



The Arab Summit Conference

Declaration of Baghdad

Baghdad: March/ 2012

Declaration of Baghdad

We, leaders of Arab States, gathered for the twenty-third session of the Arab League Summit in Baghdad, city of love and peace in the Republic of Iraq on the 29th of March, 2012.

- Out of our commitment in the principles and goals of the Arab League's Charter, and following our belief in the necessity of perusing the achievement of these goals and reaching its purpose, and clinging to the Arabic identity and its cultural and historical basis, facing the threats and dangers surrounding the Arab region and threatening to shake its security and demolish its stability.

- And confirming on the urgent necessity to recover the spirit of Arab solidarity, and protecting collective Arab security, and supporting the Arab joint action in development, economical, and social areas.

- And based on the other Arab charters, including the Charter of Covenant Harmony and Solidarity among Arab States, and a Document of Development and Modernization in the Arab World, and the Arab Convention of Human Rights issued by the Tunis Summit 2004; and with our affirmation on the importance of developing the system of Arab joint action, in line with the political development in the Arab region, and fulfilling the requirements of supporting the Arab League and its institutions.

- And inspired by the humane and religious values that rejects all forms of extravagancy, racism and terrorism.

We declare the following:

1- Our commitment to Arab solidarity, and clinging to the noble Arabic values and traditions, and preserving the safety of all Arab states, and respecting its sovereignty and legitimate right to defend its national independence and resources, building its capacities, and not interfering in its internal affairs.

2- Stressing on the settlement of any Arab disputes by constructive and meaningful dialogue through peaceful means, and working on enhancing Arab-Arab relations and strengthening its bonds and connections, and preserving the higher national

interests of the Arab nation, and praising all the initiatives and efforts that aims to resolve crises in the Arab frame work.

3- Calling for continuation of efforts that aims at developing and reforming the system of joint Arab action, activating its mechanisms, and advancing its performance, including the role of the Arab Parliament and the Arab Peace and Security Council, in the way that contributes to finding effective to rebuild an Arab community that is integral in its resources and capabilities, in order to achieve social justice and accompany the political developments in the Arab region.

4- Asserting that the reform required for the Arab League calls for financial support for its budget, as the first step for reconsidering its organizational structure, in order to develop its multiple institutions and reforming and activating its performance, and committing to its decisions; we also praise the efforts of the Independent Committee for studying the development of the joint Arab action, and working on providing the required potentials for the continuation of its work until achieving the goal of its establishment to enhance the position of the Arab League among all regional and international organizations, and accompany the challenges that face the Arab nations in this stage.

5- Adopting a comprehensive vision for political, economical, and social reform to ensure the dignity of Arab citizens and support their rights in a world that is witnessing a rapid development in the communication means in the way that complies with the demands of the Arab nations for freedom, social justice, and political participation, incorporated by the developments our Arab nation is going through; and we call for achieving the Arab economical integration to uplift the economies of the countries that witnessed these changes, the thing that calls for an Arabic support that calls for an Arabic support that ensures a safe and bright futures for its generations.

6- Praising the political changes and developments that took place in the Arab region, along with the big democratic steps and directions that raised the status of the Arab people and enhanced the chances of building the state on basis of respecting the law and achieving solidarity and social justice, and we greet the people who led who led these steps.

7- Agreeing on the Arab Parliament Statute that was transitionally established based on the resolution of Algeria Arab Summit in 2005 as a respond to the expectations of the Arab nations who long for the establishment of an Arab system that becomes a space practicing the principles of Shura, democracy, freedom and human rights, and achieve their hopes in a sustainable and comprehensive development.

8- sending a salute of admiration and respect to the Palestinian people in their struggle for confronting the continuous Israeli aggression on them, their lands, sacred places, and heritage; and we support their durability for the establishment of the independent and linked Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital; and we strongly condemn the continues Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and the occupied Palestinian lands, and the continuation of Israeli settlement activities despite of the international convictions to these illegal activities and violations of the human international law and human rights conventions, and activating the Arab, Islamic and international decisions that face Israeli repression and all over the occupied Palestinian lands.

9- Considering the Palestinian reconciliation as a fundamental base overriding interest, and we call for the commitment to carrying out the Palestinian national reconciliation agreement signed in Cairo at 4/5/2011, and the Declaration of Doha signed in 6/2/2012, to put an end to the internal Palestinian conflict and split; and unify the efforts to hold new elections and form a national unity government, and we value all the efforts made for the success of this reconciliation and its continuation on basis of mutual understanding.

10- Express our full support for the city of Jerusalem and its people who are standing still and stationed in the face of the continuous Israeli aggression on them and their holy places, especially the holy Aqsa Mosque, with appreciation of the role of Jerusalem House Finance Agency under the Jerusalem Committee headed by the King of Morocco Kingdom, and declare our support and standing by the results of Jerusalem Conference held in Doha between 26-27/2/2012 to put an end for the continuous Israeli violations of this holy city.

11- Emphasis on that East Jerusalem is part and parcel of the occupied Palestinian lands of 1967 and that all procedures that Israeli occupation authorities did are legally invalid and do not result in any change to the legal status of the city as an occupied city, nor its political status as the capital of the State of Palestine.

12- Confirming on the necessity to reach a fair solution for the Israeli Arab conflict on the basis of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, and stressing that just and comprehensive peace in the region will not be achieved except through ending the Israeli occupation and its withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including the Arab Syrian Golan till the line of 4th of July 1967 as an application for the Security Council Resolution (242) of the year (1967), and reaching a just and agreed-upon solution for the problem of Palestinian refugees including the Right of Return, and rejecting kinds of settling, and stressing on the establishment of the independent sovereign Palestinian State on the lines of the 4th of July 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

13- We express our solidarity with the prisoners detained in the jails of the Israeli occupation, and demanding the United Nations and the international community for continuous and serious work for their release, and supporting the conclusion of international conferences to deal with the issue of Palestinian and Arab prisoners detained in Israeli jails.

14- Stressing our full support for the Syrian people in their hopes and demands for freedom, democracy, and right to shape their future, and the peaceful transfer of power, and condemning all the actions of violence and murder, and stopping the bloodshed, and adhering to the political solution and national dialogue and rejecting foreign interference in the Syrian crises in order to preserve the unity of Syria and the safety of its people, and we emphasize our support to the decisions of the Arab League in this regard, and support Mr. Kofi Annan's mission, the joint mediator of the United Nations and the Arab League in his mission to Syria.

15- The summit took note of the letters exchanged between the Syrian government and the joint envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League about the acceptance of Syria for the six points plan proposed by Mr. Kofi Annan, and we stress on the necessity of the immediate and full execution to these points to stop the

bloodshed and starting a peaceful political solution for the Syrian crises according to the decisions of the Ministerial Council in this regard.

16- Welcoming the important developments that sister Libya has witnessed and affirming our strong support for efforts of the National Transitional council and the Libyan government to achieve the safety and stability required for transforming Libya into establishing a democratic state that realizes justice, equality, freedom and prosperity to all Libyan people, ensuring the unity of its land and people, and supporting the efforts taken by the Libyan government for the realization of the rule of law and the right of the Libyan people to recover their funds.

17- Stressing on our solidarity and support for the sister Republic of Sudan in facing all what aims at undermining its sovereignty, safety, and stability; and we value the Sudan's government fulfillment for the dues of peace in regard to carrying out the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and urging member countries and Arab action organizations to condense their financial and technical efforts to support the Sudanese economy in facing the implications of the separation of the south of Sudan, and dealing with Sudan's foreign debt exceptionally, or in the frame of international initiatives targeting at dealing with it in the way that contributes to accelerating the economical and social development rates, and making Arab efforts to work on lifting economic sanctions imposed on the government of Sudan, and stressing on the necessity of executing previous Arab summits decisions in regard to supporting Sudan and welcoming what was accomplished in the frame of executing Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

18- Congratulating the brotherly Yemeni people for the success of their presidential elections which was won by his Excellency the president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi, and we commend on the transfer of power process, and stress on the necessity of providing the necessary support for Yemen in the different political, economical, and development fields, and working on providing the necessary experiences to assist in eliminating the damages and its economical and social implication.

19- Expressing our support for the Somali government in its efforts to rehabilitate its security forces and assisting it, and pay tribute to

the progress of the political process in the sister Somali Republic and its success in reaching an agreement about the principles for electing the President and drafting the Constitution, and providing the necessary aid for its people, in addition to the political and economical support for rebuilding its institutions, and working on fighting piracy, and we welcome the conference about fighting this phenomenon that will be held in the United Arab Emirates in coming June.

20- The expression of our full support to the sister Union of the Comoros and the concern for its national unity and the safety of its lands and its sovereignty on its entire territories, and providing economical support for it, and stressing on the identity of the Comoros island of Mayotte and calling for the opening of Arab diplomatic missions in it.

21- Confirming on the Qatari mediation targeting at the end of the dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and the state of Eritrea, the thing that contributes to the peace and safety in the Horn of Africa.

22- Stressing, again, on our condemnation of terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, regardless of its source, and whatever its motivations and justifications are, and the necessity to work on plucking out its roots and drying its ideological and financial origins, and eliminating the factors that feed it, and casting away extravagance and radicalism, and staying away from Fatwa that calls for sedition and inciting sectarian, and urging the concerned Arab institutions to raise the cooperation to fight it; and we welcome, in this regard, the establishment of the International Institute for Counter- Terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations in response to the suggestion of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and supporting the international judiciary in fighting this phenomenon.

23- Stressing on the importance of media and all of its means, including digital media, for its big role and effect, and adherence to objectivity and credibility without prejudice to the freedom of expression and opinion, and calling for casting away instigator media which spread the spirit of hatred, division, sectarianism, blasphemy and contempt of religions, with ensuring that the freedom of media is related to the spirit of the laws that complies

with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and asking Arab media institutions and bodies to work in light of these principles.

24- Reminding that all Arab states have joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons while Israel is still refusing to join this important treaty or any other related treaty, and refuses to subject its nuclear establishments and activities to the Comprehensive Safeguard System of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and requesting international community to practice all pressures on Israel to join the Treaty as soon as possible.

25- Welcoming the practical steps ratified by the 2010 conference to review the Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially about holding the 2012 Conference in Finland that will be about the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and emphasizing on the need that the international community and involved parties should bear their responsibility to hold the 2012 Conference and come up with practical results that clearly lead to the establishment of the free- zone, and the failure to achieve the goals of the 2012 Conference will push Arab states in the direction of searching for decisive steps to insure its safety.

26 - Stressing on the inalienable right of states to use, own, and develop nuclear technology for peaceful uses according to the Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and refusing attempts to restrict this right and limiting it, especially that facilitations are provided for countries that are not part of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

27- Valuing the procedures taken by the Arab League to review the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Capital in the Arab States, in order to modify it in the way that complies with international economic developments, and stressing on the importance of holding an Arab conference to study the investment climate in Arab States, and the importance of making steps that might give more interest in small and medium size projects for its importance in limiting unemployment in the Arab States, and providing facilitations for Arab businessmen to participate in investment projects to achieve joint interests and enhance the intra- regional trade between Arab countries.

28- Emphasizing on the importance of enhancing current Arab electrical link networks and strengthening it, and establishing an Arab market for electrical power, and the necessity of utilizing the potentials of our Arab States in the field of renewable energy, to achieve sustainable development, and raising the participation of the private sector in its investments.

29- Stressing on the importance of merger and integration between Arab economies through freedom of trade and investment, and activating the role of each, the private sector and the civil society in order to actively contribute to the process of comprehensive development in the frame of an Arab Free Trade Zone, and moving toward establishing the Arab Customs Union to reach the Arab Common Market in the year 2020.

30- Developing the paths of development to be more related to sustainability and social justice and more concentrating on Arab people, and taking the side of poor people, youth and women to enhance their potentials to participate in the political, economical, social and cultural life.

31- Directing concerned institutions and parties to execute the decisions of the Arab development Summit: Economical and Social, which was held in Kuwait in 2009 and in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2011, and asserting on the intention to follow up and execute their results in the way that serves Arab joint economical and social action, and contribute to the development of Arab communities, we also stress on the necessity of the good preparation of the schedule of the development Summit in its third session (Riyadh 2013).

32- Continuing the Arab efforts that aim at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and supporting the less developed countries to overcome the difficulties it face in this field, and enhancing the efforts of the Arab League and its ministerial councils and specialized organizations in coordinating with Member Countries to conceptualize and make action programs in order to accelerate the needed Arab movement to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

33- Working on providing opportunities for youth to empower them to actively participate in the society and providing decent work

opportunities for them, and developing the joint Arab action in establishing institutions that looks after youth interests and their role in building the future of their countries.

34- Reaffirming on the necessity for higher education and scientific research and improving them to achieve sustainable human development, till reaching the knowledge society.

35- Enhancing the Arab efforts to develop primary healthcare and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases and supporting Arab States, especially the less developed in order to improve the quality of healthcare services.

36- Emphasizing on the respect for human rights and ensuring political, cultural, religious rights of minorities; and we stress on ensuring women's rights, and empowering and protecting them from all types of discrimination.

37- Stressing on the necessity of allowing civil society organizations to actively participate in the path of joint Arab action through true partnership that participate in achieving the comprehensive development in countries of the region.

38- Praising the success of the Third Summit for Connecting the Arab World between 5th and 7th of March 2012 under the patronage of HRH the prince of Qatar in Doha, which ratified activating mechanisms that will mobilize financial, human and technological resources that are necessary to expand the extent of information networks and communication, and circulating the access to it in the way that encourages investments in its projects and provides work opportunities in order to achieve economical and social development the broader concept.

39- Calling for the concentration of dialogue between religions, civilizations and nations, and anchoring the culture of openness and activating cooperation and coordination between Arab cultural institutions, and accepting the others, and support the principles of brotherhood, tolerance, rejecting extremism, staying away from Fatwa that incite for sedition, respecting religious and human values that stress on human rights and preserve people's dignity, and protecting rights of all citizens without any discrimination based on race, religion or sect they belong to; in this regard, we praise the initiative of the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of

Jordan which was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2010 to specify a week every year for harmony between religions, and welcoming the signing of an agreement for the establishment of the International Institute for Counter- Terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations in response to the suggestion of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in order to support the international cooperation in fighting this phenomenon and eliminating it, and the Summit calls for the cooperation with this institute.

40- Stressing on our support for joint Arab action and unifying Arab efforts and visions in environmental issues and introducing the environmental standards in development plans considering it one of the basis of the sustainable development process, and providing suitable economical and financial potentials for serving this purpose.

41- Ensuring on the importance of achieving the Arab water security, and the necessity of determining the fair water quotas countries that have margins on international and joint rivers, and treating the issue of the scarcity of water considering it one of the problems that Arab region suffers from, and the necessity to ensure the water needs for the coming generations, and urging neighboring countries to cooperate in this field.

42- Consolidation of cooperation relationships and the current style of partnership with regional and international organizations and gatherings like the United Nations, the African Union, the Organization of Islamic cooperation, the Africa Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Union, and other countries, based on mutual benefits, and we call for the expansion these partnerships; in this frame, we welcome making the third session of the Summit of South American- Arab Countries in September 2012, at Lima, the capital Peru, and we call for expanding this partnership.

43- Committing to Arab decisions about the nominations for regional and international organizations and encouraging Arab countries to organize conferences, seminars, and exhibitions that enhance the Arab presence on the international level, and in this regard, we support the nomination of the United Arab Emirates to host Expo 2020.

44- Welcoming the choosing of Muscat as the capital of Arab Tourism for 2012, the thing that supports joint Arab action, especially in the fields of tourism.

45- We salute Baghdad that will be celebrated as the capital of Arab culture for the year 2013 while it is regaining its distinct role in the movement of intellectual creativity and the raising of Arab cultural and civilizational enrichment.

46- We sincerely thank and appreciate his Excellency the President of the Republic of Iraq Jalal Talabani for his wise management for the summit's program, and enriching its deliberations, and we express our full confidence that the presidency of Iraq for the joint Arab action will witness more accomplishments, development, and consolidation of Arab solidarity.

47- As we express deep gratitude for the people and government of Republic of Iraq for the warm welcome, hospitality, and well organization, we emphasize that holding the Arab Summit Conference in Baghdad is a clear proof that Iraq has gained its recovery, stability, and sovereignty, with the full withdrawal of foreign forces, and we welcome its return as an active member in its Arab, regional, and international surroundings.

48- We also express our great thanks for the continuous efforts made by Dr. Nabil Elaraby, the Secretary- General of the Arab League and members of the Secretariat, in advancing the joint Arab action.

**Baghdad in 29th of March 2012 A.D.
6th of Jumada Al-Awwal 1433 a.h.**