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**Secretary General,
League of Arab States**

**Intervention at:
White House Summit,
Countering Violent Extremism**

Washington DC
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Mr. Secretary,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the United States Government for convening this important and timely meeting about how to take collective measures to counter violent extremism.

Violent extremism's weapon of choice is terror. Terrorism is not new. It has no religion. It is based on hate and spreading havoc and destruction. It destroys trust in communication, exchange and conviviality within communities and between strangers. A single act of terror is an act against civility and civilization everywhere as its aim is to destroy humane values and human solidarity.

No country can feel confident that it is safe from terrorism. Its recruitment, scope, and financing are transnational. Its network is international. Its causes and catalysts are multiple. It cruelly and cynically exploits the disillusionment of youth in countries rich and poor, north and south, east and west. The world must work cohesively to understand and confront this threat and exert all efforts to win the hearts and minds of the misguided youth throughout the world.

The Arab region is no stranger to the vile crimes of terrorism and has suffered its scourge for decades. Now, terrorism is not only spreading; it boasts to the world of having a cruelty unrestrained by human conscience. The horrific mass beheading of 21 innocent Egyptian workers, and, before that, the terrible, barbaric death chosen for Moaz Alkassab, the Jordanian pilot, shocked not just the Egyptian and Jordanian peoples; it left all Arabs and the entire world in grievance and revulsion.

It is such developments and such atrocities that make us urge, without further delay, decisive action by the Arab and international community as represented by the Security Council.

Even before these latest developments, the League of Arab States had recognized the true force of this threat and prepared an in-depth analytical study on the impact of terrorism on Arab national security. The document examines the factors underlying the emergence of terrorism; the qualitative transformation of the organizational and operational capacities of terrorists (from small groups to de facto armies); and the consequent threat they pose to national, regional and international peace and security.

The study presents a comprehensive series of holistic multi-disciplinary, policy-oriented recommendations to confront terrorism in the short, medium and long terms. The recommendations embrace the Arab region as a whole and include the promotion of a culture of tolerance and measures

that strengthen social justice, good governance and democracy.

This study was designed to lead to practical action. The Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States is particularly concerned by the spread of criminal activities of terrorist organizations like Daesh, and other armed extremist groups, which disguise themselves with the cloak of religion to perpetrate the most heinous crimes.

Hence, on September 7, 2014, the Council adopted Resolution 7804 with a view to safeguard and reinforce Arab national security on a regional scale, as well as to consolidate the fight against terrorism globally. The Resolution declares the Council's determination:

To confront terrorist organizations through joint Arab action at all levels: military, political, juridical, and cultural.

To strengthen communication channels and coordination with respect to all national, regional and international initiatives and endeavors being undertaken to fight terrorism and eradicate it.

To reinforce the relevant legal and institutional capacities of the League of Arab States, within the frameworks of the Joint Arab Defense Treaty and its additional Protocols. A joint Arab task force should be immediately set-up to counter the menace of terrorism.

The forthcoming Arab Summit – to be held on March 28, 2015 – will ad-

dress the threats posed by terrorism. Particular attention will be given to the mechanisms and means necessary to undertake this effort within a pan-Arab framework. Included within this framework will be the region's need for sustainable plans for just peace, institutional reforms, and socio-economic development policies supported by proportionate financial packages.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The League of Arab States wholly supports the Statement that crowns this Ministerial meeting – not least the pledge to meet in New York, during the forthcoming UN General Assembly, to report on the progress made in the intervening period.

We are aware of the scale of the challenge and we, the members of the international community, all of us, must be up to it.
