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General Secretariat
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Communiqué by

The First Meeting of the Ministerial Working Group in charge of following up on the implementation of the League of Arab States' Council Resolution 8988 adopted by the Extraordinary Session at the Ministerial Level on January 17, 2024

regarding

“Supporting the Federal Republic of Somalia in confronting the violations on its sovereignty and territorial integrity”

Based on the Council of the League of Arab States Resolution 8988 adopted by its Extraordinary Session on January 17, 2024 regarding "Supporting the Federal Republic of Somalia in confronting violations on its Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity," especially Paragraph 10 of the Resolution which stipulated that the Council "requests the Secretary-General to form a working group at the Ministerial Level to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution, through communication with the capitals of international and regional partners in this regard",

Having been briefed by HE Mr. Mohamed Ali Omar, Minister of State and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, on the developments of the situation in light of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the “Somaliland” region on January 1, 2024, which was considered by the Federal Somali government as null, void and unacceptable and a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, as well as a violation for the good-neighborhood relations, peaceful coexistence and stability in the region,

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States presented the efforts exerted in line with implementing the Council of the League of Arab States Resolution, including addressing letters from the Secretary General to the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council for February 2024, and the Chairman of the African Union Commission to affirm the Arab solidarity with the Somali position, in addition to assigning the missions of the League of Arab States in the capitals around the world, the United Nations, and other international organizations to clarify the Arab position for foreign ministries and relevant organizations accredited to, as well as the outcomes of the visit of a high-level delegation from the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to Mogadishu on February 21-22, 2024 that met HE President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and discussed with the Somali Government the formation of the Ministerial Working Group which

Unofficial Translation

was agreed to be chaired by the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the membership of the following states: the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the Secretary General,

Having been briefed by the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Working Group's member states, the Ministerial working group stated the following:

- 1- Affirms the full Arab solidarity with the right of the Federal Republic of Somalia to confront any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and rejecting the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding and any legal, political, commercial or military implications that may arise from it,
- 2- Underlines that the Ministerial Working Group and the Secretariat General shall intensify actions and coordination with relevant international and regional organizations to mobilize the necessary support to adapt the necessary resolutions and undertake the required measures that emphasize the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia; as well as reject and nullify the Memorandum of Understanding, and consider it a threat to international and regional peace and security, and stress the firm Arab position that the region of "Somaliland" is an integral part of the Federal Republic of Somalia based on the Charter of the League of Arab States and its principles, and the Charter of the United Nations; therefore, considering that any arrangements related to this region should be the result of political dialogue between the united Somali people; as well as the importance of continuing the role assigned to the Arab League's missions in regional and international organizations,
- 3- Underlines the importance of the cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia to prepare a comprehensive legal case to defend the sovereignty of the Somali State, and the unity and integrity of its territory in the face of the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding; utilizing the Somali legal expertise and a legal firm with a credible international reputation,
- 4- Stresses on the importance of the cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia to support the national Somali reconciliation efforts in a way that preserves the country's unity and sovereignty, and call upon the Arab States to work on the inclusion of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in any efforts aiming to support this national reconciliation,
- 5- Affirms that the Ministerial Working Group shall hold its next meeting on the sidelines of the next Arab Summit in Manama to be briefed by the Somali Federal Government on relevant issues, and to coordinate the required Arab actions to support Somali legitimate demands.