



Security Council briefing on Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, 8 June 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

I thank His Excellency Minister Shaheen, and express my sincere thanks also to the Under Secretary General, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and Dr. Omnia El Omrani for their briefings. I also acknowledge the participation of the representative of Egypt in our meeting today.

Today's meeting underlines the crucial role of regional organisations in the maintenance of peace and security through their extensive understanding of their region and by fostering cooperation.

The League of Arab States remains a contributor to stability and to facilitating dialogue in a region that continues to face multiple challenges.

These include the ongoing stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process, protracted conflicts in Syria and Yemen, political stalemates in Libya and Lebanon, coupled with the instability and outbreak of hostilities we have seen in other countries such as Iraq and the Sudan.

We emphasise the need for long-lasting political solutions to address these ongoing concerns.



To this end, Malta strongly encourages greater coordination between the United Nations and the League of Arab States including through exchanges between Special Envoys and Representatives. We also highlight the key role that the United Nations Liaison Office in Cairo has to play and the importance of the Council's organisation of Informal Interactive Dialogues to develop closer coordination on regional issues of concern.

Millions of people in Syria, Yemen, and the Occupied Palestinian territories remain in acute humanitarian need as a result of conflict.

To address this, the League of Arab States can continue to strengthen its partnership with the UN by expanding its mobilisation of resources for UN humanitarian response plans, host regional emergency humanitarian hubs, expand partnerships, and facilitate the principled delivery of humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed. We look forward to seeing this demonstrated again in July as we move towards the renewal of the humanitarian cross-border mechanism in Syria.

President

The international community has witnessed significant developments in the region over the past few months.



The agreement reached between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume diplomatic ties is a positive development that has the potential to advance peace and stability throughout the Gulf and beyond. To further reduce tensions, it is important that an agreement on a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is achieved.

In light of the decision of the League of Arab States to resume Syria's participation in meetings, it is critical to highlight that actions taken at the global level, including those agreed upon by the Security Council, are supported by actions at the regional level. In this case, a UN-facilitated political process in line with Resolution 2254 is the only way forward.

President

The two organisations share a common goal of promoting peaceful coexistence and advancing peace. This can only be achieved through collaboration in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and in building open and inclusive societies that guarantee freedom of opinion and expression.

We are only able to build such societies if both the United Nations and the League of Arab States promote and protect human rights. They must also ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making, and constructively engage with civil society organisations.



Joint initiatives that seek to advance these goals, such as the support offered to the Arab Women Mediators Network and the holding of training on gender and elections, are to be commended.

It is correspondingly essential that we support youths and empower them to serve as agents of positive change. We must ensure that youths are able to participate in regional peace and security efforts and are provided access to opportunities. Failure on this front makes youths more susceptible to recruitment by terrorist organisations.

On this note, Malta underscores that regional efforts to counter terrorism must always comply with international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

We must also be aware that the Arab world is vulnerable to climate change. We witness the advance of desertification, an increase in droughts, and water insecurity. In this vein, we welcome the cooperation between the two organisations in addressing the effects of climate change on peace and security.

Finally, President, I conclude by reiterating the need for the cooperation between the UN and the League of Arab States to continue. Synergies on countering new challenges and jointly preventing the escalation of conflicts in the region need to be actively pursued.



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It is only through this approach that we can collectively address threats to international peace and security.

I thank you.