



The 29th Ordinary Session of the Council
of the League of Arab States at the Summit Level

"The Jerusalem Summit"

Dhahran Declaration

**Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Sunday 29th Rajab 1439 AH / 15th April 2018**

Dhahran Declaration

We, the leaders of Arab States, assembled at the 29th Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Summit level in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on 29th Rajab 1439 AH/ 15th April 2018, upon the generous invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Emphasize the importance of promoting the joint Arab action based on a clear methodology and solid foundation that safeguard our nation from dangers, maintain security and stability, secure a prosperous and promising future that brings hope and prosperity to future generations, and contribute to restoring hope to our Arab peoples who suffered from the scourge of the so-called Arab Spring and the subsequent events and transformations that have had a an attritional impact on the Arab nation.

There is no doubt that the Arab nation has passed through dangerous detours due to the rapid circumstances and changes at the regional and international arenas, and that it recognized the schemes aimed at interfering in its internal affairs and destabilizing its security and controlling its destiny, all of which call upon us to be more united, concerted and determined to build a better future that contributes to achieving the hopes and aspirations of our peoples, prevents the interference of states and external parties in the affairs of the region and the imposition of foreign agendas that are inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and human rights and that spread chaos, ignorance, exclusion and marginalization.

Based on our firm belief that the peoples of the Arab nation, who have been inspired by the experiences of the past and who are living the present, are the most qualified and capable of looking forward to the future with firm and relentless determination, we decide the following:

1. Reaffirm the centrality of the Question of Palestine to the entire Arab nation and the significance of the Arab identity of occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine;
2. Stress the importance of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East as a strategic Arab option, reflected in the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by all the Arab States at the Beirut Summit in 2002, and supported by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and which remains the most comprehensive plan for resolving all final status issues, particularly the issue of refugees, and providing security, acceptance and peace to Israel and all Arab States, and underline our commitment to the Initiative and our adherence to all its clauses.

Affirm the illegality and illegitimacy of the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as capital of Israel, and categorically reject recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, whereas East Jerusalem will remain the capital of the State of Palestine; and warn of taking any actions that would alter the current legal and political status of Jerusalem which shall result in serious implications on the entire Middle East.

Welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly on Jerusalem and express gratitude to its supportive countries, while reaffirming our continued efforts to relaunch serious and effective Palestinian Israeli peace negotiations that end the political failure facing the Question due to the intransigent Israeli positions; aspire that the negotiations be conducted in

accordance with a specific time frame to end the conflict on the basis of the two-State solution that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of 4th June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which constitutes the only solution to achieve security and stability in the region; and support the vision of the Palestinian President for peace as he announced in his statement before the Security Council on 20th February 2018.

Affirm our rejection of all unilateral Israeli measures aiming to alter the facts on the ground and undermine the two-State solution; call upon the international community to implement the international legitimacy resolutions, the latest of which is Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016 that condemned settlement activities and land confiscation; and also emphasize our support for the outcome of the Paris Conference on the Middle East held on 15th January 2017 that renewed the commitment of the international community to the two-State solution as the only solution to achieve lasting peace.

Demand the implementation of all Security Council resolutions pertaining to Jerusalem that stress the invalidity of all Israeli measures aimed at altering East Jerusalem landmarks and confiscate its true Arab identity; and call upon all countries of the world not to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem or recognize it as capital of Israel.

Emphasize the need to implement the resolution adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 200th Session on 18th October 2016; call upon the international community to assume its responsibilities regarding the Israeli violations and arbitrary measures against Al-Aqsa Mosque and its worshipers; and consider the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque as the only legal authority over Al-Haram regarding its administration, maintenance and preservation and the organization of access to it.

3. Condemn in the strongest terms the targeting of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the launching of 119 ballistic missiles by the Iranian-backed terrorist Houthi militias towards Makkah, Riyadh and a number of the Kingdom's cities; emphasize our support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all measures taken to protect its security and capabilities; and call upon the international community to strengthen the sanctions on Iran and its militias, prevent it from supporting terrorist groups and supplying the terrorist Houthi militias with the Iranian-made ballistic missiles launched from Yemeni territories toward the Saudi cities, and abide by UN Security Council Resolution 2216 which prohibits the provision of weapons to the Houthis.

Affirm our support to the Kingdom of Bahrain in all measures taken to protect its security and capabilities from external interference and its sinister hands.

Support the endeavours of the Arab Coalition to support the legitimacy in Yemen in order to end the Yemeni crisis on the basis of the GCC Initiative and its executive mechanisms, the outcome of the National Dialogue Conference and Security Council Resolution 2216 of 2015 in a manner that ensures Yemen's independence and its territorial integrity and prevents the interference in its internal affairs and safeguards its security and the security of its neighbouring countries; commend the reconstruction initiatives and the stand of the coalition countries with the brotherly Yemeni people through the Renewal of Hope Initiative and its relief, treatment and development assistance through relief and humanitarian projects provided by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre; welcome the decision by the Arab Coalition countries to

support legitimacy in Yemen to open Sana'a International Airport and the port of Al-Hudaydah on the Red Sea to receive relief and humanitarian assistance; and commend the assistance provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait to Yemen.

Commend the keenness of the Arab Coalition to abide by international law and international humanitarian law in its military operations in Yemen despite all of the dangerous terrorist Houthi provocations and practices against the Yemeni people and the security of the coalition countries.

Reject the Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries, and condemn the aggressive attempts to destabilize the security and to fuel doctrinal and sectarian strife in Arab States, including Iran's support for and arming of the terrorist militias in a number of Arab countries as it violates the principles of good neighborliness, the rules of international relations, the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Call upon Iran to withdraw its militias and armed elements from all Arab countries, particularly Syria and Yemen.

Emphasize the commitment to adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and that our relations with other countries should be based on mutual respect and positive cooperation to ensure establishing security, peace and stability and advance the process of development.

4. Stress the need to find a political solution to end the crisis in Syria, in order to achieve the aspirations of the Syrian people who are suffering under aggression, safeguard Syria's unity, sovereignty and independence, and end the presence of all external forces and sectarian terrorist groups, based on the Geneva 1 communiqué outcomes, the communiqués of the Syria International Support Group, and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2254 of 2015, for there is no way to stop the bloodshed except by reaching a peaceful settlement that achieves a real transition to a political reality shaped and agreed upon by all components of the Syrian people through the Geneva process which constitutes the only framework to negotiate a peaceful resolution; and we commit with the international community to alleviate the human suffering in Syria to avoid new humanitarian crises.

We have followed the recent actions of Western powers in Syria, and emphasize the need combine all efforts to reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria, stress our categorical condemnation of the use of chemical weapons against the brotherly Syrian people, call for an independent international investigation that includes the application of international law against anyone proven to have used these weapons.

5. Reiterate our solidarity with Lebanon and our concern for its stability and territorial integrity in the face of repeated Israeli violations of its sovereignty; express our support for Lebanon in shouldering the burden of the Syrian displacement crisis; and commend the success of the Rome and Paris conferences which reflect the international and Arab community's keenness on the stability and prosperity of Lebanon.
6. Reiterate that Iraq's security, stability and territorial integrity are an important part of the Arab national security system; stress our unqualified support to Iraq in its efforts to eradicate terrorist groups; and value the achievements of the Iraqi army in liberating other Iraqi provinces and regions from terrorists.

Support the efforts aimed at restoring security and peace to Iraq and achieving national reconciliation through the activation of a political process that results in justice and equality and leads to a secure and stable Iraq.

Express gratitude to the efforts of the State of Kuwait in hosting the Iraq Reconstruction Conference, thank the countries contributing to the reconstruction, and aspire for Iraq security, prosperity and progress within the framework of its Arab community under whose umbrella we are meeting.

7. Stress the importance of supporting the legitimate Libyan institutions; support the Quartet dialogue hosted by the League of Arab States with the participation of the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations; support the efforts to reach an agreement to end the crisis through national reconciliation in accordance with the Skhirat agreement that safeguards the unity and cohesion of the community fabric of Libya; commend the role of Libya's neighboring countries and call upon them to continue providing support to advance political settlement process in Libya.

Emphasize our steadfast solidarity with the State of Libya in its efforts to eradicate the terrorist groups and to eliminate the danger posed by its holdouts and remnants to Libya and its neighbours.

8. Commit to establish the possible means and dedicate all necessary endeavors to eliminate terrorist groups and defeat terrorists in all the arenas of military, security and intellectual confrontation, and to continue fighting terrorism and eliminating its causes and eradicating its internal and external supporters, organizers and sponsors, such as Iran and its wings in the Middle East and Africa, and hope that the free world will support us so that we may enjoy peace, security and development.

Emphasize our keenness to prevent terrorists from exploiting information technology and social media in recruitment, propaganda, as well as dissemination of extremist ideologies and hatred that distort the true image of Islam.

9. Strongly condemn the attempts to associate terrorism with Islam; call upon the international community represented by the United Nations to adopt a unified definition of terrorism, as terrorism has no religion, no homeland and no identity; and call on the governments of all countries to assume their responsibilities to combat this dangerous scourge.

Deplore the distortion of some extremist groups in the world of the true image Islam by associating true Islam with terrorism, and warn that such attempts only serve terrorism itself.

Condemn the acts of terrorism, violence and human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar; call upon the international community to assume its responsibilities and to take effective diplomatic, legal and humanitarian action to stop these violations and to hold the government of Myanmar fully accountable.

10. Emphasize the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its Three Islands (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu-Musa); support all the measures taken by the UAE to restore its sovereignty over these islands; and call on Iran to respond to the initiative by the UAE to find a peaceful resolution to the Three Island issue through direct negotiation or resorting to the International Court of Justice.

11. Affirm full solidarity with our brothers in the Republic of the Sudan in order to safeguard the national sovereignty of the country and to strengthen the efforts exerted to consolidate peace, security and achieve development.
12. Reiterate our support to the efforts of the Arab States bordering the Red Sea to enhance its security and in its international waterways as a cornerstone for regional and international peace and security.
13. Affirm our continued support to the Federal Republic of Somalia to extend security and stability, to combat terrorism, to rebuild and strengthen national institutions and to address economic and development challenges.
14. Affirm our continued support to the initiative of the National Dialogue of the Union of the Comoros and stand with the Union of the Comoros to achieve the vision of reaching the ranks of emerging countries by 2030.
15. Support the efforts of Sudan, Somalia and the Comoros to benefit from the initiative of international financial institutions on highly indebted countries.
16. Welcome the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to convene the Arab Cultural Summit, aspiring that it will contribute to advancing culture and enlightenment and ignite the spark of the authentic Arab scientific and ethical values to catch up with the progress of culture in which the nation fell behind due to wars, strife and unrest.
17. Emphasize the importance of the role played by the Arab Parliament in the process of joint Arab action; support it exercising the tasks assigned to it effectively through initiatives that support the advancement of our nation in order to achieve greater prosperity and progress of the peoples of the region, in conformity with the orientations of the League of Arab States, as well as strengthening its advisory role in order to achieve the desired future for sustainable development, creating opportunities and enshrining the values of justice, human rights, citizenship and equality to enhance Arab identity and prevent confessional or sectarian disintegration and unite the Arab ranks to serve the peoples of the region and to achieve the aspirations of their countries.
18. Value the efforts exerted by the Economic and Social Council in particular, and the organizations and Councils of the League of Arab States in general, in following-up the resolutions of the previous Arab Summits and striving to implement them with a view towards developing Arab economic cooperation, increasing trade, strengthening and linking infrastructure in the fields of transport and energy, promoting inter-Arab investments in a manner that contributes to creating regional and economic development, providing job opportunities for the Arab youth; value, in this context, the achievements made in the field of sustainable development and look forward to the continued development of the partnership with the private sector and creation of a conducive investment environment, and appreciate the efforts being exerted towards the creation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and the Customs Union.
19. Express sincere thanks and gratitude to the King, Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their warm reception, generous hospitality and concerted organization of the Summit, and express our sincere respect and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud for his wise stewardship of the Summit's proceedings and his valuable efforts exerted to support the joint Arab action and enhance coordination and cooperation in the service of the Arab world and confronting the challenges it faces.