



Social Affairs Sector  
Women, Family and Childhood Department

## Statement of the League of Arab States On the Occasion of the Arab Child Day *Entitled* “The Palestinian Child”

The League of Arab States (LAS) **renews its full commitment** towards the Arab child's issues. This is on the occasion of the Arab Child Day that is marked by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. It comes as an implementation to the recommendations of the 20<sup>th</sup> session of Arab Childhood Committee. The year 2015 is dedicated under the title of “The Palestinian Child”. On this special day, LAS stresses on its obligation towards the Arab child issues, consolidation of his rights and protecting him from all forms of violence during peace, conflicts and after conflicts. In particular, the children living under armed conflicts conditions and those who suffer the scourge of wars in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. Also, the Palestinian children who were victims of the latest Israeli military aggression on Palestinians. It is to be considered as a genocide for Palestinian children amid an international inability to curb the Israeli military machine that reaped hundreds of Palestinian children within less than a month, in August 2014. LAS **emphasizes** the necessity of the relentless pursuit to protect the Palestinian children under Israeli occupation from its criminal acts against them. The violence of those acts is up to a level of ending the future, and even, existence of those children. This cannot be accepted by our conscience and humanity.

On this occasion, LAS calls on the international community to take its full responsibility towards the children of Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. This is to be done through the activation of resolutions and laws that ensures the protection of children. On the basis of the declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the protection of women and children in emergencies and armed conflict conditions, in 1974. Also, the declaration of the General Assembly on child's rights, in 1959. As well as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989, and its annexed optional protocols. LAS also calls for setting a binding mechanism to neutralize and ensure the protection of educational organizations and centers during armed conflicts. This can be considered the greatest developmental collapse in conflict-afflicted communities.

LAS takes this opportunity to announce that it is in the process of preparing “The Arab Strategy to Promote Children’s Status in the Arab Region: Post 2015”. It will be considered as the Arab agenda to promote childhood conditions in the region during the coming period of 2015 – 2030. The aim is to form a unified Arab stand that dedicates the commitment of caring for the rights of the Arab child and acts as a protective measure in times of both peace and war within a comprehensive system that includes health, education, protection and prevention fields.

On this Arab Child Day, LAS **emphasizes** the importance of giving the priority to childhood issues in the framework of **implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for post-2015 that was adopted by the Sustainable Development Summit, in New York, during the period of 25 – 27 September 2015**. Also, the rights of the children to have a dignified, free, safe and secure life on their own land, away from fear, asylum, displacement and all forms of violence, as well as, their full rights to be protected during occupation conditions. In this framework, LAS is in continuous pursuit to promote and support the exerted endeavours to improve childhood conditions. This is done through its partnerships with all parties concerned and related to Arab childhood conditions on all levels. LAS has made Arab childhood issues one of its top priorities through determining action plans to reach to efficient systems to protect children in the Arab region, especially during occupation and armed conflicts conditions. Also, to work on providing the needed opportunities to develop children’s capacities in safe environments, so that they can effectively participate and contribute in their own communities.