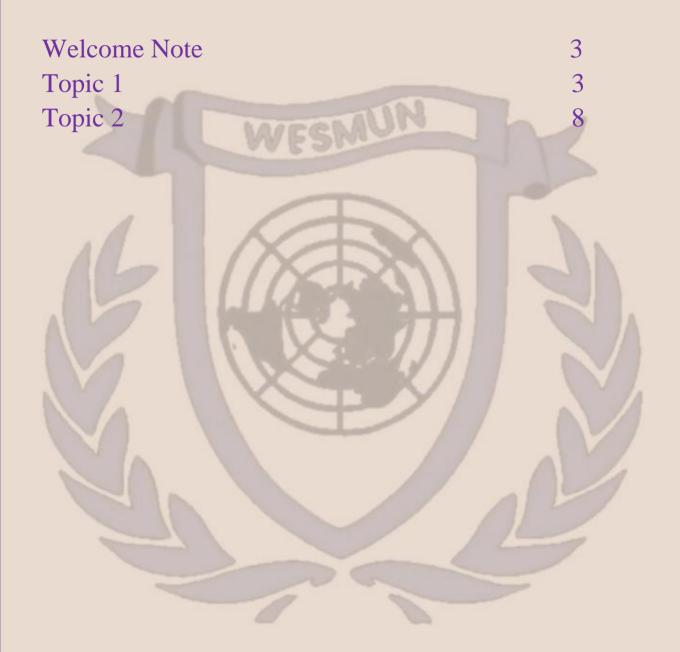8th Annual Conference
13th-15th February

ARAB LEAGUE
(ENGLISH)
BACKGROUND GUIDE

Wesgreen International School
Model United Nations

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Letter from the DIAS

Welcome to WESMUN!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the **Arab League Committee**. This forum is dedicated to fostering dialogue and cooperation among member states to address some of the most pressing political, social, and economic challenges in the Arab world. By working collaboratively, we aim to create meaningful solutions and strengthen unity in the region, ensuring a brighter future for all.

The topic of this year's conference, **"Dismantling terrorist networks in Arab states and addressing their root causes"** focuses on the urgent need to address one of the region's most persistent challenges. Terrorism continues to destabilize societies, hinder development, and threaten the lives of countless individuals across the Arab world. Tackling this issue requires a comprehensive approach that includes addressing its root causes, promoting socio-economic development, and enhancing regional cooperation in security measures. As your chairs, our goal is to facilitate a productive and inclusive debate where every delegate's voice is heard, and diverse perspectives are respected and we promise just that. We encourage you to delve into your country's policies, explore relevant treaties, and understand the historical and cultural contexts that shape this issue. Familiarity with parliamentary procedures and diplomatic conduct will be crucial to ensuring the success of our discussions.

If you have any questions or require guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to provide the support you need and to ensure that the committee operates smoothly and efficiently. We eagerly await your innovative ideas and commend your commitment to shaping a more secure and harmonious Arab world. See you soon!

Best regards,
DIAS of Arab league

Menatalla Mohamed

Laila Mohammed

Amal al muzzaini

Topic 1

Dismantling terrorist networks in Arab states and addressing their root causes

Introduction

The dismemberment of terrorist organizations in the Arab countries has been and continues to be one of the key issues in the provision of security at the regional and the international levels. These networks which are being fed by political instability, social injustice and radicalism are a great risk to the stability of states, lives of people and world peace. This and is white; due it to have the social and fact political that as this issue as is economic not dimensions and black cannot be solved through military means alone. Although several

counterterrorism operations have targeted the networks and weakened them, the resurgence of the networks shows that their look is needed for the causes of comprehensive approaches. groups in such order as to poverty, effectively illiteracy, dismantle political oppression groups, and one has radicalization of the ideology. In addition, it is crucial to strengthen cooperation at the international level in the fight against the trans-border and financial support of these networks. Thus, shifting the emphasis from the mere counter- terrorism measures to the prevention of conditions that lead to radicalism, Arab states can start building the foundations for a lasting peace. Dismantling terrorist networks in the Arab world will require a comprehensive approach-military, economic, and socio-political. Military strikes and intelligence-driven operations have dislocated the leadership and structures of terrorist organizations. By themselves, these are far from adequate because they are dealing with symptoms rather than the root causes of terrorism. In other words, the so-called ISIS and Al-Qaeda, using political and socio-economic injustices and grievances, have been recruiting, almost exclusively, from within the pool of demoralized, disadvantaged youth.

Analysis

Economic deprivation continues to be a major root cause, with high unemployment and lack of opportunities forcing people to extremist ideologies. Similarly, political repression and the absence of democratic institutions have created an environment where dissent is either muzzled or radicalized. For these structural issues, addressing them requires the Arab states to implement reforms for inclusive governance, equitable economic growth, and access to quality education.

The ideological dimension is equally important. Most terrorist networks use extremist interpretations of religion to justify their actions and recruit members. This narrative must be countered through education, community outreach, and the promotion of moderate religious discourse. Further, international cooperation in disrupting financial networks and securing borders is necessary to prevent the spread of terrorism. A balanced focus on immediate security measures together with the root causes of grievances can result in long-term success in dismantling these networks.

History

The history of fearmongering and counterterrorism endeavors within the Middle Eastern world is complex and checked by noteworthy occasions and advancing dynamics over a few decades. Within the mid-20th century, the rise of Palestinian aggressor bunches, such as the Palestine Freedom Organization (PLO), set a point of reference for political violence within the locale, as these bunches looked to attain nationalistic objectives through outfitted battle. The 1970s and 1980s saw the rise of different jihadist developments, fueled in part by the Soviet-Afghan War, which propelled a new era of aggressors and drove the arrangement of bunches like Al-Qaeda. The 1990s were characterized by expanded savagery from Islamist bunches over the Middle Eastern world, with striking occurrences such as the death of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and the rise of household fearmongering in nations like Algeria. The September 11 assaults in 2001 stamped an urgent minute, driving a worldwide war on fear that essentially affected Middle Eastern states. In 2003, the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq made a control vacuum that encouraged the rise of different guerilas and fear-based oppressor organizations, including Al-Qaeda in Iraq, which afterward advanced into ISIS. The Middle Eastern Spring uprisings starting in late 2010 complicated the scene;

whereas they at first raised trusts for equitable changes, they too led to flimsiness that permitted radical bunches to pick up solid footings in nations like Libya and Syria. The rise of ISIS in 2014, which announced a caliphate over parts of Iraq and Syria, spoke to a modern stage in territorial fearmongering, characterized by brutal strategies and broad abominations. Taking after its territorial overcome by fusion powers in 2017, ISIS has adjusted its methodologies, scattering its warriors and moving towards radical strategies. This verifiable direction reflects not only the tireless danger of fear-based oppression but also the challenges confronted by Middle Eastern states in tending to root causes such as political restraint, socio-economic incongruities, and ideological radicalism. As these flows proceed to advance, understanding this wealthy history is basic for creating compelling procedures to combat fear-based oppression and advance soundness within the locale.

Key Terms

- Terrorism: The use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in pursuit of political aims.
- Radicalization: The process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations.
- Counter-terrorism: Strategies, tactics, and techniques used by governments and militaries to prevent and combat terrorism.
- Extremism: The holding of extreme political or religious views; fanaticism.
- Deradicalization: The process of changing an individual's belief system, rejecting the use of violence to effect social change, and increasing social integration.

Major Parties Involved

1. Arab League member states: All 22 member states are involved in counter-terrorism efforts to varying degrees.
2. Terrorist organizations: Groups such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and their affiliates operating in the region.
3. International partners: Countries and organizations supporting counter-terrorism efforts, including the United States, European Union, and United Nations.
4. Regional powers: Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iran that play significant roles in shaping regional security dynamics.
5. Civil society organizations: NGOs and community groups involved in prevention and deradicalization efforts.

Current Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Ongoing conflicts and instability in countries like Syria, Libya, and Yemen
- The spread of extremist ideologies through social media and other digital platforms
- Returning foreign fighters and their reintegration into society
- Balancing security measures with respect for human rights and civil liberties
- Addressing the socio-economic grievances that fuel radicalization **Opportunities:**

- Increased regional and international cooperation on counter-terrorism
- Advancements in technology for intelligence gathering and analysis
- Growing recognition of the need for comprehensive approaches that address root causes
- Successful deradicalization programs that can be scaled up and replicated
- Potential for economic development initiatives to create alternatives to extremism

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How can Arab states enhance intelligence sharing and operational cooperation without compromising national sovereignty?
2. What measures can be taken to effectively counter terrorist financing and money laundering in the region?
3. How can education systems be reformed to promote tolerance and counter extremist ideologies?
4. How can Arab states balance robust counter-terrorism measures with the protection of human rights and civil liberties?

Subtopics

1. Enhancing regional cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts
2. Addressing the challenge of foreign fighters and their families
3. Countering online radicalization and terrorist propaganda
4. Developing effective deradicalization and rehabilitation programs
5. Strengthening legal frameworks for counter-terrorism while protecting human rights

Past Resolutions

1. Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (1998): Provided a framework for regional cooperation but has been criticized for its broad definition of terrorism.
2. Arab Convention on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (2010): Aimed to enhance cooperation in tracking and preventing terrorist financing.
3. Arab Strategy for Combating Terrorism (2014): Outlined a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, but implementation has been uneven across member states.

4. Riyadh Declaration (2015): Emphasized the need for a unified Arab stance against terrorism and extremism, calling for enhanced cooperation.

Recommended Resources

- United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism: Provides reports and analysis on global counter-terrorism efforts
- Brookings Institution Middle East Program: Offers in-depth research on security issues in the Arab world
- International Crisis Group: Publishes reports on conflict dynamics and terrorism in the region
- Counter Extremism Project: Provides resources on extremist groups and counter-terrorism strategies

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Topic 2
Promoting political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world

Introduction

Promoting political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world is a pressing and multifaceted issue that holds significant relevance to the agenda of the Arab League. The region has witnessed profound political transformations, particularly in the wake of the Arab Spring in 2011, which ignited widespread calls for democracy, human rights, and political reform. This wave of uprisings highlighted the aspirations of millions who sought to break free from decades of authoritarian rule and to establish systems that reflect their voices and values. However, the aftermath of these movements has been varied, with some countries experiencing meaningful transitions towards democracy, while others have reverted to authoritarian practices or descended into conflict and instability.

The importance of this topic extends beyond mere political structures; it encompasses fundamental human rights, social justice, and economic development. Democratic governance is not only about holding elections but also about ensuring that these elections are free and fair, that civil liberties are protected, and that citizens have a genuine role in shaping their governments. In many Arab nations, the struggle for political freedoms is intertwined with broader social issues, including economic inequality, youth unemployment, and gender disparities. As such, advancing democratic governance is essential for fostering sustainable development and social cohesion in the region.

Moreover, the geopolitical landscape adds another layer of complexity to this issue. External influences and regional dynamics often shape domestic political realities, complicating efforts to promote democracy. The role of international organizations, foreign governments, and transnational movements can either support or hinder local efforts towards democratic reform. Consequently, addressing the challenges of political freedoms in the Arab world requires a nuanced understanding of both internal dynamics and external pressures. As the Arab League continues to navigate these complex issues, it is crucial for member states to collaborate on strategies that promote democratic governance while respecting national sovereignty. This involves not only advocating for political reforms but also fostering an environment where civil society can thrive, media can operate freely, and citizens can engage meaningfully in political processes. Ultimately, promoting political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world is not just a matter of political necessity; it is a moral imperative that aligns with the aspirations of people across the region who seek dignity, justice, and a voice in their own governance.

Analysis

The push for political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive analysis of several key aspects.

Electoral processes in many Arab countries have been implemented but often lack fairness and transparency, undermining the legitimacy of democratic practices. While some nations have made strides in improving their electoral systems, others continue to face significant challenges in ensuring free and fair elections. The strength of civil society organizations and the independence of media outlets vary considerably across the region, with some countries experiencing an expansion of civic space while others maintain tight controls on non-governmental organizations and press freedoms. The establishment of an independent judiciary and adherence to the rule of law are crucial components of democratic governance, yet many Arab countries struggle with political interference in the judicial system and selective application of laws. Women's political participation remains a critical area for improvement, as representation in leadership positions is still low in many Arab countries despite ongoing efforts to increase women's involvement in decision-making processes. These efforts often face both cultural and institutional barriers. Furthermore, engaging the region's large youth population is vital for the future of democratic governance, as many young people grapple with unemployment and political disillusionment. Some countries have made progress in addressing youth concerns, while others struggle to create meaningful opportunities for political engagement. The interplay of these factors highlights the complexity of promoting democracy in the Arab world, revealing both significant challenges and opportunities for reform. Progress in these areas varies widely across the region, with some countries making notable advancements while others experience stagnation or regression. This uneven development underscores the need for tailored approaches that consider each country's unique political, social, and economic context while working towards the broader goal of enhancing political freedoms and democratic governance throughout the Arab world.

History

The history of political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world is characterized by a complex and often tumultuous evolution, shaped by colonial legacies, nationalist movements, and profound socio-political upheavals. In the post-colonial era of the mid-20th century, many Arab countries emerged from foreign rule only to establish authoritarian regimes, often justifying their centralized power as necessary for maintaining national unity and fostering economic development. This period saw the rise of charismatic leaders who consolidated power under the banner of nation-building and modernization. Concurrently, the ascendance of Arab nationalism, epitomized by figures like Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, sought to promote pan-Arab identity and solidarity. While this movement

galvanized popular support, it frequently came at the expense of political pluralism, with many regimes suppressing opposition voices in the name of national cohesion.

The latter half of the 20th century witnessed the emergence and growth of Islamic political movements across the region. These movements, ranging from moderate reformist groups to more radical organizations, challenged existing power structures and advocated for governance rooted in Islamic principles. Their rise reflected growing disillusionment with secular authoritarian regimes and Western-style modernization, offering an alternative vision of social and political order. This period also saw sporadic attempts at liberalization in some countries, though these were often limited in scope and quickly reversed when perceived as threatening to regime stability.

The Arab Spring of 2011 marked a watershed moment in the region's political history. Sparked by a single act of protest in Tunisia, widespread demonstrations erupted across the Arab world, driven by long-suppressed demands for democracy, economic opportunity, and social justice. This unprecedented wave of popular mobilization led to the toppling of long-standing dictators in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, while forcing reforms in others. However, the outcomes of these uprisings varied dramatically across the region. While some countries, notably Tunisia, made significant strides towards democratization, others faced violent crackdowns, descended into civil conflict, or experienced a resurgence of authoritarian rule.

In the years following the Arab Spring, the landscape of political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world has remained highly uneven. Some nations have continued on the path of democratic transition, albeit with challenges, while others have seen a rollback of initial gains. The ongoing struggles in countries like Syria, Yemen, and Libya underscore the complex interplay of internal dynamics and external interventions in shaping political outcomes. Meanwhile, Gulf monarchies have largely maintained their traditional governance structures, implementing limited reforms while resisting fundamental changes to their political systems.

This historical trajectory, marked by periods of authoritarianism, nationalist fervor, religious resurgence, and popular uprisings, underscores the deep-rooted challenges and complexities inherent in promoting political freedoms and democratic governance in the Arab world. It

highlights the tension between aspirations for change and the resilience of entrenched power structures, as well as the diverse paths different countries have taken in navigating these issues. Understanding this rich and complex history is crucial for comprehending the current political landscape and for developing effective strategies to advance democratic principles in the region.

Key Terms

- Arab Spring: A series of pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and North Africa beginning in 2010.

- Authoritarianism: A form of government characterized by strong central power and limited political freedoms.

- Civil society: The aggregate of non-governmental organizations and institutions that manifest the interests and will of citizens.

- Electoral integrity: The extent to which elections adhere to international standards and best practices throughout the electoral cycle.

- Political pluralism: A system that allows for the coexistence of different political opinions and parties.

Major Parties Involved

1. Arab League member states: All 22 member states of the Arab League are key stakeholders in this issue.
2. Civil society organizations: Local and international NGOs working on democracy and human rights issues.
3. Political parties: Both ruling and opposition parties across the Arab world3.
4. International organizations: The United Nations, European Union, and other bodies involved in democracy promotion.
5. Regional powers: Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iran that exert significant influence in the region.

Current Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Persistent authoritarian rule in many countries
- Weak institutions and lack of checks and balances
- Sectarian and ethnic divisions
- Economic instability and high unemployment rates
- External interference and geopolitical tensions

Opportunities:

- Growing youth population demanding change
- Increased awareness of democratic principles
- Technological advancements facilitating political engagement
- International support for democratic reforms
- Successful democratic transitions in some countries serving as models

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How can the Arab League promote free and fair elections across member states?
2. What measures can be taken to strengthen civil society and protect freedom of expression?
3. How can women's political participation be increased in Arab countries?
4. What role should the Arab League play in supporting democratic transitions and preventing backsliding?

Subtopics

1. Civil society empowerment and media freedom
2. Women's political participation and leadership
3. Judicial independence and rule of law
4. Combating corruption and promoting transparency
5. Balancing security concerns with civil liberties

Past Resolutions

1. Arab Charter on Human Rights (2004): Affirmed principles of human rights and democracy, but implementation has been limited.

2. Tunis Declaration (2004): Called for political reforms and modernization in Arab countries, but progress has been uneven.

3. Doha Declaration (2013): Emphasized the importance of good governance and combating corruption, with mixed results across the region.

4. Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (1990): While not specifically focused on democracy, it addressed human rights issues within an Islamic context.

Recommended Resources

• Arab Barometer: Provides public opinion data on democracy and governance in the Arab world

• United Nations Development Programme Arab States: Offers reports and analysis on democratic governance in the region

• Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Middle East Program: Provides in-depth research on political developments in Arab countries

• International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA): Offers resources on electoral processes and democratic institutions globally

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