

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Press Release N°221/2013

AFRICA ARAB SUMMIT ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATION

Kuwait City, 20 November 2013- Leaders of African and Arab countries who are meeting in the 3rd Arica Arab summit in Kuwait have adopted the following documents:

- Kuwait Declaration
- Resolutions
- Communique of the third Africa Arab summit on Palestine

The summit outcome documents are attached below: They are also available on the AU website www.au.int

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THIRD AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT

19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2013

KUWAIT CITY, STATE OF KUWAIT

Min/Africa-Arab/Decl1(III) Rev.1

ق- 033 (11/13) 21-س ع م ل (0607)

KUWAIT DECLARATION

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries, meeting in our Third Africa-Arab Summit in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait, from 19 to 20 November 2013 under the Theme *“Partners in Development and Investment”*;

Expressing our gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for all the efforts he exerted in order to ensure the successful convening of the Third Africa-Arab Summit, and **Fully Believing** that through His Highness well-known wisdom and genuine commitment, the Africa-Arab relations will achieve great progress in all fields;

Conveying our profound gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait for his generous initiative, which demonstrates his commitment to the promotion of Africa-Arab cooperation in all fields, as evidenced by the directives given by His Highness to the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development to grant concessionary loans to African countries to the tune of one (1) Billion US Dollars spread over the next five years. This initiative is also manifested through investment and its insurance to the tune of one (1) Billion US Dollars for the next few years, with emphasis on infrastructure, through cooperation and coordination with the World Bank and other International Institutions.

Also Expressing our sincere appreciation for the Annual Prize of one (1) Million US Dollars allocated by the State of Kuwait, in memory of the late Dr. Abdurahman Al-Sumet, for development research in Africa under the auspices of the Kuwait Scientific Development Institutions.

Expressing Further our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Kuwait for the warm welcome, generous hospitality, and efficient organization that provided most positive and favorable conditions for the convening of the Third Africa-Arab Summit;

Congratulating the African Union on the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/African Union (AU), and **Welcoming** the commemoration of this important milestone in African history;

Renewing our commitment to the common principles and goals enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Charter of the League of Arab States, and the promotion of the principles of International Law and the United Nations Charter, in particular the principles pertaining to the respect for national sovereignty of States, their territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs, and **Stressing** our commitment to the protection of human rights and respect for International Humanitarian Law as well as our

mutual goals to positively contribute to global security stability, development and cooperation;

Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen cooperation between Africa and the Arab Region on the basis of a strategic partnership that endeavours to maintain justice, international peace and security, while **Expressing** grave concern over the challenges posed by the continued prevalence of conflict, insecurity and instability in some parts of our regions;

Conscious of our multiple ties and interests by reason of geography, history and culture;

Expressing our desire to promote cooperation in the political, economic and socio-cultural fields;

Reaffirming our commitment to continue our efforts to overcome the challenges and removing the obstacles facing the activation and development of Africa-Arab cooperation and organize the meetings of its follow-up mechanism;

Guided by our common resolve to strengthen South-South cooperation as well as the solidarity and friendship between our countries and peoples with a view to fulfilling the aspiration of our peoples to consolidate Africa-Arab relations, based on the principles of equality, mutual interests and respect;

Welcoming the progress made by African and Arab countries in maintaining peace and stability as well as in improving respect for human rights and good governance in their respective regions;

Recognizing the role of the African Union's Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the United Nations Reform in promoting and canvassing Africa's position on the Reform in accordance with the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration;

Welcoming the decision of the League of Arab States (LAS) Council at the level of the Summit to establish an Arab Court of Human Rights headquartered in Bahrain which is regarded as a support to the common Arab system in the field of Human Rights and enhancement, respect and protection for these rights in a frame of law prevailing in international accords, the principles of international law and International Bill of Human Rights;

Firmly condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as transnational organized crime such as hostage taking, human trafficking, drug trafficking, piracy, ransom payment and illicit proliferation of arms, and **Reiterating** our resolve and commitment to work together in this regard;

Underlining the need for Africa and the Arab World to exchange intelligence information to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; in this regard, **Appreciating** the instrumental role played by the African Centre for Research and Study on Terrorism (ACRST) in Algiers, Algeria;

Welcoming the donation of 100 million US dollars by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) to combat terrorism;

Stressing our strong determination to decisively address the underlying causes of conflict and violence in Africa and the Arab Region, with a view to creating a conducive environment for the prosperity and well-being of the peoples of the two regions;

Mindful that the youth employment challenges in Africa and Arab Region is primarily structural, and **Recognizing** the need to pursue efforts to develop supporting policies for economic growth, and adopt financial policies that can guarantee sustainability in order to enhance poverty eradication policies including Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Post 2015 Development Agenda;

Commending the Resolution of the 3rd Arab Development Summit held in Ryad, Saudi Arabia in January 2013 to raise by 50% the capital of the Arab Financial Institutions, including the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and appreciating the role of BADEA in the promotion of Africa's Development;

Welcoming the support provided by the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (AFTAAC) to the Commission and its various regional offices such as the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD);

Noting that the food gap and food insecurity are major impediments and exacerbate the vulnerability of certain segments of society;

Expressing our full support for regional integration through increasing the volume of Africa-Arab trade and investment, and deepening market integration that can significantly contribute to sustainable economic and integrated social development such as employment generation and poverty reduction, inflow of direct investment, industrial development and accelerated integration of the two regions into the global economy;

Underscoring the importance of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and the Joint Action Plan 2011-2016 adopted during our Second Summit in 2010 in Libya and **Reiterating** our commitment to expedite their implementation;

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role and participation of the Private Sector and Civil society of our two regions in economic development, efforts as well as planning and implementation of joint programs and projects;

Have agreed to:

1. **Promote** South-South Cooperation between African and Arab countries and build closer relations between the Governments and peoples of the two regions through frequent visits and consultations at all levels;
2. **Strengthen** diplomatic and consular relations between African and Arab countries through regular consultations between diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations (UN) and other regional and international organizations in, among others, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington D.C, with a view to harmonizing positions and developing common policies on issues of mutual concern;
3. **Urge** all relevant stakeholders to find peaceful settlements to political crises in the two regions;
4. **Support** the progress made in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction and development in the two regions and encourage the countries concerned to pursue and consolidate their efforts, and **Call upon** the International Community and the International Financial Institutions to support these countries through the granting of debt relief as well as lifting of economic sanctions applied on some of them;
5. **Enhance** cooperation and coordination between African and Arab countries to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including criminalizing ransom payment to terrorists and confronting transnational crime to further support international efforts in this regard;
6. **Strongly condemn** terrorism and trafficking of all forms in Africa and in the Arab Region, particularly in the Sahelo-Saharan Region epitomized by the

severe crisis in Mali, and **Request** Africa and the Arab Countries to support the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel;

7. **Reaffirm** our strong commitment for a comprehensive Reform of the United Nations system, including its Security Council, to reflect current global realities and make it more regionally representative, balanced, democratic, effective and fair, and **Call upon** the two sides to coordinate their positions in this regard, taking into consideration the Ezulwini Consensus of the African Union (AU) and the relevant Resolutions of the League of Arab States (LAS);
8. **Agree** to create the necessary conditions to encourage and facilitate investment in African and Arab countries. **Reaffirm further** the need to increase the volume of trade and investment flows between the two regions, support the existing industrial development initiatives in order to reduce poverty and generate employment for our youthful population;
9. **Enhance** cooperation and facilitate investment in the field of energy aimed at jointly developing new and renewable energy sources as well as expanding access to reliable and affordable modern energy services in the two regions;
10. **Call Upon** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the existing financing institutions from both regions to set up a task force to coordinate their efforts in the implementation of the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan and other projects;
11. **Coordinate** our positions in the multilateral trade negotiations and work together with a view to achieving a balanced outcome at the 9th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, on potential deliverables in Trade Facilitation, Agriculture and an acceptable package for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as well as special and Differential Treatment provisions in favour of developing countries;
12. **Strengthen** the Africa-Arab Economic Forum to enhance the role and participation of the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations of the two regions in the partnership process;
13. **Call Upon** the African and Arab financial institutions as well as other relevant stakeholders, including the Private Sector and Civil Society to support the acceleration of Africa-Arab inter-regional trade in accordance with the Joint Action Plan 2011-2016;
14. **Call Upon** African and Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as other private sector institutions to conduct regular meetings and consultations with a view to strengthening the working relations between them;
15. **Welcome** the hosting by the Kingdom of Morocco of the 7th Session of the Africa-Arab Trade Fair from 19 to 23 March 2014, and **Support** the organization of Africa-Arab Fair every two years alternately in Africa and Arab regions and undertake other trade promotion activities and encourage the public and private sector of the two regions to actively participate in the preparation and organization of such events;

16. **Encourage** the governments, private sector and civil society of the two regions to play a major role in boosting agriculture;
17. **Strengthen** cooperation on issues concerning Rural Development, Agricultural Development and Food Security. In that regard, **Commend** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the successful hosting of the 2nd Africa-Arab Ministerial meeting on Agriculture and Food Security, held in Riyadh on 2 October 2013;
18. **Call Upon** the African Union Commission (AUC) and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) to work in collaboration with the African and Arab Financial Institutions and the Private Sector to support the implementation of the infrastructure development programs in both regions with a focus on transport, water and sanitation, telecommunications and ICT;
19. **Support** the cooperation programmes on cultural exchanges aimed at consolidating the common values of African and Arab peoples, and **Welcome** the opening of King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and invite Member States to cooperate with the Center;
20. **Reaffirm** the need to strengthen cooperation in the field of education and scientific research programmes and share best practices in these two fields through the organization of joint activities;
21. **Agree** to elaborate integrated health programmes within the development plans. In that regard, **Reaffirm** our commitment to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to primary and essential types of medicines and therefore support initiatives to integrate the policies combating epidemic diseases (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS) and non communicable diseases in educational, information and public awareness programs;
22. **Support** strategies and initiatives aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women in order to achieve equality and equity and raise public awareness regarding the human rights, values and principles, which guarantee women's rights and their role in society;
23. **Call Upon** all governments to formulate the necessary laws to protect youth and women and enhance their economic empowerment, ensure their participation in the decision-making process on an equal footing with men, and guarantee their full participation in all aspects of political, economic and social activities;
24. **Promote** the interactions between the African and Arab civil society organization to enhance people-to-people relationship and **Call Upon** the African and Arab Civil Society to continue to play their positive role in promoting peace, security, stability and humanitarian assistance and development, and request the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to take all necessary steps to enhance interaction with these actors;

25. **Strengthen** the capacities of the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and provide them with all necessary means, including financial and technical support, to enable them to effectively implement the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan 2011-2016, as well as this Declaration;
26. **Support** the setting up of the Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee and other strategies to enhance cooperation and facilitation on migration issues and coordinate efforts of both regions, for the mutual benefit of the two partners and **Express** the necessity to provide security and social protection for migrants and support countries receiving migrants, refugees and displaced persons, in particular Burkina Faso and the Republic of Yemen;
27. **Agree** to establish an Africa-Arab Center for exchange of information in order to minimize the infiltration of illegal migrants;
28. **Rationalize** the establishment of Africa-Arab joint institutions to avoid duplication of efforts and financial burden on the two coordinating organizations and mandate the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership to take necessary actions in this regard;
29. **Take** actions and measures, including the activation and rationalization of joint structures, deemed essential for the effective implementation of the Action Plan;
30. **Institutionalize** meetings of the Monitoring and Follow-up Mechanism of the Africa-Arab Partnership and strengthen inter-secretariat consultations and involve the Sub-regional organizations to participate in implementation of this partnership;
31. **Apply** the principle of rotation in hosting Africa-Arab Summits and therefore, **Agree** to hold the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit in Africa in 2016.

Done in Kuwait City on 20 November 2013

**THIRD AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT
19 - 20 NOVEMBER 2013
KUWAIT CITY, THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

Assembly/Africa-Arab/Res.1-8 (III) Rev.1

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RESOLUTIONS

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RESOLUTION ON THE JOINT ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND THE PROPOSED ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

THE AFRICA-ARAB JOINT ACTION PLAN 2011-2016

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Taking Note of the Joint Activity Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States;

Reaffirming our commitment to the effective implementation of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan 2011-2016, which we adopted during our 2nd Africa-Arab Summit, in October 2010, in Sirte, Libya;

Cognizant of the need to put in place necessary mechanisms to expedite the effective implementation of the Strategy and the Joint Action Plan;

Recognizing the urgent need to address the institutional challenges obstructing the smooth implementation of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan 2011-2016;

1. **ENDORSE** the Joint Activity Report and the proposed actions to strengthen institutional capacity for the implementation of the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan 2011-2016;
2. **CALL FOR** the rationalisation of the establishment of the joint institutions to avoid duplication of efforts and proliferation of mechanisms with financial impacts;
3. **UNDERSCORE** the need to strengthen cooperation in the areas of Trade, Investment, Transport, Communication and Energy;
4. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to incorporate the proposed activities to strengthen the institutional capacity of the partnership in their regular work plan and earmark the necessary budget for their implementation;
5. **ALSO REQUEST** the African and Arab Countries, their development financial institutions and their private sector and civil society to provide

all the necessary financial and technical support for the implementation of the proposed activities;

- 6. FURTHER REQUEST** the Coordination Committee for the Africa-Arab Partnership at the Ministerial level, to closely follow-up and monitor the implementation of the activities and report back to the 4th Africa-Arab Summit.

RESOLUTION ON THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP MECHANISMS OF THE AFRICA-ARAB PARTNERSHIP

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Recognizing the need to improve the operationalisation of the implementation and follow-up mechanisms created by the Second Africa-Arab Summit for effective implementation of the Africa - Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan 2011 - 2016;

1. **REQUEST** the Coordination Committee to undertake an in depth study on ways and means to activate and strengthen the partnership mechanisms, including the Partnership Committee, the Technical Committee and the Development Forum and submit its report to the Coordination Committee at the Ministerial level, as soon as possible, for its consideration for subsequent endorsement by the policy organs of both sides;
2. **DECIDE** to retain the Co-Chairs of the Third Africa-Arab Summit as members of the Coordination Committee at all levels, until the convening of the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit, in accordance with rules and procedures;
3. **CONVENE** the meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership at Ministerial level once a year and at the Senior Officials level every six months;
4. **ENCOURAGE** greater synergy between the Embassies of African Union Member States in Cairo and the League of Arab States.

RESOLUTION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 2ND JOINT AFRICA-ARAB MINISTERIAL MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, 02 OCTOBER 2013

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Taking Note of the Report and Recommendations of the 2nd Joint Africa-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture Development and Food Security, held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 02 October 2013:

1. **EXPRESS** gratitude to the Government and People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 2nd Joint Africa-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security and **WELCOME** the convening of the Ministerial meeting;
2. **REAFFIRM** the importance of implementing the Riyadh Resolution adopted at the 2nd Ministerial meeting and **CALL UPON** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of League of Arab States to follow up on its implementation;
3. **WELCOME** the offer made by the Republic of Uganda to host in Kampala the Third Joint Africa-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security in 2015.

**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICA-ARAB
PARTNERSHIP ON MIGRATION**

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Recalling the Decision Assembly/Africa-Arab/2(II), on the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy which provided a framework for cooperation on migration, adopted in Sirte, Libya, in October 2010;

Taking Note of the on-going implementation of the Framework for Socio-Cultural Cooperation regarding Migration (the legal movement of persons), in particular the proposal for the establishment of an Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee;

Reaffirming the importance of this issue especially labour migration, in bringing significant contribution to the economic growth and human development of both regions;

Emphasizing the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of those migrants irrespective of their migration status;

Further emphasizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation at regional and international levels to strengthen and harness the potential of migration for development, eliminate the exploitation of migrants and to prevent trafficking in persons as well as smuggling of migrants;

1. **ENDORSE** the establishment of an Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee composed of the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to consider the issue of migration. This Committee should submit its reports to the Committee on Coordination of Joint Africa-Arab Partnership;
2. **AGREE** to establish an Africa-Arab Centre for exchange of information in order to minimize the infiltration of illegal migrants, including those who violate labour and residence regulations;
3. **REQUEST** both the African Union Commission and General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to facilitate the early operationalization of the Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee in this regard;

4. **AGREE** to respect the human and fundamental rights of all migrants, taking into account international law and national legislations of each State;
5. **TAKE NOTE** of the conclusions of the Regional Seminar on Migrants and Refugees held in November 2013 in Sanaa, Yemen.

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICA-ARAB CULTURAL INSTITUTE (AACI)

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Cognizant of the role the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute could play in promoting the causes of Africa-Arab Partnership and assisting in the implementation of its projects;

In view of the fact that all the necessary preconditions have to be fulfilled and reliable and sustainable funding mechanism has to be put in place in order to enable the Institute carry out its tasks effectively;

Taking Note of the findings and recommendations of the African Union /League of Arab States Joint Review Team on the performance of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute:

1. **CALL UPON** the African Union and the League of Arab States to implement the short term recommendations of the Joint Review team on the performance of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute and fulfill their financial obligations;
2. **REQUEST** the Ministers of Culture of the Co-Chairs of the Third Africa-Arab Summit and the hosting country to play an advisory role for the promotion of the Institute;
3. **ALSO CALL UPON** the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership to review the implementation of this Resolution and report back to the 4th Africa-Arab Summit in 2016.

**RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICA-ARAB JOINT FINANCING
COORDINATION MECHANISM**

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Noting with concern the slow progress of implementing the Africa Arab Joint Action Plan since its adoption by the Second Africa-Arab Summit in 2010;

Re- affirming our determination and willingness to strengthen human capacity and mobilize financial resources needed for the implementation of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and the Joint Action Plan, through the existing and new financial resources, including encouraging and benefiting from the massive means of the private sector;

1. **CALL UPON** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the existing financing institutions from both regions to set up a task force to coordinate their efforts in the implementation of the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan and other projects;
2. **INVITE** the Development Financial Institutions to actively support and participate in implementing the Joint Action Plan;
3. **ALSO INVITE** the African Union Commission to submit bankable regional and continental projects for financing, through this Joint Mechanism;
4. **UNDERLINE** the need to leverage development financing from the capital market through the financial Institutions in the two regions;
5. **CALL UPON** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to closely follow up the implementation of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION ON AFRICA-ARAB ECONOMIC FORUM, KUWAIT,

11-12 NOVEMBER 2013

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Taking Note of the recommendations of the Africa-Arab Economic Forum held from 11 to 12 November 2013, in the State of Kuwait:

1. **EXPRESS** our thanks and gratitude to His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, the Government and people of the State of Kuwait for hosting the Africa-Arab Economic Forum and providing all the necessary facilities for its success;
2. **TAKE NOTE** the recommendations of the Africa-Arab Economic Forum and **CALL UPON** the Member States of the African Union and the League of Arab States, the African Union Commission, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and all stakeholders to take into consideration these recommendations;
3. **CALL** for the convening of the sessions of the Forum regularly prior to Africa-Arab Summits with the active participation of the Private Sector, to enhance Africa-Arab Cooperation and to boost the Trade Exchange and Investment between the two Regions;
4. **EMPHASIZE** that the focus of the Africa-Arab Economic Forum should be on enhancing cooperation to build productive capacities, which will be the basis for promoting Trade and Investment between the two regions;
5. **CALL UPON** the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States to organize the Forum under the sponsorship of the Member States of the two Organisations, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB);
6. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of League of Arab States to closely follow up the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON
THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE 4TH AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT

We, the Leaders of African and Arab Countries,

Guided by the principle of rotation in hosting Africa-Arab Summits, and **Agreeing** that it is the turn of the African side to host the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit:

1. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to undertake consultations with Member States of the African Union with a view to identifying the country that will host the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit;
2. **DECIDE** that the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit will be held in Africa in 2016. The venue and the date will be known in due course;
3. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the concerned Host Country, to take all necessary measures to ensure the successful organization of the Summit;

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Assembly/Africa-Arab/Comm.1(III)

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**COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT ON
PALESTINE**

COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT ON PALESTINE

We, the Heads of State and Government of African and Arab countries meeting, in our Third Joint Summit hosted by the State of Kuwait from 19 to 20 November 2013;

Take Note of the resolutions and declarations of the African Union and the League of Arab States including the 2007 Accra Declaration and Decisions of the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 30 January 2012, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Arab League Summits;

Reaffirm our strong position on the need to put an end to the Israeli occupation, since June 1967, of Palestinian and Arab territories and to establish a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative, the principle of land for peace and the roadmap for a just and comprehensive solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with Resolution 194 of the United Nations General Assembly;

Stress our continued support for Palestinian efforts to raise the position of the State of Palestine to that of a full-fledged member of the United Nations. In this regard, **renew our call** to those countries of the world that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine, to do so;

Condemn the continued illegal and illegitimate Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, as the capital of the State of Palestine. **Also reiterate** that Israel's continued settlement policy contravenes International Law and undermines the two-state solution and prospects for peace.

Reaffirm of the sanctity of Islamic and Christian shrines in Jerusalem and **Warn against** the serious consequences of such Israeli measures in occupied East Jerusalem; the Judaisation of that Arab city and obliteration of its Islamic and Christian identity as well as denying Muslims and Christians access to their Holy Places of worship, coupled with the repeated attempts to divide the Aqsa Mosque through bills passed by the Israeli Knesset in contravention of all the relevant international norms and resolutions, and decisions of the African Union and League of Arab States;

Demand that Israel unconditionally and immediately release all Palestinian prisoners languishing in Israeli jails. **Equally demand** that the Israeli government refrain from arbitrary arrests of Palestinians, including children and women, as an act that violates all international laws and norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children,

Reiterate our rejection and condemnation of the land and sea blockage imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and **Call for** the opening of all crossing points to allow free movement of persons and goods while putting a stop to the construction of the annexation and segregationist wall by Israel in occupied Palestine;

Reaffirm our commitment to support negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides based on the Arab Peace Initiative, the two-state solution and the relevant UN resolutions within the 9-month timeframe fixed for these negotiations with effect from 29 July 2013, with a view to establishing the desired peace, ending occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital. **Warn against** the negative repercussions of the Israeli violations which would undermine the negotiation process.