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الدورة العادية 25
دولة الكويت

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امانة شؤون مجلس الجامعة

كلمة

السيد اريستوس موينشه
نائب رئيسة مفوضية الاتحاد الافريقي

في الجلسة الافتتاحية
لمجلس جامعة الدول العربية على مستوى القمة
الدورة العادية 25

دولة الكويت: 25 مارس / آذار 2014

AFRICAN UNION

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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5525849 Fax: (251-11) 5525855
Website: www.africa-union.org

**Speech by His Excellency the Deputy Chairperson of the African
Union Commission, Mr. Erastus Mwencha**

At the

Arab League Summit

Kuwait City

25 March 2014

- Your Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah,
- Your Excellencies Head of States of the Arab Countries,
- Your Excellency, Nabil Al-Arabi SG of the Arab League,
- Honourables Ministers,
- Distinguished Invitees,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is for me a pleasure to be back in lovely Kuwait City, and a distinct honour and privilege to address this august assembly of the Arab League Summit. Today, I am here on behalf of the African Union Commission and the Chairperson, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who unavoidably, is unable to join you at this important meeting. She sends her greetings and best wishes for a fruitful outcome of the Summit.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank Your Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, H.E Nabil Al-Arabi SG of the Arab League, the government and people of Kuwait for the excellent hosting of this meeting. We pay tribute to your Highness's commitment and to the cooperation and progress of our Arab-Africa Region.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Union has continued to follow with keen interest the developments of Arab Countries over the years, including the enduring efforts to create a Palestinian independent State.

The support of the Arab League is important in our common journey towards a shared vision of an integrated continent that is prosperous, at peace with itself and one that effectively manages its resources.

Together with other Regional Economic Communities, we are pursuing a number of continental flagship programs such as the Continental Free Trade Area, Program for Infrastructure Development In Africa (PIDA), and most recently, the African Union Agenda 2063. The AU Agenda 2063 framework outlines a comprehensive approach to how the continent should effectively build on the progress made, while strategically exploiting all possible opportunities for immediate, medium and long-term transformation so as to achieve sustainable development. This roadmap will emphasize how the continent's ability to achieving its goals is reliant on its ability to unite, to integrate and to own its development agenda. As this exercise is still on going and is complementary to the Afro- Arab Summit agenda held in November 2013, as outlined in the outcome, we hope that the Arab-League will pursue its contribution to the development of our common agenda.

Our participation at this Summit, symbolizes the excellent relations between the Arab league and the African Union, which reflect the historical ties between Arabs and African people. These relations have been reinforced over the years ever since our common struggle against colonization and Apartheid. Our mutual support based on our faith in a common destiny and mutual interest, allowed us to win the struggle for political independence. The African Continent continues to support the Arab Agenda and more specifically the right of Palestinian people to create and independent state on its territory.

Your Highness,

Excellencies,

The future of our nations heavily depend on our ability to develop our economies and create wealth for our People to live in prosperity. To achieve this critical goal, we need to count on our solidarity and mutual support. Africa and the Arab world own great economic and human resources. It is our shared responsibility to coordinate our efforts and our programs for better utilization of our ressources and to achieve progress and development for our people.

The partnership between our two “regions” under the eigies of the AU and the Arab League has already made a lot of achievements.

The last Afro-Arab Summit, which took place in this “brotherly” country under the Chairmanship of H. H. Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, was an important landmark in the Afro-Arab Cooperation. We remain very grateful to your Royal Highness.

Before I conclude, allow me to renew my deep thanks to the Government and People of Kuweit and express my gratitude to the SG of the Arab League H.E Nabil Al Arabi for all the efforts deployed in reinforcing Afro-Arab relations and his continuous support on our common efforts to develop the cooperation.

I thank you for kind attention and wish you successful deliberations.