

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
5 June 2023

Original: English

**Letter dated 5 June 2023 from the Permanent Representative of
the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June 2023, the United Arab Emirates intends to convene a high-level briefing on the topic “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (League of Arab States)”, to be held on 8 June 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber.

In order to guide the discussions on the topic, the United Arab Emirates has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

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

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

Concept note for the Security Council high-level briefing on the topic “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (League of Arab States)”

Background

While the Charter of the United Nations vests the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, chapter VIII of the Charter encourages the establishment of cooperative relationships between the United Nations and regional organizations. It recognizes the potential of regional organizations to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and outlines the conditions and principles that should guide cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Over the years, the Security Council has become increasingly aware of the potential role of regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, as reflected in Council resolutions and presidential statements. Recent discussions have focused on the mediation and peace-guaranteeing role of regional organizations, their efforts to settle disputes peacefully, the complementary functions of the United Nations and regional organizations, and the comparative advantages of regional organizations in supporting the maintenance of global peace and security.

In this context, the Security Council and the League of Arab States continue to work towards a common goal of promoting peace, security and stability in the Arab region and beyond. The Council has recognized the importance of closer collaboration with the League of Arab States to promote the coherence and effectiveness of their respective efforts, reinforcing this commitment most recently through its presidential statement of 23 March 2022 ([S/PRST/2022/1](#)). The Council has also taken steps to increase its engagement with the League of Arab States, including through informal interactive dialogues, the first of which was held in September 2021.

The relationship between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States has also grown, with the fifteenth general cooperation meeting between the two organizations held in Geneva in July 2022 to discuss cooperation across the full range of issues affecting the Arab world. In addition, the United Nations Liaison Office to the League of Arab States, based in Cairo, has helped to foster ever increasing engagement between the two organizations, with a focus on peace and security issues.

This work is done, inter alia, through meetings of United Nations Special Envoys and Representatives with senior League of Arab States officials and through enhanced communication channels between the League of Arab States and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

The developments in the relationship between the United Nations and the League of Arab States are all the more important given the multifaceted challenges that the Arab region continues to face, including ongoing conflicts in Libya, Syria, Sudan and Yemen and the long-standing Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which have led to unimaginable suffering for millions of people. In addition, countries such as

Lebanon and Somalia are facing deep economic crises, high unemployment and spiralling inflation, thereby exacerbating fragilities and humanitarian needs. The 2023 Syria-Türkiye earthquake added another layer of complexity, as it intensified the existing humanitarian crises in the region. The devastating earthquake resulted in widespread destruction, numerous casualties and the displacement of millions of people. While the humanitarian response was substantial, it faced considerable obstacles, in particular in coordinating assistance from various donors.

As is the case in many regions around the world, women and youth in the Arab region are disproportionately affected by situations of conflict, which highlights the urgency of their effective protection and meaningful participation. The Arab declaration to combat all forms of violence against women and girls adopted by the League of Arab States in March 2022 is an important cornerstone in ensuring that women and girls in the region are protected from violence. Ensuring the prevention of violence is crucial to enabling women to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in society across all areas, from education to politics and economics, which, in turn, can play a vital role in conflict prevention, reconciliation and recovery efforts in the region. Regional spaces and platforms that allow women to fulfil their potential as agents of peace, such as the League of Arab States Arab Women Mediators Network, are essential mechanisms that require support from Member States and international and regional organizations. Partnering with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and local organizations should be an integral element of any of the efforts to these ends.

Moreover, with approximately 30 per cent of the population between the ages of 15 and 29 and 60 per cent under the age of 30, it is important to address the many issues that principally affect children and youth in the Arab world, including the impact of conflict on child recruitment, education and youth employment. By involving youth in peacebuilding processes, we not only improve the conditions for young people in the region, but we also advance economic growth, social inclusion and political stability in the region. To this end, the League of Arab States General Secretariat has developed an inaugural Arab strategy focusing on youth, peace and security, slated for launch later this year. It marks the first strategy of its kind in the Arab region aimed at fostering collaboration for youth participation in peace and security issues and developing national strategies for peace and security through a four-year implementation plan. The strategy has been developed with support from the United Nations Liaison Office to the League of Arab States, in concert with other key partners.

Terrorism also remains a significant and pervasive threat to the security of the region and beyond. In 2022, with the support of the United Nations, the Council of Ministers of the Interior of the League of Arab States adopted a comprehensive Arab counterterrorism strategy. This strategy serves as a significant example of effective collaboration and coordination towards a shared goal, in particular through its inclusion of an implementation plan that aligns with the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ([A/RES/75/291](#)) and that encourages the development of national, subregional and regional plans to support the implementation of the strategy.

In this context, the briefing provides an opportunity to build on existing cooperation and explore ways to expand joint efforts to address the interrelated peace, security and humanitarian challenges facing the Arab region.

Objectives

The purpose of the briefing is to examine a number of important topics, including to:

- Evaluate the progress made in cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States and find ways to broaden and institutionalize consultations and collaboration on areas of mutual concern.
- Discuss challenges in resolving conflicts and promoting reconciliation in the region, and identify practical methods to utilize the unique position and expertise of the League of Arab States in the service of preventative diplomacy and mediation efforts.
- Address the challenges of donor coordination in emergency humanitarian crises, such as the 2023 Syria-Türkiye earthquake, and explore ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of aid delivery.
- Explore how cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States can directly contribute to strengthening the inclusion and participation of women and youth across the region in all matters relevant to peace and security.
- Explore effective ways to advance the youth and peace and security agenda, building on the regional strategy, as well as potential future collaboration with the emerging United Nations Youth Office.
- Analyse the evolving threat posed by terrorist groups to the region and beyond, and determine ways to increase the coordination of League of Arab States efforts, including through its counterterrorism strategy, with measures taken within the counterterrorism architecture of the United Nations.
- Consider the need for capacity-building and training for League of Arab States officials and for affected countries in the region, including in disarmament, non-proliferation, mediation and other peace and security issues.

Questions

The following questions have been developed to help to guide the discussion:

1. What are the major obstacles facing the maintenance of peace and security in the Arab region, and how can these obstacles be overcome?
2. How can the Security Council and the League of Arab States enhance their collaboration to promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence and human fraternity while aligning their approaches across the peace continuum, from conflict prevention to post-conflict peacebuilding, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter?
3. In the context of emergency humanitarian crises, what challenges do donor coordination efforts face, and how can the United Nations and the League of Arab States work together to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of aid delivery in such situations?
4. How can the Security Council and the League of Arab States coordinate their efforts to effectively fight terrorism, address its root causes and prevent the use of new technologies by terrorist groups, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter?
5. How can the contributions of women and young people in peacebuilding be better acknowledged and supported by the Security Council and the League of Arab States? What actions can be taken to improve the meaningful involvement of women and youth in peace and security initiatives in the Arab region?

Format

The meeting will be chaired by Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates. Briefings will be delivered by the following speakers:

- Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States
 - Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
 - Dr. Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
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