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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Identical letters dated 21 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As Lebanon is Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at its 157th ordinary session, the Permanent Mission of Lebanon has the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (see annex) enclosing the statement adopted at the fourth meeting of the Arab ministerial committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem, held in Amman on 21 April 2022.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 21 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 21 April 2022 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations in her capacity as Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at its 157th ordinary session

In keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the chair of each ministerial or summit session of the Council of the League of Arab States is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission for the League of Arab States to the United Nations, and in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement adopted at the fourth meeting of the Arab ministerial committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem, held in Amman on 21 April 2022.

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in that regard, I should be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Maged Abdelfattah **Abdelaziz**
Head of the Observer Mission, New York

Enclosure

Statement adopted at the fourth meeting of the Arab ministerial committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem, held in Amman on 21 April 2022

At the request of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab ministerial committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem, whose membership comprises the Republic of Tunisia, as current Chair of the Arab summit; the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the State of Palestine; the State of Qatar; the Arab Republic of Egypt; the Kingdom of Morocco; the United Arab Emirates, as the Arab member of the Security Council; and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, convened an extraordinary meeting, chaired by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in Amman on 21 April 2022.

Participants discussed ways to confront the alarming Israeli escalation in the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex and mobilize joint action to halt the Israeli attacks and violations in the holy sites, in order to stop violence and to restore overall calm.

Having been briefed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ayman Safadi, as Chair of the Committee, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, Riad Al-Malki, regarding the alarming Israeli escalation in Jerusalem and its holy sites, which constituted deplorable and condemnable endeavours to change the existing historic and legal status and to curtail the freedom of worshippers, and also regarding the efforts that had been made to de-escalate, end the cycle of violence and restore calm, and having heard the statements made by the ministers and representatives of States and by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Committee decided as follows:

1. To condemn the Israeli attacks and violations against worshippers in the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex, which have escalated alarmingly in recent days during the holy month of Ramadan, resulting in hundreds of injuries, arrests of worshippers and extensive damage to the facilities of the Haram al-Sharif;
2. To warn that those attacks and violations constitute a blatant provocation of the sentiments of Muslims everywhere, undermining freedom of worship in the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and restricting access of worshippers, and that they threaten to ignite a cycle of violence, thereby jeopardizing security and stability in the region and the entire world;
3. To reject and condemn all illegitimate Israeli practices aimed at changing the legal and historic status of the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex, and any attempts to impose its temporal or spatial division, as such practices constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the legal responsibilities of Israel as the occupying Power;
4. To emphasize that Israel must respect the historic and legal status of the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex and restore the status quo before 2000, including by recognizing that the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex, with its total surface area of 144 dunams, is a place of worship exclusively for Muslims, and that visits by non-Muslims are regulated by the Islamic Awqaf Administration under the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, in its capacity as the legal authority with exclusive jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the complex and access thereto;

5. To call on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to take immediate and effective action to stop the illegal and provocative Israeli practices in Jerusalem and the Haram Al-Sharif, in order to uphold international law and the Charter of the United Nations, prevent the escalation of violence and preserve security and peace;

6. To call on the Security Council to assume its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and to implement its resolutions concerning the city of East Jerusalem, including Security Council resolutions [252 \(1968\)](#), [267 \(1969\)](#), [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#);

7. To highlight the importance of continued coordination between the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with a view to protecting the occupied city of Jerusalem and its holy sites and preserving their Arab, Islamic and Christian identity;

8. To emphasize the importance of the historic Hashemite custodianship exercised by King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in protecting the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and the historic and legal status thereof; to emphasize the need to remove all restrictions and obstacles that prevent the Islamic Awqaf Administration from managing the affairs of the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex and safeguarding its facilities;

9. To highlight the need to foster and strengthen Arab and Islamic institutional action in support of Jerusalem, Jerusalemites and the work done by the Al-Quds Committee, acting through the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco;

10. To express full support for the resilience of the Palestinian people and their leadership and institutions in defence of the city of Jerusalem and its holy sites, particularly the holy Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex;

11. To express support for the resilience of the Palestinian people and all its legitimate rights, particularly the right to freedom and to an independent and sovereign State on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the two-State solution and in accordance with international law, the Arab Peace Initiative and the agreed terms of reference;

12. To emphasize that Israel must put a stop to its acts of escalation and aggression throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, and put a stop to all measures that endanger peace and security and undermine the two-State solution and the prospects for a just and comprehensive peace, which is an Arab strategic choice and a regional and international necessity;

13. To warn of the catastrophic repercussions that would arise from the continued absence of political prospects and from the economic pressures on the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine; to call for intensified regional and international efforts to restore and maintain overall calm and to re-launch genuine and effective negotiations that would restore confidence in the peace process, forging a clear path towards a negotiated settlement on the basis of the two-State solution that would end the occupation and bring into being an independent and sovereign Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in security and peace, as that course of action is the only way to end the conflict and achieve a just and comprehensive peace;

14. To request the members of the Committee and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, in coordination with the Arab States, to mobilize joint action and liaise with the international community and entities, in order to clarify the threat posed by Israeli practices in Jerusalem and its holy sites and press for an

effective international stance that would discourage Israel from such practices and prevail on it to respect international law and restore overall calm;

15. To request that Secretary-General of the League of Arab States instruct diplomatic missions and offices of the League abroad, in coordination with the councils of Arab ambassadors, to mobilize and liaise similarly;

16. To remain in session to follow up developments, and to take all necessary measures with a view to protecting Jerusalem and its holy sites and supporting the Palestinian people, its rights and its resilience in Jerusalem and throughout its territory.
