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# NLCSD MUN COMMITTEE ARAB LEAGUE

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MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# COMMITTEE

The Arab League (League of Arab States) is a regional organization located in North Africa, West Asia and East Asia and was formed in Cairo in March 1945 following the adoption of the Alexandria protocol in 1944, currently consisting of 22 members. The league's main aim is to "draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries". Initially, the league's objective was to mediate disputes between the countries or with third parties.

Through institutions, specifically the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) the league facilitates social, economic, political, cultural and scientific

programmes designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. Each member state has one vote in the Council of the Arab League, decisions are only binding those states that have voted for them.

The League of Arab States shares a common mission with the UN: promoting peace, security and stability by preventing conflict, resolving disputes and acting in a spirit of solidarity and unity. The Arab League works with the UN to expand economic opportunity and advance respect for human rights. In 2019, the UN opened a liaison office to the Arab League, opening it to be funded through the UN's regular budget.

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## TOPIC 1 : HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN DUE TO THE YEMENI CIVIL WAR

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The humanitarian crisis in Yemen, stemming from the ongoing Yemeni Civil War, is marked by widespread suffering, displacement, and a severe lack of basic necessities. The conflict, which began in 2014, intensified in 2015 with the intervention of a coalition led by Saudi Arabia. The war has resulted in extensive civilian casualties, destruction of critical infrastructure, and a breakdown of essential services. Yemen faces a multifaceted crisis, including severe food insecurity, a collapsing healthcare system, and a lack of access to clean water. The conflict has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian emergencies, leaving millions of Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance. The dire situation is exacerbated by economic collapse, displacement, and the spread of diseases, including a cholera outbreak. The impact is particularly devastating for vulnerable populations, such as children and internally displaced persons, who face heightened risks of malnutrition and disease. International efforts to address the humanitarian crisis face numerous challenges, including access restrictions, insecurity, and funding shortages, making the situation in Yemen one of urgent concern on the global stage.

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen stems primarily from the ongoing Yemeni Civil War, which erupted in 2015. This conflict has resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and devastation, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation in one of the poorest countries in the Middle East. The war involves multiple factions, including the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, supported by a Saudi-led coalition, and Houthi rebels aligned with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Yemeni Civil War has had catastrophic consequences for civilians, with millions facing acute food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and inadequate healthcare. The conflict has disrupted essential services, including healthcare facilities and

infrastructure, leaving many Yemenis without access to lifesaving medical treatment. Moreover, airstrikes, ground fighting, and blockades have compounded the suffering, resulting in widespread destruction, loss of life, and displacement. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained an already fragile healthcare system and exacerbated vulnerabilities among the population. Efforts to address the crisis require a comprehensive approach that prioritizes humanitarian assistance, protection of civilians, and efforts to achieve a sustainable and inclusive peace settlement.

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# HISTORY AND PAST UN ACTIONS

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One significant UN action is the establishment of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Yemen Country Office, which plays a central role in coordinating humanitarian response efforts and mobilizing resources to address the urgent needs of the Yemeni population. OCHA works closely with humanitarian partners, including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local authorities, to deliver lifesaving assistance, including food, water, shelter, healthcare, and protection services, to those affected by the conflict.

Additionally, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has played a critical role in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Yemen through the adoption of several resolutions aimed at promoting peace and stability in the country. Resolution 2216, adopted in 2015, called for an immediate ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks to resolve the conflict peacefully. Subsequent resolutions, including Resolution 2441 and Resolution 2451, have reiterated the importance of humanitarian access, respect for international humanitarian law, and the protection of civilians in Yemen.

The UN-led humanitarian response in Yemen has been supported by international donor conferences and pledging events aimed at mobilizing financial resources to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Yemeni population. These conferences, including the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, have raised significant funds to support humanitarian operations, including food assistance, healthcare services, and emergency relief efforts. Despite these efforts, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains one of the most severe in the world, with millions of Yemenis in need of urgent assistance. Ongoing conflict, restrictions on humanitarian access, and funding shortages continue to hinder the delivery of lifesaving aid to those most in need. The United Nations and its partners continue to call for sustained international

support and diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of the conflict, alleviate human suffering, and work towards a peaceful and inclusive resolution of the crisis in Yemen.

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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One significant development is the renewed emphasis on diplomatic initiatives to seek a political resolution to the conflict. The United Nations, alongside regional and international stakeholders, has actively mediated peace talks and negotiations between conflicting parties. The 2018 Stockholm Agreement, which instated a ceasefire in Hudaydah and outlined measures for humanitarian access and prisoner exchanges, marked a pivotal moment in de-escalating hostilities and facilitating aid operations. Subsequent negotiations, including those led by the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, aim to build upon this progress and advance broader peace endeavors in the country.

Moreover, there has been heightened international attention and advocacy for addressing the pressing humanitarian needs of Yemeni civilians. The United Nations and humanitarian partners have intensified efforts to bolster aid delivery, including food assistance, medical supplies, and emergency relief, to the most affected communities. International donor conferences and pledging events have mobilized financial resources to support humanitarian operations, with donor nations committing significant funds to alleviate the urgent needs of Yemenis.

Nonetheless, despite these endeavors, the humanitarian situation in Yemen remains dire, with millions enduring acute food shortages, malnutrition, and limited access to critical services. Ongoing conflict, obstacles to humanitarian access, and funding gaps continue to impede the delivery of lifesaving aid to those in greatest need. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities within Yemen, placing further strain on an already fragile healthcare infrastructure and heightening the risk of disease outbreaks.

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# PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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**Diplomatic Resolution and Peace Negotiations:** A lasting solution to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen necessitates a political resolution to the ongoing conflict. Continued diplomatic efforts, facilitated by the United Nations and supported by regional and international stakeholders, should focus on mediating peace negotiations between warring factions. Comprehensive peace talks, akin to the Stockholm Agreement of 2018, should prioritize ceasefire agreements, confidence-building measures, and inclusive dialogue to address the root causes of the conflict and pave the way for sustainable peace.

**Humanitarian Access and Aid Delivery:** Improving humanitarian access and aid delivery is critical to addressing immediate needs and alleviating human suffering in Yemen. Parties to the conflict must uphold international humanitarian law and allow for the safe and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid and personnel. Aid agencies should scale up efforts to provide lifesaving assistance, including food, water, healthcare, and shelter, to vulnerable populations across the country.

**Economic Recovery and Livelihood Support:** Supporting economic recovery and livelihood opportunities is essential for rebuilding communities and promoting self-reliance among Yemenis. Investments in sustainable development projects, job creation initiatives, and small-scale enterprises can stimulate economic growth, reduce poverty, and enhance resilience to future shocks. Additionally, efforts to stabilize the local currency, improve access to financial services, and revitalize agricultural and industrial sectors can contribute to long-term economic stability and prosperity in Yemen.

**Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Engaging affected communities and empowering local actors is integral to designing and implementing effective humanitarian responses in Yemen. Community-based initiatives, participatory decision-making processes, and partnerships with local organizations can enhance the relevance, ownership, and sustainability of humanitarian interventions. Empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups to participate in peacebuilding and recovery efforts can foster social cohesion, resilience, and inclusive development across Yemeni society.

By prioritizing these possible solutions, stakeholders can work towards alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, promoting peace and stability, and advancing the well-being and dignity of all Yemeni people.

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# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. What are the legal obligations and standards put in place for prisoners?

2. What are the challenges and barriers?

3. How can healthcare delivery be improved?

4. What are the impacts on rehabilitation and reintegration?

5. What oversight and accountability mechanisms are in place?



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# TOPIC 2 : THE PRESERVATION OF PETRA : A CULTURAL HERITAGE

## SITE

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The preservation of Petra, a cultural heritage site nestled in the rocky landscapes of southern Jordan, stands as a paramount global concern. Once the thriving capital of the Nabataean Kingdom in the 4th century BCE, Petra boasts a unique amalgamation of ancient rock-cut architecture, intricate water conduits, and a rich historical tapestry. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Petra faces multifaceted challenges threatening its conservation. Environmental perils, including erosion and flash floods, coupled with the pressures of tourism and potential spillover effects from regional conflicts, pose imminent risks. Addressing the preservation of Petra in the context of the Arab League necessitates a comprehensive approach, ranging from sustainable tourism management and infrastructure development to crisis response and community engagement. Initiatives for technological innovations and educational programs are paramount to ensure the longevity of this invaluable cultural treasure and to foster international cooperation in safeguarding Petra's rich historical legacy for generations to come.

The preservation of Petra, an ancient city located in southern Jordan, stands as a crucial endeavor in safeguarding one of the world's most significant cultural heritage sites. Petra, renowned for its elaborate rock-cut architecture and intricate water management systems, served as the capital of the Nabatean Kingdom from the 4th century BCE to the 2nd century CE. Its archaeological wealth includes iconic structures such as the Treasury (Al-Khazneh), the Monastery (Ad Deir), and the

Siq, a narrow gorge that serves as the main entrance to the city. Petra's historical and architectural significance earned it recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985, highlighting its universal value and the importance of its preservation for future generations.

However, Petra faces numerous conservation challenges, including environmental degradation, natural erosion, urban encroachment, and tourism pressures. The fragile sandstone structures of Petra are susceptible to weathering and erosion caused by wind, rain, and temperature fluctuations. Additionally, the rapid growth of nearby settlements and tourist infrastructure poses threats to the site's integrity and authenticity. Sustainable conservation efforts, including site management plans, monitoring systems, and community engagement initiatives, are essential for ensuring the long-term preservation of Petra and safeguarding its cultural significance for posterity.

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# HISTORY AND PAST UN ACTIONS

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has played a central role in coordinating international efforts to preserve and protect Petra, recognizing its outstanding universal value as a cultural heritage site. Since Petra was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985, several key initiatives and actions have been undertaken to safeguard this iconic archaeological treasure. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has regularly monitored the state of conservation of Petra and provided guidance on measures to address threats and challenges facing the site. In 2007, UNESCO organized an international expert meeting in Petra to assess the site's conservation needs and develop strategies for its preservation. The meeting resulted in the Petra National Plan, a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management and protection of Petra, which was endorsed by the Jordanian government and international stakeholders.

Moreover, UNESCO has supported capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance programs to enhance the conservation and management skills of local authorities, archaeologists, and heritage professionals responsible for overseeing Petra's protection. These initiatives have included training workshops, seminars, and educational programs aimed at raising awareness of the importance of cultural heritage preservation and fostering community involvement in conservation efforts.

Additionally, UNESCO has worked closely with the Jordanian government and other partners to implement specific conservation projects at Petra, including the stabilization of fragile rock-cut structures, the restoration of deteriorating monuments, and the development of sustainable tourism management plans. These projects have been funded through various channels, including UNESCO's World Heritage Fund, international donors, and public-private partnerships, reflecting the shared commitment of the international community to preserving Petra for future generations.

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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One notable development is the implementation of comprehensive conservation and management plans aimed at addressing the site's preservation needs. The Petra National Plan, developed in collaboration with UNESCO and endorsed by the Jordanian government, outlines strategies for sustainable management, protection, and conservation of Petra's cultural heritage. Recent initiatives under this plan have focused on enhancing site monitoring systems, implementing conservation measures for fragile structures, and promoting sustainable tourism practices to minimize environmental impacts.

In response to the increasing recognition of the urgent need for conservation, recent years have witnessed the mobilization of substantial financial resources and technical expertise to support Petra's preservation efforts. The Petra Archaeological Park Improvement Project, launched in 2016 through a partnership between UNESCO, the World Bank, and other stakeholders, represents a significant investment in enhancing visitor facilities, infrastructure, and conservation measures within the archaeological park. This multi-million-dollar project includes initiatives to improve visitor services, upgrade trails and signage, and implement environmental conservation measures such as waste management and vegetation restoration, all aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of Petra as a cultural heritage site.

Moreover, recent years have seen a growing emphasis on community engagement and empowerment in Petra's preservation efforts. Recognizing the importance of local communities in safeguarding cultural heritage, initiatives have been launched to involve residents in conservation activities, raise awareness of the significance of Petra's heritage, and promote sustainable livelihoods linked to tourism and cultural heritage preservation. These community-driven

initiatives aim to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship among local stakeholders, ensuring their active participation in preserving Petra for future generations.

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# PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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**Implementing Conservation Measures:** Prioritizing the implementation of conservation measures is essential for mitigating the impact of environmental degradation and natural erosion on Petra's fragile sandstone structures. This includes stabilizing rock-cut monuments, monitoring weathering processes, and implementing preventive maintenance to ensure the long-term structural integrity of key monuments such as the Treasury and the Monastery.

**Promoting Sustainable Tourism Practices:** Managing tourism activities in a sustainable manner is crucial for minimizing the environmental footprint and preserving the cultural significance of Petra. Implementing visitor management plans, controlling visitor numbers, and diversifying tourism experiences can help reduce overcrowding and mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on archaeological remains and surrounding landscapes.

**Enhancing Site Management and Monitoring:** Strengthening site management capacities and implementing robust monitoring systems are essential for effective conservation and protection of Petra. This includes establishing comprehensive site management plans, enhancing site monitoring technologies, and training local staff and stakeholders in heritage conservation and management practices.

**Integrating Traditional Knowledge and Practices:** Recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and practices in preserving cultural heritage, integrating traditional building techniques, materials, and indigenous knowledge systems into conservation projects can enhance the sustainability and authenticity of preservation efforts at Petra.

By implementing these possible solutions in a coordinated and holistic manner, stakeholders can work towards ensuring the long-term preservation and sustainability of Petra as a cultural heritage site, safeguarding its legacy for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

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# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1.

How can conservation efforts effectively balance the preservation of Petra's archaeological remains with the need to accommodate sustainable tourism and visitor access?

2.

What are the main environmental threats facing Petra, and what measures can be taken to mitigate these risks to ensure the site's long-term preservation?

3.

How can community engagement initiatives contribute to the preservation of Petra, what strategies can be employed to involve local residents?

4.

What role does international collaboration play in supporting conservation efforts at Petra?

5.

How can innovative technologies and approaches, such as digital documentation be utilized to improve conservation practices and enhance understanding of Petra's cultural significance?

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