



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

Declaration of Baghdad

Baghdad: March/ 2012



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

Declaration of Baghdad

Baghdad: March/ 2012

We, leaders of the 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:

- Based on our commitment to the principles and goals of the Arab League's Charter, stemmed from our belief in the necessity of perusing the achievement of these goals and reaching its purpose, and clung to the Arab identity, its cultural and historical basis, facing the threats and dangers surrounding the Arab region and threatening its security and demolish its stability,
- Confirming the urgent necessity to recover the spirit of Arab solidarity, protecting Arab security, and supporting the Arab joint action in the developmental, economic and social areas,
- Based on the other Arab charters, including Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity among Arab States, the Document of Development and Modernization in the Arab World, and the Arab Convention of Human Rights issued by Tunis Summit 2004; with our affirmation on the importance of developing the Arab joint action system, in line with the political development in the Arab



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

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, extremism, racism and terrorism,

declare the following:

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

2- Our stressing on settling any Arab disputes by constructive and meaningful dialogue through peaceful means, working on enhancing Arab-Arab relations and strengthening their bonds and connections, preserving the higher national interests of the Arab nation, and praising all the initiatives and efforts that aim at resolving crises within the Arab framework.

3- We call for continuation of efforts that aim at developing and reforming the joint Arab action system, activating its mechanisms, and promoting its performance, including the role of the Arab Parliament and the Arab Peace and Security Council, in the way that contributes in finding effective policies to rebuild an integrated Arab community in resources and capabilities, in order to achieve social justice and face up to political developments in the Arab region.



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

4- We asserting that the required reform 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, 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 keeping pace with the challenges that face the Arab nations in this stage.

5- We adopt a comprehensive vision for political, economic, 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 economic integration to uplift the economies of the countries that witnessed these changes, the thing that calls for an Arab support which ensures a safe and bright future for its generations.

6- We praise the political changes and developments that took place in the Arab region, along with the big democratic steps and directions that upgraded the position of the Arab people and enhanced the opportunities of building the state on the basis of respecting the law and achieving solidarity and social justice, we



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

also greet the people who led these steps, and hailing the efforts recently exerted to activate the institutions of the Western Arab Union in the framework of holding Western Arab Summit in Tunisia before the end of this year , and to regard it a corner stone in supporting the common Arab work .

7– Our approving of the Arab Parliament Statute that was transitionally established basing on the resolution of Algeria Arab Summit in 2005 as a response to the Arab nations' ambitions who long for the establishment of an Arab system that becomes an atmosphere for practicing the principles of Shura, democracy, freedom and human rights, and achieve their hopes in a sustainable and comprehensive development.

8- Saluting the Palestinian people in their struggle for confronting the continuous Israeli aggression against their lands, sacred places, and heritage, and supporting their steadfastness to establish the independent and unified Palestinian state and the East Quds as its capital, we strongly condemn the continuous Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and the occupied Palestinian lands, and the continuation of Israeli settlement activities despite of the international condemnations to these illegal activities and violations of the human international law and human rights conventions. We also support activating the Arab, Islamic and international resolutions that face Israeli repression and violation all over the occupied Palestinian lands.

9- Considering the Palestinian reconciliation as a fundamental base and supreme interest for the Palestinian people, we call for the



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

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

10-We express our full support for the city of Quds and its steadfast people in the face of the continuous Israeli aggression against them and their holy places, especially the Holy Aqsa Mosque, with appreciation of the role of Quds Finance House Agency affiliated from Al Quds Committee headed by the King of Morocco Kingdom, and declare our support and standing by the results of Al Quds Conference held in Doha on the period 26-27/2/2012 to put an end for the continuous Israeli violations of this holy city. We also support the historical role played by the King of the Hashemite Kingdom in protecting the religious sanctities and the role played by the Islamic endowments in running the affairs of the Holy Quds Mosque.

11- Our emphasis on East Quds as part of the occupied Palestinian lands in 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, or its political status as the capital of the State of Palestine.

12- We confirm the necessity to reach a fair solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict on the basis of international legitimacy and the Arab



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

Peace Initiative and stressing that just and comprehensive peace in the region will not be achieved except through ending the Israeli occupation and through withdrawing from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including the Arab Syrian Golan till the line of 4th of June 1967 as an application for the Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, and reaching a just and agreed-upon solution for the problem of Palestinian refugees including the Right of Return, and rejecting all kinds of settlement and stressing on the establishment of the independent sovereign Palestinian State on the lines of the 4th of June 1967 with East Quds as its capital.

13- We express our solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners detained in the Israeli occupation jails, and our demand from the United Nations and the international community for a continuous and a serious work for their release, and support holding international conferences to address the issue of Palestinian and Arab prisoners detained in Israeli jails.

14- We stressing our full support for the Syrian people in their hopes and demands for freedom, democracy, and their right to shape their future, and the peaceful transfer of power, condemning all the actions of violence and murder, stopping the bloodshed, and adhering to the political solution, national dialogue, rejecting foreign interference in the Syrian crisis in order to preserve the unity of Syria and the safety of its people. We emphasize our support and commitment 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.



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

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 the necessity of the immediate and full execution of these points to stop the bloodshed and starting a peaceful political solution for the Syrian crisis according to the decisions of the Ministerial Council in this regard.

16- We express our welcoming for the important developments that Libya witnessed and affirming our strong support for the 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 holds justice, equality, freedom and prosperity to all Libyan people in a way that guarantees the unity of its land and people, and supporting the exerted measures by the Libyan government for the activation of the role of law and the right of the Libyan people to recover their assets.

17- Stressing on our solidarity and support for the Republic of Sudan in facing all that aims at undermining its sovereignty, safety, and stability, we value the Sudanese government fulfillment of duties of peace in regard to carrying out the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and urging member countries and Arab action organizations to intensify their financial and technical efforts to support the Sudanese economy in facing up the consequences of the separation of the South of Sudan, and dealing with Sudan's foreign debt, bilaterally, or within international initiatives targeting



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

solving it in the way that contributes to accelerate the economic and social development rates, and making Arab efforts to work on lifting economic sanctions imposed on the government of Sudan, and stressing 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- Congratulations to the brotherly Yemeni people for the success of their presidential elections which was won by his Excellency President Abd Rabbah Mansur Al-Hadi, and we commend the process of power transfer, and stress on the necessity of providing the necessary support for Yemen in the different political, economic, and development fields, and working on providing the necessary experiences to assist in eliminating the damages and their economic and social consequences.

19- We express our support assistance for the Somali government in its efforts to rehabilitate its security forces, paying tribute to the progress of the political process in the Somali Republic and its success in reaching an agreement on the principles of electing the President , drafting the Constitution, providing the necessary aid for its people, in addition to the political and economic support for rebuilding its institutions, and working on fighting piracy, and welcome holding conference about fighting this phenomenon to be held in the United Arab Emirates in the coming June.

20- We support fully the Union of the Comoros and express concern over its national unity and the safety of its lands and its sovereignty



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

on its entire territories, and providing economic support for it, stressing the identity of the Comoros Island of Mayotte and calling for the opening of Arab diplomatic missions in it.

21- We Confirm the Qatari mediation targeting at ending the dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and the state of Eritrea, the thing that contributes in providing peace and safety in the Horn of Africa.

22- We stress, again, our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its source, and whatever its motivations and justifications are, the necessity to work on plucking out its roots and drying its ideological and financial origins, eliminating the factors that feed it, and casting away extravagance and radicalism, and staying away from Fatwas that call for sedition and sectarianism, and urging the concerned Arab institutions to increase cooperation in order to fight it; and we welcome, in this regard, establishing the International Institute for Fighting 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- We stress the importance of all sorts of media , including the digital one , for its big role and effect, and to adhere to objectivity and credibility without prejudice to the freedom of expression, and calling for casting away instigator media which spread the spirit of hatred, division, sectarianism, blasphemy and contempt of religions, along with ensuring that the freedom of media is related to the spirit of law that goes along with the Universal Declaration of



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

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

24- We remind that all Arab states have joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons while Israel still refuses to join this important treaty or any other related one, and refuses to subjugate its nuclear establishments and activities to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency, at the same time we call upon the international community to practice pressures on Israel to join the Treaty as soon as possible.

25- We welcome the practical steps ratified by the 2010 conference to review the Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially that related to hold the 2012 Conference in Finland on establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and emphasizing the need for the international community and all involved parties to bear responsibility to hold the 2012 Conference and come up with practical results that clearly lead to the establishment of the free-zone, and note that the failure to achieve goals of the Conference will urge Arab states to look for steps insuring their safety.

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



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

27- We appreciate the procedures taken by the Arab League to review the Integrated Agreement for the Investment of Capitals in the Arab countries, in order to modify it in the way that complies with international economic developments, and stressing the importance of holding an Arab conference to study the investment climate in the Arab States, and the importance of making steps that might give more interest in small and medium 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 among Arab countries.

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

29- We stress the importance of merger and integration among Arab economies through freedom of trade and investment, activating the role of 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 and then the Arab Common Market in 2020.

30- We improve means of development to be more linked to sustainability and social justice and more focusing on Arab people, and taking the side of poor people, youth and women to enhance



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

their potentials in having parts in the political, economical, social and cultural life.

31- We direct the concerned institutions and parties to implement economic and social resolutions of the Arab Development Summit, held in Kuwait in 2009 , and in Sharm al Sheikh in 2011, and asserting our intention to follow up and implement their results in the way that serves Arab joint economic and social action, and contributes to the development of Arab communities, we also stress the necessity of adopting good preparation for the next Development Summit in its third session (Riyadh 2013).

32- We continue the Arab efforts that aim at achieving the Millennium Development's Goals, and supporting the less developed countries to overcome the difficulties they face in this field, enhancing efforts of the Arab League and its ministerial councils and its specialized organizations in coordinating with the member countries to conceptualize and make schedules in order to accelerate the needed Arab movement to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

33- The work on providing opportunities for youth to make it easy for them to actively participate in the society, and providing them with proper work opportunities, and developing the joint Arab action to establish institutions that look after youth interests and their role in building the future of their countries.



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

34- We reaffirm the necessity of taking care of the higher education and scientific research and improving them to achieve sustainable human development, to achieve a society full of knowledge.

35-We enhance the Arab efforts to develop primary healthcare and fight infectious and noninfectious diseases, and supporting Arab States, especially the less developed ones in order to improve quality of their healthcare services.

36- We emphasize the respect of human rights and ensuring political, cultural, religious rights for minorities.

37- We stress the insurance of women's rights, and protecting them from all types of discrimination.

38- We stress the necessity of allowing civil society organizations to actively participate in the joint Arab action through the real partnership that contributes in achieving a comprehensive development in the region countries.

39- We praise the success of the Third Connect Arab World Summit held in the period between 5th - 7th of March 2012 under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Qatar in Doha, which ratified activating mechanisms that can mobilize financial, human and technological resources which are necessary to expand information and communication networks, and spreading access to it in the way that encourages investments in its projects and provides work opportunities in order to achieve economic and social development in its broader concept.



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

40- We call for increasing dialogue between religions, civilizations and nations, strengthening culture of openness and activating cooperation and coordination between Arab cultural institutions, and accepting others, and support principles of brotherhood, tolerance, rejecting extremism, staying away from Fatwas that incite sedition, respecting religious and human values that stress on human rights , preserve people's dignity, and protect 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 United Nations' General Assembly in 2010 to specify a week time every year for harmony among religions, and we welcome signing the agreement to establish King Abdullah's International Center for Religions and Cultures Dialogue in Vienna on October 13th. 2011 and the Summit call for a constructive cooperation with it .

41- We reaffirm our support for the joint Arab action and unifying Arab efforts and visions on the environmental issues and introducing the environmental standards in the development plans considering that it is an element of a sustainable development process, and providing suitable economic and financial potentials to achieve this purpose.

42- We ensure the importance of achieving the Arab water security, and the necessity of determining fair water shares for the riparian countries on the international and shared rivers, and solving the issue of the scarcity of water as it is one of the problems that Arab



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

region suffers from, and the necessity to ensure the water needs for the coming generations, and urging neighboring countries to cooperate in this field.

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

44- We comply with the Arab resolution on the nominations for the 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 the international Exhibition, Expo 2020.

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

46- We salute Baghdad that will be honored as the Capital of Arab Culture for 2013 while it is regaining its distinct role in the movement of intellectual creativity and Arab cultural renaissance and enrichment of civilization.



Arab Summit – Baghdad 2012

47- We sincerely thank his Excellency the President of the Republic of Iraq Jalal Talabani for his wise management of the summit's activities, and enriching its deliberations, and we are confident that the Iraqi lead of the joint Arab action will witness more achievements, development, and consolidation of the Arab solidarity.

48- We express deep gratitude for the people and government of the Republic of Iraq for the warm welcome, hospitality, and well organizing, emphasizing that holding the Arab Summit Conference in Baghdad is a clear proof that Iraq has restored its power and stability, and consolidated its sovereignty, with the full withdrawal of foreign forces, and we welcome its return as an active member in its Arab, regional, and international surroundings.

49- We also express our great thanks for the continuous efforts made by Dr. Nabeel al Arabi, Secretary- General of the Arab League and members of the Secretariat General, in upgrading the joint Arab action.

Baghdad, 29th of March 2012 a.d.

6th of Jumada al-Oula 1433 a.h.