



**FOURTH AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT
23 NOVEMBER 2016
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

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**DECLARATION
ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE**

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WE the leaders of African and Arab countries, meeting in our Fourth Africa-Arab Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 23 November 2016, under the Theme "Together for Sustainable Development and Economic Cooperation;"

RECALLING all Resolutions and Decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union and the League of Arab States on the Question of Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

REAFFIRMING our full support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate rights, including the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State co-existing peacefully and side by side with the State of Israel with East Jerusalem as its capital, and **CALLING FOR** the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 194 requiring the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes and properties;

REITERATING our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations Resolutions; and **EXPRESSING** support for the two-state solution, based on the June 1967 borders;

APPRECIATING the Egyptian effort with Arab and African background, and the call of his Excellency President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to reach a just settlement for the Palestinian cause, based on the two state solution and which leads to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, as solving the Palestinian issue is an indispensable base for achieving further security and stability in the region.

ALSO APPRECIATING the important role that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan plays in conserving and protecting the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Eastern Jerusalem for the purpose of preserving their Islamic and Christian identity in the face of the Israeli campaign and policies aimed at Judaizing them, by means of the historic Hashemite sponsorship of those Holy Sites under the auspices of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Hussein the King of Jordan.

RENEWING our call for the resumption of the peace process to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East; and **SUPPORTING** all initiatives aimed at bringing peace to the region, in particular the Arab Peace Initiative, and lately the French initiative of holding international peace conference aimed at ending the Israeli occupation and the Arab-Israel Conflict in accordance with a specific timeframe and new international mechanisms;

CONDEMNING the continued Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes, and **FURTHER CONDEMNING** illegal settlements policy in the Occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan Heights;

EQUALLY DEMANDING that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian civilian populations as well as arbitrary arrests of Palestinians, including children and women which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children;

HEREBY:

1. **REITERATE** that the UN Security Council should shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab – Israel conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of a two state solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous relevant Decisions and resolutions in this regard
2. **REJECT AND CONDEMN** the Israeli illegal settlements policy, and **CALL UPON** the International community to put pressure on Israel, to immediately stop these settlements;
3. **STRESS** that Israel’s construction of settlements constitutes a grave breach of International Law, undermines the contiguity, unity and viability of the State of Palestine and jeopardizes the prospects for realization of the two-state solution on the basis of the June 1967 borders, as well as the prospects of peace in the region.
4. **CONDEMN** Israel’s continued imprisonment and detention of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, and the practice of solitary confinement in the Israeli military detention system, which violate international law, and calls on member states to work with the international community to pressure Israel, to abide by its obligations under International Law as an occupying power, and **CALL UPON** the international community to exert all efforts to ensure the release of all Palestinians from the Israeli jails.
5. **FURTHER REJECT** the land and sea blockage imposed by the occupation force on the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian territories, which have led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and **DEMAND** an immediate lifting of the occupation’s restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
6. **REAFFIRM** strong support for the efforts of the State of Palestine to mobilize international support for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and **CALL ON** the Security Council to make a positive recommendation on the application submitted by the State of Palestine for admission to full membership of the United Nations, and invites the states which have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so soon;
7. **FURTHER CONDEMN** the continued serious violations of human rights committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinian people throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, by the use of excessive force and indiscriminate,

deliberate killings, and **CALL ON** the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, to take all measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and in this regard **APPRECIATE** the convening of the International Conference on the Suffering of the Palestinian child from Israeli violations and which is due to be held during the first quarter of 2017 in the state of Kuwait.

8. **FURTHER STRESS** that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, and **UNDERLINE** the need for combined efforts to ensure its restoration to the Palestinian sovereignty as the capital of the State of Palestine. **CALL UPON** Member States to counteract the Judaization policies pursued by Israel, in the holy city to isolate it from its Palestinian surroundings, and **FURTHER CALL UPON** the international community to compel Israel, to halt all its acts of aggression and violation against Islamic and Christian holy places, particularly the Al Haram Al Sharif, Al Aqsa Mosque, and its policies to change the historic status quo of the mosque.
9. **URGE** Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
10. **REAFFIRM** the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Independent, sovereign and viable State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian efforts to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
11. **COMMEND** the tireless efforts of His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, *Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, in order to defend the legal status of East Jerusalem and to protect its civilized and humanitarian heritage and help its people in their steadfastness in their city*
12. **WELCOME** the decision of the UNESCO on the status of conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem. of 26 October 2016, and **REFUSE** any attempt to Judaize it, and **CALL UPON** the different stakeholders to respect the full implementation of this decision,
13. **REITERATE** the importance of continuous African-Arab coordination on the Palestine Question, and **CALL UPON** Member States to support resolutions related to Palestine and maintain their unified stand at the international fora.