



**STATEMENT
BY
H.E. MR. AHMED ABOUL GHEIT
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF
THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**

**BEFORE
THE 32th ORDINARY SESSION
OF
THE ASSEMBLY
OF
THE HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**ADDIS ABABA
10 February 2019**



Your Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda
Your Excellencies Heads of State & Government
Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

I am honored to once again participate with you, at the invitation of my brother Mr. Moussa Faki, in this important summit, in a manner that reflects the distinctive historic relationship between the League of Arab States and African Union, and consolidates the pillars of our extended institutional cooperation towards achieving the higher common interests we aspire to.

Your summit today is being launched under a theme which in fact addresses a common and mounting challenge that our nations face. Both our Arab and African regions have witnessed aggravated and protracted armed conflicts that resulted in wide scale humanitarian crises, which in turn caused an unprecedented surge in the movement of refugees, IDPs and migrants, either within each region or outwards towards other geographic areas. Given that this has all come to impact the peace, security and societal stability of some of our countries, I consider that it is incumbent upon both Arab and African sides to work ever more closely – based on a solid appreciation that we have a shared interest – to address these challenges, and adopt a coherent program of work that enables our engagement on the international stage as one block with complementary visions, especially in view of the adoption of the Global Compacts on Refugees and for Migration.

Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen

The situation in Libya represents a theatre where all of these challenges converge, and we must renew our commitment towards supporting the Libyan state and accompany our brethren there towards the harbor of stability, in order to address the migrant crisis through and on its territory, promote political dialogue among its parties, and complete its transition via convening the constitutional and electoral processes the Libyan people aspire to. I also highly value the advanced cooperation between LAS and the AU in support of the Libyan political process in the context of the Quartet which enjoins us with the UN and EU, and look forward to pursuing our joint efforts within this mechanism.

I also consider that there are more active complementary efforts that we can exercise together to address other conflict situations and support stability in the area of common convergence between the Arab world and Africa. We call here for enhancing our common endeavors in Somalia in support of the Federal Government and the implementation of its national security and development plans; we look forward to pursuing our cooperation in support of the Comoros and its stability, the national dialogue among its people, and the electoral events it is about to convene; we reiterate our readiness to deepen our coordination with you in support of peace and stability in



South Sudan and assisting our brethren there in implementing the agreements they reached in Khartoum and Addis Ababa to close the chapter of this conflict once and for all; we stress, of course, our solidarity with the countries of the Sahel region in confronting the terrorist threat of Boko Haram and other armed groups, and we stand with you in implementing your initiative to Silence the Guns throughout Africa by 2020; and we also highly welcome the positive developments and historic reconciliations in the Horn of Africa, in which you are aware of the Arab contribution in sponsoring and promoting, and for which we will remain your partners in nurturing in the service of our shared interests in this sub-region which is a dear geographic neighbor for the Arab world.

*Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen*

All of this cooperation will represent a primary pillar of the Joint Arab Africa Plan of Action that we are working to complete with the AUC in accordance with the resolutions of our last summit in Malabo. It will be presented to their excellencies the foreign ministers of the Arab and African states, with a view to its submission to the forthcoming Arab Africa Summit in Riyadh this year. The Plan of Action will also encompass a host of cooperation programs to augment our common economic and social action, in a manner that utilizes each sides capabilities, and truly reflects the strategic nature of our partnership and complementarity of our priorities.

*Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen*

I cannot address your Assembly without expressing our appreciation for the spirit of reciprocal solidarity that enjoins us in defense of our causes, the dignity of our societies, and the rights of our peoples. It is here that I reiterate our profound gratitude for your supportive positions towards Palestine and the right of its people to establish their independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital. I highly value your championship of this cause in all international fora, and in standing against all unilateral measures that contravene the resolutions of international legitimacy, and that seek to destroy the basis of the settlement that you have demonstrated to the entire world your commitment to.

Allow me in conclusion to reiterate the commitment of LAS to pursue its cooperation with your august Union, and with the incoming Egyptian chairmanship under the leadership of H.E. President Abdelfattah El-Sisi, towards all that strengthens our partnership.

Thank you, Mr. President.