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Editorial



Amb. Abdulaziz M. Buhedma
Assistant Secretary General,
League of Arab States,
Director General of the Arab Fund

The 2nd African – Arab Summit, held in Libya on October 2010, has elevated Arab African relations from the political to the strategic partnership level, setting a Joint Plan of Action for the years 2010-2016, covering main focus areas comprising agriculture, food security, trade, investment, human resources and capacity development.

Evidently, human resources development in any country correlates positively with the increase in its economic production, since the growth in the individuals' level of productivity depends on the technical skills that they acquire as a result of the training they receive, and the "know-how" i.e. knowledge they learn. From here, the impact of and the significant role played by the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries, and all other similar institutions sharing common goals in developing African human resources is revealed and manifested.

Under this framework, and in coordination with the Strategic Partnership Plan, the Fund aims at widening the scope of its activities, in accordance with its available resources, by raising African cadres' capacities especially in the fields of agriculture and health, in order to assist in maximizing the utilization of the available

African agricultural and water resources, especially in the neighboring and the Nile basin African countries, helping, as such, in realizing food security for the people's of the continent. While development can not take place without human resources capacity building, also, no progress can be achieved without a healthy individual. From here emerges the Fund's focus on developing human resources cadres in the field of health, building, in the process, healthy and skilled African individuals.

The Fund has succeeded, through its activities and technical program, in building a relationship based on "partnership" with the beneficiary African countries. For instance, while the Fund dispatches Arab experts to carry out programs required by the African country, the latter in return, provides all facilities, such as logistics or others, required to ensure the success of the programs organized.

The Fund's significant role in contributing to the capacity development of our African brothers in the vital economic and scientific fields is constantly re-affirmed by resolutions of the Arab-African and Arab Summits, in addition to the positive feed back from African countries, a fact that encourages us to continue requesting increased Arab support and assistance to this important institution, being one of the Arab League's main organs.

First : The Programs

1. Training Programs

In accordance with its 2012 activity plan, the Fund organized 20 training programs in Arab and African countries, cooperating, in the process, with Arab, African, regional and international organizations, and benefiting more than 633 African trainees.

Details of the programs are as follows :

A. In Arab Countries :

- ***People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria :***

Three training programs were organized in the fields of :

- *“Diagnosing & Fighting Malaria”, in the National Institute for Public Health, Algeria, for 19 trainees from : Senegal, Burundi, Comoros, Chad, Niger, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Central Africa and Cameroun , from 4 to 23/11/2012.*



Trainees of the course in Malaria, organized in Algeria

- *“Diagnosing & Fighting Tuberculosis”, in the National Institute for Public Health, Algeria, for 20 trainees from : Senegal, Comoros, Burundi, Chad, Niger, Congo, Togo, Côte d’Ivoire, and Cameroun, , from 4 to 23/11/2012.*



The closing ceremony of the two training courses in Malaria and Tuberculosis in Algeria

- *“Transplanting of Embryos”, in the Agrarian Training Center in Al Madiyah City, Algeria, for 19 trainees from : Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Guinea Conakry, Central Africa, Senegal, and Niger, from 25/11 to 6/12/2012.*



Trainees of the training course in Transplanting of Embryos in Al Madiyah, Algeria

- **Arab Republic of Egypt :**

- *A training program was organized in the field of “Minerals Processing Technology”, in the Center Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI), Cairo, for 15 trainees from: Ghana, Malawi, Liberia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Zambia, from 16/12/2012 to 3/1/2013.*



Trainees of the course in the Minerals Processing Technology, Cairo

B. In African Countries :

- **The Republic of Niger :**

- *A training program was organized in the field of “Techniques for Pregnancy Prevention” for 25 trainees, from 3/12 to 17/12/2012.*



Trainees of the course in Pregnancy Prevention , Niger

- **The Republic of Chad :**

Under the framework of technical cooperation with King Faisal University in Chad, five training programs were organized benefiting 175 Chadian trainees, in the following fields :

- *Health Awareness.*
- *Pregnants' Health Care.*
- *Children's Diseases.*
- *Preserving the Environment.*

2. Joint Cooperation Organizations, Funds, and Civil Society

Giving Priority in its programs to joint cooperation, the Fund co-organized the following training programs with Organizations, Funds, and Civil Society :

1. Regional Organizations and Funds :

- **The Arab League :**

- *A training program was organized with the Arab League in the field of: “Training of Midwives” in the School for Midwives, Darfour, for 50 Sudanese trainees from the three Darfour governorates.*

- **African Union : (AU) :**

- *A Joint training program was organized with SAFGRAD (AU’s Office for Agriculture) in the field of : “The Effect of Climatic Changes and Desertification on Agriculture and Food Security” in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, for 19 trainees from : Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Malawi, Liberia, Sierra Leon, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, from 12 to 26/5/2012.*

- **Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA) :**

Three training programs were co-jointly organized in Cairo, in the following fields :

- *“Diplomacy”, in the Institute for Diplomatic Studies, for 17 diplomats from : Malawi, Ethiopia, Cameroun, Uganda, South Sudan, Eritrea, Mauritius, and Kenya, from 25/3 to 5/4/2012.*



Trainees of the course in Diplomacy, co-organized with EFTCA, Cairo

- *“Animal Health” in the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture, (EICA), for 14 trainees from Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Eritrea and Tanzania, from 10/6 to 28/6/2012.*



Trainees of the course in Animal Health, co-organized with EFTCA, Cairo

- “Rural Development”, in the Egyptian International center for Agriculture (EICA), Cairo, for 20 trainees from : Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia, from 11/11 to 29/11/2012.

2. Organizations of Civil Society :

- **Hawa Organization (A Civil Society Organization in Sudan) :**

Five training programs were Organized in cooperation with Hawa Organization, in the fields of :

- “Development of Small Enterprises”, for 50 Sudanese trainees in Darfour, Sudan, from 19/4 to 28/4/2012.



Trainees of the course in Small Enterprises ,Darfour



Trainees of the course in Maternal Health

- *“Role of Civil Society Organizations in Raising Awareness regarding Maternal Health”, for 40 Sudanese trainees, in Khortoum, Sudan, from 24/6 to 30/6/2012.*



Trainees of the course in Maternal Health with the Arab Fund, Arab League representatives, and Sudanese officials

- *3 programs in “Small and Medium Scale Enterprises”, for 150 Sudanese trainees in Khortoum, Sudan, throughout the month of December 2012.*



Trainees of the course in Maternal Health with the Fund’s representative , Khortoum

Training Programs Organized by the Fund in 2012

Program Title	Date	Place	Beneficiary Countries	No of Participants	Co- Financers Co- Organizers
Diplomacy	25/3 – 5/4/2012	Institute for Diplomatic Studies , Cairo	Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritius , Malawi, Cameroun	17	Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA)
Development of Small Enterprises	19/4 – 28/4/2012	Darfour	Sudan	50	Hawa Organization for Civil Society
The Effect of Climatic Changes and Desertification on Agriculture & Food Security	12- 26/5/2012	Burkina Faso	Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Malawi, Liberia, Sierra Leon, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe	19	African Union
Role of Civil Society Organizations in Raising Awareness concerning Maternal Health	24/6- 30/6/2012	Khortoum	Sudan	40	Hawa Organization for Civil Society
Training of Midwives		School for Midwives, Darfour	3 Governorates of Darfour	50	Arab League
Animal Health	10/6- 28/6/2012	Egyptian Int'l Centre for Agriculture (EICA)	Eritrea, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda	14	EFTCA
Fighting Epidemics	1- 20/10/2012	King Faisal University	Chad	35	
Maternal Health	5- 26/10/2012	King Faisal University	Chad	35	
Fighting Epidemics	1- 20/11/2012	King Faisal University	Chad	35	
Modern Irrigation Technologies	1- 21/11/2012	King Faisal University	Chad	35	
Diagnosing and Fighting Tuberculosis	4- 23/11/2012	National Institute for Public Health, Algeria	Togo, Congo, Comoros, Senegal, Central Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Niger	20	
Diagnosing and Fighting Malaria	4- 23/11/2012	National Institute for Public Health, Algeria	Congo, Comoros, Senegal, Central Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Niger	19	
Rural Development	11- 29/11/2012	EICA	Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia	20	EFTCA

Program Title	Date	Place	Beneficiary Countries	No of Participants	Co- Financers Co- Organizers
Transplanting of Embryos	25/11 – 6/12/2012	Agrarian Training Center in Al Madiyah City, Algeria	Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Guinea Conakry, Central Africa, Senegal, Niger	19	
Small and Meduim Scale Enterprises	1- 10/12/2012	Khortoum	Sudan	50	Hawa Org. for Civil Society
Combating Pests	5- 25/12/2012	King Faisal University	Chad	35	
Small and Meduim Scale Enterprises	11- 20/12/2012	Khortoum	Sudan	50	Hawa Org. for Civil Society
Small and Meduim Scale Enterprises	21- 30/12/2012	Khortoum	Sudan	50	Hawa Org. for Civil Society
Techniques for Pregnancy Prevention	17/12/2012	Niger	Niger	25	
Minerals Processing Technology	16/12/2012 3/1/2013	Central Metallurgical Research & development Institute (CMRDI), Cairo	Ghana, Malawi, Liberia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia	15	

3. List of Experts and Specialists (2012)

The Country	<i>The Field</i>	Experts & Specialists
The Republic of Niger	Agriculture Gynecologist	Mauritanian Egyptian
The Republic of Mozambique	Information Technology	Palestinian
The Republic of Burkina Faso	Agriculture	Egyptian Algerian
The Republic of Sudan	Health Management	5 Sudanese
The Republic of Chad	Agriculture Health	5 Chadians
Total no of Experts and Specialists		15

4. Scholarships 2011/2012

For the academic year 2012/2013, the Fund provided 200 scholarships to African students, 178 of which in the Egyptian Universities and 21 in King Faisal University in Chad in the following specializations :

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Information Technology, Sciences, Political Science, Sociology, Engineering, Management and Economy, Law, Fine Arts, Languages and Translation, Media, Arts, Commerce, and Law.

The following table shows the countries benefiting from the above scholarships :

Country	No of Scholarships	Country	No of Scholarships
Nigeria	6	Malawi	4
Niger	8	Mauritius	1
Comoros	15	Namibia	2
Somalia	29	Congo Brazaville	2
Côte D'Ivoire	4	Sierra Leone	2
Djibouti	7	Zimbabwe	6
Chad	32	Cameroun	2
Sudan	10	Ghana	1
Uganda	13	Mauritania	6
Kenya	5	Madagascar	5
Senegal	4	Guinea	3
Burkina Faso	7	Central Africa	2
Eritrea	3	Ethiopia	1
Mali	6	South Sudan	2
Benin	3	Rwanda	1
Tanzania	4	Zambia	1
Burundi	2	Swaziland	1
<i>Total no of Scholarships : 200</i>			

Second : Meetings and Resolutions

The Fund's 46th Session of its Board of Directors Ordinary Council Meeting :



The Fund's Board of Directors Council Meeting Chaired by H.E. Dr. Nabil El Arabi, Arab League Secretary General

The Fund's 46th session of its Board of Directors' Council Meeting was held on the 30th of April 2012, in the Arab League's headquarters, Chaired by H.E. Dr. Nabil El Arabi, the Arab League's Secretary General, and the Fund's Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The following members of the Board of Directors attended the Council meeting :

1. Mr. Amb. Abdul Aziz Buhedma

Assistant Secretary General, and D.G. of the Fund.

2. Mr. Alborny Salhy

Member, the Republic of Tunisia

Director General of the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation

3. Mr. Abdul Karim Mohy El Din

Minister Plenipotentiary, on behalf of the Board member of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria.

4. Mrs. Faeza Awad Mohammad Othman

Member, the Republic of Sudan

5. Mr. Saad Sherif Yehia

Member, the Republic of Iraq

6. Mr. Ibrahīm Abdullah Ibrahīm

Member, the Union of the Comoros

7. Dr. Elie Michel Maalouf

Member, the Republic of Lebanon

8. Mrs. Amb. Fatma Galal

Member, the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Secretary General of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa.

9. Mr. Mohammad Al Aishouny

Head of the Technical Assistant Department

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

10. Dr. Nivine Saad,

On behalf of the Director of the Institute of Arab Research and Studies, Cairo.

The Council Meeting agenda comprised the following:

- Nominations for the Council of the Board of Directors.*
- Report on the Fund's 2011 activities.*
- Requests of Technical Assistance.*
- Financial position for 2011, and 2013 budget project.*
- Time and place of the next session.*
- Instantaneous subjects.*

Word of H.E. Dr. Nabil Al Arabi, the Fund's Chairman of the Board of Directors :



H.E. Dr. Nabil Al Arabi inaugurated the meeting by welcoming all the attending members, and those present for the first time, who were: Mr. Alborny Salhy, Director General of the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation, and H.E. Amb. Ibrahim Abdullah Ibrahim, Director General of the Arab Department, the Ministry of Arab Relations and Cooperation, the Union of Comoros, and H.E. wished all the success to the Meeting. Dr. El Arabi asserted that during these critical times witnessed by the Arab World, revitalization of Arab League institutions, in protection of the Arab political, economic, and security interests becomes imperative. H.E. noted that the Fund's important role in propelling joint Arab cooperation in Africa, through the technical assistance it provides to its brotherly African countries and peoples, reflects Arabs' conviction of the significance of Arab-

African consolidation. H.E. added that the Fund has succeeded in overcoming the financial problems that it faced throughout the previous years, with the assistance and support of the Board Members, helping it regain its active role in the African continent and in developing Arab African relations. As a result, H.E. emphasized on the significance of continuing the development of the Fund's performance, abiding by Sirte Summit Resolution, that called for the formation of a committee comprising the countries that have reservations over its performance, with the aim to amend its situation. Dr. El Arabi noted that despite the fact that the above resolution has not been fully enacted, in terms of approaching all Arab parties sharing different views regarding the Fund's development, however, H.E. asserted that carrying out the resolution would definitely make a difference in supporting the Fund financially.

The Secretary General pointed out that looking at the report presented by Amb. Abdul Aziz Buhedma, the Fund's Director General, reveals the huge efforts exerted by the Fund throughout the year 2011, whereas it provided 188 scholarships, organized 23 training programs that benefited around 631 trainees from 43 African countries, and dispatched 22 Arab experts in the different fields of specializations. The Fund based its assistance on:

- 1. Giving priority to neighboring countries.*
- 2. Covering a maximum number of Anglophone and Francophone African countries.*
- 3. Dispatching experts from Arab Countries.*
- 4. Assigning to specialized training centers in Arab countries the organization of some of its programs.*

H.E. Dr. El Arabi further added that the efforts presented before the Board, reflected a positive development that creates optimism regarding a continued increase in the Fund's activities within the coming years. H.E. asserted that no efforts will be spared in supporting the Fund's development, through acquiring the financial contributions, which, H.E. assured, have not yet reached their aspired level.

The Secretary General then expressed his thanks to Mr. Amb. Abdul Aziz Buhedma, the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League, and the Fund's Director General, and to the Funds staff, for their great efforts made to support the Fund's role.

H.E. then asked the Fund's D.G. to present his report.



Members of the Fund's Board of Directors Council

Word of H.E. Amb. Director General of the Fund:



Ambassador Buhedma first welcomed Dr. Nabil El Arabi, the Fund's Chairman of the Board of Directors, and asserted his total confidence in the Secretary General's abilities and continued efforts to support and guide the Fund to overcome all obstacles it encounters. H.E. also welcomed members of the Board, wishing for them and the meeting all success.

The Fund's D.G. pointed out that due to the fact that most Arab countries have refrained from payment of their annual shares in the Fund's budget, with only very few who contributed on 2010, and 2011, in addition to the one million dollars paid by H.E. the previous Arab League Secretary General (from the money owed by the League to the Fund) the Fund was obliged to pursue a very strict policy restricting, to the maximum, its expenditures, by not replacing the

retired employees, and by refraining from responding to requests of technical assistance made by many African Countries.

H.E. added that despite all obstacles, the Fund has continued its activities, and provided technical assistance that comprised the dispatch of 22 experts and specialists from Algeria, Somalia, Palestine, Egypt and Mauritania to the Comoros, Somalia, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Niger. The Fund also provided 188 scholarships, and organized 23 training programs.

At the end of his word, Amb. Buhedma proposed to H.E. the Secretary General means for helping the Fund overcome its crisis, which included:

- 1. Abiding by the Arab League resolutions since 1991, that call upon the Arab League to continue disbursing to the Fund the amounts it owes, through installments, in order to allow it to proceed with its plans and activities.*
- 2. Putting the Sirte Summit Resolution no 526, dd- 28/3/2010, into effect, by formulating a committee from the Arab League Secretariat and the countries with reservations over the Fund's performance, aiming at amending its situation.*
- 3. Calling upon Arab countries to pay their annual shares in the Fund's budget to allow it to meet the increased requests made for technical assistance.*

Finally, the Fund's D.G. expressed his thanks to the Fund's staff for their dedication and hardwork.

The Fund's D.G.'s 2011 Activity Report :



The Fund's 2011 activities comprised the following :

- *Dispatching 22 Arab experts to Niger, Sudan, Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Mozambique and Somalia.*
- *Granting 188 scholarships in the fields of Medicine, Engineering and agriculture, allocated as follows :*
 - *161 in the Egyptian Universities and Institutes.*
 - *23 in Faisal University, Chad.*
 - *4 in Nasser El Omameyah University, Libya.*
- *Organizing 23 training programs that benefited 631 trainees from 43 African countries.*
- *In cooperation with the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa, organizing 4 training programs jointly in the fields of Diplomacy, Fisheries, Woman's Health, and Animal Health.*

- *In cooperation with regional organizations: organizing a joint training program with the African Union, SAFGRAD Office, in the field of the “Effects of Climatic Changes on Agriculture, and Natural Resources”, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.*
- *In cooperation with civil society organizations, organizing a training program with Hawa Organization in the field of “Midwives”, in North Kordofan, Sudan.*
- *In cooperation with Arab countries : involving Arab countries in the programs adopted by the Fund's Council.*
- *In cooperation with African countries: receiving Ambassadors of Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eritrea, and Comoros to Cairo.*
- *Meetings attended by the Fund :*
 - *The Executive Council Meeting of the High Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies in Iraq.*
 - *The 6th Cooperation Meeting between the African Union Commission, and the Arab League Secretariat in Addis Ababa.*

2011 Closing Account and 2013 Budget project :

H.E. Amb. Buhedma Presented the Fund's 2011 closing account, and the 2013 budget project, with the attributed 5 million Dollars, and a working plan to execute it, within the available funds and resources. H.E. also proposed a three steps solution to resolve the Fund's financial crisis that included the execution of the previous Arab League Council Resolutions, and Sirte Summit 2010 resolution.



Members of the Fund's Board of Directors

- *The most important Resolutions of the Fund's Board of Directors' Council Meeting included :*
 - *Its' consent regarding the nomination of Mr. Alborny Salhy, from the Republic of Tunisia, to resume the post of the Board Member Omar Al Jilany, ending on 25/10/2014.*
 - *Its' consent regarding the activity report presented by the Fund's D.G., thanking him for his efforts aiming at widening the Fund's scope of activities in the African continent and through the*

cooperation with Arab, regional, and international organizations and institutions.

- *Thanking the Fund's administration for its efforts in activating the Fund's role in Africa, and widening its scope of activities in Arab countries by utilizing their specialized centers to train African cadres.*
- *Asserting the Council's resolution no (623) dated 18/7/2006, that consented to the provision of technical assistance to African countries in accordance with the Fund's adopted strategy.*
- *Adopting the 2013 Technical Assistance program that comprises:*
 - *The dispatch of 29 experts.*
 - *The organization of 37 training programs.*

 - *The grant of 190 scholarships.*
- *Its' consent regarding the adoption of the five million Dollars 2013 budget project.*
- *Proposing the next council meeting to take place either on the second half of April or May 2013.*

***Arab League Ministerial Council Meeting Resolutions
Pertaining to the Fund and Arab African Cooperation (5/9/2012)
Resolution Pertaining to the Fund :***

Resolution no 7537- (0S/138) – (2session) dated 5/9/2012 :

1. *Asserting Arab League Summit and Ministerial Resolutions, latest of which was Resolution (no 7470) dated 10/3/2012, that affirmed the imperative role played by the Fund as an effective tool contributing, through technical assistance, to the reinforcement and development of Arab African Cooperation.*
2. *Concurring to the request made by the Republic of Tunisia for the nomination of Mr. Alborny Salhy, Director General of the Aborny Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation, to replace the Board Council member Mr. Omar Al Jilany, whose original term ends on 25/10/2014.*

• Resolution Pertaining to Arab African Cooperation :

The Council of the League of Arab States at the Ministerial level, affirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. *to request the Secretariat of the Arab League, in cooperation and coordination with the African Union Commission, to continue to follow up the implementation of the decisions and results of second Arab-African Summit 2010, and of the items of the Final Declaration of the Summit regarding the multiple areas of joint cooperation between the two sides, namely the political, economic, commercial, developmental, social and cultural fields, and to take particular steps to establish the Afro-Arab Disaster*

Fund in accordance with the decision of the second Arab-African Summit.

- 2. to further request Member States to provide the Secretariat with their initiatives and proposals relating to the implementation of the Second Afro-Arab Partnership Strategy, and the Afro-Arab Partnership action plan 2011-2016, as soon as possible, to be submitted for consideration at the next coordination meeting between the two organizations.*
- 3. to request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the State of Kuwait, to ensure a thorough preparation for the third Arab-African Summit to be held in 2013 in the State of Kuwait, and the formation of the organizing committee for the summit at the earliest possible date, in cooperation with the host country for the summit.*
- 4. to stress the importance of continuing efforts to remove the obstacles that hinder the activation and development of Arab-African cooperation and the organization of the meetings of its organs, in light of the decisions of the second Arab-African Summit 2012, and on the basis of the joint cooperation strategy and the decisions of the Sert Declaration, wherewith to safeguard and stave off any threat to the Arab-African relations.*
- 5. to call upon Member States, Red Crescent Societies and the Arab charitable organizations to provide humanitarian aid to people affected by drought and food crisis in the Sahel region of Africa and to those affected by the fallout of the conflict and violence in the Republic of Mali.*

6. *to work on removing the obstacles that hinder cooperation in the field of agricultural development and to welcome the hosting by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development of the Facilitation Unit for the joint Arab-African action plan on agricultural development and food security in Africa and the Arab region, and to emphasize that the annual budget of the Unit estimated at five hundred and seventeen thousand dollars (\$ 517,000) should be covered equally between the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States and the African Union Commission. The budget should be available in January of each year.*
7. *to welcome the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to convene a joint meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the League of Arab States in this month of September so as to promote Arab-African cooperation in the field of peace and security.*
8. *to welcome the convening of the Second Arab-African Ministerial Meeting of Agricultural Development and Food Security in the fourth quarter of 2012, to call upon the States to provide the necessary support to ensure its success, and to welcome the proposal of Saudi Arabia to host that meeting.*
9. *to call on Arab ambassadors councils in Africa to organize Arab cultural weeks, as has been in both South Africa and Ethiopia, in view of the fact that those weeks achieved meaningful results in the context of activating the Arab-African cooperation in the cultural field.*

10. *to call on Arab ambassadors councils in the various countries around the world, in collaboration with the African Ambassadors councils, to speed the formation of the Arab and African ambassadors committees, for the importance of such committees to coordinate Arab and African stances toward issues of common concern.*
11. *To express appreciation for the position of the African Union in support of the Arab stance vis-à-vis the Palestinian issue, as exemplified by the special resolution on supporting this issue, adopted by the African Union summit in its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 30 January 2012, which provided for: "calls upon all Member States, especially the members of the Security Council of the United Nations to support Palestinian efforts in the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to ensure the acceptance of the Palestinian State based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital, as a full member of the United Nations, and urges all Member States that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to expeditiously do so."*
12. *to welcome the convening of the first organizational meeting to prepare for the conference on investment in Africa, held on 10/01/2012 by the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions, in cooperation with the Arab League and the African Union, at the headquarters of the Federation of African Chambers in Cairo, in preparation for the conference on investment in Africa to be held in Kenya in mid-2012.*

13. *to welcome the establishment of the Afro-Arab Film Festival to support the cultural relations between the peoples of the Arab and African regions, and to task the Secretariat-General, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Arab-African Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies, with continuing to work for the establishment of this festival.*
14. *to stress the importance of supporting the Afro-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies by Member States, so that it can undertake its role, in accordance with the decisions of the Second Afro-Arab Summit 2010.*
15. *to welcome the hosting by the Kingdom of Morocco of the seventh session of the Afro-Arab Trade Fair in 2013, and to request Morocco, in cooperation with the Arab League, the African Union and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, to ensure a thorough preparation for the Fair.*
16. *to express appreciation for the efforts made by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa with regard to its continued support for the Trade Fair, and to welcome its commitment to finance the participation of African least developed countries at the seventh session of the Fair.*
17. *to request the Republic of Sudan, the host country for the first session of the Forum in 2012 under the heading “Toward an Arab-African strategic partnership”, to convene a meeting of the Forum steering committee with a view to ensure a good preparation for the Forum, with a particular emphasis on the importance of ensuring a broad participation of the private sector and civil society organizations in this forum.*

18. to extend gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts to support the process of Arab-African cooperation, and request him to take the necessary measures to prepare for the third Arab-African Summit to be held in Kuwait in 2013.

(Resolution 7536, Ordinary Session (138) –A2- 05/09/2012)

*Word by H.E. Dr. Nabil El Arabi, the Arab League
Secretary General, at the African Union Summit,
July 15,2012 Addis Ababa*



*Your Excellency, Dr Thomas Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of
Benin, Chairperson of the African Union,*

Your Excellencies,

Dr Jean Ping, President of the African Union Commission,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be among you in the Big
African House. This summit coincides with the tenth anniversary of
the inception of the African Union. Thanks to the wisdom and
shrewdness of its leaders, the African Union has become a highly
effective continental organization that succeeded during the past
decade in handling various and mounting challenges the African
continent faced. This success confirmed the ability of regional*

organizations to fulfil the role expected of them in terms of safeguarding regional peace and security in concordance and partnership with other international and regional organizations.

On this occasion, I am delighted to extol my friend Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for his outstanding performance in strengthening the role of the African Union in terms of handling the continental challenges in the sphere of peace, security and development, as well as in fostering the cooperation between Africa and the international community, including the Arab World. The Arab-African summit held in 2010 was not just evidence of the progress achieved in the cooperation between the different bodies of the African Union and the Arab League of States, but also of the strong belief shared by our states in the need to develop a broader Arab-African partnership capable of overcoming potential challenges.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the past year and a half, different parts of the Arab-African space have been witnessing historic political changes that will undoubtedly affect, on a broader scale, the trajectory of international policy in the foreseeable future. Triggered in North Africa, particularly in Tunisia, in the form of popular revolutions calling for democracy, freedom and social justice, these developments will certainly increase the responsibilities of the Arab League and the African Union so as to keep up with peoples' aspiration for progress. Indeed, the crises of societies and the challenges they are facing, at the top of which is fulfilling the requisites of good governance, are intertwined. We need, more than ever before, to intensify our cooperation in tackling the

crises facing the common African-Arab space in order to benefit from the experiences accumulated by each organization.

The plans devised by the Arab-African Summit are indeed comprehensive and ambitious. They aim at supporting the strong points of our cooperation and remedying their shortcomings, in order to launch a strategic, modern and systematic partnership. A partnership based upon the interwoven political, economic, developmental and cultural interests. Furthermore, we aim at achieving further integration between the similar bodies and organizations such as the Pan-African Parliament, the Arab Parliament, and joint inter-ministerial and intersectoral meetings as those held between Arab and African ministers of agriculture in February 2010, in Sharm el Sheikh. This cooperation will eventually bring together the institutions and organizations specializing in environmental, agricultural and hydraulic security and enable them to face the current and future challenges. The integration between the African and the Arab Peace and Security Councils will be bolstered thanks to the joint meeting that will be held next September. I seize this opportunity to express my great appreciation for the tremendous work carried out by my dear brother Ambassador Ramadan Al-Amamra, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, in terms of boosting the institutional cooperation between the Peace and Security Council and The Arab League of States. I am fully confident in the shrewdness and perception of the African Commission in its endeavor to execute the aims of the joint African Arab action.

The October 2010 Arab-African Summit succeeded in setting a strategy and devising plans of action for our partnership. However,

the effective implementation has fallen short of the expectations and aspirations of the African and the Arab masses.

The presence of His Highness, Sheikh Sobah Al Ahmed Al Djaber, Amir of the State of Kuwait, whose country will hold the next African Arab Summit in 2013, comes only to emphasize the deeply-rooted Arab conviction of the importance of reinforcing the joint institutional cooperation that we have started in the past century.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception in 2002, the African Union has strived to establish an effective cooperation with the Arab League, to coordinate with the organizations of the international community and to defuse many political crises that occurred within the joint African-Arab space. The joint effort between the two organizations on the issues of Sudan, Somalia, Comoro Islands, Mauritania and the Horn of Africa bears witness to such cooperation.

Allow me Mr. Chairperson to briefly tackle the issue of Sudan and Somalia.

With their geographic position, their ethnic, societal and national composition, Sudan and the Southern Sudan play the role of a considerably important vantage point between the Arab and the African world. I believe that the entire international community would never allow our Sudanese brothers to go back to square one, creating thereby an unhealthy polarized environment in the region. There is no issue that political negotiation cannot solve and any language other than that of peace between the Sudanese brothers is deemed unwise. In this respect, the African Union and the Arab League have been

closely monitoring the situation in Sudan and are mindful of the intricacies and interactions lying within. Relying on the principle stipulating that the responsibility of solving the crisis falls solely upon the Sudanese parties, the African Union and the Arab League have tackled the issue with a comprehensive vision. I therefore take this opportunity to commend the efforts exhausted by the African Union High-level Committee, chaired by President Thabo Mbeki. This Committee was assigned the task of contributing, with the Sudanese brothers, to solving all the outstanding issues between them. I would also like to praise the unprecedented efforts exerted by the African Union to solve the crisis in Darfur, with the close cooperation of the Arab League and the United Nations, as well as its efforts in facilitating the implementation of the Doha Peace Agreement on Darfur last July. Much of my appreciation and salute goes to the United Nations and African Union Joint forces deployed on the ground, for their leading role in restoring peace and stability in these territories.

As for Somalia, we have all witnessed the collapse of the humanitarian situation due to famine, draught, and the nonexistence of a central government. Described by the United Nations as a humanitarian catastrophe, this situation was a somber wake up call for all of us... warning us that our Somali brothers are no longer satisfied with the instant regional and international aid. What they really need is an international joint action to break the vicious circle of violence that has been persistently ravaging the country for the last 20 years, thus poisoning the whole atmosphere of the Horn of Africa. In fact, I believe that the international community is presented with a

chance to provide every possible form of political, technical and financial support to the earnest efforts carried out by President Sharif Sheikh Ahmad with a view to putting an end to the transitional phase as of next August and paving the way for a national reconciliation that will eventually build permanent institutions for the Somali state. However appreciative and grateful I am to the international interest granted to this issue, we need to further reinforce all forms of Arab-African cooperation in order to bolster the legitimacy of the nascent Somali institutions. I thereby call upon all the states and institutions to provide support for the Somali institutions, to have diplomatic missions in its territory, and to encourage a comprehensive reconciliation; a process that will ultimately enable the Somali people to turn the leaf of civil war.

Time and again, Arab states have reiterated their firm determination to effectively contribute to the reconstruction process of Somalia when the security situation in the country allows such enterprise.

The effective cooperation and coordination between the Arab League and the African Union is not only a necessity prompted by the importance of an efficient management of the crises and conflicts erupting in the Arab and African region, but an objective that must be ultimately attained within the framework of an enhanced political, economic and developmental solidarity among the Southern countries.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, apart from the Palestinians, all the peoples of the world have already exercised their right to self-determination and obtained their freedom. Moreover, the protracted Israeli occupation has been

tightening its grip on the Palestinian people. On the threshold of the second decade of the third millennium, no civilized mind would tolerate the existence of an occupation-based power that is heedless of all the international agreements and conventions. Furthermore, it is inconceivable to reach a comprehensive and durable peace agreement based upon the two-state solution, namely the state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital and the state of Israel, without launching and scrupulously executing the international decisions that will smooth the way before peace.

This so-called "Peace Process" in the Middle East has only resulted in a process that eventually failed due to the Israeli illegal practices in the occupied territories. Among those practices lies the increase of the settlement plans...the construction of Apartheid Wall...the Judaization of the city of Jerusalem...the demolition of houses...the erecting of military checkpoints, thus transforming the Palestinian cities and villages into isolated islands similar to the Bantustans. Another side of the discriminatory practices adopted by the settlers against the Palestinian people is visible thorough the seizing of their lands and yields, the sabotage of their crops and the illegal inhuman ban imposed on the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

As the "Peace Process" reached a dead end, the Palestinian side resorted, last September, to the United Nations to obtain full membership. Unfortunately, the conditions in the Security Council were not in its favor; a situation mainly due to the absolutely unjustified veto of some of the permanent members of the Council.

As I express a deep appreciation of the position adopted by the African Union to support the Palestinian cause in its endeavor to

become a member of the UNESCO in October 2011, the Arab League looks forward to the support of the African Union at the next United Nations General Assembly gathering, if by then the Palestinian Authority decides to seek an Observer-State seat in the United Nations as a first step towards full membership.

The arduous process that South Africa went through to break away from the horrors of Apartheid, that were perpetrated in full view of the world, represents a source of inspiration for the Palestinian people in their historic struggle against the injustice of colonialism and Apartheid imposed on them. It is no coincidence that the Palestinian schools are celebrating this month the birthday of the Great freedom fighter Nelson Mandela. His battle against segregation and prison, over 27 years, inspired many Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. After hopelessly trying all possible means, these prisoners resorted to the battle of empty stomach, entering an open hunger strike as a way to resisting the occupation. In this respect, it is worth noting that the number of prisoners in Israeli jails has exceeded 10,000, 21 of whom have been detained for over 20 years, and others have spent more than 30 years behind bars.

I am fully confident of the support provided by Africa to the Palestinians and Arabs in their endeavour to secure a Security Council resolution that compel Israel, the power built on colonialism, the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its subsequent protocols. These protocols compel Israel to open its prisons and concentration camps before the international commissions in charge of monitoring the proper treatment of prisoners and detainees in these jails. Moreover, a fact-finding

committee shall be formed so as to supervise the implementation of the international law relative to human rights as well as the International Humanitarian Law, on the Palestinian inmates apprehended in the Israeli occupation prisons. Hence, a meeting of the signatory states to the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions relative to the treatment of prisoners of war will be held, pursuant to the General Assembly resolution in this respect.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The interrelated Arab and African space and its integration is an established fact. The regional security of the African Continent is closely related to the security of all its neighbouring regions; particularly that of the Arab World that links West Asia to North and East Africa. The Arab World is organically interwoven with the African strategic entity, a relation that makes the standpoint of both parties towards nuclear proliferation identical. In fact, Africa has become a nuclear-free zone according to the 1996 Pelindaba Treaty. Whereas, the Arab World is still in the process of establishing a nuclear-free zone that stretches over the Middle East into Africa, especially that some Arab African states fall within the range of the Pelindaba Treaty and the Nuclear-free Middle Eastern region. Hence the importance of an action that establishes the international dimension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty setting thereby the basis for a nuclear-free Middle East and finishing what has been started in Pelindaba. Apart from the international dimension of such treaty, the nuclear situation in Africa remains precarious, as it is the case in the Middle East. Such a threat will prevail so long as Israel refuses to join

the Treaty and submit its nuclear capabilities to international supervision.

Mr. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall now touch briefly on the tragic situation in Syria.

The Arab League has been relentlessly working towards putting an end to the bloodshed in Syria. We have all been horrified by the series of massacres coldly perpetrated against the civilians, the most recent one being the Tremsa massacre in the countryside of Hama, two days ago. A massacre that killed about 200 citizens in one day. Strong evidence points the finger at the Syrian government which has been, according to the mission of observers, using heavy weaponry, namely artillery, tanks and helicopters, in their assaults against the citizens. These assaults have unfortunately revealed systematic operations of ethnic cleansing similar to those perpetrated in al-Houla city before. The most urgent thing to do is to put an end to violence, to break the siege imposed on the cities and the residential areas, to release the prisoners and to stop the ongoing bloodbath. Moreover, measures to protect the civilians must be taken and those responsible for committing hideous crimes against the Syrian people must be held accountable.

I believe there is no other choice, for the Security Council, but to assume its responsibility and issue a binding resolution, under Chapter seven, that compels the Syrian government to end the acts of violence and killings, and to implement the resolutions of the Security Council as well as Kofi Anan's Plan. Indeed, a prompt political transition towards a free democratic regime must start immediately,

according to a fixed time frame and a clear mechanism that imposes on all the Syrian stakeholders the implementation of the plan set by Mr. Annan, the United Nations and Arab League Peace Envoy. Stressing upon the unity, sovereignty, independence and integrity of the Syrian territories, the Arab League confidently relies upon the African support, in the United Nations General Assembly, to mobilize the international community with a view to ending the Syrian tragedy. Moreover, Arab and African states share the same view as to providing full support to the sovereignty, independence, unity and integrity of the Libyan territories as well as the necessity to bolster the democratic and reconstruction process in this country. We commend and praise the organizing of elections for the Libyan General National Congress on the 7th day of this month. We deem such enterprise as meaningful in consolidating the Libyan strive towards the establishment of good governance.

We congratulate the governments and the peoples of Tunisia and Egypt for their determination to achieve the aspirations of the revolutions, namely freedom, democracy, social justice and human dignity. The sinuous path to democratic change all over the world has not prevented the various components of both societies in these two Arab African nations from setting a remarkable example of determination and ability to fulfill the hopes and meet the aspirations of the people towards a bright future, God willing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally,

The Arab African joint action is an established fact that needs to be institutionally reinforced by the common history and interests Africa

and the Arab World share. In the absence of an institutional cooperation, several political and economic issues will be affected. The process of an Arab African institutional cooperation has undoubtedly its weak points that we are willing to strengthen, and negative aspects that we will strive to reduce. We must, however, laud what has been achieved so far in terms of concordant strategies as well as a joint coordination that boldly identifies and bridges the existing shortcomings. In this regard, the Arab League and the African Union, along with the developing countries, will spare no effort in listing their priorities on the World Agenda. An Agenda that will be, one day, set by these same countries, in a way that meets the expectations of the African and Arab peoples.

Thank you

May the Peace and the Mercy of Allah be upon you.

*Acceptance Speech by the African Union Commissioner,
Chairpersonship Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
African Union, Addis Ababa 16 July 2012.*



*The Chairperson of the African Union President of Benin, Dr Thomas
Boni Yayi*

Your Excellencies, African Union Heads of State and Government

Honourable Ministers and members of the Executive Council

Dr Jean Ping, the outgoing Chairperson

Members of the Permanent Representative Council

Members and staff of the African Union Commission

Distinguished members of delegations present here

Representatives of international organisations

Friends

Ladies and gentlemen

Members of the media

It is with honour and humility that I today accept my election as the incoming chairperson of the African Union Commission. I am also grateful to the Southern African region for nominating me to serve the people of our continent in this capacity. More importantly I would like to express my gratitude to all the Heads of State and Government for my election and for entrusting me with an enormous responsibility which I commit to fulfilling with total commitment.

My election is not a personal victory but a victory for the African continent in general and for women in particular. I would like to also congratulate the Deputy Chairperson on his re-election and all the other Commissioners who are going to form part of this team. I would like to thank Dr Jean Ping for all the hard work he has put into the Commission and I would just like to say I have known Dr Ping for some time – when he was still the Foreign Minister of Gabon. I hope that although you have said you have bowed out, if I do knock at your door asking for advice, that the door will be open.

I am aware that I shall only be able to discharge this responsibility by working with all member states and the talent that exists in our continent, for all the regions, to ensure a better life for all our peoples.

Our organisation is now almost 50 years old and it was founded on the principles of unity and it will be important to keep that unity and cohesion amongst ourselves.

Our founders, heroes and heroines of Pan-Africanism, held a vision of a united, economically and politically emancipated continent at peace

with itself and the world. The challenge we face is to translate this vision into a reality.

Your Excellencies,

The future of our continent is inextricably linked with that of the rest of humanity, the world over. Africa must therefore take its rightful place among nations of the world as an equal reliable partner, and full member of the international community.

We must create the conditions to, amongst others, contribute towards global peace and security, sustainable development, and mediate against the effects of climate change.

In pursuance of this objective, as a Commission, we will continue to build on the work of those who came before us and we will continue to work with regional bodies around the world, the UN and all its agencies, including all our co-operating partners to ensure they can contribute in helping us to achieve our collectively defined priorities.

Your Excellencies,

The world unanimously agrees that Africa is a continent with immense possibilities and potential, as evidenced by our natural and human resources. We must use our vast resources including sunshine, wind and biodiversity more effectively to benefit our countries and our peoples. We as member states, working together with the Commission, must drive our developmental agenda.

We must spare neither strength nor effort to ensure we achieve the vision of our forebears and ensure that this century is indeed the African one.

Your Excellencies,

Today, we commemorate two milestones in the history of our organisation. After 49 years, the Southern African region has been afforded an opportunity to chair the African Union Commission but equally a woman has been afforded an opportunity for the first time. It is fitting that this happens during the period declared as the Decade of Women by this very Assembly.

We are grateful as women that our leaders have understood that women have to participate and take their rightful place in society so they can reach their full potential because it is only if men and women reach their full potential, shall we as a continent reach our full potential.

Your Excellencies

Africa has the youngest population in the world, which is continuing to grow rapidly. We must therefore ensure our young people have access to education, healthcare, nutrition and skills development to enable them to participate in the mainstream of our economies and to become skilled.

Your Excellencies,

As we prepare to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the OAU, next year, we shall build upon and consolidate the work undertaken by the Commission under the leadership of many sons who have run this organisation, but most importantly former President Alpha Konare and the outgoing Chairperson Dr Jean Ping who have been at the helm of the African Union itself.

For us to achieve the noble objectives of the African Union and its founding leaders, we require a strong Commission united by the unshakeable commitment to serve all our peoples with humility, professionalism, loyalty and patriotism. I am certain that all the Commissioners and staff of the African Union are steadfast in their commitment to these values.

May I reiterate our conviction that only by working together, as a single and indivisible continent of Africa, under the able leadership of the African Union, can we do more to improve the quality of life of all Africans while discharging our responsibilities on the African continent and globally.

I would like to conclude with a quote from one of our most renowned pan-Africanists, Marcus Garvey, who said, "The history of a movement, the history of a nation, the history of a race is the guidepost of that movement's destiny, that nation's destiny, that race's destiny".

As we emerge from this Summit, let our history guide us to ensure that as we move forward, the Africa we bequeath to our children is better than the one we inherited. Let us commit to working together towards a glorious destiny for all our peoples.

I thank you.

Third : Activities of the Fund's Director General



Meeting between H.E. Dr. Nabil El Arabi, Arab League Secretary General, The Fund's Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the Fund's D.G.

The Fund Director General received in his office their excellencies African Ambassadors and officials, where means for reinforcing mutual cooperation were discussed and new requests for technical assistance were made.

H.E. met with :

- *H.E. Mr. Kamal El Din Hussein Ali, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the A.R.E, on 9/1/2012.*
- *H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Trauri, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea – Bissau to the A.R.E., on 28/2/2012.*
- *H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Labarang, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroun to the A.R.E, on 14/3/2012.*

- *H.E. Mr. Beningo Pedro Matutang, Ambassador of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the A.R.E, on 20/5/2012.*



The Fund's D.G. meeting with H.E. Amb. of Rep. Equatorial Guinea

- *H.E. Mr. Abdallah Hassan, Ambassador of the Republic of Somalia to the A.R.E., on 19/6/2012, and on 25/6/2012.*



The Fund's D.G. meeting with H.E. Amb. of Rep. of Somalia

- *H.E. Mr. Shut Aler Deng, the Cultural Attaché of the Republic of South Sudan to the A.R.E, on 25/6/2012.*
- *H.E. Mr. Soliman Mousa, Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the A.R.E, on 18/9/2012.*



The Fund's D.G. meeting with H.E. Amb. of Rep. of Burundi

- *H.E. Mr. Eugene Allo Allou, Ambassador of the Republic of Côte D'Ivoire to the A.R.E., and Mrs. Sekonoko, the Embassy's Cultural Counselor, on 25/9/2012.*
- *H.E. Mrs. Fatema Al Haj Abdullah, Director General of the National Consolidation Department in the Union of Comoros Health Ministry, on 6/11/2012.*



The Fund's D.G. meeting with H.E. D.G. of National Consolidation Dep. in Comoros Health Ministry

The D.G. of the Fund also met with :

- *H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Abdullah, the Union of the Comoros' member of the Fund's Board of Directors, and the Director General in the Ministry of Arab Relations and Cooperation, on 16/1/2012.*
- *H.E. Ambassador Abdullah Idris, head of the Arab League delegation to the Republic of Somalia, on 12/3/2012.*
- *H.E. Mr. Abdullah Treeky, Tunisian Assistant Foreign Affairs Secretary for Magharibiya, Arab & African Affairs on 12/3/2012.*



The Fund's D.G. meeting with H.E. Tunisian Assistant Foreign Affairs Secretary

- *Attended, among the Arab League delegation chaired by H.E. Dr. Nabil Al Arabi, the Arab League Secretary General, the 23rd Arab Summit held in Baghdad, Iraq, from the 27th to the 29th of March 2012.*



- *Attended the Consultative Meeting held in the Arab League Secretariat for the Permanent Representatives, in preparation for the 2nd upcoming Arab-European meeting, on 26/9/2012.*
- *Eng. Mr. Saad Salem, the Technical Manager of Al Khorafy Kuwaiti group, on 8/4/2012.*
- *Dr. Ahmad Youssof, the Director of the Institute for Research and Studies, in the latter's headquarters, Cairo, on 17/4/2012.*
- *Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Mahy, President of King Faisal University, Chad, on 17/5/2012.*
- *H.E. attended, in the Arab League headquarters, meetings that discussed the report presented by Algeria on means of*

supporting and reinforcing human rights in the Arab world, on 26/6 and 15/10/2012.

- *Participated in the closing ceremony of the two training courses in the field of Health, organized by the Fund, in cooperation with the Algerian Health Ministry, in Algeria, on 11/11/2012.*
- *Attended in Morocco, the conference held by the African Training and Research Centre in Administration Development, for (CAFRAD), on 21/6/2012.*
- *Paid a visit to Khartoum on 6/12/2012, in response to a kind invitation by H.E. Mr. Abdel Aziz Khalaf, Director General of BADEA, accompanied by Amb. Youcef Rahmania, Director of Research and Studies Department, where they discussed means for reinforcing future cooperation between the two organizations.*



- *Paid a farewell visit to H.E. Mr. Abdul Qader Hajjar, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the A.R.E., on the occasion of terminating his term.*



Farewell meeting between the Fund's D.G. and H.E. Algeria's Amb.

- *H.E. Dr. Nabil El Arabi, Arab League's Secretary General, Chairman of the Fund's Board of Directors, accompanied by H.E. Amb. Wagih Hanafi, Assistant Secretary General, head of the Secretary General's office, paid a visit to the Fund on 26/12/2012.*



Fourth : Points of View

*Arab -African Cooperation,
by : Amb. Mona Omar,
Assistant Egyptian Foreign Secretary for African Affairs.*



The contemporary Afro-Arab relations came into being in March 1945 with the inception of the League of Arab States, which paid special attention to the issue of decolonizing Arab and African countries. The nature of the relationship between both parties has been special due to the fact that 10 of the Arab League member states are African, representing thereby 70% of the Arab world's population.. Many countries from the African wing of the Arab world were historically the first to delve into the milieu of Afro-Arab relations, but only with the arrival of the late seventies of the past century did the Asian wing establish relations with the African states. The Afro-Arab relations reached their peak following the First Afro-Arab Summit, held in 1977 thanks to an Egyptian initiative, with the

participation of 16 Arab presidents and kings from the Asian Arab countries in addition to 45 African heads of state. The Summit issued numerous declarations and plans of action aimed at shoring up the Afro-Arab relations and cooperation in the political, economic, financial, commercial, social, educational, cultural, and media fields. However, the Afro-Arab relations reached a stalemate that eventually led to the deferment of the Second Summit until 2010. This was mainly due to the Algerian-Moroccan conflict and the signing of the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel. As a result, 17 Arab states severed their diplomatic ties with Egypt, leaving it with only two allies, one from the Nile Basin and the other from Eastern Africa, namely Sudan and Somalia. Moreover, some Arab countries attempted to move their battle with Egypt to the African arena, especially with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which added insult to injury. Consequently, the relations became engulfed with an air of lukewarmness and a lack of enthusiasm for reviving relations, in addition to the presence of some African countries that harboured animosity towards the Arabs and extent of call for the dividing of the continent into north and south, in order to tighten her grip on their areas of influence. It is noteworthy however that most of the causes were due to the Arab-Arab rifts.

The Second Summit held in 2010 in Sirte, Libya, with the participation of 35 Arab and African heads of state, adopted a number of documents including the Arab-African partnership strategy that stipulated the convening of a Summit every 3 years, a meeting of the Joint Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers every 18 months, as well a meeting of the African-Arab Partnership Committee (the new

appellation of the Standing Committee for the Afro-Arab Cooperation) once a year at ministerial level, and twice a year at senior officials level. With a view to enhancing the cooperation, an Afro-Arab technical committee and a coordination committee shall convene. Furthermore, ministerial and sectoral forums as well joint meetings of the Arab African Parliament, administrations and units in charge of the Arab African cooperation shall be held.

The Summit adopted a 2011-2016 plan of actions that included the objectives, activities, actors, execution mechanisms, foreseeable results and funding ways of the four key axes of the joint strategy. The Sirte declaration was thereby issued. This declaration expressed the Afro-Arab stance on the international issues of mutual interest, and embedded 3 decisions related to the implementation of the joint strategy, the establishment of an Afro-Arab Fund, and the fostering of the peace process in Sudan. Moreover, the works of the Summit included the establishing of a High-Level Investment Forum. It was decided that the 2013 Third Summit will be hosted by Kuwait.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning that the execution and follow-up mechanisms include the convening of an Afro-Arab Summit once every three years. An ordinary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council is held every 18 months in addition to the Standing Committee, formed of 24 ministers. Twelve of the previously mentioned ministers will be selected by the African Union Organization (previously)ⁱ, as for the other twelve they will be chosen by the Arab League or its representing ambassadorsⁱⁱ and the General

i. The members of the committee from the African side : from the west (Burkina Faso-Ghana-Guinea- Sierra Leone), from the north (Egypt-Tunisia), from the east (Tanzania-Sudan), from the south (Zimbabwe-Botswana), from the centre (Cameroun-Congo).

ii. The Arab members of the committee : Algeria, KSA, UAE, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Syria.

Secretaries of both organizations (the African Union Organization and the Arab League of States). The committee has urged the two organizations to promptly establish the Afro-Arab Association for Funding and Investment. Furthermore, it reiterated its call upon the Arab and African leaders to rapidly launch the necessary consultations with a view to finish the establishment of an Afro-Arab Preferential Trade Area.

Under the authority of the standing committee, the coordination commission carries out the task of forming working groups and specialized commissions, whenever necessary. The commission is formed of experts from both sides in the trade, metallurgy, industry, agriculture, forestry, energy and water resources. In addition to its mentioned tasks, the commission is in charge of implementing the decisions issued by the standing committee and the Summit meetings.

One of the bodies established within this framework is the Special Afro-Arab Tribunal, and the Reconciliation and Settlement Commission in charge of providing the legal interpretation of the texts that regulate the Afro-Arab Cooperation. Another body that was established to reinforce the cooperation between the two sides is the Afro-Arab Cultural Centre, the executive board of which is formed of 5 countries from the Arab side (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Libya and Lebanon) and 5 from the African side (Tunisia, Chad, Senegal, Kenya and Malawi). A Special Fund is put into place to ensure the good functioning of the executive bodies of the Afro-Arab Cooperation. It is funded by a 50% contribution provided by both organizations.

As for Egypt it has devoted a special interest to the African dimension in general and to the Afro-Arab work in particular. An interest that translates its dual affiliation showing thereby the utmost importance it allocates to devising a strategic partnership that sets a framework for a long term Afro-Arab action. This partnership is carried out according to a plan of action based on the priorities of cooperation in politics, peace, security, economy, finance, agricultural development and food security as well as cooperation in the social and cultural domain. Indeed, these priorities have always been called upon by our African and Arab peoples. In fact, Egypt has constantly stressed upon the necessity to set new cooperation strategies aimed at drawing further investments in the sectors of mutual interest and the developmental projects as metallurgy, agricultural industry and health care.