

Houston Area Model United Nations Specialized Committee



OIC

Chair | Musa Fareed
Specialized Committee Background Guide
Houston Area Model United Nations 48
February 2-3, 2023

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Note to Delegates

Greetings Delegates!

I'm so excited to welcome all of you to our first in-person HAMUN in what seems like forever. My name is Musa Fareed, and I will serve you this year as chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. I am currently a freshman at the University of Houston, and I'm majoring in Management. Model UN has been something that I looked forward to throughout high school. It was an environment where I could learn about real issues affecting the world today, practice my debate and speech skills, and have fun! I've participated in HAMUN for all four years of high school, in-person and online. My committees were DISEC, UNICEF, and two crisis committees.

As you will soon discover, the OIC is the second-largest multinational body, meaning there should be no shortage of unique perspectives and ideas. I want you all to come with research on what your country has to put on the table and to be ready to use that information. Both topics are complex, multifaceted issues. The Palestine and Al-Quds affair has been going on for decades and is a hot topic issue until today. The development of science and technology is crucial to a country's growth, and solutions will differ for each country. What's most important is being able to craft a resolution that is agreed upon and will lead to actual results. I can't wait to see what you all brew up!



Musa Fareed

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What is the OIC?

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has a rich history of activism and tangible action. Until the fall of the Ottoman Empire, there had always been at least one Muslim Empire to champion and represent Muslims. However, the Empire collapsed after World War 1, creating a power vacuum (World Atlas). This vacuum remained for some time, and the need for a new institution became increasingly evident.

The tipping point ended up being Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. On August 21, 1969, an Australian Christian, Dennis Michael Rohan, set fire to the Masjid. This act of arson not only destroyed much of the historical and holy Masjid but destroyed Israeli-Arab relations. After this incident, the King of Saudi Arabia decided to hold the first Islamic Summit.





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What is the OIC?

Leaders at this summit recognized the need for a multinational organization to represent Muslims and eventually created the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Palestine Online).

Since then, the OIC has grown to represent much more than Palestine. It can be thought of as a mini UN minus armed forces. The OIC works to develop economies and technology, protect culture, improve international relations, and much more. The OIC has adopted different programs to create a trajectory for its members over the years. The current program, OIC-2025, covers many aspects, including, most important to us, the Palestine and al-Quds Affair and the development of science and technology.





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Executive Summary

"And hold fast to the rope of God, all of you together, and do not be divided; (Quran, 3:103)."

War. Famine. Disease. Poverty. Persecution. Millions of Muslims across the globe are afflicted with these and many more hardships. Muslim leaders recognized the need to band together and, on September 25, 1969, established the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Since its founding, the OIC has grown from 30 to 57 states, cementing itself as the largest international body after the UN.

The OIC tackles various issues, from mediating conflicts to preserving culture. This year, delegates will address two situations: the Palestine and the al-Quds Affair, and the improvement of Science and Technology in member states. The Palestine and al-Quds affair is a central issue for the OIC.

In fact, it was the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that led to the OIC's establishment. Following the illegal occupation of Palestine since 1967, the rights of many have been trampled upon. Your job is to create a viable solution to restore Jerusalem's peace and give the Muslim community what's rightfully theirs. Whether this is accomplished through financial means, boycotts, media support, or flat-out War is in your hands.

The OIC recognizes the importance of scientific advancements and applications today. Technology provides many socio-economic benefits, from longer lifespans to more jobs. As such, the OIC established the Department of Science and Technology, including Environment, Health, and Higher Education. Your job is to present how your country meets embodies this vision and what your country can do to help advance humankind.



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Background Information

What is the OIC's Department of Science and Technology?

A country's investment in science and technology is pivotal to its development and growth. Leaders all across the world recognize this, which is why the Organization of Islamic Cooperation established the permanent Department of Science and Technology, its first summit taking place on September 10, 2017. This department aims to promote the importance of research and development (R&D) across member-states and encourage international cooperation to further achieve this goal.

There are two landmark documents that build a blueprint for the OIC's goals: the OIC Ten Year Program of Action and the Vision 1441 H for Science and Technology. There have been 2 Summits for the purpose of Science & Technology; the 1st in 2017, and the 2nd in 2021. These two summits created and have discussed the 2026 Agenda, which sets goals for all OIC countries in order to regain status in the scientific world and create better countries.



What's Being Done?

The OIC is not alone in emphasizing the growth of science and technology. There are many other organizations in place to help achieve the same goal. Some examples include the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), and the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI).



The OIC has created its own committee for STI: COMSTECH. COMSTECH is nearly independent, and works to envision the goals of the OIC's 2026 Agenda. In 1998, COMSTECH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Foundation of Science in Stockholm. This agreement provides grants to researchers in OIC member states. So far, the COMSTECH-IFS program has awarded a total of \$4.1 million.



Is It Enough?

Instead of me answering this questions, I'll let you decide whether the progress so far is sufficient. Here are some numbers.

1. The country with the largest budget for R&D is the United States at \$543 billion. China is number two with \$496 billion. Israel spends the highest percentage of GDP at 4.9%. The largest R&D budget among the Muslim world is in Turkey, at \$15.3 billion. Average R&D spending in OIC countries is 0.82%.
2. According to the UN, only six Islamic countries fall under the high human development index. The lowest ranking Islamic country is 173rd on the index. There are 178 countries on the list.



Is It Enough?

3. Women researchers account for 33% of all researchers in OIC countries. The average European percentage is 32.8%.
4. The global literacy rate is 86.3%. In 2015, a study found that nearly 40% of the Muslim world is illiterate, despite religious emphasis on knowledge and literacy.



Your Job

Muslim nations are struggling. Despite various efforts by multiple organizations, illiteracy and poverty remains sky-high. What else needs to be done? Do countries need to invest more money? Is a societal upheaval in order? Or is everything already in place, and time the only remedy? Bring innovative solutions to improve the Muslim world's trajectory in science and technology. See you in February!



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