

# **Arab League Summit - Riyadh 2007**

## **DECISIONS**

Riyadh, mar. 29, spa -- the 19th Arab summit, which concluded its deliberations in Riyadh today under the chairmanship of the custodian of the two holy mosques king Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, has issued the following :decisions

The conference approved and lauded the report presented by the former chairman of the summit, president Omer Hasan Albasheir of the Sudan. The conference also passed and praised the report submitted by the Arab league .secretary general Amr Mousa

The summit decided the convoking of an Arab consultative summit to tackle a specific issue, if deemed necessary. The summit will be prepared by foreign ministers council in cooperation with the Arab league secretariat general. Closed-door discussions will be confined to the issue of concern. Consultative meeting will never prevent the convoking of the scheduled .ordinary summit in March every year

The conference asserted that the issues of Arab national security necessitate tackling from a comprehensive and full-fledged perspective that takes into consideration the sources and forms of political, security, economic, cultural and social threats coming from inside or outside the Arab .countries

In this regard, an open expert-level task force will be formed to determine the nature of current and future risks and challenges facing the Arab ummah .and forge appropriate proposals

The summit reiterated the adherence of all Arab countries to the Arab peace initiative as it was approved by Beirut summit 2002 with all its components based on the international legitimacy resolutions and its principles to end the Arab Israeli conflict and bring about fair and comprehensive peace that achieve security for all countries of the region and enable the Palestinian .people to set up there independent state with eastern al-Quds as capital

The conference also reiterated the call for the Israeli government and Israelis to seize the opportunity to accept the Arab peace initiative to resume .direct negotiations and show seriousness on all tracks

The conference confirmed complete support for Makkah agreement reached under the patronage of the custodian of the two holy mosques, appreciating

the efforts exerted by other Arab countries, the Arab league, and OIC, which contributed to reaching the agreement which resulted in the formation of a national unity government

The summit called on all Arab countries to extend support for the Palestinian president and his national government to enable them fulfill their national duties in meeting the needs of the Palestinian people and achieve their national interests and goals

The Arab countries should not cede to the siege measures imposed on the Palestinian people, the leaders said, adding that international organizations and countries are invited to practice immediate lift of the blockade, recognize the Palestinian unity government and deal with it without discrimination

The conference condemned the political, economic and military siege and all hostility actions taken by Israel that led to serious losses in lives and property and held Israel responsible of those losses, calling on it to shoulder the necessary indemnity

The conference also called on the world community to resume its assistance to the Palestinian national authority and the Palestinian people and respect their democratic choice

The summit called for coercing Israel to set free all Palestinian prisoners and detainees toll of an estimated 10,000 in the Israeli jails, including the speaker of the legislative council and some of its members, and ministers

The leaders demanded the Secretary General of the United Nations to exert strenuous efforts and take all necessary measures to secure the prompt and unconditional release of arrested Palestinian women and children in Israeli prisons, provide international protection for them according to UN resolution no . 1325 issued in October 2000 and relevant UN resolutions

They also called on the UN security council to bear its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people by sending international observers for protecting them against continuous atrocities and aggression and to mount enough pressure on Israel to halt its continuous military attacks against the Palestinians

The secretariat general of the Arab league was assigned by the summit to provide assistance to the Iraqi government and the Palestinian national authority to forge a quick solution to provide protection for Palestinian refugees in Iraq

The summit called on the secretariat general and the economic and social council of the AL (Arab League) and other specialized Arab organizations to

work in cooperation of the Palestinian national unity to conduct comprehensive studies aiming at formulating appropriate programs to complete and support the organizational and administrative hierarchy and institutional and technical abilities necessary for running the civil affairs of the Palestinian society, upgrading the level of public services, increasing the output ability of the Palestinian economic institutions to cope with the priorities of building a Palestinian state in the fields of production and services through programs and projects of Arab Palestinian cooperation in which international cooperation bodies, training institutions and Arab .development finance funds could take part

The summit extended thanks to the Arab countries who lived up to their commitments, totally or partially, in contributing to al-Aqsa and al-Quds uprising fund, Palestinian national authority budget and called on those who .remained short of their commitments to pay their arrears

The Arab countries were called on to continue their support for the .Palestinian national authority budget

The leaders thanked the friendly countries for their invaluable support for the budget of the Palestinian national authority and called on them to proceed .with that aid

The Arab leaders lauded Lebanon's resistance of the Israeli brutal aggression, considering the unity of Lebanese people in facing the aggression a guarantee for the future of Lebanon and its security and .stability

They also reiterated full Arab solidarity with Lebanon and provide political and economic support to the Lebanese government in a way that maintains Lebanese national unity as well as Lebanon's security, stability and .sovereignty over all of its territory

They commended the national role played by Lebanese army in the south and in all regions of Lebanon according to the Lebanese government decision and supported the mission of this army as decided by the Lebanese council of ministers to enforce the Lebanese sovereignty over all its territory, thanking brotherly and friendly countries for their contribution to strengthening UNIFIL troops as stated in security council resolution no. 1701 . / 2006

The summit emphasized the need to achieve a firm and lasting cease-fire, condemned the Israeli violations of security council resolutions no. 1701 / 2006, held Israel responsible for these violations and called on the security

council to bear its responsibilities to force Israel to abide by full cease-fire  
.and stop its violations of Lebanese sovereignty of land, sea and air

The summit also asserted Lebanon's right to control its water territories in  
.accordance with the international law and in opposition to Israeli ambitions  
Arab leaders welcomed the seven-point plan presented by the Lebanese  
government, calling on the UN Secretary General and Security Council to  
take the Lebanese proposal, included in this plan regarding Shebaa farms  
area, into consideration when the UN secretary general presents his  
proposals on this subject in accordance with security council resolution no.  
.1701 / 2006

Arab leaders also called on all concerned parties to cooperate with the  
United Nations to find a solution to this issue in a way that ensure the rights  
.of Lebanon

The conferees held Israel fully responsible for the aggression and the  
consequences incurred by Lebanon in the summer of 2006 as well as the  
deliberate targeting of civilians and infrastructure which constitute a flagrant  
and grave violation of the international law, particularly the international  
.humanitarian law and the Geneva conventions of 1949

They also held Israel responsible for compensating Lebanon and the  
Lebanese citizens for the tragic direct and indirect loss that affected the  
.Lebanese people and economy due to the Israeli aggression

Arab leaders considered Israel acts during its aggression against Lebanon a  
war crime that necessitate chasing the perpetrators to appear before the  
concerned international references, welcoming the resolution adopted  
unanimously by human rights council on 8/12/2006 commending the report  
and recommendations of investigation committee established by the council  
on 11/8/2006 which condemned the Israeli violations of human rights during  
.the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon

The summit thanked member states for urgently assisting Lebanon in the  
field of relief and reconstruction as well as for their support declared during  
Arab and international conference for the support of Lebanon /Paris 3/ held  
.in 25/1/2007

They also lauded the draft of reform and economic and social advancement  
programme presented by the Lebanese government to modernize the  
Lebanese economy and enhance sustainable growth rates in addition to  
.improve living conditions for all Lebanese

The conference adopted a plan for supporting Lebanon during the reconstruction phase and development its economy presented by the .economic and social council which met in Beirut on 16-17/10/2006

The conference also urged member states to implement the recommendations issued by the council, thanking the member states and Arab funds which previously presented aids and financial assistance to the .Lebanese government

The conference demanded the rest of member states to fulfill their obligations stated in Arab summit conferences regarding the support for .Lebanon

:Arab leaders affirmed supporting Lebanon in its sovereign right to practice its political choices within constitutional -- .institutions  
its demand for the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli -- .prisons  
its demand for the removal of hundreds of thousands of mines left behind -- .by the Israeli occupation  
its call on the international community as well as judicial and political -- authorities to put pressure on Israel to provide compensation to Lebanon for the loss and damage resulting from Israel's occupation and repeated attacks .on the Lebanese territories

Within the context of Lebanese agreement on the principle of setting up a court of an international nature, the summit stressed the need for unearthing the truth behind the terrorist assassination that took the life of prime minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his colleagues as well as the other terrorist .assassinations ever since the attempt against minister Marwan Hamadah

The gathering stressed the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, warning that failure to solve the issue of the Palestinians residing in Lebanon and attempts to resettle them will destabilize the region and hinder .the achievement of a just peace in the region

The meeting strongly condemned international terrorism, noting that the Arab states are effectively participating in anti-terror efforts and drawing a line between terrorism and the legitimate resistance against the Israeli .occupation

Considering Lebanon an integral part of the Arab nation, the summit urged all Lebanese factions to enter into a national dialogue, calling on all .Lebanese to exert efforts to resolve the current political crisis

The summit stressed that the Arab perception of a political and security solution for the challenges faced by Iraq is based on respect for Iraq's unity, sovereignty, independence and Arab-Islamic identity

The leaders said Iraq's stability and overcoming its present crisis require a balanced political and security solution addressing the causes of the crisis and weeding out the roots of terrorism and sectarian sedition

The gathering also stressed the need for respecting the will of the Iraqi people to determine their political future. Adding that the establishment of security and stability is the sole responsibility of the Iraqi national unity government, constitutional institutions and political leaders. This is in addition to the support of Arab countries and Iraq's neighbors for efforts being made to achieve national reconciliation

The summit strongly condemned the acts of terror against the Iraqi people and their institutions as they threaten peace and security. It also welcomed the serious steps taken by the Iraqi government to implement the security plan, enforce law and end violence

The meeting also supported the Iraqi government's efforts to reorganize its security institutions on nationalistic and professional basis, calling for effective Arab participation in these efforts

The summit welcomed the main objectives and principles contained in the magna charta adopted at a meeting at the UN headquarters on March 16, 2007

The meeting urged member states to write off the debts owed by Iraq

The summit stressed its support for the United Arab Emirates' full sovereignty over the three islands of Greater and Lesser Zanzibar and Abu Musa, backing whatever measures are taken by the UAE to regain sovereignty over the islands. It also condemned Iran's continued occupation of these islands

The gathering also underlined Libya's legitimate right to indemnifications for the damage resulting from sanctions imposed on it

The summit rejected the so-called Syria's accountability law, considering it as a violation of international lawful resolutions and Arab League charter, giving us laws supremacy over international law

The meeting stressed the brotherly, historic ties between Lebanon and Syria based on mutual respect for sovereignty and independence

The conference expressed appreciation for efforts being made by the Arab League in cooperation with the AU, UN and EU to resolve Darfur crisis,

stressing the need for the Sudanese government and the African union to  
.continue their efforts to establish security and stability in Darfur

The meeting thanked the states that have paid their contribution to support  
the AU forces, calling on those who defaulted in their payment to fulfill their  
.commitment

The conferees called upon the armed groups that failed to sign the Darfur  
.peace agreement to renounce military escalation

The meeting also called on the international community to fulfill its  
commitment towards backing and implementing Darfur peace agreement,  
.extending the necessary material support to the AU mission in Darfur

The gathering welcomed the steps being taken to implement the  
comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese government and  
the Sudan liberation movement, signed in Nairobi. It also welcomed the  
peace agreement signed between Sudan's government and eastern Sudan  
.front signed in Asmara

The summit welcomed the African union's decision to send African troops to  
bolster stability in Somalia, calling on the general secretariat to continue  
cooperation with the au, UN and IGAD to ensure the speedy implementation  
of the resolution to deploy peace keeping troops in Somalia to help achieve  
stability and security, paving the way for dialogue and national reconciliation  
in Somalia. It also called on member states to extend various forms of  
.support to Somali government

The conference stressed keenness on the national unity of Comoro republic  
and the it territorial integrity, welcoming efforts by the Arab league, the  
African union, the united nations and neighboring countries with regard to  
implementing Moroni national reconciliation agreement signed in December,  
.2003

Arab leaders decided to convene an extra ordinary ministerial level meeting  
of the Arab league council, preceded by a meeting of a committee of senior  
Arab officials to evaluate Arab efforts to rid the middle east region of nuclear  
.and other mass destruction weapons

They urged the council to assess the Arab policy adopted during the past  
decades in light of international changes, reviewing the successful aspects  
.and reasons of failure

The council is also required to propose a practical mechanism to rid the  
.middle east of weapons of mass destruction

The summit called on the Arab states to expand the use of peaceful nuclear technology in all domains serving continuous development, mindful of the diversity of Arab states' needs. It also called for the setting up of bodies and organizations concerned with the peaceful use of nuclear energy in each Arab country

The summit stressed anew its denunciation of all forms of terrorism for whatever motives or justifications, rejecting any confusion between terrorism and magnanimous Islam which calls for upholding tolerance and shunning terrorism and extremism

The conference underlined the need for continued efforts to remove obstacles hindering the promotion of Arab-African cooperation

It also called for continued efforts by the Arab general secretariat and the AU Commission for holding the second Arab African summit as soon as possible

The meeting asked the secretary general to pursue efforts and contacts with the EU presidency and the European Commission to develop collective Arab-European relations including joint Arab European dialogue in accordance with the higher Arab interests

Stressing its previous decisions, the meeting expressed anew the Arab countries' keenness on enhancing relations with the People's Republic of China in all spheres

The conference welcomed the convening of the second summit for Arab and Latin American countries scheduled for Morocco in early 2008

The summit highlighted the need for conducting a true dialogue among civilizations as part of the Arab stance, calling for adoption of the culture of dialogue and interlacing of civilizations with a view to establishing more balanced international relations and ensuring world peace and security

The Council approved the general structure of the executive programme of the Arab Customs Union. It also approved the continuous Arab agricultural development strategy

Arab leaders urged the Arab states to study the enactment of laws and regulations to encourage inter-Arab tourism. They also called on member states to support the reconstruction of residential buildings and infrastructure destroyed by the Israeli aggression in Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Finally, the Arab leaders decided to convene the 20th Arab League Council at the summit level under the chairmanship of the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2008



Source: [www.spa.gov.sa/English/ContentPage.php?cid=38&id=14487](http://www.spa.gov.sa/English/ContentPage.php?cid=38&id=14487) (orthography and formatting corrected by MidEastWeb)

### **Notice - Copyright**

This introduction is Copyright 2007 by [MidEastWeb for Coexistence](http://www.mideastweb.org) RA <http://www.mideastweb.org> and the author. Please tell your friends about MidEastWeb and link to this page. Please do not copy this page to your Web site. You may print this page out for classroom use provided that this notice is appended, and you may cite this material in the usual way. Other uses by permission only. The source material below is placed in the public domain and is free of copy restrictions