Introduction

The League of Arab States, also known as the Arab League, is a regional organization consisting of Arab nations in the Middle East, Northern Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The League was formed in Cairo in 1945 by the six founding members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. The main goal of the League of Arab States according to their charter is “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.” Syria has historically been a part of the league but is currently suspended in response to the government’s actions in handling political opponents and uprisings in the nation.

Number of member countries: 21
Region(s): Africa, Middle East
Headquarters: Cairo, Egypt
Composition: Plurilateral
Coverage: Goods & Services
Signed: March 22, 1945
Entry into force: May 10, 1945
Web Site: http://www.lasportal.org/ar/Pages/default.aspx

Member Countries

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Oman</td>
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<td>Comoros</td>
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<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>Libya</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>Mauritania</td>
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History

1944 - Leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Transjordan (Jordan) meet in Alexandria, Egypt and agree to form the League of Arab States by signing the Alexandria Protocol.
1945 - Iraq, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and later Saudi Arabia and North Yemen sign the "Charter of the League of Arab States" which formally inaugurates the League.
1950 - League members sign the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty.
1953 - Libya joins the League of Arab States. League ratifies an agreement on commercial transactions, payments, and the movement of capital among the member states.
1956 - The Economic Council ratifies an agreement on the common table of tariffs among member states.
1957 - Sudan joins the League of Arab States. The Economic Council approves an economic unity agreement among the member states.
1958 - Morocco and Tunisia join the League of Arab States. The United Nations officially recognizes the League of Arab States designating it as the United Nations; organization for education, science, and culture in the Arab region.
1961 - Kuwait joins the League of Arab States.
1962 - Algeria joins the League of Arab States.
1967 - South Yemen joins the League of Arab States.
1968 - The Labor Mobility Agreement is approved by the member states.
1971 - Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates join the League of Arab States.

2011 - Leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Transjordan (Jordan) meet in Alexandria, Egypt and agree to form the League of Arab States by signing the Alexandria Protocol.
2012 - The League of Arab States suspends Egypt’s membership and moves its headquarters to Tunis as a result of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.
2013 - The League of Arab States ratifies an agreement on the facilitation and development of trade between Arab countries.
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2023 - The League of Arab States ratifies an agreement on the facilitation and development of trade between Arab countries.