



The speech of His Excellency Mr.
Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Secretary-General of the League of
Arab States

At the 37th African Union Summit

Addis Ababa: 17 February 2024



Your Excellency President Azali Assoumani,
President of the Republic of Comoros,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency Mr. Musa Faki,
Chairman of the African Union Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend my sincere greetings to His Excellency President Azali Assoumani for his successful presidency of the African Union. I also congratulate His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on assuming the presidency, expressing confidence that his leadership will significantly contribute to elevating our partnership and reinforcing it in support of our countries' priorities and advocating for the issues of our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Arab-African partnership stands as one of the oldest, reflecting the deep ties between the Arab and African regions. We aim to bolster our efforts to propel this partnership towards broader horizons, leveraging the natural and human resources inherent in both regions.

The convening of the Fifth Arab-African Summit signifies a shared interest and a significant milestone in the cooperation between the two regions. The League of Arab States is committed to working consistently with all parties, preparing diligently for its assembly, enhancing efforts for the success of ongoing Arab-African cooperation programmes, and advancing the necessary steps for establishing institutions like the Arab-African Fund for Disaster Reduction, the Arab-African Centre for



the Exchange of Information on Migration, and other collaborative institutional frameworks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Gaza Strip continues to endure a barbaric war, unprecedented in its brutality and violation of international humanitarian law. Tens of thousands, mostly women and children, have lost their lives. The occupation, devoid of legal or moral legitimacy, persists in committing massacres, implementing a far-right plan to ethnically cleanse and depopulate the Occupied Territories.

This brutal war highlights an international inability to halt the aggression, despite the strength of global opinion and the resounding rejection of these crimes. On the other side, the war has awakened the voice of the South, uniting countries in solidarity with the Palestinian right and opposing the last remaining colonialism on earth.

We highly value all African positions that have expressed a principled bias towards the values of justice, law, and human rights. We emphatically state that these positions must persist and deepen until the occupation is terminated, and an independent Palestinian state is established on the 1967 borders -- the only rational solution to end the conflict. This solution has been endorsed by the League of Arab States since the adoption of the Arab Peace Initiative at the 2002 Beirut Summit.

In this context, it is crucial to acknowledge the commendable efforts made by South Africa in Lebanon



— holding the occupation accountable, exposing its crimes, and endeavouring to end the massacre by filing a lawsuit against Israel in the International Court of Justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The war continues to intensify in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, unfortunately escalating in fierceness. The League of Arab States, in its resolutions and meetings, persistently calls for an immediate halt to armed clashes to stem bloodshed, preserve the security and safety of the Sudanese people and their resources, and uphold Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Our approach aligns with the African Union and the United Nations, moving harmoniously to achieve these goals based on the following main determinants :

(1) Upholding the institutions of the Sudanese state to prevent their collapse, demonstrating complete solidarity with the Republic of Sudan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

(2) Supporting endeavours to establish conditions for a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire, including the initiatives of the Jeddah Platform and any other endeavours that can achieve this outcome without further bloodshed.

(3) Initiating a comprehensive political process in Sudan, leading to the formation of a transitional government with defined and agreed-upon responsibilities, emphasising



the importance of incorporating the Sudanese state in any launched initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Supporting the security, stability, unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Somalia remains among the main priorities of the League of Arab States. The League acknowledges the accomplishments achieved by Somalia at various levels. However, the most pressing challenge facing the Somali state is the separatist attempts in some of its regions. The League continues its efforts to support Somalia in defending its sovereign rights, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations, the African Union, and relevant regional organisations, to prevent any threat to the unity and sovereignty of Somalia.

Regarding the situation in Libya, which is a shared and significant priority for us in both the Arab and African worlds, we urge all Libyan parties to seek a political solution and overcome obstacles preventing the holding of elections. This is crucial to achieving political stability, preserving the country's unity and sovereignty, ending foreign military presence, and enhancing dialogue with neighbouring countries. The League of Arab States expresses its desire to continue working closely with the African Union to accomplish these objectives.

The challenges we face are considerable and persistent, but our collaborative efforts remain the chosen path to confront challenges and crises and shape the future.



Thank you, and may God's peace, mercy, and blessings
be upon you.

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