

The Riyadh Declaration

Excerpts from the final communique of the [Arab League](#) summit
By Agence France Presse (AFP)

Friday, March 30, 2007

We, the leaders of Arab states, meeting in the 19th session of the council of the League of [Arab States](#) at the summit level ...declare our resolve: On Iraq - Affirm that the Arab view of the political and security solution to the challenges that Iraq is facing is based on the following main factors: respect of Iraq's unity, sovereignty and independence and its Arab identity

- Reject any calls for (Iraq's) partition, stressing the need to not intervene in its domestic affairs;
- The realization of stability in Iraq ... requires a balanced political and security solution that would tackle the causes of the crisis and eradicate the roots of sectarian strife and terrorism
- Security and stability in Iraq is the responsibility of the government of national unity, constitutional institutions and political leaderships.
- Affirm the support of Arab and neighboring states to all efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation including: expanding the political process to include a wide variety of Iraqi factions; permanently eliminating sectarian incitement and isolating those factions that seek to inflame strife and the urgent convening of a national reconciliation conference; a speedy amendment of the constitution and an end a program uprooting former members of [Saddam Hussein's](#) ruling Baath Party; the need for the equal distribution of national resources among all Iraqis; the need for neighboring countries to play an active role to help Iraq consolidate its security and stability; boost border security measures to prevent infiltrators from crossing into Iraq; non-interference in its internal affairs and confronting terrorism and violence ...

On [the Arab-Israeli conflict](#): -

Consolidate effective Arab solidarity which contains crises and settles disputes between member states peacefully, within the framework of activating the Arab security and peace council approved by previous Arab summits; development of dialogue with regional neighboring countries in accordance with unified and specified Arab positions; revival of collective Arab security protection institutions and confirming its terms of reference stipulated in Arab covenants; and attempting to meet Arab defense and security needs.

- Affirm a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option for the Arab nation and the Arab peace initiative that draws the right path for reaching a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb>

- Call on Israel to "accept the Arab peace initiative and seize the available opportunity to resume direct and serious negotiations on all tracks."

- Create working groups to carry out contacts with the [United Nations](#), United States, Europe and Russia to mobilize support for this initiative and start serious negotiation.

- Act diligently to protect the Arab identity ... and strengthen belonging to it in the hearts and minds of children, adolescents and young men and women, since Arabism is not a racist or ethnic concept, rather it is a unified cultural identity, with the Arabic language as its means of expression.

- Give utmost priority to the development of education ... so as to deepen the common Arab identity, respond to the needs of modernization and comprehensive development, deepen the values of dialogue and creativity, and strengthen human rights principles and women's effective, positive participation.

- Develop joint Arab action in the educational, cultural and scientific fields, through activation of existing institutions and offering them the required significance and the needed human and financial resources, particularly concerning the advancement of scientific research; the joint production of books, programs and materials for children and teenagers; the launching of a broad translation movement from and to the Arabic language; and the promotion of the Arabic language ... in all fields, including communications, mass media, Internet, and science and technology.

- Spread the culture of moderation, tolerance, dialogue and openness, to reject all forms of terrorism and extremism as well as all exclusionary, racist trends, campaigns of hatred and endeavors to question our humanistic values or defame our religious beliefs and holy places, and to warn against growing sectarianism for political purposes that aims to divide our nation and ignite destructive sedition and civil strife."