SRMUN Atlanta 2015
Unifying Our Global Community
through Humanitarian Collaboration
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Atlanta, GA
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Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to SRMUN Atlanta 2015 and the League of Arab States (LAS). My name is Dieyun Song and I am very excited to have the privilege of serving as the Director of the LAS. This is my first time on SRMUN Staff, and I am thrilled to make it a wonderful journey for all of us! I received a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Economic Crime Prevention and Investigations from Lynchburg College, Virginia, where I am currently a candidate of a Masters in Business Administration. Jacob Howe will take the role of Assistant Director (AD) for the LAS. Jacob is currently attending the University of Central Florida completing an undergraduate degree in International and Global Studies. Model United Nations (Model UN) has been one of Jacob's and my greatest passions, and both of us have attended regional, national, and international Model UN conferences for numerous years. Model UN provides a unique framework for people from different parts of the world with different backgrounds to develop new visions of global issues and foster new friendships. We truly hope that you will enjoy this experience and broaden your vision through researches and dialogues among your peers.

The LAS was established in Cairo, Egypt on 22 March 1945 with six founding Member States: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. The League is currently composed of 26 Member States. The primary purpose of the League is to strengthen the relationship and cooperation while protecting state sovereignty and independence among members in particular matters of interest, including: economic and financial affairs, communications, cultural affairs, nationality, social affairs, and health affairs. To work towards its goal, the LAS conducts dialogues and mediations among Member States and implements adopted resolutions and frameworks in the region. Echoing the theme of SRMUN Atlanta 2015, "*Unifying Our Global Community Through Humanitarian Collaboration*," the topics to be discussed for the League of Arab States are:

I. Empowering Youth by Providing Equal Access to Education and Employment Opportunities
II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Terrorism

This Background Guide provides delegates a starting point for research and a strong introduction on both the LAS and the two topics. Delegates should utilize the resources in the Background Guide as a foundation of their research. However, delegates are also expected to go beyond the parameters of the Background Guide and conduct further research on both his or her assigned Member State's position and the topics on regional and international levels. Jacob and I are very enthusiastic and excited about this incredible opportunity to serve as your dais, and we are always more than happy to help you with any questions you may have in your research and during the conference.

Each delegation is expected to submit one position paper discussing its country's positions on both topics by **30 October 2015 by 11:59 PM EST** via the SRMUN website (www.srmun.org). Position Papers should be single-spaced and no more than two pages in length. Details regarding formatting can be found on the SRMUN website. I appreciate and value the opportunity to serve as your director of the LAS. Jacob and I both look forward to seeing the excellent work produced and working with each of you during the conference.

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The Committee History of the League of Arab States

In 1944, the States of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Transjordan (currently known as Jordan), and Lebanon sent delegates to Cairo, Egypt, in order to discuss the future of a Pan-Arabic government as well as removing the influence of foreign powers inside the region.[1] This meeting led to the signing of the Alexandria Protocol on 7 October 1944, which authorized the creation of the organization that would later become the League of Arab States (LAS).[2] The goal of the LAS is to strengthen the ties of all Arabic governments through joint defense and coordination of implementing policy, reducing foreign influence in the region, and obtaining statehood for Palestine.[3] The LAS operates under the guidance of the League of Arab States Charter, which was signed on 22 March 1945 in Cairo.[4] The signatories of the founding Charter were: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Transjordan.[5] The Charter acts to endorse the idea of an Arabic homeland while ensuring the individual sovereignty and interests of the Arabic Member States.[6]

The body of the LAS meets twice a year, both in March and September, with emergency summits being allowed upon the request of two or more Member States.[7] The principle organ of the LAS is the Council of the Arab League, but there are also seven specialized committees that fall under the jurisdiction of the Council, which are: Communications, Cultural, Economic, Health, Legal, Political, and Social.[8] Each Member State receives equal voting rights, regardless on the size of the delegation present and the council Presidency rotates between Member States, with Lebanon currently holding the title.[9] The head of the LAS is established in Cairo, but is allowed to convene at any location deemed by the LAS.[10]

The Executive position of the LAS is the Secretary General (SG), whose responsibilities are to oversee departments and to represent the interests of the LAS in other international forums as well as mediate disputes between Arab States is selected by the League Council with a majority of two-thirds for a five-year term that can be renewed.[11] Currently, Nabil Elaraby is the incumbent for the office of SG.[12] Unless otherwise stated in the Charter, a simple majority is needed for policy or regulation to be adopted by the body; however, in order to respect state sovereignty, adopted council resolutions are only binding to Member States that voted in favor.[13] This has led to the challenge of holding Member States accountable for implementing council resolutions and questions the validity of the LAS since Member States can ignore resolutions that they do not find favorable to their domestic and foreign policy. While the LAS maintains cooperative relations with the United Nations (UN) and other organizations, it is an autonomous organization. The UN has a specific office for maintaining the LAS as a permanent observer.[14] This allows the organization to have delegates attend and speak on behalf of the LAS whenever relevant.[15] In addition, cooperation between the UN and the LAS has been on the rise in recent years, with both Secretary-Generals Nabil Elaraby and Ban Ki-moon appointing former United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, as a special envoy to represent both organizations in regards to the Syrian crisis.[16] This is to suggest that despite the LAS' stance on

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[1] *Alexandria Protocol*. League of Arab States. 7 October 1944. http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/alex.asp (accessed April 17, 2015).

[2] Ibid.

[3] Chris Toffolo and Peggy Kahn, ed. *The Arab League* (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 2008), 44.

[4] *Charter of Arab League*. The League of Arab States. 22 March 1945. http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html (accessed April 17, 2015).

[5] Ibid

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] "Remarks with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby Before Their Meeting," United States Department of State, 19 February 2015, http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/02/237640.htm (accessed May 11, 2015).

[13] Ibid.

[14] "Permanent Observers," United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/members/intergovorg.shtml (accessed April 15, 2015).

[15] "What is a Permanent Observer?" United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/members/aboutpermobservers.shtml (accessed April 19, 2015).

[16] "Kofi Annan Appointed Joint Special Envoy of United Nations, League of Arab States on Syrian Crisis," United Nations, 23 February 2012, http://www.un.org/press/en/2012/sgsm14124.doc.htm (accessed April 17, 2015).

reduction of foreign influence in the region, that the Arab countries still cooperate with international actors on an equal footing to help solve crises inside of its Member States borders.

The League of Arab States made its first real appearance on the world's stage in 1948, when the committee intervened in the Arab-Israeli War on behalf of the Arab population, who were uprooted by Israel in Palestine.[17] While the conflict did not end in favor of the Arab coalition, it did lead to the eventual signing of the Joint Defense and Economic Co-operation Treaty, which was a result of the growing influence of Israel in the region, and in turn led to the creation of the Joint Defense Council (JDC).[18] The JDC is a principal institution of the League that all Members States can participate in organizing mutual defense.[19]

In 2005, the Arab Parliament began transitioning into incorporation inside the LAS, but the Arab Parliament is unique in the sense that it is supposed to embody the thoughts and opinions of average Arabic citizens as opposed to the governments, and acts to strengthen democratic ideals in the region on matters concerning social, economic and cultural issues.[20] The Parliament consists of 84 members with each state sending 4 delegates.[21] The Parliament has no true authority outside of giving statements, but still has seen success. In regards to the crisis in Somalia, in 2006 the Arab Parliament requested Ethiopia to remove all troops and petitioned the United Nations Security Council to remove all foreign presence.[22] Due to the ongoing repression of the people of Syria by the Assad regime, the Arab Parliament submitted the recommendation to suspend the status of Syria as a member of the LAS.[23] The Council adopted the recommendation and Syrian membership within the League of Arab States was suspended on 16 November 2011.[24]

The League currently consists of 22 Member States.[25] The organization that originally functioned as a tool to curve foreign influence and protect Palestinian interest has reformed to also include taking active stances in protecting the right of protesters during recent demonstrations, monitoring of conflict to ensure protection of non-combatants, and holding a conference emphasizing the discussion of Arabic Human Rights.[26] During the 26th Arab Summit in March 2015, the conference was concluded with the Council voting in favor of the creation of a multi-national military force to combat the increasing problem of terrorism in the region.[27] The exact effectiveness of this military force is still left in question since policy will be drafted over the course of the next six months.[28] Since contribution to the force will most likely be volunteer-based, it has left open the question of whether the LAS military force will have the authority needed to help stabilize the region.

The current members of League of Arab States are:

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

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[17] "The Arab League," Council of Foreign Relations, http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/arab-league/p25967 (accessed February 28, 2015).

[18] Ibid.

[19] Ibid.

[20] "Background: The Arab Parliament," European Parliament, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/dmed/dv/5b_arabparliame/5b_arabparliament.pdf (accessed April 14, 2015).

[21] Ibid.

[22] Chris Toffolo and Peggy Kahn, ed., *The Arab League.* New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 2008.

[23] "Arab League Parliament urges Syrian suspension," Aljazerra, 21 September 2011, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/09/201192017594330402.html (accessed April 14, 2015).

[24] "Syria suspended from Arab League," The Gaurdian, 12 November 2011, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/nov/12/syria-suspended-arab-league (accessed April 13, 2015).

[25] "League of Arab States," One World Nations Online, http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/arab_league.htm (accessed April 15, 2015).

[26] "Arab Charter of Human Rights," Information Platform Humanrights, http://www.humanrights.ch/en/standards/other-regions-instruments/arab-charter-on-human-rights/ (accessed April 15, 2015).

[27] "The All-Arab Army?" Foreign Affairs, 7 April 2015, http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/143648/michael-broening/the-all-arab-army (accessed April 17, 2015).

[28] Ibid.

I. Empowering Youth by Providing Equal Access to Education and Employment Opportunities

"The States parties shall take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to guarantee the protection, survival, development and well-being of the child in an atmosphere of freedom and dignity and shall ensure, in all cases that the child's best interests are the basic criterion for all measures taken in his regard…"

—Arab Charter on Human Rights [29]

Introduction

According to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 20 percent of the population in the Arab Region is between 15 and 24 years old, and over half of the entire population is below the age of 25.[30] The youth population's vitality to society lies in its contribution to the work force and potential to accelerate social development progress. The youth population is the fastest growing segment of Arab countries, and some Member States' population is 60 percent under 25 years old.[31] The median age of the Arab Region is 22 years, which is six years younger than the global average, making the region one of the most youthful regions of the world.[32] As the population of youth continues to grow, the empowerment of youth becomes crucial to the Arab Region. Making education accessible and providing youth equal employment opportunities to participate in the work force have never been so important to the development of the region.

The LAS has always valued the significance and rights of youth. As stated in Article 39 of the *Arab Charter on Human Rights*, "the youth has the right to have greater opportunity to develop physical and mental abilities."[33] During the past several decades, significant progress has been made through the cooperation between the League and the international community. According to the World Bank, in the Arab World primary school enrollment grew from 95.2 percent to 100.6 percent from 2005 to 2012 (the percentage exceeded 100 percent is due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged students), and the completion rate grew from 84.8 percent to 89.2 percent.[34] Secondary school enrollment increased to 72.0 percent in 2012 from that of 67.4 percent in 2005.[35] Although more individuals have access to education, the quality and equal access of education still remains a challenge. As of 2012, the ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education was 93.4 percent.[36] The literacy of youth females in 2010 was 84.6 percent compared to 91.3 percent of youth males, and both ratios are below the global average.[37] The pupil-student ratio of primary school dropped from 21.6 percent to 19.0 percent from 2005 to 2012 in the Arab Region, which is almost five percent lower than the global average.[38] As education serves as a crucial role in the preparation of the work force, employment is directly affected by education. As of 2013, the unemployment rate of youth males in the

[29] *Arab Charter of Human Rights*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 22 May 2004. http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b38540.html (accessed April 15, 2015).
[30] "Regional Overview: Youth in the Arab Region," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Regional%20Overview%20Youth%20in%20the%20Arab%20Region-Western%20Asia.pdf (accessed May 19, 2015).
[31] "Middle East and North Africa: Youth Facts," Youth Policy, http://www.youthpolicy.org/mappings/regionalyouthscenes/mena/facts/ (accessed May 20, 2015).
[32] Ibid.
[33] *Arab Charter of Human Rights*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 22 May 2004. http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b38540.html (accessed April 15, 2015).
[34] "School Enrollment, Primary (% gross)," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).
[35] "School Enrollment, Secondary (% gross)," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.ENRR/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).
[36] "Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary and Secondary Education (%)," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ENR.PRSC.FM.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).
[37] "Literacy Rate, Youth Female (% of Female Ages 15-24)," The World Bank. http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.1524.LT.FE.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015); "Literacy Rate, Youth Male (% of Male Ages 15-24)," The World Bank. http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.1524.LT.MA.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).
[38] "Pupil-Teacher Ratio, Primary," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRL.TC.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).

Arab World was 23.2 percent compared to the global average of 13.4 percent.[39] The unemployment rate of youth females in 2013 was 47.9 percent compared to the global average of 15.7 percent.[40]

Obstacles and difficulties, such as increasing armed conflicts, social stereotypes, limitations of information sharing, and poverty challenge the progress of youth empowerment. Empowering youth does not only strengthen the human rights of the youth population, but also accelerates sustainable development goals (SDGs) one, four, five, eight, and sixteen which cover the areas of gender equality, improving the quality of education, economic growth, and ending poverty.[41] Upon the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the end of 2015, the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda will be replacing the MDGs, becoming the guiding blueprint for the UN with sustainable development as its center.[42] As the post-2015 era is quickly approaching, youth empowerment has never been so crucial, for its importance in implementing the SDGs and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

International and Regional Frameworks

Articles 23 and 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) highlight universal equal rights to education and employment without any type of discriminations.[43] The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) also requires Member States to take all available and appropriate initiatives and measures to ensure girls' equal access to education, including physical, technical, sports education, and scholarship opportunities.[44] Article 11 of the CEDAW further emphasizes "the right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings," and the right to equal employment opportunities, promotion, equal treatment, and social security among women and men.[45] In 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.[46] Echoing the UDHR, Article 28 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* highlights children's right to education and further encourages international cooperation in the field of education.[47]

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) conducted the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monetary Consensus in Doha, Qatar from 29 November to 2 December 2008, which produced the *Qatar Declaration*.[48] The *Doha Declaration* realized the essentiality of "full and productive employment and decent work for all," and prioritized investment in inclusive education in national and regional strategies.[49] The *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam*, which is the outcome document of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States, recognized the significant contributions of youth and equal education to economic growth, political and social development, and

[39] "Unemployment, Youth Male (% of Male Labor Force Ages 15-24) (Molded ILO Estimate)," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.MA.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).

[40] "Unemployment, Youth Female (% of Male Labor Force Ages 15-24) (Molded ILO Estimate)," The World Bank, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.FE.ZS/countries/1W-1A?display=graph (accessed May 20, 2015).

[41] Derek Osborn, Amy Cutter, and Farooq Ullah. *Universal Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Transformational Challenge for Developed Countries.* May 2015. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1684SF_-_SDG_Universality_Report_-_May_2015.pdf (assessed May 20, 2015).

[42] "Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda," United Nations Economic and Social Council, http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml (accessed June 1, 2015).

[43] *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. 10 December 1948.

[44] *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 18 December 1979. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf (accessed May 20, 2015).

[45] Ibid.

[46] *Convention on the Rights of the Child.* United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 20 November 1989. http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx (accessed May 20, 2015).

[47] Ibid.

[48] Doha Declaration *on Financing for Development: Outcome Document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus*. United Nations. 2009. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf (accessed May 20, 2015).

[49] Ibid.

called for the improvement of the quality and equal access to education to all, including girls, in order to proactively respond to the needs of the labor market in the Arab region.[50]

Role of the International System

League of Arab States

The LAS has multiple councils and offices that were created to focus on youth and education-related issues. The Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), founded in 1975 in Tunisia, serves as a liaison among Member States in strengthening information sharing and exchange to improve cooperation efficiency in the contacts of education and youth empowerment.[51] ALESCO plays a significant role in the "Arabization" of communication tools and the acceleration of both social and economic progress of all Member States, which in turn fosters progress on improving equal access to education to youth.[52]

The Arab Youth Observatory (AYO), founded in 2006, consists of members of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governmental organizations that gather to focus on topic of youth empowerment of Member States.[53] Similar to ALESCO, AYO specializes in data collection and analysis to promote updates and exchanges on youth in the region, which in turn articulates a standardized Arab vision on the empowerment of youth.[54] Further, with the information network built, AYO could advocate efficient dialogues and discussions regarding existing frameworks and policies on youth empowerment among stakeholders.[55] One of the greatest contributions of AYO is its capacity-building in youth leaders through multiple mechanisms, such as active dialogues, youth forums, and network advocacy.[56]

The Arab-European Youth Forum, previously known as the LAS Youth forum, is one of the youth discussions AYO organizes each year with the cooperation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Council of Europe, and the European Youth Forum since 2006.[57] The last forum took place from 8-11 December 2013, in Doha, Qatar, with the central theme of "Together for Human Rights, Youth Participation and Dialogue."[58] The forum was mainly launched to initiate discussions and dialogues in the contexts of protecting youth's rights in armed and political conflicts.[59] As an outcome, participating Member States adopted the *Doha Youth Declaration,* which highlighted and emphasized the importance of protecting and promoting the full enjoyment and human rights of youth, especially education, decent employment environment, and social protection, through mechanisms including legal frameworks, policies, and creating a charter.[60]

The next Euro-Arab Youth Forum will take place in Strasbourg, France from 2-5 September 2015, with "Learning and Practicing Citizenship: Young people's values and commitments to intercultural and inclusive societies" as the theme.[61] The forum aims to help youth leaders to exchange opinions on challenged faced in engaging youth in education, and explores the role of education in promoting human rights and building inclusive and peaceful

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[50] *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam*. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. http://www.oic-oci.org/english/article/human.htm (accessed May 20, 2015).
[51] "Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Tunisia," United Nations Educational, scientific and Cultural Organization. http://www.unesco.org/education/aladin/?menuitem=17&region=001&member=7 (accessed May 22, 2015).
[52] Ibid.
[53] "Arab Youth Observatory." Population Policies and Expatriates and Migration Department. http://www.poplas.org/en/page.php?page=2 (accessed May 22, 2015).
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Ibid.
[57] "Middle East and North Africa: Cooperation and Mechanisms," Youth Policy. http://www.youthpolicy.org/mappings/regionalyouthscenes/mena/actors/mechanisms/ (accessed May 24, 2015).
[58] "4th Arab-European Youth Forum: Together for Human Rights, Youth Participation and Dialogue," Youth Policy. http://www.youthpolicy.org/event/4th-arab-european-youth-forum-together-for-human-rights-youth-participation-dialogue/ (accessed May 24, 2015).
[59] Ibid.
[60] *Doha Youth Declaration.* European Youth Forum. December 2013.
[61] "2015 Euro-Arab Youth Forum in Strasbourg, France," Edu-active, http://www.edu-active.com/camps/2015/apr/22/2015-euro-arab-youth-forum-strasbourg-france.html (accessed May 24, 2015).

societies.[62] The Euro-Arab Youth Forum not only provides youth leaders of the Arab region a platform to exchange ideas and to further implement existing frameworks, but also strengthens international cooperation and information sharing, which provides fresh ideas and new approaches in tackling current challenges. In addition, AYO also organizes the Arab Youth Advisory Committee and prepares an annual report on Arab youth issues with execution by the Population Policy and Migration Department of the LAS and collaboration with United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).[63]

United Nations System

The UNFPA Arab States regional office, located in Cairo, Egypt, works closely with the governments and organizations in the region, including matters relating to youth empowerment.[64] Having witnessed the impact of the youth population during the Arab Spring, the regional office aims to engage young people in the establishment of an inclusive and healthy environment for all.[65] Hence, the regional office created the Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People, which outlines the challenges along with the priorities of UNFPA Arab States office's work on youth empowerment.[66] The framework notes the link between the high unemployment rate and the education system's failure in providing graduates with the skills needed in the labor force.[67] In addition, the gap between young girls' school enrollment rate and that of young men's is also highlighted in the document.[68] Further, the framework lists "facilitate equitable access to decent employment and livelihoods by strengthening young people capacities and life skills" as the office's top priority;" and both of the matter of education and employment will be addressed on policy advise and advocacy; data and research; information and educational and services strategic levels.[69]

As the expert of poverty eradication and inequalities reduction in the UN system, UNDP has launched numerous youth empowerment programs around the world.[70] For instance, noting that the unemployment rate for youth population in Tunisia has reached 30 percent, UNDP developed and is implementing a transition strategy that focuses on both poverty reduction and democratic governance.[71] Under the direction of the strategy, an "Employment Generation for Youth in Tunisia Project" was launched.[72] The project provides professional and entrepreneurial training, with environmental sectors as its emphasis, to both young men and women to promote self-employment for youth.[73] This ongoing education program has provided training for over 700 young Tunisians and will generate 250 jobs upon the completion of the training.[74]

In addition, the Youth Employment Network (YEN), a collaborate product by the DESA, International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, was created to strengthen global partnership in the implementation of the

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[62] Ibid.
[63] "Arab Youth Observatory." Population Policies and Expatriates and Migration Department,
    http://www.poplas.org/en/page.php?page=2 (accessed May 22, 2015).
[64] "Home," United Nations Population Fund Arab States Regional Office,
    http://arabstates.unfpa.org/public/cache/offonce/pid/7758;jsessionid=9189A37527E7E58C72FCF1AD84FC7506.jahia0
    1 (accessed May 23, 2015).
[65] "Adolescents and Youth," United Nations Population Fund Arab States Regional Office,
    http://arabstates.unfpa.org/public/pid/10994 (accessed May 23, 2015).
[66] United Nations Population Fund Arab States Regional Office, *Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People*,
    http://arabstates.unfpa.org/webdav/site/as/shared/ASRO%20website/Publication/2012-
    Young%20People%20in%20Arab%20States-EN.pdf (accessed May 23, 2015).
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.
[70] "A world of development experience," United Nations Development Programme,
    http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us.html (accessed June 1, 2015).
[71] "Encouraging and supporting youth employment in Tunisia," United Nations Development Programme,
    http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/Encouraging_supportin
    g_youth_employment_Tunisia/ (accessed June 1, 2015).
[72] Ibid.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid.

MDGs.[75] The YEN enables Member States to develop more effective National Action Plans (NAPs) to improve youth employment by pairing countries up with specialized agencies and institutions to provide governments expertise and knowledge in youth development.[76] The success of the YEN does not only lie in the increase of youth employment rate and local governments' knowledge on youth development, but also shows in the opportunities it provided to the specialized agencies to review and reevaluate their previous actions in order to make further progress.[77] Tackling barriers of youth empowerment requires collaborations among Member States and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), and the YEN is a prime successful example of the benefit and importance of collaboration.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Civil Society Organizations play a vital role in the matter of youth empowerment. Although governments and IGOs have regulatory authorities, the implementation is highly reliant on the execution skills and professional expertise of grass-root CSOs. For instance, the Middle East Youth Initiative (MEYI), a CSO founded in 2006, gathers experts on youth empowerment in the Arab region, conducts research, and makes policy-making recommendations in the field of youth employment and education.[78] Through research sharing and organizing programs on youth inclusion, MEYI has empowered hundreds of Arabic young people along and improved national policies.[79] In addition, the Saïd Foundation, a CSO based in the United Kingdom, is another pioneer in educating and training young people with practical skills in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.[80] Its Syria Relief Program, which includes subprograms, such as supporting the refugee school in Turkey, organizing schools for internally displaced children in northern Syria, and raising awareness for youth education in Lebanon, directly helps thousands of youth regain the access to education.[81] CSOs can contribute to youth empowerment through both policy-making and field works. They reallocate resources to make the execution more thorough and effective.

Current Challenges

Armed Conflicts and Terrorist Activities

As armed conflicts and terrorist activities continue to worsen in the region, youth safety is put into jeopardy. At the same time, as a consequence of the poor economy and the chaos created by armed conflicts, distressed youth are at greater risk of choosing the wrong path and may potentially create more threats to the public safety. Furthermore, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), armed conflicts significantly distract education funding in both public and private sectors.[82] In 2011, only two percent of the global humanitarian aid went to education projects, and six days military spending donated by aid donors would is adequate enough to close the USD 16 billion Education for All external financing gap.[83] The challenges caused by armed conflicts and terrorist activities lie in the instable social environment and lack of financial funding and employment opportunities. Effectively addressing armed conflicts and budget shortage in the Arab region is vital to build a strong foundation to empower youth.

Gender Equality

Echoing the data from the World Bank, there is a significant gap between young males' and females' literacy rate and school enrollment rate. Issues such as social stereotypes, cultural norms, and lacking legal knowledge that

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[75] "Youth Employment Gateway," United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, http://undesadspd.org/Employment/YouthEmployment.aspx (accessed June 2, 2015).

[76] Ibid.

[77] Ibid.

[78] "About the Middle East Youth Initiative," Middle East Youth Initiative, http://www.meyi.org/about.html (accessed June 2, 2015).

[79] Ibid.

[80] "Our Vision and Values," The Saïd Foundation, http://www.saidfoundation.org/our-vision-and-values (accessed June 2, 2015).

[81] "Syria Programme," The Saïd Foundation, http://www.saidfoundation.org/syria-programme (accessed June 2, 2015).

[82] "The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education," United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2011/hidden-crisis-armed-conflict-and-education#sthash.lCCH4JQs.R9iQaVsM.dpbs (accessed June 2, 2015).

[83] Ibid.

prevent young women from receiving equal access to education equivalent to young men still exist in all Member States. Gaps of unequal economic development and social progress will remain if girls and women do not have the same access to opportunities of education and employment as boys and men. Respecting gender equality does not only protect women, but the entire human race. Incorporating gender sensitivity and addressing young womens' equal rights to receive education and employment opportunities are an important component of youth empowerment.

Conclusion

The world has been experiencing many challenges to empower youth and humanity. Young people hold the future of the world and have incredible potential to make the earth a better place. Investing in youth education and increasing employment opportunities for the young people to engage in the labor force prepare youth to contribute to regional and international development. Although there are many urgent needs, such as terrorism, economic development, and environmental protection to be addressed, youth empowerment should be prioritized on the LAS' agenda to promote human rights and also to create a better tomorrow.

Committee Directive

All Member States of the League of Arab States should proactively look into solutions that can increase equal access to education and employment opportunities to all youth. Delegates may start by reviewing lessons learned and actions taken by Member States to gain a better insight on their country's situation. It is important to note that the League addresses the Arab region as a whole rather than individual countries or blocs. Collaboratively negotiate and work with other delegates to form a plan that could tackle the obstacles of armed conflicts, gender issues, information sharing, and stereotypes that could empower all Arabic youth is the goal of the committee. Please consider what the League can do to help Member States overcome the challenges and build capacity to empower youth.

II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Terrorism

Introduction

The nature of terrorism within the Arab Region in many cases can be attributed to religious extremists operating in cell-based organizations or having state-based sponsorship for sectarian reasons.[84] The notable exception being the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is attempting to set itself up as a legitimate government.[85] Originating as an Al-Qaida linked terror organization in Iraq, ISIL has continued to thrive on the vacuum of power primarily in Sunni Iraq and Syria and is beginning to branch out into other Member States as well.[86] ISIL is unique in this that it is a self-declared caliphate and has organized itself to be run as a state.[87] Claiming its borders to include all former Islamic lands, ISIL is a direct threat to the sovereignty of LAS Member States.[88] ISIL currently controls much of Iraq and Syria, but is beginning to threaten the stability of other UN Member States as well.

In March 2015, ISIL took credit for an attack on a museum in Tunisia.[89] Reports suggest that this attack was an attempt to decimate the Tunisia economy by dissuading tourists to visit the country.[90] Terrorist attacks by ISIL carried outside of claimed territories are not unheard of and will most likely only continue to increase in frequency. With the stability of the Arab region decreasing, while the threat of terrorism grows, it is now more important than ever for the Member States of the Middle East to cooperate with each other. Increasing coordination amongst LAS Member States of the LAS is a key step for creating a stronger framework of responsible information sharing within

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[84] "Middle East," *Global Issues*, http://www.globalissues.org/issue/103/middle-east (accessed May 20, 2015).

[85] "Colonial Caliphate the Ambitions of the 'Islamic State,'" *Washington Institute*, http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/colonial-caliphate-the-ambitions-of-the-islamic-state (accessed May 20, 2015).

[86] Ibid.

[87] Ibid.

[88] Ibid.

[89] "Militants, Isis include claim Tunisia Museum attack," *New York Times*, http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/20/world/africa/miltants-isis-included-claim-tunisia-museum-attack.html (accessed May 20, 2015).

[90] Ibid.

the League in order to continue the growth towards a more united and safer Arabic homeland. For this to happen, Member States must reexamine the nature of the relationships and work together to integrate counter-terrorism tactics and strategies. With the historical framework of the LAS already in place, Member States have the opportunity to work in a system that encourages multilateral defensive action and cooperation.

Cooperation during military exercises, creation of proper channels for communication, and questions on the ethics of handling individuals suspected of terrorist activates are some of the concerns faced by Arab Member States in tackling terrorism. This can be specified to issues in regards to state sovereignty. Member States must find a way to ensure effective coordination of policies while maintaining individual decision-making capabilities. This challenge is further compounded by differences in government types. Republics, Monarchies, and Strongmen are all types of governments found in the Arab world and often have different opinions on how policy should be created and maintained.

Sources of Conflict

Due to the history of conflict between the two major competing Islamic sects in the region, Sunni and Shia, sectarian conflict is a divide that is a cause for terrorist conflict in the region. While not a Member State of the LAS, the role that Iran plays must be taken into consideration. With the notable exceptions of Lebanon and Iraq, Sunni dominant governments run all other Member States of the LAS, while Iran is a Shia run state. Iran supports Shia minorities inside of the LAS and will often times arm them, a current example being the Houthi conflict in Yemen. In addition, Iran allegedly currently sponsors Hezbollah and Hamas and is suspected on supporting the Houthi rebel movement in Yemen.[91] The Houthis, mainly from the Zaidi Shia sect in Northern Yemen, feel oppressed by the Yemeni government. There are concerns that the conflict might spill over into the borders of Saudi Arabia and cause the entire Gulf coast to become destabilized. Due to fears of the conflict spilling over across their border, Saudi Arabia took initiative to form a coalition in support of the Yemeni government. Beginning on 25 March 2015, under the name Operation Decisive Storm, the Saudi-led coalition has been conducting air strikes inside of Yemen against Houthi targets.[92] There are also reports of artillery exchanges between rebel forces and Saudi forces along the border.[93] There have also been raids into Saudi territory by rebels targeting military bases.[94] As of now, there seems to be no end in sight of the conflict, with the threat of the conflict spilling over into Saudi Arabia only continuing to grow.

Israel is at the center of a substantial amount of conflict in the region. With the exception of Jordan and Egypt, no Member States recognize Israel and emphasize the right of Palestine for autonomy.[95] Following the fall out of the 2011 Arab Spring, the question of Palestinian statehood has become less of a priority for LAS, but members of local populations are still active inside Palestine, as well as Shia based Hezbollah inside of Lebanon.[96] Despite being classified as terrorist organizations by most the West, until recently Hamas has enjoyed high levels of tolerance in LAS Member States. This newfound source of hesitation of support towards Hamas is not due to differences in ideology, but usage of tactics that places civilians at risk.[97] As the League continues to build accountability for counter-terrorist operations inside the region, Member States will need to consider policy towards Hezbollah and Hamas and possible ramifications for allowing these organizations exemption from policy.

The importance of foreign fighters fighting for terrorist organizations cannot be ignored. Oftentimes, these individuals either have combat experience from prior Jihad participation or come from a developed region, and they

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[91] Greg Bruno, "State Sponsors: Iran," *Council of Foreign Relations*, http://www.cfr.org/iran/state-sponsors-iran/p9362 (accessed June 4, 2015).

[92] "Saudi 'Decisive Storm' waged to save Yemen," *Al Arabiya News*, http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/03/26/GCC-states-to-repel-Houthi-aggression-in-Yemen-statement.html (accessed July 1, 2015).

[93] "Tens of Saudi soldiers killed near Yemen: Reports," http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/04/12/405858/Tens-of-Saudi-soldiers-killed-near-Yemen (accessed July 2, 2015).

[94] Ibid.

[95] "Israel International Relations: International Recognition of Israel," *Jewish Virtual Library*, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/recogIsrael.html (accessed July 27, 2015).

[96] Avraham Sela, "The Decline of Arab-Israeli Conflict: Middle East Politics and the Quest for Regional Order," 1998.

[97] "Arab World Increasingly Frustrated with Hamas," *Algemeiner News*, http://www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/17/arab-world-increasingly-frustrated-with-hamas/# (accessed July 7, 2015).

are highly equipped.[98] Arabic terrorism is familiar with foreign fighters participating in 'Jihad'. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, local insurgency groups used the umbrella term Mujahedeen (one engaged in Jihad).[99] Many of these insurgents were all Arabic task forces.[100] Maktab-Al Khidamat, also known as the Afghan Services Bureau, was a notable Mujahedeen group that utilized foreign fighters organized by Bin Laden, and is considered the precursor to Al-Qaida.[101] The importation of foreign fighters still plays a prominent role in today's terrorist organizations. While most of the fighters originate from Syria or Iraq, a vast amount of ISIL troops originate from foreign sources such as Chechnya.[102] This includes from both LAS Member States as well as from outside the region.[103] Most foreign fighters originate from Saudi Arabia, with reports suggesting approximately 7,000 Saudis have joined the ranks of ISIS.[104] During a meeting at the Clinton Global Initiative, King Abdullah of Jordan reported that ISIL pays roughly USD $1,000 a month to foreign fighters, which is comparable to a middle class salary for a citizen of Jordan.[105] With such a demand for trained fighters, it is not unreasonable to expect that the number of fighters from foreign countries will only increase. Member States should consider ways to decreases incentives for citizens to join foreign terrorist organizations.

Combating the Threat Directly: Creation of a Joint-Arab Task Force

During the 26th Arab League Summit, the delegation voted to create a Pan-Arabic joint military force. This is in direct response of the growing security issues in Libya and Yemen as well as an attempt to curve growing tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran in their growing sectarian proxy conflict.[106] Terrorist threats are also considered under the jurisdiction of the military force and it is expected that the force will be used in counter terrorist operations.[107] The force itself will most contain approximately 30,000 to 40,000 elite troops and be backed up by aircraft and armor.[108] The task force has been met with reservations from some Member States. Member States with significant Shia populations, mainly Lebanon and Iraq, expressed concerns with the idea of a Sunni dominated security force, as a form of compromise, it was decided that all forces must be sent in on a voluntary basis.

The idea of an Arabic task force has been in talks ever since the last attempt failed in the Arab-Israeli wars. However, with the ongoing Houthi minority attempting to overthrow the Yemeni government, Saudi Arabia very quickly organized a joint task force incorporating troops and supplies from nine Member States.[109] Despite the progress made, it must be noted that this Saudi-led task force is not a sanctioned LAS military unit and there are no formal multilateral treaties holding it together. This force, organized under Decisive Freedom, is only agreed upon in principle and even though the concept is still refined, many are already expressing skepticism. There are many skeptics to the future of Joint-Arab military forces.[110]

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[98] Onley, Robert, "Why foreign Fighters are Joining ISIL," *Huffington Post*, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-d-onley/why-foreign-fighters-are-_b_5953066.html (accessed June 5, 2015).

[99] "Afghan War," Encyclopedia Britannica (September 2014): Research Starters, EBSCO (accessed June 5, 2015).

[100] Milton Bearden, "Afganistan: Graveyard of Empires," *Council of Foreign Relations*, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/afghanistan/2001-11-01/afghanistan-graveyard-empires (accessed June 6, 2015).

[101] Ibid.

[102] "Saudis most likely to join Isis, 10% of groups fighters are women," *Middle East Monitor*, https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/14758-saudis-most-likely-to-join-isis-10-of-groups-fighters-are-women (accessed May 5, 2015).

[103] Thomas Jocelyn, "Chechen-led group swears allegiance to head of Islamic State of Iraq and Sham," *Long War Journal*, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/11/muhajireen_army_swea.php (accessed June 7, 2015).

[104] Ibid.

[105] "King outlines Jordan's Future vision at Clinton Global Vision," *Jordan Times*, http://jordantimes.com/article/king-outlines-jordans-future-vision-at-clinton-global-initiative (accessed May 19, 2015).

[106] "26th Arab League Summit – Final Communique," *Susris*, http://susris.com/2015/03/29/26th-arab-summit-final-communique/ (accessed May 20, 2015).

[107] Ibid.

[108] Ibid.

[109] "Saudi boosts military support near Yemen border," *Al Alarabiya,* http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/03/26/GCC-states-to-repel-Houthi-aggression-in-Yemen-statement-.html (accessed June 6, 2015).

[110] Laura King, "Analysis: Formation of pan-Arab military force could backfire," *LA Times*, http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-analysis-arab-military-force-20150330-story.html (accessed July 26, 2015).

Human Rights Concerns

On 22 April 1998, the LAS enacted the *Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism*.[111] The purpose of the treaty was an agreement between all Member States to not support terrorist organizations that threaten the sovereignty of each other as well as providing extradition of suspected terrorists.[112] While the document has made strides in cooperation amongst Member States, there are many human rights concerns in regards to the document. For example, terrorism is not defined properly at any point in the rather lengthy document. Freedom of expression is threatened with the allowance of security forces to monitor social media and other forms of communication under this convention. Suspects also could be expedited to a country without trial and then be subject to torture, unfair trails, or the death penalty.[113]

Many of the aspects of the *Suppression of Terrorism Convention* come into conflict with the *Arab Charter of Human Rights*. Adopted in 1994 by the body of the LAS, the *Charter on Human Rights* is built upon ideas discussed in the *UN Charter*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and the *Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam*.[114] The primary objective of the *Arab Charter of Human Rights* is to reaffirm rights of individuals inside of Member States.[115] Moralities such as the right to seek asylum and the banning of the death penalty are included Articles under the *Human Rights Charter*.[116] While not all Member States have ratified the document, it does show the shortcomings of the *Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism*.[117] Member States should consider correcting discrepancies between the *Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism* and the *Arab Charter of Human Rights* as to create an effective way for Member States to cooperate effectively while still respecting the sovereignty of each Member State and the rights of individual citizens.

Foreign Considerations

Operation Inherent Resolve is a United States coalition force that is tasked with "unwavering resolve and commitment" to the defeat of all extremist organizations operating in Iraq and Syria, specifically ISIL.[118] Currently, it primarily consists of air strikes and training missions.[119] The mission has been credited with reducing the operating range of ISIL in Iraq, but is maintaining its hold on its Syrian territories.[120] While the American-led force enjoys approval from the Iraqi government, the Syrian government so far has not made any statements in regards to the airstrikes. However they have made no attempts to dissuade airstrikes against insurgent targets inside of the country. Inherent Resolve is met with general approval from Member States, since the primary focus is supporting Arab-led initiatives through training and air support.[121] However there has been concern with the authorization of more foreign troops in combat situations. Many Member States believe that this would be an invasion on national sovereignty.

Foreign states are also beginning to incorporate anti-terrorism techniques inside domestic policies. Currently there are talks in Australia to take away citizenship of individuals who have associations with ISIL.[122] The removal of citizenship might also include their children, which could act to dissuade potential Australians for taking up arms for ISIL[123] LAS Member States should consider ways to partner with other States on eliminating foreign fighters from entering LAS borders.

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[111] *Arab Convention of Suppression of Terrorism League of Arab States*. 22 April 1998.
[112] Ibid.
[113] *Arab Charter on Human Rights* League of Arab States. 5 September 1994.
[114] Ibid.
[115] Ibid.
[116] Ibid.
[117] Ibid.
[118] Julian E Barnes, "U.S. to Give Some Syria Rebels Ability to Call Airstrikes," *Wall Street Journal*, http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-to-give-some-syria-rebels-ability-to-call-airstrikes-1424208053 (accessed June 6 2015).
[119] Ibid.
[120] Ibid.
[121] Ibid.
[122] "Australia to revoke citizenship of Australian-born Jihadis," *Todays Zaman,* http://www.todayszaman.com/anasayfa_australia-to-revoke-citizenship-of-australian-born-jihadis_381356.html (accessed June 6, 2015).
[123] Ibid.

Conclusion

With the possibility of the spread of instability within the region as an ever-growing threat, Member States of the LAS face the monumental task of cooperating amongst themselves and the international community to combat terrorism inside of the Middle East. ISIL has quickly surpassed Al-Qaeda as the largest terrorist organization in the region and is threating to expand in any direction that exists in a vacuum. Iran's continued financial support of Houthi rebels in Yemen also threatens regional stability. It would be no surprise if the Saudi Arabian government would feel threatened being surrounded by existential threats on both borders, especially with the new king coming to power in these questionable times.

But despite these obstacles, the future coordination between Member States of the LAS is beginning to seem optimistic. With frameworks such as the *Convention of Suppression of Terrorism* and the Multi-National Defense force, Member States have a history that they can draw upon to attempt to stabilize the region. However, Member States must tackle the challenges in regards to state sovereignty and humanitarian issues that increased cooperation would create. With many of these organizations operating across multiple Member State borders, communication and accountability of Member States is the first, and more important step on creating a healthier, stable region.

Committee Directive

As a Committee, delegates should focus on stopping the spread of terrorism inside of the region, primarily ISIL. Delegates should begin by determining ways in which Member States can participate in counter-terrorist activates. Long-term solutions to eliminate ISIL must be established and implemented. The use of security forces for combat or intelligence gathering is an avenue delegates may want to consider. Committee members should be wary of the many questions regarding human rights and state sovereignty, specifically the former as many organizations have challenged the ethics behind past historical documents.

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I. Empowering Youth by Providing Equal Access to Education and Employment Opportunities

"Arab Charter on Human Rights," The League of Arab States, 1994,
http://www.refworld.org/publisher,LAS,MULTILATERALTREATY,,3ae6b38540,0.html
As the most influential regional framework on human rights in the Arab region, this is an essential document for delegates to study the basic policies and values of the region and the committee. The Charter highlights numerous human rights issues and the regional standards. Focusing on the Articles on education, youth, employment, gender quality and related items would assist delegates in developing a better understanding of the region's position.

"Education for Employment: Realizing Arab Youth Potential," International Finance Cooperation,
https://www.e4earabyouth.com/pdf/MGLPDF136022536640.pdf
This report contains comprehensive information on youth education in the Arab region and the transition from education to employment, in particular. Providing equal access to education to youth is only one step of youth empowerment. The purpose of youth empowerment initiatives is to transform youth into independent individuals that can contribute skills and knowledge to the society. This report has a unique approach of e4e, "education for employment," that explains the transformation process and challenges. Delegates may also study the actions proposed in the report and see where they can fit into Member States' and the League's agenda.

"Middle East and North Africa: Cooperation Mechanisms," *Youth Policy,*
http://www.youthpolicy.org/mappings/regionalyouthscenes/mena/actors/mechanisms/
This webpage provides useful information on regional organizations that focus on youth issues. Effectively utilizing the resources on hand and collaborating among partners are essential to deliver the maximum outcomes. Reading through this information and looking into each organization and the League's cooperation with them may help delegates understand regional cooperation better. Having a clear picture of available resources and other regional entities' functions may also assist delegates' further research on policy making and programming.

Mulderig, M. Chloe, "An Uncertain Future: Youth Frustration and the Arab Spring," (2013),
http://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/2013/04/Pardee-Paper-16.pdf?PDF=pardee-papers-16-arab-spring
One of the greatest threats of youth education and employment in the Arab region is the social instability and violence. The Arab Spring, a youth-led revolution, does not only have social and political significance but also leaves lasting impact on youth's attitude and perspectives on the society. This article dives into the social norms the revolution challenged and some obstacles and distractions it left for youth. Delegates may find it an insightful case study on how violence may impact youth empowerment and how may obstacles be tackled.

"Publications," Middle East Youth Initiative, http://www.meyi.org/publications.html
This website provides some great publications and case studies on youth empowerment in the Arab region. Topics listed include youth exclusion, youth transition to employment, youth social entrepreneurship, and so on. By studying these cases, delegates will gain insights not only in Member States' youth issues, but also in the region as a whole. This website may help delegates initiate more effective and efficient negotiations and debates during the conference sessions.

"Regional Report: National Events on Youth Employment in the Arab States," International Labour Office, 2012,
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_191953.pdf
This ILO report begins with an overview of the challenges the region faces in youth employment. The report also highlights each country's actions and significant national events. The report serves as a great resource for delegates in gaining information on regional Member States' progress and challenges on youth employment. The purpose of the League is to unify regional countries and tackle challenges together. By researching both individual and other countries' situation, delegates may come up with effective and realistic plans.

"Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People," United Nations Population Fund, Arab States Regional Office, 2012, http://arabstates.unfpa.org/webdav/site/as/shared/ASRO%20website/Publication/2012-Young%20People%20in%20Arab%20States-EN.pdf

UNFPA's report begins with a introduction on youth's general status in the region, including civic engagement, sexual orientation, presence on social media, and so on. The report then provides the strategic direction that the office suggests on social advocacy and policy-making on youth empowerment. As a valuable partner of the LAS, the UNFPA regional office works closely on youth issues and has expertise and valuable resources that could potentially assist the League. Delegates will develop a clearer sense of the status of Arab youths and UNFPA's current program and policy models.

"World Data on Education, Seventh Edition 2010/11," United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/services/online-materials/world-data-on-education/seventh-edition-2010-11.html

As the expert agency on education of the United Nations System, UNESCO provides creditable and comprehensive data on Member States' education. This data collection provides information on countries' educational legal policies, management of the education system, structure, distribution and level of different stages of education. It is a great resource for delegates to gain more insight and quantitative data on their countries' youth education and employment.

Topic II. Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Terrorism

"Country Reports: Middle East and North Africa," U.S. State Department, 2013.
http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224823.htm

This comprehensive report published by the State Department reviews bilateral relations between Arab States and the U.S. in regards to counter terrorism policies. It introduces a brief overview of terror attacks in respective States as well as the comprehensive detail on efforts made unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral to curve terrorism in the region.

"Enterprise Risk Management: A New Approach to Managing the Risks Posed by Counterterrorism Regulations," *Counterterrorism and Humanitarian Engagement Project*, 2013.
http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/cheproject/files/2012/10/CHE-Project-ERM1.pdf

This comprehensive document discusses ramification of regulation in counterterrorism policy. As States begin to regulate shipments to areas controlled by terror based organizations during a humanitarian crisis, it creates an adverse effect on aid received by civilian populations. The article discusses consequences for organizations that contribute humanitarian aid in these terror controlled regions, specifically compliance, reputation, and operational risks.

"Global Counter-Terrorism Review," United Nations General Assembly, (2012).
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/282

This resolution passed by the General Assembly reviews and reaffirms past literature submitted by the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It encourages all Member States to collaborate with all United Nations Counter Terrorism efforts. While it is a very broad resolution encompassing more than just the League of Arab States, the information provided might be used as a good starting point to review ideas and strategies for building frameworks to combat terrorism.

"ISIS: Portrait of a Jihadi Terrorist Organization," *The Meir Amit intelligence and Terrorism information Center*, November 2014.
http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20733/101_14_Ef_1329270214.pdf

This article is from an Israeli perspective and gives the history and the nature of the ISIL (the article refers to the organization in question with the acronym ISIS). The organizations roots, ideology, characteristics, tactics, and actions taken against them are examined. Delegates might find this article useful for understanding what exactly where the organization came from and how it plans on accomplishing its goals. As the largest threat to LAS security currently, understanding ISIL is crucial.

"NGO Law Monitor: League of Arab States" *The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law*, March 18, 2015, http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/las.html
This research page gives a glance to human rights issues inside of the LAS. Explaining the brief history of human rights, the article takes a deeper plunge into human rights inside of civil society. While it verifies the academic progress that the League has made recently, it challenges the government to begin practicing what Arab scholars are beginning to preach.

Oseran, Shai. "Hezbollah-Hamas Cooperation: Motivations, Manifestations and Future Outlook." *International Institute for Counter-Terrorism*. 2013.
http://www.ict.org.il/Article/76/Hezbollah-Hamas-Cooperation
While cooperation between terror-based organizations has always been common, the relations between Hezbollah and Hamas are most peculiar. Sunni Hamas and Shiite Hezbollah defy the sectarian conflict that tends to divide the region in efforts regarding Israel and Palestine. This article examines the relations and motivations in regards to the two groups in questions as well as Iran's involvement. The article calls on the international community to stop supporting hybrid organizations that operate as political parties and military fronts, stating that these organizations provide legitimacy to terrorist organizations.

"Summary of the most important efforts made by the League of Arab States to prevent terrorist from obtaining weapons of mass destruction," *United Nations Website*,
http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/SGReport_Terrorism/Docs%202010/1st%20Cttee%20-%20IO%20replies%20-%202010/League%20of%20Arab%20States%20-%20English%20%20-%20post.pdf
This report gives a comprehensive timeline on recent efforts made by the LAS to curve terrorist functions in the Middle East. The document focuses specifically on the possibility of terrorist organizations gaining access to nuclear weapons but more interestingly give details on literature that shows cooperation amongst Member States of the LAS, especially in the matters of counter-terrorism.

Watts, Sean "Under Siege: International Humanitarian Law and Security Council Practice concerning Uraban Siege Operations," *Counterterrorism and Humanitarian Engagement Project.*
http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/cheproject/files/2013/10/CHE-Project-IHL-and-SC-Practice-concerning-Urban-Siege-Operations.pdf
Noting the large part that siege warfare plays in the fight against terrorism, this working paper examines the role humanitarian assistance plays in sieges. Truly effective siege warfare is illegal, as creating conditions where civilians starve is against international law. The UN Security Council has taken a strong stance in support of this in regards to the recent situation in Syria. International Humanitarian Law very well takes into consideration the needs of the civilians inside of urban sieges, but as recent examples show military forces involved ignore it based on objectivity during operations which might be a sign that regulations might need to be reconsidered.