



**FOURTH AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT  
23 NOVEMBER 2016  
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**AAS/Decl.1(IV)  
S- 033/ (16/11) /08- D ( 0523)  
Original: English**

**MALABO DECLARATION**

## MALABO DECLARATION

**WE** the Leaders of African and Arab countries, meeting in our Fourth Africa-Arab Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 23 November 2016, under the Theme “*Together for Sustainable Development and Economic Cooperation;*”

**RECALLING** the long standing, historical, cultural, geo-political, social, economic, religious and linguistic ties between Africa and Arab peoples, which formed the basis for our strategic partnerships, and **EXPRESSING** our determination to strengthen and consolidate these ties on the principles of equality, mutual interests and respect;

**ALSO RECALLING** the Declarations and Programs of Action of the Africa-Arab Summits, adopted during the First Africa-Arab Summit held in Cairo in March 1977, the Second Summit in Sirte in October 2010, and the Third Summit in Kuwait in November 2013, as well as the joint efforts to implement these declarations and resolutions and to strengthen our cooperation in various mutually beneficial areas in our two regions;

**COMMENDING** the generous initiatives of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, the Emir of the State of Kuwait in Development and Investment fields that contributed in enhancing Africa Arab Partnership as an example and a way to move forward;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the goals and principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and the Charter of the League of Arab states (LAS); and the Solemn Declaration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAU/AU in 2013 concerning the African Union

**RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT** to continue our joint efforts towards meeting the aspirations of our peoples and to further strengthen the long standing brotherly relations between Africa and the Arab World, based on mutual interests and advantages, and overcoming the challenges and removing the obstacles facing the activation and development of Africa-Arab Cooperation;

**COMMENDING** the outcomes adopted by the 27<sup>th</sup> Summit of the League of Arab States in Nouakchott, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania regarding the strategic important dimension that the Africa Arab Cooperation represents among Arab Cooperation and Frameworks with Regional and International blocks and organizations; with the aim of building an efficient partnership that achieves the benefits of both sides and contributes in flourishing their mutual cooperation;

**UNDERLINING THE NEED** to enhance cooperation, coordination and information sharing between the relevant Africa and Arab Initiatives and Structures aiming at

combating terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization and eradicate their root causes;

**RECALLING** the General Assembly resolution of September 25, 2015 No. 70/1, entitled: "Transforming our world 2030 Agenda for the sustainable development plan," and **REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT** to enhance our partnership to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) with its three dimensions; the economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner; and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

**WELCOMING** the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063, and its Roadmap "The Africa we want, and its first ten year Implementation Plan, as well as other flag ship programs, **WELCOMING** as well the relevant Arab plans and strategies adopted at the Arab summits including the Arab Declaration on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan for the year 2030, as adopted at the Arab League Summit in Nouakchott 2016, in line with the mutual interests of the two sides, and **REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the full implementation of these African and Arab initiatives and programmes;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of consolidating the Africa Arab Cooperation in the field of migration, in light of the unprecedented increase of mixed migration flows through the -- African countries due to the multi-faceted reasons; **RECOGNIZING** the important role played by African and Arab financial Institutions and Banks in supporting the development efforts of Africa and Arab regions, and most particularly the crucial role played by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in promoting the Africa-Arab Partnership through financing our joint activities;

**DETERMINING** to develop and deepen the cordial link of brotherly cooperation by both sides:

**HAVE AGREED TO:**

**I. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

- 1.1. Hold regular high level consultative meetings and promote information sharing and political dialogue at all levels to harmonize positions on regional and global issues of mutual concern,
- 1.2. Promote information sharing and best practices between African Union Commission and the League of Arab States through, inter alia, organizing meetings and workshops on particular issues of concern for the two regions, especially relating to conflict resolution and post conflict intervention

- 1.3. Support to the Palestinian cause, as highly reflected in the Declaration on Palestine issued by the Malabo Summit, in different regional and international fora, in line with the United Nations Resolutions and Decisions, and hold regular consultations at all levels to monitor closely the situation in Palestine.
- 1.4. Promote cooperation in areas of good governance and election through sharing of political experiences and best practice, in line with the relevant national rules and regulations,
- 1.5. Undertake regular consultations between AU and LAS Representational Offices in selected capitals and support the candidacies of their member States at international organizations, particularly in the UN;
- 1.6. Reiterate the call to Member States to extend political, moral and material support to the Libyan Government of National Accord as the sole legitimate government of Libya and to refrain from having any contact with any other parallel bodies and welcome Presidential Council Resolution No. 12 of 2016 delegating candidates to act as Ministers in the Government of National Accord until the government is approved by the House of Representatives and until it is sworn in. Also reiterate the call to lend urgent assistance to the government in operationalizing and rehabilitating security, military and civilian institutions and providing them with the necessary expertise and equipment in the areas identified by the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord for undertaking its urgent national responsibilities and compliance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions 2259/2015 and 2278/2016 and emphasize the importance of the mechanism of neighboring countries in promoting a political settlement process in Libya.
- 1.7. Further undertake cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in order to harmonize issues on highly indebted countries, lifting of unilateral sanctions imposed on some African and Arab countries and any other issue that is of common interest.
- 1.8. Condemn all forms of discrimination, racism, occupation and other forms of violation of human and people's rights,
- 1.9. 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 and effective and stress the need to coordinate our positions in this regard, taking into consideration the Ezulwini consensus (and Sirte Declaration) of the African

Union and the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States, to achieve our mutual interests.

- 1.10. Condemn the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and agreeing to promote cooperation in the regulated peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to contribute to the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.
- 1.11. Strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, its financing, including by payment of ransoms, as well as transnational organized crimes and express our full solidarity with African and Arab Countries that are being targeted by terrorist organizations, along targeting citizens, security and stability and firmly condemn the association of terrorism with any religion, sect, race or civilization and transnational organized crime, and call upon for the development of a joint Africa Arab Strategy to combat Terrorism in line with the relevant legal instruments of both organizations.
- 1.12. Call for enhancing the participation of African and Arab troop contributing countries in drafting UN decisions in the field of Peacekeeping, and enhancing joint cooperation in the field of Peacekeeping training between the relevant Arab and African centers, and invite Arab and African centers to actively participate in the annual conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training centers to be convened by the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa in September 2017, for the first time in the Arab World and the African Continent.
- 1.13. Coordinate African and Arab efforts at all levels regarding the work of the United Nations Security Council, especially among the non-permanent members whose memberships overlap in the council, in order to enhance the credibility of the UN Security Council, and ensure that all the issuers on the Council's agenda are addressed in a balanced manner, especially those related to Africa and the Middle East, in particular the Question of Palestine,
- 1.14. Recognize the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, reaffirm the necessity to achieve universality of the NPT and urge states non-parties to the NPT to accede to it without preconditions. Regret failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach a consensus , and hope that the upcoming NPT Review Conference will achieve the consensus on the issues pertinent to the operationalization of the Treaty provisions and on the implementation of all decisions and Resolutions of the previous NPT Review Conferences.

- 1.15. Reaffirm the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and stress that the 1995 Resolution is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. Express our deep concern that the continuous lack of implementation of the 1995 Resolution undermines the credibility of the NPT regime as a whole. Urge the prompt and full implementation of this Resolution by all states concerned. Also urge all states of the Middle East region to promptly accede to the NPT and to place all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive surveillance.
  
- 1.16. Commend and Support the electoral parliamentary and presidential process currently being held in the Federal Republic of Somalia and all other regions concurrently as a result of the tremendous efforts provided by African and Arab countries which resulted in the successful convening of the IGAD Summit in Mogadishu in September 2016 , all of which gave positive indication on the overall improvement of the situation in Somalia
  
- 1.17. Coordinate in developing programs in the field of prevention of armed conflicts
  
- 1.18. Express full solidarity with Iraq, and commend the Iraqi Government's efforts to eliminate DAASH terrorist gangs Organizations and liberate cities and towns from their grip, and commending the great victories achieved by the Iraqi Armed Forces, in particular in Nineveh, thanks to the sacrifices and heroism of the full spectrum of the Iraqi people.
  
- 1.19. Call upon the international community to extend all sorts of support to Iraq in this critical confrontation, given the fact that they are fighting terrorism on behalf of the entire International Community, as well as to contribute to extending urgent humanitarian relief to families displaced as a consequence to military operations, and to reconstruct liberated cities after their destruction by such criminal groups, and helping return displaced people to their villages and cities which they were forced to leave, and, further, condemning the crimes of murder, genocide, forced displacement, human trafficking, and destruction of monuments, shrines, churches, mosques and heritage sites which were committed by the terror groups.
  
- 1.20. Strongly condemn the kidnapping of Qatari nationals in Iraq as an act of terrorism and flagrant violation of international law and human rights, and a breach of all heavenly laws and legal instruments, stressing full solidarity with the State of Qatar that conform to International Law, and expressing every hope that the communications between Qatar and Iraq would lead to their release and safe return to their home country.

- 1.21. Welcome finalization of the implementation of the Doha Document on Peace in Darfur which was the fruit of Africa-Arab cooperation through the Joint Committee set up under the chairmanship of the State of Qatar for the establishment of peace in Darfur, and appeal to the Darfur factions that did not join the peace process to urgently do so based on the Doha Document as the firm and comprehensive basis for the peace process in Darfur.

## II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

### *(i) Trade and Investment*

- 2.1 Promote, facilitate and enhance trade and investment in African and Arab countries through, inter alia, the establishment of sustainable partnership between the two regions;
- 2.2 Follow up the implementation of the generous initiatives of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait regarding the offer of 1 billion US \$ concessionary loans to African countries to enhance development in Africa, as well as 1 billion US \$ in investment with focus on infrastructure, in cooperation with the World Bank and other international institutions, and encourage African and Arab Countries to follow that example and provide similar initiatives.

### *(ii) Industry*

- 2.3 Cooperate in building Africa and Arab industrial capacities including supply chains and beneficiaries

### *(iii) Agriculture and Food Security*

- 2.4 Invite African and Arab private sector to increase investments in the two regions and implement the proposed joint plan of action in order to accelerate agricultural development and achieve food security within the framework of the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and the Emergency Program for Arab Food Security, to implement vital and viable projects in the short, medium, and long terms.
- 2.5 Facilitate trade and technology transfer in the field of agriculture in the African and Arab regions, and eliminating all barriers that impede the increase in the agricultural production for the realization of food security in the two regions.
- 2.6 Activate the new coordination mechanism in order to implement the joint plan of action on agricultural development and food security which will substitute the

current Facilitation Unit and to ensure the implementation of the Khartoum Declaration resolutions and recommendations adopted by the third Africa-Arab Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Development and Food Security which was held in Khartoum in November 2016.

***(iv) Infrastructural Development***

- 2.7 Maintain closer Cooperation aiming at the implementation of targeted Infrastructural projects with particular focus on the African Union Agenda 2063 flagship project that will unlock the growth potential in line with the mutual interest of the two sides.

***(v) Transport***

- 2.8 Cooperate in global freight transportation system that includes maritime transport, inland water ways, roads, railways and inland and logistics services associated with goods transactions.
- 2.9 Support the development of transport infrastructure that will enhance the intra and inter-regional free movement of goods and people between African countries and Arab countries.

***(vi) ICT***

- 2.10 Encourage investment opportunities in the digital economy and e-commerce activities between the two regions while working together to strengthen cooperation in the areas of ICTs and cyberspace. Place great emphasis on job creation opportunities for youths and women in the two regions to work in the field of ICT as an important driver of socio-economic development.

***(vii) Energy,***

- 2.11 Promote regional trade and capacity development in the Energy sector, in order to reduce energy deficit and improve energy security and access in the two regions, and to increase exports outside the regions.
- 2.12 Support regional trade and encourage private sector and financial institutions to invest in building programmes in clean energy technologies, renewable energy and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

***(viii) Climate Change***



- 2.13 Commend the practical outcomes and developments plans that emanated from the Conference of the Parties (COP22) which was hosted in Marrakech in November 2016 pertaining to African continent and also the declaration of the African summit which was convened on 16 November 2016 on the margins of COP 22.

**(ix) Means of Financing**

- 2.14 Organise regular meetings between African and Arab development financing and implementing institutions, including BADEA, the AFDB and sub-regional Banks, for financing and follow up of implementation of the Joint Africa-Arab projects.
- 2.15 Organize joint consultations and meetings, with regard to debt relief for highly indebted countries and lifting of unilateral sanctions imposed on some African and Arab countries,

**III. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**(i) Education and Training**

- 3.1 Promote cooperation in education, human resource capacity building and invest in strategic training and skills development programmes that foster employability and entrepreneurship.

**(ii) Science and Technology**

- 3.2 Enhance cooperation in science, technology and innovation through joint research programmes and promote the transfer of appropriate technologies and entrepreneurship development through investments in STI.
- 3.3 Implement regional, educational, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) strategies of both sides to ensure production of high quality human resources and conduct scientific and technical research in the institutions.
- 3.4 Promote cooperation in space science and technology for socio-economic development.

**IV. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION:**

- 4.1. Establish an Africa-Arab Working Group on Social Development to follow-up the implementation of the action plan through thematic working groups between the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States.

- 4.2. Enhance cooperation to end multidimensional poverty, through creating joint accredited data that lead to establishing appropriate poverty maps that help to create proper action plans.
- 4.3. Strengthen cooperation for the implementation of Goal 3 and relevant aspirations on health as part of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030, in particular developing plans to combat communicable and non-communicable diseases, sharing of experience and encouragement of investments in pharmaceutical products, providing health services, sharing of medical experience, promoting medical tourism, and sharing of relevant successful experience.
- 4.4. Promote cooperation to ensure good, fair and inclusive education for all, strengthening opportunities for learning for life to all people, as per Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Plan, organizing necessary events that enable the development of the educational process, ensuring their meeting of market needs, which enables the graduation of promising young generations in African and Arab countries capable of coping with regional and international developments and facing challenges.
- 4.5. Coordinate joint efforts to formulate policies to implement the international convention on the right of persons with disabilities, and the related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to ensure the complete inclusion of persons with disabilities in our societies.
- 4.6. Foster cooperation in the area of women rights and gender equality to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), and the African Union Agenda 2063.
- 4.7. Strengthen cooperation in the field of the protection of children and the elimination of all forms of violence against them, issues of recruitment and exploitation of children in armed conflicts, and to continue strenuous efforts for the advancement of their well-being and enforcement of their rights in line with the principles and objectives of the values, contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its additional protocols.
- 4.8. Provide support and care services for children, particularly the victims of violence, and children affected by armed conflicts and forced displacement.
- 4.9. Enhance cooperation in the field of social protection, especially social safety nets for small and medium enterprises and working families.

- 4.10. Cooperate and coordinate in humanitarian assistance to mitigate the effects associated with disasters. Enhance cooperation to implement health related goals and targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, through supporting trade and investment in the health sector and to share best practices in combating communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- 4.11. Allocate the necessary financial and human resources to enable the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute play its role with a view to strengthening our cultural cooperation.
- 4.12. Build capacity and empower youth and women to play their main role in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and countering violent extremism.

## **V. COOPERATION ON MIGRATION**

- 5.1 Support the operationalization of the Africa Arab technical and coordination committee on migration as well as the establishment of the Africa Arab Centre for the exchange of information on migrants as endorsed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Arab Summit.
- 5.2 Ensure that migrants are treated in a humane manner considering the fact that migration is a problem that concerns the international community as a whole which calls for multifaceted solutions.
- 5.3 Hold inter-regional conference on Migration and implement joint capacity building programs on migration issues and follow up implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to migration.
- 5.4 Ensure adherence and observation to International Labour Organisation Convention and Protocol on Migration of 1975 and 1990 respectively.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP MECHANISMS**

The Implementation and Follow up Mechanisms shall be developed by the two sides at a later date during a joint Retreat.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### WE EXPRESS OUR:

**DEEPEST THANKS** to H.E. President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad and to H.E. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania for the successful co-chairing of the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit.

**PROFOUND THANKS** and appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit held in Kuwait on 19 November 2013, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of the State of Kuwait, and to His Excellency Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for steering the deliberations and work of the third Africa Arab Summit to a successful conclusion and for their continuous follow up of the development of Africa-Arab Partnership in the past three years;

**PROFOUND GRATITUDE** to His Excellency President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea for the warm reception, generous hospitality and efficient organization which provided the most positive and favorable conditions for the convening of the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit;

**WELCOME** to H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, as the new Secretary General of the League of Arab States and his dedication to the Africa Arab Partnership process;

**APPRECIATION** to H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and H.E. Dr. Nabil Elaraby, former Secretary General of the League of Arab States for their close follow up of the implementation of the Resolutions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Arab Summit.

**MALABO 23 NOVEMBER 2016**