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**The situation in the Middle East**

**Question of Palestine**

**Identical letters dated 20 May 2024 from the Permanent  
Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Given that Bahrain is the current Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the League of Arab States and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations transmitting the Bahrain Declaration, which was adopted at the level of presidents, monarchs and leaders of the Arab States members of the League of Arab States, and the statement issued by Arab leaders at the Bahrain summit regarding the aggression against the Gaza Strip (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 35, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 20 May 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Letter dated 20 May 2024 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations, Chair of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level**

Following the conclusion of the Bahrain summit, which was held in Manama on 16 May 2024, and in keeping with the practice followed by the Group of Arab States whereby the Chair of each ministerial session or summit of the Council of the League of Arab States or the Chair of the Group of Arab States in New York is charged with transmitting the relevant resolutions, communiqués or documents that were adopted to the appropriate United Nations bodies by means of an official memorandum or letter from the Permanent Observer Mission of 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 copies of the following:

- The Bahrain Declaration adopted by the presidents, monarchs and leaders of the States members of the League of Arab States (see enclosure 1)
- Statement issued by Arab leaders at the Bahrain summit regarding the aggression against the Gaza Strip (see enclosure 2)

In accordance with the instructions of the secretariat of the League of Arab States and the relevant working methods of the Group of Arab States in New York, I should be grateful if you would transmit the present letter and its enclosures to the Secretary-General for issuance as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 35, and to the President of the Security Council for issuance as a document of the Council.

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

## Enclosure 1

### **The Bahrain Declaration adopted on 16 May 2024 by the presidents, monarchs and leaders of the Arab States members of the League of Arab States**

At the kind invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, the leaders of the Arab States, convened for the thirty-third ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level (Bahrain Summit), chaired by of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in affirmation of the kinship, history and common destiny that unite the Arab countries.

Recognizing the importance of joint Arab action in maintaining the security and stability of Arab States, as well as cooperation and integration in all fields, and emphasizing the importance of addressing the challenges and requirements of sustainable development through a unified strategic vision, for the welfare and prosperity of the Arab peoples,

Cognizant of the strategic importance of the Arab nation on the world stage, its economic potential and human resources, and the need to establish conditions that are conducive to strengthening cooperation, building economic partnerships and achieving comprehensive development that is based on common interests and mutual benefits, with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of our Arab peoples and achieve growth and prosperity,

Believing in the human values of tolerance and coexistence, and desirous of fostering human fraternity and mutual respect among the nations and peoples of the world, supporting dialogue and understanding among religions, cultures and civilizations, promoting world peace and stability, adhering to the principles of our Islamic religion and our authentic Arab values, and consolidating fraternity, harmony and cooperation among the States of the world for the good and in the interest of humanity,

Being committed to the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect, the peaceful resolution of disputes and striving for peace, security and stability in the Middle East,

Desiring to maintain solidarity, unity and synergy in order to collectively address the current circumstances, and underscoring the importance of communication, cooperation and integration in order to promote the collective progress of our countries, in all fields, towards a secure, stable and prosperous region that satisfies the interests and aspirations of its peoples,

We, the leaders of the Arab States:

1. Express our condolences to the State of Kuwait and its people on the death of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, the late Amir of Kuwait, may God rest his soul, and congratulate His Highness Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on taking the reins of power of the State of Kuwait, wishing His Highness success and prosperity and the people of Kuwait well-being, development and prosperity;
2. Express our appreciation for the outstanding efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when it chaired the thirty-second Arab summit and for using its good offices to unify efforts, promote joint Arab action, strengthen regional security and defend the interests of Arab States and their peoples;
3. Reaffirm that it is important for the joint Arab and Islamic ministerial committee to continue its efforts aimed at halting the Israeli aggression against the

Gaza Strip, ending the humanitarian catastrophe that has befallen more than 2.3 million Palestinian civilians and mobilizing international support for the right of the Palestinian people to live in security, safety and freedom in its own independent and sovereign State and on its national soil. We thank the committee for the effort it has made at the regional and international levels, and express appreciation for the efforts made by the secretariat of the League of Arab States in making preparations and arrangements for the convening of the thirty-third summit;

4. Reaffirm that the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip must be halted immediately, that Israeli occupying forces must leave all parts of the Gaza Strip, that the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip must be lifted, that all obstacles must be removed, that all crossings must be opened in order allow the entry of adequate humanitarian assistance into the entire Gaza Strip and that United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), must be allowed to operate and provided with financial support in order to enable them to carry out their responsibilities freely and safely; and we reiterate that we categorically reject any attempts to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from its land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We call for urgent action in order to bring about an immediate and lasting ceasefire, end the aggression in the Gaza Strip, provide protection for civilians and ensure the release of hostages and detainees;

In that connection , we strongly condemn the obstruction by Israel of efforts to establish a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and its insistence on escalating the military situation by expanding its aggression against the Palestinian city of Rafah despite, international warnings that doing so would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences;

In addition, we condemn the taking of control by Israeli forces of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, in order to tighten the siege on civilians in the Gaza Strip. As a result, operations at the crossing and the flow of humanitarian aid have ceased, and the Palestinian population of Gaza have lost their primary lifeline. We call upon Israel to withdraw from Rafah, in order to ensure safe humanitarian access;

We reaffirm the unwavering Arab position in support of the Palestinian cause, because it is the central issue and the foundation of peace and stability in the region, and we reject categorically all attempts to displace the Palestinian people within its territory or to the outside, because doing so is a clear violation of international law, which we shall address collectively. We reaffirm our strong condemnation of all illegal measures and practices of Israel, which are directed against the Palestinian people and aimed at depriving them of their rights to freedom, statehood, life and human dignity, as guaranteed by international law;

We reiterate our unwavering position and our call for a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, as well as our support the call of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, for an international peace conference to be convened and for irreversible steps to be taken to implement the two-State solution, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and authoritative international resolutions, with a view to establishing an independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the lines of 4 June 1967, securing its membership of the United Nations as an independent and fully sovereign State, like the other States of the world, and ensuring the restoration of all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in particular the rights of return, self-determination, empowerment and support;

We call upon the international community to implement the resolutions that the Security Council has adopted since the outbreak of the war against the Gaza Strip, including resolution [2720 \(2023\)](#), and urge the United Nations senior humanitarian

and reconstruction coordinator to expeditiously establish and operationalize, as stipulated in that resolution, a United Nations mechanism in the Gaza Strip to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into the territory, and to overcome all obstacles created by Israel that impede the entry of aid that is sufficient, in respect of quantity, to respond to the humanitarian catastrophe that is occurring in the Gaza Strip. We call for a coordinated, joint Arab effort to provide humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip urgently and immediately, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations;

In that connection, we call upon the international community to fulfil its legal obligations and take decisive action to end the occupation by Israel of the Arab territories that occupied in June 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon, and to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions;

We stress the need for Israel, the occupying Power, to halt all its illegal actions, including the construction and expansion of settlements, the confiscation of Palestinian land and the displacement of Palestinians from their homes, that violate the rights of the Palestinian people and undermine the two-State solution and the prospects for a just and comprehensive peace in the region;

We stress that all Israeli military operations and settler terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank must cease, and that all measures that impede the growth of the Palestinian economy, including the withholding of Palestinian funds in violation of international law, international humanitarian law and authoritative international resolutions, must come to an end;

We reaffirm the sanctity of the occupied city of Jerusalem and its significance for the monotheistic religions. We reject and condemn all attempts by Israel aimed at Judaizing Jerusalem and changing its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, as well as the historical and legal status quo in the city and at its holy sites. We also reaffirm that the holy sites in Bethlehem must be protected and that the city's cultural identity and religious sanctity must not be compromised;

We reaffirm our support for the historical Hashemite custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and the role that it plays in protecting the Arab, Islamic and Christian identity of those sites, and our support for the role that it plays in preserving the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and at its holy sites, noting that the entire 144,000 m<sup>2</sup> area of the blessed Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif is a place of worship for Muslims only. We also reaffirm the Department of Jerusalem Waqf and Blessed Aqsa Mosque Affairs of Jordan is the sole legitimate body that is competent to manage and maintain the blessed Aqsa Mosque and regulate entry thereinto;

We reaffirm our support for the role played by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco as Chair of the Quds Committee and the Bayt Mal al-Quds al-Sharif Agency;

We express grave concern regarding the recent military escalation in the region and its serious repercussions for regional security and stability. We call upon all parties to exercise restraint and spare the region and its peoples the peril of war and heightened tensions. We call upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, implement its resolutions concerning a permanent ceasefire and prevent the escalation of the crisis and the expansion of the war zone in the Middle East;

We call upon the international community to fulfil its responsibility to pursue efforts to advance the peace process, with a view to arriving at a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-State solution, which leads to an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the lines of

the fourth of June 1967, living in security and peace alongside Israel in accordance with the relevant authoritative international resolutions and terms of reference, including the Arab Peace Initiative;

We call for the deployment of international protection and peacekeeping forces under the aegis of the United Nations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory until the two-State solution has been implemented;

In that connection, we underscore that the Security Council has a responsibility to take clear measures aimed at implementing the two-State solution, and the need to establish a time limit for the political process and the adoption by the Security Council of a resolution under Chapter VII establishing an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the lines of 1967 and completely ending the occupation of its territory, while holding Israel responsible for the destruction of cities and civilian installations in the Gaza Strip;

We welcome the decision that the General Assembly took at its meeting on 10 May 2024 regarding the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations, which was supported by 143 States. We call upon the Security Council to reconsider the decision that it took regarding this matter at its session on 18 April 2024, and we ask the Council to be fair and supportive of the rights of the Palestinian people to life, freedom and human dignity, and to take action to implement its resolutions concerning the question Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. We appreciate the positions of the States that have recognized the State of Palestine and of those that have announced that they will recognize it;

We call on all Palestinian factions to come together under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and to agree upon a comprehensive national project and a unified strategic vision, so that efforts can be directed towards meeting the aspirations of the Palestinian people to realize their legitimate rights and establish their independent national State on their national soil, on the basis of the two-State solution and in accordance with authoritative international resolutions and the established terms of reference;

5. Express our full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan as it strives to maintain its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and preserve the institutions of the Sudanese State, the most significant of which are the armed forces. We call for a commitment to implementing the Jeddah Declaration, with a view to reaching a ceasefire that leads to the opening of humanitarian relief corridors and ensures the protection of civilians. Moreover, we urge the Government of the Sudan and the Rapid Support Forces to engage seriously and effectively with initiatives aimed at settling the crisis, including the Jeddah platform and the initiatives of neighbouring States and others, and ending the ongoing conflict, restoring security and stability in the Sudan, and end the plight of the Sudanese people;

6. Reaffirm the need to end the crisis in Syria, in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), with a view to preserving the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, realizing the aspirations of its people, ridding the country of terrorism and establishing an environment that is conducive to the dignified, safe and voluntary return of refugees. We reject interference in the internal affairs of Syria and any attempts to bring about demographic changes in the country;

We underscore the importance of the role of the Arab Liaison Committee and the Arab initiative in resolving the crisis, and we emphasize the need to implement the Amman communiqué. We support the efforts of the United Nations in that regard. We emphasize the need to create the conditions that are conducive to ensuring the dignified, safe and voluntary return of Syrian refugees to their country, including the

lifting of the unilateral coercive measures that have been imposed on Syria. We also emphasize that the international community must continue to fulfil its responsibilities towards Syrian refugees and to support host countries until the refugees have returned to Syria in dignified, safe and voluntary manner, in accordance with international standards. We warn of the repercussions of a decline in international support for Syrian refugees and the countries that host them;

7. We renew our longstanding support for the Presidential Leadership Council of the Republic of Yemen, led by Rashad Mohammed al-Alimi, and reiterate our support for the efforts of the Government of Yemen as it strives to achieve national reconciliation among all components of the Yemeni people and unify the country, with a view to establishing security and stability in Yemen. We also support the efforts of the United Nations and regional efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive political solution to the Yemeni crisis, in accordance with the international terms of reference, namely, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementing mechanism, the outcomes of the Yemeni national dialogue and Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), in order to achieve our collective goal of meeting the Yemeni people's legitimate aspirations for peace, stability, development and prosperity;

8. We express our full support for the State of Libya and its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and call for interference in its internal affairs to cease and for all foreign forces and mercenaries to withdraw from its territory within a specified period of time. We call upon the Libyan House of Representatives and the High Council of State to quickly arrive at consensus regarding the adoption of electoral laws that satisfy the demands of the Libyan people to hold parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously and to end any transitional periods. We reaffirm support for efforts aimed at reaching a political settlement in line with the terms of reference for a solution that concludes with the holding of simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as possible, and holding elections and unifying state institutions, in to realize the aspirations of the Libyan people. We call upon all parties in Libya to continue the political process and achieve national reconciliation in a manner that safeguards the supreme interests of the State of Libya and realizes the people's aspirations for peace, stability and prosperity. We praise the efforts of the neighbouring countries of Libya, the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the African Union to bridge the gaps between the Libyan parties, with a view to restoring Libyan unity and reaching a political settlement to the Libyan crisis;

9. We reaffirm our support for the Republic of Lebanon and its sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity, and urge all Lebanese parties to prioritize electing a President of the Republic, strengthen the engagement of constitutional institutions, address political and security challenges, implement required economic reforms and strengthen the capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces, in order to safeguard the security and stability of Lebanon and protect its internationally recognized borders against Israeli aggression;

10. We reaffirm our longstanding support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and our solidarity with Somalia as it strives to protect its sovereignty and respond to any measures that might undermine it. We also support the efforts of the Government of Somalia to counter terrorism, maintain security and stability, and advancing the process of sustainable development and prosperity for the good and benefit of the people;

11. We reaffirm the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa), and we call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond positively to the initiative of the United Arab Emirates to find a peaceful solution to this issue through direct negotiations or recourse to the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the rules of international law and

the Charter of the United Nations, so as to help to build confidence and promote security and stability in the Arab Gulf region;

12. We reaffirm that Arab water security is an integral part of Arab national security, in particular for the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan, and stress that we reject any action or measure that affects their rights to the waters of the Nile, as well as the rights of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq with regard to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. We express our solidarity with them in respect of taking whatever measures they might deem necessary to protect their security and water interests, and we express our grave concern at ongoing unilateral measures that can harm their water interests;

13. We reiterate that we completely and firmly reject the provision of any support for armed groups or militias that operate outside the authority of the State and pursue or implement foreign agendas that are counter to the supreme interests of Arab States. We reaffirm our solidarity with all Arab States as they strive to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity and protect their national institutions against any external attempts to attack, impose influence, undermine sovereignty or harm Arab interests;

14. We strongly reaffirm our longstanding position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and categorically reject all rationales and justifications offered for terrorism. We strive to cut off the sources that finance terrorism and we support international efforts to combat extremist terrorist organizations and obstruct their financing, and to address the serious repercussions of terrorism for the region and the threat that it poses to international peace and security;

15. We call for deterrent measures to be taken, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States and the Security Council to counter extremism, hate speech and incitement, and to condemn such acts wherever they may occur, because of their negative effect on social tranquillity and the maintenance of international peace and security, and because they promote the spread, escalation and recurrence of conflict around the world, and undermine security and stability. We also call on all States to promote the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and human kinship, and to renounce hatred, sectarianism, intolerance, discrimination and extremism in all its forms;

16. We reaffirm our commitment to freedom of maritime navigation in international waters in accordance with the rules of international law and conventions concerning the law of the sea, and to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Gulf. We strongly condemn the interception of commercial ships, as that threatens freedom of navigation and international trade and the interests of the States and peoples of the world;

17. We reiterate our call for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. We support the right of States to possess nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and urge them to fulfil their obligations to and cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and not to enrich uranium to a level that exceeds what is required for the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

18. We reaffirm our determination to pursue efforts to strengthen partnership, strategic dialogue and joint cooperation with international blocs and friendly countries with regard to political, security, economic and social issues at levels, and to do so within the framework of the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries, constructive dialogue, understanding and joint coordination, so as to promote common interests, advance development and prosperity, and respond to all contemporary challenges;



19. We reaffirm our strong desire to cooperate closely with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and to adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in order to maintain international peace and security. We reaffirm our strong desire to support their efforts to address global challenges, including Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, environmental protection, human rights, poverty, water and food security, renewable energy and the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

20. We express our appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting the thirty-third Arab summit and for its diligence and interest in developing prospects for joint Arab cooperation in various fields. We also express our appreciation for the initiatives that it has proposed aimed at creating a secure and stable environment for all peoples of the Middle East and for setting the region on the path to recovery. Those proposals are as follows:

(a) A collective call should be issued for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to resolve the question of Palestine on the basis of the two-State solution, with a view to ending the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories and achieving a just and comprehensive peace through the establishment of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian State in accordance with authoritative international resolutions;

(b) The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Arab States should be directed to take immediate action and communicate with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of countries around the world to urge them to quickly recognize the State of Palestine, provided that the ministers hold consultations regarding how that move should happen and that they inform the secretariat of the League of Arab States thereof, with a view to supporting Arab efforts to secure membership of the United Nations for the State of Palestine as an independent and fully sovereign State, and to intensifying Arab efforts with all Security Council members to achieve such recognition;

(c) Educational services should be provided to those who have been affected by conflicts in the region and deprived of their right to formal education because of the security and political situations and the repercussions of displacement, asylum and migration. Such services should be provided through cooperation and coordination among the League of Arab States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Kingdom of Bahrain;

(d) Health-care services should be improved for those who have been affected by conflicts and disputes in the region. The pharmaceutical and vaccine industry should be developed in Arab countries and the availability of medicine and treatment should be ensured through cooperation and coordination among the League of Arab States, the World Health Organization and the Kingdom of Bahrain;

(e) Arab cooperation in financial technology, innovation and digital transformation should be developed, in order to establish an environment that is conducive to the development of innovative financial products and services using modern technology.

(Summit No. 1 – thirty-third ordinary session – closing meeting 16 May 2024)

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The Government of Iraq enters its reservations regarding certain paragraphs of the Bahrain Declaration because they are not in line with national laws.

## Enclosure 2

### Statement issued on 16 May 2024 by Arab leaders at the Bahrain summit regarding the aggression against the Gaza Strip

We, the Arab leaders,

1. Condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing and brutal Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, the crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and the unprecedented violations committed by Israel of international law and international humanitarian law, including the targeting of civilians and civilian installations, the use of siege and starvation as weapons and attempted forced displacement, resulting in the death and injury of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinians;

2. We condemn the expansion of the Israeli aggression to include the Palestinian city of Rafah, which has become a refuge for more than 1 million displaced persons, and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that this entails. We also condemn the taking of control by Israeli forces of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, in order to tighten the siege on civilians in the Gaza Strip. As a result, operations at the crossing and the flow of humanitarian aid have ceased;

3. We demand that a permanent ceasefire in Gaza be established immediately, that all attempts at forced displacement and all forms of siege be ended, that full and sustainable access to humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip be ensured and that Israel withdraw immediately from Rafah;

4. We condemn in the strongest terms the targeting by the occupying Israeli forces of humanitarian organizations and United Nations organizations in the Gaza Strip, thereby obstructing their work. We also condemn attacks against aid convoys bound for the Gaza Strip, including the attacks committed by Israeli extremists against Jordanian aid convoys, and the failure of the Israeli authorities to fulfil their legal responsibilities to protect such convoys. We call for an immediate international investigation into these attacks;

5. We reaffirm our continued support, in every form, for the Palestinian people in the face of this aggression. We call on the international community and influential international Powers to transcend political considerations and put aside double standards when addressing international crises, and we further call on them to fulfil their moral and legal responsibilities in response to hostile Israeli practices by clearly characterizing them as flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law;

6. We also call for the operationalization of the relevant international mechanisms in order to conduct independent and impartial investigations and hold those responsible accountable for the crimes that have been committed against the Palestinian people since the start of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip.

(Summit No. 1 – thirty-third ordinary session – closing meeting 16 May 2024)