



Unofficial Translation

Final Communiqué
“Jerusalem: Resilience and Development”
Conference
League of Arab States, Cairo
12 February 2023

Based on the Resolution adopted by the 31st Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Summit Level, convened in Algiers, the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on 1 and 2 November 2022 (Resolution No. 781), which stipulated the convening of a high-level conference to support the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, with the aim of protecting the city and supporting the resilience of its people at the political, legal and developmental levels, in the face of the aggressive and systematic Israeli policies and practices that target the city and its people,

The high-level Jerusalem Conference has convened under the title “Resilience and Development,” at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 12 February 2023, in the presence and participation of HM Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, in addition to high-level delegations on behalf of Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, the leaders of the Member States of the League of Arab States, and high-level representatives of international, regional and Arab organizations and groups, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Union, the African Union, and the Non-Aligned Movement, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, clergymen, members of parliaments, specialized agencies, funds, unions, public figures, non-governmental organizations, and businessmen and women.

The attendees paid tribute to the Palestinian people’s long and continuous struggle for freedom and independence, and recalled the human and moral values that underpin the Charter of the United Nations, principles of international law, human rights, and international and Arab resolutions related to the Palestinian cause.

During the opening and political sessions, the attendees have listened to remarks of representatives of member states and guests, and the conference proceedings have continued in two parallel tracks: legal and economic (investment and development). The legal track has addressed Israel's frantic efforts to change the legal and historical status quo in Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities, Israel's policies of settlement and forced displacement, its policies of Judaization, domination, and Israelization of educational curricula in Jerusalem, and the issue of prisoners and children and the ways to giving them justice. The economic track has addressed the opportunities for investment and development in the housing sector in Jerusalem and ways to advance vital sectors in the city in accordance with the State of Palestine's strategic development plans, including the sectors of health, education, housing, tourism, culture, youth, and women.

The Conference

- 1- *Emphasizes* the centrality of the Palestinian cause, with Holy Jerusalem (Al-Quds Al-Sharif) at its heart, for the entire Arab nation, as well as for the free people and adherents of international law, human rights, justice, and equality around the world; that the Middle East region will not achieve just and comprehensive peace, security, and stability until the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate and inalienable rights, the most important of which are the rights of return, compensation, self-determination, and independence, the end of the illegal Israeli occupation, and the establishment of the independent and fully sovereign State of Palestine on the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital; and *calls on* all States to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle, to support their just cause, and to recognize the State of Palestine and grant its right of full membership in the United Nations.

- 2- *Calls on* the international community to take concrete steps to provide international protection for the Palestinian people and to oppose Israel's ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people in all forms, including Israeli colonial settlements, the apartheid regime, and discriminatory measures; and *calls upon* the Security Council to assume its responsibilities towards the effective implementation of its resolutions related to the Palestinian cause, including Resolutions 242, 338, 1515 and 2334, to seek to put an end to illegal Israeli policies and practices against the Palestinian people, as well as to remove illegal settlements and the wall of annexation and expansion - all of which constitute violations of international law, United Nations resolutions,

the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion issued on 9 July 2004.

- 3- *Emphasizes that* Israel's systematic and illegal policies and plans aiming at legitimizing the null-and-void Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem, distorting its Arab identity, changing its demographic composition, and undermining its people's population and urban growth, and isolating it from its Palestinian environment, including the intensification of the policies of home demolitions and forced displacement of citizens from the occupied city of Jerusalem's neighborhoods and towns, including the residents of Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah and the rest of the city's neighborhoods and areas – are all part of Israel's systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing and establishing the apartheid regime, which constitute flagrant violations of relevant international resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 476, and 478 (1980).
- 4- *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the protection of Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, and to halt Israel's attempts aiming to alter the existing historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and in the holy Al-Asa Mosque, including attempts to change its name, divide it spatially and temporally, undermine the freedom of Muslim worshippers, undermine its foundations and falsifying its history through Israeli excavations; *strongly condemned* the repeated and escalating incursions into the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and assaulting its sanctity and its safe worshipers by Israeli occupation government officials and extremist settlers; *emphasizes* the rejection of Israel's systematic and illegal measures to undermine churches and weaken the Christian presence in the Holy City; *and warns that* these grave violations of the existing legal and historical status quo of the sanctities of the city of Jerusalem constitute serious breaches of the relevant international agreements and obligations and will have serious consequences and repercussions on international peace and security.
- 5- *Calls for* the implementation of the resolutions relevant to the Palestinian cause, issued by the United Nations, the Executive Council of UNESCO, and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which emphasize that the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, with its entire area of 144 dunums, is an exclusive place of worship for Muslims only, and an integral part of the cultural world heritage sites; *emphasizes* the sovereignty of the State of Palestine over the city of Jerusalem and its sanctities; *supports* the Hashemite

Custodianship over Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, its role in protecting its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, and its role in preserving the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and its sanctities; *and reiterates that* the Jordanian Awqaf Department of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs is the only legal body with exclusive authority over the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif, including its administration, maintenance and organization of access thereto.

- 6- *Calls on* the international community to assume legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities for the immediate cessation of Israeli settlement projects in the city of Jerusalem, including the so-called “City Center” project, the “Gateway Jerusalem” project, the “Silicon Valley” project, the “City of David” project, and the “industrial zone” project in Issawiya, the Settlers’ “Light Rail” project, the “planning of registration of real estate” project in the city, and the Israeli racist laws that authorize the occupation authorities to withdraw the identity cards of thousands of Jerusalemites, and confiscate their property through the so-called “Absentee Property Law” – all these invalid racist measures aim to plunder more Palestinian lands and real estate in the Old City and its environs, and to erase Arab antiquities in the occupied city of Jerusalem.
- 7- *Condemns and rejects* the systematic Israeli policy to distort and change the Arab and Islamic culture and identity of the city of Jerusalem, whether through the closure of Palestinian national and cultural institutions and attempts to plunder the Palestinian heritage, or through attempts to change the Palestinian educational curricula in the city of Jerusalem, to impose distorted curricula instead, including assaulting students and teachers, applying the home confinement policy on children, and imposing financial and administrative penalties on Palestinian educational institutions that do not comply with this malign policy, amounting to their closure.
- 8- *Deplores* the Israeli policy of arbitrary and administrative detention, and the denial of medical treatment and the deliberate, fatal medical neglect of prisoners; *supports* the struggle of prisoners to achieve their freedom; and *calls upon* the relevant international and human rights institutions and bodies to intervene urgently to compel the occupation government to implement international humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to pressure Israel to

immediately release all prisoners and detainees and as well as the bodies of martyrs, and to put an end to widespread and systematic policies of deportation, house arrest, and home confinement practiced by Israel, the occupying Power, against the children and women of Jerusalem, with the aim of instilling fear in their consciousness and destroying their future.

- 9- *Rejects* any decision that violates the legal status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, including the opening of any diplomatic offices or missions in the city, which constitutes a violation of Security Council Resolutions No. 476 and 438 and United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/19, as an aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people, a provocation to sentiments of the Arab nation, Muslims and Christians alike, and as a serious violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.
- 10- *Welcomes* the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 77/247 that requests the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the status of the Israeli colonial occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine and the legal consequences that arise from this status and the illegal practices associated with it; and *urges* the Member States and all states adhering to the values of justice and principles of international law to support the State of Palestine in this effort, by filing written legal pleadings to the court before 25 July 2023, and other oral pleadings according to the court's declaration.
- 11- *Urges* the International Criminal Court to complete the criminal investigation and hold accountable the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other crimes committed and continue to be committed by Israel against the unarmed Palestinian people, including the crimes of settlement, annexation, aggression, the continued blockade on the Gaza Strip, and the deliberate field executions of civilians, journalists, medics, as well as forced displacement.
- 12- *Calls on* the international community to provide protection for Palestinian civilians, to implement Security Council Resolutions No. 904 (1994) and No. 605 (1987), and General Assembly Resolution No. 20/10-ES/RES/A (2018); and *urges* States and institutions of the international community to participate in protecting Palestinian civilians and in forming an effective mechanism to implement the provisions of the General Assembly resolution and the reports of the

United Nations Secretary-General, which included viable options for the protection of Palestinian civilians.

- 13- *Emphasizes* the need to begin, through this conference, the implementation of the resolution of the League of Arab States Council at the summit and ministerial levels, in its successive sessions, to form an advisory committee of international law experts under the auspices of the League of Arab States, with the aim of supporting Palestinian efforts that aim at giving justice to the Palestinian people and holding those responsible for current and historical crimes accountable, through the mechanisms of international justice, and the provision of legal advice and the necessary technical and financial support for these efforts.
- 14- *Emphasizes* the collective Arab and Islamic responsibility towards Jerusalem; and *calls on* all Arab and Islamic states, organizations and funds, and civil society organizations to transform their political support into practical interventions that include providing the necessary support and financing in the fields of development and investment, to carry out the projects included in the framework of development interventions 2023-2025 (projects section) presented by the State of Palestine to this Conference, in accordance with its sectoral development plan that aims at saving the Holy City, safeguarding its sanctities and strengthening the resilience of its people and institutions in the face of Israeli plans and practices to Judaize the city and displace its people.
- 15- *Encourages* Members of the League of Arab States, in partnership with investment funds and the Arab private sector, to establish a joint voluntary financing mechanism under the auspices of the League of Arab States to support small and medium-sized enterprises, that aim at strengthening the resilience of the people of Jerusalem in their city, and enabling them to confront Israeli policies that undermine their presence in Jerusalem and displacing them from it.
- 16- *Calls for* the establishment of the necessary mechanisms to carry out the resolution adopted by the 31st Session of the Arab Summit in Algiers, regarding the donation of the value of the smallest local currency to be added to fixed and mobile phone bills for service subscribers in the Arab States.
- 17- *Appreciates* the Jordanian role in protecting and preserving Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, within the framework of the

Hashemite Custodianship of HM King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; *values* the role of the Jerusalem Committee, chaired by HM King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco; *appreciates* the efforts made by Bayt Mal Alquds Asharif, an affiliate of Jerusalem Committee; *commends* the efforts made by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, under the leadership of HE President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in support of the Palestinian cause through Algeria's historical and political positions and continuous financial support for the budget of the State of Palestine; *expresses gratitude* to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, for its support to the Islamic Endowments in the city of Jerusalem; *expresses gratitude* to the Arab Republic of Egypt, under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, for its historical role in supporting the Palestinian cause; and *further appreciates* all Arab efforts that aim at preserving the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, and its sanctities and cultural and human heritage, and at supporting its institutions in confronting the systematic Israeli settlement, Judaization and falsification policies.

- 18- *Expresses appreciation and gratitude* to the Secretariat of the League of Arab States for its sincere and successful effort in organizing this high-level Jerusalem Conference, as well as for providing all necessary means for its success and following up on its outcomes.
- 19- *Calls on* the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to seek the adoption of the outcomes of this high-level Jerusalem Conference by the upcoming session of the Council of the League of Arab States.
