

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
31 May 2019

Original: English

**Letter dated 31 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June 2019, will hold a briefing on 13 June, on the theme “Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States”, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”.

In order to help guide the briefing, the State of Kuwait has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansour A. **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to letter dated 31 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the importance of fostering cooperation and partnerships between the Council and regional and subregional organizations, under the theme “Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States”, to be held on 13 June 2019

Historical background

1. Since the end of the cold war, the United Nations’ interest in forging an effective partnership and close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations has manifested itself in many partnerships, especially with the Security Council, in order to maintain and preserve international peace and security, consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. That interest came about as a result of the exacerbation of conflicts and civil strife that the world continues to endure.

2. Considering the complexity and overlapping challenges that the international community faces, requiring joint efforts and cooperation, the urgency and necessity of such cooperation has become self-evident. The close relations and effective partnerships fostered over time with the United Nations can be the Organization’s front line of defence, assisting in the resolution of regional issues and preventing their expansion or the spread of their negative repercussions. Over time, regional and subregional organizations, by virtue of shared commonalities within their membership, including geography, history, principles, language and identity, to name but a few, have consistently proven that their unique perspectives and mechanisms are the least costly and most able frameworks to identify the root causes of conflict and the manner best suited for their remedy. Member States from different regions in the Security Council have continuously called for the need to consult with and take into consideration regional perspectives on issues under its consideration. “African solutions for African problems” is a phrase not only repeated but realized in the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in several peacekeeping operations.

3. Despite the fact that the establishment of the League of Arab States predates that of the United Nations by a few months, cooperation between the two organizations did not materialize until recently, even though the General Assembly has called for such cooperation since the adoption of its resolution [36/24](#), in 1981. With the turmoil in the region reaching its apex in 2011, both organizations realized the urgency and importance of strategic partnership and cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States.

4. In its presidential statement, [S/PRST/2012/20](#), the Security Council noted the efforts exerted by the League of Arab States to contribute to collective efforts to settle the disputes in the Middle East peacefully, in addition to enhancing international responses to the transformations that the region was witnessing. In the statement, the Council also acknowledged the importance of cooperation in the field of capacity-building with the League of Arab States, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Furthermore, the Council expressed its determination to take effective steps to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter. Nonetheless, that cooperation is still below the level of ambition and the desired expectations. In his report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other

organizations (A/73/328-S/2018/592), the Secretary-General highlighted the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States on issues concerning international peace and security relating to the prevention of conflicts and their settlement, on peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and on issues relating to human rights, sexual violence in conflict situations, counter-terrorism, water and the migration and asylum crisis.

Purpose

5. The purpose of the session is to emphasize the importance of:

(a) Encouraging an institutional dialogue between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and between the Security Council and the League of Arab States, in order to promote the exchange of experiences, discuss regional approaches for the settlement of disputes and conflicts, including through prevention, mediation, confidence-building and the use of good offices, and address other matters relating to international and regional peace and security;

(b) Addressing the issues that remain impediments in the path to enhancing cooperation and effective partnership between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

Issues

6. Member States may take into consideration the following issues to enhance the discussion:

(a) What steps should the Security Council take to enhance the efficacy of the existing cooperation between the United Nations (Security Council) and the League of Arab States in maintaining regional and international peace and security? How can institutional relations between the League of Arab States and the United Nations be strengthened?

(b) What approach should the Security Council follow in order to activate cooperation and effective partnership between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in conflict and post-conflict situations, in particular in peacebuilding, peacekeeping and sustaining peace?

(c) Should cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States be regularly assessed? Should similar approaches be followed, such as annual meetings between the Security Council and the League of Arab States?

Briefers

7. The following speakers will brief the Security Council:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit