

CHARTER OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES IS COMPOSED OF THE INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED THIS CHARTER. ANY INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE. IF IT DESIRES TO DO SO, IT SHALL SUBMIT A REQUEST WHICH WILL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL AND SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AT THE FIRST MEETING HELD AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE REQUEST.

THE CHARTER

THE CHARTER CONSISTS OF 20 ARTICLES WHICH DEFINE THE AIMS THAT THE LEAGUE AND ITS AFFILIATE BODIES SHOULD ACHIEVE, THE SHAPE OF RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER-STATES AND OTHER MATTERS OF RELEVANCE. CHARACTERISTICALLY AN ALL-EMBRACING DOCUMENT THAT SETS OUT A WIDE RANGE OF POTENTIAL AREAS FOR JOINT ARAB ACTION, THE CHARTER OPENED THE DOOR FOR MEMBER STATES WISHING TO DEVELOP FURTHER CO-OPERATION AND CLOSER TIES INTER TO DO SO BY CONCLUDING WHICHEVER ACCORDS THEY DEEM NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THOSE TARGETS.

THE CHARTER IS AMENDABLE ONLY IF SO APPROVED BY THE MAJORITY OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBER-STATES, WITH A VIEW TO TURNING RELATIONS AMONG THEM CLOSER AND FIRMER, SETTING UP AN ARAB COURT OF JUSTICE AND REGULATING THE LINKS BETWEEN THE LEAGUE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE AS THEIR OBJECTIVE THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. TWO MORE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS COMPLEMENTARY TO THE CHARTER; NAMELY, THE TREATY FOR JOINT DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, CONCLUDED ON MARCH 13, 1950, AND CHARTER FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTION, ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 26, 1980. ALL LEAGUE MEMBER-STATES HAVE BECOME PARTIES TO BOTH INSTRUMENTS.

THE EXPERIENCE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE LEAGUE OVER FIFTY YEARS OF ITS HISTORY, TOGETHER WITH THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, HAVE ALL PROMPTED THE BROADENING OF THE SCOPE OF JOINT ARAB ACTION, THE DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS AREAS AND THE CREATION OF NEW INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS WHICH HAVE IN DUE COURSE GAINED CONSIDERABLE EFFECTIVENESS. CONSEQUENTLY, LEAGUE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EXPANDED THAT THEY NOW COVER ALMOST ALL AREAS OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE ARAB WORLD.

ARTICLE I

THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES IS COMPOSED OF THE INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES, WHICH HAVE SIGNED THIS CHARTER.

AN INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE. IF IT DESIRES TO DO SO, IT SHALL SUBMIT A REQUEST WHICH WILL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT GENERAL AND SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AT THE FIRST MEETING HELD AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE REQUEST.

ARTICLE II

THE LEAGUE HAS AS ITS PURPOSE THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MEMBER-STATES, THE COORDINATION OF THEIR POLICIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THEM AND TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY; AND A GENERAL CONCERN WITH THE AFFAIRS AND INTERESTS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

IT HAS ALSO AS ITS PURPOSE THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION OF THE MEMBER STATES, WITH DUE REGARD TO THE ORGANIZATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH STATE, ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

1ST. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, CUSTOMS, CURRENCY, AND QUESTIONS OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

2ND. COMMUNICATIONS; THIS INCLUDES RAILROADS, ROADS, AVIATION, NAVIGATION, TELEGRAPHS AND POSTS.

3RD. CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

4TH.NATIONALITY, PASSPORTS, VISAS, EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS AND EXTRADITION OF CRIMINALS.

5TH.SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

6TH.HEALTH AFFAIRS.

ARTICLE III

THE LEAGUE SHALL POSSESS A COUNCIL COMPOSED OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER-STATES OF THE LEAGUE; EACH STATE SHALL HAVE A SINGLE VOTE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE NUMBER OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE.

IT SHALL BE THE TASK OF THE COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE THE REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LEAGUE AND TO SUPERVISE THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENTS, WHICH THE MEMBER-STATES HAVE CONCLUDED ON THE QUESTIONS ENUMERATED IN THE PRECEDING ARTICLE, OR ON ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

IT LIKEWISE SHALL BE THE COUNCIL TASK TO DECIDE UPON THE MEANS BY WHICH THE LEAGUE IS TO CO-OPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO BE CREATED IN THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE SECURITY AND PEACE AND REGULATE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS.

ARTICLE IV

FOR EACH OF THE QUESTIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE II THERE SHALL BE SET UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN WHICH THE MEMBER-STATES OF THE LEAGUE SHALL BE REPRESENTED. THESE COMMITTEES SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF LAYING DOWN THE PRINCIPLES AND EXTENT OF CO-OPERATION. SUCH PRINCIPLES SHALL BE FORMULATED AS DRAFT AGREEMENTS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR EXAMINATION PREPARATORY TO THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE AFORESAID STATES.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES MAY TAKE PART IN THE WORK OF THE AFORESAID COMMITTEES. THE COUNCIL SHALL DETERMINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THESE REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE AND RULES GOVERNING SUCH REPRESENTATION.

ARTICLE V

ANY RESORT TO FORCE IN ORDER TO RESOLVE DISPUTES BETWEEN TWO OR MORE MEMBER-STATES OF THE LEAGUE IS PROHIBITED. IF THERE SHOULD ARISE AMONG THEM A DIFFERENCE WHICH DOES NOT CONCERN A STATE'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND IF THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE HAVE RECOURSE TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS DIFFERENCE, THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL SHALL THEN BE ENFORCEABLE AND OBLIGATORY.

IN SUCH CASE, THE STATES BETWEEN WHOM THE DIFFERENCE HAS ARISEN SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL SHALL MEDIATE IN ALL DIFFERENCES WHICH THREATEN TO LEAD TO WAR BETWEEN TWO MEMBER-STATES, OR A MEMBER-STATES AND A THIRD STATE, WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING ABOUT THEIR RECONCILIATION. DECISIONS OF ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION SHALL BE TAKEN BY MAJORITY VOTE.

ARTICLE VI

IN CASE OF AGGRESSION OR THREAT OF AGGRESSION BY ONE STATE AGAINST A MEMBER-STATE, THE STATE WHICH HAS BEEN ATTACKED OR THREATENED WITH AGGRESSION MAY DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE CONVOCATION OF THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL SHALL BY UNANIMOUS DECISION DETERMINE THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO REPULSE THE AGGRESSION. IF THE AGGRESSOR IS A MEMBER-STATE, HIS VOTE SHALL NOT BE COUNTED IN DETERMINING UNANIMITY.

IF AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK, THE GOVERNMENT STATE ATTACKED FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH COUNCIL, THE STATE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COUNCIL SHALL REQUEST THE CONVOCATION OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE INDICATED IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH. IN THE EVENT THAT THIS REPRESENTATIVE IS UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE COUNCIL, ANY MEMBER-STATE OF THE LEAGUE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST THE CONVOCATION OF THE COUNCIL.

ARTICLE VII

UNANIMOUS DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE BINDING UPON ALL MEMBER-STATES OF THE

LEAGUE; MAJORITY DECISIONS SHALL BE BINDING ONLY UPON THOSE STATES, WHICH HAVE ACCEPTED THEM.

IN EITHER CASE THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE ENFORCED IN EACH MEMBER-STATE ACCORDING TO ITS RESPECTIVE LAWS.

ARTICLE VII

EACH MEMBER-STATE SHALL RESPECT THE SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED IN THE OTHER MEMBER-STATES AND REGARD THEM AS EXCLUSIVE CONCERNS OF THOSE STATES. EACH SHALL PLEDGE TO ABSTAIN FROM AN ACTION CALCULATED TO CHANGE ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT.

ARTICLE IX

STATES OF THE LEAGUE WHICH DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CLOSER CO-OPERATION AND STRONGER BONDS THAN ARE PROVIDED FOR BY THIS CHARTER MAY CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS TO THAT END.

TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED OR TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN A MEMBER-STATE AND ANOTHER STATE SHALL NOT BE BINDING OR RESTRICTIVE UPON OTHER MEMBERS.

ARTICLE X

THE PERMANENT SEAT OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES IS ESTABLISHED IN CAIRO.

THE COUNCIL MAY, HOWEVER, ASSEMBLE AT ANY OTHER PLACE IT MAY DESIGNATE.

ARTICLE XI

THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE SHALL CONVENE IN ORDINARY SESSION TWICE A YEAR, IN MARCH AND IN SEPTEMBER. IT SHALL CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UPON THE REQUEST OF TWO MEMBER-STATES OF THE LEAGUE WHENEVER THE NEED ARISES.

ARTICLE XII

THE LEAGUE SHALL HAVE A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT-GENERAL, WHICH SHALL CONSIST OF A SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS.

THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE SHALL APPOINT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE MAJORITY OF TWO THIRDS OF THE STATES OF THE LEAGUE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL, SHALL APPOINT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS OF THE LEAGUE.

THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE SHALL ESTABLISH AN ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION FOR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL AND MATTERS RELATING TO THE STAFF.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHALL HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES THAT OF MINISTERS PLENIPOTENTIARY.

THE FIRST SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE IS NAMED IN AN ANNEX TO THIS CHARTER.

ARTICLE XIII

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHALL PREPARE THE DRAFT OF THE BUDGET OF THE LEAGUE AND SHALL SUBMIT IT TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

THE COUNCIL SHALL FIX THE SHARE OF THE EXPENSES TO BE BORNE BY EACH STATE OF THE LEAGUE. THIS MAY BE RECONSIDERED IF NECESSARY.

ARTICLE XIV

THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES AND THE OFFICIALS WHO ARE TO BE DESIGNED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION SHALL ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITY WHEN ENGAGED IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS.

THE BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY THE ORGANS OF THE LEAGUE SHALL BE INVIOLEABLE.

ARTICLE XV

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED AT THE INVITATION OF THE HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. THEREAFTER IT SHALL BE CONVENED AT THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER-STATES OF THE LEAGUE SHALL ALTERNATELY ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL AT EACH OF ITS ORDINARY SESSIONS.

ARTICLE XVI

EXCEPT IN CASES SPECIFICALLY INDICATED IN THIS CHARTER, A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE ENFORCEABLE DECISIONS ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

1ST.MATTERS RELATING TO PERSONNEL.

2ND.ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET OF THE LEAGUE.

3RD.ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL, THE COMMITTEES AND THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL.

4TH.DECISIONS TO ADJOURN THE SESSIONS.

ARTICLE XVII

EACH MEMBER-STATE OF THE LEAGUE SHALL DEPOSIT WITH THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL ONE COPY OF THE TREATY OR AGREEMENT CONCLUDED OR TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN ITSELF AND ANOTHER MEMBER-STATE OF THE LEAGUE OR A THIRD STATE.

ARTICLE XVIII

IF A MEMBER-STATE CONTEMPLATES WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE, IT SHALL INFORM THE COUNCIL OF ITS INTENTION ONE YEAR BEFORE SUCH WITHDRAWAL IS TO GO INTO EFFECT.

THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE MAY CONSIDER ANY STATE WHICH FAILS TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER AS HAVING BECOME SEPARATED FROM THE LEAGUE, THIS TO GO INTO EFFECT UPON UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE STATES, NOT COUNTING THE STATE CONCERNED.

ARTICLE XIX

THIS CHARTER MAY BE AMENDED WITH THE CONSENT OF TWO THIRDS OF THE STATES BELONGING TO THE LEAGUE, ESPECIALLY IN ORDER TO MAKE FIRMER AND STRONGER TIES BETWEEN THE MEMBER-STATES, TO CREATE AN ARAB TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION, AND TO REGULATE THE RELATIONS OF THE LEAGUE WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO BE CREATED IN THE FUTURE TO GUARANTEE SECURITY AND PEACE.

FINAL ACTION ON AN AMENDMENT CANNOT BE TAKEN PRIOR TO THE SESSION FOLLOWING THE SESSION IN WHICH THE MOTION WAS INITIATED.

IF A STATE DOES NOT ACCEPT SUCH AMENDMENT IT MAY WITHDRAW AT SUCH TIME AS THE AMENDMENT GOES INTO EFFECT, WITHOUT BEING BOUND BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRECEDING ARTICLE.

ARTICLE XX

THIS CHARTER AND ITS ANNEXES SHALL BE RATIFIED ACCORDING TO THE BASIC LAWS IN FORCE AMONG THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES.

THIS INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION SHALL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL AND THE CHARTER SHALL BECOME OPERATIVE AS REGARDS EACH RATIFYING STATE FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE HAS RECEIVED THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FROM FOUR STATES.

THIS CHARTER HAS BEEN DRAWN UP IN CAIRO IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF RAB' II, THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR H. (MARCH 22, 1945), IN ONE COPY WHICH SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE SAFE KEEPING OF THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL.

AN IDENTICAL COPY SHALL BE DELIVERED TO EACH STATE OF THE LEAGUE.

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