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Secretariat General
League of Arab States

The 28th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level

Amman - the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
5th Rajab 1438 AH – 29th March 2017 AD

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Resolutions

Reports submitted to the Summit

**Report of the Presidency
of the Previous Summit (27th Ordinary Session)
on
the proceedings of the Follow-up Committee on
Implementation of Resolutions and Obligations**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Summit Presidency on the work of the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of Resolutions and Obligations,
 - The final report submitted by the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of Resolutions and Obligations,
- *Pursuant to the Committee Statute,*
 - 1- *Expresses gratitude and appreciation* to HE President Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Chairman of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level, for his cordial auspices of the follow-up efforts towards the implementation of Kuwait Summit resolutions (2016);
 - 2- *Thanks* the Member States of the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of Resolutions and Obligations and the Secretary-General for the valuable efforts they exerted in following up the implementation process of this Summit resolutions.

(S.R. 672 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Reports submitted to the Summit

**Report of the Secretary-General
on
the Joint Arab Action and its Annexes**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General and its annexes on the diverse areas of the joint Arab action,
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretary-General at the Opening Session,

Commends the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action and its annexes that covered diverse areas of the joint Arab action; and *thanks* the Secretary-General and his assistants for this report.

(S.R. 673 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Political Developments Follow-up
of the Palestine Question, the Arab-Israeli Conflict
and Enforcement of the Arab Peace Initiative**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, which was held in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on political developments follow-up of the question of Palestine, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 643 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session on 25th July 2016,
 - 1- *Reaffirms* the importance of the Palestine question to the entire Arab nation and the significance of the Arab identity of the occupied East Jerusalem; capital of the State of Palestine; *Reiterates* the right of the State of Palestine to sovereignty over all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, its airspace, territorial waters, and borders with neighbouring countries;
 - 2- *Emphasizes* strong adherence and commitment of the Arab States to the Arab Peace Initiative, as endorsed by Beirut Summit in 2002, and that just and comprehensive peace is a strategic option; which shall only be achieved by ending the Israeli occupation of the entire Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967; enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish an independent fully sovereign State of Palestine; the release of all prisoners in the Israeli occupation jails and resolving the issue of Palestinian refugees based on international law, the international legitimacy resolutions, the successive Arab summits resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
 - 3- *Calls for* the international community to implement Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016, which emphasized, inter alia, that Israeli settlement activities constitute a flagrant violation of international law and an obstacle towards peace, demanded Israel (the occupation Power) to immediate and complete halt of all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and underlined that international community shall not recognize any changes to the borders of 4th June 1967, including Jerusalem, except for the changes to be mutually agreed upon between the two parties through negotiations;
 - 4- *Condemns* the Israeli government's policy aiming to undermine the two-State solution and to consecrate the (apartheid) system instead; *Condemns* the enforcement of the Israeli law on the settlements established on Palestinian citizens' territories in the occupied State of Palestine, particularly the so-called "Settlement Law", thereby the legitimization of the settlement construction, annexation and expansion of the so-called area (C) of the occupied West Bank;

- 5- *Considers* that Israel (the occupying Power), in light of its practices, policies and laws, has established the apartheid system against the Palestinian people, in violation of international human rights law, including the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of 1973 and all relevant international resolutions and reports; *Demands* world countries, international organizations and courts to address such Israeli practices criminalized by relevant international laws and rejected by the entire world;
- 6- *Calls on* all countries that support the two-State solution and have not yet recognized the State of Palestine, particularly the Security Council permanent members and European Union countries to accelerate their recognition of the State of Palestine, as a contribution towards achieving peace through the two-State solution;
- 7- *Calls for* all countries to abide by Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980, which deem Israel's law to annex the occupied East Jerusalem null and void; and not to establish or transfer diplomatic missions in the city of Jerusalem; *Calls on* the Member States, the Secretary-General, the Councils of Arab Ambassadors and the Arab League missions to follow up on any stance that breaches relevant Security Council resolutions and international law in this regard; and to effectively address these stances; and *emphasizes* the resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its different levels in this regard;
- 8- *Highlights* the Declaration on Palestine issued by Africa-Arab Summit convened in Malabo in 2016 and its implementation follow-up; *underlines* cooperation with the African Union to support the question of Palestine and to confront the Israeli attempts to evade the significance of the Palestinian question in the Africa, which was based on common values against colonialism, persecution and racial discrimination; *warns* of the increase of the Israeli encroaching on the Palestinian question, i.e. holding conferences between the two sides; urging the African countries not to participate in any Africa-Israeli conferences; and *commends* the efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Addis Ababa in this regard;
- 9- *Rejects* nomination of Israel (the occupying Power) for the Security Council membership for the period of 2019-2020 due to its non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the nomination, pursuant to the United Nations Charter, as it is an occupation power with a long history of flagrant violations of provisions of United Nations Charter, international legitimacy resolutions, principles of international law and human rights;
- 10- *Denounces* commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated "Balfour Declaration" in Britain; and *urges* the British government to recognize the State of Palestine, as it bears the historical responsibility for the suffering of the Palestinian people;
- 11- *Implements* the formation of an advisory legal committee within the framework of the League of Arab States to provide an advisory opinion on filing lawsuits before international courts on the Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's rights, territories, properties and Holy places, as well as on the historical injustices suffered by the Palestinian people, including the "Balfour Declaration" in 1917 and to provide practical proposals in this regard;

- 12- *Reaffirms* rejection to the recognition of Israel as a Jewish State;
- 13- *Calls for* the resumption of the joint Arab and Islamic action at the governments, parliaments and unions levels to support the question of Palestine; and *continues* to assign the Arab League Secretary-General to consult and coordinate with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the different issues and procedures relevant to the question of Palestine, and implementation mechanisms of Arab and Islamic resolutions thereof;
- 14- *Continues* to support the decisions taken by the Central Council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization calling for reconsideration of all the political, economic and security Palestinian relations with Israel (the occupying Power) so as to ensure its compliance with the signed conventions and its respect for the international law and relevant international legitimacy resolutions;
- 15- *Underlines* its respect for the national Palestinian legitimacy under the leadership of HE President Mahmoud Abbas, commending his efforts towards the Palestinian national reconciliation, the formation of a national unity government according to the programme of the Palestine Liberation Organization, conducting general elections shortly and adherence to the unity of the Palestinian representation and Palestinian territories; and *emphasizes* that the Palestinian national unity, under the umbrella of the Palestinian Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and represents the firm guarantor to safeguard the national Palestinian rights;
- 16- *Commends* the tireless efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation, i.e. hosting the Palestinian national dialogue rounds and the Cairo Agreement of 2011, urging Egypt to continue its endeavours in this regard; and *hails* the efforts of the State of Qatar and the remaining Arab States in this regard;
- 17- *Welcomes* the presidency of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Chair of the 28th Arab Summit;
- 18- *Continues* to assign the two Arab groups at the Human Rights Council and UNESCO to coordinate with the countries and regional groups in order to support and follow up on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the two organizations on Palestine;
- 19- *Continues* to assign the Arab Group in the United Nations to:
 - Mobilize support and endorsement for resolutions on the question of Palestine in the General Assembly; and follow up on the efforts exerted within the framework of Security Council so as to bear its responsibilities to preserve international peace and security, end the occupation and halt all illegitimate Israeli practices,
 - Follow up on implementation of Security Council Resolution 2334 on the illegal Israeli settlement activities in the State of Palestine,
 - Follow up on the State of Palestine obtaining a full United Nations membership,
 - Take all the necessary measures to stand against Israel's nomination (the occupying Power) for the Security Council membership for the period of 2019-2020, and for any other Israeli nomination at the United Nations bodies and committees.

- 20- *Assigns* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(S.R. 674 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Developments and Israeli Violations in Occupied
Jerusalem**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
- *Emphasizing* all its previous resolutions on the occupied Jerusalem, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 642 on 25th July 2016,
 - 1- *Reaffirms* that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine, rejecting any attempts to undermine the Palestinian sovereignty thereof;
 - 2- *Strongly condemns* and *absolutely rejects* all illegal Israeli policies and schemes aiming to annexation of the Holy City, distorting its Arab identity, altering its demographic composition and isolating it from its Palestinian environs, all of which constitute a breach of relevant Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980;
 - 3- *Stresses* rejection and condemnation of the violations committed by Israel (the occupying Power) against the Islamic and Christian Holy Places, in particular the attempts aiming to alteration of the existing historical and the legal status, the spatio-temporal demographic division of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, attempts to undermine the freedom of Muslim worshippers forcing them out of the Mosque through imposing control over the administration of the Islamic and Christian Waqf in the occupied Jerusalem, attacking personnel of the Jordanian Jerusalem Awqaf and preventing them from exercising their duty, imposing Israeli law over the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif, and the Israeli excavations under and inside the walls of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque;
 - 4- *Deplores* the constant hostilities perpetrated by Israel and Israeli extremist officials and settlers against the sanctity of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque under support, protection and participation of the Israeli government; and *warns* that jeopardizing the sanctity of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque would have serious consequence and implications on international peace and security;
 - 5- *Denounces* Israel (the occupying Power) for confiscating the lands of Jerusalemite citizens to establish new settlements and to expand existing ones, through building thousands of settlement units inside and outside the Old City Walls;
 - 6- *Denounces* the construction of the Apartheid Wall around Jerusalem; and *demand*s the international community and the United Nations, in particular the Security Council to take the necessary measures to force Israel (the occupying Power) to remove the constructed parts of this Wall, in implementation of the Advisory Opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on 9th July 2004 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (15/10) on 20th July 2004; which deem the Wall construction a violation of the jus cogens of the international law, including the right to self-determination, and that the international community must end this gross violation;

- 7- *Condemns* Israel's (the occupying Power) continued expropriation and demolition of houses in the city of Jerusalem to serve its settlement projects in the Holy City, as well as the continued clearing of thousands of dunams for the construction of the greater Jerusalem project, including the construction of the so-called project (E1) the construction of a belt of settlements to ensure the geographical discontinuity of Palestine in a view to tightening of its control over Jerusalem;
- 8- *Condemns* Israeli procedures to apply a racist law that targets the right of Palestinian Jerusalemites to live in their City, according to which Jerusalemite identification cards are being withdrawn from thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites living inside or outside the environs of occupied Jerusalem; *condemns* Israel (the occupying Power) for its resumption to apply the so-called "Absentee Property Law" that targets confiscation of properties of Jerusalemites; and *demand*s all international institutions and entities to pressure Israel (the occupying Power) to stop its racist decisions and laws, which seek to clear the City from its native inhabitants by force eviction from their city; imposing high taxes and prohibiting them from obtaining construction permits;
- 9- *Condemns* Israeli arbitrary measures that aim to the closure of national institutions operating in Jerusalem, demanding their reopening, in particular the Orient House and the Chamber of Commerce, to enable them to provide Jerusalemite citizens with services and to protect the Palestinian existence in the Holy City;
- 10- *Urges* all countries to implement resolutions of the successive sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board concerning the question of Palestine, particularly Resolution of the "Occupied Palestine", adopted by the 200th Session of the Board held in Paris on 18th November 2016, which confirmed that the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif is an exclusive Islamic heritage and that the Mughrabi Gate is an integral part of it and condemned hostilities of Israel (the occupying Power), calling for restoring the existing historical status quo in the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif, and considered that the Jordanian Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque Awqaf is the only legal authority over Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif affairs, including its administration, maintenance, restoration and regulation of access thereof;
- 11- *Calls on*, once again, the Arab capitals to endorse twinning projects with the City of Jerusalem; and *calls upon* education, cultural, economic, social and health government and non-government institutions to endorse twinning projects with their counterparts in Jerusalem in support for the occupied city of Jerusalem and to enhance the *sumud* of its people and institutions;
- 12- *Commends* the efforts exerted by HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Custodian of the Islamic and Christian Holy Places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif on defending and protecting the Holy Places; *rejects*, once again, all attempts of Israel (the occupying Power) to jeopardize this Hashemite custodianship; *values* the Jordanian role in protecting and safeguarding the Islamic and Christian Holy Places in Jerusalem, under the historical Hashemite custody, which was reaffirmed by the agreement signed between HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and HE President Mahmoud Abbas of the State of Palestine on 31st March 2013; *supports* the role of the Jordanian Administration of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque Waqf in preserving and defending Al-Haram in light of the

- Israeli violations and attacks against its personnel; and *calls upon* Israel (the occupying Power) to stop its aggression against the Administration and its personnel;
- 13- *Commends* the endeavours exerted by HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco, Chair of Al-Quds Committee in defending the Holy City and supporting *sumud* of the Palestinian people; as well as the efforts exerted by Bayt Mal Alquds Asharif, an affiliate of Jerusalem Committee;
 - 14- *Calls for* supporting and visiting Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian Holy Places; stressing the visit of Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif in order to lift the blockade imposed thereon, and to travel to the Mosque to protect it from the schemes of extremist Jewish groups;
 - 15- *Calls on* the Council of the Arab Ministers of Information to enhance the support programmes and projects on the occupied city of Jerusalem; and *calls upon* the Arab mass media to broadcast media programmes on the city of Jerusalem and its citizens and to reveal the perils of judaization that the Holy City is being subjected to;
 - 16- *Underlines* the Arab and Islamic collective responsibility towards Jerusalem; urging all the Arab and Islamic States and organizations, Arab funds and civil society organizations to finance and carry out development projects pertaining to key sectors in Jerusalem in order to save the Holy City, to protect its holy places and to enhance *sumud* of its people;
 - 17- *Continues* to assign the Arab Group in New York to resume its mobilization at the regional and political groups in the United Nations to reveal the danger to which the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque is subjected, including the Israeli serious judaization procedures and practices that have imminent implications on international peace and security;
 - 18- *Approves* the inclusion of the item "Developments and Israeli Violations in the Occupied City of Jerusalem" as a permanent item on the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level;
 - 19- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the procedures taken in this respect to the next session of the Council.

(S.R. 675 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Follow-up on Recent Developments of
(Settlements, the Wall, the Intifada, Refugees, UNRWA and
Development)**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions concerning developments of the Palestinian question, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 642 of 25th July 2016,

I. Settlements

- 1- *Strongly condemns* Israel's illegal expansionist colonial settlement policy with its different manifestations in all the territories of the State of Palestine occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem; *emphasizes* that Israeli settlements are null, void and shall not represent an acceptable fait accompli; and represent a breach of international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and represent a war crime according to Rome Statute, fully ignoring the Advisory Opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice adopted on 9th July 2004; and aim to dividing the Palestinian territories and to undermine its geographical contiguity; and *affirms* the need to develop practical plans to confront this Israeli policy;
- 2- *Calls for* the international community to implement Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016, which underlined that Israeli settlement activities constitute a flagrant violation of international law and an obstacle towards peace; urging Israel (the occupying Power) to immediately and completely halt settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem; and *emphasizes* the need to implement other relevant international resolutions on the illegitimacy and illegality of Israeli settlements, including Security Council Resolutions 465 of 1980 and 497 of 1981;
- 3- *Commends* the decisions and positions of the European Union condemning settlement activities, considering settlements as illegal and illegitimate entities, prohibiting financing enterprises in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, labeling settlement products; and indicating that the agreements signed between Israel (the occupying Power) and any European Union country shall not apply to the occupied Palestinian territories;
- 4- *Continues* to call upon all States, institutions, enterprises and individuals to stop all forms of transactions with Israeli settlements established in the occupied Palestinian territories, including banning import or investing in their products either directly or indirectly due to their violation of international law; and *appreciates*, in this regard, all international stances calling for the boycott of

institutions and enterprises that function in the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the State of Palestine;

- 5- *Strongly condemns* the continuous terrorist crimes perpetrated by settlers against unarmed Palestinians, their properties and worship places under protection of Israeli occupation authorities; holding Israel (the occupying Power) fully responsible for these crimes and incursions; *urges* the international community to stand against these racist crimes that violate international humanitarian law, the Four Geneva Conventions and other international treaties and conventions that ensure safety and security of peoples under occupation; and *calls upon* them to incorporate settler groups committing these crimes on terrorism lists and to impose financial sanctions and legal procedures against them;
- 6- *Denounces* the Israeli practices that use the occupied Palestinian territories as a disposal site of solid, hazardous and toxic wastes from inhabitants of Israeli settlements; and *calls upon* the World Environment Organization to investigate these violations and to adopt the necessary measures to prevent their grave health and environmental impacts on the occupied Palestinian territories;
- 7- *Deplores* all practices of the Israeli occupation and settlers that aim to control of large parts of Hebron and to deprive the Palestinian population from access to Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi, and to their homes, schools and work; and *calls for* expansion of the international presence mandate in Hebron to include protection of its civilians.

II. The Apartheid Wall

- 8- *Condemns* Israel (the occupying Power) for the construction of the Apartheid and Annexation Wall within the territories of the occupied State of Palestine in 1967, considering this wall as a form of apartheid; and *urges* all countries and concerned international organizations and bodies to respond to the Advisory Opinion adopted by the International Court of Justice on 9th July 2004 concerning the illegality and illegitimacy of the establishment of the Apartheid Wall, to refrain from recognizing the status created by the construction of this wall and from providing any assistance to the process of its establishment and to force the occupying Power to dismantle the constructed parts and provide compensation for any resulting hardships;
- 9- *Calls upon* all Member States to continue supporting the United Nations Register of Damage Committee Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as it is important to continue its proceedings that aim to documentation of the damages caused by the construction of the Apartheid Wall and to contribute to decreasing the financial deficit of the Committee;
- 10- *Urges* the international community to bear its responsibilities and stand against any forced migration of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli practices, as well as to bear its responsibilities to enforce the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the construction of the Apartheid Wall, and to submit the Wall's case file to the International Criminal Court to be included as a war crime that violates international law.

III. The Intifada

- 11- *Provides* every support and solidarity with the Palestinian people against the Israeli aggression on their territories, Holy Places and properties;

- 12- *Condemns* the field executions and arrests of the Palestinian children, girls and youth perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces; *demands* the International Criminal Court and other international justice mechanisms to investigate these crimes and to bring perpetrators to justice; and *condemns* Israeli occupation authorities' policy of demolishing houses of martyrs, detention of their bodies and punishing their families;
- 13- *Emphasizes* the need to terminate the humanitarian and economic crisis of the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza Strip as a result of the unjust blockade imposed by Israel; and *urges* the international community and international organizations to pressure Israel to lift the blockade imposed on the Strip and to immediately and permanently open the controlled crossings;
- 14- *Requests* the Secretariat General to continue coordination with the international community, government and non-government organizations to focus their efforts on addressing the deteriorating living conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories due to the oppressive Israeli practices, including barriers, blockade and siege along with their negative implications on all fields;
- 15- *Calls on* all countries to take part in the international conference to be hosted by the State of Kuwait during the period 9th - 11th May 2017 on the sufferings of the Palestinian children under Israel's violation (the occupying Power) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IV. The Prisoners

- 16- *Condemns* the continued detention and arrest of thousands of Palestinians, including children, women, political leaders and representatives by the Israeli occupation authorities, in addition to the continued mass arbitrary detention of the Palestinian citizens, being inconsistent with the principles of international law; *deplores* the adoption of the Israeli Knesset law that allows force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners and detainees on hunger strikes; and *continues* to demand concerned countries and international bodies to take immediate action to halt these arbitrary practices and flagrant violations against the Palestinian prisoners and to ensure the release of all prisoners and detainees as part of any political settlement;
- 17- *Urges* international agencies, institutions and bodies as well as concerned human rights organizations to bear their responsibilities and interfere immediately and urgently to compel the Israeli government to enforce the international and humanitarian law and the treatment of prisoners and detainees in its prisons in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war; *condemns* the policy of administrative detention against hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, holding the occupation authorities fully responsible for the life of striking prisoners and the life of all the prisoners; *warns* of the individual and collective punishment policy, as well as the serious situation in the Occupation's detention centres;
- 18- *Calls on* the international community and international rights agencies to pressure the Israeli occupation authority for the immediate release of all prisoners and detainees, in particular the fourth batch of veterans and sick prisoners, children, representatives and administrative detainees, forcing Israel to abandon its collective punishment policy which is inconsistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
- 19- *Urges* the international community to submit an inquiry commission to Israeli prisons so as to overlook the violations perpetrated against prisoners; and

emphasizes the need for the High Contracting Parties to the Four Geneva Conventions to force Israel (the occupying Power) to enforce the Conventions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails;

- 20- *Supports* the Palestinian approach towards prosecution of Israeli perpetrators of war crimes, committed against humanity and prisoners in violation of the humanitarian international law, the United Nations resolutions, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Four Geneva Conventions;
- 21- *Urges* the Arab and Islamic States, institutions and individuals to support the Arab Fund for Prisoners Support which is under the supervision of the League of Arab States according to Resolution 574, Paragraph (19) adopted by the 24th Ordinary Session of Doha Summit on 26th March 2013.

V. The Refugees

- 22- *Emphasizes* that the question of Palestinian refugees is the core of the Palestinian question; *underlines* adherence to the right of return of Palestinian refugees; *rejects* all forms of resettlement attempts; *rejects* any actions by international parties to forfeit the right of return; *calls on* the Secretariat General and Member States to continue to intensify their efforts in the international arena and the United Nations to confirm this right according to international legitimacy resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, and in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative; and *highlights* the legal, political and moral responsibility of Israel (the occupying Power) for the outset and continuation of the Palestinian refugees problem;
- 23- *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict in Syria to halt their incursions into the Palestinian refugee camps and to avoid engaging them in warfare despite their detachment since the outset of the conflict; *expresses* its profound concern over the continued incidents in the camps, demanding their evacuation of arms and militants, lifting the blockade and return of their population, and provision of all necessary services to support the Palestinian refugees thereof;
- 24- *Calls for* provision of the essential elements for decent human life to Palestinian refugees in the refugee camps, along with lifting the hardships and unjust discrimination practised by Israel (the occupying Power) against them.

VI. UNRWA

- 25- *Emphasizes* the authorization provided for UNRWA according to its founding resolution (General Assembly Resolution 302 of 1949) without prejudice to its mandate or responsibility, and unchange or hand over of its responsibilities to any other organ; and seeking that UNRWA and its United Nations terms of reference shall prevail; and *stresses* the need for UNRWA to continue bearing its responsibilities in providing services for the refugees in and outside the camps in all the UNRWA's operation areas, including the occupied Jerusalem, until the question of Palestinian refugees is justly and inclusively resolved according to the Arab Peace Initiative (2002) and relevant legitimacy resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948;
- 26- *Expresses* concern over the annual budget deficit; *stresses* the importance of continued provision of the necessary financial support for UNRWA's regular and emergency programmes and activities; and *calls on* the Secretariat General, its Missions abroad and Councils of Arab Ambassadors to continue fostering different channels of communication with all donor countries to urge them to

meet their financial obligations towards UNRWA, so as to enable the Agency to fully undertake its mandate, and not to force host Arab States to sustain additional burdens that primarily fall within the scope of UNRWA responsibilities;

- 27- *Urges* UNRWA to create adequate means to increase the database of donor countries and to increase their committed funds according to the needs of the Agency without reduction of any services provided thereof, pursuant to its founding Resolution 302 of 1949, to continue allocating its budget in accordance with the priorities and requirements of refugees, to coordinate with host Arab States in the preparation and implementation process of its programmes in conformity to the policies of these countries, to seek engagement of the private sector in donor countries in funding additional programmes and projects that help improve the conditions of refugees, though this shall not be an alternative for the pledges of donor countries towards UNRWA, and to explore the means to face its budget deficit;
- 28- *Holds* Israeli occupation authorities responsible for the additional burden undertaken by UNRWA due to procedures of siege, blockade and hindering access and delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need; and *demand*s Israel to compensate for these losses;
- 29- *Calls on* UNRWA to bear its responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees in Syria and to provide all forms of necessary support to those displaced out of Syria pursuant to laws, regulations and arrangements undertaken by the States to which they were displaced; and *urges* the international community to support UNRWA through provision of the necessary funds;
- 30- *Urges* countries and donors to increase their support and contributions to UNRWA's budget pursuant to successive resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level since 1987, with precedence to payment of States' shares to UNRWA's budget, followed by providing voluntary support to the rest of projects.

VII. Development

- 31- *Condemns* the systematic measures imposed by Israel (the occupying Power) that aim to undermining the Palestinian economic development, to deprive the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to development and the efficiency and viability of the economy of the State of Palestine; and *urges* the international community to enable the Palestinian people to take over all their resources and to exercise their right to development;
- 32- *Fully supports* the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/71/L.18 (18 of November 2016, A/RES/70/12 (24 of November 2015, and A/RES/69/20 (25 of November 2014, particularly Paragraph (9) of these resolutions, in which the General Assembly requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to submit a report on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation; *welcomes* the efforts of the UNCTAD Secretariat that submitted an initial report to the United Nations General Assembly on those costs (A/71/174) in November 2016 and recommended the need to submit an annual report thereof to the General Assembly so as to prepare documents with international terms of reference on those costs and the economic rights of the Palestinian people; and *urges* the Member States to contribute to funding this important documentary process estimated by the UNCTAD at five million dollars;

- 33- *Calls on* the international community to bear its responsibilities and to continue its commitment to providing assistance to enhancing and empowering the establishment of institutions of the State of Palestine, and to meeting its pledges concerning support for development plans and programmes set forth by the State of Palestine;
- 34- *Calls on* the Arab States, according to bilateral arrangements with the State of Palestine, to continue supporting the Palestinian economy by opening their markets for the free flow of Palestinian products of origin through exemption from customs duties in implementation of the previous resolutions adopted in this regard;
- 35- *Seeks* implementation of previous Arab Summit resolutions concerning termination of Israeli blockade and reconstruction of Gaza Strip, particularly the Arab Development Summit (Kuwait: 2009) and the 22nd Ordinary Summit (Sirte: 2010); and *calls upon* Arab States to commit to the transfer of the pledged funds in Cairo Conference for the reconstruction of the damage caused by the Israeli occupation during its war on Gaza Strip in Summer 2014; and *further calls upon* the Arab States to fulfill the obligations they pledged at the Arab Summits;
- 36- *Urges* private sector institutions at the Arab States for effective investment in Palestine and support the Palestinian private sector;
- 37- *Approves* the amendment of the permanent item "Follow-up on Developments of (Jerusalem, Settlements, the Wall, the Intifada, Refugees, UNRWA and Development)" to become "Follow-up on Developments of (Settlements, the Wall, the Intifada, Refugees, UNRWA and Development)."

(S.R. 676 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Support State of Palestine's Budget and Sumud of
the Palestinian People**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Emphasizing* the important obligation of Member States to settle their contributions to the State of Palestine budget support according to resolutions adopted by successive Arab Summits, from Beirut Summit of 2002 to Nouakchott Summit of 2016; *reaffirming* all resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial and Permanent Delegation levels concerning support State of Palestine's budget and *sumud* of the Palestinian people;
- 1- *Emphasizes* the call for Arab States to adhere to the decisions of the League of Arab States and to the implementation of a financial safety net at the earliest opportunity with the monthly amount of US\$ 100,000,000 to the State of Palestine in order to address the financial pressures and crises to which it is subjected as a result of the constant economic and financial punishing measures by Israel (the occupying Power), including the detention of tax revenues and cutting off a vast amount thereof, in contrary to all the laws and international instruments and agreements between the two sides;
- 2- *Thanks* the Arab States that have fulfilled their pledges towards the State of Palestine budget, particularly the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; *calls upon* the remaining Arab States to settle their due arrears forthwith; and *underlines* the importance to continue to support the Palestine budget;
- 3- *Expresses* gratitude to the Member States that have settled their pledges towards Al-Aqsa Fund and Jerusalem Intifada Fund support pursuant to the resolutions of the Extraordinary Cairo Summit of 2000, to provide additional support to both Funds according to the resolutions adopted by the Beirut Summit in 2002, and to implement Sirte Summit Resolution of 2010 in support for Jerusalem; and *calls upon* the Arab States that have not met their obligations to accelerate fulfillment of their pledges;
- 4- *Calls on* Member States to increase the capital of the Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem Funds by the amount of USD 500 Million;
- 5- *Calls upon* the Arab States to support the State of Palestine budget for a period of one year as of 1st April 2017 according to the mechanisms approved by Beirut Summit in 2002.

(S.R. 677 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

The Occupied Arab Syrian Golan

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - *Recalling* Resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level, particularly Resolution 7161 adopted by 133rd Ordinary Session on 3rd March 2010, Resolution 7230 by 134th Ordinary Session on 16th September 2010, Resolution 7306 by 135th Ordinary Session on 2nd March 2011, Resolution 7381 by 136th Ordinary Session on 13th September 2011, Resolution 7457 by 137th Ordinary Session on 10th March 2012, Resolution 7521 by 138th Ordinary Session on 5th September 2012, Resolution 7593 by 139th Ordinary Session on 6th March 2013, Resolution 7665 by 140th Ordinary Session on 1st September 2013, Resolution 7735 by 141st Ordinary Session on 9th March 2014, Resolution 7802 by 142nd Ordinary Session on 7th September 2014, Resolution 7862 by 143rd Ordinary Session on 9th March 2015, Resolution 7928 by 144th Ordinary Session on 13th September 2015, Resolution 7999 by 145th Ordinary Session on 11th March 2016, Resolution 8041 by the Extraordinary Session on 21st April 2016, Resolution 8057 by 146th, Ordinary Session on 8th September 2016 and Resolution 8116 by 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017,
- *Recalling* resolutions of the Arab Summits, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 644 of the 27th Ordinary Session on 25th July 2016,
- 1- *Emphasizes* the Arab States' firm support to Syria's just claim and its right to regain all the occupied Arab Syrian Golan to 4th June 1967 borderline, based on the principles of the peace process, international legitimacy resolutions and the outcomes of Madrid Peace Conference in 1991;
- 2- *Reaffirms* Resolution 4126 of 13th February 1982 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level and its subsequent resolutions, most recently Resolution 8057 adopted by 146th Ordinary Session and Arab Summit resolutions, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 644 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session on 25th July 2016, which stipulated the rejection all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to alter the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, regard the Israeli procedures to consolidate its control over Golan as illicit, null and void and a violation of international conventions, the United Nations Charter and resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981, General Assembly Resolution 63/99 adopted by 63rd Session on 5th December 2008, which underlines that Israel's (the occupying Power) decision of 14th December 1981 to annex the occupied Arab Syrian Golan is illicit, null and void with no legal effect and constitutes a serious violation of Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981 and General Assembly Resolution 64/21 adopted by its 64th Session on 2nd December 2009, in addition to General Assembly Resolutions 65/18 on 25th November 2010, 106/65 on 10th December 2010 and 19/66 on 1st December

2011, and its successive resolutions most recently Resolution 17/70 on 15th November 2015, Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/31/25 of 24th March 2016, Report A/68/371 of the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly of 9th September 2013 on the Situation in the Middle East, which includes the occupied Syrian Golan, and Report 37/25 of the the United Nations Secretary-General to Human Rights Council of 13th January 2014, his report submitted to the Security Council on United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) of 8th June 2016, and Report submitted to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly meeting on 16th September 2016 and adoption of draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan;"

- 3- *Emphasizes* once again that the continued occupation of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan since 1967 represents an ongoing threat to peace and security in the region and the world;
- 4- *Condemns* Israeli practices in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan by means of seizure of lands and natural resources; including water resources, the construction of dams, water expropriation and diversion from Mas'dah, Galilee and Hula Lakes to the farms of settlers and deprivation of Syrian farmers from important water resources for the irrigation of their farms and livestock; and *deplores* Israel's feverish endeavours to plunder the resources of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan through extensive oil excavation and extraction considering these resources an exclusive property to the people of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, as endorsed by instruments, conventions and international legitimacy resolutions;
- 5- *Highlights* the Arab stance in full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon to confront the continuous Israeli attacks and threats, considering any attack against them as an attack on the Arab Nation;
- 6- *Supports* the *sumud* (steadfast perseverance) of the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan facing the Israeli occupation and its oppressive practices; *supports* their determination to cling to their land and their Arab Syrian identity; *affirms* the need to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to citizens of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan; *condemns* the Israeli occupation authorities and their flagrant violations of all rights of Syrian citizens, the youth and the elderly, under occupation in the Golan pursuant to the principles of international law and international legitimacy resolutions; and *deplores* the occupation's expatriation and displacement of thousands of residents, plunder of their lands, breaking up families and the impact of this situation on the lives of children and their upbringing, in addition to other numerous violations of children's rights (inconsistent with international pledges under the International Convention on the Rights of the Child);
- 7- *Calls upon* Israel (the occupying Power) to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and identity cards on Syrian citizens in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, and to immediately end its repressive measures against the population and all other practices that hinder the full enjoyment of their fundamental rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;
- 8- *Demands* the United Nations, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to ensure that Israel (the occupying Power) respects the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights and facilitates visits by residents of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan to their families

- and relatives in Mother Country Syria through the Qunaytirah Crossing under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- 9- *Condemns* the practices and provocations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan; *denounces* the recent irresponsible, aggressive and escalating remarks of the Prime Minister of Israeli occupation government concerning the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, as well as convening the meeting of the Israeli occupation government thereof, regarding such escalation inconsistent with the rules and principles of international law and relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and constitutes a flagrant defiance of international community and Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981, which clearly stipulated that imposing laws and exercising authority and power by Israel (the occupying Power) over the occupied Arab Syrian Golan are null, void with no legal validity, which also represent a flagrant violation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, in addition to other recent relevant UN General Assembly resolutions and the Advisory Opinion adopted by the International Court of Justice in 2004 in this regard; and *considers* these acts as a direct threat to international peace and security, thus aborting all international projects and efforts aiming to achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;
 - 10- *Calls upon* Israel (the occupying Power) for the immediate release of the Syrian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons detention camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 29 years, and to treat them in conformity to the principles of international humanitarian law; and *urges* the international community and organs and human rights organizations to reveal such Israeli violations of the rights of Golan's prisoners, to condemn these practices and to induce Israel (the occupying Power) to allow the Red Cross representatives to visit Arab Syrian prisoners in the Israeli prisons with specialist physicians to identify their medical and psychological condition and to protect them, and to regard their continued detention a flagrant violation of UN resolutions, international humanitarian law and basic human rights principles;
 - 11- *Adheres* to successive international legitimacy resolutions, most recently the General Assembly Resolution 17/70 of 25th November 2016 that stipulated the illegitimacy of settlement activity and Israel's other activities in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan since 1967; *urges* the international community to adhere to international legitimacy that rejects Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan by condemning the Israeli government practices that attract thousands of Israeli families to settle in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, and to desist from changing the urban character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan; and *emphasizes* the need to enable displaced residents of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan to return to their homes and to restore their properties;
 - 12- *Demands* Israel (the occupying Power) to adhere to the aforementioned General Assembly Resolution that reaffirmed that all the relevant regulations annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention pertaining to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, still apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967; and *calls upon* the Contracting Parties to both Conventions to respect their obligations under these instruments in all circumstances and to ensure its respect;
 - 13- *Condemns* the Israeli government's policy that destroyed the peace process and led to the continuous escalation of tension in the region; and *calls on* the

international community to induce Israel (the occupying Power) to apply the United Nations resolutions concerning the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and from all occupied Arab territories to 4th June 1967 borderline.

(S.R. 678 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Solidarity and Support
for Lebanon**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - Resolution 7738 adopted by 141st Ordinary Session on 9th March 2014 on the adverse and serious impacts of the crisis of Syrian displaced persons on Lebanon,
 - Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level, most recently Resolution 8117 adopted by 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017,
 - *Emphasizing* Arab Summits resolutions, most recently Nouakchott Summit of 2016, in particular Resolution 599 adopted by the 25th Ordinary Session on 26th March 2014 on the support for the Lebanese Military Forces,
 - Noting the most recent internal, regional and international developments concerning Lebanon,
 - *Recalling* relevant international resolutions adhered to by the government of Lebanon, particularly Resolution 1701, based on Resolutions 425 and 426 with all their provisions,
- 1- *Welcomes* the election of General Michel Aoun as President of the Lebanese Republic as it represents a crucial step to ensure Lebanon's capability to meet and overcome the pressing political, security, economic and social challenges, and to ensure the effective functioning of the Lebanese constitutional institutions; *commends* the formation of a national unity government chaired by Saad al-Hariri; *renews* its full solidarity with Lebanon and the provision of political and economic support for Lebanon, its government and all its constitutional institutions to preserve the national Lebanese unity and Lebanon's security, stability and sovereignty over all its territories; *affirms* the right of Lebanese people to liberate or restore Shab'a Farms, the Lebanese Kafr Shuba Hills and the Lebanese part of Ghajar Village and their right to resist any hostilities with legitimate means; and *underlines* the importance and need to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance against the Israeli occupation, which is an established right by international conventions and principles of international law, disconsidering the act of resistance as a terrorist act;
 - 2- *Supports* Lebanon's stance and call for the international community to implement Security Council Resolution 1701, based on Resolutions 425 and 426 by ending Israel's violations and constant threats against Lebanon and the Lebanese civil institutions and infrastructure;

- 3- *Welcomes and underlines* the support to the outcome of the successive meetings of the International Support Group for Lebanon, most recently the meeting convened on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 30th September 2015;
- 4- *Commends* the national role undertaken by the Lebanese Army and Lebanese security forces in safeguarding stability and civil peace; *supports* the efforts exerted to establish the sovereignty of the Lebanese State to the internationally recognized borders; *values* the sacrifice by the Lebanese Army to counter terrorism, terrorist and Takfiri groups, particularly those included in Resolution 2170 of the Security Council in 2015; *condemns* the heinous attacks against the Army in many Lebanese regions; *welcomes* the assistance provided by the brotherly and friendly countries to Lebanon, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; *urges* all States to enhance the capabilities of the Lebanese Army and to enable it to carry out its mandate as it represents the cornerstone of security, stability and civil peace in Lebanon; and *condemns* the abduction of Lebanese military officers by terrorist organizations since August 2014, demanding their release in order to abort any attempts to instigate internal and regional strife;
- 5- *Condemns* all the criminal acts, armed movements and terrorist bombings which targeted a number of Lebanese areas, causing death of innocent civilians; *rejects* all attempts to incite strife and to undermine coexistence, civil peace and national unity and destabilizing security and stability; *highlights* the need to combat extremism, intolerance, Takfiri ideology and interference in the Lebanese internal affairs, as well as full counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination by drying out its funding sources; to achieve cooperation in areas of exchange of information and expertise as well as capacity building, prosecuting perpetrators of terrorist acts and crimes against humanity and instigators of acts of violence and destruction which threaten peace and security and increase penalties on them, and pursue preemptive measures in this regard;
- 6- *Support* Lebanon in its resistance to the constant Israeli aggressions, in particular the July 2006 aggression; *prays for* God's mercy be upon the souls of the Lebanese martyrs; *considers* the cohesion and unity of the Lebanese people in confronting the Israeli hostilities as a guarantee for Lebanon's future, security and stability; *designates* Israeli crimes as war crimes that require prosecution of perpetrators; *holds* Israel fully responsible for its aggressions entailing an obligation to make reparation for the Lebanese Republic and Lebanese citizens; and *welcomes* Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly concerning "Oil Slick on Lebanese Shores", most recently Resolution 71/218 issued by the 71st Session on 21st December 2016, which forces Israel to pay financial compensation for the damages that Lebanon was afflicted to as a result of Israeli shelling of the Jiyeh electric power plant during the July 2006 war;
- 7- *Condemns* Israeli incursions against the Lebanese sovereignty; land, sea and air including;
 - Israeli infiltration to the Lebanese society through propagation of agents and espionage networks,
 - Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and economic rights to its territorial waters, exclusive economic zone and oil and gas resources located within its marine areas, most recent of which is written Israeli threats after launching the exploration licensing round;
 - the finite dimensional electronic warfare carried out by Israel against the Lebanese Republic through its conspicuous increase of the number of

towers, antenna, monitoring, spying and surveillance devices for purposes of piracy and espionage against all Lebanese communication and information networks,

- Israel's refusal to hand over full and accurate information and maps pertaining to the locations of all the unexploded ordnance, including the quantity and types of cluster bombs indiscriminately dropped over populated civilian areas during its summer incursion in 2006;

8- The Council *emphasizes*;

- The need to sustain the Lebanese unique multifaceted formula based on equality between Muslims and Christians, coexistence and dialogue among religions, tolerance and acceptance of the other; and *condemns* its blatant cultural opposite represented by abolitionist terrorist groups and their crimes committed against humanity that replicate Israeli exclusionary policy based on state judaization, and hostile practices against Muslims and Christians,
- Its support to the Lebanese constitutional institutions to enhance Lebanon's Arab and international presence, spreading its civilization message and cultural diversity, particularly in confronting Israel, safeguarding minorities as original and fundamental constituents of the social fabric of the countries of the region, and the need to preserve their rights from being targeted by terrorist groups and considering crimes perpetrated against them as crimes against humanity,
- Its support to the Lebanese constitutional institutions towards adherence to the constitution provisions that reject resettlement and adhere to the right of return of Palestinian refugees; and value the unequivocal and firm stance of the Palestinian people and leadership rejecting the resettlement of the Palestinian refugees in host countries, particularly in Lebanon; highlighting that States and international organizations must bear their full responsibilities and permanently and uninterruptedly contribute to funding UNRWA, to continue funding the Nahr Al-Barid camp reconstruction, to settle the financial dues to the Lebanese Treasury (electricity and infrastructure consumption) and meet the due payment to private properties owners, on which interim camps were established on the Lebanese territories;
- The concern of the Lebanese government to respect international legitimacy resolutions and to shed light on the facts concerning the assassination of the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri and members of his entourage without any politicization or reprisal attempts, which would adversely affect Lebanon's stability, unity and civil peace,
- Support for the Lebanese Government's efforts to follow up on the disappearance of His Eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr along with two companions, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqoub and the journalist Abbas Badreddine, seeking their release, and hold officials of the former Libyan regime accountable to bring this crime to closure.

9- *The Council welcomes*:

- HE the Republic President's swearing-in speech affirming the unity of the Lebanese People, their adherence to preserve their civil peace that alienates them from the simmering tension in the region, and their commitment to respect the Charter of the League of Arab States, particularly Article VIII thereof, in addition to Lebanon's adoption of an independent foreign policy

based on the supreme interest of Lebanon and respect for the international law;

- The efforts exerted by the government and people of Lebanon towards the Syrian refugees hosted on its territories despite its limited resources, stressing the need to assist and support Lebanon in this regard by sharing the burdens and numbers, and stopping increase of such burdens and numbers of displaced persons, affirming that their existence should be provisional under Lebanon's rejection of any form of their incorporation or integration with host communities and its keen to address this issue as a top priority of proposals and solutions to the crisis in Syria, as it poses a threat to Lebanon's entity and existence; and the need to seek with all possible means to ensure their return to their countries as soon as possible as the only sustainable solution for displaced Syrians in Lebanon; commending the rigorous attempts exerted by the Lebanese government to reduce the numbers of displaced Syrians on the Lebanese territories and provide the Lebanese and Syrians with security and to reduce the burdens placed on the people of Lebanon and its economy, particularly in view of the imminent social, economic and security outbreak that threatens its existence;
- Lebanon's appeal to the International Criminal Court to condemn the war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza, and crimes against humanity committed and continue to be committed by terrorism in Iraq;
- The Lebanese government's efforts aimed to consolidating Macro-economic stability and to preserve monetary stability, and its commitment towards the immediate address of the deeply-rooted problems which all Lebanese suffer from;
- The Lebanese government's vision that associates achievement of economic growth and the improvement and expansion of the social, health and educational safety net for all the Lebanese;
- The Lebanese government's adoption of procedures pertaining to the oil exploration and excavation licensing, in addition to issuance of the necessary executive decrees.
- The Lebanese government's efforts to build the state of law and institutions through the development of a general national anti-corruption strategy, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, enhancing the role of supervisory agencies and the commitment to encourage the role of women in the political and public arena;
- The constant and vigorous efforts exerted by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to support the Lebanese Republic, in consultation with the Arab States, the Lebanese constitutional institutions and the different political powers to consolidate stability and to enhance sustainable economic growth in Lebanon to thereby preserve its unity, security and stability and to be able to face the challenges.

(S.R. 679 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Developments of the Crisis in Syria

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, held in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - *Recalling* resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, in particular Resolution 554 issued by 23rd Ordinary Session in Baghdad on 29th March 2012, Resolution 580 by 24th Ordinary Session in Doha on 26th March 2013, Resolution 600 by 25th Ordinary Session in Kuwait on 26th March 2014, Resolution 623 by 26th Ordinary Session in Sharm El-Sheikh on 29th March 2015, Resolution 646 by 27th Ordinary Session in Nouakchott on 25th July 2016, and all the previous resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level in this regard, most recently Resolution 8120 by 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017, Resolution 8106 by the Extraordinary Session on 19th December 2016 and Resolution 8105 by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Permanent Delegates Level on 15th December 2016 and Ministerial Committee Statements on the situation in Syria,
 - *Reiterating* its full solidarity with the Syrian people over the serious violations they are subjected to that threaten their existence and the lives of innocent citizens,
 - *Reaffirming* its full commitment to support Syrian people's aspirations for freedom, justice and equality, their firm right to choose the regime which meets their aspirations in restoring peace and security across Syria,
 - *Commending* the efforts exerted by the International Support Group for Syria to create appropriate and conducive conditions to resume the negotiation process between the opposition and the Syrian government with an aim to create a transitional governing body with full executive powers, according to the Geneva (I) Communiqué issued on 30th June 2012, and the International Support Group for Syria Communiqué issued in Vienna on 30th October 2015 and 14th November 2015 respectively, endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2254 of 2015, in addition to the Group's Communiqué issued in Munich on 11th February 2016 endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2286 of 2016 and the Vienna Communiqué of 17th May 2016, all of which aim to meeting the aspirations of the Syrian people with all their components and factions,
- 1- *Reaffirms* its firm position regarding the preservation of Syria's unity, stability and territorial integrity, in accordance with the Charter of the League of Arab States and its principles;
 - 2- *Emphasizes* its firm position that the only possible solution to the crisis in Syria is the political solution based on engaging all Syrian parties in order to meet the aspirations of the Syrian people, according to the Geneva (I) Communiqué on 30th June 2012 and based on all resolutions and communiqués issued in this regard, particularly Security Council Resolution 2254 of 2015; *welcomes*, in this

- context, the resumption of the UN brokered Geneva negotiations on 23rd February 2017 under the auspices of the United Nations; and *calls on* the League of Arab States to cooperate with the United Nations to ensure the success of the Syrian negotiations conducted under its umbrella so as to end the conflict and to establish peace and security across Syria;
- 3- *Expresses* grave concern over the implications of the continued military operations in Syria, despite the ceasefire agreement reached on 29th December 2016; *calls on* the parties, that have not committed to enforce the agreement, to abide by the mechanism of sustaining ceasefire and hostilities according to relevant Security Council resolutions; *welcomes*, in this regard, Security Council Resolution 2336 on 31st December 2016 that stipulates the establishment of ceasefire in Syria; *commends* the international efforts exerted to sustain ceasefire, as an important step to achieve a political solution according to the Geneva (I) Communiqué and Security Council Resolution 2254 of 2015; and *takes note of* the efforts exerted to sustain the ceasefire within the framework of Astana meetings;
 - 4- *Urges* the International Support Group for Syria to intensify its efforts and to continue its endeavours to implement the Geneva (I) Communiqué of 30th June 2012, the Vienna Communiqués issued by the International Support Group for Syria on 30th October 2015, 14th November 2015 and 17th May 2016 respectively, as well as the Munich Communiqué of 11th February 2016, and to abide by the agreed principles and mechanisms in these communiqués, particularly the mechanism of sustaining ceasefire and hostilities, providing humanitarian assistance; and creating conducive conditions to resume the UN-brokered negotiations in Geneva, that aim to form a transitional governing body with full executive powers;
 - 5- *Condemns and denounces* the brutal practices of the Syrian regime against unarmed civilians in Aleppo and its environs and against Syrian citizens across the country considering the aerial bombardments, the ongoing massacres and crimes perpetrated in Aleppo and other Syrian cities as a flagrant violation of Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law;
 - 6- *Deplores* the terrorist acts and crimes committed against civilians across Syria by terrorist organizations and groups i.e. Da'esh and Al-Nusra Front that are associated with Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups;
 - 7- *Requests* the Arab Group in Geneva to closely coordinate with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to take all the necessary actions to stop the permanent violations of human rights perpetrated by the Syrian regime, including the provision of the necessary protection for children and women and prevent targeting hospitals and civil institutions in accordance with international humanitarian law;
 - 8- *Welcomes* the positive outcome of the Syrian opposition open meeting brokered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 8th-9th December 2015, and the previous meetings of the Syrian opposition in Cairo and Moscow that aimed to providing one vision of the Syrian opposition concerning the desired political solution for the crisis in Syria, through a political process led by the Syrians themselves, in implementation of the Geneva (I) Communiqué, the communiqués issued by the International Support Group for Syria and relevant Security Council resolutions;
 - 9- *Commends* the role of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait for hosting the first, second and third

International Humanitarian Pledging Conference in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively and for co-chairing the fourth conference held in London in 2016, during which the contributions by the State of Kuwait amounted to 1.6 billion dollars; *welcomes* the participation of the State of Kuwait in organizing the fifth International Humanitarian Pledging Conference to support the humanitarian situation in Syria to be held in April in 2017 in Brussels brokered by the European Union that culminates the humanitarian leading role of the State of Kuwait towards the crisis in Syria; and *urges* donor countries to urgently meet the pledges they undertook at London Conference to support the humanitarian situation in Syria, in particular providing the necessary assistance for Syria's neighbouring countries and other Arab States that host displaced persons and Syrian refugees so as to help them bear these burdens in areas of relief operations and urgent humanitarian assistance;

- 10- *Requests* the Arab League Secretary-General to continue his consultations and contacts with the UN Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to Syria and various concerned parties to intensify the exerted efforts to create a conducive environment for the Geneva negotiation rounds in a view to endorsing transitional political solution to the crisis in Syria in accordance with the Geneva (I) Communiqué issued on 30th June 2012, the International Support Group for Syria communiqués and the relevant Security Council resolutions;
- 11- *Requests* the Ministerial Committee on Syria and the Secretary-General to continue exerting efforts and consultations with various regional and international actors concerned with the situation in Syria and to submit the outcome of such efforts to the next session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level.

(S.R. 680 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

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- Lebanon reiterates its disassociation policy from internal conflicts in brotherly Arab States; and calls for consensus political solutions, which safeguard the unity, sovereignty and stability of the Arab States and meet the aspirations of its people.

Syria Refugee Crisis

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - *Recalling* resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at its various levels,
 - *In light of* the ongoing crisis in Syria and its political, security and social repercussions that affected and still affects Syria's neighbouring countries and other Arab States hosting Syrian refugees,
 - *Highly appreciating* the efforts exerted by Arab States and other countries through relief operations and the provision of humanitarian assistance at both official and popular levels, which had a great impact on alleviating the suffering of the Syrian brothers across Syria and in refugee camps in the Arab States,
- 1- *Assigns* the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level to consider the development of a precise mechanism for assisting Syria's neighbouring countries and other Arab countries that host Syrian refugees and forcibly displaced persons so as to be able to bear the different aspects of their hosting burdens;
 - 2- *Emphasizes* the temporary nature of the presence of Syrian refugees in host countries territories, seeking to create a conducive environment that ensures their return to their countries as soon as possible through collective action that rehabilitates those refugees to enable them to contribute to rebuilding their country and to overcome difficulties and obstacles left by years of war;
 - 3- *Urges* the international community, particularly donor countries and institutions to bear their responsibilities and to provide further support for States that host Syrian refugees, in light of the burdens assumed by those countries.

(S.R. 681 O.S. (28) – 29/03/2017)

Situation Development in Libya

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - Resolution 647 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level convened in Nouakchott on 25th July 2016,
 - Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level, most recently Resolution 8121 adopted by the 147th Ordinary Session of 7th March 2017,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Reiterating* the importance of adhering to the respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya, to the protection of its citizens, to safeguarding its political independence and to rejection of external and military interference in the Libyan affairs,
 - 1- *Reaffirms* adherence to the respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya, rejection of any sort of external interference unless requested by the Presidential Council of National Unity Government and with its coordination; and *expresses* grave concern over the expansion of acts perpetrated by terrorist groups in Libya;
 - 2- *Underlines* the Joint Ministerial Communique on Libya, convened on the sidelines of the 71st Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22nd September 2016;
 - 3- *Calls for* a political solution for the crisis in Libya through comprehensive dialogue and national reconciliation, as the only means to end this crisis; *emphasizes* support for full implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat on 17th December 2015; and *absolutely rejects* the military solution, due to its adverse implications on Libya's security and stability;
 - 4- *Reiterates* support for the political dialogue brokered by the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to Libya and the Special Envoy of the Arab League Secretary-General;
 - 5- *Urges* to unfreeze the Libyan funds in foreign banks and all the Libyan assets and to allocate these resources to serve the Libyan people and meet their needs, as deemed appropriate by the Presidential Council, in accordance with Paragraph (18) of Resolution 1970 (2011) and Paragraph (20) of Resolution 1973 (2011) of the Security Council relevant resolutions;
 - 6- *Calls on* the provision of political and financial support for the Presidential Council of Libya's national unity government as the only legitimate government in Libya, and to refrain from providing any support or communication with other parallel bodies; *calls upon* States to provide urgent assistance for the full

implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement, to restore support and rehabilitation of national civil and military institutions under the Presidential Council's leadership, provide these institutions with the necessary expertise and equipment in the areas identified by the Presidential Council of the National Unity Government to undertake its pressing mandate, and to abide by relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently Resolutions 2259 of 2015 and 2278 of 2016 respectively;

- 7- *Expresses deep concern* over security challenges and terrorist threats in Libya; and *encourages* integration of the Libyan forces under civilian leadership of the Presidential Council, as the only solution to restore stability and peace to Libya;
- 8- *Calls upon* the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives, the Central Bank of Libya and other Libyan national economic institutions to seek agreement on and implement solutions to address the economic problems of Libya, taking note of the Rome Communiqué on Libya of 17th November 2016; *highlights* all relevant resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States on illicit oil export, which stressed the need to alienate oil installations and Libyans' resources from any military conflict, so that the National Oil Corporation in Tripoli can undertake its full responsibility over all the oil installations in Libya and to support all relevant necessary measures to reinforce the authority of the Presidential Council of the National Unity Government over Libyan economic institutions, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2259 of 23rd December 2015;
- 9- *Commends* the fundamental role of the mechanism of Libya's neighbouring countries, being the most affected by the instability in Libya; and *calls upon* these countries to continue providing support to advance the UN-brokered political settlement process in Libya, in a view to safeguarding its unity and territorial integrity, protecting its citizens and achieving peace and stability, in coordination with the Presidential Council of the National Unity Government;
- 10- *Underlines* the role of the League of Arab States; *takes note of* expansion of the Troika proposed by the Secretary-General to become a quartet mechanism for coordination of the endeavours exerted by the League of Arab States with the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union, and the joint Communiqué adopted by the last meeting of this mechanism on 18th March 2017 to advance the efforts within the United Nations framework, and to enforce the Libyan Political Agreement in order to assist the Presidential Council of the National Unity Government in addressing the political, security and economic challenges;
- 11- *Takes note of* the important outcomes of the Meeting of the African Union High-level Committee on Libya held in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville on 27th January 2017, and its decision to expand the Committee's membership to include the neighbouring countries of Libya within the UN framework to resolve the crisis in this country;
- 12- *Commends* the outcomes of the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the Mechanism for Libya's Neighbouring Countries hosted by Cairo on 21st January 2017, as well as the previous meetings of neighbouring countries convened in Tunisia, Algeria, Khartoum, Cairo, N'Djamena, Niamey and Malabo, and Algeria's hosting of the 11th Meeting late April 2017;
- 13- *Values and supports* the Tunisian initiative launched by HE President of the Tunisian Republic, Beji Caid Essebsi to achieve political solution through a

comprehensive dialogue and national reconciliation in Libya; which has become, following the Declaration of Tunisia issued by the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt during the period 19th-20th February 2017, a Tripartite Initiative to support the comprehensive political settlement in Libya in order to create a conducive environment to engage all the different Libyan parties in a UN-brokered inter-Libyan national dialogue, based on the Skhirat Political Agreement signed on 17th December 2015 that represents a reference framework for the political settlement of the crisis in Libya;

- 14- *Calls on* the Member States for their active participation and contribution to improve the deteriorating humanitarian situation by providing assistance to the Libyan people through the United Nations' urgent humanitarian response plan to support Libya, in coordination with the National Unity Government;
- 15- *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his contacts and consultations with the United Nations Secretary-General Envoy, the different Libyan parties and with Libya's neighbouring countries; and *emphasizes* the enhanced role of the League of Arab States in order to overcome the difficulties that still facing the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement.

(S.R. 682 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Situation Development in Yemen

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,

- 1- *Highlights* the security, stability, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen; and *stresses* its support for the constitutional legitimacy, represented by HE President of the Republic of Yemen, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi,
- 2- *Affirms* that the peaceful solution in Yemen is based on the three agreed terms of reference represented in the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanisms, the National Comprehensive Dialogue outcomes, and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2216; and *commends* the efforts exerted by the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmed to resume the peaceful process on basis of the aforementioned terms of reference;
- 3- *Expresses gratitude and appreciation* to HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti people for the vigorous and significant role of Kuwait in supporting the Yemeni people, sponsoring, facilitating and hosting the Yemeni peace endeavours;
- 4- *Commends* the Yemeni government positions supporting the United Nations efforts to achieve peace in Yemen, and its endeavours to end the war, to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of Yemeni people, to ensure the flow of food and medical needs, to deliver wages to all the regions in Yemen, to restore the damage caused by the coup war machine, to counter extremism and terrorism, to rebuild civil and military state institutions in the regions that have been liberated from the coup forces;
- 5- *Strongly condemns* the unilateral measures taken by the coup forces, including the formation of the so-called political council and illegitimate government, their continued rejection of confidence-building measures and to release detainees, impeding the efforts of the international envoy, hindering the truce committee meetings, and other illegitimate procedures that undermine the peace process and aggravate the suffering of the Yemeni people;
- 6- *Strongly condemns* all violations perpetrated by the coup forces against the Yemen's social fabric, including assassinations, arrests, forced recruitment of children to engage them in warfare, besiege of cities, bombing houses and worship places, preventing access of humanitarian assistance to the needy and besieged persons, mine planting, forced displacement of population, sale of relief supplies, bank plundering and of funds of retirees, all of which with an aim to continue the war and devastation, persistence to continue military operations in Yemen and across the borders, threatening transport and navigation in channels and territorial and international waters, and other

practices that amount to war crimes punishable by international law; *Urges* the international community and all international rights agencies to take an immediate and decisive action against these violations, considering the acts of coup forces in Yemen a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and all international rights instruments,

- 7- *Condemns* Iran's continued interference which violates the security, stability and sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen; and *urges* the international community, represented by the Security Council to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop its hostile acts against the Yemeni people, and to respect the sovereignty rights of the Yemeni state;
- 8- *Commends* the role undertaken by the States comprising the Arab Coalition and all Arab States, which provide support for the legitimate leadership and Yemeni people to resume the peaceful process, to end the war, to restore and reconstruct the State of Yemen; *expresses gratitude and appreciation* to the support provided by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of ten billion dollars for the reconstruction in Yemen, the Central Bank of Yemen, as well as the humanitarian role of King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Centre in providing humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people; *thanks and appreciates* the efforts, contributions and sacrifices provided by the United Arab Emirates to support legitimacy, restore stability and to end the war, as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance and relief and the reconstruction efforts in Yemen; *commends and values* the State of Qatar for its support and assistance to the Yemeni people and their legitimate government in order to achieve security, stability and reconstruction; and *thanks* the Republic of Sudan for supporting the legitimacy and Yemeni people, the provision of humanitarian and medical assistance and the treatment of war-wounded persons; also *commends* the Republic of Djibouti for its efforts in supporting the Yemeni people and for hosting the Yemeni refugees;
- 9- *Calls on* the Member States and the international community to provide the necessary political, security, economic and financial support so as to enable the Republic of Yemen to face the challenges, in particular urgent humanitarian needs so as to ensure stabilization of the situation and resume the transitional phase procedures.

(S.R. 683 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Support
for the Federal Republic of Somalia**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - Previous Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States,
- *Recalling* its previous resolutions issued in this regard,
 - 1- *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the Somali national reconciliation process, building state institutions and undertakings of responsibilities, the conclusion of the electoral process by electing HE Mohammed Abdullah Faramago; *salutes* former President HE Hassan Sheikh Mahmud for the services rendered throughout his term of office; *commends* the rapid and smooth transition of power in Somalia, and the increased participation and representation of the Somali people in the electoral process; and *acknowledges* the efforts exerted by the Secretariat General in supporting this process;
 - 2- *Welcomes* the steady improvement in the political and security situation in Somalia; *appreciates* the significant role of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), its cooperation with the Somali Government forces to enhance the security situation, particularly the key role of the Djiboutian forces operating within the framework of the Mission; and *condemns* the criminal and terrorist acts committed by Al-Shabaab group against the Somali people, their government and the regional and international missions operating in Somalia;
 - 3- *Calls on* the Member States and the Secretariat General to provide political, technical and financial support to the Somali state institutions including the federal government, the Parliament's two chambers, the People and the Senate, to enable them to continue making progress on the political and security levels and to help re-building state institutions, including the review of the Provisional Constitution, consolidation of a federal system, increasing transparency and accountability, reform of the security sector, establishing political parties and coordinating with the United Nations Mission to Somalia in this regard;
 - 4- *Calls on* the Member States to provide urgent support to the Somali government for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the military and security institutions and to increase efforts aimed at enhancing capabilities of Somalia's security; and *appreciates* the ongoing Arab endeavours and assistance exerted at bilateral level in this regard;
 - 5- *Requests* the Member States and Arab humanitarian relief organizations and bodies to fully cooperate with the Federal Somali Government in order to provide every possible support to address the drought crisis in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, urging prompt action to prevent the severe consequences of the

- drought which threatens lives, destroys the economy, peace, security and stability in the country;
- 6- *Requests* the Secretariat General to take the necessary action towards coordinating Arab endeavours towards addressing drought through cooperation with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Arab Ministerial Council for Water, the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs, the Arab Geographic Information Chamber, in addition to the concerned United Nations organizations and agencies, the World Bank and the pertinent initiatives, in particular the World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization, and to seek to coordinate efforts in the preparation of studies and field surveys on the most vulnerable and affected regions in Somalia, and on means of capacity-building and flexibility to address risks of the drought;
 - 7- *Reaffirms* the need to implement Resolution 626 adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session at Summit Level in Sharm El-Sheikh on 29th March 2015 concerning "*the provision of urgent financial support of a monthly amount of US\$ 10 million for a period of one year through the current bank account "Support for Somalia" at the Secretariat General to support the Somali government budget programme so as to be able to establish and manage its effective institutions and to implement security and stability programmes, to fight corruption and violence and to provide important and essential services"*;
 - 8- *Thanks* the States that settled their contribution to "Support Somalia" account; *calls upon* Member States that have not settled their contributions to meet their pledges in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab League Council at summit level; and *thanks* Member States that provided financial, technical and humanitarian support to the Federal Republic of Somalia;
 - 9- *Requests* the Secretariat General, in cooperation with the Federal Somali Government, to undertake the necessary procedures to convene "An Arab Conference for the Reconstruction and Development in Somalia", in coordination with relevant international agencies and Arab financial and investment institutions; to which the Somali government shall submit its necessary development action plans and feasibility projects in accordance with the positive outcomes of the meetings of the High-level Partnership Forum to Support Somalia which ought to be preceded by preparatory meetings at expert level to draw up appropriate mechanisms to achieve the sustainable development strategy 2030 in Somalia, and to submit the outcomes of these mechanisms to the Conference;
 - 10- *Commends* the initiative of the State of Kuwait to host the conference of donors to support Somalia's education sector in 2017; *calls upon* the Arab Member States to effectively participate in this conference, particularly the Ministries concerned with education affairs in order to support the Somali education process and to contribute to the dissemination of Arabic language in Somali schools and education curricula; and *requests* the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to coordinate the Arab endeavours in this regard;
 - 11- *Calls on* the Member States to cancel the debts imposed on the Federal Republic of Somalia to support its economy and to enable it to apply for loans from international financial institutions and agencies; *expresses* gratitude to the

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the cancellation of Somalia's debts; and *calls upon* the Secretariat General to coordinate its cooperation with the Somali government and relevant international bodies in this regard;

- 12- *Calls on* specialized Arab organizations, Arab funds and specialized ministerial councils to provide every support to the Somali Government and to contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Somali people; *appreciates* the efforts exerted by the Arab League's office in Mogadishu in supervising the establishment of five schools and a dispensary, as well as the reconstruction of the National Library in the Somali capital Mogadishu with an estimated finance by specialized Arab Ministerial Councils of Health and Social Affairs; and *requests* the Secretariat General to coordinate with the Somali side, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs to conduct a field visit to Somalia in support for the Arab development efforts in health and social areas and to highlight the Arab support to the government and people of Somalia;
- 13- *Requests* the League of Arab States to enhance its consultations and coordination of efforts with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations organizations concerned with humanitarian relief and delivery of relief aids in Somalia; and *requests* the Arab States and the Secretariat General to provide the necessary financial and technical support that assists the Somali Government to meet the growing humanitarian needs and to cater for the influx of Yemeni refugees to Somalia, in addition to the return of Somalis from Kenya and Yemen;
- 14- *Supports* the Somali Government in its efforts to combat illegal fishing in Somali waters and the dumping of toxic waste off the Somali coast, which are crimes that threaten the health of Somali people, depriving them from their natural resources and affecting the safety of the coasts of a number of riparian Arab countries of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea;
- 15- *Condemns* piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden; *underlines* the need to enhance Arab cooperation to confront these operations and coordinate with the ongoing international efforts to combat them and prosecute their perpetrators; *rejects* any attempts aiming to the internationalization of the Red Sea waters; and *emphasizes* the need to strengthen Arab cooperation to achieve security in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, taking into account the responsibility of the Red Sea Arab Riparian States in securing their coasts;
- 16- *Requests* the Member States to contribute to the expenses of the Somali diplomatic and consular missions accredited to these States; *urges* the Councils of Arab Ambassadors to contribute to the expenses of the Somali diplomatic missions, and those accredited to international and regional organizations abroad; and *calls on* the Arab States with no embassies in Mogadishu to open missions in Somalia;
- 17- *Requests* the Secretariat General in cooperation with the concerned Somali entities to provide health sector needs, firefighting and environment sanitation services through purchase of two fire vehicles and environment sanitation and medical equipment, including dialysis and radiation laboratory equipment, and the allocation of ambulance vehicles and medical equipment for Somalia,

expenses of which to be deducted from “Support Somalia” bank account at the League of Arab States;

- 18- *Thanks* the Secretary-General for his efforts in contributing to the Somali reconciliation and relief for the Somali people; for assigning delegations of the Secretariat General to visit Somalia and for the active participation in monitoring the parliamentary and presidential elections process; and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to follow up on implementation of this resolution and to report on this matter to the Council at its next session.

(S.R. 684 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Peace and Development Support in the Republic of Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - *Emphasizing* all previous resolutions issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit and Ministerial Levels in this regard,
 - *Reaffirming* respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan,
 - *Having been briefed by* the Head of delegation of the Republic of Sudan,
- 1- *Supports* the efforts exerted by the Sudanese government to enhance peace, security and stability; and *values* the initiative launched by HE President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir on the national dialogue process under the motto "Sudan for all";
 - 2- *Welcomes* the American Administration's decision to lift the economic and trade embargo on Sudan, urging the American Administration to lift all other sanctions imposed on Sudan, including removal of Sudan from the American "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list;
 - 3- *Commends* the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur; *values* the endeavours made by the Sudanese government to address issues of displacement, demobilization, reintegration, rehabilitation, peaceful coexistence programmes and social reconciliation in Darfur; and *requests* the Arab States and the Secretariat General to provide the appropriate support in this regard;
 - 4- *Supports* the efforts exerted within the framework of the joint working group (the Republic of Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations) to implement UNAMID exit strategy; and *endorses* the vision of the government of the Republic of Sudan in this regard, including the use of UNAMID annual budget to support the development plans and to strengthen stability, security and peace in Darfur;
 - 5- *Commends* the tireless efforts exerted by the joint mechanism, comprised of the Republic of Sudan and the League of Arab States to implement Arab development projects in Darfur and across Sudan; and *calls upon* the Arab States to continue providing financial and technical support to accomplish these projects;
 - 6- *Commends* the ongoing efforts to organize an Arab conference for reconstruction and development support in Sudan in 2017, pursuant to Nouakchott Arab Summit Resolution 650 on 25th July 2016;
 - 7- *Supports* the Sudanese government endeavours to cancel the external debts, urging the international community to meet the stated obligations following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement concerned with the cancellation of Sudan's debts, seeking to accelerate Sudan's benefit from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative launched by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank;
 - 8- *Renews* its call on Member States, the Arab financing and investment funds and specialized Arab organizations to implement the initiative launched by HE

President of the Republic of Sudan on Arab agricultural investment in Sudan to achieve Arab food security in cooperation with efforts exerted by the Sudanese government and the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States.

(S.R. 685 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Support for the Federal Republic of
Comoros**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The report on the achievements of the Arab Committee for Development and Investment in the Federal Republic of Comoros,
- *Recalling* its previous resolutions adopted in this regard,
 - 1- *Emphasizes* its full interest in the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Comoros;
 - 2- *Reaffirms* the identity of the Comorian Island of Mayotte; *rejects* the French occupation of the Island; and *calls on* France to pursue dialogue with the Comorian Government to reach a solution that ensures the return of the Island of Mayotte to Comorian sovereignty;
 - 3- *Decides* not to recognize the results of the referendum that took place in France on 29th March 2009 concerning the incorporation of the Comorian Island of Mayotte and converting it into a French province; and *considers* the procedures taken by France pursuant to the outcome of this referendum illegal, void and do not entail any rights or obligations;
 - 4- *Appreciates* the joint efforts of the League of Arab States, the United Nations, regional organizations and neighbouring countries, particularly concerning further implementation of the National Reconciliation Agreement; and *calls upon* the Secretariat General to continue its efforts in this regard;
 - 5- *Expresses appreciation* to the joint cooperation between the League of Arab States and the African Union on the promotion of civil peace in the Republic of the Comoros in areas of political cooperation and technical coordination pertaining to monitoring of the election process;
 - 6- *Commends* the outcome of the recent elections conducted in the Republic of the Comoros on 24th April 2016 that resulted in the election of President Othman Ghazali of the Federal Republic of the Comoros for a new presidential term;
 - 7- *Welcomes* the efforts exerted by the State of Qatar and the Secretariat General for the implementation of the outcome and commitments of the Arab Conference for the Support of Development and Investment in Comoros, which was held in Doha on 9th-10th March 2010; and *calls on* the Member States for further investments in development areas of precedence for the Comorian Government, and to benefit from the development and investment mechanisms in Comoros established by Resolution 519 adopted by Sirte Summit on 28th March 2010;
 - 8- *Expresses* gratitude and appreciation for the efforts exerted by "the Arab Committee for Development and Investment" chaired by the State of Qatar in

- the Federal Republic of the Comoros and its tangible achievements in this regard;
- 9- *Thanks* the Member States that provided financial and development support to the Federal Republic of Comoros through "Support Comoros" bank account at the Secretariat General; *calls upon* other States to settle their contributions; and *urges* the Member States to support the Federal Republic of the Comoros in infrastructure development and other facilities such as roads, hospitals, etc.;
 - 10- *Requests* the Arab finance and investment institutions, in particular the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to support the Federal Republic of Comoros in various areas particularly the new national university in Comoros;
 - 11- *Calls on* the Member States and the Arab finance and investment institutions to address the issue of foreign debts of the Federal Republic of the Comoros, as a contribution to peace and development in the country;
 - 12- *Requests* Ministries of Education in the Arab States to provide the necessary technical assistance for the dissemination of Arabic language in the Comorian curricula; and *urges* the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to take the necessary measures in a view to coordinating efforts to achieve this goal;
 - 13- *Calls on* the Member States to contribute to the expenses of the Comorian diplomatic missions accredited to them; and *urges* the Councils of Arab Ambassadors to contribute to the expenses of the Comorian diplomatic missions, in particular those accredited to international and regional organizations;
 - 14- *Calls on* the Secretariat General to continue coordination and cooperation with regional and international organizations to support the demands and positions of the Comorian Government concerning the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
 - 15- *Appreciates* the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General in support for reconciliation, stability and development in the Federal Republic of Comoros; and *requests* a report be submitted, in this regard, to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level.

(S.R. 686 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Iran's Occupation of the Three Arab Islands -
Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa - of the
United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation issued by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - *Recalling* previous summit resolutions, most recently Resolution 651 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session at Summit Level in Nouakchott on 25th July 2016 concerning Iran's occupation of the three Arab Islands: Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa of the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf,
 - *Emphasizing* previous statements and resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level, most recently Resolution 8123 by the 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017,
- 1- *Emphasizes* absolute and full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three Islands: Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa; and *supports* all the peaceful procedures and measures taken by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the occupied Islands;
 - 2- *Deplores* the continued attempts of the Iranian government to perpetuate its occupation of the three Islands, violating the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, and thereby undermining security and stability in the region and threatening international peace and security;
 - 3- *Condemns* the construction of housing facilities by the Iranian government with an aim to settle Iranian citizens in the three occupied UAE Islands;
 - 4- *Denounces* the Iranian military maneuvers in the three occupied UAE Islands: Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, their territorial waters, airspace territory, continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the three Islands which are an integral part of the United Arab Emirates; and *demands* Iran to stop such violations and provocative acts, which constitute interference in the internal affairs of an independent sovereign state, and do not contribute to confidence building measures, threaten security and stability in the region and jeopardize security and safety of the regional and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf;
 - 5- *Condemns* Iran for opening two offices in the United Arab Emirates Abu Musa Island; and *demands* Iran to remove these illegal establishments and to respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territories;
 - 6- *Denounces and condemns* the inspection visit made by members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee at the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly to the three occupied UAE Islands, Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, considering it as a violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territories, being inconsistent with the exerted endeavours to

- reach a peaceful settlement; and *calls on* Iran to refrain from such provocative acts;
- 7- *Commends* the initiatives of the United Arab Emirates to reach a peaceful and just settlement to the issue of the three occupied Islands: Greater and the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa with the Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - 8- *Calls*, once again, on the Iranian government to end its occupation of the three UAE Islands, to desist from imposing a fait accompli by force, to stop building any facilities on the Islands with the aim of changing their demographic and population composition, to call off all these procedures and to remove all the establishments previously carried out unilaterally by Iran on the three Arab Islands, considering these measures and allegations void with no legal standing and do not impair the firm right of the United Arab Emirates to its three Islands, inconsistent with the provisions of international law and the 1949 Geneva Convention; and *demands* Iran to resolve the present dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, including the referral of the case to the International Court of Justice;
 - 9- *Hopes* that the Islamic Republic of Iran reconsiders its stance rejecting a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied UAE Islands, either through serious and direct negotiations or by resorting to the International Court of Justice;
 - 10- *Demands* Iran to render its declared desire to improve relations with Arab States, to promote dialogue and to renounce tension, by taking practical and concrete steps in both word and deed, to respond genuinely to the serious and sincere calls by the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, by the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab States, international groups, brotherly countries and the United Nations Secretary-General, that call for a solution to the dispute over the three occupied Islands by peaceful means in accordance with the norms and conventions and rules of international law through direct and serious negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice for confidence building measures and enhancing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;
 - 11- *Ensures* commitment of all Arab States in their contacts with Iran to raise the issue of Iran's occupation of the three Islands so as to emphasize the need to end this occupation on the basis that the three occupied Islands are occupied Arab territories;
 - 12- *Informs* the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council President of the importance of remaining actively seized of the matter, until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab Islands and the United Arab Emirates restores its full sovereignty over them;
 - 13- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on this matter and to submit a report to the Council at its next Ordinary Session.

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**Iran's Interference in the Arab Countries
Internal Affairs**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation issued by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, which convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - The Press Statement of the Fifth Meeting of the Arab Ministerial Quartet concerned with developments follow-up of the crisis with Iran convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Emphasizing* Resolution 652 issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level on 25th July 2016, as well as relevant resolutions and statements issued by the Arab League Council, in this regard, at both Summit and Ministerial Levels, most recently Resolution 8124 issued on 7th March 2017 concerning "Iran's Interference in the Arab Countries Internal Affairs",
- *Having been briefed by* the Heads of delegation and the Secretary-General,
 - 1- *Emphasizes* the importance that relations of cooperation between the Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on the principle of good neighbourliness and refraining from use or threat of force; *condemns* Iran's interference in the Arab countries internal affairs, considering such act as a violation of the international law and the principle of good-neighbourliness; and *demands* the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop these provocative acts, which undermine confidence building measures and threaten security and stability in the region;
 - 2- *Reaffirms* its condemnation of the aggressions against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Tehran and its Consulate General in Mashhad; *holds* the Islamic Republic of Iran responsible for such acts, requesting it to adhere to international agreements and conventions in this regard, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963;
 - 3- *Condemns and denounces* the continued inciting and hostile statements by Iranian officials against the Arab countries; and *demands* the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop these hostile statements and provocative acts; and to stop anti-Arab media campaigns, considering such acts as a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of these countries;
 - 4- *Calls upon* the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from the policies that trigger sectoral and doctrinal disputes and to abstain from supporting the groups that ignite these disputes in the Arabian Gulf countries; and *urges* the Iranian government to stop its support and funding of militias and armed parties in the Arab countries;
 - 5- *Condemns* Iran's continued occupation of the three occupied United Arab Emirates Islands (Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa); and *supports* all the peaceful procedures and measures taken by UAE to restore its sovereignty over the occupied Islands in accordance with the international law;

- 6- *Condemns and denounces* the continued Iranian interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain by granting support to terrorism, training of terrorists, arms smuggling, inciting sectarian strife, its continued statements on different levels to undermine security and stability, establishing terrorist groups in Bahrain, financed and trained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hezbollah, in contrary with the principle of good neighbourliness, and non-interference in the internal affairs, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the international law;
- 7- *Commends* the security agencies efforts in Bahrain who were able to abort a terrorist plan in January 2016, and arrest members of the terrorist organization who were assigned with this plan supported by the so-called the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hezbollah, which aimed to executing a series of dangerous terrorist acts in the Kingdom of Bahrain;
- 8- *Deplores* Iranian intervention in Syria crisis and its serious implications on the future of Syria, its sovereignty, security, stability, national unity and regional integrity; such interference shall not favour the efforts exerted to settle the crisis in Syria by peaceful means according to Geneva (I) provisions;
- 9- *Condemns* Iran's interference in Yemen's internal affairs by supporting the opposition forces to Yemen's legitimate government, which is adversely reflected on the security and stability of Yemen, its neighbouring countries and the entire region;
- 10- *Emphasizes* the importance of the initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) contained in the letter of His Highness, the Amir of the State of Kuwait to the President of Iran; and *calls on* Iran to respond positively to this initiative in a view to strengthening security and stability in the region;
- 11- *Underlines* the importance of Iran's commitment to implement Security Council Resolution 2231 of 2015, the need to apply an effective mechanism to verify the agreement implementation, inspection and observation, and to rapidly and effectively re-impose sanctions, in case Iran breaches its obligations under the agreement, and the importance of its accession to all nuclear safety instruments, taking into account the environmental problems of the region;
- 12- *Assigns* the Secretary-General to continue coordinating with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Quartet Committee that is comprised of the United Arab Emirates (Chair), Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Secretary-General in order to continue the development of an Arab action plan to confront the Iranian interventions in the Arab region and to mobilize international support for the Arab stance that rejects Iranian interference;
- 13- *Decides* to place the item "*Iran's interference in the Arab countries internal affairs*" on the agenda of the Arab cooperation forums with regional and international organizations;
- 14- *Decides* to address all concerned United Nations organs to place the matter on its agenda in accordance with the provisions of Article (2) paragraph (7) of the

- The Republic of Iraq emphasizes its reservation to the resolution on the Iranian interference in the Arab countries internal affairs issued by all previous sessions of the Arab League Council at ministerial level based on the following reasons:

- 1- Iraq has recorded its reservation to the title of the resolution.

Charter of the United Nations that bans intervention in the domestic jurisdiction of any Arab State;

- 15- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on this matter and submit a report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

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- 2- Iraq has recorded its full rejection of paragraphs (6,7) of the resolution, based on its supportive stance towards the noble national resistance of Lebanon's Hezbollah, as it is part of the Lebanese government representing the Lebanese people.
- Lebanon has recorded its reservation to paragraphs (6,7) for labelling Hezbollah as "terrorist", which is unacceptable as it is not classified as such by the United Nations, and is inconsistent with the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism with regard to distinguishing between resistance and terrorism, and that Hezbollah is a fundamental component of Lebanon and embodies a large segment of the Lebanese people with a balanced parliamentary and ministerial bloc in the Lebanese constitutional institutions. Lebanon has agreed to the rest of the resolution provisions, despite the fact that some affect Lebanon's disassociation policy. We particularly agree to paragraph (2) condemning the assaults against the Saudi missions in Iran, and we condemn any interference in the Arab countries internal affairs. We demanded omission of "the terrorist Hizbollah" phrase from the two paragraphs so that agreement to all resolution provisions is achieved without any reservation.
 - The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria : To confront the growing risks of terrorist organizations, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria calls for coordination of international endeavours to eradicate this phenomenon within the United Nations Strategy based on common goals and adherence to the rules of international legitimacy, in particular the United Nations regulations and terrorist groups classification lists that do not include the political formations recognized on national and international levels contributing to the national political and social scene, along with adherence of all governments and parties not to interfere in the internal affairs of the States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Arab League.
 - The Tunisian Republic's remark on paragraphs (6,7) of this resolution: Tunisia recalls its stand previously declared during the 145th, 146th and 147th Ordinary Sessions of the Council of the League of Arab States and its 27th Ordinary Session at Summit Level in Nouakchott that stressed the following:
 - Rejection of all forms of interference in the internal affairs of the States and all acts that threaten security and stability of the region, and Tunisia's concern over the security of the brotherly Gulf countries, calling upon all the parties to settle their disputes through dialogue and peaceful means, and to consolidate values of good neighbourliness and coexistence.
 - Hezbollah's contribution to liberation of a part of the Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation, shall not authorize Hezbollah or any other party to undertake any actions that undermine security and stability in the region.

The Arab Stance towards Turkish Forces Violation of Iraq's Sovereignty

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation issued by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level, convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
- *Emphasizing* all resolutions issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level, most recently Resolution 8125 issued by the 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017, and its Resolutions adopted at Summit Level, most recently Nouakchott Summit Resolution 653 issued by the 27th Ordinary Session on 25th July 2016,
 - 1- *Reaffirms* Resolution 7987 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level on 24th December 2015 concerning condemnation of the Turkish forces incursion into Iraqi territory, demanding the Turkish government to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraq, considering this a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a threat to Arab security;
 - 2- *Calls on* the Member States to request the Turkish side (under bilateral relations) to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territories, according to Resolution 7987 adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States on 24th December 2015, and to address these issues within its contacts with Member States;
 - 3- *Calls upon* the Member States to request the Turkish government not to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq, and to refrain from these provocative acts, which undermine confidence building measures and threaten security and stability in the region;
 - 4- *Confirms* its support to the Iraqi government in the measures taken thereof, in accordance with the relevant principles of international law that aim for the Turkish government withdrawal of its forces from Iraqi territory, thus consolidating sovereignty of the government of Iraq over its entire territories;
 - 5- *Emphasizes* the inclusion of the item "Turkish forces incursion into Iraqi territories, and preventing Turkish interference in the Arab neighbouring countries" as a permanent item on the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level, until full withdrawal of these forces is achieved;
 - 6- *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue following up on implementation of Resolution 7987 adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States on 24th December 2015 and to submit a detailed report on his endeavours in this regard to the next Ordinary Session of the Arab League Council;
 - 7- *Reaffirms* the resumption of the Security Council Arab member (Arab Republic of Egypt) to follow up the request concerning the Turkish forces withdrawal from the Iraqi territories, and to take all the necessary procedures thereof until full withdrawal of these forces is achieved.

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- The United Arab Emirates has recorded its reservation to this resolution.
 - The Kingdom of Bahrain has recorded its reservation to this resolution.
 - The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recorded its reservation to this resolution.
 - The State of Qatar has recorded its reservation to this resolution.

Safeguarding Arab National Security and Counter-Terrorism

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - *Reaffirming* its firm commitment to safeguard the Arab national security, defend the independence of Arab States and protect their national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity against any aggression,
 - *Emphasizing* the firm right of Member States to prevent any aggression against their communities, citizens, State institutions and government bodies, as well as their right to take all actions and to use all means to preventing any threat to the security and safety of their communities, in accordance with the Charters of the League of Arab States and the United Nations and human rights legitimacy,
 - *Strongly condemning* terrorism in all its forms, manifestations and practices, and *fully rejecting* any attempts to associate terrorism with any religion, civilization or nation,
 - *Reiterating* its full rejection of any form of support, active or passive, to terrorist or extremist organizations; and its firm condemnation of terrorist operations in all its forms and manifestations,
 - *Calling for* increase of efforts and strengthening coordination with the international community and its regional and international organizations to counter terrorism, particularly in areas of drying out its funding resources, the phenomenon of foreign terrorists and seeking to limit their movement among countries and establishing safe havens, and taking the necessary measures to prevent terrorists from using information and communication technology,
 - *Recalling* relevant resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States, particularly Resolutions 7804 and 8019, Sharm El-Sheikh Summit Resolution 628 and Nouakchott Summit Resolution 654,
- 1- *Strongly condemns* all forms of criminal operations carried out by terrorist organizations in the Arab States and at international level; *denounces* all practices committed by extremist armed groups that adopt religious, sectarian, doctrinal or ethnic slogans which incite violence, extremism and terrorism;
 - 2- *Reaffirms* the need to continue exerted efforts and to seek peaceful settlement to armed conflicts and political disputes and to find just and lasting solutions to conflicts in order to achieve Arab peoples' aspirations to stability, security, peace and decent life;
 - 3- *Reiterates* that military and security solutions are not enough to defeat terrorism; and *emphasizes* the need to seek elaboration of a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy to counter and prevent terrorism, including the political, social, legal, cultural, media, Arab and advocacy dimensions, in

- accordance with relevant resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States;
- 4- *Seeks to* continue the existing inter-Arab cooperation in counter-terrorism and extremism; and to intensify joint efforts and to enhance coordination among Member States to combat terrorism and eradicate its roots;
 - 5- *Commends* the overwhelming victories achieved by Member States against terrorism in defeating terrorist organizations and extremist groups, calling for exerting further efforts to ensure termination of terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations;
 - 6- *Salutes* with appreciation the Republic of Iraq and the Iraqi army for the victories achieved against Da'esh, and for their sacrifices rendered to liberate Mosul and other Iraqi cities and territories; *calls on* the Arab States to contribute to the reconstruction of cities liberated from these criminal groups, and relief of displaced persons; *emphasizes* gratitude and appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its continued efforts in combating terrorism in Northern Sinai to defeat terrorist plans; as well as the State of Libya for its valuable efforts in defeating the terrorism of Da'esh, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for its continued operations to contain and eradicate terrorism; and the State of Kuwait for its counter-terrorism endeavours, particularly in drying out the funding resources of terrorist groups and extremist organizations;
 - 7- *Calls on* the international community to take the necessary security and judicial procedures to prevent foreign terrorist from traveling and moving to areas of conflict, to deprive them of any safe havens and to bring them to justice for committing terrorist crimes;
 - 8- *Urges* the Member States to increase cooperation, to intensify efforts and to collectively work towards preventing all terrorist and extremist organizations with all their religious, sectarian and ethnic forms, from exploiting information and communication technology and social media, putting an end to disseminating hatred, sectarian strife and racism and sowing discord among members of society, without prejudice to the freedom of thought and expression permitted by national legislations and ratified international conventions;
 - 9- *Calls, once again, upon* the Member States to continue providing the Secretariat General with comprehensive reports on the national initiatives undertaken to counter terrorism, including the outcome of conferences and seminars organized on combating terrorism and extremist organizations;
 - 10- *Urges* the Member States to submit their views and proposals on developing working mechanisms relevant to safeguarding Arab national security and confronting terrorist and extremist organizations so as to elaborate a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism and to develop working mechanisms concerned with combating terrorism and extremist organizations, in accordance with the resolutions issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit and Ministerial Levels;
 - 11- *Expresses sincere gratitude and profound appreciation* for the efforts of the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein in clarifying the true image of the tolerant Islam, addressing the Islamophobia phenomenon at international community and challenging the stereotype that associating Islam with terrorism; and *commends* the supreme royal initiatives on tolerance, co-existence and dialogue such as "the Amman Message";

- 12- *Recognizes* the need to benefit from the expertise of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center, established in New York upon the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the Centre of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi, Hedayah Centre for Countering Violence Extremism, Muslim Council of Elders, the African Centre for Studies and Research of Terrorism in Algeria, Al-Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies in Iraq, Renaissance Forum for Cultural Communication in Sudan, the Renaissance and Cultural Communication Forum in Sudan, Mohammed bin Naif Counseling and Care Centre in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both of Mohammed VI Foundation for African Ulema and Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams, Morchidines, and Morchidates in the Kingdom of Morocco;
- 13- *Praises* the efforts exerted by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the area of counter and combating terrorism, which resulted in granting the "George Tenet" Medal to HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for his major contributions in countering and combating terrorism;
- 14- *Supports* all measures undertaken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to counter terrorism in a view to safeguarding its security and stability;
- 15- *Commends* the inclusion of some members belonging to the so-called "Saraya Al-Ashtar" terrorist group in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the terrorist list, thus reflecting the world countries determination to address all forms of terrorism at regional and international levels, its supporters, inciters and sympathizers; and *supports* the efforts and measures undertaken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to promote its peace, security and stability^(*).
- 16- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to submit a periodic report on its implementation procedures.

(S.R. 690 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

^(*)

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria :

To counter terrorism and terrorist organizations, Algeria calls for coordination of international efforts to combat this scourge, under a strategy includes the United Nations, based on common and shared goals, and adherence to international legitimacy rules, particularly the United Nations regulations and classification of lists of terrorist groups.

The delegation Republic of Iraq has also recorded its reservation on the following:

- 1- The classification of some persons and organizations as set out in paragraph (15) did not specify the criterion adopted in identifying the concept of terrorism, as such classification cannot be considered as an international classification, particularly under the absence of a definition of terrorism agreed upon by the international community.
- 2- This classification shall open the door wide to any country disagreeing with certain activist groups in their countries to classify them as terrorists.
- 3- Resolution of safeguarding Arab national security strongly condemned all forms of criminal acts of terrorist organizations in the Arab States and at international Level, therefore, it is unnecessary to specify an entity or a certain group in this resolution.

**Proposal to convene a regular Arab-
European summit**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - Resolution 8137 issued in this regard, by the 147th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level on 7th March 2017,
- *Recalling* item (3) of the Declaration issued by the fourth meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the League of Arab States and the European Union held on 20th December 2016 at the headquarters of the Secretariat General concerning a proposal to organize an ordinary Arab-European summit,
- 1- *Commends* the outcome of the fourth Arab-European Ministerial Meeting held on 20th December 2016 at the headquarters of the Secretariat General;
- 2- *Assigns* the Secretariat General to coordinate with the Arab States and the European Union to render the proposal to convene an Arab-European summit issued by the fourth Arab-European Ministerial Declaration within the framework of enhancing Arab-European cooperation, and to prepare a detailed report in this regard to be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States..

(S.R. 691 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**The Secretary-General's Report on the Joint Arab
Development, Economic and Social Action**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - The final report of the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of Resolutions and Obligations concerning the Follow-up on Implementation of Resolutions issued by the 27th Ordinary Session of the Arab Summit in Nouakchott on July 2016 concerning economic and social issues,
 - The summary report on the activities of specialized Arab organizations,
 - Resolution 2118 issued by the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretariat General,
- *In light of* the deliberations,
 - 1- *Takes note* of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development, economic and social action; and *thanks* the Secretary-General and his assistants for this report;
 - 2- *Takes note* of the procedures undertaken by Arab States, the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States, Specialized Arab Ministerial Councils and joint Arab action organizations to follow up on implementation of the development, economic and social resolutions adopted by the 27th Ordinary Summit convened in Nouakchott on 25th July 2016, urging them to follow up on the implementation of these resolutions;
 - 3- *Takes note of* the activities of specialized Arab organizations; *commends* their efforts to promote the joint Arab action; and *emphasizes* the importance of the role of these organizations to develop their work, to improve their performance and to implement their programmes and activities, in conformity with the League of Arab States directions and the aspirations of Member States (*).

(S.R. 692 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

(*) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar have recorded their reservation over the summary report on the activities of specialized Arab organizations regarding the Arab Women Organization and its achievements, as this organization was established outside the framework of the mechanisms adopted for the establishment of specialized Arab organizations within the League of Arab States, in addition, they are not members of this organization.

(*) The Republic of Sudan has recorded reservation over the performance, practice and deviation of the Arab Women Organization from institutional and organizational work regulations adopted by the League of Arab States for committees and specialized Arab organizations.

**The Greater Arab Free Trade Area
and Developments of the Arab Customs Union:
Achievements and Requirements**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - The report submitted by the Secretariat General on the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and developments of the Arab Customs Union: achievements and requirements,
 - Resolution 29 of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh- 2013) on 22nd January 2013, in particular Paragraph (VII),
 - Resolution 659 of the 27th Ordinary Session of Arab Summit on 25th July 2016 (Nouakchott- 2016),
 - Resolution 2118 of the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
- *Having been briefed by the Secretariat General,*
- *In light of the deliberations,*
 - 1- *Calls on* the Member States to abide by the resolutions adopted by the ordinary Arab and development summits, as well as the Economic and Social Council resolutions pertaining to the requirements of Greater Arab Free Trade Area, including the provision of support to the least developed countries in the region;
 - 2- *Assigns* the Economic and Social Council to develop a successful and effective mechanism to obligate the Arab States to abide by the provisions of the Facilitation and Development Agreement of Trade Exchange and its executive programme, and the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council in this regard;
 - 3- *Assigns* the Secretariat General to draw up a draft protocol of the Customs Union, requiring further cooperation and coordination between Arab customs administrations to overcome the challenges facing these administrations; and to submit the outcomes to the next session of the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with the ongoing work on drawing up a unified Arab customs tariff;
 - 4- *Assigns* the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior to accelerate the agreement on a unified Arab visa for Arab entrepreneurs and investors in the Arab States.

(S.R. 693 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

The Arab Strategy for Aquaculture (2017-2037)

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 2118 adopted by the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Note no. M.P/B.Q/562 of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development on 6th February 2017,
 - The Arab Strategy for Aquaculture (2017-2037)
- *Having been briefed by the Secretariat General,*
- *In light of the deliberations,*
 - 1- *Approves* the Arab Strategy for Aquaculture (2017-2037), attached in a separate document no. [S/28(17/03)/17-RU(0087)]";
 - 2- *Assigns* the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to follow up on the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Aquaculture (2017-2037) by the Arab States, to submit a progress report on the outcomes and efforts exerted in this regard to the Economic and Social Council.

(S.R. 694 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**The Framework Action Plan
of the Emergency Arab Food Security
Programme-phase II
(2017-2021)**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 6 adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit on 20th January 2009,
 - Resolution 2118 of the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Note no. M.P/437 of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development on 26th January 2017,
 - The Framework Action Plan of the Emergency Arab Food Security Programme-phase II (2017-2021),
 - *Having been briefed by the Secretariat General,*
 - *In light of the deliberations,*
- 1- *Adopts* the Framework Action Plan of the Emergency Arab Food Security Programme-phase II (2017-2021), "attached in a separate document no. [S/28(17/03)/17-RU(0087)]";
 - 2- *Assigns* the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to continue its follow-up on the implementation of the Framework Action Plan of the Emergency Arab Food Security Programme-phase II (2017-2021) by the countries included in the programme; in addition to follow up on all initiatives, plans and programmes implemented by the Arab States within the framework of the Emergency Arab Food Security Programme that contribute to enhancing the Arab food security conditions; and to submit progress reports in this regard.

(S.R. 695 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Knowledge Economy in Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 9 adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit on 20th January 2009,
 - Resolution 2118 of the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - The Study by the Secretariat General on "Knowledge Economy in Arab States",
- *Emphasizing* the importance to enhance Arab cooperation to achieve knowledge economy, and to support the efforts exerted by the Member States at the national and regional levels,
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretariat General,
- *In light of* the deliberations,

Calls on the Member States to develop plans on the transition towards knowledge economy, to carry out an annual survey on the progress achieved thereof, and to submit progress reports in this regard.

(S.R. 696 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Refugees

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 2118 adopted by the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Resolution 2129 of the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Resolution 14 of the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs on 28th February 2017,
 - Note no. 704 submitted by the Permanent Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 14th March 2017,
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretariat General and the Head of Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,
- *In light of* the deliberations,
 - 1- *Stresses* the importance to provide the necessary and full support to the Arab refugee hosting countries, in particular the Syrian refugees and forcibly displaced persons to these countries; to establish development projects in these countries that contribute to reducing the negative economic and social implications resulting from this displacement, and contributing to support and strengthen hosting countries in a way that sustains providing humanitarian and relief services thereof, as these countries shall not be able to continue to provide these contributions without a long-term Arab and international support;
 - 2- *Emphasizes* the call for the international community to bear its responsibilities towards this crisis, and also the Arab, regional and international funding institutions to provide the necessary support to refugee hosting countries and to contribute to alleviating the burdens placed on hosting countries.

(S.R. 697 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Implementation Mechanism
for the Initiative of HE President of the
Republic of Sudan on Arab Agricultural
Investment in Sudan to Achieve Arab Food
Security**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - The comprehensive report submitted by the Republic of Sudan on Sudan's initiative to achieve Arab food security,
 - Resolution 29 adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit on 22nd January 2013,
 - Resolution 1967 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 20th January 2014,
 - Note no. 44-17-25 submitted by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Sudan on 12th March 2017,
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretariat General,
- *In light of* the deliberations,

Decides to form an implementation mechanism for the initiative of HE President of the Republic of Sudan on Arab Agricultural Investment in Sudan to achieve Arab food security, which includes the government of Sudan, the Secretariat General, the Arab private sector, Arab Funds, Arab institutions and agencies, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and other relevant organizations.

(S.R. 698 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**The outcomes of
the Ministerial Conference on
"Terrorism and Economic Development:
Causes and Approaches"
(Sharm El-Sheikh: 27-28/02/2017)**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 654 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of Nouakchott Summit on 25th July 2016,
 - Resolution 2118 of the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Resolution 807 adopted by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs on 15th December 2016 and Resolution 12 of its 4th Extraordinary Session on 28th February 2017,
 - *Emphasizing* the need to eradicate terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations; and to counter all terrorist organizations,
 - *Stressing* that achievement of social development for all components of society represents a key element to counter terrorism and eradicate its roots;
 - *Recognizing* the social effects resulting from terrorist attacks and brutal Israeli practices of state terrorism and their impact on the aspirations of the Arab people to achieve sustainable development and social security,
 - *Having been briefed* by the Secretariat General,
 - *In light of* the deliberations,
- 1- *Thanks* HE President Abdel-Fatah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt for sponsoring the Ministerial Conference on "Terrorism and Social Development: Causes and Approaches" (Sharm El-Sheikh: 27th-28th February 2017), and for his valuable efforts to support the joint Arab action;
 - 2- *Adopts* the Arab Declaration "Support for Arab Action to Eradicate Terrorism" issued by the Arab Ministerial Conference on Terrorism and Social Development: Causes and Approaches;
 - 3- *Decides to* form a committee chaired by the President of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs, with the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States, the Arab ministerial councils and relevant specialized Arab organizations as members of the committee in coordination with Member States and in cooperation with all the partners to take the necessary measures to render the Declaration, in support of the Arab endeavours seeking to eradicate terrorism and extremism;*)

(*)The delegations of Algeria, Sudan and Qatar consider that adhering to the mechanisms of the League of Arab States and preserving the powers of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs to provide the appropriate follow-up and implementation mechanism of the Declaration, emphasize that the powers and role of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs, in this regard, should be taken into consideration in coordination with various ministerial councils and relevant sectors.

- 4- *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on implementation of this resolution and to submit a report to the Council in this regard to its next ordinary session.

(S.R. 699 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**The Arab Strategy for Scientific and Technological
Research and Innovation**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 665 adopted by the 27th Ordinary Session of Nouakchott Summit on 25th July 2016,
 - Resolution 2118 adopted by the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - *Having been briefed by the Secretariat General,*
 - *In light of the deliberations,*
- 1- *Adopts the Arab Strategy for Scientific and Technological Research and Innovation, "attached in a separate document no. [S/28(17/03)/17-RU(0087)]",*
 - 2- *Assigns the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), in coordination with the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States, to follow up on the implementation of the strategy and to submit a progress report to the Arab League Council at its next ordinary session.*

(S.R. 700 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

The Executive Strategic Action Plan
“2030 Women Development Agenda in the Arab Region”

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab development economic and social action,
 - Resolution 664 issued by the 27th Ordinary Session of Nouakchott Summit on 25th July 2016,
 - Resolution 7965 issued by the 144th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States on 13th September 2015,
 - Resolution 2118 issued by the 99th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council on 16th February 2017,
 - Note no. (C.P/06/2638) submitted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 9th November 2016,
 - Note no. (C.P1/02/29-270) submitted by the United Arab Emirates on 27th October 2016,
 - Note no. (2499/10/M.Q/2016) submitted by the State of Palestine on 24th October 2016,
 - Note no. (U.O 468/2016) submitted by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on 7th November 2016,
 - Note no. 03/C/10/5816 submitted by the Republic of Iraq on 30th November 2016,
 - Notes no. (324/3406) and (324/4418) submitted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 13th February 2017 and 20th March 2017 respectively,
 - Cairo Declaration on Arab Women and the Executive Strategic Action Plan: the "2030 Women Development Agenda in the Arab Region",
- *Having been briefed by* the Secretariat General,
- *In light of* the deliberations,
 - 1- *Adopts* Cairo Declaration on Arab Women and the Executive Strategic Action Plan: the "2030 Women Development Agenda in the Arab Region", attached as a separate document "S/28(17/03)/17-RU(0087)".
 - 2- *Assigns* the Secretariat General to follow up on the implementation of Cairo Declaration on Arab Women and the Executive Strategic Action Plan: the "2030 Women Development Agenda in the Arab Region"; and to submit a regular progress report to the Arab League Council every five years in this regard.

(S.R. 701 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

Reform of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
 - The recommendation adopted by the Second Meeting of the Committee on Implementation Follow-up of Resolutions and Obligations at Ministerial Level convened in Amman on 27th March 2017,
 - Resolutions 8080 and 8082 adopted by the 146th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level on 8th September 2016 and Resolution 8108 by the 147th Ordinary Session on 7th March 2017,
- *Commending* the efforts exerted by the Open-Membership Committee to reform the League of Arab States, chaired by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Task Forces formed thereof,
- 1- *Takes note of* Resolution 8108 adopted by 147th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Ministerial Level on 7th March 2017 concerning the outcome of the Open-Membership Committee at Permanent Delegates Level on the reform and development of the League of Arab States and the Task Forces formed thereof;
- 2- *Assigns* the Open-Membership Committee chaired by the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan to undertake a comprehensive assessment on the reform and development of the League of Arab States, including submission of recommendations on the items that were not agreed upon to the 148th Ordinary Session at Ministerial Level.

(S.R. 702 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Date and Venue of 29th Ordinary Session of
the Council of the League of Arab States at
Summit Level**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- Pursuant to Article III of the Annex on the regular convening of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, which stipulates that "the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level shall regularly convene an Ordinary Session once a year in March",
- *Having been briefed by* the Head of Delegation of the United Arab Emirates and the Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard,
- *In light of* the agreement between the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on exchanging of the Summit Presidency; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcoming to chair and host the upcoming 29th Arab summit in 2018,

Decides to convene the 29th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level under the presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in March 2018.

(S.R. 703 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)

**Expression of Gratitude and Appreciation to
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting
the 28th Ordinary Session in Amman**

The Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level,

- *Having reviewed,*
 - The note submitted by the Secretariat General,
 - The report submitted by the Secretary-General on the joint Arab action,
- *In appreciation of* the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its cordial hosting of the proceedings of the 28th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level, and for its valuable efforts exerted in the organization of this Session's proceedings,
 - 1- *Expresses* sincere gratitude and utmost appreciation to His Majesty King Abdullah ibn Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for his valuable efforts exerted to ensure success of the Summit and for his sensible management of its proceedings; and *emphasizes* its full confidence in his composed leadership of the joint Arab action with an aim to reform and enlarge its process and to perpetuate the Arab solidarity for a better future and to serve the interests of the Arab Nation;
 - 2- *Expresses* gratitude to the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their warm reception, generous hospitality and good organization of the meetings of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level and the preceding preparatory councils, and for the provision of all necessary resources and arrangements needed to ensure its successful convening under optimal conditions and culmination of its proceedings with the desired outcomes.

(S.R. 704 O.S. (28) – S. 3 – 29/03/2017)



S28/(17/03)/48- F(0191)

**Statement on
Condemnation of the Terrorist Attack Targeting Iraqi Visitors in Syrian Capital
Damascus**

Amman: 29/03/2017

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The Council of the League of Arab States convened in its 28th ordinary session at Summit Level condemns the terrorist attack that targeted Iraqi visitors in Syrian Capital Damascus which was committed by the terrorist group known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (previously Al-Nusra Front) on 11th March 2017. This criminal act caused the death of 43 martyrs and nearly 100 injuries of innocent civilians, mostly women, children and elderly.

In this regard, the Arab League Council emphasizes that States must take all necessary measures to eradicate terrorist groups and to support the international coalition endeavours to eliminate all terrorist groups wherever they exist, in implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

S28/(17/03)/34-D(0177)

Amman Declaration

Arab Summit Communiqué,

Amman-Jordan

March 29, 2017

We, the leaders of Arab States, assembled at the 28th ordinary session of the League of Arab States Council convened at summit level in the Dead Sea - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on March 29, 2017, upon kind invitation of King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussain of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,

- *Emphasizing* that protecting the Arab world from the looming dangers and building a better future that our peoples deserve, require enhancement of the joint Arab action based on a systematic and institutional framework of mechanisms, and on realistic and sensible strategies able to address crises, to stop failure and to place our Nation on a solid path towards a secure future, free from oppression, fear and wars; embraced by peace, hope and prosperity,
- *Recognizing* that our Summit has been held under very difficult circumstances, amidst crises that undermine states, kill hundreds of thousands of Arab peoples, turn millions of the children of our Nation to refugees and displaced persons; in addition to the unprecedented spread of terrorist groups that threaten the security and stability of the region and the world. It convenes under circumstances of occupation, need, oppression and political, social, economic and cultural challenges that contribute to the environment of despair conducive to frustration and chaos, used by villains to spread ignorance, and deprive the Arab peoples of their right for a secure, free dignified and prosperous life,
- Following intensive consultations, as well as profound and candid discussions, We:
 - 1- *Emphasize* that we shall continue to seek to relaunch serious and effective Palestinian Israeli peace talks that would end the political deadlock, according to a specific timeline to end the conflict on basis of the two-state solution that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the June

4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which constitutes the only solution to achieve security and stability; *strongly affirm* that comprehensive and lasting peace is an Arab strategic option, envisioned in the Arab Peace Initiative endorsed by all the Arab States at the 2002 Arab Summit in Beirut and supported by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which remains the most comprehensive plan capable of achieving a historical reconciliation, based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories to the borders of June 4, 1967, and ensuring resolve of all the final status issues, foremost of which lies the issue of refugees, and providing security, recognition and peace between Israel and all the Arab States; *underline* our commitment to the Initiative, and adherence to all its items, being the best option to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace.

In this context, we *highlight* our rejection to all Israeli unilateral measures that seek to change the facts on the ground and undermine the two-state solution; *demand* the international community to implement international legitimacy resolutions, last of which Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016) that condemned settlement activities and land expropriation; also *emphasize* our support for the results of the Paris Conference on the Middle East held on January 15, 2017 that renewed the international community commitment to the two-state solution as the only option to achieve a lasting peace; similarly *underscore* our rejection to all steps and measures taken by Israel to change the legal and historical status of Islamic and Christian holy places in occupied Jerusalem; *commend* efforts undertaken by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussain, the Hashemite Custodian of Muslim and Christian holy places, to protect the Holy City and the character of its Arab, Muslim and Christian holy sites, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-sharif; *demand* implementation of all Security Council resolutions related to Jerusalem, particularly Resolutions 252 (1968), 267 and 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), which consider null and void all Israeli measures aimed at changing East Jerusalem landmarks and character; and *demand* world countries not to relocate their

embassies in Jerusalem or recognize it as the capital of Israel; also *stress* the need to implement the resolution adopted by the UNESCO Executive Council in its 200th session on October 18, 2016, which demanded the halt of Israeli violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, considering the Jordanian administration of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque Waqf as the only legal authority over Al-Haram with regards to its administration, its maintenance and access organization. *Gathering* in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a few kilometers away from the occupied Palestinian territories, we *emphasize* our steadfast solidarity with the brotherly Palestinian people, and support the reconciliation efforts and the formation of a national unity government under the umbrella of the Palestinian national legitimacy led by H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas.

- 2- *Strongly emphasize* the need to accelerate our work in pursuit of a peaceful resolution to end the Syria Crisis; a solution that would achieve aspirations of the Syrian People, and safeguard Syria's unity, sovereignty and independence, end the presence of all the terrorist groups on its soil, based on Geneva 1 Communiqué, Syria International Support Group Communiqués, and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolution 2254 (2015). There is no military solution to this crisis or any means to stop the bloodshed except through a peaceful settlement; one that can turn transition to a political reality drafted and agreed upon by all components of the Syrian people. While *supporting* exerted peace endeavours through the Geneva track that constitutes the only framework to negotiate a peaceful resolution, we *recognize* the importance of Astana talks seeking to stabilize a full ceasefire on all the Syrian territory; also *urge* the international community to continue its support for the Syrian refugees host countries; *highlight* the need to implement the results of the London Conference Communiqué, and *call for* the adoption of new support programmes for Syria's neighbouring countries that host refugees by the Brussels Conference that shall take place on the coming April 5th.

We *consider* that contributing to providing the needs of the refugees' daily and educational life as an investment in

sustaining a secure future for the region and the world, as the option lies between providing education, skills and hope for the refugees, particularly children and youth so that they become the generation that shall reconstruct their nation the way it used to be, or leaving them to become victim of need, ignorance and despair until they end up as burden of development and security on the region and the world. Therefore, we *assign* the League's Ministerial Council to draw up a specific mechanism to help the hosting Arab states to assume their hosting responsibilities.

- 3- *Reaffirm* that the security, stability, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, represent a cornerstone of the regional security and stability and that of the Arab national security; *emphasize* our full support to brotherly Iraq in its efforts to eradicate terrorist groups, to liberate Mosul from Daesh; *commend* the prominent achievements by the Iraqi army in liberating other governorates and areas in Iraq from terrorists; *support* all the efforts aimed at restoring safety and security to Iraq, and achieving national reconciliation through a political process that sustains the state of citizenship and ensures justice and equality to all the components of Iraqi people on a stable and secure nation without exclusion or discrimination.
- 4- *Support* the Arab Coalition endeavours in support of legitimacy in Yemen and in ending the Yemeni crisis in accordance with the GCC Initiative and its executive mechanisms, the results of the National Dialogue Conference and Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015) in a manner that safeguards Yemen's independence and its national unity and prevents interference in its internal affairs, maintains its security and the security of its neighbouring gulf countries; *commend* the reconstruction initiatives that will help brotherly Yemeni people with their country's reconstruction process.
- 5- *Firmly stress* the need to achieve political and security stability in Libya, through national reconciliation based on Skhirat Agreement and maintain Libya's territorial integrity and its social cohesion; *emphasize* our support for endeavours exerted by Libya's neighbouring Arab countries in achieving this reconciliation, particularly the Tripartite Initiative, through a UN brokered Libyan dialogue; *underscore* the need to support the Libyan legitimate institutions, and *support* the

Quartet Dialogue hosted by the League of Arab States with participation of the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations to seek agreement to end the crisis; *emphasize* our steadfast solidarity with our Libyan brothers in their effort to eradicate the terrorist groups and to eliminate the hazards posed by terrorism in Libya and its neighbors.

- 6- *Commit* to pledge all the necessary means to eradicate terrorist groups, defeat terrorists on all the military, security and ideological battlefronts, as terrorism is a deadly disease that must be extricated in order to protect our peoples and to defend our security, values of tolerance and peace and respect for life that embraces us all; *shall continue* to fight terrorism, to eliminate its causes and seek to eradicate the *Kharijites* of our era, through an all-inclusive strategy that recognizes the significance of resolving the regional crises, enhances values of democracy and respect for human and citizenship rights, and addresses ignorance and exclusion, and helps disintegrate the environment of despair on which terrorism perseveres and in which its futilities and evil spread.
- 7- *Express* our deep concern over the rise of Islamophobia, and attempts to connect True Islam with terrorism; *warn* that such attempts only serve the terrorist groups and their dark ideologies, which do not in any way relate to Islam and its tolerance principles; *also condemn* acts of violence and human rights violation against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar; *express* our deep resentment towards the tragic circumstances witnessed by this Muslim minority, particularly in Rakhine region; *demand* the international community to act effectively and use all the diplomatic, legal and humanitarian means to stop these violations, and to force the government of Myanmar to assume its legal, civil and humanitarian responsibilities in this regard.
- 8- *Highlight* our interest in building good neighbourly relations and cooperation with neighbouring countries so as to ensure achievement of regional security, peace, stability and development; *also reject* all interference in the internal affairs of the Arab States and *condemn* attempts to destabilize security, to spread or ignite sectarian strifes and conflicts, in violation of the principles of good neighbourliness, the rules of

international relations and international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

- 9- *Emphasize* the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its Three Islands (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu-Musa), *support* all the peaceful measures and steps 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.
- 10- *Congratulate* our brothers in the Republic of Somalia on achieving the electoral process, and *emphasize* our support for their reconstruction efforts in facing the economic and development challenges and in their fight against terrorism.
- 11- *Renew* commitment of the Kuwait Summit Communiqué of 2014, which called on the education bodies and institutions in the Arab States to achieve quality education curricula reform, particularly in the field of science, to ensure that graduates enjoy the knowledge and skills that enable them to contribute to trigger the development process and achieve the comprehensive Arab renaissance, as education reform and that of its instruments and mechanisms are conditional to building competences that are in line with modern developments and to establish enlightened and competitive Arab societies.
- 12- *Assign* the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States to draw up an action plan to implement resolutions of previous summits pertaining to reform of Arab economic cooperation, increase of trade exchange, connecting energy and transport infrastructures, encouraging Arab investments in the Arab States in a way that contributes to creating regional economic development and providing Arab youth with employment opportunities; *appreciate* in this context, efforts achieved in areas of sustainable development which economic policies ought to maximize; *also assign* the Council to draft proposals to develop partnership with the private sector, to create conducive investment environment, and to submit its recommendations prior to the next summit; *emphasize* the need to achieve tangible progress towards the creation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, and the Customs Union.
- 13- *Underline* our support for the Arab League and its empowerment as it embraces our collective Arab identity; and

stress the need to achieve consensus on practical recommendations that contribute to developing its work mechanisms and increasing efficiency of the joint Arab action and its specialized institutions so as to restore the confidence of the Arab citizens in their League and its institutions.

- 14- *Affirm* our continued consultation and coordination to endorse the most optimal means, to adopt practical programmes that shall enable us to regain initiative in our Arab world, and to achieve progress in crises settlement efforts, achieve sustainable development, create opportunities, establish values of democracy, human rights, citizenship and equality, which shall in turn enhance the collective national identity and protect the national state that represents the cornerstone of the regional Arab regime, and prevents racial and sectarian disintegration and helps our Arab States become nations of peace, enlightenment and prosperity.
- 15- *Express* our deep gratitude to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and to its hospitable People and Government for their generosity and warm reception, and for the excellent organization of this summit; *express* our gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussain for his sensible conduct of the Summit proceedings, and for all his efforts, which made Amman Summit a platform for a sincere practical and positive dialogue that helped clearing the Arab differences and enhancing coordination and cooperation in the best interest of the Nation and in standing up to the challenges it faces.

**Speech of His Majesty King Abdullah II
At the Opening of the 28th Ordinary Session of
the Council of the League of Arab States at the
Summit Level (Amman Summit)
Jordan, Jordan Valley
29 March 2017¹**

¹ Published by <https://kingabdullah.jo/en>

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate,

Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Mohammad,

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, Excellencies,
Your Excellency, Secretary General of the Arab League,
Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.**

Welcome to your second home, Jordan, one of the six founding members of the League of Arab States. Joint Arab action, based on solidarity, cooperation, and belief in a common destiny, has always been at the forefront of Jordan's priorities.

Allow me, on behalf of all of us, to thank my brother His Excellency Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz for his sincere efforts as president of the previous Arab Summit. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Arab League and its staff for the work they have put into holding this Summit.

I would also like to welcome His Excellency Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, Excellencies,
We stand today before grave challenges to the fate of our countries, peoples, and our nation.**

First is the threat of terrorism and extremism, which has set out to tarnish the image of our religion and hijack the future of young Arabs. It is therefore our duty to protect them from distortions to their religious and ideological beliefs, since terrorism poses a greater threat to Arabs and Muslims, who make up the majority of its victims. We must work together and with the world to counter this danger through a holistic approach.

Second is Israel's continued settlement expansion and its work to undermine chances for peace.

There can be no peace nor stability in the region without a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause, the core issue of the Middle East, based on the two-state solution.

Jordan is closest to the Palestinian cause. Our martyrs have fallen while defending Palestinian land, and we are aware of the daily struggle of the Palestinian people, Jerusalemites in particular. The Hashemite Custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem is a historical responsibility Jordan is honoured to undertake on behalf of the Arab and Muslim nations.

We will continue to fight against any attempts to change the status quo and to stand up against attempts for temporal and spatial division of Al Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Al Sharif, with your support and assistance. We must all work as one to safeguard Jerusalem and prevent attempts to create new facts on the ground that would have catastrophic consequences on the region's future and stability.

Third, we hope that the recent talks in Geneva and Astana will bring about a breakthrough in the Syrian crisis, as it enters its seventh year, to launch an inclusive political process that involves all components of the Syrian people, maintains the territorial integrity of Syria, and guarantees the safety of its citizens and the return of refugees. In addition to Palestinian refugees, Jordan is hosting 1.3 million of our Syrian brothers and sisters, which makes the Kingdom the largest refugee host in the world. It is a burden we carry on behalf of our nation and the entire international community.

Fourth, we reaffirm our support to the Iraqi government in its fight against terrorism, paving the way for an inclusive, comprehensive political process that safeguards the rights of all and establishes for a united and stable Iraq.

Fifth, we express our support for efforts to restore stability and security in Yemen and Libya in order to build a bright future for their peoples. To that end, we must take the initiative and put forward ground-breaking solutions to pervasive challenges, in order to prevent foreign interference in our affairs.

The first step is to agree on our key goals and interests, instead of continuing to hold annual meetings where we reiterate slogans that, we know, will not be translated into actual policies.

We must seek shared solutions to our shared problems. Let this Summit launch a new phase of joint Arab action.

Allow me to conclude by wishing you a pleasant stay in your second home, and I ask God to grant us success and to guide us to achieve the best interests of our Arab and Muslim nations.

Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

**Address by HE Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States
at
the Opening of
the Ordinary Session Council of the League of
Arab States at Summit Level**

*Your Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein
Your Majesties and Highnesses
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure and honour to address you today from the beloved Kingdom of Jordan. This cherished country, which possesses the elements of a bright future; the components and landmarks of history and civilization; the moderate Jordan that stands firm against its contiguous tempests.

Allow me to congratulate Your Majesty on your assumption of the presidency of the twenty-eight Arab Summit, and on its excellent and distinguished organization. I am hopeful and confident that your presidency of the new session shall be vigorous replete with work and initiative, which are all too familiar under your sensible leadership of Jordan.

I would also like to express my appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, for his presidency of the twenty-seventh summit, particularly in light of the circumstances that surrounded Mauritania's summit hosting last July, and for his endeavours exerted to serve the interests of the joint Arab action during Mauritania's presidency.

When I assumed my tenure as Secretary-General of the League nine months ago, I submitted before your esteemed summit the outlines of my vision towards the Arab situation, our common work and the challenges facing us. I started work immediately and vigorously. I also visited most of the Member States where I was honoured to meet their leaders and discuss with them the situation in the Arab region and the Arab League. Here are my conclusions:

First: I felt great satisfaction and a huge morale boost from my talks with all the leaders who I was honoured to meet. The general line of discussions was the support for the Arab League and its work; commitment to its noble mission in representing and uniting the Arabs and expressing their interests and defending them, as well as embodying and seeking to achieve their hopes and aspirations. I equally felt an understandable sorrow and bitterness that can only be justified by the debilitated and divided Arab position. These meetings formed clear guiding lights on my road to responsibility. Hence, I made my

vows to the leaders whom I met that I shall, to the best of my ability, trigger the work and the role of the League in diverse fields and issues. I also pledged to seek unity of the Arabs, to seek situation reshuffle and restore cohesion amongst all.

Second: Despite all the manifestations of weakness in our Arab system, and despite the sufferings of our Nation from numerous problems, failures and decline, a glimpse of hope and optimism was revealed to me in the midst of the intense darkness. Your Arab League CAN be your own bridged connection; it CAN be a productive leader of common Arab work; it CAN carry out considerable achievements in economic, social, cultural, intellectual and even scientific issues in case it is supported by all the countries and that their political will agrees to achieve this end.

Third: There are many vultures hovering around our region wanting to devour and eat away the Arab body, to impinge on the Arabs' ability to unite themselves, to create conflict amongst them. Some of these forces use sectarianism in an abhorrent way to achieve political purposes that oppose the Arab interests along the way; an approach we reject and firmly stand against, and we call upon the parties that exercise it to revisit their positions.

Much talk now is about seeking our region reshuffle even without our consent, thus creating new conditions in the Middle East. In the face of all these approaches, I have defended two fundamental issues during the past months: first, the nation-state that came into being in the twentieth century. We ought to preserve this nation-state as it represents the core of the Arab system that must not be jeopardized. Secondly; emphasis must be placed on the fact that the current Arab situation with all the problems it is afflicted to, is not yet qualified to embark on any long-term regional security arrangements in light of the power imbalance which we all witness.

Fourth: on the political arena, I have perceived that the most important issues are not in our possession or within our ability to influence; perhaps because of the repercussions of the past six years. We are closely following the crisis in Syria without a real mechanism of intervening with other actors that can stand against shaping the future of Syria without real Arab contribution; a rather unsound matter, I believe. Despite the complex situation in Libya, I have sought to place the League again in an advanced position that enables a better response

to the appeals of all the Libyan brothers who aspire to put an end to the chapters of their ongoing crisis with the support of the League.

Fifth: our fundamental question of Palestine has indeed occupied my great concern as I have constantly addressed this cause in my meetings and discussions; stating, defending and upholding it. However, the situation is not good on the one hand but dynamic and positive on the other. Israel is still determined to occupy the territories of Palestine and continues its oppression without any deterring force. Its settlement activities, judaization and land appropriation policies still persist. Moreover, the Palestinian division adds up adverse consequences. On the positive side, there is the recent Security Council resolution that condemns the settlement activities and supports the two-state solution. There is also the peace conference that was held in Paris last January, in which many international actors joined their will requesting end of the occupation and implementation of the two-state solution. Finally, there is a new American administration that talks about its desire to repush the peace process. These are all developments to build on and follow up in support for the Palestinian cause.

The Arab hand is still stretched out in peace as per the Arab peace initiative. We are still waiting for a true partner on the other side who understands the requirements of peace and works hard to achieve it. Unfortunately, we do not find this partner despite the numerous mediations and efforts.

Sixth: the extremely difficult developments in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, as well as Somalia have led to deteriorating humanitarian conditions; not only displacement and asylum but also starvation. One of every two world refugees today is unfortunately an Arab refugee. Therefore, it has become inevitable that we Arabs face these conditions boldly as they deal with the dignity of the Arab citizens and their right to life. Here, allow me to salute the leaders who responded to the call of humanity and provided our afflicted brothers and to the Arab States facing humanitarian tragedies with aid relief and opened their doors to shelter the displaced and injured. I call on the generous and benevolent Arab leaders not only to continue their support but also to intensify relief aid to be able face these humanitarian conditions that unarmed civilians are afflicted to in crisis areas.

Seventh: in parallel, our countries rage with the war against terrorism which governments are fighting with all their power and which societies resist with willpower and determination. Hundreds of martyrs

fall from Iraq to Syria and other countries. Terrorism is wreaking our cities. Nevertheless, we have not faltered in facing it as we all know that its persistence and victory represent an end to us all, and that eradicating it completely represents a new beginning for our societies, their development and political process.

Your Majesties and Highnesses

These are the outlines of the image that I have been following up and interacting with during the past nine months. We must not forget, amidst all these perched concerns and daunting challenges that the purpose of the Arab work is the Arab citizen and nothing else; his security, prosperity and future. We are all well aware that the Arab citizen is following the state of the Nation with deep concern as he witnesses the unprecedented crisis that the Nation is being stricken by in its modern history. In fact this concern is legitimate and fear from the future is understandable; it is even a healthy sign and evidence of vigour in the Arab entity. Indeed, the collective Arab sentiment still prevails. The internal concerns in each and every country do not deny sharing the general concern and sensing the perils that threaten the entire Arab entity.

In fact, convening our summit today with this honourable presence and this remarkable participation of majesties and highnesses represents a message of reassurance to the weary Arab citizen, a message of confidence that the Arab system still functions in spite of the shortcomings, and that the joint Arab coordination and work still remains the only means to face the challenges as the first step to face any regional crisis is the common vision of parties along with an area of trust and communication that allows to deal with any differences which is rather a natural issue, and enables common action to face the crises. This is the desired goal.

Our present crisis is severe, but I believe that our collective willpower is stronger. Our mishap is precarious and fatal, but our unity, if intentions are sincere, is capable of overcoming it. We do not need to wail over the past or be immersed in desperation "Indeed, no one despairs of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people". We all look forward to overcoming this crisis with our cohesion, by seeking to help each other and through uniting our vision of common priorities for the Arab national security. The resolutions submitted to this summit provides more elaboration on all these priorities. We cannot overcome

our crisis unless we are together and united and indeed our common willpower takes us half the way to our goals.

Our Arab world is capable of keeping pace with this era, its youth is willing to contribute to the construction process for the future. It is necessary to open up windows of hope for this youth and to new social contracts launched by our societies that would trigger their energy and their creative skills so as to build competitive economies that benefit all components of the society based on modern models of development; development of human beings and stone altogether; development that rids societies of the scourge of extremism; one that faces crowds of destruction with axes of construction. Every good education opportunity or a decent job pulls out a family from poverty and proves faith of individuals in their society and country; it may even save innocent souls.

I have no doubts that the Arab peoples and governments are capable of overcoming this dangerous chapter of their modern history, being stronger more determined armed with more solidarity and unity.

Thank you and may God help you for the good of our Nation and for upholding its unity.

**List of
Arab Leaders and Heads of Delegation of the Arab States
participating in 28th Ordinary Session at Summit Level
according to the alphabetical order of Member States**

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- **HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**
- **HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum..... Vice President - Prime Minister - Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, State of the United Arab Emirates**
- **HM King Hamad bin Isa Al-KhalifaKing of the Kingdom of Bahrain**
- **HE President Beji Caid EssebsiPresident of the Republic of Tunisia**
- **HE Abdul Qadir bin Saleh President of the National Assembly- the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**
- **HE President Ismail Omar Guelleh..... President of the Republic of Djibouti**
- **Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
- **HE Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir President of the Republic of Sudan**
- **..... Syrian Arab Republic**
- **HE President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo President of the Federal Republic of Somalia**
- **HE Dr. Haider Al-Abbadi Prime Minister - Republic of Iraq**
- **HH Mr. Asaad bin Tariq bin Taimur Al-Said Deputy Prime Minister for Relations and International Cooperation-Special Representative of HM Sultan of Oman - Sultanate of Oman**
- **HE President Mahmoud AbbasPresident of the State of Palestine**
- **HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani Amir of the State of Qatar**
- **HE President Azali Assoumani ..President of the Federal Republic of Comoros**
- **HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah...Amir of the State of Kuwait**
- **HE President General Michel AounPresident of the Lebanese Republic**
- **HE President Fayez Mustafa Al-Sarraj Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord - State of Libya**
- **HE Abdel Fattah El-Sisi President of the Arab Republic of Egypt**
- **HE Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation - Kingdom of Morocco**
- **HE President Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania**
- **HE President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi . President of the Republic of Yemen**