Addressed by the Secretary-General of the Arab League at the preparatory meeting of the Economic and Social Council to Baghdad Summit

Secretary General of the Arab League Dr. Nabil Arab League Secretary-General delivered a speech through the Preparatory Meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council for the Arab League Council at the(23) regular session of the summit at the ministerial level held in Baghdad on Tuesday, 27Mar,2012

Following is the text of the speech:

In the name of God the Merciful

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Heads of Delegations,

Heads of specialized Arab organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Beginning of , I express my happiness for my participation with you in the first preparatory meetings at the ministerial level for the Arab summit at its twenty-third session, *which comes convened* at a crucial stage in the , Arabic region, and allow me to congratulate the the sister Republic of Iraq, on the presidency and hosted the work of this important summit on its territory to assume its of Arab usual status. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr.Khairallah Hassan Babiker for his efforts to prepare and organize the work of this ministerial meeting, and congratulate him on assuming the presidency of the preparatory Economic and Social Council for the Arab summit and wished him every success, and emphasizing our cooperation with him in support of economic and social work joint Arab action. Also allow me to extend my thanks to the sister Libya for its efforts during its presidency of twenty-second session of the summit, despite what has faced challenges during that period, and I introduce my sincere thanks to His Excellency Brother Ahmed Salim Alkohley Secretary of the Libyan economy and I wish him and the people of Libya's all success. I extend my thanks and appreciation to my colleagues in the Secretariat on the huge ongoing efforts that have been made in preparation for this important ministerial meeting.

The current stage and its requirements leads us to work hard to steer the joint Arab action to confront the challenges of development, particularly the weak economic growth and slow progress in the face of poverty, high unemployment rates that increasing among young people, and the spread of the manifestations of exclusion and marginalization, and lack of

equality between the genders, and the lack of participation of young people , women , the private sector and civil society in the development process as key partners in this process.

Also stress the importance of completing the implementation of mega-projects that have already adopted by the Arab summit in the areas of electrical connection, railways, food security, in addition to joint ventures major projects relevant to scientific research, renewable energy sources, which would support Arab economic cooperation and bring concrete and direct benefits to the Arab citizen. I would like to note the present ongoing efforts to develop the system of joint Arab action to conform with the requirements and the actual needs of Member States.

As you know, we started the setup and preparation for the third session of the Arab Summit of development: economic, social, to be held in (Riyadh: January / 2013), in the hope that the decisions keep pace with the requirements of change and movement through which the region, and to reconsider the priorities of joint development Arab action, and the hard pursuit to develop a new development Arab model meets the needs of the people.In this framework, we are required to overcome all the difficulties that have prevented implementation of some of the important decisions made by the two development summits first (Kuwait: 2009) and second (Sharm El Sheikh: 2011), which comes in the forefront the lack of necessary funding to the technical difficulties facing the implementation of those decisions. With this in mind, I call to the combined efforts of everyone to work to overcome these difficulties for the full implementation of the resolutions of the summit would contribute to raising the standard of living of Arab citizens, for

which these summits held.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In an effort to achieve sustainable economic development, presented on the agenda today, the adoption of the following three strategies that you, Mr. President would mention,

First: Arab tourism strategy and implementation mechanisms in order to rehabilitate the Arab sector of tourism and its development, through attracting more international tourism to the Arab region and promoting tourism.

Second, water security strategy in the Arab region to overcome the challenges and future requirements for sustainable development, and development and management of limited water resources in the Arab world in order to meet the required nutritional needs.Third, the Arab strategy for disaster risk reduction, which aims to achieve a significant reduction in actual damages resulting from those disasters that are occurring frequently.

Mr. President,

There are only three years on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, despite the national and Arabic efforts that have been made in this area, but there are a number of Arab countries, particularly the least developed of them will not be able to achieve those goals by the year 2015. Although acknowledging the two

development summits first in Kuwait (2009) and the second in Sharm el-Sheikh (2011) Arabic programs for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals , poverty reduction, support the operation and the reduction of unemployment, what has been done so far has yet to reach the desired goals, for lack available of financial resources, and technical difficulties faced by a number of Member States, which I sought to explain it in detail in the report of the Secretary-General before the summit, which included proposals aimed at overcoming these difficulties, first and foremost , support the specialized ministerial councils in the social areas that made initiatives in this regard .

In this framework, and implementation of the resolution of Development Summit II (Sharm el-Sheikh 2011), is presented on the agenda, the issue of preparing for the Arab Conference of the Millennium Development Goals to be held at the end of this year, in order to visualize the movement of development until the year 2015 and beyond, in preparation for submission to the third development Summit (Riyadh: 2013) for approval and to represent Arab position on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in front of the high-level conference of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals in 2013.

I emphasize the need to provide all financial resources and technical and logistical support of the Secretariat and support their efforts to prepare for this important conference, in coordination with the ministerial councils and Arab specialized organizat

ions and United Nations agencies operating in the Arab region in a way to ensure the holding of the conference at best and easiest conditions and achieve the desired results.

Proceeding from the importance of strengthening Arab partnership and supporting mechanisms for joint Arab action and the development of resources and capacity to improve the conditions of children in the Arab region, is presented on the agenda of your Council, Marrakesh Declaration of the Fourth Arab Conference on Rights of the Child (2010) for submission to the summit as an action platform committed by the Member States during the five coming years, and I hope that your esteemed Council approval to contribute to the direction and coordination of efforts on behalf of the Children, and secure the necessary funding in cooperation with international and regional organizations , the private sector and civil society organizations.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have important work to lay together the rules for the joint Arab action in both economic and social fields, to work on the promotion of development paths to be more biased towards the Arab people, especially the poor, women and youth.

Mr. President, thank you and congratulate you again and wish you a successful presidency.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God