

ARAB LEAGUE

*Advanced
Specialized*



TOPICS: The Situation in Libya, Dependence and Disparity of Petroleum Export Income in Arabic Countries

CHAIRS: Jacob Goldberg, Audrey Davis

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

LAIMUN XXVIII

Letter from the Secretariat

3

Introduction to the USG

4

Introduction to the Dais

5

Committee Description

7

Topic A: The Situation in Libya

9

Topic B: Dependence and Disparity of Petroleum
Export Income in Arabic Countries

29

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, we do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

We want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

Don't forget to do your research and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at specialized@mchsmun.org! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,
Izzy Hory
Under-Secretaries General

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates! My name is Jacob Goldberg and I will be your co-chair along with Lauren for Arab League Advanced. I am a Junior and have been a part of Mira Costa's Model UN program since I was a freshman. Model UN has taught me a lot about public speaking, working with others, and current events. I've gone through a lot in MUN as last year we had to wear masks during every conference and the year prior everything was online. I look forward to this year as it looks like we're starting to go back to normal.

Outside of MUN I play varsity football, rugby, and track. If you've played or seen Costa Football before, I'm number 31 and I play middle linebacker and running back. This year will be my first year playing rugby, but I'm very excited to play alongside a lot of my football teammates. In track and field I run the 100m and 200m. I also throw shotput and discus from meet to meet. I've played piano for 9 years and I enjoy playing piano after a long day of school to relax. Although tons of homework stops me from playing piano as much as I would like, I still try to practice and learn new songs as much as I can.

In Advanced Arab League, I would like to see unique solutions that will help solve complex issues that have been plaguing the Arab League countries. I debated in Arab League during Berkley MUN last year and I heard all kinds of basic and boring solutions. I would like for all of you to create very unique solutions so the debate stays interesting and everyone adds substance. I know you all can do it, see you in debate!

Sincerely,

Jacob Goldberg

Hi Delegates! My name is Audrey Davis and I am co-chairing with Jacob. I am a Sophomore here at Mira Costa and I love to get involved with extracurricular activities. Along with Model UN, I am also on varsity beach volleyball. I have always loved sports and being part of a team. My favorite things to do in my free time include going to the beach and hanging out with friends. I am also the founder of the iACT club at Costa which is an organization that addresses the issue of refugee struggles and provides much needed help. Along with my club, I am also a member of many other clubs including Women in Business.

MUN has been an amazing experience for me. It has really helped me with the skill of public speaking, which is a very important life skill. I have made so many friends and so many memories. Freshman year, I traveled to UC Davis which was a great experience. I was so excited to be invited and going on a trip with all of my MUN friends definitely lived up to my expectations. The MUN program at Costa is absolutely amazing and it's a community that I will have for the rest of my life.

I am so excited to be a chair at LAIMUN. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity as a Sophomore and be able to experience debate from a different perspective. Being able to lead debate is truly a different experience that I am more than happy to be able to oversee. My hope is that our debate is fun and entertaining, but also relevant and productive. I hope you all explore many different creative ways to find solutions and you come prepared, ready and excited for debate. Best of luck to you all and we will see you soon!

Best Regards,

Audrey Davis

Committee Description

Though the British thought uniting Arab states in 1942 would prove advantageous to fighting the Axis Powers in World War II, it was not until March 1945 that six nations, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, came together to officially form the Arab League¹. In the years that followed, sixteen other Arab states joined the League, and the membership remained at 22 countries until the November 2011 suspension of Syria due to the nation's suppression of demonstrations and riots.² They now meet twice a year, typically in March and September, unless otherwise requested by at least two member states with the intention of addressing an unprecedented or remarkable situation that has recently come to their attention. The League is currently located in Cairo, Egypt, and led by Egyptian Secretary General Nail el-Arabi, who was elected in 2011 to be the successor to Amr Moussa.

Members of the Arab League have some contrasting viewpoints, however they all strongly support the League's charter, which states that members "agree to seek 'close cooperation' on matters of economics, communication, culture, nationality, social welfare, and health"³. In 1950 a pact was signed that stated an act of aggression on any member states would be seen and treated as an act of aggression against all. This pact helped unify and solidify the Arab League as a credible international organization. The original goal of the League was to create a space to discuss the development of Israel, as a Jewish State in Palestine, and to respond to apprehensions about the division of territories after the end of World War II. From 1948 to

¹ "Presentation of the Arab League - Arab League Online." 13 Sep. 2012, <http://www.arableagueonline.org/hello-world/>. Accessed 24 May. 2017.

² "Profile: Arab League - BBC News." <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747941>.

³ "The Arab League | Council on Foreign Relations." 21 Oct. 2014, <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/arab-league>.

1993 all members supported an economic boycott of Israel. Recently, however, the main intention has shifted to have a greater priority on 21st century issues that plague the region, and this has allowed the League to be a major factor in the cultural and economic growth of Arab nations. Additionally, the Arab League has been very involved with discussions regarding possible peace treaties between Israel and surrounding nations.

Since its creation, the Arab League has made great strides in improving the region. One of its most outstanding achievements was the 2008 ratification by some member states of the Arab Charter on Human Rights⁴. Other accomplishments to note are the creation of curriculums for schools in many member states, the conservation of ancient documents, and the translation of manuscripts into languages and dialects understood today. That is not to say the League is without fault. There is undeniably a lack of the structure necessary to impose participation in resolution action, which forces the organization to be mainly rooted in debate. Member states have not sought to change this because it also allows the member states of the Arab League to prioritize national sovereignty.

It is the hope of the chairs that this committee will be filled with unique ideas, excited participation, and most importantly, spirited debate. It is the chairs' responsibility to keep the committee in order and run it as fairly as possible, and as a delegate, it is your job to come prepared with research on the topics and non-generic solutions. We recognize that this may be your first debate, and the best advice that can be offered is to be prepared and arm yourself with knowledge. Overall, remember to push yourself, and expect anything.

⁴ "Arab Charter on - University of Minnesota Human Rights Library."
<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instreet/loas2005.html>.

Topic A: The Situation in Libya

I. Background

Libya, formally known as the state of Libya, is a country in Northern Africa of about 685,524 square miles.⁵ Out of Libya's population of 7.4 million, most of its people reside along the coast. 96.6% of Libyans are Muslim, and nearly all of the Muslims are Sunnis. Libya is south of the Mediterranean Sea, with Egypt to the east, Sudan to the southeast, Niger and Chad to the South, and Tunisia and Algeria to the west.⁶ Before oil was found in the late 1950s, Libya was seen as a country with no valuable natural resources and was considered lacking by many other countries due to its arid land. Libya was historically dependent on foreign aid and imports. Still, Libya now benefits from its possession of 48 billion oil reserves, which is 39% of Africa's total reserves and 3% of the world's reserves.⁷

Power in Libya is rarely in the hands of the country itself; consequently, Libya has historically been under constant rule by foreign powers, monarchs, and dictators. The Ottoman Empire controlled Libya until 1912 when Italy took the land for itself. Italy ruled Libya for 31 years until France and Britain liberated it in 1943 during World War II, but it was not until 1951 that Libya was recognized as independent under King Idris al-Sanusi or Idris I.⁸ King Idris was later overthrown in a coup by Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi in 1969. Al-Gaddafi ruled as an

⁵ "Libya Country Profile." *BBC News*, BBC, 15 Mar. 2021, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13754897.

⁶ "Libya." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Libya.

⁷ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)*, www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/LBY.

⁸ Sidder, Aaron. "Libya Country Profile." *Geography*, National Geographic Kids, 6 May 2022, kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/libya.

unpredictable, anti-Western autocrat and was excluded by Arab states despite his attempts to form an Arabic political alliance. During the 1970s and 1980s, he famously advocated for international terrorism, but in the 2000s, he condemned the 9/11 attacks, issued an arrest warrant for Osama bin Laden, and abandoned Libya's secret nuclear weapons program.⁹

In December 2010, a Tunisian vendor named Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire to denounce police harassment. His death led to protests against Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who became the first Arab leader to be deposed by the demonstrations. The success of this movement sparked more uprisings in the Arab world, and it spread to Libya, starting with a violent dispersion of a Benghazi sit-in in February 2011. The Libyan uprising evolved into a civil war with Gaddafi facing French, British, and American air forces in addition to NATO intervention, and on October 20, 2011, Libyan rebels captured and killed Gaddafi.¹⁰ Following the Arab Spring, Libya's democratic progress improved until 2012, after which political rights, civil liberty progress, and standard of living plummeted, and Libya plunged into civil wars. Lastly, Libya ranks -1.60 on the World Bank's Control of Corruption indicator (-2.5 to 2.5, higher numbers indicate less corruption), similar to Yemen and Syria.¹¹ While Gaddafi's rule was harsh, Libya had one of the highest living standards in Africa.

Power shifts in the Libyan government and the legislature over the past decade have been perpetual. During and after the 2011 rebellion, the National Transitional Council (NTC)

⁹ Finn, Peter. "The Rise and Fall of Libyan Leader Moammar Gaddafi." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 25 Aug. 2011, www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/the-rise-and-fall-of-libyan-leader-moammar-gaddafi/2011/02/21/gIQA32NsdJ_story.html.

¹⁰ Al Jazeera. "What Is the Arab Spring, and How Did It Start?" *Arab Spring: 10 Years on News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 17 Dec. 2020, www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/17/what-is-the-arab-spring-and-how-did-it-start.

¹¹ "The Arab Spring at Ten Years: What's the Legacy of the Uprisings?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/article/arab-spring-ten-years-whats-legacy-uprisings.

governed Libya but was replaced by the General National Congress (GNC) in July 2012. The GNC, a 200-member national legislature, was tasked with creating a government, developing a new electoral law, and holding elections.¹² The GNC dissolved in April 2016 and was replaced by the House of Representatives (HOR), a legislative body based in Tobruk and created in August 2014 to govern until a constitution could be drafted, which still has not yet been accomplished.¹³ Talks between the HOR and the GNC resulted in the Libyan Political Agreement, which gave authority to a unity government based in Tripoli called the Government of National Accord (GNA) and created an advisory body called the High Council of State.¹⁴ The UN created the GNA in 2015 to unite rival authorities after the 2014 elections and was led by Fayeze al-Sarraj. Despite UN support, the GNA does not have much power over the people.¹⁵ In March 2021, the Government of National Unity (GNU) was elected by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), and was charged with supervising elections in December, which were later postponed.¹⁶ The last in-state actor in Libya's conflict is the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) or the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Khalifa Haftar and supported by the HOR. They control most of eastern and southern Libya and are currently trying to capture Tripoli.¹⁷ Destabilizing forces are present outside of Libya as well, and the international community is split

¹² "World Report 2013: Rights Trends in World Report 2013: Libya." *Human Rights Watch*, 31 Jan. 2013, www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/libya#eabb49.

¹³ "GNC Members Announce Its 'Dissolution' and Creation of the State Council." *Libya Herald*, 5 Apr. 2016, www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/gnc-members-announce-its-dissolution-and-creation-of-the-state-council/.

¹⁴ "The Libyan Political Agreement: Time for a Reset." *Crisis Group*, 18 Nov. 2016, www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/north-africa/libya/libyan-political-agreement-time-reset.

¹⁵ "War in Libya: How Did It Start, Who Is Involved and What Happens next?" *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 18 May 2020, www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/war-in-libya-how-did-it-start-what-happens-next.

¹⁶ "Libya: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report." *Freedom House*, freedomhouse.org/country/libya/freedom-world/2022.

¹⁷ Senior Research Fellow. "The Libyan Arab Armed Forces." *Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank*, 7 June 2021, www.chathamhouse.org/2021/06/libyan-arab-armed-forces.

into both sides of the problem. The UN Security Council recognizes the GNA as Libya's lawful government; the EU acknowledges the GNA, and Turkey, Italy, and Qatar provide the GNA with military assistance.¹⁸ The LNA is backed by Russia, France, and most Arabic countries, including the UAE, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.¹⁹

The second round of the Joint Constitutional Path Committee of the House of Representatives and the State was hosted by Egypt and started on May 15, 2022. In the meetings, the Arab League and its Secretary General, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, affirmed their aspirations for a dialogue between all Libyans to promote impactful negotiation and help Libya become stable. On May 17, 2022, Ahmed Aboul Gheit communicated his worry about events in Tripoli and emphasized the need to maintain the ceasefire agreement and exercise restraint.²⁰

There have not been legitimate elections in Libya since the post-electoral 2014 crisis, and the GNA and HOR claim legitimacy. Elections were scheduled for December 24, 2021, but due to their failure, Libya had two prime ministers, interior minister Fathi Bashagha of the HOR and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah of the GNA.²¹ Bashaga entered Tripoli on May 17, 2022 with the Nawasi Brigade militia but was confronted by militias aligned with Dbeibah.²² Bashaga left the capital and announced he would base his government in Sirte.²³

¹⁸ "Factbox: Who's Involved in Libya's War and Why." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 29 May 2020, www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-intervention-factbox/factbox-whos-involved-in-libyas-war-and-why-idUSKBN2351W0.

¹⁹ "Who's Who in Libya's War?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/in-brief/whos-who-libyas-war.

²⁰ "Leagueofarabstates.net." جامعة الدول العربية, www.lasportal.org/ar/news/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?RID=3440.

²¹ "Libya Has Two Prime Ministers as Political Divisions Deepen." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 10 Feb. 2022, www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/10/libya-has-two-prime-ministers-as-political-divisions-deepen.

²² *ABC News*, ABC News Network, abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rival-libyan-pm-arrives-tripoli-east-seat-cabinet-84770697.

²³ Al Jazeera. "Libya's Bashagha Says Will Base His Rival Gov't in Sirte." *News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 17 May 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/17/libyan-rival-pm-leaves-tripoli-after-clashes-between-forces.

II. UN Involvement

Libya was confirmed for UN membership on December 14, 1955, and countless actions have been taken, and resolutions have passed to mitigate Libya's crisis. The Security Council is the most proactive UN force combatting the situation in Libya. Sanctions and travel bans against Libya were imposed in Resolutions 883, 1970, 1973, 2174, and 2278, a Libya Sanctions Committee was created and assisted in Resolutions 1970, 2095, 2144, 2362, 2509, and 2571, and arms embargoes were imposed on Libya in Resolutions 1970, 1973, 2174, and 2357.²⁴ The Security Council has also implemented a special political mission in Libya called the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), established in September 2011 through Resolution 2009. UNSMIL's focus has shifted over the years due to Libya's political circumstances. However, UNSMIL's mission is to assist Libyan institutions, supply Libya with services such as humanitarian aid, observe and communicate human rights progress, enforce counter-proliferation and the security of uncontrolled arms, and collaborate with the GNA to rectify conflict-ravaged zones.²⁵ UNSMIL's objective when it was created in 2011 was to help the Libyan government transition after the death of Gaddafi.²⁶ The Security Council has executed modifications, and extensions to the mandate in Resolutions 2022, 2040, 2095, 2144, 2238, 2323, 2376, 2434, 2486, 2542, 2595, 2599, 2619, and most recently, in April of 2022, Resolution 2629 extended UNSMIL's mandate until July 31. The General Assembly also suspended Libya

²⁴ "UN Documents for Libya: Security Council Resolutions." *Security Council Report*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/page/1?ctype=Libya&cbtype=libya#038;cbtype=libya.

²⁵ "UNSMIL | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs." *United Nations*, United Nations, dppa.un.org/en/mission/unsmil#:~:text=The United Nations Support Mission,dialogue through mediation and good.

²⁶ "Mandate." *UNSMIL*, 1 Dec. 2020, unsmil.unmissions.org/mandate.

from the Human Rights Council in March 2011 through Resolution 65/265 due to Gaddafi's violent government forces, who fired indiscriminately on the protester, bombed eastern military bases, and confrontations between western powers and government forces.²⁷

There have been multiple coalitions that responded to Resolutions 1970 and 1973 and were promoted by the UN, including Operation Unified Protector (OUP), NATO's response to the UN's resolution. NATO imposed an arms embargo in the Mediterranean Sea to obstruct the movement of weaponry and mercenaries to Libya, secured a no-fly zone to protect civilians from aircraft and bombs, and coordinated air and naval strikes against forces attacking or suspected to be attacking civilians and populated areas in Libya.²⁸ Operation Odyssey Dawn was a US-led mission including France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Italy. It consisted of France's Operation Harmattan to preserve the no-fly zone and attack Gaddafi's forces and the UK's Operation Ellamy, a series of missile launches and airstrikes in Libya.²⁹

III. Topics to Consider

A. Trafficking and Smuggling of Licit and Illicit Materials

Libya has been an area of transportation and a hub to surrounding countries and Europe for the exchange of drugs, materials, and weapons since the late 1990s. Before the 2011 uprising, Gaddafi promoted a shadow economy, controlled the system's trafficking and smuggling routes, and protected smugglers, which led to the normalization of smuggling in Libya. After the 2011

²⁷ "General Assembly Suspend Libya from Human Rights Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2011/ga11050.doc.htm.

²⁸ Nato. "NATO and Libya (Archived)." *NATO*, 14 May 2020, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_71652.htm.

²⁹ Gertler, Jeremiah. "Operation Odyssey Dawn (Libya): Background and Issues for Congress." *Congressional Research Service*, 30 Mar. 2011, <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/R41725.pdf>

insurrection, smuggling and trafficking were further diffused around Libya, as those covered by Gaddafi were stripped of their power, and their control over black markets was decentralized.

There are many different tiers of goods being smuggled in Libya. Libya's ongoing economic crisis has decreased state funding for commodities like livestock, sugar, flour, rice, oil, manufactured goods, cigarettes, and vehicles. It has therefore encouraged the illegal movement of these products. Smuggled fuel has also created a lucrative industry, producing millions of dollars for criminal leaders. One route connects western Libya, Malta, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey and involves the Sicilian mafia, the GNA, and the LNA. However, the most extensively smuggled and trafficked goods are arms and drugs.

From 2011 to 2013, caches of heavy weapons were dispersed throughout Libya and spread to Syria, the Sahel, and the rest of Africa. Smugglers and traffickers frequently arm themselves. Measures such as tribal smuggling guides, taxes for safe passage, and extortion have replaced government protection in the flow of illegal materials and weaponry. While heavy weaponry trafficking has decreased, small arms and ammunition are still in high demand.

Drug trafficking is an even more significant issue, with drugs varying from highly protected and expensive shipments of cocaine to small packages of pharmaceutical drugs. Weak political structures have allowed cannabis to frequently move through Libya's deserts and seaports. Cocaine flows are less frequent but are sold in consignments, heavily protected, and often exchanged because the cocaine is high-quality. Cocaine is transported from Latin America to Africa and then to Europe, and Libya is one of the centers of the delivery network. Amphetamines and ecstasy are primarily transported through Libyan ports and airports in

shipments of other goods and electrical materials. Pharmaceutical smuggling has seen the most success in drug trafficking and has participants ranging from gangs to businesspeople to military forces looking to make money. It is worryingly easy to buy prescription medication without a prescription, and many pharmacists add to their earnings by selling pharmaceuticals under the counter to black market distributors. Painkillers comprise the majority of aforementioned pharmaceuticals, for example, tramadol, psychiatric medication, sleeping pills, cough syrup, captagon, and zolpidem.³⁰

B. Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in Libya

Due to political instability, its position in Northern Africa, and its lack of border control, Libya has become a destination for refugees and migrants intending to enter Europe. Those flocking to Libya are from adjacent countries (Niger, Chad, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia), western or central Africa (Nigeria, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon), eastern Africa (Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan), or Arab countries (Syrian, Palestine, Iraq), and face vocational, financial, political, and humanitarian troubles in their home countries.

The majority of refugees and migrants in Libya turn to smuggling or criminal systems to cross the European border despite lack of reliable information and freedom of movement, apprehension of smugglers' intentions, and language barriers due to desperation.³¹ Fugitives are therefore susceptible to governmental and non-state military groups' abuse, including physical,

³⁰ Mangan, Fiona. "Illicit Drug Trafficking and Use in Libya Highs and Lows." *United States Institute of Peace*, May 2020, https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/20200528-pw_161-illicit_drug_trafficking_and_use_in_libya_highs_and_lows-pw.pdf

³¹ Darne, Marie-Cecile, et al. "Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges" *IMPACT Initiatives and Altai Consulting*, Feb. 2017, <https://www.unhcr.org/595a02b44.pdf>

sexual, and verbal violence, ransom abductions, extortion, random killings, inhumane captivity, sex and labour trafficking, and child soldiering.³²

UNODC, the EU, and Libya launched a project called “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa” on July 13, 2021, to fight criminals engaged in human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This ongoing initiative trains officers, organizations, and health and social care workers to identify and arrest traffickers and smugglers and strengthens law enforcement and legal framework through local and global partnerships.³³

C. Effects of Instability on Libya’s Oil Sector

Intense domestic conflicts have once more hindered Libya’s oil sector, which accounts for around 75% of Libya’s exports, or \$6.3 billion USD. On April 12, 2022, Libya’s largest oil field, the Shahara field, was shut down by Libya’s National Oil Corporation (NOC) and declared force majeure due to fighting between the GNU and the HOR. Force majeure is a legal action that allows companies to elude contractual responsibilities due to extreme situations. The HOR was protesting against the office of Dbeibah, the GNU’s prime minister, and tried to institute Fathi Bashaga. The LNA lent its services to the HOR by marching to western Libya and shutting down oil terminals and ports to force Dbeibah to step down in Tripoli. Five days later, the al-Feel field and the Zueitina terminal were shut down by tribal leaders and dissidents, prompting the

³² “Libya - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 5 Aug. 2021, www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/libya/#:~:text=Migrants in Libya are extremely,refuse to pay laborers' wages.

³³ “Press Release: State of Libya, EU and UN Launch the Libya Project under the Regional Programme: Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa.” *United Nations : UNODC ROMENA*, www.unodc.org/romena/en/press/2021/July/press-release_-state-of-libya--eu-and-un-launch-the-libya-project-under-the-regional-programme_-dismantling-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-criminal-networks-in-north-africa.html.

NOC to announce force majeure at those two locations and cease production in the Abuatufol, al-Intisar, al-Nakhla, and Nafura fields. These closures will result in a 400 million barrel reduction daily, from 1.2 billion barrels per day to less than 800 million barrels, gas and power supply deficits, and an overall fuel crisis.³⁴

D. Terrorist Activities in Libya

The Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL) has had a constant presence in Libya since 2014, establishing checkpoints, kidnapping people, and circulating propaganda through videos or Libya's al-Naba magazine. Libya's ongoing insecurity and lack of action against the terrorists have allowed IS to remain in the country, and alliances with Libyan tribes and smugglers have helped the organization expand, as opposed to IS's loss of territory in Syria and Iraq. The LNA's constant wars allow IS to take advantage of the instability. IS sees Libya as an excellent base and recruitment area because of its proximity to sub-Saharan Africa, called a "Strategic Gateway" by members. Lastly, Libya is seen as potential access to Europe for IS terrorists.

The IS has carried out operations in the eastern, western, and southern parts of Libya, and geographically, the actions are evenly spread, with only a slightly higher concentration in the west because of its ambitions for Sirte and the Sirte Basin. This information points to the idea that the IS's primary goal is to create chaos in Libya, not just to control territory. IS chose to attack prominent Libyan institutions, such as Libya's foreign ministry, in late 2018 or perform continuous attacks in the desert territory.

³⁴ Magdy, Samy. "Libya's Largest Oil Field Closed as Turmoil Intensifies." *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 18 Apr. 2022, apnews.com/article/business-middle-east-africa-libya-tripoli-ccf71ec702effcdb004231d02a7d319c.

IS has claimed two terrorist attacks, the December 2016 Christmas Market attack in Berlin and the 2017 Manchester concert bombing through Libya's Amaq News Agency, shining a spotlight on its presence in Libya. IS's residence in Libya was the first time East and West Africans fought outside of their country instead of local uprisings or terrorist groups. IS has a branch in eastern Libya called Wilāyat Barqa, which published eulogies in 2018, and one was dedicated to a Kenyan named Abū Mūsā al-Kīnī, who received an IS honor, showing IS's interest in the recruitment of sub-Saharan Africans. IS does not seem to recruit many Libyans but uses the country as a retreat for fighters escaping Syria and Iraq and to recruit from proximate countries.³⁵

IV. Case Study: NATO Intervention in Libya Compared to NATO Action in Ukraine

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has long been a controversial force on the subject of intervention in foreign countries. One example of this is NATO's role in the 2011 overthrow of al-Gaddafi through Operation Unified Protector (OUP), reportedly justified by the Responsibility to Protect, which is the UN's responsibility to "protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity." The goal of OUP was to protect civilians and civilian areas, enforce a no-fly zone, and impose an arms embargo against Libya. NATO reported 24,200 aircraft attacks by 260 air forces, including over 9,000 attacks on Libya in September 2011, to destroy artillery, rocket launchers, armored vehicles, military commands, and control centers. NATO maintains the precision of their targeting system and that they use

³⁵ Trauthig, Inga Kristina. "Assessing the Islamic State in Libya." *Europol*, Apr. 2019, www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/inga_trauthig_islamic_state_libya.pdf

weapons with the most negligible yield to avoid injuring civilians.³⁶ NATO's arms embargo against Libya recorded a total of 2862 vessels hailed, 293 vessels boarded, 11 ships denied transit, and at least 600 people rescued from sea as of September 2011.³⁷ What was less known, however, was the fact that NATO was using bombs, target monitoring, and delayed-fuse weapons on Libyans despite former Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen's claims of "no confirmed civilian casualties caused by NATO," with a civilian casualty number of at least 223 and at most 403.

The strike on a village called Majer, which resulted in 34 civilian deaths, and a bomb that hit a home in Tripoli that killed five innocent people, caused an uproar in Libya as well. None of NATO's involved member states (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have taken responsibility for these attacks, with only Denmark and Norway providing sparse information. NATO has also not made any efforts to pay injured civilians in Libya as they had done in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. Many families have tried to seek medical support, reparations, or apologies for the victims of operations but are denied that comfort because NATO nations involved use NATO's anonymity to disguise their actions.³⁸

NATO's intervention is popularly viewed as an operation whose goal was regime change, not primarily Responsibility to Protect. One example is NATO's support for rebel groups aimed to overthrow al-Gaddafi. Yet, the groups openly tortured minority ethnic groups and civilians

³⁶ Nato. "Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR Protection of Civilians and Civilian-Populated Areas & Enforcement of the No-Fly Zone" *NATO*, Oct. 2011,

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2011_10/20111005_111005-factsheet_protection_civ.pdf

³⁷ Nato. "Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR NATO-led Arms Embargo against Libya" *NATO*, Oct. 2011,

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2011_10/20111005_111005-factsheet_arms_embargo.pdf

³⁸ Dyke, Joe. "NATO Killed Civilians in Libya. It's Time to Admit It." *Foreign Policy*, 20 Mar. 2021, foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/20/nato-killed-civilians-in-libya-its-time-to-admit-it/.

unrelated to al-Gaddafi, contradicting Responsibility to Protect's mandate of protecting people from ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Another example is NATO's decision to bomb al-Gaddafi's forces in his hometown of Sirte, even though locals supported al-Gaddafi and the forces posed no real threat to civilians. Lastly, NATO and rebel groups refused to impose a ceasefire with al-Gaddafi, with rebel groups rejecting an African Union five-point plan of a ceasefire, negotiation, and ending NATO's bombing mission. The ceasefire would have reduced civilian harm, however NATO refused to support it openly.³⁹

NATO's strategy of weakening regimes but disguising them as aid to a country is currently seen in its involvement in Ukraine. Yet, NATO has not had any actual intervention in the country. NATO has been providing Ukraine with unprecedented weapons, ammunition, light and heavy military equipment, and cybersecurity systems. Still, it has not sent troops to avoid provoking and escalating the conflict. While NATO has been giving humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and financial assistance to civilians in the war, there have been concerns about NATO's willingness to fund more war instead of focusing on rebuilding and negotiations. In the future, NATO and other parties involved must be careful about the accumulation of weapons in Ukraine, as NATO's tactics of warfare over Libyan security led to a civil war lasting over a decade.⁴⁰

V. Guiding Questions

³⁹ Green, Matthew. "To What Extent Was the NATO Intervention in Libya a Humanitarian Intervention?" *E*, 7 Feb. 2019, www.e-ir.info/2019/02/06/to-what-extent-was-the-nato-intervention-in-libya-a-humanitarian-intervention/.

⁴⁰ "From Korea to Libya: on the Future of Ukraine and NATO's Never-Ending Wars." *Middle East Monitor*, 1 Apr. 2022, www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220401-from-korea-to-libya-on-the-future-of-ukraine-and-natos-never-ending-wars/.

1. How can the involvement and activity of participatory entities such as NATO and other countries be monitored more carefully in Arab League countries such as Libya? Focus on ensuring conflicts do not escalate and that resources will be allocated in hopes of rebuilding and stopping war instead of prolonging it.
2. The UN has shown clear support of the GNA and the GNU but many Arab countries have pledged support and resources to the HOR and the LNA, creating tension and division within Libya's political system. How will you balance country policy with the UN's goals when creating solutions, and which side will you support?
3. What measures have been implemented to lessen refugee and migrant abuses in Africa? Why have these measures proven inadequate in addressing the human smuggling and trafficking problem in Libya?
4. What initiatives or solutions can solve the problem of illegal drugs and weapons trafficking and smuggling in Africa? How can the flow of these resources and materials be hindered to avoid transport to other countries and continents?
5. How can the international community deal with terrorism and jihadist recruitment more effectively?
6. How can Libya maintain its infrastructure, specifically its oil and petroleum industry in the face of persistent warfare and constant closures of oil fields and terminals?
7. While you should primarily focus on solutions that relate to the situation in Libya, also take into consideration the impact that your solutions could have on similar conflicts in the area such as Syria and Yemen.

Works Cited

- ABC News*, ABC News Network, abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rival-libyan-pm-arrives-tripoli-east-seat-cabinet-84770697.
- Al Jazeera. "Libya's Bashagha Says Will Base His Rival Gov't in Sirte." *News* | *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 17 May 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/17/libyan-rival-pm-leaves-tripoli-after-clashes-between-forces.
- Al Jazeera. "What Is the Arab Spring, and How Did It Start?" *Arab Spring: 10 Years on News* | *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 17 Dec. 2020, www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/17/what-is-the-arab-spring-and-how-did-it-start.
- "The Arab Spring at Ten Years: What's the Legacy of the Uprisings?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/article/arab-spring-ten-years-whats-legacy-uprisings.
- Darme, Marie-Cecile, et al. "Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges" *IMPACT Initiatives and Altai Consulting*, Feb. 2017, <https://www.unhcr.org/595a02b44.pdf>
- Dyke, Joe. "NATO Killed Civilians in Libya. It's Time to Admit It." *Foreign Policy*, 20 Mar. 2021, foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/20/nato-killed-civilians-in-libya-its-time-to-admit-it/.
- Ellmer, Michael. "Libyan Civil War: Saudi Arabia & UAE Involvement." *Grey Dynamics*, 12 Aug. 2021, www.greydynamics.com/libyan-civil-war-saudi-arabia-uae-involvement/.
- "Factbox: Who's Involved in Libya's War and Why." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 29 May 2020, www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-intervention-factbox/factbox-whos-involved-in

-libyas-war-and-why-idUSKBN2351W0.

Finn, Peter. “The Rise and Fall of Libyan Leader Moammar Gaddafi.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 25 Aug. 2011, www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/the-rise-and-fall-of-libyan-leader-moammar-gaddafi/2011/02/21/gIQA32NsdJ_story.html.

“From Korea to Libya: on the Future of Ukraine and NATO's Never-Ending Wars.” *Middle East Monitor*, 1 Apr. 2022,

www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220401-from-korea-to-libya-on-the-future-of-ukraine-and-natos-never-ending-wars/.

“General Assembly Suspends Libya from Human Rights Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2011/ga11050.doc.htm.

Gertler, Jeremiah. “Operation Odyssey Dawn (Libya): Background and Issues for Congress.” *Congressional Research Service*, 30 Mar. 2011, <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/R41725.pdf>

“GNC Members Announce Its ‘Dissolution’ and Creation of the State Council.” *LibyaHerald*, 5 Apr. 2016, www.libyaherald.com/2016/04/gnc-members-announce-its-dissolution-and-creation-of-the-state-council/.

Green, Matthew. “To What Extent Was the NATO Intervention in Libya a Humanitarian Intervention?” *E*, 7 Feb. 2019, www.e-ir.info/2019/02/06/to-what-extent-was-the-nato-intervention-in-libya-a-humanitarian-intervention/.

“Instability in Libya | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-libya.

“Leagueofarabstates.net.” جامعة الدول العربية,

www.lasportal.org/ar/news/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?RID=3440.

“Libya.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

www.britannica.com/place/Libya.

“Libya (LBY) Exports, Imports, and Trade Partners.” *OECD*, oec.world/en/profile/country/lby.

“Libya - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of

State, 5 Aug. 2021, www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/libya/#:~:text=Migrants in Libya are extremely,refuse to pay laborers' wages.

“Libya Country Profile.” *BBC News*, BBC, 15 Mar. 2021,

www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13754897.

“Libya Has Two Prime Ministers as Political Divisions Deepen.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 10 Feb. 2022,

www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/10/libya-has-two-prime-ministers-as-political-divisions-deepen.

“Libya: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report.” *Freedom House*,

freedomhouse.org/country/libya/freedom-world/2022.

“The Libyan Political Agreement: Time for a Reset.” *Crisis Group*, 18 Nov. 2016,

www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/north-africa/libya/libyan-political-agreement-time-reset.

Magdy, Samy. “Libya's Largest Oil Field Closed as Turmoil Intensifies.” *AP NEWS*, Associated

Press, 18 Apr. 2022, apnews.com/article/business-middle-east-africa-libya-tripoli-ccf71ec702cfffcd004231d02a7d319c.

“Mandate.” *UNSMIL*, 1 Dec. 2020, unsmil.unmissions.org/mandate.

Mangan, Fiona. “Illicit Drug Trafficking and Use in Libya Highs and Lows.” *United States Institute of Peace*, May 2020, www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/20200528-pw_161-illicit_drug_trafficking_and_use_in_libya_highs_and_lows-pw.pdf

Nato. “Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR NATO-led Arms Embargo against Libya” *NATO*, Oct. 2011, www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2011_10/20111005_111005-factsheet_arms_embargo.pdf

Nato. “Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR Protection of Civilians and Civilian-Populated Areas & Enforcement of the No-Fly Zone” *NATO*, Oct. 2011, www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2011_10/20111005_111005-factsheet_protection_civ.pdf

Nato. “NATO and Libya (Archived).” *NATO*, 14 May 2020, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_71652.htm.

“Press Release: State of Libya, EU and UN Launch the Libya Project under the Regional Programme: Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa.” *United Nations : UNODC ROMENA*, www.unodc.org/romena/en/press/2021/July/press-release_-state-of-libya--eu-and-un-launch-the-libya-project-under-the-regional-programme_-dismantling-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-criminal-networks-in-north-africa.html.

Sidder, Aaron. “Libya Country Profile.” *Geography*, National Geographic Kids, 6 May 2022, kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/libya.

Senior Research Fellow. “The Libyan Arab Armed Forces.” *Chatham House – International*

- Affairs Think Tank*, 7 June 2021, www.chathamhouse.org/2021/06/libyan-arab-armed-forces.
- Trauthig, Inga Kristina. "Assessing the Islamic State in Libya." *Europol*, Apr. 2019, https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/inga_trauthig_islamic_state_libya.pdf
- "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)*, www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/LBY.
- "UN Documents for Libya: Security Council Resolutions." *Security Council Report*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/page/1?ctype=Libya&cbtype=libya#038;cbtype=libya.
- "UNSMIL | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs." *United Nations*, United Nations, dppa.un.org/en/mission/unsmil#:~:text=The United Nations Support Mission,dialogue through mediation and good.
- "War in Libya: How Did It Start, Who Is Involved and What Happens next?" *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 18 May 2020, www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/war-in-libya-how-did-it-start-what-happens-next.
- "Who's Who in Libya's War?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/in-brief/whos-who-libyas-war.
- "World Report 2013: Rights Trends in World Report 2013: Libya." *Human Rights Watch*, 31 Jan. 2013, www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/libya#eabb49.

“World Report 2021: Rights Trends in Libya.” *Human Rights Watch*, 13 Jan. 2021,

www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/libya.

“World Report 2022: Rights Trends in Libya.” *Human Rights Watch*, 13 Jan. 2022,

www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/libya.

Topic B: Dependence and Disparity of Petroleum Export Income in Arabic Countries

I. Background

At the turn of the 20th century, geologist George Bernard Reynolds discovered oil in modern-day Iran on behalf of the British government. A year later, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) was formed and sold shares to the public. This led to oil refineries being built, oil being exported worldwide, and massive economic growth for Britain and the APOC. Before World War I, Britain modernized their navy by shifting from coal-fired steamships to ships that ran on oil as fuel. This meant that Britain needed a steady supply of oil, so they invested a lot of money in the APOC and gained lots of power over the middle east oil reserves. In the 1960s, nationalistic sentiments led to oil-rich countries taking control of their reserves, and a group of states formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In 1968, OPEC issued the “Declaratory Statement of Petroleum Policy in Member Countries”, which gave sovereign states control over the resources in their territory.⁴¹

Currently, many countries in the Arab League are heavily dependent on their petroleum exports, leading to many issues and further consequences as their petroleum reserves deplete. Since petroleum is not a renewable resource, it will eventually have to be replaced. Countries are starting to cut down on carbon and greenhouse gas emissions as the world is recognizing their

⁴¹ McLean, John. “History of Western Civilization II.” *The Discovery of Oil in the Middle East | History of Western Civilization II*, courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-discovery-of-oil-in-the-middle-east/.

negative impacts.⁴² The shift towards renewable energy forms will devastate these countries' economies if they do not become less reliant on petroleum. Oil and gas reserves in many Arab League countries are running out quickly, which has posed a significant challenge for several countries, specifically Bahrain and Oman. Bahrain's oil and gas reserves are expected to run out within this decade, and Oman's reserves are expected to deplete within the next 25 years. Since petroleum accounts for 70% of Bahrain and Oman's government revenues, the depletion of their reserves will lead to economic devastation if they do not change their economic dependence on oil.

The energy in most Arab League countries comes from the oil they produce, which will lead to these countries needing a new energy source if they do not start to replace them. This is why many of these countries are already beginning projects to shift towards renewable energy that will be much more sustainable. The United Arab Emirates has three major projects to expand their solar and wind power sources, setting the stage for more expansion into these untapped renewable energy sources. Saudi Arabia and Oman also have dumped billions of dollars into expanding their solar energy sources and continue to shift from oil to more renewable forms of energy. Many of these nations choose solar energy over geothermal, wind, nuclear, hydropower, and other forms of energy because of the abundant sunlight in the region. From 2010 to 2020, the amount of solar energy generated doubled, and it is expected to double again from 2020 to 2024. Since natural gas prices are increasing rapidly and solar power is

⁴² Kabbani, Nader, and Nejla Ben Mimoune. "Economic Diversification in the Gulf: Time to Redouble Efforts." *Brookings*, Brookings, 9 Mar. 2022, www.brookings.edu/research/economic-diversification-in-the-gulf-time-to-redouble-efforts/.

becoming more and more affordable, the switch to sustainable energy sources is very attractive to many Arab countries.⁴³

Dependence on oil has a direct impact on a country's wage disparity and poverty level. Since these economies rely on oil, they typically either thrive or crash based on petroleum's economic performance. Quality of life and income per capita increased rapidly when oil was starting to be extracted by Arab countries in the 1970s and 1980s. However, it has gone down significantly as a lot of the wealth from oil becomes concentrated in a small group of people. As populations increase and oil prices drop, these countries, which rely on the unsustainable oil market, see drops in living standards. This disparity is extreme in Nigeria, where \$300 billion has been generated over the past 25 years from oil. However, in 16 of those years, households making less than \$1 a day increased by 39% to a whopping 66% in 1996. The majority of the oil revenues went to the top 10% of the population, controlling over 40% of the country's wealth. Most Arab League countries that depend on oil also have a major economic disparity. These countries typically have nationalized oil industries, and since they rely so heavily on oil, they do not tax the population as much. This unfair social structure leads to a cycle of the rich getting richer and those who are impoverished seeing little progress. A lack of education also continues this cycle as OPEC countries have a lower rate of children enrolled in secondary education and percent of Gross National Product (GNP) spent on education than the global average.⁴⁴ Since it is

⁴³ Brownell, Blaine. "The Coming Renewable Energy Revolution in the Middle East." *Architect*, 24 Feb. 2022, www.architectmagazine.com/technology/the-coming-renewable-energy-revolution-in-the-middle-east_o#:~:text=In recent years, the Middle, to double again by 2024.

⁴⁴ Thelwell, Kim. "The Link Between Oil and Poverty." *The Borgen Project*, Kim Thelwell https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg, 19 Nov. 2019, borgenproject.org/the-link-between-oil-and-poverty/.

mostly wealthier children who are getting a complete education, they have a greater opportunity of staying wealthy. In contrast, a poorer child, who does not have a full education, will have a more challenging time making money. Educational reforms and improvements in the quality of life for lower class citizens are not frequently passed in these countries because many government officials in these countries have made their money off of oil and this unfair social system. This has led to failing educational institutions in these countries and a lack of progress in their educational systems.⁴⁵

II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has covered many aspects of the dependence and disparity of petroleum export income in Arabic nations. Yet, there has been little progress in making these nations less dependent on oil and almost no progress in eliminating the disparity that comes from oil. The General Assembly passed A/RES/25/2626, also known as the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, in 1970. Although this resolution does not provide much structure for tackling this issue today, it was crucial in recognizing the gap in political, social, economic, and technological development between developed and developing nations. It also worked towards sustainable economic expansion through economic diversification, trade expansion, and promoting sustainable energy. Furthermore, it highlighted the importance of international cooperation on this subject and the need for formulating a plan and eventually implementing it.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ “Oil Exporting Country.” *Oil Exporting Country - an Overview* | ScienceDirect Topics, www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/oil-exporting-country.

⁴⁶ Assembly, United Nations General. *A/RES/25/2626 - International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade - UN Documents: Gathering a Body of Global Agreements*, www.un-documents.net/a25r2626.htm#:~:text=A/RES/25/2626,a body of global agreements.

The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lays the framework for social equality, sustainable economic development, and environmental sustainability. Several SDGs relate to this topic, but goals 7 and 8 are extremely relevant to addressing this issue. Goal 7 calls for affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy availability for everybody. Oil is not cheap or sustainable, so if the goal is to be completed, oil would have to be replaced with more sustainable energy sources. Goal 8 calls for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the availability of employment for everyone. This also encourages Arab countries to move towards more sustainable industries because petroleum will eventually run out and leave many searching for work.⁴⁷

The Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty on climate change that 196 nations have adopted. It provides many long-term strategies that work towards limiting global warming. This was expected to harm the oil and gas industries in Arab countries because carbon emissions are needed to decrease to prevent global warming. Many countries look to reduce carbon emissions by promoting sustainable energy sources and replacing natural resources such as petroleum that cause carbon emissions. However, many governments, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, have ignored this and continue to produce enough oil to where the Paris Climate Agreement will not achieve its goal of limiting global warming to below 2 degrees compared to Celsius pre-industrial levels.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Renewable Energy

⁴⁷ “THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development.” *United Nations*, United Nations, sdgs.un.org/goals.

To become less dependent on oil, Arab League countries need to shift towards renewable energy. The Middle East is an excellent place for renewable energy as there is abundant sunlight and massive, unpopulated deserts perfect for utilizing solar energy. However, this is not being completely utilized because, as of 2015, 80% of non-hydro renewable energy in the region is concentrated in only 4 of the 22 Arab League countries. This has recently changed because billions of dollars have been invested into renewable energy, and massive new projects are currently being worked on. Not only is renewable energy great for the environment, but it is also perfect for the economies of the countries that implement it. Morocco has developed an industry for building solar water heaters, creating about 13,000 jobs. Furthermore, massive projects, such as the Al Dhafra Solar Project in the United Arab Emirates and the Sudair Solar Power Plant in Saudi Arabia, create an enormous amount of jobs, which is crucial for economic growth, especially in many Arab countries that have high levels of poverty. Not only does renewable energy boost employment, but it also generates a lot of income compared to oil. The average contract reward value for power plants that use oil or gas from 2017 to 2020 was \$4.8 billion per year, whereas the same statistic for thermal power plants was \$6.2 billion. This is a great incentive for companies to expand into the renewable energy sector in Arab countries because they will make significant profits and help save the planet. Furthermore, these countries should be incentivizing expansion into this sector because it will help them become less dependent on oil and help reduce carbon emissions.

B. Economic Diversification

Many Arab League countries make the majority of their income from petroleum exports. As their petroleum runs out and the world shifts towards renewable energy, their economies will become weak, and poverty will worsen.⁴⁸ Arab League countries can avoid this economic depression with economic diversification, which is when an economy shifts away from a single source of income to multiple sources of income in different expanding industries. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown these countries why it is urgent to diversify their economies. Oil prices dropped by over 60%, from \$64 per barrel to just \$23 per barrel leaving many countries in need of a new source of income. Not only does this show how relying on a single source of income, especially an extremely volatile one, can lead to issues, but it illustrates what will happen to these countries in the coming years if they don't diversify their economies.

C. Expatriates

An expatriate lives and works in a different country than what they are a citizen of. Expatriates play a major role in the oil sector because they dominate the workforce. However, the 35 million expatriates who support the oil sector are leaving rapidly, leading to significant economic issues for Arab countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan, India, Egypt, and other countries with many expatriates evacuated their citizens from the Gulf states and brought them back home. With work stalling due to COVID, many expatriate workers do not see a reason to stay in the Gulf states and choose to return to their home countries. The International Labor Organization (ILO) predicts that this will worsen economic issues worse than the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis. Furthermore, countries like Oman have already seen a decrease in economic

⁴⁸ "Middle East and North Africa." *IRENA* â€œ *International Renewable Energy Agency*, www.irena.org/mena.

progress as their economic growth slowed by 1.3 percentage points. With a smaller workforce in the oil sector, there are more and more reasons for these countries to shift away from oil and towards other forms of energy, especially sustainable ones.⁴⁹

D. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization that has 13 members, which are mostly Arab League countries. It makes critical policy decisions regarding the petroleum exports of its member states. OPEC tries to stabilize the oil markets so consumers can have a steady supply. However, they are involved in a lot of controversies as gas prices are at an all-time high, and OPEC is the organization that is raising them. Since OPEC has so much power over petroleum, many call for reforms and organizational changes.⁵⁰

IV. Case Study

The COVID-19 pandemic had a massive impact on the oil economy and left many Arab countries' economies in shambles. Before the pandemic, a barrel of oil was worth \$64; at the height of the pandemic, it reached a low of \$23 per barrel. This was due to a simultaneous supply and demand shock, which devastated the oil economy. Massive labor shortages from people not being able to work because of the possibility of contracting COVID led to an enormous supply shock. Meanwhile, people worldwide were forced to stay in their homes, leading to a decline in driving, tourism, and overall business, which led to a massive demand shock. Efforts to diversify

⁴⁹ Ravishankar, Jyotsna. Middle East Oil Industry Still Depends on Expats. 12 Nov. 2013, <https://www.oilandgasmiddleeast.com/news/article-11529-middle-east-oil-industry-still-depends-on-expats>.

⁵⁰ "Member Countries." *OPEC*, www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/25.htm#:~:text=The Organization of the Petroleum,Founder Members of the Organization.

their economies were also halted because COVID didn't just affect oil, but it affected tourism, manufacturing, labor, and more.⁵¹

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the disparity in petroleum export income had already led to massive unemployment, poverty, hunger, and more. Furthermore, there were already low levels of economic growth, low rates of women in the workforce, a lack of quality jobs, and conflict in Arab states. Due to COVID, a new social class was created and labeled the "new poor". These people were not poor during the first quarter of 2020 but have since become poor. This directly corresponds to the increases in poverty, hunger, inequality, and other social issues that have worsened since the pandemic's onset.⁵² Living standards also dropped significantly during the pandemic, highlighting the disparity that comes from the wealth generated by oil exports. A common trend between Arab countries was that the bottom 40% of households saw major drops in living standards while the upper 60% only saw mild declines. This illustrates the extent to which oil export income has created disparity among social classes.

The COVID-19 pandemic also greatly affected oil-importing countries. While the drop in labor, stock market volatility, and business productivity decline negatively affected oil-exporting countries, it did the same to oil-importing countries. However, the drop in oil prices positively affected oil-importing countries because, with cheaper oil, they could trigger low production costs and slow the inflation rate. Arab League countries that import oil, such as Jordan and

⁵¹ World Bank Group. "Distributional Impacts of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region." World Bank, World Bank Group, 20 Dec. 2021, www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/publication/distributional-impacts-of-covid-19-in-the-middle-east-and-north-af-rica-region.

⁵² "COVID-19 Sets MENA Back on Poverty." World Bank Blogs, blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/covid-19-sets-mena-back-poverty.

Lebanon, faced pros and cons regarding the drop in oil prices. While they had low production costs, they were also faced with issues that came from the poor performance of the oil-exporting countries' economies. Before the pandemic, they relied on these countries for foreign direct investment and worker remittances, so their economies faced significant problems when they could not invest as much money or give workers remittances. This highlights how the pandemic negatively affected oil-importing and oil-exporting countries.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How can countries start to shift from using oil to renewable energy, especially in areas with inadequate infrastructure?
2. How can countries invest in other sectors besides oil to diversify their economies? Will foreign investment be better than domestic investment in certain places?
3. Does your country import or export oil? How will this affect your policy and solutions?
4. Are organizations like the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council good or bad for oil's future? Do these organizations need to be reformed?
5. Is there a way to distribute revenues from oil-exports to lessen the existing disparity and inequality? Can this be implemented with those who make their money from oil in power?

Works Cited

- Brownell, Blaine. "The Coming Renewable Energy Revolution in the Middle East." *Architect*, 24 Feb. 2022, www.architectmagazine.com/technology/the-coming-renewable-energy-revolution-in-the-middle-east_o#:~:text=In recent years, the Middle, to double again by 2024.
- Assembly, United Nations General. *A/RES/25/2626 - International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade - UN Documents: Gathering a Body of Global Agreements*, [www.un-documents.net/a25r2626.htm#:~:text=A/RES/25/2626,](http://www.un-documents.net/a25r2626.htm#:~:text=A/RES/25/2626,a) a body of global agreements.
- Barbuscia, Davide, and Marwa Rashad. "What's the Point of Staying?": Gulf Faces Expatriate Exodus." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 7 May 2020, www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-gulf-jobs/whats-the-point-of-staying-gulf-faces-expatriate-exodus-idUSKBN22J1WL.
- "COVID-19 Sets MENA Back on Poverty." *World Bank Blogs*, blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/covid-19-sets-mena-back-poverty.
- Kabbani, Nader, and Nejla Ben Mimoune. "Economic Diversification in the Gulf: Time to Redouble Efforts." *Brookings*, Brookings, 9 Mar. 2022, www.brookings.edu/research/economic-diversification-in-the-gulf-time-to-redouble-efforts/.
- Khalifaoui, Rabeh, et al. "Dynamic Causality Interplay from COVID-19 Pandemic to Oil Price, Stock Market, and Economic Policy Uncertainty: Evidence from Oil-Importing and Oil-Exporting Countries - Annals of Operations Research." *SpringerLink*, Springer US, 5 Jan. 2022, link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10479-021-04446-w.

“Major Renewable Energy Projects Happening in the Middle East.” *Major Renewable Energy*

Projects Happening in the Middle | *NES Fircroft*, www.nesfircroft.com/blog/2021/12/major-renewable-energy-projects-happening-in-the-middle-east?source=google.com.

McLean, John. “History of Western Civilization II.” *The Discovery of Oil in the Middle East* |

History of Western Civilization II, courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-discovery-of-oil-in-the-middle-east/.

“Member Countries.” *OPEC*, www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/25.htm#:~:text=The

Organization of the Petroleum, Founder Members of the Organization.

“Middle East and North Africa.” *IRENA* â“ *International Renewable Energy Agency*,

www.irena.org/mena.

“Oil Exporting Country.” *Oil Exporting Country - an Overview* | *ScienceDirect Topics*,

www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/oil-exporting-country.

Ravishankar, Jyotsna. Middle East Oil Industry Still Depends on Expats. 12 Nov. 2013,

<https://www.oilandgasmiddleeast.com/news/article-11529-middle-east-oil-industry-still-d Depends-on-expats>.

“THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development.” *United Nations*, United Nations,

sdgs.un.org/goals.

Thelwell, Kim. “The Link Between Oil and Poverty.” *The Borgen Project*, Kim Thelwell

[Https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg](https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg),
19 Nov. 2019, borgenproject.org/the-link-between-oil-and-poverty/.

World Bank Group. “Coping with a Dual Shock: COVID-19 and Oil Prices.” *World Bank*, World

Bank Group, 15 Apr. 2020, www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/brief/coping-with-a-dual-shock-coronavirus-covid-19-and-oil-prices.

World Bank Group. “Distributional Impacts of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region.” *World Bank*, World Bank Group, 20 Dec. 2021, www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/publication/distributional-impacts-of-covid-19-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-region.