



Arab League

Study Guide for Zurich Model United Nations

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A Welcome from the Committee Chairs

Ece Yücer:

Dear Participants,

I'm Ece Yücer, a junior at *Lycée de Galatasaray*. I relish serving as one of the Committee Directors of Arab League. I've been a part of the Turkish Model UN Society, both in English and in French for 3 years now, participated in over 20 conferences in various positions: delegate, Committee Director, Committee Rapporteur, Academic Assistant, Under Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General. I will be serving as the Secretary-General of GSLMUN'16. Shall you have any questions, do not hesitate to connect with me by sending an email to eceyucer@gmail.com or to arableague@zumun.ch. Let's be patient and enjoy the joyful ride and fruitful debates of ZuMUN'16 together in April. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Yours Sincerely,

Ece Yücer

Niki Hadjivasiliou:

Hello everyone!

My name is Niki Hadjivasiliou (if you can pronounce my surname I already like you) and I will be one of your chairs for this conference.

Here's some information about me: I am Greek-Cypriot and I'm studying towards the Double Degree LLB Law/*Maitrise de Droit* which is the fancy way of saying I study both English and French Law. I speak Greek, English, French and Russian. I love books, art portraits and dark chocolate ice cream. I'm allergic to tomatoes. Actually I'm not, I just hate them so much that I think they could physically hurt me. I love playing the piano and I can play all of Chopin's nocturnes. I don't know how to ride a bicycle. I have an irrational and complete fear of dogs and I've never been drunk. My favourite book is "L'étranger" by Albert Camus and I think coffee should always be black. I'm extremely competitive in all things and I believe passionately in equality. My favourite band is The Smiths.

My relationship with MUN has been a long and exciting one. I have taken part in multiple MUN conferences all around the world and I currently hold the position of the Treasurer of LUUNS (Leicester University United Nations Society). I'm deeply interested in international current affairs and I have gained experience in international law and diplomacy through my previous internships. At the same time, I'm the Secretary General of ELSA (European Law Student's Association) Leicester and I have participated in multiple European Union Projects regarding Human Rights and Sustainable Development. My goal is to become a Human Rights barrister with a specialty in Children's Rights and work with an international non-profit organisation such as Amnesty International.

I'm super excited to be chairing this committee and I promise to do my best to ensure that you have the best time possible here in the Arab League. I cannot wait to meet you and see how you guys step up to be the next leaders (hopefully) and provide creative solutions to these two crucial world issues we will be discussing! Stay tuned!

Introduction to the Arab League

What is the Arab League:

The League of Arab States, or Arab League, was formed in Cairo March 22, 1945, for the purpose of securing Arab unity. In its early years, the Arab League concentrated mainly on economic, cultural and social programs. In 1959, it held the first petroleum congress and, in 1964, established the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization. Many Arab Citizens perceive themselves as one people divided among a number of states with history, geography, language, culture, and socio-economic interests propelling them to forge one great Arab Nation ([Arabism](#)).



The League meets periodically, with its main decision-making council convening biannually. Though unanimous decisions of the council are supposed to be binding on all members, individual states have often gone their own way¹.

This year's Arab League Summit will be hosted by Mauritania in Spring 2016 since Morocco has refused to hold it in Marrakesh – as it was planned – because it *wanted to avoid giving a false impression of unity in the Arab world*.²

Arab League Members:

The League's founding members were Egypt, Iraq, Jordan (originally Transjordan), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen. Other Arab countries became members later or as they gained their independence: Algeria (1962), Bahrain (1971), Comoros (1993), Djibouti (1977), Kuwait (1961), Libya (1953), Mauritania (1973), Morocco (1958), Oman (1971), Qatar (1971), Somalia (1974), Southern Yemen (1967), Sudan (1956), Tunisia (1958) and the United Arab Emirates (1971). There was a continual [increase in membership](#) during the second half of the 20th century, with additional 15 Arab states and 4 [observers](#) being admitted. Four countries are observer states—a status that entitles them to express their opinion and give advice but denies them voting rights. These are [Eritrea](#), where Arabic is one of the official languages, as well as [Brazil](#) and [Venezuela](#), which have large and influential [Arab communities](#). [India](#) is another observer to the Arab League. Today, the League has 22 members (Southern Yemen united with the north, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lybia Mautitania, Moroco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates) with four observer states: Eritrea (2003), Brazil, Venezuela

¹ 'An Indépendant View on the Arab World' (*Arab League Online*, September 2012)

² <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/02/20/Morocco-won-t-host-summit-due-to-Arab-disunity.html>



and India³. The seat of Syria, which has been suspended in 2011 due to its regime's violence against its own population, is currently occupied by the Syrian National Coalition.

The League's Goals and Interests:

Like similar organizations in the world, the Arab League's goal is to look after their member's economic, political, cultural national and religious interests. The Arab League has been active in helping the Arab world grow economically and culturally, while finding solutions to resolve conflicts both within the league and outside of it. Through various activities, campaigns and using advanced technology, the Arab League has shown interest in resolving modern day issues, like encouraging and promoting their young talents, supporting women in their struggle for equality, improving child welfare etc. It also tries to solve political problems between Palestine and Israel⁴. The League is very active in drafting a solution that would end war between the Israeli and the surrounding Muslim countries. Because of inter-Arab rivalries, the League has generally been unable to pursue a consistent agenda beyond general opposition to Israel.

The Arab League Charter:

According to the Arab League's main document, the Charter of Arab League, the organization's main goal is "*strengthening of the relations between the member-states, the coordination of their policies in order to achieve co-operation between them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and a general concern with the affairs and interests of the Arab countries. These affairs and interests include all important economic issues, including finances, commerce, business, currency etc*"⁵. They also include social cultural and health affairs, communication, transport, travel, the question of nationality, visas and passports and similar.

³ Arab League History' (*Arab League*, December 2013) <<http://www.arableague.org>> accessed 25 March 2016

⁴ 'The Arab League: Background and Overview' (*Jewish Virtual Library*, June 2014) <<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/arableg.html>> accessed 25 March 2016

⁵ 'Charter of Arab League' (*RefWorld*, March 1954) <<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html>> accessed 25 March 2016

Topic A: Internationally Operating Terrorist Groups

Introduction to the Agenda Item:

The word “terrorism” derives from Latin word *terreō*, which means “to frighten” and came to English from French. In the English language, it has its roots in the French Revolution Era, used in meaning of the “systematic use of terror as a policy”; Edmund Burke, a British statesman, used the word as a term to describe the rule of the French government during the Reign of Terror (1793-1794), a period when thousands of “enemies of the state” were put on trial and as a result deported, starved in prison or guillotined. As a term widely used in international relations, “terrorism” does not have an internationally recognized definition.

All too often we are reminded that terrorism continues to inflict pain and suffering on people all over the world. Hardly a day goes by without an act of terrorism taking place somewhere in the world indiscriminately affecting innocent people, who just happened to be in the wrong place at wrong time. Countering this course is in the interest of all nations and the issue has been on the agenda of the Arab League, United Nations, and many other organizations for decades.⁶

“Terrorism is defined here as the recurrent use or threatened use of politically motivated and clandestinely organised violence, by a group whose aim is to influence a psychological target in order to make it behave in a way which the group desires.” (C. J. M. Drake)⁷

The topic of terrorism is both complex and emotive. It is complex because it combines so many different aspects of human experience, including various fields of study such as politics, psychology, philosophy, military strategy, and history, to name just a few. Terrorism is also emotive both because experiences of terrorist acts arouse tremendous feelings, and because those who see terrorists as justified often have strong feelings concerning the rightness of the use of violence. Without any doubt, terrorism evokes strong feelings whenever it is discussed. A key challenge of understanding terrorism is both acknowledging the moral outrage at terrorist acts, while at the same time trying to understand the rationale behind terrorism through psychological, ideological and strategic perspectives.⁸

Every unit of the society is familiar with the term terrorism. However, only few know what lies behind it, actually, deep reasons of terrorism are not well thought. This controversial question requires one to emphasize, as well as it needs you to be open-minded.

The history of terrorism goes back as old as humans’ use of violence to affect politics; namely to the first century Jewish group Sicarii Zealots, to the eleventh century Islamic sect Al-Hashshashin and to other eras.

⁶ United Nations Counter Terrorism Agenda

⁷ http://studenti.cgym-kh.cz/studenti/anglictina/OKTAVA/MQ08_THE%20THREATS%20OF%20TODAYS%20WORLD/terrorism/definitions.odt

⁸ <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/terrorism.pdf>



Terrorist incidents actively continued in a reduced scale through the end of the Middle Ages into the Modern Times, which was the age of great wars such as the Thirty Years War from 1618 to 1648 and the Napoleonic Wars from 1799 to 1815. Walter Laqueur argues that traditional terrorism was “discriminate” in the sense that individual attacks were preferred rather than mass violence. The main reason for this was the lack of developed weaponry. On the contrary, today’s terrorism is “indiscriminate”; great number of civilians is killed in the attacks, while very few leading politicians or military officers are assassinated unlike the past.

The high tide of terrorism allegedly rose by the end of 19th century. At that time, many liberation groups, especially the Irish rebels, the Russian Socialist Revolutionaries are alleged to be main terrorism actors. Also, groups in Egypt, India and China aiming national liberation are claimed to have committed terrorist acts.

The terrorism in the 19th century allegedly included assassination of a Russian tsar, ministers, archdukes, generals and even American presidents. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife by a pan-Slavist group in Bosnia in 1914 expedited the start of World War I. King Umberto of Italy, Sadi Carnot –former president of France, Antonio Canovas -former prime minister of Spain- can be mentioned as some of the most prominent victims of the violence in the abovementioned era.

Unlike the past, when it was not considered by the terrorists as a problem to be called a “terrorist”, and when even the head of the Russian Socialist Revolutionaries published his autobiography with the title “Memoirs of a Terrorist”, modern terrorists prefer to be known as freedom fighters, militants, insurgents, rebels, guerrillas, revolutionaries; but not as terrorists and killers of innocent people; which is generated by a different interpretation of the objective of the activity. Amy Zalman generally groups acts of terrorism occurred in 20th century into three categories based on their causes. From 1920s to 1930s, anarchism, socialism and communism were the main causes of terrorism. In 1950s, nationalism was the main motive of terrorism, as in the cases of “Basque Homeland and Freedom” (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, ETA in Basque) in Spain and “Kurdish Workers’ Party” (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan, PKK in Turkish) in Turkey. In 1970s terrorism became an international problem. The bloody events at 1972 Munich Olympics were an example: Black September, a Palestinian group, kidnapped and killed Israeli athletes preparing to compete. Black September's political goal was negotiating the release of Palestinian prisoners. They used spectacular tactics to bring international attention to their national cause. Since 1980s, religion replaced these causes. As an example to terrorism taking religion as a cause, 9/11 attacks in the United States were a catastrophe for the global community to tackle with the issue more. Since then, terrorism is a more widely discussed issue.⁹

⁹ <http://terrorism.about.com/od/whatisterroris1/p/Terrorism.htm>



Previous Events

There are many types of terrorist actions, taking place around nearly all around the globe. Most commonly seen types of terrorist actions are kidnapping, attack on bus, military, massacre, bombing, suicide bombing, car bomb, hostage taking, mass shooting, attacking on artillery.

Januray 2015, Baga, Nigeria

The 2015 Baga massacre was a series of mass killings carried out by the jihadist group Boko Haram in the Nigerian town of Baga and its environs, in the state of Borno, between 3 January and 7 January 2015.

The attack began on 3 January when Boko Haram overran a military base that was the headquarters of the Multinational Joint Task Force containing troops from Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. The militants then forced thousands of locals from the region and committed mass killings that culminated on the 7th.

Fatalities have been reported to be "heavy" but their extent is unclear. Several western media reported that "over 2,000" people are thought to have been killed or "unaccounted for", but local media reported "at least a hundred" fatalities, while the Nigerian Ministry of Defence said that no more than 150 people in total had been killed, including militants. The attacks are said to have resulted in Boko Haram extending its control to over 70% of Borno State, while its leader, Abubakar Shekau, claimed responsibility for the massacre in a video statement, saying that they "were not much" and that the group's insurgency "would not stop".

January 2015, Paris, France

Two brothers, Saïd and Chérif Kouachi, forced their way into the offices of the French satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris. Armed with assault rifles and other weapons, they killed 11 people and injured 11 others in the building. After leaving, they killed a French National Police officer outside the building. The gunmen identified themselves as belonging to the Islamist terrorist group Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen, who took responsibility for the attack. Several related attacks followed in the Île-de-France region, where a further five were killed and 11 wounded.

February 2015, Cameroon

Boko Haram militants reportedly killed at least 91 people by shooting and burning, and injured over 500 in the Fotokol town of Cameroon. The militants also torched mosques and churches of the town. More than 91 died.

March 2015, Yemen

Islamic State militants in Yemen carried out four suicide bombings at the Badr and al-Hashoosh Shia mosques during prayers in the city of Sana'a. 142 people died and approximately 350 people were injured.

June 2015, Kobani, Syria

On 25 June 2015, fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant detonated three car bombs in Kobani, close to the Turkish border crossing. Approximately 230 were dead and more than 300 were wounded.

June 2015, Leego, Somalia

Al Shabaab militants attack an African Union base in the Leego district of Somalia, kill more than 70 African Union soldiers and seize control of their military base.

July 2015, Kabul, Afghanistan

A lone suicide bomber attacked recruits outside a police academy. A truck bomb was set off in a residential area in the city. A block was levelled, leaving a thirty-foot deep crater. At least 50 people were killed with more than 500 wounded. Responsibility for the attack has not been claimed, but the Taliban is suspected.

July 2015, Suruc massacre, Turkey

A bomb attack in the Turkish town of Suruc killed at least 30 people during a meeting of young activists to discuss the reconstruction of the neighbouring Syrian town of Kobane. Around 100 others were wounded in the explosion, which may have been caused by a male suicide attacker from the Islamic State group, officials say.¹⁰

September 2015, Sinai, Egypt

A Russian plane was downed by ISIS in Sinai desert. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, vowed to find and punish those responsible and ordered an increase in airstrikes on Syria as “inevitable retribution” for the attack that killed all 224 people on board, mainly returning Russian holidaymakers.¹¹

¹²October 2015, Ankara, Turkey

On 10 October 2015 at 10:04 local time (EEST) in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, two bombs were detonated outside Ankara Central railway station. As of October 16, the death toll stands at 102 and more than 400 people were injured. The attack was the deadliest of its kind in Turkey's modern history. No organisation has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³ On October 19, one of the two suicide bombers was officially identified as the younger brother of the perpetrator of the Suruç bombing; both brothers have suspected links to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the ISIL affiliated Dokumacılar group.¹⁴

¹⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33593615>

¹¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/17/egypt-plane-crash-bomb-jet-russia-security-service>

¹² An outlet designed to Express grief for the earthquake in Japan, Paris attacks, Beirut attacks and the attacks in Iraq.

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Ankara_bombings

¹⁴ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11925064/Ankara-bombing-Claims-emerge-that-culprit-could-be-brother-of-terrorist-involved-in-presvious-atrocity.html>



November 2015, Beirut, Lebanon

ISIL suicide bomber detonated a bike loaded with explosives and when onlookers gathered, another suicide bomber detonated himself on them bringing the casualties to 43 dead and 240 wounded.

November 2015, Paris, France

On the evening of 13 November 2015, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, the capital of France, and its northern suburb, Saint-Denis. Beginning at 21:20 CET, three suicide bombers struck near the *Stade de France* in Saint-Denis, followed by suicide bombings and mass shootings at cafés, restaurants and a music venue in Paris.

The attackers killed 130 people, including 89 at the *Bataclan* theatre, where they took hostages before engaging in a standoff with the police. There were 368 injuries, 80–99 serious. The attacks were the deadliest on France since World War II.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed to be responsible for the attacks, saying it was in retaliation for the French airstrikes on ISIL targets in Syria and Iraq. The President of France, François Hollande, said the attacks were an act of war by ISIL planned in Syria, organised in Belgium, and perpetrated with French complicity.

December 2015, California, United States

Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik dressed in tactical military gear stormed a holiday banquet in San Bernardino, California. Fourteen people were killed and 21 injured. Both perpetrators were later shot and killed four hours later by police forces after the two were found in a black SUV. Malik pledged allegiance to the Islamic State on the day of the shooting, and the FBI considers the shooting to be an act of terrorism.

Previous Actions Taken

Interior ministers of the Arab states, following the rise of Islamic extremist violence in the aftermath of the Gulf War, began discussing ways to establish an anti-terrorism cooperation. However, the discussions ended up with a formal action in January 1996, after four years of discussion, despite the numerous meetings and reportedly examined several different recommendations. The first formal action was adopting a code of ethics “wherein Arab states commit themselves to combat terrorism and abstain from participating or engaging in terrorist actions or offering asylum to the perpetrators of such acts”. In August 1996, the ministers agreed on what the definition of terrorism does not include; they excluded “armed struggles by peoples under foreign occupation to free their lands and realize their rights of self-determination” from the definition, which they use as the basis of the use of violence against Israel.

After two years of attempts for a solution, an “accord to fight Terrorism and Extremism” was adopted on April 22, 1998. The accord called for a strong stance against terrorism and cooperation among Arab states.

On November 19, 2009, the Council of Justice Ministers decided to strengthen the existing cooperation in counter-terrorism. On March 28, 2010, the Council of the League gathered at the



summit level and adopted a resolution on international terrorism and its suppression, which included a call for continuing dialogue and cooperation with the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee.

On 20th of November, 2015, after the Paris attacks, All able states should join the fight against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq and redouble efforts to prevent further attacks by the militant group, the United Nations security council has declared in a unanimous vote to a French sponsored resolution.¹⁵

There has been air-raids in Syria, which you will find details in the upcoming section.

Parties Involved

Al-Qaeda

"The Base", "The Foundation" or "The Fundament" is a global militant Islamist organization founded by Osama bin Laden, Abdullah Azzam, and several others in 1989 with origins traceable to the Arab volunteers who fought against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. It mounted attacks on civilian and military targets in various countries, including the 1998 US Embassy bombings, September 11 and the attack on Bali in 2002. The US government adopted its "War on Terror" policy as a response to 9/11 attacks. After the loss of its key leader Osama bin Laden, organizations operations have decreased, and instead of being controlled from the top, single units continued attacks individually.¹⁶

Taliban

The Taliban, Arabic students, is an Islamist political movement which ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 with a strict interpretation of Sharia. It held control of most of the country until being overthrown by the American-led invasion of Afghanistan in December 2001 following the September 11 attacks. The Taliban have been condemned internationally for their enforcement of (their interpretation of) Islamic Sharia law, which resulted in the brutal treatment of many Afghans, especially women.

Al Shabab

Al Shabaab, which means "the youth" in Arabic, is an organized, but shifting, Islamist group in Somalia, founded in 2003. It has had several incarnations. It is frequently referred to as a terrorist group in the media, and the U.S. State Department designated it a terrorist group in March, 2008. However, it also may be understood as a political party, a militia, and a movement. The group maintained a loose organization and are reportedly inspired by Al-Qaeda.

¹⁵ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/21/un-calls-for-all-able-member-states-to-join-fight-against-isis>

¹⁶

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120307084609/http://www.spiegel.de/international/0,1518,369448,00.html>

Boko Haram

"Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad", the official name of Boko Haram, is an Islamic extremist group based in north-eastern Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon. The group had alleged links to al-Qaeda, but in March 2015, it announced its allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Of the 2.3 million people displaced by the conflict since May 2013, at least 250,000 have left Nigeria and fled into Cameroon, Chad or Niger. Boko Haram killed over 6,600 in 2014. The group have carried out mass abductions including the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in April 2014. In mid-2014, the militants gained control of swathes of territory in and around their home state of Borno, estimated at 50,000 square kilometres (20,000 sq mi) in January 2015, but did not capture the state capital, Maiduguri, where the group was originally based.

Islamic State



The jihadist group Islamic State (IS) burst on to the international scene in 2014 when it seized large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. It has become notorious for its brutality, including mass killings, abductions and beheadings. The group though has attracted support elsewhere in the Muslim world - and a US-led coalition has vowed to destroy it.

In June 2014, the group formally declared the establishment of a "caliphate" - a state governed in accordance with Islamic law, or Sharia, by God's deputy on Earth, or caliph.

It has demanded that Muslims across the world swear allegiance to its leader - Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri al-Samarrai, better known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi - and migrate to territory under its control.¹⁷ IS has also told other

jihadist groups worldwide that they must accept its supreme authority. Many already have, among them several offshoots of the rival al-Qaeda network.

In February 2015, US Director for National Intelligence James Clapper said IS could muster "somewhere in the range between 20,000 and 32,000 fighters" in Iraq and Syria.

But he noted that there had been "substantial attrition" in its ranks since US-led coalition air strikes began in August 2014. In June 2015, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said more than 10,000 IS fighters had been killed.

¹⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29052144>



¹⁸To help mitigate the manpower losses, IS has turned to conscription in some areas. Iraqi expert Hisham al-Hashimi believes only 30% of the group's fighters are "ideologues", with the remainder joining out of fear or coercion.

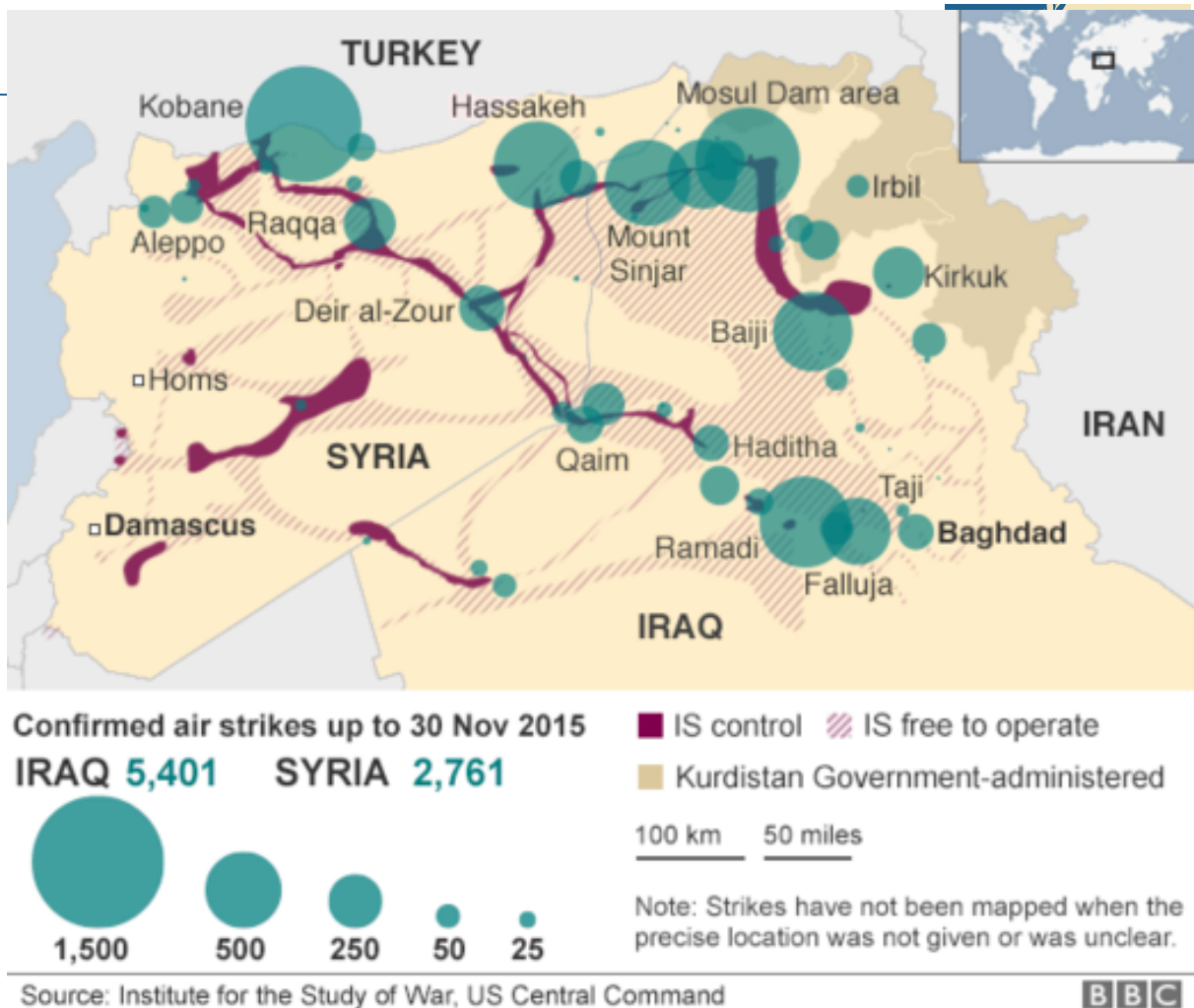
The militant group is believed to be the world's wealthiest. It initially relied on wealthy private donors and Islamic charities in the Middle East keen to oust Syria's President Assad. Although such funding is still being used to finance the travel of foreign fighters to Syria and Iraq, the group is now largely self-funding.

The US Treasury estimates that in 2014 IS may have earned as much as several million dollars per week, or \$100m in total, from the sale of crude oil and refined products to local middlemen, who in turn smuggled them in Turkey and Iran, or sold them to the Syrian government.

But air strikes on oil-related infrastructure are now believed to have diminished such revenue.

Kidnapping also generated at least \$20m in ransom payments in 2014, while IS raises several million dollars per month through extorting the millions of people living in areas under its full or partial control, according to the US Treasury.

¹⁸ http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2014/09/07/article-2746885-2127503700000578-24_634x619.jpg



IS is believed to raise at least several million dollars per month by robbing, looting, and extortion. Payments are extracted from those who pass through, conduct business in, or simply live in IS territory under the auspices or providing services or "protection".

Religious minorities are forced to pay a special tax. IS profits from raiding banks, selling antiquities, and stealing or controlling sales of livestock and crops. Abducted girls and women have meanwhile been sold as sex slaves.

American-led Intervention in Syria:

During the Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011, the United States first supplied the moderate rebels of the Free Syrian Army with non-lethal aid (including food rations and pickup trucks), but quickly began providing training, cash, and intelligence to selected Syrian rebel commanders.

¹⁹The United States began surveillance missions on ISIL positions in Syria in September 2014. On September 10, President Barack Obama gave a speech indicating his intent to "degrade and ultimately destroy" Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), saying, "I have made it clear that we will hunt

¹⁹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/09/10/president-obama-we-will-degrade-and-ultimately-destroy-isil>



down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are. That means I will not hesitate to take action against ISIL in Syria, as well as Iraq.

US-led coalition forces in air war consist of the US, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Iraqi Kurdistan and Iraqi Peshmerga are fighting on the ground, along with Syrian Democratic Forces.²⁰

Russian Federation

On 30 September 2015, following a formal request by the Syrian Government for military help against rebel and jihadist groups, Russia intervened militarily in the Syrian Civil War. The activities consisted of air strikes primarily in north-western Syria against militant groups opposed to the Syrian government, including al-Nusra Front (al-Qaeda in the Levant), the Islamic State and the Army of Conquest.

On 24 November 2015, a Russian Sukhoi Su-24 aircraft was shot down by a Turkish Air Force F-16 fighter jet in an incident thought to be the first time a NATO country shot down a Russian plane in half a century. After the incident, due to statements by Presidents of the both country tension rose²¹ and recently, Military of Russian Federation gave a briefing regarding their proclamation of oil smuggling between ISIL and Turkey, showing proof that tanks filled with petroleum pass through the Turkish-Syrian border.²²

Turkey

Turkey, whose relations with Syria had been friendly over the previous decade, condemned its President Bashar Assad over the violent crackdown on protests in 2011 and requested his departure from office. Turkey trained defectors of the Syrian Army on its territory, and in July 2011, a group of them announced the birth of the Free Syrian Army, under the supervision of Turkish military intelligence. In October 2011, Turkey began sheltering the Free Syrian Army, offering the group a safe zone and a base of operations. Together with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Turkey has also provided the rebels with arms and other military equipment. Tensions between Syria and Turkey significantly worsened after Syrian forces shot down a Turkish fighter jet in June 2012, and border clashes erupted in October 2012.

Turkey also provided refuge for Syrian dissidents. Syrian opposition activists convened in Istanbul in May to discuss regime change, and Turkey hosts the head of the Free Syrian Army, Colonel Riad al-Asaad. Turkey has become increasingly hostile to the Assad government's policies and has encouraged reconciliation among dissident factions. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been trying to

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American-led_intervention_in_Syria#cite_note-85

²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_military_intervention_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War

²² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMA4B2ZnQ2o>



"cultivate a favourable relationship with whatever government would take the place of Assad." Beginning in May 2012, some Syrian opposition fighters began being armed and trained by the Turkish National Intelligence Organisation. Turkey has been reminding the importance of Suleyman Shah Tomb for them in regards of their relationship with parties in Syria.²³

Turkey's government has also confirmed that Turkish warplanes have struck Islamic state group targets across the border in Syria.²⁴

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey will never allow the establishment of a Kurdish state in Syria, accusing Kurdish fighters of ethnically cleansing non-Kurdish communities from land they have taken after pushing back Islamic State (IS) militants.²⁵

Further Reading

Throughout this guide, you have observed the most recent terrorist actions; the reasons lie behind terrorism and read about the most influential terrorist organizations of the last decade. In as much as people understand the necessity of direct intervention to terrorism in means of organized air raids and participation at coalitions to rage at these organizations as an immediate solution, they also have to beware that terrorism will keep threatening we, the peoples until states take measures to eliminate its roots. What lies behind terrorism is important and the reason Arab League and many other organizations keep it in their agenda is disregarding this ominous fact. By acknowledging the facts you have read, you will have the basic knowledge to be able to try emphasizing. Ergo, it is important to extend your knowledge on the roots and types of domestic and international terrorism.

As for religion-based terrorism, you had only read Islamic terrorist organizations in this guide, yet this does not necessarily mean that there haven't been extremists of other religions. People have been killing each other for many reasons, solely aforementioned examples made an impact on the recent decade, thus, took place in this guide. As you will be drafting guides in the conference, you should bear these in mind.

You may explore the following links to have a deep understanding of terrorism and what lies behind it.

Exploring Roots of Terrorism Dipak K. Gupta Distinguished Professor in Political Science Research Associate, Fed J. Hansen Institute for World Peace Program Chair, International Security and Conflict Resolution San Diego State University <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~dgupta/docs/articles/RootCause.pdf>

<http://solutions.heritage.org/terrorism/>

²³ <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-279187-turkish-soldiers-still-guard-sacred-tomb-in-syria.html>

²⁴ <http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2015/07/23/report-turkish-jets-strike-is-targets-in-syria>

²⁵ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-will-never-allow-kurdish-state-syria-erdogan-682463351#sthash.dWNggG9S.dpuf>



<http://www.rand.org/blog/2004/09/the-four-defensive-measures-against-terrorism.html>

<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/rm/2010/150068.htm>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/23/isis-best-funded-terrorist-group-earth-treasury/?page=all>

http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/lanl/funding_terror.pdf

(2002 – old document, however, includes ideas that are still apt today.)

Points a Resolution Should Cover

- What is the general stance of Arab League on international terrorism?
- What are the roles of local and regional capacities in combatting terrorism?
- What are the reasons for the inefficiency of local-, regional-, international-level counter-terrorism policies?
- How to avoid any further terrorist attacks that might take place within the lands of Arab League nations?
- What is Arab League's stand and policies on the situation of Syria?

Topic B: Problems of water supply/shortage

Introduction

What is water scarcity?

One of the most pressing concerns in the world today is the ability to source clean water²⁶. Water scarcity is defined as “the point at which the aggregate impact of all users impinges on the supply or quality of water under prevailing institutional arrangements to the extent that the demand by all sectors, including the environment, cannot be satisfied fully”²⁷. This is a particularly problematic issue in the Middle East where water resources are becoming increasingly scarce since according to the UNDP state report 14 of the world’s 20 most water-stressed countries are part of the Middle East²⁸. The lack of water resources and poor water management has created rather significant problems that require global, immediate attention, mainly because of the lack of water resources and poor water management²⁹.

What are its causes and consequences?

Water scarcity in the Arab region has multiple causes. Rainfall is low and variable, evaporation rates are high and droughts are frequent, all contributing to low water resource reliability and availability. As a result, Arab countries cover 10 per cent of the world’s area but receive only 2.1 per cent of its average annual precipitation³⁰ and most of the region is classified as arid or semi-arid (desert), receiving less than 250 millimetres of rainfall annually³¹. It is estimated that by 2030, the effects of climate change will have reduced renewable water resources by another 20 per cent and increased the frequency of droughts through falling precipitation, rising domestic and agricultural water demand as temperatures rise, and expanding seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers as sea levels rise and groundwater overexploitation continues³².

Water security is inseparable from social, economic, environmental and health security.

²⁶ "Water Consumption Around The World." Every Little Drop. Rain Harvesting Pty Ltd. 14 July 2015. <<http://everylittledrop.com.au/knowledge-center/water-consumption-around-the-world/>>

²⁷ 'Coping with Water Scarcity' (*UN -Water Thematic Resources*, 2006) accessed 27 February 2016

²⁸ UNDP, op cit.

²⁹ Alexandra Barton, 'Water in Crisis- Middle East' (*The Water Project*, March 2014) <<https://thewaterproject.org/water-in-crisis-middle-east>> accessed 27 February 2016

³⁰ 'Food Systems for Better Nutrition' (*The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2013) <<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3301e/i3301e.pdf>> accessed 27 February 2016

³¹ 'Water Governance in the Arab Region: Managing Scarcity and Securing the Future' (*United Nations Development Programme*, 2013)

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/Energy%20and%20Environment/Arab_Water_Gov_Report/Arab_Water_Gov_Report_Full_Final_Nov_27.pdf> accessed 27 February 2016

³² Hedi Larbi, 'Climate Change: Middle East Faces Looming Challenges' (*Development Horizons (The World Bank Group)*, 2010)

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLEBANON/News%20and%20Events/22688823/WB_newsletter_lowres_CC_En.pdf> accessed 27 February 2016

Intergovernmental tensions triggered by shared water resources:

The Tigris/Euphrates river basin

The three riparians to the river- Turkey, Syria, and Iraq -have been co-existing with varying degrees of hydro-political tension through the 1960s and in 1975, unilateral water developments came very close to leading to warfare along the Euphrates River. There have been multiple attempts in tackling the issue, including the Southeast Anatolia Development Project, the Protocol of the Joint Economic Committee between Turkey and Iraq in 1980, Talks between the three countries were held again in January 1990, the Damascus convention in 1992, and the creation of the joint Syria-Iraq water coordination committee in 1995³³. Despite these strides, the situation remains unresolved and the tensions over the waters of the basin have reached internationally acknowledged levels, and a lack of cooperation among the riparians confronted the world with a new potential conflict area. As a result, this situation threatens the delicate political stability in the Middle East, and further polarisation in the region continues with Turkey and Israel's alliance against Syria, Iran, and Iraq.

River Jordan

The on-going dispute between Israel and Jordan over water supply of the Jordan river is perhaps the clearest example of a region where fresh water supplies have had strategic implications. The affected parties have taken multiple steps towards the eradication of the problem. This includes the [1949 Armistice Agreements](#) which followed the [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#) and created three [demilitarized zones](#) on the Israel-Syria border and the 1955 [Jordan Valley Unified Water Plan](#) (Johnston Plan) which was accepted by the technical committees of both Israel and the Arab League, but in the end failed to be ratified. As a result, this has yet to be resolved causing significant tensions between Jordan and Israel³⁴.

The River Nile

Conflict over the Nile's water is the reason of the spread of political, social and economic instability into the surrounding areas. In a nutshell, Egypt, the downstream nation in the Nile basin, controls the region's most powerful military and fears that its upstream neighbours will reduce its water supply by constructing dams without its consent. A notable solution towards solving this problem, was the high level Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999 which was originally designed as a way to share scientific information, by today brings together ministers from the basin countries "to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilisation of the common Nile basin water resources" as

³³ Ceoa, 'Case Study of Transboundary Dispute Resolution: the Tigris-Euphrates basin' (*Program in water conflict management and transformation*, January 2015)

<http://www.transboundarywaters.orst.edu/research/case_studies/Tigris-Euphrates_New.htm>
accessed 19 March 2016

³⁴ Munther j haddadin, 'Water Conflict and Negotiated Resolution' (*The Jordan River Basin*, March 2012) <http://webworld.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/cd/pdf/case_studies/jordan_haddadin_2.pdf>
accessed 19 March 2016



stated in its shared vision³⁵. However, there are still political tensions especially between Sudan and Egypt and the modern history of hydropolitics in the Nile basin remains very complex.

Current Situation:

The current situation of water scarcity in the Middle East is rather alarming. In Iraq, the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers are drying up. The United Arab Emirates says its ground water will dry up in 50 years, and Jordan's supply is rapidly disappearing, where the Dead Sea is drying up. Furthermore, fields of the West Bank are turning into deserts because the water scarcity in the area is extremely severe. Moreover due to lack of management and legislation between countries, "The Jordan River is in poor shape due to overuse of the upper Jordan by Israel and overuse of its tributary, the Yarmouk River, by Syria and Jordan"³⁶. In addition, Figures from the World Water Development Report (WWDR) show that countries like Kuwait, Libya, Bahrain, Jordan and United Arab Emirates are facing extreme situations of water scarcity. Out of 182 countries ranked in the WWDR with according to the annual total renewable water availability, more than half of the Arab countries are ranked amongst the lowest 10 percent. According to "Water Scarcity Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa," "this has caused almost all renewable water resources to be in use, and many countries have resorted to the use of their non-renewable resources for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes"³⁷. "The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes a global 'water poverty line' of 1,000 m³ per capita per year; yet, the World Health Organization estimated that Yemen had only 120 m³ of water available per person each year, one of the lowest figures in the world"³⁸. The situation is not much better in the Maghreb region, where the average amount of water per person is below the minimum requirement³⁹.

³⁵ Patricia Kameri-imbote, 'Water, ConflIct, and Cooperation: lessons from the Nile river Basin' (*Navigation Peace*, January 2007)

<<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/NavigatingPeaceIssuePKM.pdf>> accessed 19 March 2016

³⁶ Tropp, Håkan, and Anders Jägerskog. "Water Scarcity Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)." Human Development Report. Human Development Report Office, 26 June 2006. Web. 14 July 2015. <<http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/siwi2.pdf>>

³⁷ "Water Scarcity Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)' (*UNDP Human Development Reports*, 2006) accessed 27 February 2016

³⁸ Fitch, Chris. "Will Yemen Run out of Water?" *Geographical*. Web. 15 July 2015.

<<http://geographical.co.uk/places/cities/item/753-will-yemen-run-out-of-water>>

³⁹ Abdelfadel, Abdelhamid & Driouech, Fatima. "Climate Change and its Impacts on Water Resources in the Maghreb Region." Arab Water Council. Web. 16 July 2015.

<<http://www.arabwatercouncil.org/administrator/Modules/Events/IWRA%20Morocco%20Paper.pdf>>

Block Positions:

Jordan (Belad Al Sham Region):

Jordan, located in the Syrian Desert, endures severe water scarcity. For example, Jordan's [average freshwater withdrawal](#) is less than ten percent of Portugal's average, despite being the same size. The [cost of water in Jordan increased thirty percent](#) in ten years, due to a quick shortage of groundwater⁴⁰. According to WHO, "Jordan has one of the lowest levels of water resource availability, per capita, in the world. Water scarcity will become an even greater problem over the next two decades as the population doubles and climate change potentially makes precipitation more uncertain and variable"⁴¹. Furthermore, studies have shown that poor management of water in Jordan has led to "water gushing out of broken pipes. It is estimated that the amount of water lost nationwide per year could satisfy the basic needs of 2.6 million people, or more than third of Jordan's current population"⁴².

The Gulf:

Since the Gulf is a region known for limited rainfall and ground water, Gulf countries turned towards the oil they have in order to produce water. Therefore, the Gulf mainly relies on burning oil to perform water distillation, which is a highly expensive and energy demanding process. Studies show that "Saudi Arabia alone burns 1.5m barrels of oil every day to desalinate water, an amount equivalent to the daily oil consumption of Italy, Similarly, Abu Dhabi uses over half of its domestic energy to make potable water"⁴³.

Tunis (Maghrib Region):

The growth of population in Tunis has caused water shortages. In 2013, a population of 2.5 million in Tunis witnessed water cuts. Only in one year, between 2012 and 2013, water demand in Tunis increased by 12 percent. In addition, the climate change and increase in temperature have also been negatively affecting the water supply which in turn affected agriculture⁴⁴.

⁴⁰ 'Jordan's Water Shortage' (*Jordan (Geography and Environment)*, 2012) <df> accessed 27 February 2016

⁴¹ "Jordan: Water Is Life." World Health Organization. Web. 9 Sept. 2015. <<http://www.who.int/heli/pilots/jordan/en>>

⁴² "Tapped Out: Water Scarcity and Refugee Pressures in Jordan." Mercy Corps. 9 Mar. 2014. Web. 9 Sept. 2015. <<https://www.mercycorps.org/research-resources/tapped-out-water-scarcity-and-refugee-pressures-jordan>>

⁴³ Elgendy, Karim. "'Doha Has Just Three Days' Supply": Are Water Shortages the Biggest Threat to the Middle East?" City Metric, 16 July 2015. Web. 9 Sept. 2015. <<http://www.citymetric.com/horizons/doha-has-just-three-days-supply-are-water-shortages-biggest-threat-middle-east-1234>>

⁴⁴ "Water: Tunisia's Other Development Challenge." The World Bank, 14 Sept. 2014. Web. 9 Sept. 2015. <<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/09/04/water-tunisia-s-other-development-challenge>>



Egypt (African Region):

Egypt has been suffering from severe water scarcity in recent years. Uneven water distribution, misuse of water resources and inefficient irrigation techniques are some of the major factors for water security in the country. Egypt is facing an annual water deficit of around 7 billion cubic meters. In fact, United Nations is already warning that Egypt could run out of water by the year 2025⁴⁵.

Yemen:

Yemen has one of the highest worldwide rates of malnutrition; over [thirty percent of its population does not meet their food needs](#). In recent years, Yemen has not been able to produce enough food to sustain its populations. Water scarcity has damaged the standard of living for inhabitants of the Middle East⁴⁶.

United Arab Emirates:

The UAE located on the Arabian Peninsula, is famous for its [luxurious cities](#) filled with lavish resorts, shopping, and attractions. The livelihoods of these extravagant emirates might create the assumption that water scarcity is not a problem for these rich states. In reality, however, the UAE is confronted with a serious depletion of their available water resources. A report from the Emirates Industrial Bank in 2005 said that the UAE had the [highest per capita consumption of water in the world](#). Additionally, for the past thirty years the water table of this region has [dropped about one meter per year](#). At this current rate, the UAE will deplete its natural freshwater resources in about fifty years. Even with a large amount of desalination plants to reduce water deficiency, the UAE needs to adjust its water use habits before its [energy consumption doubles](#) in 2020⁴⁷.

Relevant Actions:

Why is there a need for action?

Most Arab countries have already recognized the importance of water legislation and regulation to promote water efficiency and consequently, they have started to reform and update existing laws or introduce new legislation. For the last 15 years Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Yemen have taken steps to reform their water legal systems and are also encouraging decentralised and participatory governance at the national level to involve all stakeholders in decision-making. It is worth noting that almost all Arab states have approved legislation to manage and protect their scarce water resources and improve water governance.

⁴⁵ Dakkak, Amir. "Egypt's Water Crisis – Recipe for Disaster." EcoMena, 23 Dec. 2014. Web. 9 Sept. 2015. <<http://www.ecomena.org/tag/water-scarcity-in-egypt/>>

⁴⁶ Water scarcity in Yemen: the country's forgotten conflict' (*The Guardian newspaper*, 2012) accessed 27 February 2016

⁴⁷ 'Water Shortages in the UAE' (*Problem and Solution*, 2012) accessed 27 February 2016



UN Action:

In order to monitor and regulate water governance, the UN created UN-Water in 2003. In addition during the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000 -the largest-ever gathering of world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration- the Millennium Development Goals emerged, an integrated set of time-bound targets for extending the benefits of globalisation to the world's poorest citizens. Furthermore, in 2005, the UN initiated a project that would last a decade (from 2005 – 2015) – The International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life.’ Its primary goal is to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015⁴⁸.

Past Attempts to tackle the issue:

More specifically, the Arab League has also included water scarcity on its agenda. So far, the Arab League has conducted three “Arab Water Week” conferences in order to discuss, resolve, and set action plans for the water issues in the region. The Arab region made two major achievements in the water field during the last years: the establishment of the Arab Water Ministerial Council (AWMC) in the year of 2008 under the League of Arab states; and the adaptation of the Arab Water Strategy by the AWMC in order to face the challenges of Arab water security and future demand of sustainable development (2010-2030). The objective of the AWMC is to coordinate and encourage exchanges of experiences for facing water shortage challenges in the Arab region and to represent the Arab region in the International activities. AWMC has represented and coordinated the Arab region along with the Arab Water Council in the 5th World Water Forum⁴⁹.

The Arab Preparatory Committee for the 6th World Water Forum:

The Arab Ministerial Council for Water within the League of Arab States took a resolution that the Ministerial Council is the authority responsible for the preparation of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille⁵⁰.

The Arab Countries Cross-Continental Process:

The Arab Countries, members of the Arab League, are represented in the 6th World Water Forum as one Unit. The Arab countries cross-continental process gathers all stakeholders (Ministers, Governmental Organisations, non- Governmental Organisations, Parliamentarians, Local Authorities, Civil Society, and the related Regional and International Organisations and Institutions, and the partners of the Arab Ministerial Council for Water⁵¹.

⁴⁸ "Water For Life." United Nations. Web. 16 July 2015.

<<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/background.shtml>>

⁴⁹ Arab Countries Cross-Continental Process' (*World Water Forum*, 2015)

<<http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/commissions/regional/arab-countries-cross-continental-process/>> accessed 27 February 2016

⁵⁰ 'The Arab Preparatory Committee' (*The Sixth World Water Forum*, 2012) accessed 27 February 2016

⁵¹ 'Arab Countries Cross-Continental Process' (*The Regional Process*, 2012) accessed 27 February 2016

The Arab Water Security Strategy:

The Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region adopted in June 2011 by Arab Ministerial Council for Water was established to bring about appropriate solutions to ensure water security in the region⁵². Five priority projects were identified for the integrated water resources management in the Arab region. These projects were used to define the Arab Region's five Targets during the 6th World Water Forum to take place in Marseille in March 2012.

Priorities and Targets in the Arab Region

- **AR1** - In the medium term (by 2020), raising water use efficiency by 15 to 25 % for meeting increased water demand and ensuring water and food security for facing the future challenges in accordance with the available water resources and the principals of sustainable development.
- **AR2** - Adoption, in the short term (by 2015), of integrated water policies which secure water for all sectors to achieve a maximum socioeconomic benefits and insure the implementation of the millennium development goals.
- **AR3** - Develop, in the medium term (by 2020), alternative and practical solutions for using non conventional water with focusing on the use of renewable energy in water desalination and water treatment for meeting the increasing water demand.
- **AR4.1** - By 2020 the signing of permanent agreements on shared water resources in the Arab region according to the "Arab Convention on shared Water Resources in the Arab region" and International Water Law.
- **AR4.2** - By 2025 reinforcing the establishment of permanent agreements between riparian Arab countries and neighbouring countries on ground and surface water resources on reasonable and equitable basis and according to the International Water Law and historic agreements.
- **AR5** - In the medium term (by 2020), each Arab countries has defined a national policy for including climate change adaptation policy into national water policy.

Proposed Solutions:

Finding a solution to this problem is rather challenging since there are multiple aspects that need to be covered.

Legislation based:

In order to tackle this issue, implementing water policies and strategies is crucial. This can be achieved through water including governance institutional reform, regulatory standards, management systems and regulation enforcement. According to "Water Governance in the Arab Region,"⁵³ "Solutions will

⁵² 'Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa' (*Action Plan for the Arab Water Security Strategy*, 2013) accessed 27 February 2016

⁵³ "Water Governance in the Arab Region." United Nations Development Program, 2013. Web. 16 July 2015.

differ, but certain actions can prepare the way for reforms, such as education about the multi-sectoral aspects of water governance and management, focusing on the region's water challenges. Government institutions responsible for water management must improve their governance and management practices and enable water institutions to function efficiently.

Water distillation:

On the other hand, according to "Solutions For Water Scarcity in The Middle East, the ultimate solution lies in reusing water, where "with proper treatment, seawater and wastewater can be reused for beneficial purposes such as drinking water, agricultural and landscape irrigation and industrial processes, enabling communities and countries to stretch limited freshwater supplies"⁵⁴. Yet, water distillation and the process of filtering water in order to make it reusable is an extremely expensive process that not all countries can afford.

Water conservation:

According to the study, "if this idea can be advertised to homeowners as environmentally friendly as well as cost-effective, it should have a very high support rate. Although this is only a minute progression towards improving the issue of water scarcity, every achievable method towards preventing this from becoming a large-scale problem is worthwhile"⁵⁵.

Integration:

Integration across sectors is needed. This integration needs to take into account development, supply, use and demand, and to place the emphasis on people and the ecosystems that sustain them. On the demand side, enhancing the productivity of water use in all sectors is paramount to successful programmes of water scarcity alleviation. Furthermore, protecting and restoring the ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store and release water, such as rivers, wetlands, forests and soils, is crucial to increasing the availability of water of good quality.

Managing shared water resources:

Inadequate governance systems for shared water resources constitute another challenge for the Arab region. More than two-thirds of available surface water resources originate from outside the region and are managed unilaterally by the riparian countries. Almost all the shared river basins lack comprehensive international agreements. Any disruption or pollution of these water resources in one country can damage adjacent countries' water quantity and quality. These transboundary effects may

<http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/Energy%20and%20Environment/Arab_Water_Gov_Report/Arab_Water_Gov_Report_Full_Final_Nov_27.pdf>

⁵⁴ "Solutions for Water Scarcity in the Middle East." Severn Trent Services. Web. 16 July 2015.

<http://www.severntrentservices.com/News/Solutions_for_Water_Scarcity_in_the_Middle_East_nwMFT_505.aspx>

⁵⁵ "Water Scarcity: Tomorrow's Problem." University of Michigan. Web. 16 July 2015.

<<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/section9group6/solutions>>

not be immediately apparent but may be very hard to reverse. Shared water resources thus play a significant role in the region's stability and development by creating hydrological, social and economic relations and interdependencies between countries, both Arab and non-Arab. Because many Arab countries depend on these water resources, water is a political issue that can strain relations with neighbours and lead to armed conflict. Cooperation and coordination across national borders and across the region to manage shared water resources sustainably is thus essential⁵⁶.

Water security, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development

Sustainable human development, according to the Human Development Reports of the United Nations Development Programme, includes knowledge, health and income, as well as equity, freedom, equal opportunity, gender equality, access to resources and ability to choose. Water security, essential for livelihood, underpins all of these dimensions⁵⁷. The need for water security is particularly acute in rural and poor communities. Water is critical for economic growth and social wellbeing, so improved water governance requires understanding the social, economic and institutional links between reducing poverty and ensuring access to safe water. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development states that "poverty encompasses different dimensions of deprivation that relate to human capabilities, including consumption and food security, health, education, rights, voice, security, dignity and decent work"⁵⁸.

Points a Resolution Should Address:

- Is the UN Current Plan sufficient for a proper solution for the water crisis?
- What solutions are suggested?
- How can awareness be raised about the issue?
- How can the growing demand for water be met?
- What agreements should be made between Arab countries in order to minimize the water related conflicts in the region?
- How are the many competing interests involved in water being balanced?
- On what basis are decisions to be made in favour of certain developments at the expense of others?
- What are the scope and conditions for increasing water productivity in different sectors?
- Which tools should be used to enable the more efficient and equitable development and allocation of water?
- How can the best use be made of the water available?
- Which measures should be put in place to protect water resources and increase water supply?
- Which institutional and legal set-ups are the most appropriate for ensuring adequate coordination?
- What kind of information is needed and how is wide public ownership of water-related problems to be ensured?

⁵⁶ 'Sharing water resources can benefit all involved' (*Voice of America*, 2012) accessed 27 February 2016

⁵⁷ 'Data Tools and Visualizations' (Arab Human Development Reports (AHDR) - United Nations Development Programme, 2011) accessed 27 February 2016

⁵⁸ 'Better policies for better lives' (*OECD*, 2013) accessed 27 February 2016

Conclusion:

Water scarcity affects all social and economic sectors and threatens the sustainability of the natural resources base. Addressing water scarcity calls for an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach to water resources management, one that ensures the coordinated development and management of water and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. Effective water governance is vital for sustainable development in the Arab region. Water security requires appreciating water's proper value—including social and environmental as well as financial costs—and adopting new approaches. Effective water governance is anchored by five foundations: efficiency, economic and environmental sustainability, responsiveness to socio-economic development needs, accountability before stakeholders and the public, and adherence to ethics and moral values⁵⁹.

Further Reading:

General Information:

- http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/Energy%20and%20Environment/Arab_Water_Gov_Report/Arab_Water_Gov_Report_Full_Final_Nov_27.pdf
- <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/siwi2.pdf>
- <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2002/FindingtheBalancePopulationandWaterS>
- [carcityintheMiddleEastandNorthAfrica.aspx](http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity/PDF/MedWSD_FINAL_Edition)
- http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity/PDF/MedWSD_FINAL_Edition
- <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2233>
- http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/2006_unwater_coping_with_water_scarcity_eng.pdf
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/03/201232713855637148.html>
- <http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/80858e/80858E0m.htm>
- <http://www.haaretz.com/world-news/1.672998>
- <http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2015/08/27/water-scarcity-drives-conflict-in-middle-east-and-its-worsening-study.html>

Gulf Region

- <http://muftah.org/the-gulf-countries-water-crisis/VfHesHgRow>
- <http://persiangulffund.com/gcc-to-invest-100b-in-five-years-to-combat-water-shortage/>
- <http://internationalpoliticalforum.com/impending-water-crisis-in-the-gulf/>

⁵⁹ UNDP, op cit.



Lebanon:

- <http://www.acted.org/en/tackling-lebanon-s-growing-water-crisis>
- <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/07/drought-and-misuse-behind-lebanons-water-scarcity/>

Jordan

- http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/geo_env4.html
- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/jo/amm/prj/ema/far/whj/enindex.htm>
- <http://www.mwi.gov.jo/sites/en-us/Documents/W.%20in%20Fig.E%20FINAL%20E.pdf>

Syria

- <http://www.irinnews.org/report/88554/syria-why-the-water-shortages>

The West Bank

- https://www.google.jo/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCYQFjABahUKewi7iZ3Vn-3HAhXC7BQKHdabAAAY&url=http%3A%2F%2Frepository.tudelft.nl%2Fassets%2Fuuid%3A80e70e9a-91e5-4133-9e7b-a193122a7cc4%2FFPHD_THESIS-NAZER1.pdf&usq=AFQjCNF253h7FX6kWYEMSWsq2G465IX-hA
- <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/united-nations/550-water-scarcity-in-the-opt>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTd_c1DdgTg

Yemen

- <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/apr/02/water-scarcity-yemen-conflict>
- https://www.american.edu/cas/economics/ejournal/upload/global_majority_e_journal_1-1_glass.pdf

Egypt

- http://www.mfa.gov.eg/SiteCollectionDocuments/Egypt%20Water%20Resources%20Paper_2014.pdf
- Somalia
- http://www.unicef.org/wash/somalia_62048.html
- <http://www.voanews.com/content/decapua-somalia-drought-25feb11-116919323/157532.html>

Iraq

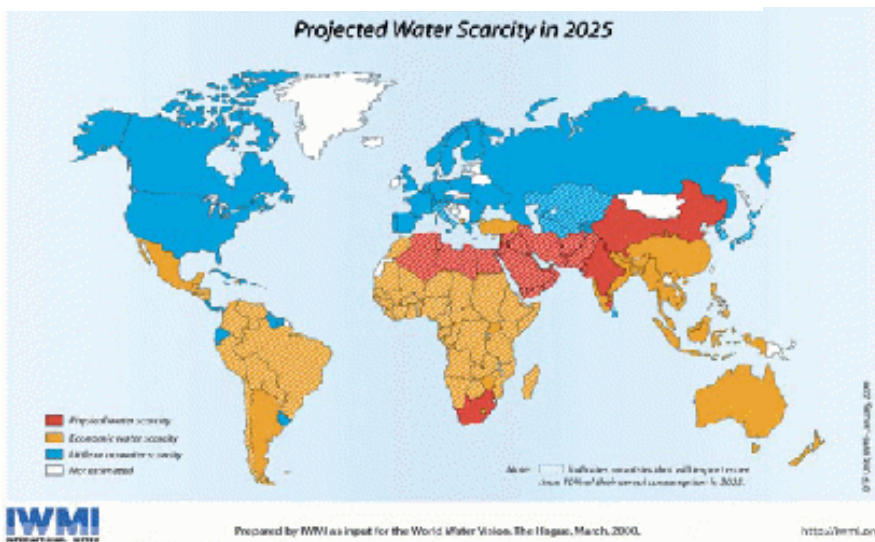
- <http://www.irinnews.org/report/70243/iraq-water-shortage-leads-people-to-drink-from-rivers2828>

Useful charts:

Water Stress by Country: 2040

RANK	NAME	ALL SECTORS	RANK	NAME	ALL SECTORS
1	Bahrain	5.00	18	Azerbaijan	4.69
1	Kuwait	5.00	19	Morocco	4.68
1	Qatar	5.00	20	Kazakhstan	4.66
1	San Marino	5.00	21	Iraq	4.66
1	Singapore	5.00	22	Armenia	4.60
1	United Arab Emirates	5.00	23	Pakistan	4.48
1	Palestine	5.00	24	Chile	4.45
8	Israel	5.00	25	Syria	4.44
9	Saudi Arabia	4.99	26	Turkmenistan	4.30
10	Oman	4.97	27	Turkey	4.27
11	Lebanon	4.97	28	Greece	4.23
12	Kyrgyzstan	4.93	29	Uzbekistan	4.19
13	Iran	4.91	30	Algeria	4.17
14	Jordan	4.86	31	Afghanistan	4.12
15	Libya	4.77	32	Spain	4.07
16	Yemen	4.74	33	Tunisia	4.06
17	Macedonia	4.70			

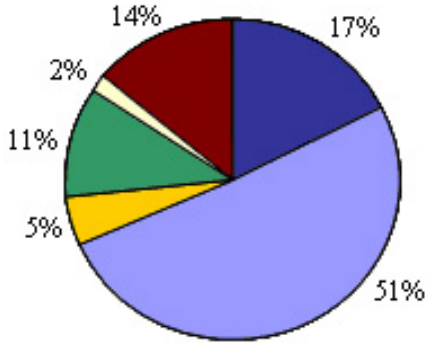
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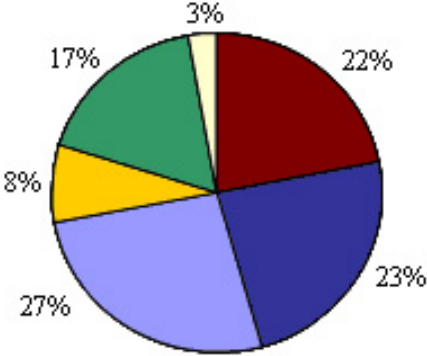


Estimated Water for the Poor Obligations by Region (FY03-FY05)

With Supplemental Appropriations



Without Supplemental Appropriations



- Sub Saharan Africa
- Asia and the Near East
- Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, West Bank/Gaza
- Europe and Eurasia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Central Programs