

Dear Delegates,

Thank you all for participating in the 28th annual UGA Model United Nations Conference. It's my pleasure to be your chair for this year's Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) committee. My name is PJ Albenice. I am originally from St. Simon's Island, GA and I am a first year at the University of Georgia. Currently, I am studying Food Science with a minor in Plant Biology. Most of my studies revolve around Chemistry and Agriculture. I have been doing Model UN for five years, it is something I am very passionate about. MUN has helped me make lifelong friends and learn more about the world around me. Outside of Model UN, I am active in UGA's Italian Language Club and UGA RUF. I spend most of my free time cooking, playing golf, or hanging out with friends. You will see me drinking Diet Coke throughout the entire conference. I love Diet Coke.

I was once in your shoes (not very long ago). I participated in UGAMUNC and other competitions at the state, national, and international level before joining the UGA team. There are many meaningful hours that go into preparation and writing before a conference. I appreciate your efforts to learn more about your nation and explore the diverse set of topics I have made for you. I want this to be an environment for everybody, regardless of prior experience to speak and share their ideas. I encourage collaboration and diplomacy very much. OIC can tend to be divisive, however in order to enact meaningful resolutions, you must find a common ground. It of course must be said, I expect every delegate to be respectful of all religions, cultures, and nationalities. As a delegate, you must conduct yourself with a high level of professionalism. I encourage you to use this background guide as a basis for your research and exploration into the topics and your country. While reading this document and while doing your research, think to yourself: "Why does my country care?" "How can I use this to make my people's lives better?" "How can this be incorporated into a broad plan to make the world better?" Don't be afraid to get really into it- that's when it's the most fun. The resolutions you all produce during this weekend should be representative of the goals of the OIC in real life. They should be substantive and provide novel solutions to big problems. However, the most important aspect is being able to see thought, care, and diplomacy in everything you write.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to say hello, email me at philip.albenice@uga.edu. I will respond within 48 hours. I request that you please send your position papers to me via email by January 23rd at 5:00 PM. Make sure you come prepared and ready for a fun time!

PJ Albenice

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1. Background

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is a specialized committee of the United Nations, with the focus of protecting Muslim interests and promoting prosperity across the globe. There are currently 57 member states, 47 of which are Muslim majority nations.¹ Plans for the formation of this organisation started in August of 1969, following an arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Israel. During the attack, an 800 year old pulpit was destroyed.² The OIC was officially established in September of 1969 in Rabat, Morocco, with an official summit to lay out the framework for the group.³ It was formed out of adversity and the need for Muslim unity and collaboration. Since its inception, the OIC has taken on a myriad of projects, from the importance of telecommunications systems to the threat of illegal drug smuggling. The OIC has expanded their scope to every major issue the world faces.

The OIC has been integral to global development and establishing an order of respect for Islam on the international stage. It has long been called “The collective voice of the Muslim world.”⁴ This idea is exemplified in OIC Resolution No. 35/39, “Combating Islamophobia and eliminating hatred and prejudice against Islam.” The resolution has made real, substantive change in the media and political sectors that has carried on today in the form of the Islamophobia Observatory and the Islamic Summit.⁵ This was a landmark resolution, not only for the OIC, but the United Nations as a whole for what it was able to accomplish. Of course, Resolution No. 35/39 is just one standout example of all that the OIC has been able to do during its 52 years.

Currently, the majority of the OIC’s focus is on the implementation and establishment of “OIC - 2025: Programme of Action.” This is an expansive plan tackling issues ranging from digital security to media/public politics, and is to be enacted completely by the year 2025.⁶ It may be

¹ "History: The OIC." History. https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=52&p_ref=26&lan=en.

² Ibrahim, Arwa. "All You Need to Know about the OIC." Religion News | Al Jazeera. May 31, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/5/31/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-oic>.

³ "History: The OIC." History. https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=52&p_ref=26&lan=en.

⁴ "An Introduction to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation." An Introduction to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation - GlobalLex.

<https://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/OIC.html>.

⁵ "RESOLUTIONS ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, (SESSION OF SOLIDARITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)."

<https://www.oic-oci.org/docdown/?docID=359&refID=26>.

⁶ "2025: Programme of Action." OIC.

https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=302&p_ref=106&lan=en.

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interesting to look at this document and note your nation's involvement. This comprehensive plan lays out in detail what the OIC's intended future for the Muslim world will look like, and their collective views/objectives.

2 Topic A: The Xinjiang Conflict

2.1 Introduction/History

The Xinjiang Conflict, now better known as the Uyghur (Wee - gr) Crisis, has been a continuous struggle between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Uyghur ethnic group lasting decades.⁷ The Uyghurs are a majority Muslim ethnic group, living mostly in the Xinjiang region of China, and their culture and history has been vastly different from that of the Han Chinese (the majority ethnic group of mainland China). In recent years, there has been considerably more anti-Islamic sentiment from the CCP, with attempts to erase the traditions and the religion of the Uyghur people.⁸ There have been hundreds of reports of targeting of religious individuals and people with Muslim affiliation.⁹

The Uyghur people are believed to have lived in the Northwestern Xinjiang province as early as the 8th century CE. Uyghurs have had a tumultuous history of short-lived governments and revolutions for independence, notably against the Republic of China. That being said, they mostly lived independent of the rest of China, until 1949 when Xinjiang was deemed an autonomous state by Mao Zedong and thus under the leadership of the CCP.¹⁰ During this time, many Uyghurs left China for Central Asia and the West, and an estimated 80% of Uyghurs still reside in their homeland of the Tarim Basin (located in China).¹¹

⁷ "Uyghur." Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Uyghur>.

⁸ Arablouei, Ramtin, and Rund Abdelfatah. "Who The Uyghurs Are And Why China Is Targeting Them." NPR. May 31, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/31/1001936433/who-the-uyghurs-are-and-why-china-is-targeting-them>.

⁹ Danilova, Maria. "Woman Describes Torture, Beatings in Chinese Detention Camp." AP NEWS. November 27, 2018. <https://apnews.com/article/north-america-politics-china-race-and-ethnicity-dc-wire-61cdf7f5dfc34575aa643523b3c6b3fe>.

¹⁰ Castets, Rémi. "The Uyghurs in Xinjiang – The Malaise Grows." China Perspectives. July 31, 2006. <https://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/648>.

¹¹ Balci, Bayram. "The Role of the Pilgrimage in Relations to Uzbekistan and the Uzbek Community in Saudi Arabia." *The Central Eurasian Studies Review*.

2.2 Current Situation

Since 2014, there have been hundreds of reports of abuse, torture, and forced reeducation in Xinjiang's "Vocational Education and Training Centers."¹² Certain members of the CCP are also quoted as saying that Uyghur women are "baby-making machines," in response to the forced birth control measures taken.¹³ The Chinese government has held that they are doing what is necessary to prevent terrorism and reduce possible violence, and Muslim majority nations have come out in support of China's efforts. However, many in the West and some OIC members hold that the actions of the CCP are equal to that of crimes against humanity. They also contend that some specific individuals are targeted for placement in the "Vocational Education and Training Centers."¹⁴ According to the Human Rights Watch's analysis of the CCP's surveillance algorithm, the following people are particularly targeted: people who do not use a mobile phone frequently, people who have large beards, people who choose not to smoke or drink alcohol, and people who do not socialize enough.¹⁵ It should be noted, the CCP currently does not recognize any allegations of surveillance or electrical blackouts.

Despite these allegations, the OIC and many of its members have commended the Chinese government in a brief statement for their efforts to support the Islamic population in Xinjiang. It has been a topic of little discussion and action.¹⁶ With actions such as the banning of publicly praying and the wearing of certain religious garments, it has been a shock to the global

¹² Al Jazeera. "'Uyghur Tribunal' Opens with Testimony of Alleged Rape, Torture." *Uighur News* | Al Jazeera. June 04, 2021.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/4/uighur-tribunal-hears-evidence-of-alleged-china-abuse>

¹³ "Twitter Removes China US Embassy Post Saying Uighur Women No Longer 'baby-making Machines'." *The Guardian*. January 10, 2021.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/10/twitter-removes-china-us-embassy-post-saying-uighur-women-no-longer-baby-making-machines>.

¹⁴ Zuberi, Hena. "After U.S, UK and EU, It Is Time For OIC To Declare China's Actions Against Uyghur Muslims As Genocide." *MuslimMatters.org*.
<https://muslimmatters.org/2021/02/02/after-u-s-uk-and-eu-it-is-time-for-oic-to-declare-chinas-actions-against-uyghur-muslims-as-genocide/>.

¹⁵ "'Eradicating Ideological Viruses'." *Human Rights Watch*. August 03, 2020.
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/09/09/eradicating-ideological-viruses/chinas-campaign-repression-against-xinjiangs>.

¹⁶ Chan, Holmes. "Organisation of Islamic Cooperation 'commends' China for Its Treatment of Muslims." *Hong Kong Free Press HKFP*.
<https://hongkongfp.com/2019/03/14/organisation-islamic-cooperation-commends-china-treatment-muslims/>.

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community. The United Nation has stated in a 2021 release that if the allegations are thoroughly authenticated, it would qualify as one of the biggest human rights offenses in history. Now, the United Nations is awaiting approval and hopes to visit some of Xinjiang's "Vocational Education and Training Centers," something many OIC member states have claimed they plan on doing. As it currently stands, Uyghurs are leaving China in small, but increasing amounts.¹⁷ There are no long term solutions currently being worked on. This is a relatively recent development, so all efforts being made are mostly at the NGO level. This is also matched with the highly political nature of the topic. Some global powers, such as Canada and the United States have addressed the conflict, but it still remains an issue of little conversation and has managed to remain out of the global spotlight.

2.3 Conclusion

Regardless of stance and ideology, it is very clear that there is some level of disgruntlement between the Uyghur people and the CCP that should be resolved. As OIC, it falls on us to look into and seek that Muslim voices are heard and that the interest of our member states are served. At times this may be a difficult balance, particularly in the terms of finance. Consider the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These are fundamental documents that outline the core beliefs of the UN during issues like this. We as a body will have to decide what is best though. This is in some ways, an unanswered topic that will surely push your diplomacy skills. Take time to look into all sides. Consider where your allegiance is and what possible development programs your nation is a part of. Remember though, the OIC is the voice of Islam, doing the duty of the Ummah. Be careful in your words and writings, be considerate of your fellow delegates' backgrounds. This topic is different in that statistics cannot be verified and there is a serious question of national sovereignty. Use your existing knowledge of your nation and of the Uyghur people to formulate a plan of action. Some member states may feel that this does not affect them, but when it comes to Islam, the OIC is united as brothers and sisters to delivering action.

2.4 Vocabulary

Tarim Basin - Located in southern Xinjiang, it is the homeland of the Uyghur people and the epicenter of the Xinjiang Crisis.

Chinese Communist Party - The current ruling party of China, often synonymous with the government in general. It is currently headed by Xi Jinping.

¹⁷ "China: UN Experts Deeply Concerned by Alleged Detention, Forced Labour of Uyghurs." OHCHR.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26957&LangID=E>.

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Vocational Education and Training Centers - Facilities located throughout Xinjiang where many Uyghur and Turkic people are held for education and job training, particularly manufacturing.

2.5 Questions to Consider

- Should the UN or the OIC be involved in the Xinjiang Crisis?
- Is my nation a member of the Belt and Road initiative?/Does my nation have a partnership of any kind with China?
- How can the OIC work to mitigate any tension or wrong-doing happening in Xinjiang and give the Uyghurs a voice?
- Is it necessary and right to forfeit some freedoms on the grounds of antiterrorism and the prevention of violence?
- How can the OIC enact any possible plans/resolutions while still being mindful of national sovereignty?

2.6 Suggested Reading

“China: UN experts deeply concerned by alleged detention, forced labour of Uyghurs”

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26957&LangID=E>

“Universal Declaration of Human Rights”

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

“Rights experts concerned about alleged detention, forced labour of Uyghurs in China”

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088612>

“Vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang represents new path to address terrorism”

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2019/0910/c90000-9613730.html>

3 Topic B: The Protection of Islamic Culture in India

3.1 Introduction

Islam is practiced by nearly 2 billion people across the world, and many of these people live in non-muslim majority countries. As a result, many Muslims face various degrees of discrimination based on their religion, whether it be on an individual or institutional scale. Furthermore, some countries like India have taken active steps to erase Islamic history, with efforts ranging from destroying mosques to renaming cities. These actions represent a threat to hundreds of millions of Muslims globally.

3.2 History of the Topic

India is home to one of the largest Muslim communities in the world, with over 172 million adherents. This makes India the country with the largest Muslim population outside of Muslim-majority countries.¹⁸ While anti-Muslim sentiment has existed in India for hundreds of years, much of the modern day sentiment can be traced back to the partition of India in 1947, when British India was divided into the countries of India and Pakistan on religious lines, with Pakistan becoming the Muslim state and India becoming the majority Hindu state. Communities of Muslims and Hindus migrated to these new countries, and this mass movement of people facilitated communal violence. It is estimated that up to 2 million people died as a result of this.¹⁹ This large-scale violence has continued to linger in the public consciousness of Indians to this day.

3.3 Anti-Islamic Sentiment in India

In 2019, India passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which provided a route for religious minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to receive Indian citizenship. The included religious groups are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.²⁰ Notably, Muslims are the only major group excluded from this new pathway. This marks the first time that religion has been used as a direct criteria for citizenship in the country. Immediate criticism of

¹⁸Kästle, Klaus. "Islamic World." Nations Online Project. Accessed October 19, 2021. <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/muslim-countries.htm>.

¹⁹Ian Talbot, Gurharpal Singh, *The Partition of India*, (Cambridge University Press, 2009), 2

²⁰BBC. "Citizenship Amendment Bill: India's New 'Anti-Muslim' Law Explained." BBC News. BBC, December 11, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-50670393>.

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the bill claimed it was discriminating on a religious basis. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) called it "fundamentally discriminatory in nature".²¹

There have been direct attempts to erase Islamic history and culture in India. In 2018, the BJP led government in Uttar Pradesh renamed the city of Allahabad to Prayagraj. The city was given the name Allahabad by the Mughal emperor Akbar in 1575, with the name meaning "the abode of god".²² This name change can be seen through a religious context, in which the government of Uttar Pradesh is trying to replace a name of Islamic origin to one of Hindu connotation. A BJP spokesperson even went so far as to state "The BJP government has rectified the mistake made by Akbar".²³

There has also been controversy relating to historical mosques in India. The Babri Masjid was a mosque in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, which has been the source of disputes between the Hindu and Muslim communities of the area. The controversy stems from a debate about the history of the site. While the mosque was built in 1528-29 during the rule of the Mughal Empire, many Hindus claim that it was built on the site of a previously existing Hindu temple.²⁴ In 1992, a Hindu nationalist mob attacked and destroyed the mosque, causing communal violence across South Asia. In 2019, the Supreme Court of India ordered the site to be handed over to a trust to oversee the construction of a Hindu temple.²⁵

3.4 Vocabulary

- **BJP:** Bharatiya Janata Party, a generally right-wing political party and the current ruling party in India
- **Uttar Pradesh:** the most populous state in India, located in the north of the country
- **Mughal Empire:** A Muslim empire which ruled over the Indian subcontinent from the 16th - 18th centuries

²¹Laurence, Jeremy. "Press Briefing on India." OHCHR, March 13, 2019. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25425&LangID=E>.

²²India Today Web Desk. "Allahabad to Prayagraj: UP Cabinet Okays Name Change." India Today, October 16, 2018.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/allahabad-renamed-prayagraj-1368913-2018-10-16>.

²³Press Trust of India. "Up Government Issues Notification Renaming Allahabad to Prayagraj." NDTV.com. NDTV, October 20, 2018.

<https://www.ndtv.com/allahabad-news/up-government-issues-notification-renaming-allahabad-to-prayagraj-1935038>.

²⁴S.P. Udayakumar, *Historicizing Myth and Mythologizing History: The 'Ram Temple' Drama*, (Social Scientist, 1997), 25

²⁵Business Standard. "What Is Ayodhya Case." Business Standard. Accessed October 19, 2021. <https://www.business-standard.com/about/what-is-ayodhya-case>.

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3.5 Relevance to the International Community

These issues in India have prompted a variety of responses from across the world. The Citizenship Act raised concerns among Muslim nations. Many countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, and Pakistan expressed their opposition to the passing of the act, citing the threat to the rights of Muslim communities. However, some non-Muslim countries like Russia and France made statements saying that this was an internal matter of India and that they would respect the outcome of the bill.

The demolition of the Babri Masjid is another event that had international repercussions. The destruction of the mosque prompted riots in Pakistan and Bangladesh, which led to the destruction of Hindu and Jain temples.²⁶ The impact of these riots has continued to affect relations between India and Pakistan to this day.

3.6 How has the OIC handled this issue?

The relationship between the OIC and India has been complicated in the past mainly due to Pakistan's hostile relationship with India. As a result, Pakistan has opposed the membership of India into the organization. After India passed the Citizenship Act, the OIC responded with a statement addressing both the Citizenship bill and the Babri Masjid issue. The OIC stated that it "expresses its concern over the recent developments pertaining to both the issue of citizenship rights and the Babri Masjid case". The organization also added that it "reaffirms the crucial importance of upholding the principles and obligations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international covenants that guarantee the rights of minorities without any discrimination".²⁷

3.7 Questions to Consider

- How can the OIC balance their relationship with India and Pakistan in order to act as an unbiased committee?
- What role does economic status play in driving conflict between Muslims and other groups if any?
- What role does the political structure of a state play in enabling large scale religious discrimination and mistreatment?
- What actions can the OIC take to combat issues in nations outside of the organization?

²⁶Reuters. "Pakistanis Attack 30 Hindu Temples." The New York Times. The New York Times, December 8, 1992.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1992/12/08/world/pakistanis-attack-30-hindu-temples.html>.

²⁷PTI. "OIC Expresses Concern over CAA; Says 'Closely' Following Developments." The Economic Times. The Economic Times, December 23, 2019.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/oic-expresses-concern-over-cao-says-closely-following-developments/articleshow/72931689.cms>.

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- Should more non-Muslim countries be given membership in the OIC to address these issues?

3.8 Suggested Readings

- <https://www.uscirf.gov/resources/factsheet-citizenship-amendment-act-india>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/12/11/india-citizenship-bill-discriminates-against-muslims#>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-53577942>
- <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/23/714108344/india-is-changing-some-cities-names-and-muslims-fear-their-heritage-is-being-erased>

4 Topic C Promoting the Access to Renewable and Reliable Energy/Fuel

4.1 Introduction

As more nations begin to industrialize and expand, the demand for nonrenewable fossil fuels grows exponentially. Many nations base their energy and power around coal, oil, and other harsh fuel sources; however, there are obvious repercussions on the environment. Less developed nations have seen a stark increase in air pollution because of their growing urban centers, like in the case of Nigeria, where air pollution/emissions have risen by a staggering 40% over the past 30 years.²⁸ It is no surprise hearing this, considering that the most common fuel source in Nigeria is biomass.²⁹ Unfortunately, the poor take the brunt of the effects of pollution and changing climates. As many as 200 million people could be displaced in the coming decades from the effects of climate change and pollution, mostly due to the lack of adequate energy systems and sustainable technology (i.e. advanced plumbing systems, adequate waste disposal systems, proper power grid coordination/setup).³⁰ It is important to focus on everything that surrounds energy while researching (infrastructure, sustainable development, etc.).

4.2 Current Situation

As it currently stands, OIC member states hold $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's natural gas and crude oil resources.³¹ This is a massive amount, so it stands that oil and natural gas (ONG) are a large part of the body's economy. However, it seems as though OIC nations may be the ones hit the hardest from the effects of climate change and pollution. Many coastal cities will disappear in the

²⁸ Thelwell, Kim. "Dealing with Air Pollution in Nigeria." The Borgen Project. December 16, 2019. <https://borgenproject.org/dealing-with-air-pollution-in-nigeria/#:~:text=The nation creates over 3,more pollution to the atmosphere.&text=Casualties as a result of,in the last 30 years.>

²⁹ Oyedepo, Sunday Olayinka. "Energy and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: The Way Forward." Energy, Sustainability and Society. July 23, 2012. Accessed October 20, 2021. <https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2192-0567-2-15>.

³⁰ Al Jazeera. "Climate Change Could Displace 216 Million by 2050: Report." Climate Change News | Al Jazeera. September 14, 2021. Accessed October 20, 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/14/climate-change-could-displace-216-million-by-2050-report#:~:text=Climate change could displace 216,Climate Change News | Al Jazeera.>

³¹ "Current Stance of Energy Resources and Potential in OIC Member Countries." <https://www.sesric.org/files/article/459.pdf>.

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coming decades if nothing is done.³² Some nations, like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have implemented changes in their refineries to produce cleaner fuels, with some success. There have also been talks of a circular carbon economy, which focuses on reduction and the removal of waste and recycling of fuels when possible.³³ The general response of many oil dependent countries has been carbon recapture systems, which have met criticism on their true efficiency. However, they do show to have some effect in small settings.

Even with these efforts and plans, the dependency on non renewable fuels is an issue. Beyond ONG, there are many member states that rely on wood, biomass, and coal for their energy and fuels. Throughout Africa and Southeast Asia, the desperate need for a reliable and clean energy source can be seen. Pollution inundated these growing cities and left them with unbreathable air and murky smog filled skies. On the other hand too, many go without or with very limited power for weeks, making it effectively impossible to run a business, start an education, and many other things necessary to develop a strong industrialized society.³⁴ In nations like Benin, there are regional blackouts that prevent commerce and travel. This goes beyond climate change. Those without proper access to reliable and sustainable energy face a significant disadvantage.³⁵ However, there is some hope, Burkina Faso is currently in the process of converting 30% of its energy from nonrenewable to solar power. This is a huge step for the developing world. Significant economic growth can already be seen in their rural regions and many more citizens now have power. It is also believed that the air quality will rise significantly by 2030 when the project is set to be finished.³⁶

4.3 The OIC/UN in the Past

In the past, the OIC has put its support in a myriad of measures for sustainable energy, but nothing has stuck. OIC's science branch, Comstech, has done research into energy, but has not

³² National Climate Assessment.

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/regions/coasts#:~:text=Sea level rise will cause,water intrusion into coastal aquifers.&text=Together, climate change impacts increase,quality, and human health impacts.>

³³ "Circular Carbon Economy." Aramco.

https://www.aramco.com/en/sustainability/climate-change/managing-our-footprint/circular-carbon-economy?utm_source=googleads&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=GO_US_EN_Carbon_Economy_EX&gclid=EA1aIQobChMI9MC_tIPY8wIVZWHmCh1xJQ_JEAAYASAAEgKvcfD_BwE.

³⁴ Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Access to Energy." Our World in Data. November 28, 2020. <https://ourworldindata.org/energy-access>.

³⁵ "Benin Energy Situation." Energypedia. https://energypedia.info/wiki/Benin_Energy_Situation.

³⁶ "Scaled Up Support for Solar Energy Production and Rural Electrification in Burkina Faso." World Bank.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/21/scaled-up-support-for-solar-energy-production-and-rural-electrification-in-burkina-faso>.

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produced fruitful solutions. Most nations still struggle to create a network of renewable energy, mostly from lack of funding. Several OIC members like Iran and Kuwait are thought to have an expansive solar energy potential that could hopefully spread into other nations that may need additional help.³⁷ This being said, the OIC, has spent a significant amount of time in research like with the “Current Stance of Energy Resources and Potential in OIC Member Countries,” but has expended limited time on the expansion of renewable and sustainable energy/fuel sources.

The United Nations has focused a significant amount of time and resources into the development of sustainable energy processes, specifically from Sustainable Development Goal number seven. They have increased the access to reliable energy and sustainable fuel sources throughout the globe in the form of joint government effort. Such as in the case of Tanzania, where access to electricity has significantly increased with the help of UN engineers and joint governmental coordination to make energy processes more efficient.³⁸ The UN has put this issue at the highest level of concern. Real change has been done from their actions and research, this is just one example.

4.4 Conclusion

The developing world is in desperate need of further action for sustainable energy. Those nations that are dependent on the sales on ONG must focus themselves on possible remedies, for their own good. The world has enough oil and gas to last us into the next millennium, however, it is more of a question of if the Earth will survive into that millennium. The OIC has remained moderately quiet on this topic and now is the time to speak up. For the sake of mitigating climate change, ensuring sustainable development, and aiding in the growth of nations, we as a body must come to a clear and joint solution that helps everybody. Be mindful of what your nation needs. Do they export oil? Do they have an energy crisis themselves? There are many factors to consider and reasons for developing more renewable energy sources; focus on what will help your people and bring about a more buoyant future for the Muslim world.

4.5 Vocabulary

Biomass - A substance of biological origin that is typically burnt to render energy from the glucose and natural gas held within it.

Sustainable Development Goals - A collection of 17 serious global issues that the UN hopes to address/solve by the year 2030

³⁷ Luo, Tianyi. "These 20 Water-Stressed Countries Have the Most Solar and Wind Potential." World Resources Institute. May 10, 2018. Accessed October 2021. <https://www.wri.org/insights/these-20-water-stressed-countries-have-most-solar-and-wind-potential>.

³⁸ Ritchie, Hannah, and Max Roser. "Access to Energy." Our World in Data. November 28, 2020. <https://ourworldindata.org/energy-access>.

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OPEC - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, a group of 13 nations that oversee and discuss topics in regards to the regulation and economy of petroleum.

4.6 Questions to Consider

- How can the OIC use its resources to expand accessibility to renewable energy for those who need it the most?
- How can oil dependent nations do more to help mitigate climate change and transition into clean energy, particularly maintaining their own economic development and sustainability?
- On what basis should a renewable energy plan be enacted?
- Is climate change a serious threat to the Muslim world and should the OIC concern itself with it?
- Are there more effective methods of industrialization that avoid a need for fossil fuels?
- How does energy affect infrastructure, development, and other important systems?

4.7 Suggested Readings

“The 17 Sustainable Development Goals”

<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals/why-do-sustainable-development-goals-matter/goal-7>

“Current Stance of Energy Resources and Potential in OIC Member Countries”

<https://www.sesric.org/files/article/459.pdf>

“Renewable Energy Profile of OIC Countries”

<https://www.comstech.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Renewable-Energy-Profile-of-OIC-Comstech>

“THEME REPORT ON ENERGY TRANSITION”

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021-twg_2-062321.pdf

“Environment and health in developing countries”

<https://www.who.int/heli/risks/ehindevcoun/en/index1.html>