use mountain ranges and agricultural land for farming sites because of the space necessary for the turbines.⁷⁶ Incentives such as tax breaks, credits, and investments are excellent reasons for consideration of wind power in Member States boundaries.⁷⁷ While small farms are not as productive, they could serve to Member States specific needs with backup generators ran from diesel fuel, but the need for coal, gas, or oil for energy would be dramatically reduced.⁷⁸

Solar

Solar energy faces the same complications as wind, in that the two types of production are reliant on the weather. Photovoltaic energy is produced by light and is having substantial improvements in science; it is used to power houses, businesses, and other locations.⁷⁹ Thermal energy is used to heat water for household appliances, cleaning, and can also generate energy.⁸⁰ Substantial investment has already happened in the Middle East from the Concentrated Solar Plan (CSP) project, implemented in part by the World Bank, a number of private businesses, and five Member States.⁸¹ The CSP is a multistate project to scale up economies to become more environmentally friendly and create jobs in the Member States with an emphasis on sustainability. The outcome of the CSP was that more incentives needed to be given to both private businesses and governments; these incentives ranged from long term purchasing options, tariff arrangements, and concessional loans.⁸² A major objective of the CSP is to allow the MENA region to become a major consumer and supplier of solar energy.⁸³ A successful case of solar energy investment in Member States has been post revolution Egypt, where continued investment from German energy companies has helped to curb power outages and create jobs in the revolutionized country.⁸⁴ Even though the

⁶⁹ Anthony H. Cordesman, et al. *The Changing Dynamics of Energy in the Middle East*. Praeger Security International. Westport, Ct. Vol. (1). 2006, p. 304.

⁷⁰ Roy Nersesian. *Energy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide to Conventional and Alternative Sources*. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. New York. 2007, p. 304.

⁷¹ Ibid. p. 305

⁷² Ibid. pp. 306-7

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Nersesian, Roy. *Energy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide to Conventional and Alternative Sources*. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. New York. 2007, p. 308

⁷⁵ Ibid. p. 308

⁷⁶ Ibid. p. 314

⁷⁷ Ibid. pp. 314-15

⁷⁸ Ibid. p. 315

⁷⁹ Ibid. p. 318

⁸⁰ Ibid. p. 318

⁸¹ *Middle East and North Africa Region Assessment of the Local Manufacturing Potential for Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Projects*. WB and Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. January 2011.

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ "Egypt's Solar Supply and Demand." Al Jazeera English. 23 June 2011.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/06/201162213141456493.html>

revolution stalled the projects launch, the project now is creating energy from a sustainable source, and contributing to Egypt's plan of having 20% of its energy sector come from renewable energy by 2020.⁸⁵

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Energy has been in the spotlight recently, especially after the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster in Japan. The League has affiliated itself with the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) to collaborate on the peaceful usage of nuclear technology, give assistance in research, manpower, and transfer of scientific information, sets up regulations and safeguards for Member States, and coordinates the activities of the organization with other international actors.⁸⁶ The AAEA is concerned with the acquisition of nuclear energy for its thirteen Members, and has created the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR) to enhance and harmonize regulatory frameworks among Arab countries.⁸⁷ The AAEA also drafted the Arab Strategy for Peaceful Applications of Atomic Energy in 2008, which was adopted by the LAS as a framework for the organization.⁸⁸

Nuclear energy products are associated with the economies of Members States in three ways, oil production reduction, renewable energy competitiveness, and energy policy.⁸⁹ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is pursuing a peaceful energy policy and is working diligently under its international obligations to do it safely.⁹⁰ The program has been hailed a success by many developed States such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom, as well as other private organizations such as the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).⁹¹ However, the UAE is not the only Member State with its eyes on nuclear energy, Jordan is expected to complete two reactors by 2020, and Syria was recently referred to the UN Security Council because of their nuclear ambitions over the Deir Alzour site.⁹² Speculation on the future of Nuclear energy leaves the League Members and private investors guessing what the prospects are for the development of nuclear energy in the area because of Fukushima, however nuclear energy always correlates with non proliferation and the safe storage of materials.

The question of Nuclear Safety has been called into play numerous times with LAS Member States especially with states in crisis. Many foreign investors have already made deals with Member States with active revolutionary activity, or with a regime that has changed.⁹⁴ Because of the region's political upheaval, actors are becoming more fearful of nuclear facilities or storage sites of being sabotaged, robbed, or occupied and their material sold to criminal or terrorist cells.⁹⁵ The fear of using nuclear waste for the creation of nuclear weapons came about in the 1950s and resulted in US President Eisenhower's *Atoms for Peace* address to the UN General Assembly, which subsequently formed the IAEA. The IAEA's mission is laid out in its statute, which is to uphold the interest of its Member States by the safety and security, science and technology, and safeguards and verification of nuclear materials.⁹⁶ The IAEA's work with the AAEA was laid out in the 1990 document "*the agreement with the AAEA*"

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ "Goals and Roles" Arab Atomic Energy Agency. <http://www.aaea.org.tn/en/goals.htm>

⁸⁷ Daw Mosbah. "Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators." Agriculture and Applied Economics Association. Tunisia. 20-22 June 2010. <http://www.aaea.org.tn/ar/ANNuR%20AAEA.pdf>

⁸⁸ Mahmoud Nasreddine. "The Nuclear Projects in the Arab countries and the nuclear fuel supplies". Agriculture and Applied Economics Association. 20-22 June 2011. <http://www.aaea.org.tn/ar/1-The%20Nuclear%20Projects%20in%20the%20Arab%20countries%20and%20the%20nuclear%20fuel%20supplies.%20Mahmoud%20Nasreddine.pdf>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ "Peaceful Nuclear Energy." Embassy of the UAE in Washington DC. 15 June 2010.

<http://www.uae-embassy.org/uae/energy/nuclear-energy>

⁹¹ "Support for the US-UAE 123 Agreement." Embassy of the UAE in Washington DC. 15 June 2010.

<http://www.uae-embassy.org/uae/energy/nuclear-energy/support-for-123-agreement#123>

⁹² "UN nuclear watchdog refers Syria to Security Council." BBC. 9 June 2011.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-13717874>

⁹³ Jonathan Pearl. "Nuclear Concerns in Unstable Mideast." 23 May 2011.

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/nuclear-concerns-unstable-mideast/p25038>

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ "The Atoms for Peace Agency". The International Atomic Energy Agency. <http://www.iaea.org/About/about-iaea.html>

by the two organizations, while the IAEA and the LAS have a similar agreement created in 1972.⁹⁷⁹⁸ The work of the AAEA and IAEA is essentially to cooperate in nuclear fields, and act as a unified body if issues arise. The AAEA has also been urged to harmonize nuclear legislation among its Member States by the Gulf Cooperation Council.⁹⁹ The LAS has also asked The IAEA to evaluate the “threat and capabilities” of Israel in hopes of advancing regional stability.¹⁰⁰ Iraq certainly has been a case of failure in regards to nuclear safety, in the 1980s and into the early 90s they attempted to build a nuclear bomb but were deterred due to the bombing of their nuclear production site.¹⁰¹ In the early 2000s, the United States accused Iraq of pursuing a nuclear weapon, along with other biological and chemical weapons, and this accusation led to an invasion and the current mission of the USA in Iraq.¹⁰²

Wind

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have noted exponential usage and exports in natural gas and oil, however wind also serves as a promising source of revenue for a number of Member States.¹⁰³ Historically, wind has been harnessed in the region to power mills that ground grain for food, now there are Member States looking to be a viable means of income, as well as provide electricity for its populous, yet Member States are falling behind the international averages.¹⁰⁴ Even though there have been some significant technical and infrastructural changes, in 2010 over 60% of investment in wind technology was focused in China and the USA, leaving the Arab world far behind the global average.¹⁰⁵ There have been some improvements in the region; by 2020 the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) estimates that 40% of the planet’s future wind energy could come from the MENA region if the proper investment is put into place.¹⁰⁶ Morocco has an excellent advantage for wind energy because of its extensive coastline and mountain region and is looking to wind as an alternative for importing oil to meet its electricity needs.¹⁰⁷ Tunisia has had growing success in the recent years in its wind energy sector, and from 2009 to 2010 it doubled its energy produced by wind.¹⁰⁸

Conclusion

Oil in the Middle East has been an extremely contentious topic not just for the LAS, but for the world. From before the creation of OPEC, AOPEC, and many other organizations, there has been political turmoil that happened because of, if not indirectly linked to oil. Oil has provided severe tension to the area; it also provides, however, a substantial amount of income and creates many jobs for the region. Numerous civil wars have been fought by groups and between Members States and external groups. The area has also seen substantial success in the CSP and use of wind technology, showing a possible alternative to oil. Furthermore, nuclear energy is currently being invested in and researched internally with assistance of companies and governments; the question of nuclear security, however, has come into light many times with members of the international community. Other examples

⁹⁷ INF/CIRC/25/Add.6. *The Agreement with the AAEA*. The International Atomic Energy Agency. December 1990. <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc25a6.pdf>

⁹⁸ INF/CIRC/25/add.3. *The Agreement with the LAS*. The International Atomic Energy Agency. 14 January 1972. <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc25a3.pdf>

⁹⁹ Ghazanfar Ali Khan. “GCC Panel Discusses Extent of Cooperation with IAEA.” Arab News. 18 August 2010. http://arabnews.com/saudiArabia/article106141_ece

¹⁰⁰ GC(47)/6. *Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threat*. The IAEA. 21 July 2003. http://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC47/GC47Documents/English/gc47-6_en.pdf

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² “Iraq: Weapons of Mass Destruction.” The Council on Foreign Relations. 9 April 2003. <http://www.cfr.org/iraq/iraq-weapons-mass-destruction/p7703>

¹⁰³ “Global Wind Report: Annual Market Update 2010.” Global Wind Energy Council. April 2011. http://www.gwec.net/fileadmin/images/Publications/GWEC_annual_market_update_2010_-_2nd_edition_April_2011.pdf⁹

¹⁰⁴ “SRREN: Wind Energy.” International Panel on Climate Change. New York. 2011. p. 29. <http://srren.ipcc-wg3.de/report>

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ “Global Wind Report: Annual Market Update 2010.” Global Wind Energy Council. 2010. p. 29. http://www.gwec.net/fileadmin/documents/Publications/Global_Wind_2007_report/GWEC%20Global%20Wind%20Report%202010%20low%20res.pdf

¹⁰⁸ Ibid. p. 11

of alternative energy success are seen in the areas of Biomass, Tidal, and others. The LAS is also seeing growing turmoil from violence created from the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring's affect on oil has seen mixed responses by the international community as some have demanded more oil be released and others have said the market will work out its issues. With the Arab Spring Revolutions still ongoing, the topic's development over the next couple months will need to be closely monitored.

Committee Directive

This topic is an extremely controversial one. The poor of the world are affected by the cost of goods, while companies and Member States can benefit substantially from the topic's lack of a progressive outcome. Delegates should be knowledgeable of your Member State's capabilities and desires. You should also be aware of the LAS decisions on the topic. Since the international community has a vested interest in the area's resources, its expectations of the League should be taken into consideration. You should know the status of the organizations ongoing environmental negotiations in the international arena, as well as the status of OPEC, AOPEC, and the IEA.

In addition to the oil debate, what types of alternative energy are viable in your Member State, or in those that you have worked with previously? More importantly, do those ideas and projects have the fluidity to move to another Member State to create economic development and infrastructure? Does your Member State believe it is the right time to ask for investment in alternative energy? What will happen with Nuclear Energy specifically? Since the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, many States have decided to eliminate their programs as soon as possible. Should the LAS take the same route, possibly even encouraging its neighbors to do the same? Do you believe that oil is bringing the LAS into political and economic turmoil, or has it provided few Member States benefits and others with economic depression? Could or should there be any harmony between alternative and oil exports, or should Member States be left to fend for themselves in the matter?

Topic II: Addressing Human Trafficking through the Arab Region: Protecting Human Rights During Times of Crisis and Revolution

“We can consider human trafficking as a serious and complex crime, which requires active and close cooperation between the international and regional partners who are involved in combating this phenomenon.”
- Dr. Mikhail Wehbe, Head of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Vienna¹⁰⁹

Introduction

Human trafficking is one of the gravest violations of human rights reported in the world and is also one of the most difficult to address effectively on the international or regional levels. Human trafficking violates the innate and universal rights of the person unlike any other crime. Victims and perpetrators of human trafficking are not based in a single region or area of the globe, yet come from all around the world. While there may be hot spots of human trafficking activity, no corner of the globe is totally free from the crime. The real issue is that the basic human rights of the victims, whatever their final destination, be it rape and detainment, forced labor or domestic servitude, are not respected by perpetrators and cannot be protected by civil and international bodies.¹¹⁰ Action must be taken on the international and regional levels to make the League of Arab States more resilient against human trafficking, ensuring the security of citizens of all Member States, and bringing perpetrators of human trafficking to justice.

Trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and for labor exploitation in the domestic service industry, sexual exploitation and agricultural and construction projects are most prevalent in the Middle East and North Africa.¹¹¹ These specific crimes constitute the major body of crimes committed under the umbrella term of human trafficking. Yet, the League of Arab States has assumed an international leadership role in combating this phenomenon.¹¹² The Arab Charter of Human Rights, ratified in 1994, guarantees a set of rights to which every citizen of the Arab World possesses.¹¹³ Of particular importance are Articles 13 and 31, which specifically site criminal acts dealing in nature with involuntary measures and human rights abuses pertaining to trafficking.¹¹⁴ Additionally, the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice, a sub-body of the League, set forth the Arab Framework Act on Combating Trafficking which builds upon the Arab Charter of Human Rights with specific focus on trafficking, one of the few regional documents outside of the United Nations to tackle such an issue directly.¹¹⁵ The League and its Member States are active in conferences, conventions, and programs worldwide to share and facilitate action against the crime of human trafficking. By addressing a total picture of human rights and human trafficking, the Arab World has set itself on a course to interconnect religion, tradition, rights, foundational documents, and both victims and perpetrators into the fight against these sort of rights abuses.

Instances of rape and other violations of personal integrity and law seem too often to be attached to conflict and chaos. In times of crises and revolution, issues like these are often cast aside as the populous and leaders reflect more of a political or militaristic mindset, but to the victims of human rights abuses, especially human trafficking, conflict allows the violators to go free and their acts against humanity unpunished. In extreme situations like some of the Arab revolutions that have swept through North Africa and the Middle East, human trafficking is used as an instrument of war.¹¹⁶ Trafficking in persons is a human rights violation prohibited by international law, yet affects nearly all Member States and regions of the world.¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁹ Dr. Mikhail Wehbe. “Statement of the League of Arab States” Presented at the Final Conference of the UN.GIFT Expert Group Initiative on Stakeholder and Law Enforcement Cooperation, Panel 2: Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through formalized cooperation – existing regional practices. Vienna, Austria. 30 March 2009.

¹¹⁰ Trafficking in Human Beings. Interpol. <http://www.interpol.int/Public/THB/Default.asp>

¹¹¹ Schuyler Dudley. “Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region” in *Topical Research Digest: Human Rights and Human Trafficking*. pg 74

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ *Arab Charter on Human Rights*. The League of Arab States. 15 September 1994.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ “Summary of Regional and Sub-Regional Structures and Initiatives to Counter Trafficking in Persons.” December 2010.

¹¹⁶ “Libya rape claim woman Eman al-Obeibi flees to Tunisia.” *BBC Worldwide*. 9 May 2011

¹¹⁷ Trafficking in Human Beings. Interpol. <http://www.interpol.int/Public/THB/Default.asp>

A History of Human Trafficking and Traditional Islamic Practices

The trafficking of persons has been denoted as the modern form of slavery deriving from millennia of human trade around the world. The exact date as to when such an institution began remains highly contested among scholars; the selling and trading of peoples, however, has been evident since the beginning of recorded history. Between 650 and 1900 CE, Arab slave traders enslaved and transported between 11 and 18 million African slaves across the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and the Sahara desert; whereas 9 to 14 million Africans were shipped to the shores of the New World in the Atlantic Slave Trade.¹¹⁸ Continuing throughout the 18th century, Arab caravans annually transferred as many as five thousand slaves just from Sudan to Tripoli alone. Violent slave raids often completely eradicated entire villages with captors often collecting thousands of slaves in a single raid. The trek to an unknown destination was always difficult and often deadly with thousands of captives perishing before reaching their final point of sale.¹¹⁹

Slave ownership spread across all Islamic societies, sedentary and nomadic, throughout North Africa and the Middle East. In many Islamic cultures in what we would consider the Arab World today, such as the Ottoman Empire, the Crimean Khanate, and the Sokoto caliphate, slavery became such an integral part of society that eventually *slavery societies* were created in which slaves accounted for more than half of the entire population of the community.¹²⁰ Throughout the Arab Slave Trade, women were typically considered a higher value than men, who were often troublesome and likely to attempt to escape. Women were desirable as housemaids, and even more prevalent, as concubines.¹²¹ One of the most notable differentiations among the Western and Arab slave movements was that more than two-thirds of the captives transferred throughout the Arab Slave Trade were women, whereas quite the opposite occurred in the Atlantic Trade.¹²²

Similar to Hebrew and Christian religious texts, the Quran implies the permissibility of owning slaves – it is not surprising to consider this fact as the institution was established prior to development of any of these sacred texts. The Quran dubiously condemns slavery, yet does not necessarily attempt to abolish the practice; however, the text does recommend the freeing of slaves as well as the integration of slaves into Muslim society. These types of traditional beliefs were profoundly accepted and practiced among early Muslim societies.¹²³ Because of the ambiguous depiction surrounding slavery and enslavement in the Quran, Traditional Islamic law (*fiqh*) more clearly defines the regulatory process of owning and trading slaves.¹²⁴ *Fiqh* and the Quran detail much about the acceptability of slavery in a Muslim society. Mostly the references in both the Quran and *fiqh* deal with the differential status of women and men, concubinage, sexual exploitation, paternity and laws regarding offspring of slaves and masters.¹²⁵ In doing such, the enslavement of prisoners of war, as well as the trading of slaves is strictly regulated. Owing to the fact that women were the primary target of the Arab Slave Trade, the prevalence of domestic servitude and concubinage is much higher than that of agrarian workers as was the case in the slave societies in Western society. The tradition of domestic female servitude in the Arab World has trickled from generation to generation within customary Arab beliefs and practices, even if the bounds of marriage are not implied, thus further fueling the need for forced female concubinage and servitude.¹²⁶

The Middle East and North Africa have traditionally been hot spots for human trafficking, relating to the transportation of victims as well as the Middle East being the crossroads of the world and thus a prime location for the transportation of human cargo. Yet, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Middle East and North Africa have one of the lowest numbers of forced laborers within the region. ILO estimates put the number at around 260,000 persons, accounting for only 2.1% of the estimated 12.3 million persons held in

¹¹⁸ John J Miller. “The Unknown Slaver: In the Muslim World that is- and it’s not over.” Arab Muslim Slavery. 12 October 2008.

¹¹⁹ The Definitive History of the Arab Slave Trade in Africa, Arab Slave Trade.

<http://www.arabslavetrade.com/>

¹²⁰ “Slavery: Encyclopedia Britannica’s Guide to Black History.” Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. 2011.

<http://www.britannica.com/blackhistory/article-24157>

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Interpretation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur’an in the English Language. Trans. Muhammad Muhsin Khan, Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali. Riyadh: Darussalam, 2001.

¹²⁵ Kecia Ali. “Islam and Slavery.” *Feminist Sexual Ethics*. 2 February 2004.

¹²⁶ Ibid..

bondage.¹²⁷ Estimates are much more difficult to garner about the prevalence of the Arab World as a point of transit for human trafficking. These figures are just estimates, and a true number of people being held in bondage is near impossible to depict at a true and accurate level.

Prevalence of Modern Human Trafficking

The ILO currently estimates that 12.3 million people across the globe are victimized and enslaved by forced labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude. Targeted victims are typically those most vulnerable such as women and young girls desired for sexual exploitation, migrants trapped in violent debt agreements, and defenseless children forced to work in inhumane conditions and labor practices.¹²⁸ Throughout the past decade, multiple Member States within the international community have drafted or adopted legislation to address the trafficking of persons in response to the overwhelming prevalence of this crisis. However, without improved international and interregional cooperation and coordination amongst leaders, these domestic trafficking legalities are less than effective.¹²⁹ In reality, every Member State is affected by this phenomenon as the place of origin, transit, or destination, and every day human beings are stripped of their Universal Human Rights as established by the United Nations on December 10, 1948.¹³⁰

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the most seminal documents in international law yet written. Coming out of the era of World Wars, global leaders led by Eleanor Roosevelt worked to check the balance of power between states and individuals by guaranteeing certain universal rights that all humans attain simply by the fact that they are human.¹³¹ Much of the international law regarding human rights, as well as other areas, is based upon this integral document.

For the purposes of this discussion, the definition of “trafficking in persons” is derived from the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), specifically the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons:

“‘Trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of other or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”¹³²

Special Vulnerability of Women, Children and Displaced Persons

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) identifies women and children within North Africa and the Middle East as more vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced domestic servitude than other groups. The report estimates between 65 to 75% of the victims of trafficking in persons to be women, 15 to 25 % children under the age of 18, and 15% male captives.¹³³ Within the realm of human trafficking, women and children undergo some of the most grotesque and abusive treatment imaginable ranging from rape to the removal of organs or other body parts as a form of punishment.¹³⁴ Today, over 250 million children are forced into unsatisfactory working conditions and every year over 1.2 million children fall

¹²⁷ ILO - International Labour Organization: "A global alliance against forced labour - Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work." International Labor Organization. Geneva. 2005.

¹²⁸ "Forced labour." International Labour Organization. 2011.
<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm>

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. 10 December 1948.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto*. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. New York, New York: 2004.

¹³³ "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons." United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. February 2009.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

into the hands of traffickers.¹³⁵ These children are denied formal education and any remnants of a childhood at the hands of their masters or captors. Without basic nutritional needs being met, in many cases, children are forced into harmful environments and lifestyles involving begging, prostitution, drug trafficking, forced labor, camel herding, as well as armed conflict and warfare.¹³⁶

Women are especially vulnerable to subjugation and abuse within the Arab region due to the traditional hierarchal beliefs within the Islamic cultural tradition. That is not to say that Islam allows for, or promotes such activity but the practice of offering a woman, either via marriage or concubinage, for unwilling sexual exploitation is frequent and consistent. For example, wealthy men from the Gulf States venture to Egypt in order to purchase “temporary” or “summer marriages” with Egyptian women, many of which are under the age of 18. These exploitative arrangements are often facilitated by the female’s parents, guardians, or husbands thus instigating and further promoting commercial sexual exploitation.¹³⁷ It is also believed that Ethiopian women are among the most severely mistreated as they are transited to many Arab States including Sudan, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Somalia, or Yemen. These women endure physical, emotional, and sexual distress, sleep deprivation, confinement, incarceration, and face potential murder as they migrate to their unknown destination. It has been recorded that many Ethiopian woman trapped within the grasp of human traffickers have been thrown beyond their emotional and physical limitations to the point of mental illness and even suicide.¹³⁸

Persons undergoing extreme circumstances, such as political refugees or displaced persons, are also highly subjective to the torments of trafficking in persons considering their legal and financial vulnerability. Men, women, and children are pressured into unlawful binding agreements with criminals that guarantee freedom and asylum. Instead, these victims are sexually solicited or sold into forced labor.¹³⁹

Sudan has experienced some of the most recent, prevalent case of international human trafficking where many refugees fleeing the civil unrest and ensuing independence movement.¹⁴⁰ Young Sudanese women, many under the age of 18, who attempt to escape the dangers of their homeland are forced into prostitution in nightclubs in cities in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Libya.¹⁴¹ In late November of 2010, media reports published an incident in which Egyptian traffickers shot and beat to death six Eritrean nationals seeking asylum, six out of hundreds of migrants held captive at a discreet location near the border of Israel. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) confirmed that 105 Eritrean men, women, and children were being held for ransom by traffickers for long periods of time while they await payments from relatives abroad. Multiple victims have disclosed that traffickers repeatedly raped the women and young girls, burned them with hot iron rods, and whipped them with wire cords, after which they were beaten and forced to perform sexual acts. Payments required to secure the release of these victims ranged from 500 USD to 10,000 USD.¹⁴² In some cases in which the payments were not received, migrants and other displaced persons were violently abused, tortured, or murdered. In dozens of cases, captives’ kidneys were removed and sold in the black market if their relatives could not collect the proper funds. In other situations, traffickers would force their victims to call their relatives and would either shoot them or physically abuse them while their family members listened.¹⁴³ Following such recurring incidents, the Egyptian government adopted new anti-trafficking laws in May 2010 to further implement regulations and provide sufficient enforcement and prosecution policies of such criminals.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁵ Esmaeil Ibrahim. “First Arab Regional Workshop on Combating Child Trafficking.” United Nations Children’s Fund. 2 March 2006. http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_31357.html

¹³⁶ “Child Labor.” International Labour Organization. 2011. http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang--en/WCMS_IPEC_CON_TXT_318_EN/index.htm

¹³⁷ *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. US Department of State. 2010. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142759.htm>

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ “Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.” United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. February 2009.

¹⁴⁰ “Sudan: Durable solutions elusive as southern IDPs return and Darfur remains tense.” Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sudan>

¹⁴¹ “Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.” United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. February 2009.

¹⁴² “Egypt: End Traffickers Abuse of Migrants.” Human Rights Watch. 9 December 2010. <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/12/09/egypt-end-traffickers-abuse-migrants>

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

International Human Trafficking and the Arab World

Under the heavy influence and persuasion of Western democracies, many other Member States throughout the international community have followed suit in adopting specific human trafficking and forced labor laws. The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking reports that 61 Member States have passed domestic laws explicitly addressing trafficking in persons. 90% of these laws have just been ratified in the last five years. These urgent legislative developments paint a clear picture of swift spread of human trafficking across the globe. One avenue that the U.S. Department of State has explored to combat trafficking through the creation of an annual Trafficking in Persons Report that includes a three-tier classification system. This system is often referred to and utilized by international bodies and organizations such as the United Nations and the League of Arab States.¹⁴⁵

Though the classification system does not stem from Arab States or a regional body, a close examination of the system may be beneficial in forming positive legal and classification methods within the Arab World. The classification consists of three tiers into which a Member State can fall based upon legislative and judicial action regarding human trafficking. A Tier One ranking infers that a Member State is fully compliant with the standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). A Tier Two ranking means that a Member State that has not fully adhered to the minimum requirements of the TVPA; however, has made significant progress towards meeting the standards. The Tier Two Watchlist ranking indicates that the country has not met the minimum requirements and exemplifies some effort towards combating trafficking but provides unsatisfactory evidence for convicting and eliminating trafficking. Finally, the Tier Three is the lowest ranking on the scale based on the TVPA standards. This ranking includes Member States that are not compliant to the minimum standards of the TVPA and display no significant efforts to do so.¹⁴⁶

According to the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, eight Member States in North African and the Middle Eastern region were given a Tier Two ranking: Egypt, Ethiopia, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Turkey, and the UAE. Similarly eight countries were noted with a Tier Two Watchlist ranking: Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. Finally, five Member States were listed as a Tier Three ranking: Iran, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan. Many Member States received their designated ranking due to insufficient evidence showing proactive efforts towards investigating, prosecuting, and/or convicting trafficking perpetrators. In fact, the Member States of Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Yemen reported no instances of investigation or conviction for the entire reporting year of 2010. Member States such as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman, however, have conducted numerous investigations leading to the arrest and incarceration of dozens of criminals, some cases of which disrupted large trafficking rings and smuggling cartels.¹⁴⁷

Types of Violations Most Common in the Arab World

In the past two decades, the phrases *human trafficking* and *trafficking in persons* have come to include the vast array of dehumanizing activities and services forced upon victims of this modern-day form of slavery.¹⁴⁸ This can also include involuntary servitude, slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor, which are all elements of forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, prostitution, and the recruitment and use of child soldiers.¹⁴⁹ The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons published by the UNODC estimates that sexual exploitation is the most commonly identified form of human trafficking and accounts for over 79% of trafficking victims, 98% of which are women and children.¹⁵⁰ The second most recorded form of trafficking is forced labor, which accounts for 18% of those enslaved. Similarly, both sexual exploitation and forced labor are the two most prevalent forms of trafficking in persons within the Arab community.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁵ *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. US Department of State. 2010. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142759.htm>

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ "Human Trafficking: The Facts." United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/labour/Forced_labour/HUMAN_TRAFFICKING_-_THE_FACTS_-_final.pdf

¹⁵¹ "Human Trafficking FAQs." United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. 2011. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>

However, attaining true demographics concerning types of human trafficking are intrinsically difficult to produce and even more difficult to independently verify. Many Member States either lack the popular will or effective resources to stay vigilant in fighting human trafficking. Additionally, sexual exploitive crimes as opposed to the other under-reported forms of trafficking are often gravely under reported due to societal, religious and cultural practices. International crimes such as forced labor, domestic servitude, forced marriage or concubinage, organ removal, and the exploitation of children via begging, sexual exploitation or warfare are much more difficult to both monitor and report. This makes it nearly impossible to have a true grasp on the crimes being committed every day.¹⁵² Furthermore, due to both corruption and instability within government structures throughout the Middle East as well as other parts of the globe, international organizations and humanitarian agencies struggle to provide adequate aid and support to the victims of trafficking, further hindering progress towards rehabilitation and the persecution of criminals.¹⁵³

The Arab Spring – Crisis and Revolution

A wave of revolution and protest currently grips the Middle East and the Arab World at large. The movement, often leaderless, irreligious and pro-democratic in nature, has been and will continue to be integral in any discussion pertaining to the Arab World. In particular there may be great links between the chaos that the movement has caused and security measures to prevent human trafficking. The Arab Spring and subsequent protest movements are having direct impact on Human Rights situation and indirectly expose vast scenes of abuses and governmental crackdowns that most would consider illegal under international law.¹⁵⁴

The Revolutionary fervor of a small Arab State, Tunisia, has exploded onto the World stage. As the citizens of this Arab State staged protests and demanded a change in their government, the world at large and particularly the Arab World took notice.¹⁵⁵ What started as a street vendor setting himself alight in protest soon overtook much of the Arab World. Through extreme acts of bravery, often in the face of brutal repression, Arab citizens stood against archaic regimes and corrupt leaders. Social media, especially in the forms of Twitter and Facebook, were essential to the transfer of information and revolutionary fervor as these modes of communication are nearly impenetrable to censorship without dismantling the entire state's communication network. Yet, regimes across the Arab World have resorted to measures ranging from turning off cell phone service to suppressing protests with mass force.¹⁵⁶ The story of the Arab Spring is just beginning, yet the consequences of such a movement are central to both the theme of human right and trafficking as well as elemental to the understanding of the current Arab League structure.

The true difficulty in speaking of the Arab Spring and ensuing revolutionary fervor is that the movement is far from over. At the time of drafting this guide Libya remains in a state of conflict; Yemen is rapidly deteriorating into what may become another civil war; Syria's government is moving troops and security forces into cities and towns that speak out against the President and his regime; Egypt and Tunisia are drafting new documents and governments in an attempt to keep their revolutionary spirit alive; King Muhammad IV of Morocco has promised massive changes to his government in the form of a referendum in July of 2011; and the list continues.¹⁵⁷ Yet, difficulty in speaking on a subject does not remove the importance that the revolutionary movement has caused nor does it diminish the serious and grave crimes that are committed due to the ensuing chaos and disorder of Member States in transition.

What is more difficult to see are the consequences of such a movement on the issue of human trafficking and the impact that it will have on the region's human rights stance. The Arab Spring has caused massive upheaval in the Arab World, with virtually every Arab State being touched either directly or indirectly by the revolutionary movement within the region. Populations have become less stable and less secure within states that have

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Khalidi, Rashid. The Arab Spring. The Nation. <http://www.thenation.com/article/158991/arab-spring>

¹⁵⁵ "Middle East protests: Country by country." BBC World News. 9 May 2011.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12482297>

¹⁵⁶ David Ignatius. "What Happens When the Arab Spring Turns to Summer?" Foreign Policy. 22 April 2011.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/22/what_happens_when_the_arab_spring_turns_to_summer

¹⁵⁷ "Middle East protests: Country by country." BBC World News. 9 May 2011.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12482297>

successfully transformed governments and other states face the realities of being in transition.¹⁵⁸ The issue of millions of refugees looms over the region, without any way to secure and police these displaced populations they become targets for trafficking and human rights violations, creating a very vulnerable population. Unfortunately, the revolution and crisis of the Arab Spring have led to a synergy in which populations have become more susceptible to violations of human rights and human trafficking.¹⁵⁹

A Case Study: Rape in Libya, the Story of Eman Al-Obeity

On the morning of March 26, 2011 several foreign journalists sat around the breakfast table at the Rixos hotel in Tripoli. Foreign journalists had often been found in the Libyan capital, but news of the growing unrest had drawn many more into the area. Not long ago, Tunisian activists had sparked a wave of rebellion and revolution that had taken hold of the Arab World. Dictators and regimes in Egypt and Tunisia had been broken by the power of the people and demands for democracy. With a swirl of passion, so too had people in Libya demanded a new era, a new hope and an end to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's reign. It was exactly this reason that the journalists had come to Tripoli – to cover what could be the next wave in the Arab Spring.¹⁶⁰

As breakfast was about to begin the entrance door to the hotel was flung open and a woman, later found to be Eman al-Obeity, came rushing to the table. She began to recount how pro-Gaddafi soldiers had violated her rights saying, "They tied me up ... they even defecated and urinated on me," she said, her face streaming with tears. "The Qaddafi militiamen violated my honor."¹⁶¹ Al-Obeity said that she was detained by Qaddafi troops at a checkpoint in Tripoli when she was handcuffed, taken to an abandoned house and subsequently tortured and gang raped. She said 15 men later raped her while being detained.¹⁶²

Seemingly supporters of Gaddafi tried to detain Eman al-Obeity, one waitress even brandishing a knife from the server's station. Eman al-Obeity was shoved out of the hotel with a jacket around her head and staff and Gaddafi sympathizers attempting to cover her mouth, pushed into a car which sped away. As a-Obeity was pushed into the car, she shouted, "Look at what happens — Qaddafi's militiamen kidnap women at gunpoint, and rape them ... they rape them."¹⁶³ In the dust that settled, the journalists found themselves in a hostile environment. One camera had been smashed and at least one journalist, attempting to stop the second abduction of al-Obeity had been punched in the face.¹⁶⁴

Though al-Obeity's story could not be independently verified, lacerations were on her arms and face and bruises covered her legs. Shortly after the incident the Gaddafi regime held a press conference saying that the woman was drunk and mentally unstable.¹⁶⁵ Her case is the best-known of the conflict, as video of the scene was broadcast around the world, but there have been other reported cases of rape used as a weapon of war.

Actions Taken by the League of Arab States and Other Relevant Bodies

Similar to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights published by the United Nations, the League of Arab States also adopted such a document on September 14, 1994 designated the Arab Charter on Human Rights. This document was the foundational building block for human rights within Arab States recognizing "the close link between human rights and world peace" as well as the "principles established by the Islamic Shari'a and other religions..." by promoting brotherhood and equality amongst human beings.¹⁶⁶ The Arab Charter follows similar preexisting models in identifying the innate right to life, liberty, and security of person, as well as the ability to freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development under protection of law.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Khalidi, Rashid. The Arab Spring. The Nation. <http://www.thenation.com/article/158991/arab-spring>

¹⁶⁰ "Libyan claims rape by soldiers, is dragged away." *CBS/AP News*. 26 March 2011.

¹⁶¹ "Alleged Libya rape victim charged over claim." *CBS/AP News*. 29 March 2011.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁴ "Libyan claims rape by soldiers, is dragged away." *CBS/AP News*. 26 March 2011

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ *Arab Charter on Human Rights*. The League of Arab States. 15 September 1994.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

Although trafficking in persons is not explicitly detailed, Article 13 of the Charter states that State parties shall protect persons within their territory from physical or psychological torture, or from cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment. Furthermore, the subset of Article 13 includes the illegality of performing medical or scientific experimentation on any person without their free consent, a clause designated to address the workings of the organ trade market, an area often linked to the institution of human trafficking. The Charter also discusses the prerogative of any person to choose employment and the prohibition of forced labor in Article 31.¹⁶⁸ Even though the Arab Charter of Human Rights incorporates all of the dimensions of the issues at hand, and has been ratified by every Member State, many have failed to adhere to the conditions set forth by the Charter. Member States such as Kuwait, Libya, and Sudan have yet to adopt national laws and regulations concerning the trafficking in persons and numerous other Arab State governments simply provide limited repercussions in their penal or criminal code; hardly sufficient mechanisms in combating and prosecuting trafficking networks.¹⁶⁹

However, the lack of a few Member States initiatives is not to discredit the progression and advancements made by the League of Arab States. Specifically the close connection between each Member State in partnership and cooperation with NGOs, other international organizations, as well as other international states has witnessed great hope in the area of combating human trafficking and rights abuses in the Arab World.¹⁷⁰ On 29 November 2008, the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and Interior established the regional structure in which the Arab community could further build upon the Charter on Human Rights. The Arab Framework Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons was developed with intentions to better facilitate Arab States in developing national legislation, in conjecture with relevant international instruments, that defines and criminalizes human trafficking, as well as provide penalties for such offenses.¹⁷¹ The Act displays exemplary regional efforts in combating this phenomenon as well as persecuting traffickers; however, it does not adequately provide language in the document addressing the rights, safety, and rehabilitation of victims. The participants of this framework also acknowledged the absence of a mechanism or multidisciplinary committee that should be created for the purposes of monitoring and tracking such criminal activity. Steps have been made to establish this unit, which would serve as a regional hub for information sharing and exchange, but has yet to come into action.¹⁷²

On 22 March 2010, the Doha Foundation Forum took place in Doha, Qatar with the objective to combat human trafficking within North Africa and the Middle East by initiating a three-year regional building program. This *Arab Initiative* intends to tackle human trafficking by promoting the ratification and implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (TPP); strengthening the capacities of the criminal justice systems; improving mechanisms for identification, referral, support and protection of trafficked victims; and raising awareness surrounding the conditions and consequences of human trafficking.¹⁷³ The Arab Initiative to combat human trafficking continued to gain momentum by holding a Side Event during the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Conference on 21 October 2010 in Vienna. Throughout the Conference, Arab States reconfirmed their support and dedication towards the Arab Initiative and reported on the progress of such matters within their designated Member State.¹⁷⁴

On 8 December 2010, the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Amre Moussa, launched in coordination of the two bodies, a similar five-year, US\$100 million Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform for the Arab States for 2011-2015. This is also a three-pillar program with the following objectives: countering illicit trafficking, organized crime

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. US Department of State. 2010.
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142759.htm>

¹⁷⁰ "Summary of Regional and Sub-Regional Structures and Initiatives to Counter Trafficking in Persons." December 2010.
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/trafficking/docs/Dakar_summary_structures_en.pdf

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ "The Arab Initiative for Building National Capacities for Combating Human Trafficking." United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. 23 March 2010. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2010/arab-initiative.html>

¹⁷⁴ "The Side Event on the Arab Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking." United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2010/cop-side-event-arab-initiative-to-combat-human-trafficking.html>

and terrorism; promoting integrity and building justice; and drug prevention and health. This program further aims to establish partnerships between Arab States in order to align national policies and better provide consistent legal framework across the region for combating human trafficking.¹⁷⁵

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a small political and economic union between the Gulf States of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, has also remained vigilant on the issue of human trafficking.¹⁷⁶ On 8 March 2011, the United Arab Emirates hosted the first GCC Forum on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes. The forum allowed for enhanced cooperation among law enforcement agencies on the local, regional, and international level by highlighting successful strategies, sharing experiences and information, and by proactively seeking preventive measures to combat the trafficking in persons.¹⁷⁷ The forum was a successful step in the direction towards domestic responsibility and regional partnerships in addressing this phenomenon.

Conclusion

As the League of Arab States continues to face the issue of human trafficking at a regional and international level, it must do so with a new respect for its place within the international system. Member States have come together for the formation of treaty documents and other initiatives to tackle the transnational crime, yet much more progress can be made in these areas. Additionally, states must also look at ways of domestically addressing human trafficking while also addressing the needs of the victims of human trafficking. One such example is the Abu Dhabi Shelter for Women and Children, the first of its kind in the United Arab Emirates which takes in victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in an attempt to rehabilitate.¹⁷⁸ This is a unique focus which is extremely uncommon on an international scale – attention not only on the crime and its perpetrators but on the victims, their rights and re-assimilation back into a social framework.

Furthermore, as the impact of the Arab Spring becomes clearer new states and state identities must be formed. The revolutions and uprisings took on a distinctly democratic nature, and now citizens of these newly created governments have the opportunity to challenge what they feel to be a necessary part of the society – and how active they wish their government to be in tackling crimes such as human trafficking. In essence, newly formed states such as Egypt and Tunisia must find new ways of adhering to and promoting policies consistent with Arab tradition and law. Meanwhile, states in transition or those experiencing dramatic upheaval, such as Libya, Syria, and Yemen, are often also leading to the greatest levels of trafficking, rights violations and the least amount of action taken to stop abuse of citizens, yet these states are also uniquely poised to act in a positive direction that could lead to the enactment of harsh penalties for traffickers and criminal while simultaneously working to ensure the rights of victims. There is much opportunity for the League to take active leadership in the eradication of human trafficking and human rights abuses through such mechanisms as the Arab Court of Justice, transnational programs, and victims' response centers.

Committee Directive

Delegates should first consider the worldwide scope of the issue of human trafficking and how that relates to individual human rights while in the context of an Arab World in dynamic motion. Committee topics may include addressing specific populations that are at high risk such as women, children and displaced persons. Delegates may also find it imperative to include some elements of adapting and using Islamic law and Islamic legal traditions as a base for stopping human trafficking, in order to bring about a more Arab specific plan of action.

¹⁷⁵ “UNDOC and Arab League launch US\$100 million Programme.” United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2010/December/unodc-and-league-of-arab-states-launch-us-100-million-dollar-regional-programme.html>

¹⁷⁶ “UAE to Host first GCC anti-human trafficking forum.” Emirates 24/7 News. 6 March 2011. <http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/uae-to-host-first-gcc-anti-human-trafficking-forum-2011-03-06-1.364559>

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ “Human Trafficking Plagues the UAE.” Al-Jazeera News Network - English. 31 July 2009. <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2009/07/20097308334579616.html>

Delegates must debate how short term and long term goals can be effectively balanced in making progress towards the eventual goal of eradication of human trafficking. Short term goals may include, but are not limited to dealing with current conflicts, crises and revolutions as an avenue of exploitation by criminals, the use of human rights violations and human trafficking as a weapon of war against a civilian populations, and treaty documents with limited scope which tackle specific enterprises. Long term goals should evaluate amassing data, focusing on specific geographic regions, keying in on specific elements of human trafficking to limit operational size and capability, designing a public awareness campaign, removal of demand for trafficked persons, religious approach vs. a non-religious approach, educational curriculums and adding Member States to current treaties which protect victims and prosecute criminals of human trafficking.

III: Examining the Arab States Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

“Although the Arab region as a whole has made significant strides, progress has been unevenly distributed, and disparities between the different sub regions and between individual countries continue to be large. Stronger and more concerted efforts are needed in order to attain the MDGs, not only at the regional, but also at the sub regional and country levels.”¹⁷⁹

Introduction

As members and observers to the United Nations (UN), the LAS remains committed to the Millennium Declaration. The LAS and UN have entered into an Agreement of Cooperation, which created a partnership and cooperation on necessary topics and exchanging appropriate information.¹⁸⁰ The UN/LAS Cooperative Agreement also allows for the LAS to be an observer to some UN Sessions, while the UN may attend LAS meetings on an invitational basis.¹⁸¹ The LAS’s work with the UN has been extensively alongside the UN’s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).¹⁸² ESCWA and the LAS have worked in harmonization by strengthening the relationship between the LAS and the UN as a whole, receiving data and co-authoring documents such as the Arab Millennium Development Goals Reports.¹⁸³ The UN looks to regional organizations such as the LAS to form infrastructure projects, cooperate on transportation policies, support policies which will achieve the MDGs, and even for security.¹⁸⁴ The LAS as a regional organization, has a strategic advantage in working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Working under the framework of the Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation and with the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League, the LAS can create policies to coordinate the organizations Member States on infrastructure development, assist in creating aligned economic policies, and improve living standards.¹⁸⁵

The First MDG is related to eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and it has seen substantial progress in the Arab Region by reporting an on track effort to halve the proportion of people living on \$1.25 a day.¹⁸⁶ However rural levels of poverty are still heavily concentrated in the region, with women and children still facing malnutrition. Additionally, The Hunger Target and Employment Target of MDG 1 are not on track to be met, especially with food

¹⁷⁹ Badar Al-Dafa and Amre Moussa. *The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens*. The United Nations and League of Arab States. 2007.

¹⁸⁰ “No. 1030. United Nations and League of Arab States Agreement of cooperation.” 6 October 1989. http://untreaty.un.org/unts/60001_120000/25/22/00049051.pdf

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² E/ESCWA/OES/RCM.12/3. *Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism*. Economic and Social Council Commission for Western Asia. 13-14 September 2008. <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/oes-rcm12-3-e.pdf>

¹⁸³ *The Third Arab Report On The Millennium Development Goals 2010 And The Impact Of The Global Economic Crises*. United Nations and League of Arab States. 2010. New York.

¹⁸⁴ “UN Regional Commissions and the Millennium Development Goals: A regional approach to a global problem.” United Nations. NY. <http://www.un.org/regionalcommissions/MDGbrochure.pdf>

¹⁸⁵ *Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Between the States of the Arab League*. League of Arab States 17 June 1950. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arabjoin.asp

¹⁸⁶ E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/3. UN & LAS. *The Third Arab Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2010 and the Impact of the Global Economic Crises*. NY. 2010.

and gas prices being on the rise. While there has been an increase in net enrollment of ages 15-24 in schools, the Arab Region has seen “mixed success” in MDG 2 due to quality of education.¹⁸⁷ With some Member States seeing a regression in MDG 2’s targets success, the goal has much room for improvement. Goals 3, 4, 5, and 6 have also seen mixed results at various sub-regions. Health and gender related goals successfully provide healthcare to women but economic divisions in the Arab World have created a sobering problem. Maternal mortality continues to be a prominent issue in the Arab World as some Member States could even face a worsening situation over the next few years. While the number of HIV/AIDS cases is low in the region, the factors which affect at risk and prone to infection populations are daunting. People infected with HIV/AIDS have little access to Antiretroviral Drugs, and those who are not affected have little access to condoms and other preventative measures. Malaria, however, has been nearly completely eradicated from the region, and good progress has been made on Tuberculosis (TB). The major area of concern for MDG 7 lies in the issue of depletion of freshwater resources, which has seen minimal progress in the LAS. Secondary issues are the losses of biodiversity, natural resources, and sanitation, where progress has been seen. MDG 8 progress has also been stagnant, especially in terms of Official Development Assistance. Iraq and Palestine being excluded, “the real ODA for the region declined by nearly half since 1990”; the ODA coming into the region is also “grossly insufficient” to meet the needs of the Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs).¹⁸⁸

A report published by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTER) entitled *Working towards Achieving the MDGs in Arab Countries: Planning and Statistical Capacity-Building Training* shows how the Arab States have significant issues to address if the goals are to be completed on time. The report states that economies in a macroeconomic perspective are more connected to other Arab States than previously seen, and also to the global economy which is suffering from severe structural changes.¹⁸⁹ Because of the structure of the Arab region’s economies, the ability to have debt forgiven and increase development aid are hindered, thus in turn leading to national policies which do not assist the MDGs completion.¹⁹⁰ Many international development agencies cite the importance of poor economic performance of the 1990s, 2000s, and the recent economic crisis as the primary cause of little developmental progress.¹⁹¹ Furthermore, the sub-regional groups, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab LDCs, Maghreb, and Mashreq, are all very economically diverse and show different results in achieving the MDGs. The Arab LDCs in particular faced extreme economic uncertainty in the global economic crisis, while oil producing Member States received a significant increase in revenue from rising oil prices.¹⁹² Finally, the UN and LAS believe that the global economic crisis have resulted in less Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the region due to a lack of funds, as well as a reduction in remittances from foreign workers sending money into the region.¹⁹³

The Challenges – Policy and Employment

The Arab Bureau of the UNDP and the LAS published in 2009 the *Development Challenges for the Arab Region: A Human Development Approach (Vol. 1)*, which illustrates the primary concerns of the UN in achieving the MDGs in the Arab World. This publication discusses the reasons for a lack of development even before the MDGs were implemented. Ultimately the outcome of the document shows that Member States need a new development model which focuses on the MDGs and poverty reduction.¹⁹⁴ The Report also emphasizes that the region already has what it needs to achieve development goals but lacks the proper application. The attainment of these goals relies on the organizations ability to promote internal cooperation.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ “Working Towards Achieving the Millenium Goals in Arab Countries: Planning and Statistical Capacity”. The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and The Center for Arab Women Training and Research. July 2010. <http://www.annd.org/administrator/pubfile/SLP%20-%20evaluation%20EN.pdf>

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ “The Third Arab Report on the MDGs 2010 and the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis.” League of Arab States and the United Nations. 2010. p. xii.

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Ibid. pp. xix-xx.

¹⁹⁴ “Development Challenges For The Arab Region: A Human Development Approach.” Vol. 1. pp. 5-6.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

The revolutions of the past few months and the MDGs are without a doubt a response to the notion that peoples' welfare cannot be solely determined by his or her economic status, but must also be determined by his freedoms.¹⁹⁶ Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen argues an alternative to the conventional means of development found in measuring per capita income or GDP, instead he proposes that development should be measured in means opportunities and facilities through certain freedoms to accomplish a fair standard of living. Freedoms occur in; the political entitlements associated with democracy, economic opportunities which derive from becoming a part of the consumption and production chain and the opportunity to utilize economic resources such as banks, social opportunities in the form of education and healthcare, transparency guarantees as a means of lucidity of government along with the ability of the government to create a fair environment for all, and protective security in the form of social security for vulnerable populations in societies.¹⁹⁷ Sen argues that if these freedoms are enshrined by the state, people will ultimately begin to see a raise in the economic measures to evaluate standards of living.

Development strategies of the past 30 years have shown numerous reasons to doubt the current economic strategy of liberalizing trade as exposed by Latin American development statistics, pressed largely in part by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the WB.¹⁹⁸ Arab States have learned that "Good Policies," such as liberalizing trade sectors as pushed by the inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) mentioned above, do not always lead to the development speculated will occur.¹⁹⁹ For the years of 1960-2000 the Arab States showed no increase in real GDP.²⁰⁰ The LAS needs to address a significant number of issues before it can move forward with completing the MGDs, including historically poor poverty reduction strategies, stagnant or oil led growth, and other development challenges.

While the Arab World is economically diverse, it lacks in institutional strengths. The LAS and UNDP found that in 1996 the overall governance index was -0.63 meaning that the average of governance in the Arab Region far less than sufficient. Ten years later, the indexes average barely improved to a rating of -0.61, meaning that over a ten year span, the quality of governance was still not sufficient for Member States Populations. Of course this index is an average; however it shows the disparity between Member States and their neighbors. Diversified Economies show the poorest results with declining levels of governments, while other regions have shown improvement.²⁰¹

Institutional weakness is not one of the only challenges that the League faces in achieving its development needs. Economic growth has long been supported by the export of oil, and indirectly through remittances, and public private expenditure usually in the oil industry.²⁰² Fuel exports clearly lead the regions exports with 80, 92, and 90 percent of exports being fuel from the oil economies, mixed oil economies, and primary export economies.²⁰³ This type of growth subjects the League and its Member States to volatile economic growth. Furthermore, this reliance on fuel exports creates a troublesome arena for the League because of Dutch Disease. Because of the reliance on fuel exports, a "de-industrialization" has occurred in the Arab Region, leaving merely the textile and food processing industry in the undiversified region.²⁰⁴

The *Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries* cites that unemployment is a major source of insecurity in the Member States. The report cites the 2005 statistic from the *Arab Labor Organization* that 14.4 percent of the Arab world is unemployed, compared to 6.3 percent of the rest of the world. Unemployment statistics vary greatly from country to country in the region, seeing as little as 2% in Qatar

¹⁹⁶ Amartya Sen. *Development as Freedom*. New York. Alfred A Knopf, Inc. p. 3

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.* p. 1.

¹⁹⁸ "Development Challenges For The Arab Region: A Human Development Approach Arab Development Challenges (Vol. 1)." United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab states (RBAS) and the LAS. New York. p.14

¹⁹⁹ Amartya Sen. *Development as Freedom*. New York. Alfred A Knopf, Inc. p. 3

²⁰⁰ "Development Challenges For The Arab Region: A Human Development Approach Arab Development Challenges (Vol. 1)." United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab states (RBAS) and the LAS. New York. p.14

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*

²⁰² *Ibid.* p. 15

²⁰³ *Ibid.* p. 10

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.* p. 16

and Kuwait, to as high as 22% in Mauritania.²⁰⁵ Social biases against women can also be found in employment statistics and tie into the accomplishment of MDG 3 Target 2 to increase women in employment, especially in non agricultural sectors.²⁰⁶ Structural reforms also affect the rate of employment, through structural contractions in the public sector, accounting for one-third of the total employment of the region. Second, job creation from the private sector has been stagnant and is underperforming. Lastly, vocational and secondary teaching is not adequate enough to attract investment into the area, or a demand for jobs in any sectors.²⁰⁷ Responding to these policies, Member States will need to stimulate knowledge based job creation which serve the national and regional economies, convert traditional savings into investments, and make a special effort to make the job market open to women.²⁰⁸

Poverty Reduction and Advancing Education

Even though the Member States of the League have made significant strides in education and poverty reduction, the problem is still very widespread. Education is vital to the League for a number of reasons, it can “speed up economic growth, improve income distribution, facilitate social mobility, and reduce poverty while also improving the quality of life for citizens by contributing to longer life expectancy, lower fertility and infant mortality rates, and a create more cohesive national identity”.²⁰⁹ Even though education typically gives the outcomes listed above, it sometimes does not provide the results it promises, leaving those who want to be a part of society with little, and giving no return to the investors. The WB report *MENA Development Report: The Road Not Traveled Education Reform in the Middle East and North Africa* investigates how projects achieved their maximum potential, and the possibility for failures turning to success with possible policy options. The Report aims to study the “...economic rather than the *social* and *cultural* dimensions of education. Its approach in answering the questions raised above is analytical and comparative in nature.”²¹⁰

MENA Governments spent an average of five percent on education compared with East Asia and Latin America which spent an average of 3 percent.²¹¹ While the rate of spending is higher, it can be a misleading idea to expect the same returns as in Latin America and East Asia. The issue with Member State’s investments is that the money invested is typically favored towards family of higher social status. In turn, families of the middle and lower economic class are left dealing with the same lack of education. The report also demonstrates that in most Member States, the league is making strides to educate both boys and girls on the primary level. Furthermore, the MENA region significantly increased the amount of persons going into secondary education.²¹² Even though many Member States are working diligently on improving education equality, the returns are minimal, showing that policy adjustments must be made for the accomplishment of education, and to lift people out of poverty. The number of people finishing primary and ascending into secondary school is minimal compared to other regions of the world, showing that while a base education is being achieved, skill sets developed in secondary education lack in the Arab World.²¹³

The WB notes that not every countries economic growth, poverty reduction strategies, and educational investments will work for other developing states.²¹⁴ The WB further notes the importance of looking at how education affected income distribution and economic growth and the ties to poverty. Both income distribution and economic growth are vital indicators for poverty reduction and when looking at poverty reduction and economic growth, there are many studies which show poverty reduction is associated with and proven successful if economic growth is sustained. Historical trends show that economic growth in the USA and European States are positively correlated, however

²⁰⁵ “Arab Human Development Report(AHDR): Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries. United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 2009. NY, New York. p. 10.

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ Ibid. p. 10

²⁰⁸ Ibid. p. 11

²⁰⁹ “Mena Development Report: The Road not Traveled: Educational Reform in the Middle East and Africa.” The World Bank. 2008. Washington D.C. p. 1.

²¹⁰ Ibid. p.2

²¹¹ Ibid. p. 10

²¹² Ibid. pp. 10-12

²¹³ Ibid.

²¹⁴ Ibid. p. 65

MENAs poor poverty reduction with somewhat high economic growth shows problems in this reducing poverty and advancing standards of living.²¹⁵ Even though statistical information shows that the Arab region has made significant strides to achieve a developed status, only few Member States are on track to achieving the MDGs.

Health and Empowerment

Human health is vital to the achievement of the MDGs, as failures in health can cause severe suffering, massive effects on human morale, and widespread casualties in impoverished populations. While health is vital to human development, women are vital to human health.²¹⁶ Women are essential keys to education enrollment, alleviation of poverty, and increased access to child and maternal care.²¹⁷ While the MDGs are meant to empower women, the laws affecting women can be seen as an issue for the Arab World.²¹⁸ Nadine Sika, a professor at the American University in Cairo believes that the MDGs cannot be fully achieved in the developing world and especially in the Arab Region if discriminatory policies are in place against women.²¹⁹ She also argues that achievements have been highly quantitative for education for girls, not substantial. She notes that girls and women are enrolling in schools but are not getting the quality education because of discriminatory policies, in turn leading to a higher achievement of goal 3, but as false numbers.²²⁰ Even though many states signed the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, 8 Member states enacted amendments against Article 2 of the Treaty, which is vital text in the document.²²¹

Progress towards the health MDGs is fragile and unequal, and there is a lack of political will to address the concerns raised by women in legal systems. Women's empowerment is essential to health; however it is not the only key to achieving sustainable attainment of the Health MDGs for all involved. The development of national health policies and their alignment with technical and financial support for health are essential keys for progress on the health and women's empowerment related MDGs.²²² In all parts of the world, greater investment is needed in the health of women and children, as well as interventions in health disasters such as infant mortality rates and others.²²³

Health for women is increasing in the MENA. The WB notes that life expectancy has significantly risen in the region for some countries to be as high as 69 years, while in others it is as low as 47.²²⁴ Women are at a biological advantage over men, having a longer life span which should mean their life expectancy should be longer. However, when this does not occur, people can speculate that appropriate nutrition and adequate medical care for women are not being upheld.²²⁵ Large gains in countries for women are noticed in a decrease in infant and maternal mortality rates.²²⁶ Maternal mortality rates have dropped from 164 out of 1000 to 44 out of 1000 in some countries, unfortunately, these statistics do favor boys over girls, as their survival rate is much lower, leading to the "Missing Women" phenomenon. Although it is no surprise that the countries for healthcare per capita have the lowest rates of maternal mortality, these rates are still quite poor in comparison to other regions of the world.²²⁷

²¹⁵ Ibid. p. 69

²¹⁶ Nadine Sika. "The Millennium Development Goals: Prospects for Gender Equality in the Arab World." *Journal of International Women's Studies*. Vol. 12. pp. 27-28.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

²²⁰ Ibid. p. 28

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² "Accelerating progress towards the health-related MDGs." The World Health Organization. p.2.

http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/MDG-NHPS_brochure_2010.pdf

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ "MENA Development Report: Gender Development in the MENA: Women in the Public." World Bank. 2004. p. 43.

http://issuu.com/world_bank_publications/docs/9780821356760?mode=embed&layout=http://skin.issuu.com/v/light/layout.xml&showFlipBtn=true

²²⁵ Ibid. p. 44

²²⁶ Ibid. pp. 44-45

²²⁷ Ibid. p. 45

MDG health targets are seen in every goal with essential aspects of these targets relating to portions of populations suffering from nutritional deficiencies from food and water, people affected by communicable diseases, knowledge of diseases, and prevention of diseases.²²⁸ The World Trade Organization (WTO) endorses the use of sound public health policy as a means for sound HIV/AIDS Transmission as opposed to the restricting mobility of goods.²²⁹ Furthermore, the WTO has worked to allow countries which don't have the technical capacity to produce specific drugs necessary for the MDG completion to be allowed at discounted prices.²³⁰ This capability for under developed Member States was developed through the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) for the improvement of public health.²³¹ While the WTO as a body that "is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business" through their respective governments, there are still significant health issues in the MENA region.²³²

HIV/AIDS

Despite the low prevalence compared against the world, the infection is becoming more and more relevant across the League Member States. While there is data to give a glimpse of the Arab World's HIV/AIDS statistics data from Member States is in short supply, making sound policy implementation and reliable strategies difficult to identify and implement.²³³ According to reliable data from UNAIDS, the UN body whose vision is to eliminate HIV and AIDS, notes that new HIV cases have risen from 36,000 in 2001 to 75,000 in 2009. In addition to new cases on the rise in MENA, AIDS related deaths rose from 8,300 in 2001 to 23,000 in 2009 in the MENA region.²³⁴ Furthermore, because of lack of access to drugs, information from 2006 shows how tens of thousands of cases have shown up because access to Antiretroviral Drugs (ARVs) has been insufficient and socio-cultural opposition to the use of condoms.²³⁵ These daunting statistics show a desperate need for improvement on HIV policy in the Arab League. For cultural reasons, some Member States do not accept condoms as legitimate forms of HIV/AIDS preventing the transmission of HIV measures in the eyes of some Member States, the unfortunate rise of HIV infection rates in men who have sex with men (MSM) have resulted. While MSM is a rising concern for Member States, the most likely occurrence of new cases rarely reported in young adults.²³⁶

In a recent survey of Sudan, only 5% of women were knowledgeable that the contraceptive helped to prevent the spread of the infection, leading to a massive failure in the education of women on the subject.²³⁷ Only 13% of Moroccan drug injectors noted using a condom in their last sexual encounter, and Yemen's male and female sex workers noted only a 61% usage of condoms.²³⁸ There are many pillars that the UN and LAS have compiled in hopes of curbing HIV/AIDS cases; these include coordination of national policies with other actors, implementing national coordinating aids boards, and agreed entry level monitoring and evaluation.²³⁹ Access to treatment and proper education on prevention of HIV/AIDS is both positively and negatively affected by social norms in the League. On one hand, the Islamic tradition of circumcision helps lower the possibility of transmission, the need to support and sick persons, and promotion of tolerance eases transition into living with HIV/AIDS.²⁴⁰ On the other

²²⁸ "Accelerating progress towards the health-related MDGs." The World Health Organization (WHO). p. 2.

²²⁹ "WTO Agreements & Public Health: A Joint Study by the WHO and the WTO Secretariat." The World Trade Organization and World Health Organization. p. 58.

²³⁰ "MDGs: Access to Medicines." World Trade Organization. 2011.

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/mdg_e/medicine_e.htm

²³¹ Ibid.

²³² "What is the WTO?" The World Trade Organization. 2011. http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm

²³³ "Global Report: Fact Sheet: Middle East and North Africa". UNAIDS.

http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_FS_mena_em_en.pdf

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ "The Third Arab Report on the MDGs 2010 and the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis." League of Arab States and the United Nations. 2010. p. 66.

²³⁶ Ibid.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ Ibid. p. 68.

²³⁹ Ibid. p.69

²⁴⁰ Ibid. p. 67

hand, some traditional practices are not safe or deemed protective, especially for women, meaning that more work must be done with religious leaders and authorities to address the problem on a social level.²⁴¹

Environment

The League has a serious involvement in achieving the environmental MDG targets and has completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Environmental Program (UNEP).²⁴² The role of UNEP is highly involved in the technical support of the LAS secretariat, and the Council of Ministers Responsible for the Environment and its bureau through the Arab League Liaison Office.²⁴³ The primary concern for the LAS is water. As more than 85% of the League's territory is classified as "arid" or "hyper arid," and at least 15 Member States are facing the threat of depletion of their renewable and non-renewable sources.²⁴⁴ The causes of concern in this area are primarily that many states have a lack of technology for indigenous populous, intrusion of pollution into water sources, and populations remaining reliant upon groundwater and rivers for consumption.²⁴⁵ The Arab Water Council and CEDARE also note that a regional approach must be integrated into account when planning national and local policies, and that the public sector must step forward with policies to come up with fill in the needs of its people while the private sector must fill the remaining gap left by the public.²⁴⁶ Of course, financing for water sanitation and drinking water is an expensive problem to fix. A publication by the Arab Water Council and the Center Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) notes that the cost of achieving Target 10 of MDG 7 would cost an estimated \$101 billion to the region.²⁴⁷

MDG 7 also includes Target 11, which aims to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. This has been a historically problematic objective for the Arab World. Issues of the spread of urban poverty and the growth of squatters make this target particularly difficult to achieve.²⁴⁸ Furthermore, the degradation of the environment because of slums has an adverse affect on the country and locality near where the slum lies. The regional growth pattern of the Arab Region is characterized by a rise in informal settlements in terms of density and population, with close to one-third of the population living in informal settlements. These slums are overcrowded and lack access to potable water, sufficient nutrition, and adequate garbage collection. Other problematic conditions are seen in lack of transportation, communication infrastructure, and health and education amenities. A major concern of ESCWA is that squatter residents lack tenure, security, fear of eviction, and further determination of their lives.²⁴⁹

Policy has been a driving force for many types of human security, including development and the need to improve the lives of those living in desperate conditions.²⁵⁰ Because of income inequality and policy gaps, slum dwellers rights are often overlooked because of the lapse in standards of living for dwellers. This, in effect, harms these individual's equal access to Universal Human Rights.²⁵¹ Social safety nets established in the Arab Region are new in origin and only serve those in traditional poverty scenarios, but in extreme cases such as slums and crisis areas, social services are not enough to curb problems and poverty.²⁵² Special attention must be given to urban governance

²⁴¹ Ibid.

²⁴² "Regional Forums." United Nations Environment Programme. 9 June 2011.

<http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/UNEPsWork/Multilevelsupport/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

²⁴³ Ibid.

²⁴⁴ "Arab Human Development Report(AHDR): Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries. United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 2009. NY, New York. p. 79.

²⁴⁵ "Status of Water MDG Achievements in the Arab Region." Arab Water Council and CEDARE. 24 June 2007.

<http://water.cedare.int/cedare.int/files15%5CFile2299.pdf>

²⁴⁶ Ibid.

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ "Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance." United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. 2003-2006. <http://www.escwa.un.org/rcshltgug/docs/editoradminframe3.pdf>

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ "Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries." United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 2009.

²⁵¹ Ibid.

²⁵² Ibid.

policies, especially in regards to improving the infrastructure of slums, as well as improving provincial government policies on slums and the rights of their inhabitants.²⁵³

Partnerships for Development

All MDGs can be targeting by the accomplishment of goal 8, which will assist Member States by ascension into the world trading system and by development of all sectors in general.²⁵⁴ Oil led growth has resulted in undiversified economies throughout the region, leaving the world with a trading system absent of a major Arab presence, oil and natural gas economies excluded.²⁵⁵ As stated before, MDG 8 seems to have mixed progress. Many Member States are progressing towards WTO Membership, while 11 are already Member States of the organization.²⁵⁶ While this progress is met with contentment, it is still seen that many Member States must turn to attempting to develop their non-oil led sectors. In the agriculture, textile, and clothing sectors, however, many Member States have been met with significant trade barriers.²⁵⁷ Much of the liberalization of trade has been in the form of regional agreements, as seen in the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghrib Union. MDG 8 has seen progress in other areas as well, especially in Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Many of the wealthier League Member States have reached or exceeded the 0.7 percent of GDP being contributed as ODA as defined by indicator 4 of MDG 8. In addition to this, a significantly higher amount of aid provided by Arab Development Funds (ADF) is untied, allowing for this money to be used across all developmental goals. However, when compared to the amount given by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is quite minimal. Debt servicing as a ratio to imports and exports also show that the cost of fuel and food has had a significant effect on the achievement of MDG 8.²⁵⁸ While there have been problems servicing debt, some progress has been made by the League on a regional level. On the other hand, the heavily indebted poor countries initiative has only assisted one eligible Arab LDC in debt relief.²⁵⁹ The regional approach to achieving MDG 8 has been quite successful, however more cooperation must be done regionally and with other UN Member States; especially developed ones who will need to assist the League in achieving this MDG through “pro-poor growth” strategies.²⁶⁰

Conclusion

The League has made significant strides in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; these strides have been highly concentrated in some areas. The Gulf Cooperation Council and in Arab Maghrib in particular are making strong advancements in the areas of human and social development, yet the Arab LDCs and other areas are still lacking. Considering that much of the assistance has come from a regional perspective, the League can consider advancing these strides to further Arab Development for Arab Citizens. The Arab Spring has also called into question the quality of governments and has led to many deaths for personal freedoms. The repercussions of the Arab Spring are yet to be determined, and scholars are still evaluating the affect on the MDGs that revolutions and uprisings will have. Some argue that the revolutions are a response to centuries of poor policy, hoping that governments will change to have a greater role in the development of Member States, while others argue that it sets back development, degrades investment portfolios, hurts the image and solidarity of Member States, and offsets development in conflict areas.

²⁵³ “Regional Campaign on Secure Housing and Land Tenure and Good Urban Governance.” United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. 2003-2006. <http://www.escwa.un.org/rcshltgug/docs/editoradminframe3.pdf>

²⁵⁴ “Technical Cooperation Report.” United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. 2006. p. 31. <http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/pptcd/TCNetwork/Library/Files/ELibrary/TC-REPORT-ENGLISH.pdf>

²⁵⁵ “Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries.” United Nations Development Programme: Regional Bureau for Arab States. 2009.

²⁵⁶ “The Third Arab Report on the MDGs 2010 and the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis.” League of Arab States and the United Nations. 2010. p. 95.

²⁵⁷ Ibid.

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ Ibid. p. 104

²⁶⁰ “Development Challenges For The Arab Region: A Human Development Approach Arab Development Challenges (Vol. 1).” United Nations Development Program: Regional Bureau for Arab states (RBAS) and the LAS. New York. p. 48.

Committee Directive

Policy has been the cornerstone of debate for advancing MDG completion for the last decade. While policy can be seen as the advancement of freedoms for Member States citizens, traditional projects implemented by the UN and Arab League should not be overlooked. What has your Member State done to look to the needs of your citizens, has your state made strides in policy adjustment or in traditional types of development found in making investment portfolios more attractive and through projects with assistance from other IGOs? What does development mean to your Member State? Should policy be a target of other Member States as a form of making the Arab World develop faster and with better quality? Should your government make conciliations to others who consider themselves more developed or free than what your territorial boundaries entail? Does your Member State believe that increasing personal freedoms will allow for development and achievement of the MDGs.

The UN provides much detailed statistical information on the situation through publications which show each Member States capacity for growth, failures of the past, and status quo. More importantly, the UN works through ESCWA as a forum for the LAS and UN cooperation. The World Bank also provides information on LAS Member States and has studied what the LAS needs to do to accomplish the development goals, particularly MDG 8. While many studies have been conducted on the area to see what the LAS needs to do to accomplish the MDGs the organization must find the perfect dichotomy between serving its social and protective role.

Technical Appendix Guide (TAG)

Topic I: Diversifying Investments in Alternative Energy Resources

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. 2011 <http://www.escwa.un.org/>

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) handles a substantial amount of UN works with a number of Member States. The ESCWA webpage list many resources on the region, such as natural resources, capabilities, possibilities, and publishes many resources. The focus areas of the body range from sustainability and emerging conflict related issues. ESCWA is an essential body which works with the LAS on a number of issues.

Cecil A. Hourani. "The Arab League in Perspective." Middle East Journal. Vol. 1, No. 2. April, 1947, pp. 125-136. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/stable/pdfplus/4321856.pdf>

Although this paper is dated, it is a relevant piece of information regarding the start of the Arab League and also gives details of the historical backing for its necessary formation. The article also goes into detail on the Israel and Palestinian issue at the time, showing different Member States support for Palestine. Hourani also discusses the relations between the Arab States during the two World Wars. Finally, nationalism in the context in regional development is discussed.

Chunlong Lu, and Steve A. Yetiv. "China, Global Energy, and the Middle East." Middle East Journal. Vol. 61. No. 2. Spring, 2007, pp. 199-218. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/stable/pdfplus/4330385.pdf?acceptTC=true>.

This article discusses the energy consumption of China and the implications of its high consumption level in the future. It also mentions the possible implications of China who has used the majority of its oil and that in the future it will rely on Middle Eastern energy sources. The article illustrates how because of its energy consumption, it will put US and Chinese relations on edge and could cause conflicts in the future. Finally, policy recommendations are discussed for all actors involved and how the MENA Region will be a vital actor between the two players.

Roy Nersesian. *Energy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide to Conventional and Alternative Sources*. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. New York. 2007.

This book illustrates many different types of resources, while listing the historical development of that resource and its future potential. Nersesian also discusses the history and future of Oil and the alternative energies that were discussed in the text of this guide. Finally, the social implications of implementing each type of energy are discussed by the author, showing how each region of the world can effectively implement that type of energy.

Michael Renner. "Restructuring the Energy Industry". MERIP Reports. No. 120, The Middle East after OPEC. Jan., 1984, pp. 12-17, 25, 31. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/stable/pdfplus/3011669.pdf?acceptTC=true>.

Renner discusses in this article OPECs beginning and how it shaped the world to adhere to its wants. The article opens with OPECs decision to increase the posted price of oil in the 1970s and how the world consumers reacted at the time. The article also sheds light on the issues that have arisen between OPEC and the oil production industry, large and small, namely market prices. This predicament is the entry of into the market of small scale venture businesses and governments which drastically can affect OPEC and the current status quo.

Nicolas Sarkis. "The Depletion of Arab Oil Resources." MERIP Reports. No. 89. Afghanistan. Jul. – Aug., 1980, pp. 27-28. <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/stable/pdfplus/3011837.pdf>.

This short read by Nicolas Sarkis shows a lack of concern for declining oil reserves in the Arab World and how the region might not cope well in the future. This article reflects the uncertainty of the world in OPECs and AOPECs ability to cope with the energy needs of the day for its Member States citizens. Furthermore, the regions energy needs have been growing for quite some time and this article emphasizes the problems that arise if the Arab Region does not address those issues.

The WB: Middle East and North Africa. 2011. <http://go.worldbank.org/R3LK0SGRM0>

The World Bank list many resources on the LAS Member States. Resources range from social to economic data, and list unilateral and multilateral projects. The WB MENA page also list reports on the economic status of the region, and will surely be an extremely vital source to follow throughout the ongoing revolutions. Finally, the WB's MENA webpage list development sectors and projects, as well as Data and other information.

"The Middle East and North Africa". 1999. Forty-fifth Edition. Europa Publications. London.

This large text lists numerous resources on the region. Ranging from the historical Islamist Movement in the Middle East, to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian issue, and surveys the extensive history of the region. The book also inventories the UN involvement with powerful regional actors. This text discusses the bilateral relations between states, using diplomatic cables as examples. Finally, the book illustrates the regions States physical, social, and economic geography.

Topic II: Addressing Human trafficking through the Arab Region: Protecting Human Rights During times of Crisis and Revolution

Amnesty International. <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Amnesty International is a leading NGO/IGO based in London which focuses on human rights and abuses worldwide. With active groups across the entire globe and publications that are instrumental in not only raising awareness but also forcing governments to become more transparent in their rights. Amnesty International was also particularly influential in international indictments of several leaders of regimes that were acting in contrary to international law.

Arab Charter on Human Rights. The League of Arab States. 15 September 1994.

Similar to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the international arena, the Arab Charter of Human Rights reaffirms and recognizes that all citizens of the Arab World have specific intrinsic and unrestricted basic human rights. This document forms the cornerstone of the dialogue in the Arab World on the issue of human rights and the state's responsibility to individuals, and in particular identifies the innate right to life, liberty, and security of person and the ability to freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development under protection of law.

"Crackdown in Syria: Terror in Tell Kalakh." Amnesty International Publications, London UK. 2011.

Though brutally graphic in nature, no other source at the time of this writing has been so helpful in getting a true look at the Syrian regime's crackdown of the protest movement, and it is likely that similar operations have occurred elsewhere in the country and throughout the Middle East. Specifically this publication identifies multiple international crimes and focuses on the torture and ill-treatment of adults,

children and the wounded. This was one of the many publications and documents sent to the prosecutor's office at the International Criminal Court by Amnesty International requesting the indictment of several members of the current regime in addition to the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad.

Dr. Mikhail Wehbe. "Statement of the League of Arab States" Presented at the Final Conference of the UN.GIFT Expert Group Initiative on Stakeholder and Law Enforcement Cooperation, Panel 2: Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through formalized cooperation – existing regional practices. Vienna, Austria. 30 March 2009.

The speech of Dr. Mikhail Wehbe at the Final Conference of the UN.GIFT Expert Group Initiative on Stakeholder and Law Enforcement Cooperation is unmatched in terms of insight into the League's external response to human trafficking. He outlines the League's continued commitment to the eradication of human trafficking and in particular Dr. Wehbe outlines several programs that are currently active in the Arab World that focus on the international crime of human trafficking.

Garry Blight and Sheila Pulham. "Arab Spring: An Interactive Timeline of Middle East Protests." The Guardian. 12 July 2011. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline>

The interactive timeline presented in this article will be instrumental in understanding each Member State's involvement, response and current situation regarding protest movements and governmental action. The timeline is incessantly updated and provides a clear and detailed account of all Arab States with the noted exception of Palestine, yet the timeline does include Israel as a point of interaction.

"Summary of Regional and Sub-Regional Structures and Initiatives to Counter Trafficking in Persons." December 2010. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/trafficking/docs/Dakar_summary_structures_en.pdf

The Summary is an indispensable look into the global crisis of human trafficking. With the contents of the article covering virtually every corner of the globe, this report outlines the measures and impact of such measures divided into regions. Additionally this report keys in on women and children and also includes information from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. New York, New York: 2004. Specifically the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime adopted in 2000. The document, also known as the Palermo Convention, and its three subsequent protocols are instrumental in defining transnational crimes of trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling and illicit arms trading and manufacturing. The Convention is held under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the department of the United Nations which remains seized in affairs concerning transnational crimes including human trafficking. The Office of Drugs and Crime site is complete with links outlining resources, topic areas and publications all of which help to garner a global understanding of global criminal activity. Of particular note on the site is the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking which may offer delegates an idea on how to best rehabilitate victims of human trafficking.

UNODC on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling. 2011. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuside>

Provides a springboard for delegates interested in any particular aspect of the topic at hand. The site provides an excellent brief of what human trafficking and migrant smuggling are as well as the intricacies in their difference. This site has links to literally hundreds of articles with additional information regarding human trafficking, migrant smuggling, government responses and actions.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. United Nations General Assembly. 10 December 1948.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the seminal rights document in international law. Its establishment in 1948 closely followed the Second World War and was in part a response by the United Nations to limit the ability for governments to enact measures similar to those seen in the war such as genocide and torture. It is important to understand this document in both form and spirit as both are central to the legal consequences of the document.

Topic III: Examining the Arab States Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

A/RES/55/2. “UN Millennium Declaration”. UN General Assembly. 18 September 2000.

The Millennium Declaration was an agreement established by the UN to allow all of the world to come together on a specific set of goals for all involved. The outcome was the MDGs, with specific targets and indicators which allow for the developed Members of the UN to work with the other under developed and least developed Member States. This document allows for a complete understanding of what the Declarations intentions are, which are vital to having a progressive discussion on the MDG achievement.

“About the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)”. AFESD. 2010. <http://www.arabfund.org/Default.aspx?pageId=10&mid=40>

The AFESD is concerned with the development of the Arab World. Based in Kuwait, the AFESD is a financial institution which focuses on economic integration and participatory action with Arab States. The organization aims to provide for the developmental needs of the MENA region, with a special aim of accomplishing transparency in all of its projects. The AFESD also keeps significant records on the organizations activities.

Arab NGO Network for Development. <http://annd.org/index.php>

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) works in the Arab Region to study the development of the Region. ANND has also worked with NGOs to create a statement for supporting the reforms in the Middle East, as they believe it will encourage the development for all social groups. The ANND has also worked to evaluate the MDG progress, European and Mediterranean Cooperation with the Region, and to evaluate the trade and development of the region.

E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/3. “The Third Arab Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2010 and the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis. The LAS and the UN. 2010. NY. New York.

This essential report brings into light much of this background guide. Highlighting each of the MDGs shortcomings and progressions the report by these two bodies show how the LAS needs to make adjustments on a regional, national, and local basis. Because the report is quite recent, it should be a cornerstone for your research on the region to accompany the vast amount of other resources which will give you country specific information.

“Official List of MDG Indicators”. UN Statistics Division. 15 January 2008.
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>

The Indicators and Targets for the MDGs are especially vital to discussions and research on your Member States Achievement of the MDGs. A knowledge of the indicators will give you an idea of what to look for as you look throughout the Relevant LAS and UN Information. This list shows each indicator, target, goal, and provides you with the ability to create a PDF or word document of the information.

Amartya K. Sen. 1999. “Development as Freedom”. Knopf Inc. New York, NY.

Amartya Sen is a Noble Peace Laureate whose work is ground breaking and has shaken development circles worldwide. His work has inspired the shift from traditional development which entailed development funding through projects which typically were limited by the state who donated the money to developing policies which allowed for the development of freedoms and true development for populations. Sen is acclaimed by many IGOs and having a knowledge of his work will lead you to be a vital source of information in the work of the committee.

Anup Shah. “Global Financial Crisis”. 11 December 2010. <http://www.globalissues.org/article/768/global-financial-crisis>

This compilation of articles addresses the particulars of the Global Financial Crisis. In addition to providing analysis on the particulars of the crisis, the webpage also gives audio, visual, and video logs of experts on how the international community should react to the crisis. Finally with the repercussions of the global financial crisis being so large and extensive, the author/editor gives recommendations and external links on how to find recommendations for the international community.

“The Middle East 1916-2001 : A Documentary Record.” Yale Law School: Lillian Goldman Law Library.
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/mideast.asp

Yale has compiled a very extensive document list found in this webpage. Vital Documents on this website are the Pact of the Arab League, also considered the Charter. Understanding the Charter will provide you with information on how the committee will run, and specific rules the committee will follow especially article 7. In addition to the Charter, the Treaty of Joint Economic and Social Cooperation Between the States of the Arab League will show you what the Arab League authority is on implementing projects. Finally, this document clearing house shows you much of the bilateral and multilateral agreements between IGOs and UN Member States.

United Nations Development Program: Arab States. 2011 <http://arabstates.undp.org/>

The UNDPs Arab States page list many different resources for your research. Country specific information is available to all delegates on laws, policies, and other important documents for each Arab State. The UNDP also gives specific information on how the UN is working with all actors to have peaceful transitions and negotiations on governments.