

Confronting the U.S. decision to move its embassy to the Occupied City of Jerusalem, the development of the situation, and condemnation of the crimes committed by the Israeli Occupation in Palestine

The Council of the League of Arab States at the Ministerial level, at its Extraordinary Session chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the General Secretariat Headquarters in Cairo on Thursday 17 May 2018, upon the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the support of Member States,

- *Having reviewed* the note of the General Secretariat,
 - *Following up on* the implementation of the Council of the League of Arab States resolutions, at its different levels, on the Occupied City of Jerusalem, the Council deliberated on the stances and measures undertaken by the League of Arab States to confront the illegal and illegitimate act taken by the U.S. to move its embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem, on the basis of its previous decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli Occupation State; this U.S. move which represents a flagrant violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980 respectively, and General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 of 2017 adopted within the framework of its Tenth Emergency Special Session “Uniting for Peace”,
 - *Following consultations* on the crimes that Israel (the occupying Power) continues to perpetrate against the Palestinian people, their territory, holy places and inalienable rights, most recently the continuous and escalating brutal Israeli aggression against peaceful demonstrators participating in peaceful marches that express their attachment to their legitimate rights, and their rejection of the U.S. decision on Jerusalem, and demanding their right to return to their homes from which they had been forcibly expelled, as guaranteed by international law and international legitimacy resolutions, including General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948,
 - *Recalling* all its resolutions at the Summit, Ministerial and Permanent Delegates Level pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, most recently the resolutions adopted by the 29th Summit held in Dhahran in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (the *Jerusalem Summit*); *and assuming* its historical responsibilities towards the Holy City of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, with all that it represents in sacred status for the Islamic and Christian Arab civilization,
 - *Having been briefed* by the heads of delegation of Member States,
- 1- *Reaffirms* the rejection and condemnation of the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as capital of Israel (the occupying Power), considers it as null and void, and demands the U.S. retract from it; and *considers* the U.S. decision to move its embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem a serious precedent that breaches the international consensus on Occupied Jerusalem and its existing legal and historical status, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions, threatens international peace and security, and undermines the

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- international order founded in international law and adherence to it, and which will constitute a precedent for any country intending to violate the law and international legitimacy.
- 2- *Considers* the U.S. decision to move its embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem, on the anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, as an intensification of the aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people, provoking the sentiments of the Arab Muslim and Christian nation, triggering conflict and instability in the region and the entire world, and undermining the moral and legal legitimacy of the international system;
 - 3- *Condemns* Guatemala's act of moving its embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem, and *announces* the intention of the Member States to take the appropriate political and economic measures against this step;
 - 4- *Condemns* the announcement by a few states' of their intention to move their embassies to Jerusalem; *and requests* the General Secretariat to submit recommendations on dealing with these countries, whether through engaging with them to urge them to refrain from undertaking such an illegal step and to abide by international law and relevant international legitimacy resolutions, or through the consideration of measures that may be taken if they proceed to move their embassies;
 - 5- *Supports* the decisions of the Palestinian leadership in defense of the rights of the Palestinian people in all areas, and in response to the U.S decision to move its embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem, including through accession to international treaties and organizations, and referring Israeli crimes to the appropriate international courts and instruments, including the Israeli colonial settlement issue;
 - 6- *Calls upon* the international community, including the Security Council, to pursue the implementation of its resolutions and the commitment of countries to them; and *urges* all countries to abide by Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980 respectively, and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 of 2017 adopted under its Tenth Emergency Special Session "Uniting for Peace", which emphasized that any decisions and actions which aim to alter the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem are of no legal effect, null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, and called upon all countries to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 478 of 1980, which also emphasized that the question of Jerusalem remains as a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions;
 - 7- *Conveys its thanks* to the states and organizations that adopted positions rejecting the U.S. decision on Jerusalem, and in support of a just and comprehensive peace that fulfills the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in conformity with international law and international legitimacy resolutions;
 - 8- *Condemns* the participation of some countries in the events of moving the U.S. embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem; *and considers* such participation an encouragement for illegal actions at the international level;
 - 9- *Pays tribute to* the heroic struggle and the significant sacrifices of the Palestinian people in defending their territory, Islamic and Christian Holy sites, and their inalienable rights, against the Israeli occupation and its policies and practices;
 - 10- *Condemns* the extensive systematic Israeli crimes committed by the occupying forces against unarmed Palestinian civilians, which amount to war crimes and

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crimes against humanity, according to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, the latest of which was the brutal attack on the peaceful Palestinian demonstrators, who took part in peaceful marches in conjunction with the anniversary of the Nakba, and in protest against moving the U.S. embassy to the Holy City of Jerusalem, and demanded their legitimate rights, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular on the boundaries of the besieged Gaza Strip, which left hundreds of martyrs who were executed in cold blood, and thousands of wounded among the unarmed civilians;

- 11- *Requests* the General Secretariat to immediately establish an independent international commission of experts to investigate the crimes and massacres committed by Israeli occupation authorities against protesters in the Gaza Strip;
- 12- *Calls upon* the Security Council, the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the Human Rights Council and its rapporteurs, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take the necessary measures to establish an international commission of inquiry into the recent Gaza events, and to enable the commission to conduct a time-bound field investigation, and to ensure the enforcement of a clear mechanism to hold Israeli officials accountable, prosecute them for this crime, bring them to justice, and provide redress for the victims;
- 13- *Calls upon* the international community to immediately intervene to ensure the international protection of Palestinian civilians from the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces; and *urges* the Security Council to implement its resolutions pertaining to the protection of Palestinian civilians, particularly Resolutions 904 of 1994 and 605 of 1987 stipulating that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the need to provide international protection for the unarmed Palestinian people; and *calls upon* the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to assume their responsibilities and to ensure respect for and enforcement of the Convention in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, through halting Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and enforcing the peremptory norms (jus cogens) of international law;
- 14- *Supports and appreciates* the tireless efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait, the Arab member of the Security Council, to follow up on the developments of the Question of Palestine and to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the latest of which was the request for holding an emergency meeting of the Security Council to discuss the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian civilian demonstrators in the Gaza Strip and its endeavors in submitting a draft resolution on ensuring international protection for Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967;
- 15- *Reaffirms* adherence to peace as a strategic option, and to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 with all its elements, which stipulated that peace with Israel and normalization of relations must be preceded by an end to its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4 June 1967, and recognition of the State of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right of return and compensation for Palestinian refugees and reaching a just solution for their cause according to General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948; and *rejects* any deals or initiatives to resolve the conflict inconsistent with the international terms of reference of the peace process;

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- 16- *Strongly condemns* the repeated and frequent Israeli incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque and allowing settlers, under the supervision of Israeli security forces, to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque and recite Talmudic prayers, which it considers a provocative act that would foment sentiments and fuel violence; and *demands* that the international community ensures free access to Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, and to recognize that as a human right; *and condemns* Israeli decisions to prevent Jerusalemites from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque;
- 17- *Emphasizes the support* of the historic Hashemite Custodianship, led by HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, over the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, which was affirmed by the agreement signed between HM King Abdullah II and HE President Mahmoud Abbas of the State of Palestine on 31 March 2013, and *supports* the role of the Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque Awqaf Administration of the Ministry of Awqaf of Jordan in preserving and protecting Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif;
- 18- *Expresses gratitude* to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, for designating the 29th Arab Summit held in Saudi Arabia the "Jerusalem Summit", in recognition of the spiritual and religious importance of the Holy City of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, for Arab and Islamic countries, and for his provision, like his Arab leaders brethren, all the political and financial support for the Question of Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people;
- 19- *Commends* the endeavors exerted by HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco, Chair of Al-Quds Committee, in defending the Holy City of Jerusalem and supporting the steadfastness of Jerusalemites;
- 20- *Expresses gratitude and appreciation* to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the efforts exerted to facilitate the situation inside the Gaza Strip, in particular the provision of urgent assistance, the reception of the wounded from the Israeli aggression in Egyptian hospitals, and the facilitation of the movement of passengers through the Rafah border crossing;
- 21- *Requests* the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to prepare a comprehensive plan that includes the appropriate means and methods that can be employed to confront the U.S. decision or that of any other state recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the occupying Power, or to move its embassy thereto, including political, legal and economic means and methods, and to circulate this plan to Member States within two weeks from the date of this resolution for adoption and implementation;
- 22- *Requests* the Arab ministerial delegation of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee established pursuant to Resolution 8221 adopted on 9 December 2017 to pursue its contacts and efforts in this regard, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to work towards the implementation of this resolution; *and decides* to remain in permanent session and to reconvene, if necessary, to assess the situation and act in light of the developments pertaining to this resolution.

(R: 8277 – Ex. S – 17/05/2018)