

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 30 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the pleasure to inform you that, under the presidency of Tunisia, the Security Council will hold a high-level briefing, in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, on the theme “Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States”. The meeting will be held virtually on 18 January 2021 at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussion on the subject, Tunisia has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tarek **Ladeb**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 30 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept note for the high-level briefing of the Security Council on the theme “Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States”, to be held on 18 January 2021**

**Background**

1. Since its inception and in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of its Charter, the United Nations has sought to promote cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, given the considerable potential and the greater familiarity that they have with cultural and political dynamics, as a way to join and coordinate efforts to optimize the response to global problems and overlapping challenges facing the international community at various levels.
2. Similarly, in its founding Charter, concluded in March 1945, the League of Arab States encourages cooperation with international organizations to guarantee international peace and security. It is in that spirit that the League has held observer status with the United Nations since 1950.
3. Desirous of laying the legal foundation for their cooperation, on 21 December 1960 the two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding to set a framework for their collaboration. Later on, and in that same spirit, the United Nations and the League of Arab States concluded a cooperation agreement on 6 October 1989, in which they agreed to strive for active cooperation on matters of common interest.
4. While these agreements have generated a clear dynamism and more effective collaboration, the pace and scale of cooperation have remained below the ambitious level desired.
5. At its 6841st meeting, held on 26 September 2012, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2012/20](#)) in which it recognized efforts by the League of Arab States to contribute to collective endeavours aiming to settle conflicts in the Middle East peacefully and expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the League.
6. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations exchanged letters on 17 and 24 October 2012, as well as 12 February 2013, proposing to enhance cooperation between the two organizations in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, post-conflict situations, civilian capacity-building, humanitarian aid, human rights and issues relating to refugees, elections monitoring, human and political development, and disarmament.
7. Based on these endeavours and the renewed commitment to further strengthen the scope of cooperation, a new protocol updating the cooperation agreement was signed by the Secretaries-General on 24 September 2016. As envisaged therein, in June 2019 the United Nations opened a liaison office to the League of Arab States, in Cairo, to ensure more effective joint cooperation.
8. In its presidential statement adopted on 13 June 2019 ([S/PRST/2019/5](#)), the Security Council welcomed the initiative and encouraged the secretariats of the two organizations to maximize the utilization of the office towards strengthening cooperation between both organizations. The Council also encouraged, inter alia, the holding of an annual briefing by the Secretary-General of the League and expressed

its intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation between the United Nations and the League in the fields of conflict early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

9. These recommendations have also been approved by the Council of the League of Arab States through various resolutions, including resolution 8561 (2020), with a view to promoting cooperation between the two organizations and their respective organs.

10. Most recently, the General Assembly, under the sub-item “Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States”, adopted resolution [75/11](#) on 23 November 2020, focusing on general cooperation between the two organizations, including capacity-building programmes.

### **Purpose**

11. Coinciding with the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of both organizations, this meeting will serve as an opportunity:

(a) To further promote cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States on matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security in order to improve collective security, especially at the regional level;

(b) To reflect on the progress made in implementing the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, as well as the statements by the President of the Security Council and relevant United Nations resolutions;

(c) To follow up on the activities of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States and consider ways to promote its role and strengthen its institutional structure;

(d) To encourage intensified coordination between League of Arab States and United Nations special envoys, as appropriate, in addressing the current crises in the Arab region;

(e) To support the efforts undertaken by both organizations to help to achieve a general cessation of hostilities in all situations, especially in the Arab region, as called for by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and reiterated by the Security Council in its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#);

(f) To explore further ways to promote closer cooperation and build a more effective partnership between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the fields of prevention, mediation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

### **Format of the meeting**

12. The high-level briefing will be held on 18 January 2021 by videoconference and chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, Othman Jerandi.

### **Briefers**

13. The following speakers will provide a briefing to the Security Council:

(a) The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs;

(b) The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit.