

الدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي  
مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان  
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The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum  
with Central Asian Countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Doha, State of Qatar - 30th April 2024



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**Doha Declaration**  
**The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum**  
**with Central Asian Countries and The Republic of Azerbaijan**  
**"Prospects for Joint Cooperation between Challenges and Aspirations"**  
**Doha, State of Qatar**  
**30/4/2024**

The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum with the Central Asian countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Doha, State of Qatar.

The Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Economy, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and HE Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the League of Arab States Secretary-General participated in the Forum.

The Ministers affirmed the historical relations, religious and cultural ties between both parties, the prospects of economic cooperation and the potentials of Arab States, Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, including the vast natural resources and promising investment opportunities in the area of energy, mining, petrochemical industries, tourism, and others.

The Ministers recalled the outcomes of the Second Session of the Forum held in 2017 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. They also affirmed the importance of developing cooperation mechanisms for the Forum in all fields to serve the common interests of both sides.

The Ministers held consultations on international and regional political issues of common concern, reaffirming the need to further enhance coordination and consultation and exchange of support on various issues of mutual interest, thus contributing to maintaining and establishment of regional and international security and stability.

**I. Political Consultation**

1. The Ministers commended the League of Arab States-Azerbaijan-Central Asia format as a valuable platform format of involved parties in areas of mutual interest aiming at complementing and reinforcing their existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this context, they stressed the

necessity of focusing on result-oriented and issue-based cooperation among the League of Arab States, Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries without duplications of efforts being made in different cooperation formats.

2. The Ministers affirmed the need to support the political consensus solutions to resolve the crises that some countries are facing in the Arab region through encouraging a comprehensive dialogue and national reconciliation, rejecting any interference in the internal affairs of states, and the obligation to respect their sovereignty and independence and to ensure their unity and territorial integrity in accordance with the Charter and principles of the United Nations and international law.

3. The Ministers condemned Israel's ongoing aggressive crimes against the Palestinian people in all cities, villages, and camps, targeting more than one hundred thousand Palestinian civilians, between martyrs and wounded, mostly women and children, subjecting the Palestinian people to famine and a deadly siege that cuts off all means of life in the Gaza Strip; and this systematic destruction of residential neighborhoods, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches, and infrastructure in the strip, the arrest and torture of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, in light of the hate speech, racism, and incitement adopted by the Israeli occupation government. These Israeli crimes constitute crime of genocide against the Palestinian people, and the insistence on committing them despite the order of the International Court of Justice of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with temporary measures to stop the killing of Palestinian civilians and their physical and mental abuse, and stop the prohibition of births and the flow of relief aid to the entire Gaza Strip.

The Ministers warned against the continuation of the implementation of Israel's plans and intentions, the occupying power, to commit the crime of forced displacement of the Palestinian people from their land, which will lead to the collapse of chances for peace in the Middle East, and escalation of conflict in the region.

The Ministers called on the Security Council to adopt a binding resolution to stop the Israeli aggression, shooting, and forced displacement against the Palestinian people, and ensure the flow of relief aid to the entire Gaza Strip, the implementation of the temporary measures outlined in the International Court of Justice order of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the implementation of the relevant council resolutions, and the restoration of normal life in the strip. The Ministers condemned the use of veto by the United States of America to prevent block State of Palestine from obtaining a full membership in the United Nations.

The Ministers emphasized the implementation of the Joint Arab-Islamic Summit resolution, held in Riyadh on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, including breaking the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip and imposing the immediate entry of Arab, Islamic, and international humanitarian and relief convoys by land, sea, and air to the entire Strip, north and south.

The Ministers emphasized that peace, security, and stability in the region will only be achieved by ending the Israeli colonial occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories. They called on the international community to take irreversible steps to reflect the independence of the State of Palestine, and to implement the political solution based on International Law and relevant international legitimacy resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 497 (1981), 1515 (2003), and 2334 (2016), as well as the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 with all its elements and priorities; enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish the independent State of Palestine along the lines of June 4th, 1967 with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return and compensation for Palestinian refugees according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), and support the State of Palestine in obtaining full membership in the United Nations.

The Ministers called for the convening of an international peace conference at the earliest, from which a credible peace process would start on the basis of approved international references, within a specific time frame and with international guarantees that would lead to an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the rest of the occupied Lebanese territories.

The Ministers expressed their unequivocal rejection of Israeli plans for the day after Israel's aggression. They affirmed that the Gaza Strip is an integral part of the State of Palestine, and supported the government of the State of Palestine assuming governance responsibilities in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, within the framework of a comprehensive peace vision in accordance with approved international references. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people and called on the Palestinian factions and forces to unite under its umbrella, and for everyone to bear their responsibilities in light of a national partnership led by the Organization.

The Ministers rejected and condemned Israeli systematic attacks and campaigns against UNRWA, including the accusation of its employees of terrorism without proof. They affirmed support for the Agency as an international responsibility that must be fulfilled, and called on all countries that decided to freeze their funding to the agency to reconsider their decision.

The Ministers valued the positions of Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in supporting the Palestinian Question and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people at the bilateral level and in international forums.

The Ministers affirmed their support for the Hashemite custodianship of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and its role in protecting its

Arab-Islamic and Christian identity, preserving the historical and legal status of Jerusalem and its holy sites and that the Al- Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, with its entire area of 144 thousand square meters, is an exclusive place of worship for Muslims only, and that the Jordanian Directorate of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem Affairs is the exclusive legal authority with jurisdiction to manage, maintain, and regulate access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Ministers condemned the continuation of the Israeli government's settlement plans aimed at changing the existing historical and legal status in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the occupied Syrian Golan, the latest of which was the Israeli government's decision to approve the construction of about 3,500 new settlement units in the West Bank.

The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the presidency of Al-Quds Committee and commended the efforts exerted by its subsidiary the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency.

The Ministers emphasized the follow-up of the implementation of the resolution of the Extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit, held in Riyadh on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on supporting all the steps taken by the Arab Republic of Egypt to counter the consequences of the brutal Israeli aggression on Gaza and its efforts to bring aid into the Strip immediately, sustainably and adequately. The Ministers also expressed their support for the steps taken by Egypt to defend its national security, which is an essential part of the Arab national security.

The Ministers supported the joint Egyptian-Qatari efforts aimed at reaching a permanent ceasefire and restoring life to normal in the Gaza Strip. They also supported the role of Egypt and Algeria in achieving the desired reconciliation between the Palestinian factions. They commended the role of Algeria, the Arab member of the Security Council, regarding the Palestinian Question.

The Ministers highly valued the call by H.E. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for an immediate mobilization to assist a whole generation of Palestinian orphans and children of martyrs who lost their parents or entire families as a result of the Israeli aggression. They called for joining the national and international efforts aiming at providing the necessary psychological and medical assistance and support that Palestinian child amputees need, as part of the efforts of the League of Arab States in this regard.

4. The Ministers emphasized the importance of full solidarity with Lebanon in light of the most severe political, economic, and social crisis it has experienced in decades, and their support for its constitutional institutions in order to preserve the Lebanese national unity, Lebanon's security and stability, and its sovereignty over its entire territories. The Ministers condemned the ongoing Israeli military attacks on southern Lebanon, which

have resulted in the martyrdom of civilian children, women, elderly, journalists, and medical personnel, as well as the targeting of Lebanese army centers, extending into Lebanese territory, including agricultural lands, using internationally prohibited white phosphorus. They emphasized the need to exert international pressure to curb Israel's declared intentions to launch a full-scale war on Lebanon, and called on Israel to end its occupation of the remaining Lebanese territories, including the Shebaa Farms, the Lebanese Kfarshouba Hills, and the outskirts of the town of al-Mari, and withdraw to internationally recognized borders, and cease violations of Lebanon's sovereignty on land, sea, and air. The Ministers expressed support for the full and comprehensive implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

5. The Ministers emphasized the need to commit to preserving the sovereignty, unity, stability, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, rejecting foreign interference and any unauthorized military presence on its territory. They condemned the repeated Israeli aggressions on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic, and stand by it in combating terrorism and exercising its right to defend its land and people. They emphasized the importance of the Arab role in supporting efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis and address its political, security, and humanitarian consequences in accordance with a step-by-step approach, and in line with Security Council Resolution 2254, respecting the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.
6. The Ministers affirmed their commitment to the unity and sovereignty of the State of Libya and the safety of its territories, rejecting interference in its internal affairs, to the principle of Libyan ownership of the political process, and the importance to commit to the Libyan Political Agreement signed in Skhirat in 2015, to the constitutional declaration and its amendments, and to the relevant Security Council resolutions in order to hold presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously as soon as possible. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the Libyan leaders' meeting held on 3/10/2024 under the umbrella of the League of Arab States at the invitation of the Secretary-General. They also emphasized support to the Military Committee (5+5) and the necessity for all foreign forces, mercenaries and foreign fighters to leave Libya within a specified timeframe in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and reject military solution. They called for the support of a comprehensive national reconciliation path sponsored by the Libyan Presidential Council and its efforts to achieve political stability.
7. The Ministers affirmed their commitment to the unity, sovereignty, security, stability, and territorial integrity of Yemen, and their support for the legitimate Yemeni government led by the President of the Presidential Leadership Council, Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi. They called for the resumption of

political consultations to reach a comprehensive political solution to the situation in Yemen in accordance with the three references represented by the GCC Initiative and its executive mechanisms, the outcomes of the comprehensive national dialogue conference, and the relevant Security Council Resolutions, especially resolution 2216 (2015).

8. The Ministers affirmed the sovereignty, unity, and independence of the Republic of Sudan, and the importance of preserving the national institutions in the Sudan, at the forefront of which the Sudanese Armed Forces. They affirmed the need to intensify and coordinate international efforts aiming at achieving peace and stopping the ongoing war that caused humanitarian disasters, forced internal displacement, migration of millions of the population from their towns and villages. The Ministers stressed as well the importance of the existing cooperation between the League of Arab States, African Union and United Nations in order to build a comprehensive peace process; and expressed support to the Jeddah Forum and Sudan Neighboring Countries Initiative to achieve a comprehensive ceasefire that prevents bloodshed, ensures the exit of rebel militia forces from citizens' homes, civilian buildings, and public service facilities, and assists in the provision of urgent humanitarian aid.
9. The Ministers affirmed support for the security, stability, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, and supported the Somali government in its efforts to preserve Somali sovereignty on land, sea and air. They affirmed the right of the Federal Republic of Somalia to legitimately defend its lands in accordance with what was stipulated in Article (51) of the United Nations Charter, and the relevant articles of the Charter of the League of Arab States, and support the building of the institutions of the State of Somalia.  
The Ministers affirmed their solidarity and full support for the position of the Somali State with all its agencies, which considered the "Memorandum of Understanding" signed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 between the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the "Somaliland" region null, void and unacceptable, and constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of International Law, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, good-neighborly relations, peaceful coexistence and stability in the region. The Ministers expressed their rejection to this memorandum and any legal, political, commercial or military implications arising from it, and urged all countries to condemn and reject this memorandum. They also rejected attempts to benefit from the aforementioned "Memorandum of Understanding" to create a new geopolitical reality in the Gulf of Aden, off the Somali coast and the Red Sea, and considered it a threatening step to Arab national security and navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
10. The Ministers affirmed support to all peaceful efforts, including the initiative and efforts of the United Arab Emirates, in reaching a peaceful solution to the issue of the Three Emirati Islands (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu

Musa) in accordance with the principles of the International Law and the United Nations Charter, including through bilateral negotiations or resorting to the International Court of Justice.

11. The Ministers affirmed the importance to have cooperative relations between Arab States and The Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness, non-interference in internal affairs, respect of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, resolution of disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the International Law, and to refrain from the use or threat of force.
12. The Ministers reaffirmed their support to the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, and expressed their conviction that the earliest establishment of relations between them will significantly contribute to regional stability and security and pave the way for full realization of the region's potential for cooperation. The Ministers noted the importance of the agreement on delimitation of borders between Azerbaijan and Armenia, including the return of the four villages to Azerbaijan. They called for the earliest conclusion of the bilateral agreement on peace and the establishment of interstate relations.
13. The Ministers stressed the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, manifestations and motives, and the importance of combating it, uprooting its roots and drying its sources. They also refused to associate terrorism with any race, religion, nationality or civilization, and called on States to refrain from providing any form of explicit or implicit support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including any militias or paramilitary groups as well as the finance of terrorism.
14. The Ministers stressed the importance of respecting the rules and principles of International Law governing the exploitation of transboundary rivers, most notably the principle of no harm and the principle of prior notification. In this regard, the Ministers affirmed their full support for Egyptian and Sudanese water security. The Ministers also expressed their deep concern about the extremist Ethiopian stands that violate International Law, as well as the principles of good neighborliness; which led to the end of all negotiating tracks without reaching a fair, balanced and legally binding agreement on the rules for filling and operating the Ethiopian Dam, in a way that achieves the common interests of the three countries. The Ministers called on Ethiopia to refrain from any unilateral measures that would harm the interests and rights of citizens of downstream countries, 160 million people. The Ministers called on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities regarding this issue, which threatens regional and international peace and security.

15. The Ministers commended the UAE's membership in the Security Council for the period of 2022-2023 and welcomed the election of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2024-2025, welcomed and supported the candidacy of the Kingdom of Bahrain for a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2026-2027, and supported the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2027-2028, welcomed and supported the candidacy of the Republic of Tajikistan for a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2028-2029 and called for coordination between the Arab member of the Security Council, the Central Asian countries, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, in a way that serves common interests, in accordance with the Charter of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Charter.
16. The Ministers welcomed the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) for the period of 2024-2026 and expressed their support to furthering the cooperation between CICA and League of Arab States including through implementing joint projects and participating in each other's relevant events.
17. The Ministers reaffirmed support for all efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament and preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons without prejudice to the inalienable right of State parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to exploit peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They called upon Israel, and other non-adherent States, to rapidly accede to the treaty as non-nuclear States. They also reaffirmed their support for all efforts aimed at achieving a world free of all other weapons of mass destruction.  
The Ministers stressed the importance of implementing the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted during the Review and Extension Conference of the NPT, as it remains valid until it achieves its purpose and objectives, as an integral part of the 1995 deal of indefinite extension of the treaty, and they also emphasized the results of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. In this context, they strongly condemned the blatant and unprecedented Israeli threats -especially those issued recently- to annihilate the Palestinian people using nuclear weapons, and to return Lebanon to the Stone Age. They stressed the need for Israel to accede to the NPT, and subjects all its facilities to a comprehensive safeguards system, and establish a free zone of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as soon as possible. The Ministers welcomed the Marrakesh Declaration on the "Security Initiative to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction" issued in January 2024, which urged the necessity to intensify regional efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction by promoting the



exchange of expertise, experiences and best practices among the countries of this initiative.

The Ministers welcomed the initiatives of the Central Asian countries within the framework of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (CANWFZ) treaty to expand and develop interactions between the Nuclear-weapon-free zone of Central Asia and OPANAL and AFCONE.

The Ministers also called on the nuclear-weapon states that have not ratified the Protocol on Negative Security Assurances to the Central Asian Treaty to do so without any delay, with a view to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the Protocol.

18. The Ministers expressed their desire to cooperate in health care and combat the various risks that threaten humanity, and acknowledged the foresight of Kazakhstan's initiative to establish an International Agency for Biological Safety. They underscored the concerted support to actualize this Agency. The Ministers noted advance of this initiative.
19. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for a peaceful, stable, prosperous and inclusive Afghanistan, reiterated the need to address the challenges faced by Afghan people, such as humanitarian, human rights, ethnic groups, security and terrorism, narcotics and social challenges and in this regard emphasized the necessity to prevent turning Afghanistan into a safe haven for international terrorists.
20. The Ministers expressed deep concern that the indiscriminate use of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices threatens the peace, security and stability, hinders development, rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts in some of the countries represented in this session, especially in Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen and Tajikistan. Recognizing the essential role of mine action in stabilization, development and peace sustainment efforts, they called upon the United Nations and its member states, as well as other relevant stake holders, in a position to do so, to provide assistance to clear landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, upon request of the affected countries represented in this session.
21. The Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation between member states of the League of Arab States, and Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan to enhance their cybersecurity, including cooperation to prevent the use of infrastructure in countries by groups or individuals against other countries. The Ministers welcomed cooperation in implementing programs related to cybersecurity, which contributes in protecting user data on internet networks. The Ministers also commended the launch of the institute for the Global Cybersecurity Forum by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a non-profit organization that aims to contribute to enhancing cybersecurity at the international level, international cooperation, and economic and social

development in the field of cybersecurity, and adapting relevant international efforts in this field.

## **II. Economic, Cultural and Social Cooperation**

22. The Ministers welcomed the growing economic cooperation between the Member States of the League of Arab States, Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan; encouraging the implementation of this cooperation, and benefit from the enormous potential of both sides in various economic fields. The Ministers called for support and development of a comprehensive Strategic Program/ Roadmap for the next decade on the practical implementation and mobilization of resources for the “Islamic Infrastructure Initiative”. The Ministers commended the participation of a number of Arab countries and the government of Azerbaijan, as an observer member, in the Seventh Summit of Presidents and Governments of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which was organized by the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and they welcomed the inauguration of the headquarters of the Gas Research Institute of the GECF in Algeria.
23. The Ministers welcomed Uzbekistan proposal to host the Second GCC-Central Asia Summit in 2025 in Samarkand, and the initiative to develop an agreement of friendship, interregional relations and cooperation between Central Asia and GCC countries.
24. The Ministers welcomed the initiative of the State of Kuwait to host the Third GCC-Central Asia Strategic Dialogue Ministerial Meeting in 2025.
25. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of developing the agricultural cooperation between the Member States of the League of Arab States, and Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan; urging the officials and business communities to support and strengthen this cooperation through holding workshops between specialists from both sides. They also encouraged the concerned parties from the Arab side and Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan to hold an event on "Food and Food Security" during the period 2025-2026. The parties, who are the Members States of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, emphasized the importance of supporting and enhancing the activities of this Organization in food security issues.
26. The Ministers called to work on learning from the experiences of other countries on the implementation of modern techniques of agriculture and smart irrigation programs and, cooperate in preparing strategies to reuse water in the industrial and oil sectors to reduce the demand for fresh water. In this regard, they affirmed the implementation of the provisions of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" (2018-2028), and expressed their readiness to deepen and widen cooperation to achieve the sustainable development goals and targets, related to water resources. In this context, the Ministers acknowledged the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation

of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, held on March 22-24, 2023, and expressed appreciation for Tajikistan's leadership in promoting water management at the global level. Additionally, the Ministers welcomed the launch of the “Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative” by the United Arab Emirates, on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which aims to enhance awareness of the importance and seriousness of the water scarcity crisis at the international level, and develop innovative technological solutions to address it, and seek to increase investments aiming to overcome this challenge in order to secure sustainable development and regional and international prosperity.

27. The Ministers emphasized the importance of the biennial water conferences under the Dushanbe Water Process and welcomed the Third High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028, to be held on June 10-13, 2024 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
28. The Ministers called for the importance of confronting the challenge of water scarcity, especially in arid countries, which has escalated over recent decades with continued population growth to become a global challenge, further complicated by climate change. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation in the field of water, especially cross-border water cooperation based on respect for the rules and principles of International Law governing the exploitation of cross-border rivers, most notably the principle of non-harm and the principle of prior notification. The Ministers affirmed their full support for Arab water security, especially the water security for Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Syria.
29. The Ministers commended the upcoming “One Water Summit” on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, aimed at drastic improvement of the ecosystem of two region and combating climate change. They noted the importance of holding the Regional Climate Summit under the auspices of the UN in 2026 in Kazakhstan, as well as launching the Project Office for Central Asia on climate change and green energy in Almaty.
30. The Ministers called to work on enhancing and developing the transport sectors (land, sea and air) and railways between the Member States of the League of Arab States, Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan to increase interconnection and facilitate the access to each other's markets. They emphasized on the importance of cooperation within the scope of projects that aim to advance regional cooperation and increase interconnection in the field of transport.
31. The Ministers congratulated the United Arab Emirates on its success in hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Expo City Dubai, and welcomed the positive outcomes of the conference, which are the adoption of the agreement known as the “UAE Agreement” and the establishment of global

climate action standards. They commended the UAE's pioneering role in confronting climate change, especially in light of its pledge to establish a \$30 billion fund for climate solutions and facilitate access to it, as well as stimulating, mobilizing and investing \$250 billion by 2030. The Ministers welcomed the UAE's announcement of allocating \$100 million to the Loss and Damage Fund, and \$150 million to solve the problem of water shortages and water security solutions in fragile and vulnerable communities, and other initiatives aimed at reducing the repercussions of climate change.

32. The Ministers welcomed the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host COP29 on 11-22 November 2024 and expressed their determination to work together to address the climate challenge through inclusive dialogue and negotiations. The Ministers wished success in the efforts of COP29 Presidency to achieve global solidarity and consensus at COP29 for the benefit of future generations.

33. The Ministers noted the importance of implementing the adopted resolution of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly "Sustainable Mountain Development", which declared 2023-2027 as the "Five Year of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions", in order to strengthen international cooperation on mountain issues agenda and its further effective implementation.

The Ministers supported the initiative of Kyrgyzstan to consolidate the new global dialogue "Mountains and Climate" in the annual calendar of the UN Climate Change Conference.

The Ministers welcomed and supported Kyrgyzstan's intention to host the Second Global Mountain Summit "Bishkek+25" in 2027.

34. The Ministers emphasized the links between the water and climate agendas. In this regard, they expressed concern on the accelerated melting of glaciers in Central Asian region and thus welcomed the establishment of the trust fund in support of activities for glaciers' preservation, as well as the generous offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers' preservation in Tajikistan in 2025.

35. The Ministers acknowledged that climate change is a pressing issue of our era with far-reaching and unparalleled effects. In this context, they welcomed United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/158 on International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025.

36. The Ministers stressed the importance of Arab collaboration with the Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in strengthening efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded land, increase the capacity of the ecosystem and local communities to cope with drought and seek solutions to natural disasters through the exchange of experiences, research and studies to reduce its negative effects on human life and development, and consider convening regional ministerial environmental forums in order to achieve cooperation in tracking environmental challenges.

37. The Ministers affirmed the importance of Arab cooperation with Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in areas of housing, reconstruction and sustainable urban development, and seeking to convene a conference in this regard in one of the countries of both sides. It will be preceded by an expert meeting to prepare and identify contact points for coordination between both parties.
38. The Ministers affirmed the importance of developing touristic ties between the Member States of the League of Arab States and Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, and encouraging the continued strengthening of cooperation between relevant organizations and agencies, to achieve sustainable tourism at all levels.
39. The Ministers called for facilitating the participation of the private sector in investment and trade activities of both sides, and removing obstacles that hinder their work, urging trade promotion organizations, investment promotion agencies, federations of chambers of commerce, associations and groups of businessmen to promote all activities of both parties, which lead to encouraging the linkage between the banking and financial institutions at both parties to ease pressure on foreign currency, and to work on developing mechanisms for settling commercial and monetary transactions between the two sides using national currencies. . The participants welcomed the holding of the “Gulf Cooperation Council - Central Asia” Investment Forum on July 30-31, 2024 in the Kyrgyz Republic (Issyk-Kul) and confirmed their readiness to participate in this event at a high level. The Ministers welcomed Kazakhstan's proposal to hold a panel session “Investment and economic cooperation between Central Asia and the GCC” in 2025 within the framework of the Astana International Forum (AIF).
40. The Ministers called to coordinate positions in international and commercial forums, and to cooperate with other international actors with a view to contribute to the economic decision-making process at the international level in their best interests; which will have a great impact in elevating the process of trade exchange, investment development and, establishing strong and effective partnerships among them.
41. The Ministers stressed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between both Arab and, Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in the field of environmental conservation and climate change issues, especially within the framework of the “Green Economy” in a comprehensive way that utilizes all kinds of energy sources as well as technologies and solutions, including technologies for the control of hydrocarbon emissions, coordinating to hold a workshop between the two sides on the topics of "Energy, Environment and Green Economy”, in addition to cooperation in the field of green hydrogen production, which remains an important option for achieving environmental sustainability goals, reducing emissions and achieving clean fuel supply. The Ministers commended the positive outcome

of the Kingdom of Morocco's presidency of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) for the period 2022-2024.

42. The Ministers acknowledged the environmental catastrophe of the Aral Sea, underscoring its profound implications for regional and global ecosystems, which could extend to the Member States of the League of Arab States. The predicament of the Aral Sea epitomizes the urgent need for a synergized international effort in ecological restoration. Hence, they called upon the international community to support the Central Asia nations' endeavors to rehabilitate the Aral Sea and to commit to long-term collaboration on this front, emphasizing the shared responsibility in confronting environmental crises.
43. The Ministers acknowledged the high value of creation of green energy corridors connecting Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries to the world markets, and creation of Green Energy Zones as a mean of mitigating climate change and ensuring greener and safer world for all.
44. The Ministers called to collaborate on resilient value chains and renewable energy and technology development, expanding financial support for scaling energy and renewable technologies, accessible financing mechanisms to reduce cost of capital, enhance technical support and capacity building for renewables technologies and cross-border energy interconnections.
45. The Ministers welcomed cooperation on various topics, such as: applications of artificial intelligence, developing the technological infrastructure, digital transformation and its impact on the growth of the digital economy, developing internet networks and structuring interconnection at the national and regional levels, reducing the digital divide.
46. The Ministers recognized the establishment of the Astana Hub as a significant milestone in the technological advancement of the region, marking Kazakhstan's emergence as a digital pioneer. The Ministers advocated for acknowledging the Astana Hub's role in fostering regional technological integration and encouraged member states to engage with and support this dynamic platform.
47. The Ministers stressed the importance of reforming the World Trade Organization by starting a negotiating process led by the organization's member states in a transparent and comprehensive manner to strengthen the multilateral trading system, in a way that consolidates the basic principles on which the organization is based and maintains its credibility as the international forum concerned with formulating international trade rules. They called for providing all support to forum member states wishing to join the organization to enhance their contribution to international trade. The Ministers urged to disassociate from any unilateral measures taken by some member states of the organization, which are inconsistent with the rules of the organization and undermine the access of exports of developing and least developed countries to foreign markets.

48. The Ministers commended the role of the United Arab Emirates during its hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which was held in Abu Dhabi during February 26-29, 2024, and resulted in an agreement to accelerate progress on the main issues related to international trade to give a new impetus to the future of the World Trade Organization and the multilateral trading system, and welcomed the announcement of The UAE of a grant worth \$10 million dollar to support World Trade Organization funds.
49. The Ministers recalled the “Rabat Declaration” issued by the High-Level Ministerial Conference on Middle-Income Countries, held in Rabat on February 5th-6th, 2024, which called for a paradigm shift in international cooperation on development for the benefit of middle-income countries, and for strengthening the participation of these countries in global governance. They also welcomed the decision of upgrading the Group of Friends of Middle-Income Countries to become an official governmental platform for dialogue, awareness and coordination on development issues.
50. The Ministers called to adopt various activities that reflect the role of Arab countries, Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in the Arab and Islamic culture, and to spread the culture of tolerance and coexistence, reject terrorism and extremism, work to address the causes that lead to it, and encourage dialogue between civilizations, the values of justice and peace, and the principles of freedom and human rights. The Ministers called for action on the implementation of Goal 4/7 of the Sustainable Development Agenda, which states the “the promotion of a culture of peace, non-violence, appreciation of cultural diversity and global citizenship, culture’s contribution in accordance with the Agenda of Sustainable Development by 2030”. The Ministers welcomed the election of the Kingdom of Morocco to chair the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2024, as the first Arab country to hold this important position.
51. The Ministers affirmed the condemnation of all forms of hate speech and attacks on the religious beliefs and rituals of nations and peoples. In this context, they commended the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. A/78/L.48 on “Measures to combat Islamophobia” and the appointment of a United Nations special envoy concerned with combating this phenomenon. The Ministers also call upon all countries of the international community to take all necessary measures in their legislation to prohibit hate speech, religious intolerance, incitement to violence and its practice based on religion or belief.
52. The Ministers called for the strengthening of cooperation among Arab countries and Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in the areas of education, culture, communication, information and media through opening of information platforms such as joint cultural and television channels and radio stations, holding conferences and symposia, organizing competitions

- and seminars in cooperation with specialized educational institutions, establishing joint cultural exhibitions, arts festivals and book fairs, encouraging the establishment of ties between universities, research and studies centers, as well as scientific centers, exchange of student visits, and expansion of educational scholarships and fellowships.
53. The Ministers affirmed the importance of cooperation in areas of health care, multidimensional poverty eradication, caring for vulnerable groups, including family and childhood care, women empowerment, youth, enhancing rights of persons with disabilities and elderly persons, through exchanging experiences, and implementing specialized activities. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the appointment of the Kingdom of Morocco as facilitator of the United Nations negotiating series on the modalities and political declaration for the World Social Summit, scheduled to be held in 2025.
  54. The Ministers underscored Central Asian countries strivings in promoting regional cooperation. In this context highly valued the activities of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia, which has contributed significantly to the deepening of multilateral cooperation, strengthening peace and stability, achieving sustainable development and addressing contemporary challenges in the region.
  55. The Ministers welcomed the holding of the “First Session of the Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference with Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan” in one of the Arab countries during 2024-2025. This conference aims at emphasizing the importance of strengthening joint economic and investment relations as it is an important platform for developing this cooperation with the participation of the private sector between the two parties.
  56. The Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the State of Qatar for good preparation and generous hospitality accorded to the delegations participating in the Third Session of the Forum, which contributed to the success of the work of this session.
  57. The Ministers decided to convene the Fourth Session of the Forum in 2026.

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- The republic of Tunisia endorses the Doha Declaration excluding the reference to the June 1967 borders in the paragraph about the Palestinian issue. This is based on Tunisia's position in support of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent state on its entire territory with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.
  - The Republic of Iraq expressed its reservation on the explicit or implicit mention of the Israeli entity as a (state), in addition to its reservation on the term "Western Jerusalem", and would rather use the term "Al-Quds Al-Sharif".