



Security Council

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Letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing with regard to the forty-first summit of the leaders of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, which took place in Ula, Saudi Arabia, on 5 January 2021. The participants at the summit underlined the special and brotherly relations between the Council countries. Furthermore, they highlighted the need for cooperation and unity between the Arab Gulf States to advance the region and confront the challenges surrounding it.

In this respect, I have the honour to enclose herewith the outcomes of the summit (see annex I) and the Ula Declaration adopted during the summit (see annex II).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué of the forty-first session of the Supreme Council

The Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah Summit

5 January A.D. 2021 (21 Jumada I A.H. 1442)

Ula, Saudi Arabia

At the kind invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, may God bless him, the Supreme Council held its forty-first session on Tuesday, 21 Jumada I A.H. 1442 (5 January A.D. 2021). The session was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, and was attended by:

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum	Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa	Crown Prince, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain
His Highness Fahd bin Mahmud Al Sa'idi	Deputy Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers of Oman
His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani	Amir of Qatar
His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	Amir of Kuwait
His Excellency Mr. Nayef Falah al-Hajraf	Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

1. The Supreme Council expressed its profound pain and sorrow for the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taymur, may God have mercy on him, who was called to be by his Lord after a life full of great works and achievements, and a lifetime of sincere sacrifice and dedicated and tireless work for the good of Oman, its progress and growth, and the prosperity of its people. The Supreme Council offered its sincere condolences to the leadership, Government and people of Oman, and to the Arab and Islamic nations, on the occasion of this profound loss. The Supreme Council also expressed its sincere appreciation for the role that the late deceased, together with his fellow leaders of the States members of GCC, played in promoting the work of GCC, as well as for the great efforts that the deceased made in the service of Arab and Islamic causes, and the cause of peace in the region and at the international level.

2. The Supreme Council expressed its profound pain and sorrow for the death of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God have mercy on him, who was called to be by his Lord after a life full of great works and achievements, and a lifetime of sincere sacrifice and dedicated and tireless work for

the good of Kuwait, its progress and growth, and the prosperity of its people. The Supreme Council offered its sincere condolences to the leadership, Government and people of Kuwait, and to the Arab and Islamic nations, on the occasion of this profound loss. The Supreme Council also expressed its sincere appreciation for the role that the late deceased, together with his fellow leaders of the States members of GCC, played in promoting the work of GCC, as well as for the great efforts that the deceased made in the service of Arab and Islamic causes, and for doing his utmost for the sake of humanity and regional and international peace.

3. The Supreme Council expressed its sincere condolences and sympathies to Bahrain for the death of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain, and drew attention to efforts of the deceased to promote common Gulf action.

4. The Supreme Council welcomed His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik al-Mu‘azzam, may God bless him, the Sultan of Oman, and expressed its full confidence that His Majesty will, with his usual wisdom, promote the active participation of Oman in supporting the blessed work of GCC and, together with his fellow GCC leaders, help it to achieve its lofty goals, maintain its security and fortify its foundations, in order to preserve stability.

5. The Supreme Council welcomed His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God bless him, the Amir of Kuwait, and expressed its full confidence that His Highness will, with his usual wisdom, promote the active participation of Kuwait in supporting the blessed work of GCC and, together with his fellow GCC leaders, help it to achieve its lofty goals, maintain its security and fortify its foundations, with a view to realizing stability and prosperity for GCC States and peoples.

6. The Supreme Council congratulated His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, may God bless him, for chairing its forty-first session, and expressed its appreciation for the great desire and interest that he conveyed in his opening statement to promote cooperation among the States members of GCC in all fields.

7. The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude for the great and sincere efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may God bless him, the President of the United Arab Emirates, and his distinguished Government when the United Arab Emirates served as President of fortieth session of the Supreme Council, and the important steps that were taken and achievements made during that session. The Council congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, on the assumption by Bahrain of the Presidency of the forty-first session, and wished Bahrain success in promoting the work of GCC in all fields.

8. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its desire that GCC should maintain its cohesion and that unity should prevail among its members because of their special relations and commonalities, which are founded on Islam and Arab culture, as well as the shared destiny and unity of purpose that unites their peoples. The Supreme Council also reaffirmed its desire to see members achieve greater coordination, integration and cohesion in all fields through the work of GCC, in order to achieve the aspirations of the citizens of member States. The Supreme Council stressed that States members must stand united in the face of any threat to another State member.

9. The Supreme Council praised the efforts and good offices of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the former Amir of Kuwait, may God rest his soul, to close the rift between member States, and expressed its thanks and appreciation for

the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God bless him, the Amir of Kuwait, and the efforts of the United States of America in that regard.

10. The Supreme Council welcomed the signing of the Ula Statement, the aim of which is to strengthen unity and cohesion among GCC States, ensure that joint Gulf action resumes its normal course and maintain security and stability in the region.

11. The Supreme Council congratulated Saudi Arabia on the success of the Group of 20 (G20) summit for 2020, which was held virtually and chaired by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God bless him. The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation for the extraordinary efforts that Saudi Arabia made during its presidency of the G20. Saudi Arabia played a leading and central role in preparing for and managing the summit and meetings held at various levels, despite the health-related restrictions imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The G20 summit adopted important decisions relating to health and economic, political and social affairs that will support and strengthen international cooperation in responding to crises and building a better future for all.

12. The Supreme Council praised the decision taken by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to have the Crown Princes of their countries serve as the presidency of the Saudi Arabia-Bahrain Coordination Council. It welcomed the positive outcomes of the Coordination Council meeting that was held on 24 December 2020, at which the two countries decided to further develop bilateral cooperation, in order to promote integration between them and the work of GCC, and with a view to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of member States and their peoples. The Supreme Council also welcomed the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain, as his country's Prime Minister, and wished him success in fulfilling his duties.

13. The Supreme Council welcomed the launching by the United Arab Emirates of the Hope Probe, which will reach Mars next February, and the entry into operation of the Barakah plant as part the country's peaceful nuclear power programme. Those projects underscore the interest of the United Arab Emirates in science, technology, alternative energy and space exploration as means of promoting development. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the importance of sharing experiences and learning about the experiences of member States in those fields.

14. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its full support for efforts aimed at ensuring that Dubai will be able to successfully host Expo 2020, noting that the success of this international event represents a success for all GCC countries and peoples. The major events that will be organized for Expo 2020 will promote dialogue and facilitate communication among cultures and solidify the region's status as an international business hub.

15. The Supreme Council took note of the announcement by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, to hold elections for the Shura Council in October. The Supreme Council praised this step and reiterated the importance of coordination and cooperation among the legislative assemblies of GCC States.

16. The Supreme Council congratulated Qatar on the election of His Excellency Ahmad bin Abdullah Al Mahmud, President of the Shura Council, as President of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) for the period 2019–2021.

17. The Supreme Council praised the preparations of Qatar to host the 2022 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup and reiterated that GCC States fully support Qatar in all its efforts aimed at ensuring that the World Cup is a success.

18. The Supreme Council welcomed the hosting by Qatar of the International Horticultural Expo, under the theme “Green Desert, Better Environment”. The aim of the Expo, which is scheduled to be held in Doha from 2 October 2023 to 28 March 2024, is to promote innovative solutions to reduce desertification and to support agriculture, environmental awareness and sustainability in desert areas.

19. The Supreme Council congratulated President-elect Joseph R. Biden on winning the presidential election, and reaffirmed that it looked forward to strengthening historical and strategic relations with the United States of America and working together to achieve peace and stability in the region and the world. The Supreme Council expressed to the friendly people of the United States its wishes for progress and prosperity under the leadership of President-elect Biden.

GCC efforts in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

20. The Supreme Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to all front-line medical, security and civil defence workers and volunteers for the sacrifices and contributions that they have made in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Supreme Council also expressed its thanks and gratitude to those who gave their lives for the safety of all.

21. The Supreme Council reviewed the latest health and preventive measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in GCC countries. It praised the great efforts made by the relevant agencies of GCC countries, their preparedness and the pre-emptive measures that they have taken to reduce the effects of the pandemic at all levels, in keeping with the desire of the leaders of GCC countries to safeguard human rights and to preserve the health and safety of their citizens, whether they reside in country or abroad, and of those who reside in their territories.

22. The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation to GCC citizens and residents for complying with the instructions issued and the precautionary measures taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. It reiterated that a collective response and cooperation with international and regional organizations and friendly countries were required in order to meet current challenges, and that efforts must be made to develop a vaccine to protect against the virus and to treat those who have been infected.

23. The Supreme Council praised the precautionary measures taken by GCC countries and the economic, social and health initiatives that were discussed by the relevant ministerial committees, with a view to promoting joint action and collective thinking in response to the crisis and its economic and social repercussions. The Supreme Council praised the measures taken by the secretariat in that regard and reiterated that GCC countries must continue to increase economic and development cooperation and integration.

24. The Supreme Council emphasized that medical centres and facilities in GCC countries must continue to receive support, so that they can respond to any future health threats and safeguard the health of the citizens and residents of GCC countries.

25. The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation to member States for their solidarity at the regional level and for supporting COVID-19 pandemic response efforts at the international level by providing generous support to humanitarian and medical organizations and to affected countries and peoples. The Supreme Council reaffirmed that collective cooperation and coordination must continue at the global level in order to address the repercussions of the pandemic.

26. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the importance of mobilizing and intensifying the collective efforts of GCC countries in all areas. It also reaffirmed that work must continue unabated and all GCC committees at various levels must continue to hold meetings virtually if they cannot be held in person.

27. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation with international and regional organizations and sharing experiences on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing its economic and social effects.

28. The Supreme Council instructed the secretariat to continue monitoring and documenting the efforts of GCC countries as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in various domains. The secretariat was also instructed to develop a database to document those efforts and to prepare, disseminate and publish comprehensive reports in that regard.

Vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

29. The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to promote and give impetus to joint Gulf action. That vision had been approved by the Supreme Council at its thirty-sixth session in December 2015.

30. The Supreme Council instructed the ministerial and technical bodies, councils and committees, the secretariat and all other organs of the Supreme Council to redouble their efforts to complete the remaining steps, in accordance with a specific timetable, including those related to the requirements for GCC economic unity, the joint defence and security systems, and a unified and effective foreign policy that safeguards the interests of and progress made by GCC, helps it avoid regional and international conflicts, and meets the hopes and aspirations of its citizens.

31. The Supreme Council called on the secretariat to submit a comprehensive report at its next session in which it sets out the progress made towards implementing the vision, and to submit proposals for overcoming any obstacles that stand in the way of implementing the vision.

Joint Gulf action

32. The Supreme Council was briefed on the status of consultations on implementation of the decision that it had adopted at its thirty-second session concerning the proposal of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God rest his soul, for a transition from the cooperation phase to the union phase. The Supreme Council called for efforts to transition from the cooperation phase to the union phase to continue, and it directed the Ministerial Council and the chair of the competent body to complete the necessary measures and to report on the progress made in that regard at the next session of the Supreme Council.

33. The Supreme Council reviewed developments in joint Gulf action and reaffirmed the importance of safeguarding the accomplishments of GCC and the progress that it has made. The Supreme Council directed the competent bodies of member States, the secretariat and the ministerial and technical committees to redouble their efforts to attain the lofty goals set out in the GCC Charter.

34. The Supreme Council praised the efforts of GCC States to fight corruption and strengthen integrity, efficiency, governance, transparency and accountability mechanisms in government agencies. The Supreme Council directed States members to strengthen joint cooperation in that regard through GCC and its specialized bodies and organizations.

35. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the importance of implementing all resolutions that it adopts and all agreements concluded within GCC in accordance with their specific timetables, and also reaffirmed the importance of complying with such resolutions and agreements, because doing so is vital to ensuring the security and safety and maintaining the stability of member States and to safeguarding the interests

of their citizens, and to creating a stable economic and social environment that enhances the well-being of the citizens of GCC States.

36. The Supreme Council adopted the framework of the general health plan for emergency preparedness and response, and it directed the competent authorities in GCC countries to implement the plan in cooperation and coordination with the ministries of health of their respective countries.

37. The Supreme Council adopted the health early warning system manual, with a view to its utilization in the development of early warning systems in GCC countries, in accordance with the local systems of each country.

38. The Supreme Council endorsed the establishment of the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control under the GCC Health Council.

39. The Supreme Council approved the extension, for a period of two years, of the validity of the Uniform Act for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Uniform Act on Volunteer Work as model laws.

40. The Supreme Council adopted the GCC strategy on cooperation for the development of the civil service and human resources for the period 2021–2025.

41. The Supreme Council adopted the Act on Measures to Prevent and Control Infectious and Epidemic Animal Diseases in GCC Countries as a model law with a validity of two years.

42. The Supreme Council adopted the Uniform Act on the Protection, Development and Exploitation of Living Aquatic Resources as a model law with a validity of two years.

43. The Supreme Council adopted the amended Patent Act for GCC Countries.

44. The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction with the outcomes of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the heads of the shura councils, chambers of deputies and national assemblies of GCC countries, which were held in July and November 2020, and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of those bodies to promote joint Gulf action.

Economic integration

45. The Supreme Council reiterated the importance of focusing on economic and development projects that are strategic and integrative in nature, most notably finalization of the requirements for the customs union, the realization of a Gulf common market and the railway project. The Supreme Council also reiterated that members must strive to develop an integrated system for food, water and energy security, and to adopt the objectives and methods of the fourth industrial revolution in relation to information and communication technology and artificial intelligence.

46. The Supreme Council reiterated the importance of continuing to support and encourage small and medium enterprises, because they played a vital role and contributed to the economies of GCC countries.

47. The Supreme Council reviewed the follow-up report on the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic and Development Affairs Department, and called for the points agreed upon in the roadmap to be implemented quickly and for the studies and projects related to the realization of the economic union of GCC countries by 2025 to be completed.

48. The Supreme Council approved the agreement on the system for interlinking the payment systems of GCC countries and authorized the members of the Committee for Financial and Economic Cooperation to sign the agreement, which will serve as the legal framework for the system of payments and settlements between GCC countries.

49. The Supreme Council hailed the commencement of operations by Gulf Payments and the launch of phase one of the Gulf payments system (AFAQ) linking the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Central Bank of Saudi Arabia, with rest of the Gulf State central banks to join the system at a later date in accordance with the agreed upon timetable and phases.

50. The Supreme Council adopted the amended Uniform Consumer Protection Act for GCC States.

Joint military and security action

51. The Supreme Council agreed to amend article 6 of the Joint Defence Agreement by changing the name of the Peninsula Shield Joint Force Command to the Unified Military Command of GCC States.

52. The Supreme Council endorsed the resolutions concerning military integration among GCC countries adopted by the Joint Defence Council at its seventeenth session, reaffirmed its support for joint military integration efforts aimed at ensuring the collective security of GCC States and expressed satisfaction with the efforts that have been made to inaugurate the Unified Military Command.

53. The Supreme Council endorsed the decisions adopted by the Ministers of the Interior at their thirty-seventh meeting, reiterated the importance of strengthening joint Gulf security action in order ensure the security and stability of GCC States and expressed its thanks and appreciation to the staff of the security agencies, who have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and working to control its spread.

54. The Supreme Council hailed the success of the Arab Gulf Security 2 tactical exercise, which the United Arab Emirates hosted in February 2020, and stressed the importance of that exercise for strengthening security cooperation between GCC countries and professional coordination between the relevant agencies, with a view to solidifying the foundations of security and deterring any actor that attempts to undermine regional security and stability. The Supreme Council endorsed the request of Saudi Arabia to host the Arab Gulf Security 3 joint tactical exercise, subject to the exigencies of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Counter-terrorism

55. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the longstanding positions of GCC with regard to terrorism and extremism, regardless of their genesis, and its resolutions in that regard. It also reaffirmed that it rejects all forms and manifestations of and motives and justifications for terrorism and extremism, and that it supports efforts aimed at suppressing the financing of terrorism. The Supreme Council reiterated that tolerance and coexistence among nations and peoples is one of the most important principles and values on which the societies of GCC States are built and on which their relations with other peoples are based.

56. The Supreme Council strongly condemned the publication of defamatory drawings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), because such drawings offend the sensibilities of all Muslims and are a blatant expression of hatred and a form of racial discrimination. The Supreme Council reiterated the importance of promoting a culture of tolerance, coexistence and dialogue, and called upon all world leaders, intellectuals and opinion makers to assume the great responsibility that falls on the shoulders of all those who seek peace and coexistence by renouncing hate

speech, rancour and contempt for religions and their symbols, and by respecting the feelings of Muslims around the world, instead of being held hostage to the Islamophobia espoused by extremist groups.

57. The Supreme Council praised the efforts of the international coalition led by the United States of America to pursue the leaders of the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has distorted the true image of Islam and Muslims, and reaffirmed that GCC countries, together with their allies, will continue to counter terrorism, the financing of terrorism and terrorist ideology.

58. The Supreme Council welcomed the decision of the United States of America to designate the Ashtar Brigades and the Mukhtar Brigades terrorist organizations, which operate in Bahrain and are supported by Iran, as such. This decision reflects the commitment of the United States to countering terrorism and standing up to those who support and foment it.

59. The Supreme Council praised the decision taken by certain States to designate Hizbullah as a terrorist organization. Taking such an important step reflects the strong desire of the international community to combat all forms of terrorism and every terrorist organization at the international and regional levels. The Supreme Council urged friendly States to take similar measures in order to counter terrorism and the financing thereof.

Regional and international issues

60. The Supreme Council reviewed developments relating to regional and international issues and reaffirmed its strong desire to maintain stability and security in the region and sustain the prosperity of the region's peoples. The Supreme Council also reaffirmed its strong desire to strengthen relations with friendly countries, work with regional and international organizations to maintain international peace and security, and play a greater role in realizing peace and sustainable development and meeting the lofty aspirations of the Arab and Islamic nations.

61. The Supreme Council reaffirmed that GCC rejects foreign interference in the internal affairs of Arab States by any actor and that all parties must refrain from taking inflammatory actions that fuel conflicts and strife. The Supreme Council also reaffirmed that the principles of sovereignty, non-interference and respect for the particularities of States must be observed, in accordance with international charters, customs and laws that govern relations between States, and that the security of GCC States is essential to Arab national security, as set out in the Charter of the League of Arab States. The Council reaffirmed that it rejects any threat to any State member and that the security of GCC States is a collective endeavour. The Supreme Council reiterated its commitment to the principle of mutual defence and the concept of collective security, in accordance with the GCC Charter and the Joint Defence Agreement.

The Palestinian cause

62. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the long-standing position of GCC States that the Palestinian cause is the most important cause of all to Arabs and Muslims. It also reaffirmed its support for the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over all Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital and for the inalienable rights of Palestinian refugees, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, the international terms of reference and authoritative international resolutions. The Supreme Council reiterated the centrality of the Palestinian cause and that the international community must take action to resolve the conflict in a manner that gives effect to all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

63. The Supreme Council condemned the demolition of dozens of houses in East of Jerusalem by the occupying Israeli authorities and called upon the international community to intervene and stop the targeting of the Palestinian population, the forced displacement of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem and efforts to change the legal character and demographic composition of the city, all of which are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law and the relevant agreements.

64. The Supreme Council rejected any attempt to annex settlements in the West Bank to Israel, as that constitutes a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

65. The Supreme Council reaffirmed that the Israeli policy of demolishing houses and displacing and expelling Palestinian residents and citizens undermines the possibility of achieving a two-State solution and lasting peace.

66. The Supreme Council reiterated that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to play an important role, praised GCC States for the generous assistance that they provide to support the Agency's activities and called upon the international community to maintain its support for UNRWA, so that the Agency can continue carrying out its mission until the return of the Palestinian refugees.

The occupation by Iran of the three islands belonging the United Arab Emirates

67. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position and its resolutions rejecting the continued occupation by Iran of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. In that connection, the Supreme Council:

(a) Reaffirmed its support for the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and over the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the three islands, which are an integral part of the territory of the United Arab Emirates;

(b) Reiterated that the practices, decisions and actions of Iran in respect of the three islands are null and void and do not alter any historical and legal facts, all of which support the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands;

(c) Called on Iran to respond to the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to resolve the question through direct negotiations or recourse to the International Court of Justice.

Iran

68. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position and its resolutions concerning relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and reiterated that Iran must adhere to the fundamental principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, abide by the principles governing good-neighbourliness, respect State sovereignty, refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of others, resolve differences by peaceful means, refrain from using or threatening to use force, and repudiate sectarianism.

69. The Supreme Council reiterated the importance of building trust between GCC and Iran, in accordance with the principles that it had endorsed previously and communicated to Iran. The Supreme Council also reiterated the importance of adhering to international conventions and customs governing relations between

States, taking into account the security of the region and the aspirations of its people, and of defusing tensions in the region.

70. The Supreme Council expressed its total rejection of the continued interference by Iran in the internal affairs of the States of GCC and the region and condemned all acts of terrorism carried out by Iran and its efforts aimed at feeding sectarian conflicts, as such conduct constitutes a clear violation of international norms and values and threatens regional and international security. The Supreme Council reiterated that Iran must stop supporting the groups that fuel such conflicts and stop supporting, financing and arming sectarian militias and terrorist organizations and providing them with ballistic missiles and drones to attack civilians, threaten international shipping lines and the global economy.

71. The Supreme Council reaffirmed that any negotiations with Iran must address, in a single basket, the destabilizing conduct of Iran in the region, its missile programme, including ballistic and cruise missiles and drones, and its nuclear programme. It also reaffirmed that GCC States must be involved in the negotiating process. The Supreme Council furthermore reaffirmed the need to prevent nuclear proliferation and to follow through on efforts aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. GCC States must participate in future international negotiations concerning the Iranian nuclear programme and Iran must comply with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards and protocols, including the comprehensive safeguards agreement. Issues related to the possible military aspects of the Iranian nuclear programme must be clarified and the destabilizing conduct of Iran at the regional and international level and its sponsorship of terrorism must be addressed, in order to ensure that it does not engage in any future acts of provocation. Doing so will enable Iran to reintegrate itself into the international community and will serve the interests and well-being of the Iranian people.

72. The Supreme Council welcomed the statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting of the Arab Quartet ministerial committee responsible for following up on developments in the crisis with Iran. In that statement, the Arab Quartet condemns the serious violations of international laws, conventions and norms committed by the Iranian regime, as well as its conduct, which threatens regional security and the stability of Arab States, its interference in the internal affairs of Arab States and its support for armed militias that sow chaos and division and wreak destruction in many Arab States. In addition, the Arab Quartet once again calls upon the international community to fulfil its responsibilities in response to the threat posed by the hostile conduct of Iran and its sponsorship of terrorist activities at the regional and international level, thereby threatening global security and peace.

73. The Supreme Council condemned the continued failure of Iran to fulfil its obligations to IAEA and its decision to suspend honouring its commitments and delay providing required information concerning its nuclear programme. The Supreme Council reiterated that Iran must continue to cooperate fully with IAEA, in particular with regard to exceeding the uranium enrichment ratio and the immunities and privileges of IAEA inspectors.

74. The Supreme Council reiterated the need to continue with international efforts aimed at compelling the Iranian regime to halt its policy of destabilizing security and stability in the region, to abide by the principles of international law and to stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and supporting terrorism and sectarianism.

75. The Supreme Council welcomed the decision of the United States of America to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization and stressed the importance of that measure in addressing the dangerous role played

by IRCG, which is a destabilizing force, a source of tension and an instrument for spreading violence and terrorism in the Middle East and the world at large. The Supreme Council reiterated that the ban on the export of conventional weapons to and by Iran and the related sanctions must continue.

76. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its support for all measures taken by GCC States to maintain their security and stability in response to Iranian interference in their internal affairs and Iranian support for extremism and terrorism.

77. The Supreme Council condemned actions aimed at endangering the security and safety of navigation, maritime installations, energy supplies, oil pipelines and oil installations in the Arabian Gulf and in waterways. Such actions threatened the security of GCC States and the region, jeopardized international freedom of navigation and undermined regional and international peace and security. Those actions include the September 2019 attack aimed at destroying international oil supply facilities in Saudi Arabia. An international investigation revealed that Iran was involved in that attack. In that connection, the Supreme Council reiterated that GCC States should support the actions taken by Saudi Arabia to protect its security and stability.

Yemen

78. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the long-standing position of and the resolutions adopted by GCC in support of the legitimate authorities in Yemen, represented by His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour and his Government, with a view to ending the Yemeni crisis and arriving at a political solution, in accordance with the terms of reference, namely, the GCC Initiative and its implementing mechanism, the outcome of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference and Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#), so as to preserve the unity, integrity, sovereignty and independence of Yemen and rebuff any interference in its internal affairs. The Supreme Council reiterated its support for the United Nations and thanked its envoy, Mr. Martin Griffiths, for his efforts to arrive at a political solution in accordance with the aforementioned terms of reference.

79. The Supreme Council praised Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for their dedicated efforts that culminated on 29 July 2020 in the signature by the legitimate Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council of an agreement for a mechanism to speed up implementation of the Riyadh Agreement. The Supreme Council welcomed the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement by the Yemeni parties, namely, the legitimate Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council, the formation of a government composed of qualified political figures that represents all Yemeni groups and the appointment of a governor and security chief for Aden Governorate. The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation for the determination shown by the Yemeni parties to put the interests of Yemen above all and to fulfil the desire of the Yemeni people to see security restored. The Supreme Council considers the implementation Riyadh Agreement to be an important step towards a political solution based on the three terms of reference for ending the Yemeni crisis.

80. The Supreme Council welcomed the arrival on 30 December 2020 of the Yemeni Government in the interim capital of Aden, from which it will carry out its work and start the development process in liberated areas, with a view to realizing aspirations of the Yemeni people and restoring security and stability throughout Yemen. The Supreme Council condemned the terrorist attack that was directed against the Government on its arrival at Aden airport. The attack resulted in many casualties among innocent civilians. The Supreme Council called for the creation of conditions that would allow the legitimate Yemeni Government to exercise its full powers and strengthen its ability to reimpose the authority of the Yemeni State and its institutions throughout Yemen.

81. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its support for the initiative of the Yemeni Government to resume importing oil derivatives through the port of Hudaydah and to allow all eligible oil tankers to enter the port. It welcomed the decision of the Yemeni Government to deposit all its revenues into a special account at the Central Bank, in accordance with a specific mechanism that will enable the United Nations to ensure that revenues are retained and used to pay employee salaries throughout Yemen. The Supreme Council condemned the seizure by Iranian-backed Houthi militias of revenues derived from fees collected on the import of oil derivatives from the special account at the Hudaydah branch of the Central Bank that had been established to pay the salaries of civil servants.

82. The Supreme Council hailed the achievements of the Yemen field offices of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and praised the development projects implemented by the Saudi Arabian Development and Reconstruction Programme for Yemen in the governorates of Yemen, the humanitarian support provided to Yemen by the GCC Office for the Coordination of Relief and Humanitarian Assistance, and the more than \$13 billion in humanitarian and development assistance that GCC States have given Yemen since 2015. The Supreme Council commended GCC countries for the support that they have provided to the 2020 United Nations humanitarian response plan for Yemen and praised their humanitarian and aid action aimed easing the suffering of the Yemeni people. It applauded efforts of the Saudi Arabian demining programme Masam to clear Yemen of mines. The programme, since its launch, has removed more than 200,000 mines, unexploded shells and explosive device that had been planted indiscriminately by Houthi militias in the governorates of Yemen.

83. The Supreme Council praised Saudi Arabia for hosting, in June 2020, the High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. At that event, donor countries pledged \$1.35 billion to help humanitarian agencies operating in Yemen continue providing basic and emergency services, including COVID-19 control programmes. The Supreme Council also praised the announcement by Saudi Arabia that it will provide \$500 million to support the response plan, and it called upon donors to fulfil their existing pledges and to consider making further contributions.

84. The Supreme Council welcomed the statement issued by the ministerial group comprising Kuwait, the United States of America, China, France, Russia, Germany, Sweden and the European Union, in which they announce an additional commitment for the United Nations humanitarian response plan of more than \$350 million to prevent famine.

85. The Supreme Council condemned the obstruction by the Iranian-backed Houthi militias of the arrival a United Nations technical team that had been dispatched to inspect and performance maintenance work on the floating oil storage vessel *Safer*, which is moored in the Red Sea off the coast of Hudaydah and loaded with more than 1 million barrels of crude oil. A serious environmental, economic and humanitarian disaster, the effects of which would extend beyond Yemen, could occur if the international community, represented by the Security Council, fails to exert more pressure on the Iranian-backed Houthi militias to comply with the international community's appeals to allow the United Nations specialized technical team to reach the *Safer* as quickly possible, in order to prevent an environmental disaster in the Red Sea.

86. The Supreme Council noted that the Iranian-backed Houthi militias continue to commit acts of aggression and carry out terrorist operations by firing ballistic missiles and using drones to target civilians and civilian objects in Saudi Arabia, and that they continue to violate international and humanitarian law by using Yemeni civilians as human shields and by launching remote-controlled booby-trapped boats. The

Supreme Council reaffirmed that the continuation of such conduct represents a serious threat to regional and international security. It also reaffirmed that the command of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen has the legitimate right to take the measures required to respond to those acts of hostility and terrorism. The Supreme Council further reaffirmed that the smuggling of weapons to those militias must be prevented, as that poses a threat to freedom of navigation and international trade in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea. The Supreme Council praised the efficiency of the Royal Saudi Arabian Air Defence Forces in intercepting and responding to those missiles and aircraft, including more than 344 ballistic missiles and 482 drones.

87. The Supreme Council condemned the ongoing smuggling of Iranian weapons to the Houthi militias, and noted that, in February 2020, the United States had seized smuggled Iranian weapons that were en route to Iranian-backed Houthi militias, and that more smuggled Iranian weapons had been seized in November 2019. The weapons in the latter shipment matched the remnants of the missiles that were used in the brutal, criminal attack against oil installations in Saudi Arabia, according to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the outcome of the investigation into those terrorist attacks.

Iraq

88. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position and resolutions concerning Iraq, and reiterated the importance of preserving the territorial integrity, sovereignty, Arab identity, the social fabric and national unity of Iraq, and reiterated its support for efforts aimed responding to terrorist groups and armed militias and promoting the sovereignty of the State and the application of the law.

89. The Supreme Council welcomed the formation of an Iraqi Government headed by His Excellency Mr. Mustafa al-Kadhimi and wished the Iraqi Government success in fulfilling the aspirations of the Iraqi people for their country's sovereignty, security and stability.

90. The Supreme Council commended member States for their efforts to strengthen cooperation with Iraq in all fields and praised the measures that had been taken to implement the memorandum of understanding and the joint action plan for strategic dialogue and to develop relations between GCC and Iraq.

91. The Supreme Council reiterated its support for Security Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), which had been adopted unanimously and in which the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is tasked with following up on the issues of prisoners, missing persons, Kuwaiti property and the national archives. The Supreme Council looks forward to continued cooperation with the Government of Iraq, with a view to ensuring that progress is made on the aforementioned outstanding issues, and calls upon the Iraqi Government and the United Nations to make every effort to find a solution to this humanitarian issue and other related issues, including, in particular, completing the demarcation of the maritime boundary beyond marker 162.

Syria

92. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position and resolutions concerning the Syrian crisis and its support for a political solution, based on the principles enunciated at the Geneva I Conference on Syria, and for Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), in which the Security Council reiterates its call for the formation of a transitional governing body to manage the country's affairs and expresses its support for the drafting a new constitution for Syria and for elections to draw up a new future for Syria that will fulfil the aspirations of the Syrian people.

93. The Supreme Council expressed its hope that the meetings of the Syrian Constitutional Committee will reach a consensus quickly, as that will give impetus to the efforts being made to arrive at a political solution to the Syrian crisis and fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. In that connection, the Supreme Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the United Nations to achieve that aim.

94. The Supreme Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the United Nations to return Syrian refugees and displaced persons to their towns and villages, under international supervision and in accordance with international standards, and called for such persons to be given support in asylum countries and rejected any attempts to bring about demographic change in Syria.

95. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position that the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic must be preserved and that its independence and sovereignty over its territory must be maintained. The Supreme Council rejected intervention by regional actors in the country's internal affairs, as well as any actions that affect Arab national security and threaten international peace and security.

96. The Supreme Council once again condemned the Iranian presence in Syrian territory and Iranian interference in Syrian affairs. The Supreme Council called for all Iranian forces, Hizbullah militias and sectarian militias recruited by Iran to operate in Syria to leave the country.

Lebanon

97. The Supreme Council, noting that it has been following developments in Lebanon, reaffirmed its long-standing position and resolutions concerning Lebanon and its strong desire that the country should be able to maintain its security, stability, territorial integrity, Arab affiliation and ability to take political decisions independently. The Supreme Council expressed its desire for reconciliation among all groups that make up the Lebanese people and its hope that the Lebanese will bear in mind their supreme interest and respond wisely to the challenges facing the Lebanese State, with a view to meeting the legitimate aspirations of the Lebanese people.

Egypt

98. The Supreme Council affirmed its support for the security and stability of Egypt, and hailed its efforts to promote Arab national security and regional peace and security, combat extremism and terrorism, and stimulate development for and promote the prosperity the Egyptian people, and its refusal to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states. The Supreme Council reiterated its support for ongoing efforts to resolve the issue of the Renaissance Dam in a manner that safeguards the water and economic interests the countries concerned, and expressed its appreciation for the relevant international initiatives.

Jordan

99. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its support for security, stability and development in Jordan, and called for efforts be redoubled to implement the joint action plans agreed upon within the framework of the strategic partnership between GCC and Jordan.

Libya

100. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position and resolutions concerning the Libyan crisis and its support for United Nations efforts to reach a political solution. It also reaffirmed the strong desire of GCC States to safeguard the

interests of the Libyan people and preserve the security, stability and territorial unity of Libya, and it reiterated its support for efforts to suppress the terrorist organization ISIL.

101. The Supreme Council welcomed the declaration of a ceasefire by the Presidential Council and the Libyan House of Representatives, and expressed its hope that the political dialogue between the Libyan parties will succeed and that they would put the national interest of Libya above all other considerations and arrive at an enduring solution that will ensure security and stability for the brotherly Libyan people and secure their sovereignty over their land and wealth, and that will prevent foreign interventions that threaten Arab regional security.

The Sudan

102. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position with respect to the Sudan and its continued support for any action that helps to promote security and stability in the Sudan and meet the aspirations and legitimate hopes of the Sudanese people for stability, development and prosperity, in keeping with the historical relations that bind GCC and the Sudan.

103. The Supreme Council congratulated the leadership and people of Sudan on the conclusion of the Juba Peace Agreement and reaffirmed the strong desire of GCC States to continue supporting efforts aimed at preserving the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan, protecting it against external interference and maintaining its Arab and Islamic status. The Supreme Council expressed its confidence in the ability of the Sudanese people to move forward on the path of peace, overcome the legacy of the past and create a bright future.

104. The Supreme Council welcomed the removal of the Sudan from the list of State sponsors of terrorism maintained by the United States of America and expressed its hope that the Sudan would move to a new stage of development, progress and prosperity, and play an active and constructive role in the international community.

Morocco

105. The Supreme Council reaffirmed the importance of the special strategic partnership between GCC and Morocco, and called for a redoubling of efforts to implement the joint action plans agreed upon within the framework of the strategic partnership between GCC and Morocco. The Supreme Council also reaffirmed its long-standing position and its resolutions in support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Morocco, and expressed its support for the measures taken by Morocco to establish free movement of civilians and goods in the Guerguarat buffer zone in Moroccan Sahara, and its rejection of any actions or practices that would affect movement in that region.

Afghanistan

106. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its long-standing position regarding the importance of restoring security and stability in Afghanistan, with a view to meeting the hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people and in order to promote regional and international peace and security.

107. The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation for the efforts of Qatar that led to the signature of a peace agreement between the United States of America and the Taliban in February 2020, and the commencement of Afghan peace negotiations in Doha in September 2020. The Supreme Council expressed the hope that those steps would lead to a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire, restore security and stability to Afghanistan, and realize the hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people for development and prosperity.

The Rohingya Muslim crisis in Myanmar

108. The Supreme Council condemned the brutal attacks committed against and the systematic displacement of Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State and other minorities in Kachin State, Shan State and other areas of Myanmar. The Supreme Council called upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility to stop violence, end displacement, ensure that the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar is able to enjoy its rights without discrimination or ethnic bias, and facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees to their towns and villages.

109. The Supreme Council drew attention to the humanitarian assistance that GCC States are providing to Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as well as the work of the United Nations in that regard, and called upon all countries to do more to help them.

Strategic partnerships between GCC and other groups and States

110. The Supreme Council called for cooperation and partnership between GCC, on the one hand, and States and key regional and international organizations, on the other, to be strengthened, and for joint action plans, along with measures agreed upon by working groups and joint committees that were formed for that purpose, to be completed.

111. The Supreme Council reaffirmed that the completion of free trade negotiations must be prioritized, in order to strengthen the strategic and economic relations of GCC with other States and groups from the region and in order to realize common interests. The Supreme Council instructed the Secretary-General to report periodically on the progress of free trade negotiations between the GCC and China, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and other agreed upon countries and groups.

112. The Supreme Council called for the strengthening of strategic partnerships with other Arab countries, including Jordan, Morocco, the Sudan and Iraq.

113. The Supreme Council called for stepped up efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership with the United States of America in all areas, and it praised the efforts made by the United States to increase its presence in the region, in order to enhance the security of the region and waterways and to ensure freedom of navigation.

114. The Supreme Council called for the implementation of joint action plans covering all areas that have been agreed upon within the framework of the strategic partnership between GCC and the United Kingdom, and it praised the efforts made by the United Kingdom to strengthen its presence in the region, in order to enhance regional security and stability.

115. The Supreme Council called for the enhancement of strategic relations and economic cooperation with France, Russia, the European Union, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and other key States and international and regional organizations in Europe and the Americas.

116. The Supreme Council called for completion of the measures taken and the plans and programmes developed to strengthen cooperation with the People's Republic of China, India, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, Central Asian countries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other friendly countries and key organizations in Asia.

117. The Supreme Council called for implementation of the action plan for Africa and the joint action plans for cooperation with African countries and key African organizations to be completed.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, may God bless him, his Government and the people of Saudi Arabia for their hospitality and kindness and the sincere feelings of brotherhood that were expressed in the course of the meeting.

The Supreme Council noted with pleasure that its forty-second session would be held in Saudi Arabia, God willing.

Issued in Ula.

21 Jumada I A.H. 1442 (5 January A.D. 2021)

Annex II to the letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The Ula Declaration

Issued at the forty-first session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

The Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah Summit

Ula, Saudi Arabia

21 Jumada I A.H. 1442 (5 January A.D. 2021)

The participants at the forty-first summit of the leaders of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) (the Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah summit) reaffirmed the noble aims enshrined in the GCC Charter, including promoting cooperation, cohesion and integration among GCC countries in all fields, with a view to bringing about their union and enhancing their regional and international role, and working as a single economic and political group in order to promote security, peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The citizens of the region's countries hope that the Ula Declaration, which was drafted at this summit, will restore joint action to its natural course and strengthen bonds among the peoples of the region.

The signature of the Ula Declaration by Egypt reaffirms the strengthened relations between Egypt and the States of GCC, in keeping with the provisions of the GCC Charter calling for coordination, cooperation and integration among GCC States in order to achieve the lofty objectives of the Arab nation.

The challenge posed by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has shown what the nations of the world can achieve by cooperating in response to the epidemic, as demonstrated by the unprecedented achievements of the Group of 20 when it was chaired by Saudi Arabia. There is no doubt that joint Gulf action must be strengthened in order to respond to the pandemic and address its consequences, including by:

- Implementing fully and exactly the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, which the Supreme Council adopted at its thirty-sixth session in December 2015. The vision must be implemented in accordance with a specific timetable and the progress made in that regard, including completion of the steps required for economic union, the finalization of the joint defence and security systems and the development of a unified foreign policy, must be monitored closely.
- Operationalizing the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control established at this summit, in keeping with the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and enabling it quickly to coordinate joint Gulf action in response to the COVID-19 and other epidemics.
- Completing the measures required to establish a customs union and a Gulf common market and realizing full economic citizenship, including freedom for GCC citizens to work, move and make investments, ensuring equal access to education and health care, building a Gulf railway network and a food and water security system, encouraging joint ventures and promoting local investment in the Gulf.

- Taking advantage of the advanced techniques for cooperation developed by the Group of 20 when Saudi Arabia chaired the Group for stimulating the economy, involving businesses and civil society, further empowering women and youth in relation to economic development, and encouraging digital economy initiatives, and by instructing the GCC secretariat to follow up on and develop plans and programmes to implement the foregoing, in cooperation with specialized consultancy firms.
- Developing the technical capabilities of government agencies, including the use of artificial intelligence, in order to ensure that are able to provide services and process transactions quickly and capably, develop curriculum and enhance health care and digital commerce, and by strengthening cooperation between GCC institutions and the Digital Cooperation Organization, which was established in 2020, with a view to serving the interests of GCC countries.
- Strengthening, through joint Gulf action, governance, transparency, accountability, integrity and anti-corruption mechanisms in all specialized GCC bodies, offices and organizations, and by profiting from what was agreed upon by the Group of 20 and by implementing the Riyadh Initiative on cooperation in investigating transnational corruption and prosecuting its perpetrators, because corruption has a significant impact on economic growth, sustainable development and mutual trust between governments and peoples.
- Promoting military integration between GCC countries under the aegis of the Joint Defence Council, the Supreme Military Commission and the Unified Military Command in order to respond to emerging challenges, in accordance with the Joint Defence Agreement and the principle of collective security for GCC States.
- Continuing to pursue the measures taken by GCC countries and the Group of 20 under the leadership of Saudi Arabia to address the pandemic and mitigate its effects at the local, regional and international levels, including by providing health and economic assistance to the least developed countries.
- Strengthening the regional and international role played by GCC by unifying political positions and developing strategic partnerships between GCC, on the one hand, and States, groups and regional and international organizations, on the other, so as to serve their common interests.

The participants at the Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah Summit reaffirmed the strong desire of GCC leaders to safeguard the organization's achievements, meet the aspirations of the citizens of Gulf States and overcome all obstacles that stand in the way of joint action.

Issued in Ula, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday, 21 Jumada I A.H. 1442 (5 January A.D. 2021)