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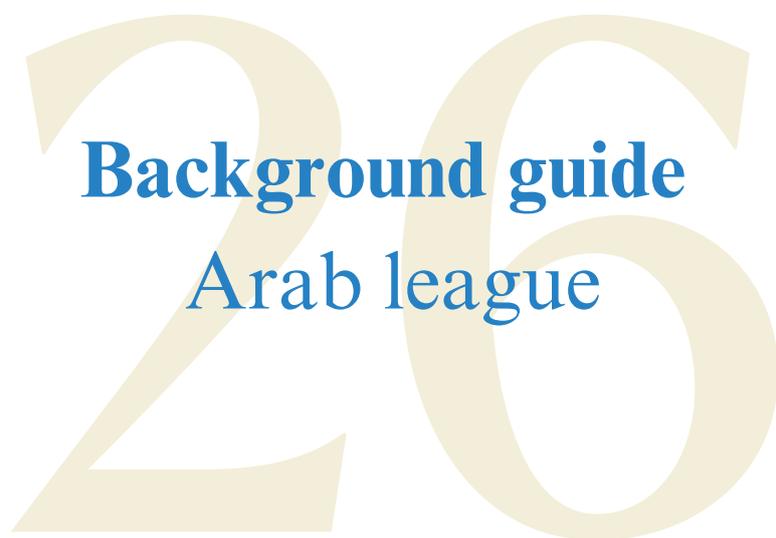
Background guide

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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to UOBDMUN as the chairs of the Arab League Committee. It is both an honor and a pleasure for us to serve as your moderators, and we are truly excited to guide you through what promises to be a dynamic, insightful, and engaging committee experience.

In today's rapidly evolving regional landscape, the crisis in Sudan has emerged as one of the most urgent humanitarian and political challenges facing the Arab world. The ongoing conflict has led to widespread displacement, humanitarian suffering, and instability that extends beyond Sudan's borders. Addressing this crisis requires urgent action to strengthen civilian protection while simultaneously working toward sustainable political solutions that can ensure long-term regional stability. These efforts demand diplomacy, responsibility, and cooperation—qualities we expect to see reflected in your debates and negotiations throughout the committee.

The Arab League serves as a vital platform for cooperation among Arab states, enabling dialogue and collective action on political, economic, and security challenges facing the region. In addressing the crisis in Sudan, the Arab League has a crucial role in coordinating humanitarian assistance, supporting diplomatic mediation, and promoting stability that safeguards both the Sudanese people and the wider region.

We are incredibly enthusiastic to embark on this journey with you. Your decision to participate in UOBDMUN demonstrates your commitment to academic excellence, critical thinking, and global awareness. While the conference will undoubtedly present challenging debates and differing perspectives, we are dedicated to creating an environment that encourages respectful discourse, collaboration, and intellectual growth.

As your chairs, we are committed to ensuring that every delegate's voice is heard and valued throughout the conference. We look forward to seeing you as you proudly represent your countries in the Arab League Committee. Please remember to submit your position papers via email only, and feel free to reach out to us at any time should you have questions or need clarification.

Best Regards,
Tala Alkhder & Muhammed Saad

Committee Introduction

The League of Arab States, commonly known as the Arab League, is a regional organization founded in 1945 with the aim of strengthening political, economic, cultural, and security cooperation among Arab countries. Initially established by six founding members Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria the organization has since expanded to include 22 member states across the Middle East and North Africa. The League was created in the aftermath of World War II, at a time when Arab states sought a unified platform to address regional issues, defend sovereignty, and coordinate collective policies.

The Arab League functions as a diplomatic forum where member states discuss pressing regional challenges and attempt to coordinate unified responses. Its main decision-making body, the Council of the Arab League, allows representatives of member states to meet regularly to deliberate on political disputes, security concerns, economic cooperation, and humanitarian crises. Although the League does not possess direct enforcement powers, it plays an influential role in mediating conflicts, coordinating humanitarian assistance, and promoting regional stability.

Throughout its history, the Arab League has been involved in addressing numerous regional crises, including conflicts in Lebanon, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, often attempting to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties. The organization has also worked closely with international bodies such as the United Nations and the African Union to support peacekeeping initiatives and humanitarian efforts in the region.

In the context of the current crisis in Sudan, the Arab League holds particular significance. Sudan is a member of the organization and its instability has serious implications for neighboring Arab states. The League has increasingly focused on supporting diplomatic mediation, coordinating humanitarian aid, and encouraging political dialogue aimed at restoring stability. Through its platform, Arab states have the opportunity to collectively address the humanitarian crisis while considering long-term strategies that promote peace and security across the region.

Topic Introduction

Addressing the Crisis in Sudan: Strengthening Civilian Protection and Promoting Long-Term Regional Stability

The crisis in Sudan has rapidly evolved into one of the most significant humanitarian and political emergencies in the region. In April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), two powerful military factions competing for control of the state. What initially appeared to be a power struggle between rival commanders quickly escalated into widespread conflict across the country, affecting major urban centers such as Khartoum as well as historically unstable regions like Darfur (International Crisis Group, 2023). The fighting has resulted in large-scale destruction of infrastructure and the collapse of basic services, leaving millions of civilians without access to healthcare, food, or clean water.

The humanitarian impact has been severe. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, millions of people have been displaced either internally or across borders into neighboring states such as Chad, Egypt, and South Sudan (UNHCR, 2024). These movements have created significant pressure on surrounding countries and raised concerns about regional stability. Humanitarian agencies have also warned that continued fighting may lead to worsening food insecurity and limited access to essential resources.

Sudan's strategic location further increases the significance of the crisis. Situated between North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Arab world, the country plays an important role in regional migration routes, trade networks, and security dynamics. As scholars have noted, instability in Sudan has historically affected neighboring states due to cross-border political ties and economic connections (Johnson, 2016). For regional organizations such as the League of Arab States, the crisis therefore represents both a humanitarian responsibility and a major regional security concern.

Topic History

Sudan's current conflict is rooted in a long history of political instability and civil war. Since gaining independence from Britain and Egypt in 1956, the country has experienced repeated military coups and fragile civilian governments. These cycles of instability have often been driven by competition among political elites, regional inequalities, and disputes over access to economic resources (Collins, 2008). Over time, these tensions contributed to the emergence of several major armed conflicts that shaped Sudan's political landscape.

One of the most significant conflicts in Sudan's history was the Second Sudanese Civil War, which lasted from 1983 to 2005. The conflict between the Sudanese government and southern rebel groups resulted in millions of deaths and widespread displacement. According to Johnson (2016), disagreements over political representation, cultural identity, and the distribution of oil revenues played an important role in fueling the war. The conflict eventually ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, which later led to the independence of South Sudan in 2011.

During much of this period, Sudan was governed by Omar al-Bashir, who came to power through a military coup in 1989. Bashir's government faced widespread international criticism for authoritarian rule and human rights abuses, particularly during the conflict in Darfur (de Waal, 2015). In 2019, widespread protests triggered by economic hardship and political repression forced Bashir to step down, raising hopes for democratic reform.

Following Bashir's removal, Sudan entered a transitional period in which civilian leaders and military officials attempted to share power. However, tensions between these groups soon escalated, and the military carried out another coup in 2021, weakening the transition process (Gallopin, 2020). These divisions within Sudan's security forces eventually led to open fighting in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, marking the beginning of the current conflict.

The crisis in Sudan represents a complex intersection of political rivalry, humanitarian catastrophe, and regional security concerns. Although the conflict is often framed as a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the roots of the crisis extend far beyond the ambitions of two military leaders. Scholars such as Alex de Waal argue that Sudan's political system has long been shaped by elite competition for control of state resources and security institutions, creating a fragile governance structure that repeatedly collapses into violence during periods of political transition (de Waal, 2023). The breakdown of Sudan's transitional government following the 2019 revolution and the 2021 military coup weakened civilian institutions and ultimately created conditions in which armed confrontation between rival security forces became increasingly likely (Gallopin, 2020).

One of the most urgent dimensions of the conflict is the humanitarian crisis facing Sudanese civilians. Fighting has occurred in densely populated urban areas such as Khartoum, as well as historically marginalized regions including Darfur, resulting in widespread destruction of infrastructure and essential services. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the conflict has displaced millions of people both internally and across international borders, making it one of the largest displacement crises in the world (UNHCR, 2024). Large segments of the population now face severe food insecurity, as agricultural production and supply chains have been disrupted by ongoing violence. The World Food Programme has warned that prolonged conflict could push millions of Sudanese into famine conditions if humanitarian access remains limited (World Food Programme, 2024). These humanitarian conditions are further aggravated by the collapse of healthcare systems, damage to hospitals, and shortages of medical supplies across large areas of the country.

Diplomatic mediation has therefore become an essential component of international efforts to resolve the crisis. Several actors, including regional organizations and global powers, have attempted to facilitate negotiations between the SAF and RSF leadership. However, peace initiatives have struggled to achieve lasting results due to deep mistrust between the warring factions and competing interests among external actors. As historian Douglas Johnson explains, Sudan's history of negotiated settlements often reveals a pattern in which agreements focus primarily on elite power-sharing arrangements rather than addressing deeper structural issues such as regional inequality and political exclusion (Johnson, 2016). Without addressing these underlying grievances, ceasefire agreements may only provide temporary pauses in violence rather than sustainable peace.

Topic Analysis

For regional organizations such as the Arab League, the crisis in Sudan presents both a challenge and an opportunity to strengthen collective diplomatic engagement. Coordinated humanitarian assistance, support for ceasefire monitoring mechanisms, and collaboration with African regional institutions could contribute to stabilizing the situation. At the same time, long-term stability will likely require broader political reforms within Sudan, including the rebuilding of civilian governance institutions and the integration of competing armed forces into a unified national security structure. As several analysts have noted, sustainable peace in Sudan will depend not only on ending the current military confrontation but also on addressing the structural political and economic inequalities that have historically fueled conflict within the country (de Waal, International Crisis Group, 2023).

Questions for the Resolution

1. How can the Arab League effectively strengthen civilian protection mechanisms within Sudan while ensuring humanitarian aid reaches affected populations?

2. What diplomatic strategies can Arab League member states implement to facilitate negotiations and encourage a sustainable ceasefire between conflicting parties in Sudan?

3. How can the Arab League coordinate with international organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union to provide humanitarian assistance and promote long-term stability?

4. What long-term political and economic initiatives can be introduced to support Sudan's reconstruction and democratic transition once the conflict subsides.

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UoBDMUN 2026

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