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Written Contribution presented by
The League of Arab States
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The League of Arab States (LAS), while thanking the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for inviting it to participate in the fifteenth Meeting of its Ministerial Council, aware of the commitment of our two Organizations to the noble objective of achieving peace, security and stability in our respective regions and worldwide, would like to seize this opportunity to inform the dignitaries attending this important Conference of the latest developments concerning the Peace Process in the Middle East .

To that end, we will lay down to you the principal ideas H.E Mr. Amre Moussa, the Secretary General, has underlined in the intervention he made at the Annapolis Peace Conference, the 27th of November 2007.

- The Arab League highly appreciates all efforts targeting to revive the Peace Process in a serious way even if these efforts were exerted in a later stage after a long period of stalemate.
- The Arab World hopes and expects these actual efforts will actively and positively revive the Peace Process and will restore confidence in order to resume negotiations, frozen for a long period of time, and hence enable the establishment of a sustainable peace, security and stability in the region.
- The Arab public opinion has suspicions towards this Conference because of the long history of failures that hang over from past attempts and experiences that were unable to attain the targeted peace. Any other failure will increase despair and anger in the region and we should not let this happen.
- The Arab side discards those Israeli voices calling to lower the ceiling of expectations because this reflects their reticence to take the necessary steps to achieve peace and therefore would perpetuate the status quo leaving the region hostage to violence and occupation, as if the required action is to manage the crisis and not to peacefully settle it.

- The Annapolis Conference is required to avoid the past wrong doings and endless negotiations .Israel should undertake all measures leading

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to the complete withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and all Lebanese remaining territories and the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. It is only by then; all Arab States will be ready to normalize their relations with Israel according to the Arab Peace Initiative.

- There is an international consensus that settlement policies should stop immediately and completely, and that these policies are perpetually modifying the geographical and demographical situation on the ground. These policies are contradictory to the rules of international law, exacerbate legitimate anger and obstruct all efforts that could lead to normalize relations with Israel.
- We have been informed, with assertion, that all pending issues for the final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Jerusalem, Refugees, Territory, Water and Security, will be put on the negotiation table and we hope this will come true.
- In this framework, Israel will have to withdraw to the lines and positions of September 28th of the year 2000 in order to pave the way for a complete withdrawal from all territories it occupied in 1967, and permit Palestinian Institutions in Jerusalem to resume their activities, halt the erection of the wall and excavations works in the Holy City and release Palestinian Prisoners.
- It has become very clear to all of us that the policy Israel has followed and called for, mainly established on achieving its security did not and

will not succeed because security should be based on justice and fair peace, not aggression blockades and walls.

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- There is an increasing and a wide conviction that the tense situation in the region will not end without the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. Such settlement should be made within a predetermined time frame during the year 2008 before the end of the term of the actual American Administration. There should be also a monitoring mechanism for the follow up of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. To this connection, the Arab side welcomes the convention of a conference to be held in Moscow in three month time, as a step forward to reaffirm the serious engagement of the international community to achieve peace and avoid the errors of the past.

With regard to the above, the Arab League is confident that through enhanced co-operation with the OSCE, we could positively move forward to establish peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East and the entire world.