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**The statement adopted at the ninth meeting of the Arab Ministerial Committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem**

Cairo – April 23, 2025

The Arab Ministerial Committee tasked with mobilizing international action in response to illegal Israeli policies and actions in the occupied city of Jerusalem convened its ninth meeting under the presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with the membership of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the current Chair of the Arab Summit, the State of Palestine, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Tunisia, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on April 23, 2025 on the sidelines of the 163rd Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Ministerial Level.

The meeting was conducted pursuant to Resolution 8660, adopted by the Council of the League on May 11, 2021, during the Extraordinary Session convened in response to the Israeli aggression against the occupied city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants, including the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. The resolution mandated the establishment of an Arab Ministerial Committee tasked with engaging with the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and other influential international actors.

The Committee deliberated on the ongoing Israeli violations and grave measures targeting occupied Jerusalem and its sanctities, and explored avenues for unified Arab action to halt the condemned systematic Israeli practices and violations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ayman Al-Safadi presented a comprehensive briefing on the latest Israeli transgressions in Jerusalem, as well as on the

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activities undertaken by the Committee since its eighth session held in September 2024. He reviewed the efforts initiated by the Member States with countries of international influence to confront the Israeli violations targeting the city of Jerusalem, its residents, and its Islamic and Christian sanctities. He delved into the means of confronting and curbing these reprehensible and unlawful practices, particularly in light of the continued Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip, its blatant disregard for ceasefire commitments in the Strip, and the grave escalating situation in the West Bank.

The Committee also listened to a detailed briefing from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, who asserted the urgent need for unified Arab and international efforts to end the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem, and to halt the acts of aggression, genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people—crimes that extend to the city of Jerusalem, its residents, and its sanctities. She noted that these practices contravene international law, international legitimacy, and humanitarian values, posing a threat to international peace and security. The Palestinian people continue to endure severe apartheid policies aimed at their displacement and the Judaization of the city. These illegal policies include the intensification of home demolitions, assaults on sacred sites—particularly the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif—in addition to attempts to terminate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' (UNRWA) operations and shut down its headquarters, and the arbitrary arrest and house detention of minors. In response, Arab countries are called upon to employ all available political, legal, and economic tools to counter these systematic Israeli violations and any attempts to alter the legal status of Jerusalem.

Committee members condemned the Israeli encroachments on religious sites as a flagrant violation of international law and a dangerous escalation. They reiterated their rejection and denunciation of Israeli policies targeting the Arab, Islamic, and Christian identity of Jerusalem and its sanctities in violation of its historical and legal status. The Committee reaffirmed the need to intensify joint Arab action to confront these illegal measures, protect the historical and legal status quo, and confront all attacks on Islamic and Christian sanctities in the occupied city of Jerusalem. They stressed the importance of bolstering the resilience of Jerusalem's residents and shielding them from the continued threats posed by settlement expansion, home demolitions, land confiscation, and displacement of Palestinians.

The Committee members also condemned the incursions into the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif by extremist Israeli ministers and officials, as well as the escalating measures pursued by the extremist Israeli

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government aimed at altering the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and its holy sites. These actions seek to impose new realities on the ground, culminating in efforts to enforce a temporal and spatial division of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

In addition, the Committee members denounced Israel's continued facilitation of settler and extremist Jewish group incursions into the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces, alongside their provocative behaviors and tours. They further condemned the restrictive Israeli policies that hinder the entry of worshippers into the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque for prayer, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan, as well as similar constraints imposed on Christian worshippers to deny them access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem to observe their religious rites.

The ministers reaffirmed that Israel holds no sovereignty over Jerusalem or its sacred sites, and reiterated that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. They rejected all attempts to undermine Palestinian sovereignty or to alter the legal status of the city. Moreover, they stressed the importance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace, contingent upon ending the occupation and establishing an independent, sovereign, viable, and geographically contiguous Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the June 4, 1967 borders and the two-state solution, in accordance with international law, the Arab Peace Initiative, and relevant international resolutions.

The ministers asserted the imperative of implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestinian cause, with particular reference to Security Council Resolutions 252, 267, 476, 478, and 2334, the resolutions of the UNESCO Executive Board and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which confirmed the status of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif—spanning the entirety of its 144 dunams—as an exclusive place of worship for Muslims and an integral component of a World Cultural Heritage site imperiled by Israeli practices.

The participants affirmed the pivotal role of the historical Hashemite Custodianship in safeguarding the Arab, Islamic, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, as well as in preserving their identity and upholding their historical and legal status quo. They stressed that the Jerusalem Endowments and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs Directorate, under the Jordanian Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Holy Sites, retains sole and exclusive authority over all matters related to the administration of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and the regulation of access thereto.

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Furthermore, the ministers reasserted the essential role of the Al-Quds Committee and its executive arm, the Bayt Mal Al-Qods Acharif Agency, expressing their support for the committee's ongoing efforts.

The ministers condemned the Israeli policies and legislation aimed at dismantling and terminating the operations of the UNRWA, including the closure of its centers, particularly in occupied Jerusalem. They denounced the occupying authorities' decision to evacuate UNRWA's main headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and to shutter its educational institutions in the Shuafat refugee camp—measures which directly jeopardize the rights and livelihoods of over 110,000 refugees dependent on the agency's services in the occupied city of Jerusalem.