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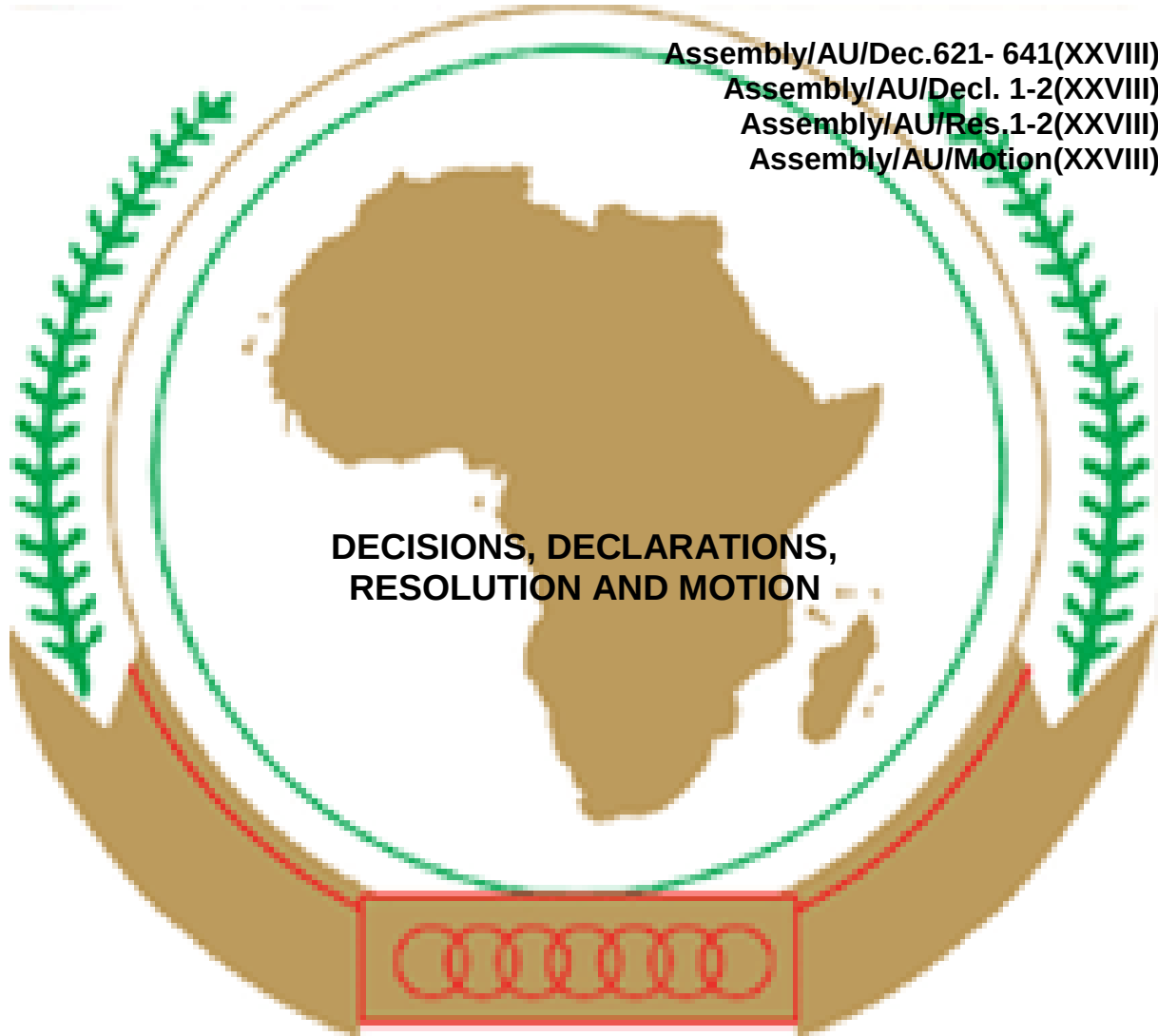
**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session
30 - 31 January 2017
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

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Assembly/AU/Res.1-2(XXVIII)

Assembly/AU/Motion(XXVIII)



**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS,
RESOLUTION AND MOTION**

**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN
PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/993(XXX)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2017;

Taking Note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and **recalling** all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the Situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

Reaffirming our full support to the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent state co-existing peacefully with the State of Israel and **commending** the recent reconciliation deal reached on 15 January 2017 in the Russian capital Moscow, between Palestinians Organizations to form a unity government;

Reiterating our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions to ensure the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital;

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

Re-Reaffirming our full support to all initiatives aimed at bringing peace to the region in particular the Arab Peace Initiative and the French initiative of holding international peace conference aimed at re-launching negotiations to solve the Palestine-Israeli conflict on specific timeframe;

Condemning the illegal settlements in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and in the occupied territory of the Syrian Golan Heights and the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes and all measures of collective punishment;

Denouncing the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including women and children, which are contrary to the international law and international humanitarian law;

Calling on the Israeli government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally.

Equally Demanding that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against civilian populations as well as arbitrary arrests of Palestinians including children and women

which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children;

WE HEREBY:

1. **DEMAND** the International Community to find an ever-lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli Conflict based on the relevant international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
2. **CALL ON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian and Arab Political prisoners in Israeli jails and support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols;
3. **FURTHER CALL ON** members of the international community to refrain from transferring embassies and diplomatic missions accredited to Israel from Tel Aviv to the city of Jerusalem, in order to achieve the foundation of peace based on a two-state solution;
4. **SUPPORT** the outcomes of the International Peace Conference based on the French Initiative and Call for the launching of serious negotiations to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-state solution;
5. **REJECT** the illegal settlements by the Israeli occupation and **HIGHLY COMMEND** the position of the UN Security Council in its resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, which emphasizes the illegality of the settlements built in flagrant violation of international law;
6. **CONDEMN** the land and sea blockage imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, which has led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and **DEMAND** an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
7. **REQUEST** the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, by taking the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of a two-state solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and its previous decisions in this regard;
8. **URGE** Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements built on the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
9. **REQUEST** the United Nations and the Quartet to intervene decisively with a view to pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace negotiations;
10. **FURTHER REQUEST** Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign state over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;

11. **REAFFIRM** the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian Independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
12. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon;
13. **WELCOME** the UNESCO resolution of 26 October 2016 on the conservation of the current status of the Old City of Jerusalem and **CALL ON** all stakeholders to respect this resolution.
14. **CALL UPON** Member States to abide by the Common African Position mentioned in Declarations of AU Summits when the Palestinian issue is discussed in regional and international arenas.

