



**THE SECOND AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT
SIRTE, LIBYA
10 OCTOBER 2010**

Assembly/Africa-Arab/Decl.(II)

SIRTE DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of African and Arab Countries, meeting in our Second Africa-Arab Summit in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 10/10/2010;

Affirming our desire to promote relations between Africa and the Arab world, boost cooperation between them, and establish a strategic partnership aimed at ensuring justice, peace and international security and development for the peoples of the two regions;

Affirming also 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);

Further affirming our adherence to international conventions, in particular those related to respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, as well as non-interference in their internal affairs, international cooperation, respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; and sustainable development for the benefit of all peoples;

Recalling the Declaration and Program of Action of the First Africa-Arab Summit, held in Cairo in March 1977, and relevant resolutions and decisions of successive African and Arab Summits, particularly the 6th Arab Summit held in Algiers in November 1973, 22nd Arab Summit held in Sirte in March 2010, and the 15th AU Assembly held in Kampala, in July 2010, all of which affirmed the importance of exerting continuous efforts and removing obstacles that hinder the active development of Africa-Arab cooperation, based on common interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields to further consolidate the foundations that safeguard Africa-Arab relations;

Noting the close mutual ties and common interests; the historical, geographical and cultural considerations; the common struggle in support of cause of liberation and development of both regions; the bonds of fraternity, friendship, good neighbourliness, and common destiny of the peoples of both regions;

Affirming that the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the world, as well cooperation between the two regions should be based on a commitment to multilateral relations, respect for international law, human rights, the international humanitarian law, disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, the fight against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, sustainable development, social justice, especially eradication of poverty and hunger and preservation of the environment;

Recalling the Tripoli Declaration on the Resolution of conflicts and the promotion of Sustainable Peace in Africa, and the Plan of Action adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Tripoli, the Great Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009, ;

Reaffirming our commitment to UN resolutions, objection to unilateral measures and imposition of sanctions on States, and adherence to the objectives and principles of the UN Charter, particularly prohibition of the use of force or threat to use force in international relations;

Expressing satisfaction at the joint Africa-Arab efforts exerted since the Cairo Summit in 1977, and the cooperation between African and Arab organizations, **Realizing** the major transformation witnessed in the two regions; the manifestations and dimensions of globalisation, the emergence of knowledge communities and economies, and of giant political, economic and trade blocks;

Stressing the importance of strengthening regional and sub-regional groupings as one of the necessary prerequisites for the establishment of an Africa-Arab partnership founded on solid and sustainable ground to ensure effectiveness and continuity;

Stressing also the importance of confidence-building and mutual understanding for the peaceful coexistence of nations; **Acknowledging** the importance of preserving the national identity, respect for cultural diversity and the role of inter-cultural and inter-civilization exchange and dialogue in a world where tolerance and integration prevail; **Realizing** that the current challenges and obstacles undermine the efforts of developing countries, threaten their populations and hinder overall economic development that ensures equality in the countries of the two regions, and require cooperation, integration and coordination in all fields under a more integrated and just economic and political order;

Reaffirming our commitment to respect for cultural and religious diversity that characterizes the common human heritage and our conviction that the freedom of faith constitutes a basic human right; **Expressing** concern over the growing forms of deliberate abuse of religions, their symbols and followers; **Calling** upon the international community to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the principles of the international Human Rights instruments, especially in combating hatred based on religious belief and racism, and protecting the right to freedom of thought, opinion, belief and religion without any discrimination,, **Recognizing** that all religions constitute a basic element for the creation of an environment conducive to the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and **Commending** the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdala Bin Abdel Aziz, for his initiative regarding interfaith and intercultural dialogue;

Recognizing the need for countries of the two regions to mobilize their energies and redouble efforts in facing the various challenges and crises and to accelerate the pace of Africa-Arab cooperation and forge the desired strategic partnership, integration and coordination in all fields, within a more supportive and just political and economic order and **Determined** to harness all human scientific and material potentials to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;

Convinced of the need to ensure the well-being of the citizens of Africa and the Arab world, and their involvement in sustainable economic and social development in the two regions, and the need to respect their rights, maintain their dignity, and meet their basic needs as well as their right to develop their own human resources;

Renewing our determination to spare no effort to enhance Africa-Arab cooperation and our ability to address the challenges in both regions;

1. **Reaffirm** the importance of the exchange of expertise in the field of settling conflicts by peaceful means, and through the mechanisms concerned with settlement and management of conflicts, propagating the culture of peace and intensive cooperation in the conflict zones as well, the importance of coordination between the two regions to benefit from the scientific advancement in the field for peaceful use of nuclear weapons;
2. **Express** satisfaction at the existing cooperation between the AU Peace and Security Council and the Arab League Peace and Security Council, and **Call** for promotion of joint cooperation programs through the mobilization of human resources and technical know-how and coordination of positions on peace and security matters in Africa and the Arab region;
3. **Affirm** that peace, security and stability in the two regions constitute the basic foundation for economic prosperity and social development and **Also affirm** our determination to cooperate in all fields, including settlement of disputes that have a direct impact thereon, and to continue cooperating with other international parties;
4. **Stress** the importance of Arab and African concerted efforts for comprehensive and essential reform of United Nations in response to the needs and aspirations of the peoples of both regions, so that this international organization can effectively address contemporary international challenges. In this regard, we emphasize the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations General Assembly, and to accelerate UN Security Council reform, develop and extend its permanent membership to allow for the different geographical regions to participate in the management of the international order and the determination of the terms of the international agenda;
5. **Denounce** terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and consider crimes committed by terrorist groups as grave violations of basic human rights and an incessant threat to the safety, security and stability of nations; **Call** for the holding of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to study and identify terrorist crimes, and distinguish between terrorism and peoples' right to fight in resisting occupation and reject linking terrorism to any nationality or religion; **Affirm** the importance of enhanced cooperation and coordination, exchange of information and expertise, development of capacity of the organs specialized in combating terrorism; and cooperation in dealing with the roots of terrorism and removing all the factors that nurture it through elimination of hotbeds of tension and double standards in implementing the international law and put an end to occupation and violations of human rights and dignities, **Express** our full support for prohibition of payment of ransom to terrorist organizations as a main source for financing terrorism, and reflection of all forms of blackmail by terrorist groups; and **Underline** the importance of the initiative of the Custodian of the

Two Holy Mosques aimed at establishing an international centre for combating terrorism;

6. **Condemn** the conspiracy to destabilize the Kingdom of Bahrain and **Reaffirm** support and solidarity of Member States with the Kingdom as well as support for all measures taken in combating acts of terrorism and incitement against innocent citizens. These acts which flout teachings of divine religions and laws tend to undermine the security and stability of Arab States and the principles of collective security and common national destiny.
7. **Express** deep concern over the continued and expanded operations of maritime piracy, and **Support** efforts exerted by AU Commission and LAS in this regard; **Appreciate** the on-going process to formulate a continental strategy to manage maritime navigation and participation of the African Standby Force in the efforts aimed at enhancing the security and safety of maritime navigation; and once again **Call upon** the UN General Assembly to investigate the root causes of piracy as a phenomenon and the international community to support these efforts, including the prosecution and incarceration of pirates;
8. **Affirm** the importance of the International Humanitarian Law that must be applied in armed conflicts, and take all necessary measures to protect civilians in armed conflicts, in particular women and children affected by such conflicts;
9. **Affirm** the importance of the Pelindaba Treaty, which has entered into force, and **Emphasized** the need to establish Nuclear and Weapons of Mass destruction free zones especially in the Middle East, in order to enhance the security of African and Arab Member States in accordance with resolution issued by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in 2010, where Israel adhere to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty without delay or conditions, and the accession of all its nuclear facilities to the comprehensive IAEA Safeguards system; **Express** support for the Arab Initiative that calls for turning the Middle East and the Gulf Region into a region free of weapons of mass destruction, **Call upon** all parties concerned as well as the international community to take practical and urgent measures for the establishment of a nuclear weapon -free zone in the Middle East, including practical steps mentioned in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which calls for the convening of an international conference dealing with the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destructions; and **Reaffirm** the importance of the accession of all countries of the region, without exception, to the NPT and the placement of all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA monitoring, for realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;
10. **Express** firm and full support to the Arab Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli occupation, and their right to practise their irrevocable national rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination and return to their homeland, and to those territories which have been illegally occupied since 1948, to live in peace and stability inside the borders of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the 4 June 1967 borders, in accordance with the principles of international law, the

resolutions on international legitimacy, relevant United Nations , AU and LAS resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative; the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on international legitimacy that stipulate non-recognition of the situation resulting from Israeli settlement activities in occupied Arab territories, and consider them as an illegal procedure that gives no rights, and considers it as a war crime as well as a violation of the Geneva Conventions;

11. **Express** strong support for the just demand of Syria and its right to fully restore the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights to the borders of 4 June 1967 pursuant to the relevant resolutions on international legitimacy, and **Stress** that the continued occupation of Arab lands is a threat to international peace and security;
12. **Affirm** the need for Israel to withdraw from the Lebanese Shebaa farms, the Kafr Shuba Heights and from the Lebanese part of Al Ghajar village to the Blue Line, in accordance with the relevant international resolutions, and in particular, the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of 2006;
13. **Express** concern at the continuation of tension, violence, military attacks and acts of terror that are sweeping the Middle East region, which put regional and global peace at risk; support for the efforts of the actors of the international community to resume the peace process; **Call upon** the parties concerned to exert efforts to support the negotiation process based on the principles and fundamental norms of international law, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
14. **Affirm** respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Sudan; **Support** efforts aimed at maintaining peace in its territories, **Express solidarity** with the Sudan, **Totally reject** any attempt to undermine its sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability, **Reaffirm** all relevant African and Arab resolutions rejecting the decisions of the International Criminal Court against His Excellency the President of the Sudan¹, **Continue Efforts** with the Sudanese Government and political forces in the Sudan in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the establishment of a Sudanese Consultative Forum under the Co-Chairmanship of the African Union and the United Nations, with the participation of the League of Arab States; **Affirm** the need to make unity an attractive choice, overcoming the difficulties that may hinder the implementation of the Agreement, and **Welcome** and **Support** the offer by Kuwait to host an International Conference on Development in the Eastern Sudan from 1 to 2 December 2010;
15. **Applaud** the efforts exerted to resolve the Darfur crisis, in particular those exerted by Sudan's neighbouring states; **Value** the initiative of LAS and AU to resolve the Darfur crisis; **Recognize** the important work done by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Darfur, chaired by former South African President, His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, in contributing immensely to the peace process in The Sudan, **Also commend** the efforts of South

¹ Botswana made reservation

Africa as Chair of the African Union Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in The Sudan and those of members of the said Committee, **Express support** for the Africa-Arab Ministerial Committee on the Resolution of the crises in Darfur; **Commend** the relentless efforts of the State of Qatar within the framework of the Committee in sponsoring peace negotiations; **Express satisfaction** at the regional and international support for the ongoing peace negotiation in Doha; **Welcome** the framework agreements concluded between the Sudanese Government and two Sudanese armed groups **Call upon** all Sudanese factions to respond positively to this initiative, **Also welcome** the new strategy of the Sudanese Government for the settlement of the Darfur crises, involving all segments of the Darfur community; **Express** gratitude and appreciation for the initiative of His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, to establish a Development Bank for Darfur with an initial capital of 2 Billion Dollars; and **Call upon** all countries and organizations concerned to contribute to the Fund with a view to ensuring the success of the initiative;

16. **Welcome** the support extended to the process of normalizing relations between The Sudan and Chad, **commend the** steps taken in this respect and the vision and leadership of both countries for achieving peace and security ;
17. **Welcome** the growing and notable role being played by LAS in handling the humanitarian situation in Darfur; **Call** for development aid to focus on the early recovery phase; **Recognize** the important role of the AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and **Call upon** all parties to cooperate in the efforts to bring peace and development to Darfur and to convene the “Darfur-Darfur Conference” with the participation of all the parties concerned;
18. **Affirm** the importance of finalizing negotiations on post-referendum issues and arrangements on in Southern Sudan, in January 2011, in light of the outcomes of the IGAD Summit in March 2010, the Mekelle Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2010, and the outcome of the AU mission to the Sudanese city of Juba in June 2010, which have all affirmed the need to follow up the implementation of the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to ensure peace, closer Sudanese North-South cooperation and protection of the rights of all the Sudanese people regardless of the results of the referendum on self-determination to be conducted with full transparency;
19. **Express** appreciation for the African Arab efforts exerted to consolidate stability and reconciliation in the Republic of the Comoros and the signing of the "Agreement for a Transitional Administration" on 16 June 2010, **Affirm** the need to call upon all parties in the Comoros to work in good faith to execute the Agreement, and hold credible elections for the position of President of the Federation and the governors of the Islands on the scheduled dates. **Urge** the international community to extend financial and technical support, stress the importance of coordination and cooperation in implementing development projects on the Islands, and addressing the problem of accumulated debts, as that will contribute to accelerating progress towards peace and development; **Call upon** AU and LAS to continue their joint cooperation to boost the process of reconciliation and push forward the development process in the Comoro Islands, **Welcome** the outcome of the Arab Conference on Investment and

Development in the Union of the Comoros held in Doha in March 2010, which pledges were made for a total of US\$450 million, **Express** appreciation to countries and organizations, charity and humanitarian foundations for honouring their pledges, **Call** on the other parties to fulfil their commitments as soon as possible; **Commend** the support of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, to the tune of 20 million Euros and **Also Express Appreciation** to the Great Jamahiriya for its assistance towards restoring peace and stability in the Union of the Comoros;

20. **Express** concern over the continued acts of violence in Somalia and the subsequent human losses financial damage and the acts of terrorism that target civilians regardless of the excuses or justifications; **Reaffirm** its full support for the Somali Transitional Federal Government, and the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability of Somalia, and the faithful endeavour to achieve national reconciliation, **Welcome** the signing and implementation of the agreement concluded in Addis Ababa on 15 March 2010 between the Somali Transitional Federal Government and Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamaa Movement under the auspices of the AU, LAS, and UN, and also the agreement signed with the Punt land Province on 12 April 2010;
21. **Express** appreciation for the role being played by the AU Mission in Somalia; **affirm** the need to support these efforts for the deployment of AU forces (AMISOM) to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability in the country; **Affirm** the importance of support to this Mission and to the African initiative to strengthen the AU Mission by increasing the number of AU forces in Somalia in accordance with the AU Decision adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in Kampala, Uganda in 2010;
22. **Reiterate** its call to the international community, and the UN Security Council in particular, to assume their role and mobilize resources to meet the challenges facing Somalia and in particular to start planning for a new stage of deployment of the AU Mission in Somalia;
23. **Emphasize** respect for the unity, freedom, sovereignty and independence of Iraq and non-interference in its internal affairs; respect for the will of the Iraqi people to freely decide their future, **Strongly condemn** all acts of terrorism and violence which affect the Iraqi people in particular, and **Reaffirm** the need to reach national reconciliation, thereby achieving security and stability; **Support** the efforts of the United Nations, the UN Mission and LAS to help Iraq, and the efforts of the Iraqi national political parties committed to this process; **Urge** the Iraqi Leadership to move ahead with the forming of a consensus Government which represents all the Iraqi people; and **Reaffirm** the importance of the results and mutual understanding reached at the 7th Meeting of the Interior Ministers of Iraq's Neighbouring Countries, held in September 2010 in the Kingdom of Bahrain;
24. **Call upon** the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond positively to the United Arab Emirates' initiative to reach a peaceful settlement on the issue involving the three UAE Islands (Tunb AL-Kubra, Tunb Alsughra and Abou Moussa) through dialogue and direct negotiations, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the International law or the acceptance to refer the issue

to the International Court of Justice; and **Reaffirm** the call to Brother Muammar Gaddafi, Leader of Al-Fateh Revolution to use his good offices so that Iran and the United Arab Emirates accept the referral of the case to the International Court of Justice;

25. **Welcome** the mediation by Qatar to resolve the conflict between Djibouti and Eritrea by peaceful means and **Welcome** also the agreement signed by the two countries in June 2010 under the auspices of His Excellency, the Emir of Qatar, which will have positive impact on the situation in the Horn of Africa;
26. **Express** deep concern over the unilateral sanctions imposed on Syria by the United States of America, and consider that the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" violates the principles of the International Law and the objectives and principles of the United Nations, and therefore constitute a serious precedent in dealing with independent states;
27. **Also express** deep concern over the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by western countries and **Call for** the immediate lifting of all the sanctions that are causing a lot of suffering for Zimbabweans and hindering the development of the country;
28. **Welcome** the successful conduct of the electoral process in Burundi in September 2010, making the end of the peace process that started in 1998;
29. **Endorse** the work of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region as a vital framework for peace, stability, post-conflict reconstruction and development in the region;
30. **Stress** the importance of the national reconstruction phase and Request the African Union Commission in collaboration with the League of Arab States to organize a Donors Roundtable for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and Sierra Leone in conformity with the Tripoli Plan of Action and Declaration on Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction and the recommendations of the Multidisciplinary Mission to Burundi and the DRC to determine the needs of the two countries;
31. **Welcome** the improved security situation in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the participation of all the main national armed groups, signatories to the Goma Agreements, and their participation in the implementation of these agreements, **Call upon** all parties concerned to implement these agreements without delay and work to restore trust amongst the States of the region, **Welcome** also the convening of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint High Supreme Committee between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in Kinshasa in December 2009, and the UN Security Council resolution which extends the UN experts' mission to November 2011; **Welcomes** further the good relations in the Great Lakes Region and **Reject** the allegation in the UNHCR Report titled "DRC Mapping Exercise of the most serious Human Rights and International Human Rights Law Violations committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 1993 and 2003" and also **Condemn** the flawed and malicious allegations against Rwanda, Uganda

and Burundi, which undermine peace, reconciliation and good neighbourliness within the Great Lakes Region;

32. **Express** satisfaction at the recent developments in the Republic of Guinea, the holding of the first round of presidential elections on 27 June 2010, **Affirm** the necessity of the actual holding of the second round of presidential elections on 24 October 2010, to be followed by legislative elections; **Insist on** the need to avoid any acts that may hinder the return to constitutional order; and **Call upon** the international community to extend its support necessary for the completion of the said process in Guinea, **Reaffirm** its support for action undertaken in this regard by the International Contact Group, co-chaired by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and **Recognize** the role played by the Mediator His Excellency, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso;
33. **Express** satisfaction at the ongoing preparations for the presidential election in Cote d' Ivoire scheduled for 31 October 2010; and **Call upon** the international community to provide support to the process and **Commend** the contribution made to this end by the ECOWAS Facilitator, His Excellency President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso;
34. **Commend** the efforts of the SADC Mediator in Madagascar, His Excellency, President Chissano, to find a lasting solution to the constitutional crisis in that country, as well as the recent decisions of the 2010 SADC Summit to move the process forward on the basis of the Maputo and Addis Ababa Agreements, including the opening of a SADC Office in Madagascar;
35. **Call upon** the international community to the implementation of the AU sanctions on Madagascar contained in the Decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of 19 February and 17 March 2010 respectively, **Also call upon** all parties in Madagascar to redouble this efforts with a view to reaching a lasting and an all inclusive solution headed for the return of the country to constitutional order;
36. **Express** deep concern over the developments that took place in Guinea Bissau in early April 2010, which might threaten the constitutional regime, and condemn the continuous intervention of the army in the functioning of democratic institutions and **emphasise** the importance of the effective implementation of reform of the security sector, and the accelerated deployment of the "Stability Mission" stipulated in the Tripoli Action Plan;
37. **Express** deep concern at the political developments in Niger, **Reiterate** its rejection of all unconstitutional changes of government, **Request** Niger authorities and other stakeholders to fully implement the calendar of the transitional period for return to constitutional order in the country and **Call upon** the international community to extend necessary support for the sound management of the transitional process, in particular the holding of the elections;
38. **Intensify** the coordination of positions in economic and commercial fora in order to handle common issues in accordance with the objectives stated in this

Declaration and in this respect, **Reaffirm** our commitment to the strengthening of the economic and social institutions of the UN in order to work for putting in place a broad and ambitious international economic, social and development agenda, and implementing the relevant resolutions adopted by the major conferences of the United Nations;

39. **Stress** commitment to protect intellectual property rights, and the need for Intellectual property not to be used to prevent developing countries from accessing basic scientific and technological discoveries, or from taking measures to promote national development;
40. **Recognize** the importance of implementing the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan to promote investment exchange and ensure investment between the two regions and **Affirm** the importance of encouraging the establishment of direct trade relations, opening new bi-regional markets, and raising the level of trade relations through the establishment of an Africa-Arab preferential trade zone to achieve this goal;
41. **Affirm** the importance of establishing channels of promoting and ensuring bi-regional investment, developing capacity in seeking and identifying opportunities for investment, monitoring the investment environment, addressing all difficulties and obstacles, facing investors, and widening the scope of present mechanisms to ensure investment in both regions and improving access to means of financing and **Reaffirm** the role of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to enhance joint cooperation in the area of investment, and to hold the High-Level Forum for Investment and Trade in Tripoli, in September 2010 under the auspices of the Great Jamahiriya, and in collaboration with LAS and the AU;
42. **Recognize** the importance of interaction, coordination and cooperation between Arab and African nations in the multilateral trade negotiations with the aim of reaching positive results of global trade on development, as an effective tool for reaching the inequality between developed and developing countries, and also as a core element for the advancement of Arab and African communities;
43. **Express** concern over the global financial crisis and its impact on the economies of Arab and African States, **Affirm** the need to safeguard African and Arab interests within the framework of the efforts being exerted by the international community for financial reform, and amelioration of the negative consequences of this crisis for the economies of the less developed countries, and **Emphasize** the need to establish an international financial system which prevents financial speculation and takes into account the regulations congruent with socio-economic development;
44. **Reaffirm** the necessity of promoting reforms in the structure of the international financial system in order to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve economic growth with social equity and **Affirm** that these reforms should comprise more adequate instruments for the prevention and management of financial crises, identify and implement new mechanisms to

ensure financial flow and a more prominent role for developing countries in the decision-making process of multilateral financial institutions;

45. **Express** concern regarding the volatile nature of international financial markets; **Underline** the need for further efforts to be exerted in the international form, so that developed and developing countries would better cooperate to enhance common understanding on key international financial issues and **Agree** that further progress must be achieved, in particular through the establishment of innovative financial mechanisms, which are vitally required to support development projects, as well as the policies and programs adopted by the developing countries to achieve sustainable development;
46. **Emphasize** the importance of ensuring the provision of stable and continuous financial resources for the promotion of economic and social development in Africa and the Arab region, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, employment generation and the eradication of poverty and hunger and **Stress** that the multilateral financial institutions must recognize that public expenditure in the social field and infrastructural projects should be considered investments and not public debts;
47. **Reaffirm** commitment to the principles and objectives stated in the main multilateral documents concerning sustainable development, as well as to the implementation of the Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002, and to the realization of the common objectives of both regions to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development, **Enhance** cooperation in the field of information technologies and traditional practices in the area of combating desertification and drought, as well as in implementing projects related to the use and improvement of soil and water, water desalination, preservation of the ecosystems and natural protectorates, thereby boosting environmental tourism and management of water resources for irrigation and improving the irrigation systems;
48. **Express** appreciation for the various initiatives in both regions, tackling environmental and sustainable development issues and **Reaffirm** the common interests and the importance of promoting cooperation, exchange of expertise in implementing these initiatives, and the need to take effective measures at the level of international cooperation to reduce the exposure of Arab and African countries to natural disasters;
49. **Place** special emphasis on cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security due to the strategic importance at the level of the two regions and at the international level, convinced that Africa can be self-sufficient with its agricultural potentials and become the breadbasket for the Arab region, and that Africa-Arab cooperation should be strategically directed towards sustainable development;
50. **Endorse** the Joint Action Plan and Program on agriculture and food security in the Arab and African regions, which were approved at the Joint Ministerial Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh in April 2010, **Affirm** the need to coordinate and enhance scientific, research and technological cooperation to develop techniques and agricultural systems for raising the level of productivity,

enhancing production, and achieving food security in the two regions, thereby encouraging agricultural investment between them;

51. **Stress** that the new Africa-Arab Partnership based on mutual benefits will support the agricultural agenda of Africa according to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, and similar programs of Arab agricultural institutions and organizations, the importance of focusing on exchange of expertise to enhance agricultural systems and give greater priority to the rural sector, and provide support to Arab and African organizations concerned thus enabling them to implement joint programs;
52. **Reaffirm** the importance of livestock breeding within the framework of enhancing food security and coordination between the two regions in using the appropriate advanced technology to boost livestock and livestock productivity;
53. **Affirm** the importance of enhancing cooperation and developing technologies to face the challenges and develop potential renewable energy sources and the realization of food security and sustainable development in the countries of the two regions;
54. **Recognize** the ramifications of climate change on the countries of the two regions; **Affirm** commitment to participate in the global efforts to address climate change, according to the principle of common but distinct responsibilities, under the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and all relevant conventions and agreements, and the need for coordination and inclination of the necessary measures to address climate change and **Reaffirm** full support to Qatar's request to host the 18th Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in 2012;
55. **Stress** the need to coordinate joint efforts to prevail upon the developed countries to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and to substantially support the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with their responsibilities, through the provision of financial and technical support to the developing countries in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner, and **Urge** the international community to support developing countries through international financial mechanisms in their efforts to conserve and manage the forests in Africa on a sustainable basis;
56. **Express** the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination to stop illegal trade in chemicals and hazardous waste, and realize the importance of approving the decision of the Basel Convention concerning the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to accelerate its entry into force because of the dangers of burying chemical waste and its role in environmental pollution and the destruction of natural resources which greatly endangers human lives and breaches international agreements concerned with the protection of the environment;
57. **Acknowledge** the importance of cultural interaction amongst peoples to enrich human civilization, **Affirm** the importance of the Africa-Arab Summit to

enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of the two regions and their cultures, and to revive the cultural links between them and in this respect, **Appreciate** the positive role being played by African nationals of Arab descent and Arab nationals of African descent in fostering relations between the two regions;

- 58. Reaffirm** the growing importance of culture as a bridge between the Arab and African peoples, and as an economically productive activity to the promotion of development and mutual cooperation;
- 59. Acknowledge** the specificity of Africa-Arab cultural relations, and the need to preserve the respective cultural identities, disseminate the most relevant aspects of their mutual cultural heritage, and the importance of expanding the cultural exchange mechanisms to include a whole range of artistic production such as film festivals, art exhibitions, music concerts, and other expressions of cultural manifestations rooted in the traditions of their peoples;
- 60. Stress** the importance of enhancing the capacity of the Africa-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies in Bamako, Mali to enable it play its role to promoting Africa-Arab Cooperation in cultural fields;
- 61. Acknowledge** the importance of promoting and enhancing cultural and media exchange programmes, interaction between intellectuals in both regions, as well as encouraging private sector endeavours in cultural investments to better inform the peoples of the two regions of the realities of their societies;
- 62. Stress** the importance of African and Arab cultural heritage and its diversity and enhancement of joint efforts to preserve it; **Affirm** also the importance of promoting technical cooperation in the areas of archaeological excavation of historical monuments and works of art and their restoration, and cooperation with the relevant international organizations as well as fostering cooperation in the prevention of the smuggling of antiquities and heritage, and the return of smuggled antiquities to their countries of origin;
- 63. Express** the importance of enhancing scientific and technical cooperation between the two regions, taking into account the cumulative knowledge and expertise in both regions, and what they share in terms of complementing each other and their ability to innovate; **Stress** the need to coordinate and develop cooperation programmes in order to benefit from the intellect of Arab and African migrants, in universities and important research centres in the two regions, and encourage the exchange of experts, researchers and university professors, and the need to exert efforts to create financial mechanisms for the implementation of scientific and technical development cooperation projects amongst ourselves;
- 64. Affirm** the significance of developing scientific, technical and research cooperation, especially the strengthening cooperation between the two regions in the fields of Higher Education, technology and scientific research in general, **Stress** the importance of applied research aimed at solving urgent development problems (student exchange programmes, training, study and research scholarships), and in particular the exchange of expertise in the field

of assessing and developing water resources, rationalizing their use and enhancing and raising the efficiency of water usage mainly in irrigation;

- 65. Reaffirm** the importance of fostering cooperation among scientific and research centres in both regions to develop low-cost technologies to desalinate water so that it can be used for development purposes such as agriculture, making use of modern technologies and geographical information systems in the fields related to climate change and developing early-warning systems in monitoring desertification and drought;
- 66. Recognize** the importance of having the appropriate environment to implement development programmes and promote social policies for incorporate in the social justice system, in accordance with the applicable agreements of both regions and inline with the international conventions, especially the International Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 21, Resolutions of the World Summit on Development, the Doha Declaration to Follow up on the Implementation of MDGs, the UN Declaration on the Right to Development and all other international instruments;
- 67. Underline** the need to activate national strategies in the two regions to alleviate poverty through enriching the internationally accredited matrix of poverty indicators by including indicators pertaining to human poverty and deprivation, social exclusion, along with other financial indicators; develop necessary policies that guarantee the achievement of pro-poor economic growth by improving the public and private investment climate in the two regions;
- 68. Express** deep concern over growing poverty and hunger in the world in general and in the Arab and African regions in particular mindful that hunger and poverty exacerbate the spread of diseases, weaken the ability to work, limit the ability of the new generation to learn, comprehend, and lead to the disintegration of societies and non- achievement of economic development, associated with justice in the developing countries;
- 69. Recognize**, in particular, the imperative of tackling hunger and poverty in the world not only as a goal in itself but also as a way to enhance the security and stability of developing and developed countries alike, and in the regard **Stress** the urgent need to continue joint action to find new sources of development financing and **Reiterate** support for all the initiatives aimed at achieving this goal;
- 70. Stress** that the attainment of the MDGs must be a priority for both the developed and developing countries and **Express** determination to work together to expand international cooperation and mobilize political support for more financing to achieve such goals according to the outcomes of the Monterey and Johannesburg Conferences;
- 71. Welcome** the political impetus generated at the meeting of world leaders to review the implementation of the MDGs and the mechanisms to finance the eradication of hunger and reduction of poverty programs, in New York, in September 2010, and in this regard **Commend** the Kingdom of Bahrain for

being granted the Millennium Development Goal Award at the meeting of the world leaders in recognition of its efforts and achievements in formulation of policies for socio-economic development;

- 72. Stress** the importance of enhancing joint cooperation in the field of health to develop health and therapeutic systems, combat diseases and endemics, increase the efficiency of health institutes, enhance comprehensive training programmes and coordinate at the international level to harness modern scientific technologies for medicine and treatment;
- 73. Confirm** the importance of joint coordination and cooperation to improve the future of the Arab and African youth, through programmes for capacity building and knowledge exchange among youths in the two regions and strengthen their capacity to meet the challenges of globalisation and its repercussions, and enhance coordination in both the sports and cultural fields and **Adopt** strategies and working programmes in this regard, that highlight the importance of the attention being given to the youth, particularly the celebration of 2010 as the International Year of Youth, as the youth are the foundation of the future;
- 74. Reaffirm** the significance of cooperation and coordination in the field of women empowerment, enhancing women's economic, social and legal status, providing women with job opportunities and better chances to participate in the economic, social and political spheres, continuing the joint efforts aimed at eliminating of discrimination against women, in the area of launching initiatives to guarantee all rights of Arab and African women, enhancing women's role and enacting necessary legislations to protect and preserve women's status in society;
- 75. Express** the importance of cooperation in implementing the Arab and African plans for children to provide full protection for children from all forms of violence, harm or negligence and **Stress** their right to education and full health care according to the relevant African and Arab conventions;
- 76. Stress** the importance of mobilizing the joint mechanisms concerned with human rights and democracy in the two regions, and of partnership in handling issues of mutual concern such as combating the crime of human trafficking illegal migration and reactivating all international charters and treaties on free movement and migration of people in the two regions;
- 77. Welcome** the offer of the State of Kuwait to host the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit in 2013;
- 78. Express** profound gratitude to the leadership and people of the Great Jamahiriya for hosting the 2nd Africa-Arab Summit.