



**Saudi Aramco Board of Directors**  
**Chair Letter Addendums**

## **ADDENDUM ONE: COMMITTEE FORMAT**

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### **FLOW OF DEBATE**

As an advanced committee, the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors seeks to provide delegates with a truly unique experience, blending elements of a specialized, crisis, and Ad Hoc committees. Like all committees at CNYMUN that have multiple topics, committee will begin with a general speakers list where delegates lay out what they would like to see the topic set to, After the general speakers list delegates will vote to set the topic to either Topic One: Using embargoes to further Saudi Arabian Foreign Policy Interests, or Topic Two: Saudi Aramco investment in developing countries. In this committee, the selection of a topic will go far beyond determining what delegates will debate; it will also determine the format of the committee. If delegates select topic two, the committee will follow the standard Harvard style procedure. Delegates will debate how, if, and where Aramco should invest in developing countries. Delegates will work together to form blocs to write and pass a potential resolution. If instead delegates select Topic One for debate, the committee will operate as a hybrid between a specialized and a crisis committee. Topic One seeks to get delegates to analyze how the Board of Directors of Saudi Aramco can use its power to provoke and respond to global events. In order to do this, the committee will feature a series of mini crises. Once the topic is set to Topic One, delegates will be informed of a specific scenario that has occurred. Delegates will then need to move quickly to pass a directive-style resolution to address the crisis. Although there would be no crisis notes and no backroom, these resolutions would be a mix of resolutions and directives. Once a resolution is passed, the delegates will be presented with another scenario. After all the scenarios have been gone through, the debate would move on to Topic Two. Delegates will not know the specific scenarios. The broad topics the scenarios could fall under can be found under Addendum Three.

### **ROLE OF OBSERVER NATIONS**

Delegates should visualize this committee as a meeting of the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors, where the board of directors has invited representatives from around the world to hear those nations' perspectives on what the board of directors should do. Delegates representing observer nations should advocate for their country's policy on the topics and attempt to sway and incentivize the board members to do as they wish. Observer nations will have full power to raise points and motions, write resolutions, offer amendments, and speak in the general and secondary speakers lists, moderated and unmoderated caucuses, and for and against periods. As they are not members of the board, observers will not be able to participate in resolution voting, but will not be excluded from the chambers. It is important to recognize that while nations may attempt to influence the actions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding Aramco, decision-making is solely in the hands of Saudi Arabia and the board. There will be no bias for or against observer nations in award decisions.

### **POSITION PAPERS**

Like all other committees, in order to be qualified for an award, delegates must submit a position paper on at least one topic. It is highly recommended, however, that delegates submit a position paper on both topics. These papers must be in the Georgetown format. Examples can be found at <https://www.cnymun.org/>. For Topic One, delegates should look at how Aramco can use its power broadly. Delegates should then narrow in on how their person or their country views the three areas from which mini crisis scenarios could arise. These broad topics can be found in Addendum Three. For Topic Two, position papers should cover the board member or observer nation's policy toward investing in developing countries. Please submit position papers before the start of the committee.

## **ADDENDUM TWO: ARAMCO AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

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### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS**

The dynamic between Saudi Arabia and Aramco may be confusing at first for delegates, considering the overlap between the individuals in power within each structure. It should be clear to delegates that while other nations may attempt to influence Aramco and the decisions made relating to it, the only group that wields power over Aramco is Saudi Arabia. While public stocks of Aramco are available to trade, the vast majority of Aramco is owned and thereby controlled by Saudi Arabia (including the board of directors). While there is only a consolidated group of people wielding power over Aramco, it should be noted that through the inclusion of observer nations, a more globally inclusive discussion of topics shall be achievable in this committee. Nations can and should utilize tools available to them in debate, such as incentivization, to try and achieve goals of their own nation or a collective group. Jurisdiction over the actions of Aramco is not realistic; however, attempted influence and compromise are.

### **MODERNIZATION OF SAUDI ARABIA**

Since the late 20th century, Aramco has offered unusually modern freedoms in comparison to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Women hold high positions within Aramco, and are not required to wear head coverings. As of recently, Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman has made further efforts to bring such modernization to Saudi Arabian culture and leadership. Such trends may suggest evidence towards Aramco and the board of directors leading Saudi Arabia and its leadership to enact changes to culturally “modernize” the nation and some of its laws. Delegates should bear in mind these recent developments and consider them in discussion.

## **ADDENDUM THREE: CRISIS UPDATES**

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## **MEMBER POSSIBILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As laid out in Addendum One, Topic One will consist of a series of Mini Crises. Although delegates will not know the specific scenarios before the committee, below are a few topics to consider that may be relevant to the introduced crisis updates:

1. How does Iran, Oman, and the UAE’s shared control over the Strait of Hormuz affect power dynamics in relation to Aramco? What potential influence may be wielded relating to the Strait?
2. What role do the largest oil producers play in relation to Aramco (e.g., the United States or China)? How can their power potentially influence Aramco either through negotiation and/or conflict?
3. How has the modernization of Aramco influenced their domestic and foreign policies, and how has this spread to Saudi Arabia? Consider Mohammad bin Salman’s role in these changes, and how a shifting of power would affect Aramco and Saudi Arabia.

## **CONTACT US**

We understand that these can be confusing topics. Success in Aramco will require both extensive research beforehand as well as creativity and adaptability in committee. Delegates should consult the sources in the chair's letter as well as those contained within these Addendums. Delegates should also conduct extensive research on the operation of Saudi Aramco, as well as the two topics and the three areas from which the Mini Crisis could be drawn. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Sabah Ghanim  
[26sghanim@jd.cnyric.org](mailto:26sghanim@jd.cnyric.org)

Connor Burke  
[26tburke@fmschools.org](mailto:26tburke@fmschools.org)

Alex Ovadia  
[26aovadia@fmschools.org](mailto:26aovadia@fmschools.org)