**From Palestine to Iran ... regional and international issues at the Al-Ula Summit**

Part of the GCC Leaders Summit in Al-Ula Governorate, Saudi Arabia - January 5, 2021 - REUTERS

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The statement of the summit of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, hosted by Saudi Arabia, included a comprehensive review of regional and international issues, in a way that reflects the Gulf positions on these issues, at the Al-Ula summit, which is intended to become a new stage in the joint political work of the GCC countries.

**Palestine .. Confirm the positions**

Palestine topped the regional and international issues included in the final statement of the summit of the Supreme Council of Gulf Cooperation Council leaders, with the summit stressing the GCC states ’firm positions on the Palestinian issue, as it is the first issue of Arabs and Muslims.

The summit dealt with the issue of Palestinian sovereignty, affirming the Council's support for the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over all the Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement also stressed "ensuring the rights of refugees, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, international references and international legitimacy decisions, and the need to activate the international community's efforts to resolve the conflict."

The summit statement touched on the status of the city of Jerusalem, expressing its condemnation of "the Israeli occupation authorities demolishing dozens of homes in East Jerusalem, and calling on the international community to intervene to stop the targeting of the Palestinian presence and the forced displacement of citizens from the city of Jerusalem, and to try to change the legal character and demographic composition of the city, which contradicts the laws." International, humanitarian and related agreements. "

With regard to settlements, the 41st meeting of the Gulf Summit stressed its rejection of any approach to annexing settlements in the West Bank to Israel, considering this approach "a clear violation of the United Nations Charter, principles of international law and United Nations resolutions."

**Negotiate with Iran**

The threats that Iran poses to the countries of the Gulf region were clearly evident in the statement of the Al-Ula Summit, especially with regard to “interference in the affairs of Arab countries, the nuclear and missile program, and its behavior that the region’s countries describe as destabilizing, in addition to the Iranian occupation of the UAE islands.”

The summit statement expressed its "complete rejection of the continuation of Iranian interference in the internal affairs of the GCC states and the region ... and their feeding of sectarian and sectarian conflicts."

The summit affirmed the necessity of preventing nuclear proliferation and completing efforts aimed at creating a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, stressing that any negotiation process with Iran should include addressing its destabilizing behavior in the region and Iran's missile program, including ballistic missiles, cruise and drones, And the Iranian nuclear program.

It also condemned actions targeting the security and safety of navigation, marine installations, energy supplies, oil pipelines, and oil installations in the Arabian Gulf and waterways, including the sabotage attack on oil supply facilities for global markets in Saudi Arabia in September 2019, and the international investigation showed Iran's involvement in it, Welcome With the decision of the United States of America to classify the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization.

The summit affirmed the positions of the Council regarding "condemning Iran's continued occupation of the three islands (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa) of the United Arab Emirates." As an integral part of the territory of the United Arab Emirates. "

Despite its firm stances towards Iran, the summit kept the door open to any future improvement in relations that Tehran might impose on changing its behavior, as it emphasized "the importance of building confidence between the Cooperation Council and Iran, in accordance with the principles previously approved by the Council and the Iranian side was informed of it," And adherence to international charters and norms for relations between states, taking into account the security of the region and the aspirations of its people, and defusing the escalation in the region. "

**Supporting legitimacy in Yemen**

Regarding the Yemeni issue, the summit stressed the firm positions and decisions of the Cooperation Council regarding support for the legitimate government in Yemen, represented by President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, and his government, to end the Yemeni crisis and reach a political solution, in accordance with the terms of reference represented by the Gulf initiative and its implementation mechanism, and the outcomes of the comprehensive national dialogue conference And Security Council Resolution 2216.

The summit commended the efforts of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which resulted in the signing of a mechanism to accelerate the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement between the legitimate Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council on July 29, 2020, and welcomed the arrival of the Yemeni government to the temporary capital of Aden on December 30, 2020, to carry out its work.

The summit noted that Saudi Arabia hosted, last June, the donors ’conference for Yemen, in which donor countries pledged $ 1.35 billion to help humanitarian agencies operating in Yemen to continue providing basic and emergency services.

The summit touched on the threats posed by the Houthi group as it continues to target civilians and civilian objects in Saudi Arabia, the city of the continued smuggling of Iranian weapons to the Houthi militia.

**Iraq .. independence and cooperation**

Concerning the Iraqi file, the 41st Gulf Summit affirmed the Council’s positions and decisions on Iraq, stressing "the importance of preserving the integrity, territorial integrity, full sovereignty, Arab identity, social fabric and national unity, and its support for confronting terrorist groups and armed militias and strengthening state sovereignty and law enforcement."

She also welcomed the formation of the Iraqi government headed by Mustafa Al-Kazemi, praising the efforts made by member states to enhance cooperation with Iraq in all fields, noting the steps taken to implement the Memorandum of Understanding and the joint action plan for strategic dialogue and the development of relations between the Cooperation Council system and the Republic of Iraq.

**Political solution in Syria**

Regarding the Syrian crisis, the summit stressed the political solution based on the principles of "Geneva 1" and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, which provides for the formation of a transitional body for government to manage the affairs of the country, draft a new constitution for Syria, and prepare for elections to chart a new future for Syria that fulfills the aspirations of the Syrian people. Brother.

The summit expressed its support for the efforts of the United Nations to work to return Syrian refugees and displaced persons to their cities and villages under international supervision in accordance with international standards, and to provide them with support in countries of asylum, and to reject any attempts to bring about demographic changes in Syria.

The Al-Ula Summit statement affirmed the GCC’s position on preserving the territorial integrity of Syria, respecting its independence and sovereignty over its lands, rejecting regional interference in its internal affairs, and everything that affects Arab national security and threatens international peace and security, renewing its condemnation of the Iranian presence in the Syrian territories, and demanding the exit All Iranian forces, Hezbollah militias, and all sectarian militias that Tehran has recruited to operate in Syria.

**Lebanon's independence**

Concerning the Lebanese issue, the summit reaffirmed the Gulf stances in “preserving the security and stability of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and its Arab affiliation,” and affirmed the necessity of the independence of its political decision and the harmony between the components of its people. The Lebanese state, in a way that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Lebanese people.

**Egypt and the Renaissance Dam negotiations**

In Egypt, the "Al-Ula Summit" stressed support for Egypt's security and stability, appreciating its efforts in strengthening Arab national security, security and peace in the region, combating extremism and terrorism, promoting development, prosperity and prosperity for the Egyptian people, and rejecting interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

The summit expressed its support for the existing efforts to resolve the issue of the Renaissance Dam, in a way that achieves the water and economic interests of the countries concerned, appreciating international efforts in this regard.

**Unity in Libya**

In the Libyan crisis, the summit reaffirmed its support for the United Nations efforts to reach a political solution, and renewed the GCC’s keenness to preserve the interests of the brotherly Libyan people, to the security, stability and territorial integrity of Libya, and to support the efforts made to confront the so-called "ISIS" terrorist organization.

The summit welcomed the announcement by the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives in Libya to cease fire, expressing its hope for the success of the political dialogue between the Libyan parties, placing the Libyan national interest above all considerations, and reaching a permanent solution that guarantees security and stability for the brotherly Libyan people, and their sovereignty over their land and wealth, and prevents External interventions that endanger Arab regional security.

**Peace march in Sudan**

The summit affirmed the council’s positions on the Sudanese file, affirming what it described as “continuous support for everything that contributes to enhancing its security and stability and achieving the aspirations of the brotherly Sudanese people and their legitimate hopes for stability, development and prosperity.”

She expressed the Gulf Cooperation Council congratulations to the leadership and people of Sudan on the occasion of reaching the Juba Peace Agreement, stressing the keenness of the GCC states to continue to support efforts aimed at preserving Sudan's sovereignty, national unity, territorial integrity and protection from external interference.

She welcomed the removal of the name of Sudan from the list of the United States of America of countries sponsoring terrorism, looking forward to its transition to a new stage of development, progress and prosperity, and the exercise of its active and constructive role in the international community.

**Strengthening the partnership with Morocco**

The summit stressed the importance of the special strategic partnership between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Kingdom of Morocco, and directed to intensify efforts to implement joint action plans that were agreed upon within the framework of the strategic partnership between them.

She also affirmed the Council's positions and decisions in support of Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity, expressing its support for the measures taken by the Kingdom of Morocco to establish freedom of civil and commercial movement in the buffer zone of Guerguerat in the Moroccan Sahara.

**Promote development in Jordan**

The summit emphasized support for security, stability and development in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and directed to intensify efforts to implement joint action plans that were agreed upon within the framework of the strategic partnership between the Cooperation Council and Jordan.

**Qatar mediation in the Afghan crisis**

In the Afghan crisis, the Al-Ula Summit appreciated the efforts of the State of Qatar in signing the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban in February 2020, and the start of the Afghan peace negotiations in Doha in September 2020.

The summit expressed its hope that these steps would achieve a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire, restore security and stability in Afghanistan, and achieve the hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people for development and prosperity.

**The Rohingya ... a call to take responsibility**

Regarding the conditions of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar, the summit expressed its condemnation of the brutal attacks and systematic displacement of the Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State and other minorities in Kachin Shan State and other regions in Myanmar.

It called on the international community to assume its responsibilities to stop the acts of violence and displacement, to give the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar their rights without discrimination or ethnic classification, and to facilitate the return of the displaced and refugees to their cities and villages.

She noted the humanitarian aid provided by the GCC states to the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the refugees from them in Bangladesh, and the United Nations organization’s provision in this regard, calling on all countries to provide more aid to them.

**Strengthening international partnerships**

With regard to international partnerships between the Cooperation Council and international parties, the summit called for intensifying efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership with the United States of America, in all fields, praising the efforts made by the United States to strengthen its presence in the region to enhance the security of the region, waterways and freedom of navigation.

It also called for the completion of the implementation of joint action plans, within the framework of the strategic partnership between the Cooperation Council and the United Kingdom in all fields, praising the efforts made by the United Kingdom to strengthen its presence in the region to enhance its security and stability.

It directed to strengthen strategic relations and economic cooperation with France, Russia and the European Union, in addition to completing the necessary measures and programs to strengthen cooperation with the People's Republic of China, India, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, Central Asian countries and the ASEAN Association, and other countries and organizations active in the Asian continent

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