



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
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مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

Table of most significant proposed amendments to the charter of the League of Arab States¹

LAS charter	Proposed amendments
Chapter 1: Membership	
<p>Article 1: <u>On members and the instrument for accession</u></p>	<p>Article 1: A condition for accession was added requiring: “...compliance with the objectives, principles, and provisions of the League” provided that applications are adjudicated by “the League assembly on the summit level.”</p>
Chapter 2: Principles and objectives	
<p>Article 2: <u>Purpose and objectives of the LAS</u></p>	<p>Article 2: New; Sets forth the basic principles with which member states must comply</p> <p>1. Respect for the sovereignty of member states and their independence, unity, territorial integrity, and existing systems of governance, and the preservation of common Arab interests as accords with the principles and objectives of this charter.</p>

¹ Proposed additions to articles and new articles are underlined.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Non-intervention in the internal affairs of any other member state.3. Compliance with the principles of the UN charter and respect for international treaties, agreements, and conventions.4. Respect for the principles of equality among member states in rights and duties.5. Abstention from the use of force or threat thereof, and the resolution of conflicts in a peaceful manner.6. <u>Respect for democratic principles and the values of justice and equality, protection of human rights, and the promotion of good governance and the rule of law.</u>
	<p>Article 3: Corresponds to Article 2 of the charter on the objectives of the League; amended as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Achieve Arab peace and security in its political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, and contribute to the promotion of international peace and security.2. Ensure the independence of member states, their sovereignty, and their territorial integrity in order to achieve their security and stability.3. Achieve political, economic, social, cultural, and technological integration among member states in furtherance of Arab unity by strengthening cooperation in all fields, especially in the following areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Political

2. Economic and financial

3. Social, cultural, scientific, and technological

4. Legal and judicial

5. Security and military

4. Promote sustainable development on all economic and social levels.

5. Strive to improve the living standard of the Arab citizen to meet the requirements for a dignified life.

6. Promote democracy, popular participation, transparency, and good governance, and affirm the values of belonging and citizenship as the basis of rights and duties.

7. Respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. Disavow violence and extremism, disseminate the values of tolerance and moderation, combat all forms of terrorism and its manifestations, and dry up its springs and sources of funding without infringing the right of peoples to resist occupation.

9. Promote Arab identity in Arab states.

10. Imbue collective Arab action with a popular dimension by cultivating ties of cooperation and partnership with civil society institutions and the private sector.

11. Elevate the Arabic language and Arab culture, make known Arab history and

	<p>civilization, and promote dialogue among religions, cultures, and civilizations.</p> <p>12. Adopt unified stances on regional and international issues and defend common Arab interests.</p> <p>13. <u>Promote the Arab role on the international level by strengthening cooperation and building partnerships with states and international and regional organizations and agencies.</u></p>
<p>Chapter 3: Headquarters</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 10: Headquarters of the LAS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 4: Corresponds to Article 10 in the charter; no modification or addition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 5: New</p> <p><u>Headquarters agreements between the League and states hosting the offices and headquarters of the League, its centers in Arab states, and its missions in foreign states and to international and regional organizations shall determine the privileges and immunities of all these headquarters, offices, centers, and missions, as well as the privileges and immunities of their staff.</u></p>
<p>Chapter 4: Agencies and institutions</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Articles 3 and 4: On the LAS assembly (composition, missions)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 6: New; on the agencies, institutions, and bodies of the LAS</p> <p>1. The League assembly, to be convened on the following levels:</p>

1. Summit
2. Foreign ministers
3. Permanent delegates
2. General secretariat
3. Economic and Social Council
4. Arab organizations and the specialized Arab ministerial councils
5. Standing technical committees
6. Peace and Security Council
7. Agency to monitor the implementation of resolutions and obligations
8. Arab parliament
9. Arab Court of Justice
10. Arab Court of Human Rights
11. Administrative Court for the League of Arab States

Article 7: Corresponds to Articles 3 and 4 of the charter and the annex on the regular convocation of the assembly; amended to address the League council on the summit

level and its composition, missions, and meeting dates and locations

1. The League assembly on the summit level is considered the highest authority in the League; it shall be comprised of the kings, presidents, and princes of member states.
2. The League assembly on the summit level shall assume the following missions:
 1. Set general policy for the League of Arab States.
 2. Coordinate high policies of Arab states on regional and international issues.
 3. Consider issues related to all aspects of Arab national security strategies.
 4. Consider recommendations and reports put before it by the ministerial assembly to issue the necessary resolutions.
 5. Appoint the secretary-general.
 6. Amend the charter.
 7. Accept new members.
 8. Expel a member state or suspend its membership.
3. The assembly of the League of Arab States on the summit level shall convene regularly in an ordinary session once a year in March.
4. Ordinary sessions of the assembly at the summit level shall convene at the League's headquarters in Cairo. The state that presides over the summit may host it, if it wishes.

Members of the assembly shall assume the presidency by turns based on alphabetical order, using the names of member states. If a state whose turn it is to assume the presidency that session is unable to do so, the presidency shall pass to the state following it alphabetically, followed by the next state alphabetically. The state that is unable to assume the presidency may reclaim it in a period not to exceed the year following its turn in the presidency based on alphabetical order.

5. The League assembly on the summit level may convene extraordinary sessions if a member state or the secretary-general makes such a request and a majority of member states agree to it. It may convene it outside the headquarter state with the approval of two-thirds of member states, provided it is presided over by the state holding the presidency.

6. An economic and social development summit shall be convened every two years. It shall be hosted by a member state wishing to do so and preside over it. If no member state hosts it, it shall be convened at the headquarters of the League in Cairo, and in this case, it shall be presided over by the president of the ordinary summit. It shall be preceded by preparatory meetings of foreign and economic ministers, which shall be preceded by meetings of permanent delegates and senior officials. Other topical summits may be convened.

7. Sessions of the League assembly on the summit level shall be directly preceded by a meeting of foreign ministers to prepare for the summit, to be preceded by a meeting of the permanent delegates.

Sessions of the assembly on the summit level shall be presided over by the kings, presidents, and princes of Arab states.

Articles 5 and 6:

On dispute resolution (the articles are included in the proposed amendments in Article 8, items 2(4), 2(15), and 6; Article 9, item 6; and Article 21)

Article 13:

Its provisions were included in Article 8, item 2(14) and Article 10, item 4(14)

Article 19:

On the creation of the Arab parliament, with the details left to its charter

Article 8: New; addresses the League assembly on the ministerial level and its composition, missions, and date, and location of meetings

1. The League assembly on the ministerial level shall be comprised of the foreign ministers of member states.
2. The League assembly on the ministerial level shall assume the following missions:
 1. Implement the general policy of the League and the assembly's action plan.
 2. Strengthen ties between member states and coordinate plans.
 3. Resolve issues put before it by the League assembly on the delegate level, member states, or the secretary-general, and take the necessary resolutions pursuant to the provisions and procedures set forth in the assembly's bylaws.
 4. Work to resolve differences that arise between two or more member states with the approval of the parties in question.
 5. Monitor the implementation of agreements concluded between member states within the scope of the League.
 6. Monitor the implementation of resolutions of the League assembly on the summit level and prepare periodic reports on this in coordination with the presidency of the summit, the secretary-general, and the body for monitoring the implementation of resolutions and obligations.
 7. Establish technical and consultative committees it deems necessary to

advance the missions of the League.

8. Approve agreements establishing specialized Arab organizations and the Arab ministerial councils, and their charters.

9. Establish specialized offices and centers in Arab states and missions in foreign states with international and regional organizations.

10. Examine reports put before it by the agencies and institutions of the League.

11. Approve the League budget and resolve all administrative and financial matters after their study by the League assembly on the delegate level, and submit recommendations on it.

12. Draft the bylaws for the League assembly on all levels.

13. Put in place methods of cooperation with states and regional and international organizations. It may invite representatives of UN member states to attend League meetings, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, and this pursuant to the standards and regulations set by the assembly's bylaws.

14. Determine member states' share of the budget. This may be reconsidered if necessary.

15. Take all necessary measures to repel any state aggression or potential aggression against a League member state.

3. The League assembly on the ministerial level shall convene in ordinary and extraordinary sessions in the headquarter state. It may meet outside the headquarter state with the approval of two-thirds of member states. The assembly may also convene consultative sessions.

4. The proceedings of the League assembly on the ministerial level shall begin with a meeting of the assembly on the level of permanent delegates.

5. The League assembly on the ministerial level shall convene in two ordinary sessions in March and September of every year. When necessary, it may meet in an extraordinary session based on a resolution issued in a previous ordinary session or at the request of two member states or the secretary-general, with the approval of two member states. In this case, the state holding the presidency shall preside over its meetings.

6. The League assembly at the ministerial level shall convene immediately in the event of state aggression or potential aggression against any member state to take the necessary measures to repel the aggression. The state under attack or threatened with such may request that the assembly convene. If the aggression renders government of the state under attack unable to contact the assembly, the state representative may request that it convene. If the representative is unable to contact the League assembly, any member state has the right to request that it convene.

7. The League assembly on the ministerial level shall prepare the agenda for the League assembly on the summit level in its March session.

Article 9: New; addresses the League assembly at the permanent delegate level and its composition, missions, and date, and place of convocation

Article 10: Corresponds to Article 12 of the charter; amended to address the League general secretariat (note that part of the voting system is included in paragraph 2)

1. The League of Arab States shall have a standing general secretariat to be headed by a secretary-general.
2. The League assembly on the summit level shall appoint the secretary-general with the approval of two-thirds of member states. (Ministerial assembly to rule on the addition of the phrase “from among the nominations of members”).
3. The secretary-general shall be appointed for a term of five years, renewable one time only. (Ministerial assembly to rule on whether term of secretary-general is four or five years)
4. The secretary-general shall assume the following missions:
 1. Supervise and monitor the activities of common Arab organizations subordinate to the League.
 2. Monitor and coordinate the activities of common Arab institutions.
 3. Appoint the deputy secretary-general and assistant secretaries-general pursuant to nominations from member states and with the approval of the

League assembly on the ministerial level.

4. Appoint other League staff and determine their prerogatives and missions.

5. Direct the attention of the League assembly or member states to any issue deemed to have a potential negative impact on common interests or harm relations between two or more member states or between them and other states, as well as any issue deemed to potentially threaten Arab national security.

6. Propose initiatives to realize the interests of member states and to resolve potential or actual conflicts arising among member states or between a member state and non-member state.

7. Direct competent League agencies, bodies, and organizations to issues that fall within their competencies.

8. Monitor the implementation of resolutions and recommendations issued by the League assembly.

9. Submit a report to the League assembly at each of its ordinary sessions.

10. Take necessary measures to convene meetings of the League's agencies.

11. Request the convocation of an extraordinary session of the League assembly on the summit or ministerial level.

12. Represent the League before agencies, committees, and centers for Arab-international arbitration.

13. Represent the League in regional and international conferences and organizations in matters related to League activities.

14. Prepare the League's draft budget and submit it to the League assembly on the permanent delegate level prior to its submission to the League assembly on the ministerial level for approval before the start of each fiscal year.

15. Undertake any other missions tasked to him by the League assembly.

16. Establish administrative and organizational regulations for the general secretariat.

5. In carrying out their duties, neither the secretary-general nor staff may receive directives from any government or body outside the framework of the League or undertake any action that may impeach their standing as officials of the League.

6. The League assembly shall approve the administrative and financial regulations of the general secretariat.

Article 11: New; addresses the Economic and Social Council, its composition and missions, as well as the creation of specialized Arab organizations after consultation with the League assembly on the ministerial level

Article 12: New; addresses specialized Arab organizations, standing technical committees, and Arab ministerial councils, while leaving the details to the establishing

agreements and their charters

Article 13: New; on the Peace and Security Council

1. The League of Arab States shall have a Peace and Security Council as a permanent body comprised of the foreign ministers of member states. It shall assume the mission of avoiding and resolving conflicts among member states, taking appropriate measures on any aggression against any Arab state or threat thereof, and establishing the arrangements for collective security and early warning in the framework of effective, immediate engagement with conflicts and crises in the Arab region.

2. The council's charter shall set forth its missions, composition, and manner of operation.

Article 14: New; on the body to monitor implementation of resolutions and obligations

1. The League of Arab States shall have a body to monitor the implementation of resolutions and obligations. It shall undertake to monitor member states' implementation of their obligations. It may offer recommendations it deems appropriate to the League assembly on the summit or ministerial level.

2. The body's charter shall set forth its composition, missions, manner of operation, and the measures it may recommend.

Article 15: Corresponds to Article 19 of the charter; no modification or addition made

Article 16: New; on the Arab Court of Justice (discussion on this article pending a decision from the League assembly on the Arab Court of Justice)

1. An Arab Court of Justice shall be created within the framework of the League of Arab States. Its mandate shall include consideration of conflicts arising among member states. Its charter shall set forth its composition, jurisdiction, procedures for litigation, and manner of operation.

2. State parties to the court shall be member states who ratify or accede to its charter in accordance with their constitutional order. Their ratification or accession documents shall be deposited with the general secretariat.

Article 17: New; on the Arab Court of Human Rights

1. An Arab Court of Human Rights shall be created within the framework of the League of Arab States to consider suits related to the application of the Arab Charter on Human Rights and other Arab human rights agreements to which member states are a party. The court's charter shall set forth its composition, jurisdiction, procedures for litigation, and manner of operation.

2. State parties to the court are states that ratify or accede to its charter in accordance

with their constitutional order. Ratification or accession documents shall be deposited with the general secretariat.

Article 18: New; on the Arab Administrative Court established to adjudicate disputes related to League staff, League agencies and specialized organizations, and labor contracts, with the details left to its charter.

Chapter 5: Voting

Article 7:
Voting system

Article 19: Corresponds to Article 7 of the charter, amended to address the voting system

1. Resolutions on the summit level of the League assembly shall be issued unanimously, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 2 and Article 20 of this charter.

2. Resolutions on the ministerial and permanent delegate levels of the League assembly shall be issued unanimously. If no consensus is possible, the following measures shall be taken:

1. The resolution shall be postponed to the next session.
2. If the subject is of an urgent nature, an extraordinary session shall be convened within no less than one week and no more than one month.
3. If no consensus is reached, it shall be referred to a vote. A resolution shall

enter into force if it obtains the support of two-thirds of member states present and voting, and this in regard to resolutions on substantive matters.

4. The approval of a simply majority of member states present and voting is sufficient for resolutions pertaining to procedural matters and staff matters, the approval of the League budget, the decision to adjourn meeting sessions, and resolutions of the League assembly regarding mediation on disputes that may arise among member states.

3. Resolutions of the League assembly on the ministerial level pertaining to measures necessary to deter an aggression against a member state of the League shall be issued unanimously. If this is impossible, the resolution shall be issued with the approval of two-thirds of member states present and voting. If the aggression is by a League state, the vote of the aggressor state shall not be counted when calculating the majority.

4. The attendance of two-thirds of member states shall be the legal quorum for any session of the League assembly, the Economic and Social council, and other ministerial councils operating in framework of the League.

Article 20: New; on the voting system

Resolutions shall be approved unanimously by all member states in the following cases:

1. The acceptance of a new member to the League.

2. The suspension of any member state from the League or the measure to consider

	<u>suspending any state that does not meet the duties of this charter, without counting the vote of the state in question.</u>
Chapter 6: Conflict and dispute resolution	
<p>(Clarification)</p> <p>On dispute resolution, note that provisions of the articles are included in the proposed amendments in Article 8, items 2(4), 2(15), and 6; Article 9, item 6; and Article 21</p>	<p>Article 21: New; on bodies competent to settle disputes among member states: the League assembly on the summit and ministerial levels as previously elaborated, as well as the Peace and Security Council, the Arab Court of Justice, and the mediation of the secretary-general</p>
Chapter 7: Privileges and immunities	
<p>Article 14:</p> <p>On privileges and immunities for members of the LAS assembly, committees, and staff</p>	<p>Article 22: Corresponds to Article 14 of the charter, with an addition referring to the League agreement on privileges and immunities and the headquarters agreements</p>
Chapter 8: General provisions	
<p>Article 9:</p> <p>On general provisions</p> <p>“States of the League of Arab States seeking closer cooperation and stronger ties than provided for in this charter may conclude</p>	<p>Article 23: Corresponds to Article 9 of the charter; no modifications or additions</p>

whatever agreements they wish between them to realize these purposes. Treaties and agreements concluded or to be concluded between a League state and any other state are not incumbent on and do not restrict other members.”

Article 17:

On general provisions

“Member states of the League shall deposit with the general secretariat copies of all treaties and agreements concluded or to be concluded with any other state of the League or other state, if they wish to do so.”

Article 24: Corresponds to Article 17 of the charter, with an additional item stating that no agreement or convention not deposited with the general secretariat shall have force with League agencies, organizations, or bodies established in its framework

Chapter 9: Concluding provisions

Article 18: On secession from the League

Article 20: On amending the charter

Article 21: On ratifying the charter

Article 25: Corresponds to Article 18 of the charter; amended

1. Any member state of the League of Arab States may secede from the charter, provided it sends written notice of this fact to the assembly. The secession shall enter into force one year from the date on which the notice is received by the assembly.
2. The charter shall be binding on the state seeking to secede until the expiration of the

period specified in paragraph 1.

Article 26: Corresponds to Article 20 of the charter on amending the charter; amended

This charter may be amended with the approval of two-thirds of member states. The amendment shall not be adjudicated except in the session following the session in which the application was submitted. Amendments shall enter into force pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 27 of this charter.

Article 27: Corresponds to Article 21 of the charter on the ratification of the charter; amended

1. The League charter shall remain in force until the conditions are met for the entry of these amendments into force. These amendments shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional orders effective in each member state, and the ratification documents shall be deposited with the general secretariat. They shall enter into force 15 days after the date of the deposit of ratification document by a majority of member states.

Articles 5, 8, and 16 of the charter were repealed in the proposed amendments