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**General Assembly
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Agenda items 37 and 38**Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****The situation in the Middle East****Question of Palestine****Letter dated 12 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative
of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and in the capacity of Egypt as the current President of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution 8594, entitled “The Arab situation and support for the question of Palestine”, adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its extraordinary session held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 8 February 2021 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 37 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed **Edrees**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Resolution 8594, adopted by the Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level at its extraordinary session held in Cairo on 8 February 2021

The situation in the Arab world and support for the question of Palestine

The Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level, responding to a joint Egyptian-Jordanian initiative that was supported by all member States, convened in an extraordinary session on Monday, 8 February 2021 at the headquarters of the secretariat in Cairo. The meeting was chaired by Egypt, the Chair of the 154th ordinary session of the Council at the ministerial level, and attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of member States and the Secretary-General.

Noting that current developments in the Arab world require Arabs to take a common stance in order to thwart foreign interference in Arab affairs, safeguard Arab national security and promote common Arab interests,

Reaffirming the need to revitalize collective Arab action based on a vision that is line with developments and aimed at realizing the interests of the Arab peoples in a changing world beset with multiple challenges, and that is founded on the sovereign right of Arab States to take their own decisions, while adhering fully to issues of principle and established rights that are immutable, at the forefront of which is the question of Palestine,

Reaffirming that Arab national security is an integral part of the national security of every member State, and that Arab countries must stand together in response to imminent threats, international and regional interference, and repeated Israeli violations of the sovereignty of Arab States, so as to defend common Arab interests,

Reaffirming all resolutions adopted by the Council of the League concerning the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as the importance of restoring Arab cohesion and maintaining a unified Arab position with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Recalling the declaration of the establishment of the State of Palestine on 15 November 1988,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Arab States, acting as a group under the aegis of the League, are defending their common interests and Arab national security in the face of various interactions and developments on the international stage, in order to resist pressure from and interference by regional and international powers that are striving to implement their agendas and realize their interests at the expense of Arab interests, and that the Arab States are striving to preserve the idea of the State in order to maintain the unity of peoples and avoid divisions in Arab societies; and also *reaffirms* that Arab States must adopt an effective collective role in order to address regional challenges and respond to efforts aimed at resolving the crises afflicting the region;

2. *Reiterates* the centrality of the question of Palestine for Arab States; *reaffirms* the commitment of all Arab States to support the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, most notably the right of self-determination, the right

of return and the right to establish an independent, fully sovereign Palestinian State along the lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and *reaffirms* the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

3. *Reiterates* that the Arab States remain committed to the two-State solution, which enshrines the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the basis of international law, the relevant authoritative international resolutions, all elements of the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted in 2002, and the principle of land for peace, because that is the only way to bring about just and lasting peace in the Middle East; and *calls upon* the Israeli side to respond to the Arab Peace Initiative;

4. *Reiterates* that the Arab States continue to defend the right of the State of Palestine to exercise sovereignty over its territory and its capital, East Jerusalem, and protect its holy sites; *reaffirms* that Hashemite custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem is vital to protecting those sites and preserving the Arab identity of the city and its historical and legal status; *reiterates* that the Jerusalem Awqaf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan is the only authority that is empowered to administer those holy sites and manage all their affairs; and *reaffirms* the role played by the Al-Quds Committee and the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, the executive arm of the Committee, in preserving the Arab identity and supporting the resilience of Jerusalemites as they defend their legitimate rights;

5. *Reaffirms* that the Arabs reject any unilateral Israeli actions or measures that violate the rights of the Palestinian people and international law, and undermine the two-State solution, for which there is no alternative; and *reiterates* the need to abide by authoritative international resolutions, most notably the resolutions of the Security Council, including, in particular, resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Security Council calls for an immediate and complete halt to all settlement-building activities, including in East Jerusalem;

6. *Urges* all international actors, including the United Nations and the Quartet, to take practical measures towards commencing credible negotiations in which all final status issues are addressed and that lead to the ending of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory seized in 1967 and to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-State solution; *welcomes* the efforts made by international and regional actors to advance the cause of just peace, which is the strategic option that the Arabs have chosen; and *reaffirms* the important role played by the United States of America and the members of the Quartet, and the importance of the international community's involvement in efforts to facilitate the reinitiation of credible peace negotiations, on the basis of the established international terms of reference, that offer the prospect of a better future for the Palestinian people and the peoples of the entire region, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court, in which it states that the territorial jurisdiction of the Court in Palestine extends to the Palestinian territory that has been occupied by Israel since 1967, namely, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;

8. *Welcomes* the decision of the State of Palestine to hold elections, recent developments in efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation and all endeavours aimed at bringing about full reconciliation among the Palestinians;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to honour commitments arising from decisions adopted at successive Arab summits on supporting the budget of the State of Palestine and operationalizing the financial safety net as soon as possible;

10. *Commends* the important role played United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in providing humanitarian assistance and essential services to Palestinian refugees; and *urges* the international community to honour its obligations towards the Agency, in order to help it overcome its large fiscal deficit and fulfil the mandate it was given in the resolution by which it was established;

11. *Reiterates* that it is imperative for Arab States, in coordination with the Arab member of the Security Council, to liaise with the members of the Quartet and all other influential stakeholders in relation to this issue and to urge them to become involved, without delay, in efforts aimed at reaching a settlement;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to liaise and engage in the consultations needed to monitor implementation of the present resolution and to report to the Council in that regard.

(Resolution 8594 — extraordinary session — first meeting — 8 February 2021)
