



Committee: Arab League (AL)

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I. Crisis Committee

a) What is a crisis committee?

A crisis committee differs greatly from traditional Model United Nations committees; they follow different protocol and participants have no previous knowledge of the topics being discussed. Typically, a crisis committee consists of 22 participants and is led by three Chairs who are responsible for monitoring the flow of the debate.

Unlike traditional committees, crisis committees are affected by real-time decisions and events that take place in the outside world. While in session, the debate may be interrupted by breaking news bulletins, special guests or the introduction of new evidence. Participants must be able to utilize their critical thinking, leadership and speaking skills because a decision made during one session could alter the course of the debate and create new problems.

During ISRMUN, participants in crisis committees are referred to as representatives. These participants represent their nation and take into consideration the country's culture, economy, religion and foreign policy.

b) How does a crisis committee work?

A crisis committee is divided into two types of sessions: moderated and unmoderated. Crisis topics are introduced and built upon during the moderated caucus. Representatives have the opportunity to view and question evidence and resources during this time. This part of the committee is moderated by the Chair and representatives must raise their placards to speak. Proposals to solve a crisis are negotiated during the unmoderated caucus. This section of the debate is timed but allows representatives to speak freely amongst themselves to reach a consensus.

II. History of the Arab League

a) What is the Arab League?

The Arab League (AL) is a regional organization that was established on March 22nd, 1945 in Cairo, Egypt. The AL consists of 22 states and four observer nations. The organization was created with the purpose of increasing relationships and coordinating collaboration between Arab or Arabic-speaking nations in the Middle East and Africa. The AL also aims to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle Arab disputes and to limit conflicts within the region (The Avalon Project, 2008).

The AL Charter, which outlines the organization's goals, requires member states to meet twice a year and allows for emergency meetings to be called if necessary. Since its foundation, the AL has established a flexible peacekeeping force that can be called upon as needed. It was first deployed to Darfur, Sudan in 2006 to stop racial and religious motivated violence. Since then, AL peacekeepers have been sent to Iraq, Somalia and Syria. As outlined in the Charter, future projects of the organization

include a united Arab currency, an integrated transportation system and a legal affairs office to coordinate inter-country extraditions (LAS Portal, 2017).

b) The Arab League's relationship with the United Nations

Close relations between the Arab League and the United Nations (UN) were established in 1996. Following a series of meetings between the two organizations, it was agreed that they would collaborate on matters involving preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping (General Assembly, 1996). In order to promote closer ties, the AL appointed a permanent observer to the UN to attend General Assembly meetings and participate in sessions organized by specialized UN agencies (UNIS, 2014).

c) The Arab League's current issues

Currently, the AL has been trying to address several political issues that have caused severe instability across the Middle East and Africa. The civil war in Syria, which started in 2011, began following protests against the authoritarian government of President Bashar al-Assad. It is being fought by many factions which include the Syrian government and its allies, Syrian rebel groups, Kurdish armed groups and terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State. The war has resulted in thousands of deaths and a massive humanitarian crisis. In response, the AL was one of the first organizations to denounce the conflict and has sent peacekeeping forces to protect civilians and establish communication between the various fighting factions (UN News Centre, 2014).

Due to major long-term conflicts such as the civil wars in Syria and Yemen, the AL established a special military “response force” which is separate from its peacekeeping force. It is based in Egypt and consists of troops belonging to Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. The AL hopes that this force will be able to counter terrorist groups within the region and act as a deterrent to future armed conflicts (Stavridis, Foreign Policy, 2015). As of 2020, the force has yet to be deployed.

Moreover, the creation of a Palestinian state, separate from Israel with its capital in Jerusalem, is still one of the AL’s main aims. The AL is one of the few organizations in the world that recognize Palestine as a country. In order to create an independent Palestinian state, the AL has acted as a neutral third party in negotiations and has called upon Israel to withdraw troops from occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Al Jazeera, 2017).

III. Quorum

- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya

- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

IV. Topics of Interest

Formal position papers are not required of crisis committee participants. However, in order to prepare for the simulation, representatives are encouraged to research the following topics:

- Yemeni Civil War
- Libyan Civil War
- Qatar diplomatic crisis
- Syrian Civil War
- Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

V. Resources

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