



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

12 February 2013

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 24 October 2012, in response to your letter of 17 October 2012, I am pleased to inform you that the United Nations system supports your call to strengthen United Nations-League of Arab States cooperation across a broad range of issues of mutual concern following the high-level meeting of the Security Council held on 26 September 2012, and to review existing mechanisms of collaboration, including the proposal to update the United Nations-League of Arab States Cooperation Agreement signed in 1989.

I would like to inform you that, at my request, the Department of Political Affairs, as the United Nations system-wide focal point of United Nations-League of Arab States collaboration, has conducted initial consultations with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes regarding proposals contained in your letter dated 17 October 2012. The Department of Political Affairs has also had a fruitful teleconference with the League of Arab States Secretariat and agreed on modalities on the way forward. Both believe that a strategic approach focusing on improving the mechanisms, capacity and resources for promoting more effective and mutually beneficial collaboration between our two Organizations and their agencies is warranted.

Based on the above, I propose that "cluster-to-cluster" reviews at the working level take place over the next three months between counterpart United Nations and League of Arab States agencies in the political, humanitarian, and economic and social areas. These direct contacts between counterpart United Nations and League of Arab States agencies in each of the three proposed clusters will allow a comprehensive assessment of the existing activities and mechanisms of cooperation with a view to coming up with practical proposals, including revising the 1989 Agreement, if necessary.

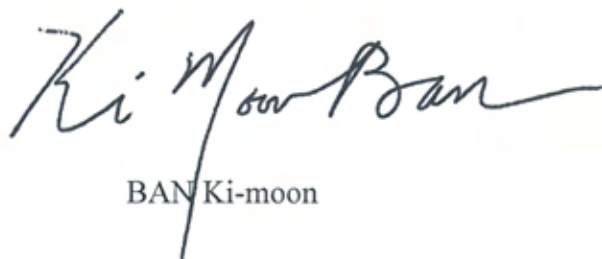
His Excellency
Dr. Nabil Elaraby
Secretary General
League of Arab States
Cairo



At a later stage a joint United Nations-League of Arab States High-level Task Force can be organized as per your proposal to finalize the outcome of the cluster reviews. It will be particularly important for our Organizations to develop a coordinated resource mobilisation strategy to ensure that sufficient funds are available to implement the agreed cooperation projects.

I wish to assure you that the United Nations attaches high priority to strengthening the collaboration with the League of Arab States in all areas of mutual interest. I hope that the ongoing effort to strengthen our cooperation will produce tangible results.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon

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NATIONS UNIES

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

12 February 2013

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Dr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson'.

Jan Eliasson
Deputy Secretary-General

His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Fathalla
Permanent Observer for the League
of Arab States to the United Nations
New York

United Nations



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Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: CDC (through DSG)

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature a letter addressed to the SG of LAS, regarding the UN response to LAS proposals to strengthen UN-LAS collaboration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'As'.

Political Unit
12 February 2013

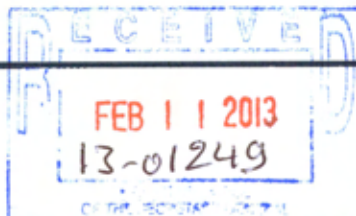
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Note to the Secretary-General

**UN RESPONSE TO LAS PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN
UN-LAS COLLABORATION**

#12-09612

1. You will recall that in his letter dated 17 October 2012, Secretary General of the League of Arab States Elaraby, while referring to the outcome of the 26 September high-level meeting of the Security Council, proposed to strengthen UN-LAS cooperation. In response, you noted on 24 October that the UN would hold internal consultations to that end.
2. Through DPA's contacts with relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as discussions with the LAS Permanent Observer and with the LAS Secretariat in Cairo (via teleconference), it has been agreed that a practical way forward is to have, as the first step, a comprehensive "Cluster-to-Cluster" review of the existing areas of collaboration. Three clusters (political, humanitarian, and economic/social) will be established, allowing for a comprehensive evaluation of the existing patterns of cooperation between UN and LAS counterpart agencies and effective upgrades, if required. In parallel, both sides are expected to come to a conclusion about updating the 1989 UN-LAS cooperation agreement: whether to draft it anew or make amendments to the existing document.
3. The cluster reviews are expected to proceed over the next three months with the expectation that by the end of April recommendations and/or work plans acceptable to both sides are produced. DPA will then consolidate these outcomes into a draft working paper and will explore, in consultation with the LAS counterparts, the timing and composition of a joint UN-LAS high-level Task Force (as proposed by Mr. Elaraby) which will finalize a new Cooperation Framework with specific timelines and benchmarks. It will be particularly important to develop a concrete resource mobilization strategy with the LAS so as to raise funds for agreed projects and programmes.
4. Please find attached a draft reply to Mr. Elaraby, for the Secretary-General's signature, to confirm (a) the UN system's preparedness to work with the LAS Secretariat towards strengthening the cooperation and (b) the agreed practical approach to doing so.


Jeffrey Feltman
08 February 2013

POL/03/005



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

24 October 2012

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 17 October 2012 in which you shared your ideas to strengthen partnership between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in a follow-up to the high-level meeting of the Security Council held on 26 September 2012. As I noted on that occasion, the United Nations is prepared and looks forward to working closely with the League of Arab States with a view to exploring new areas and potential for collaboration and making dialogue between our Secretariats more focused and frequent.

I have taken due note of your suggestion that a joint task force be established to review and develop proposals for updating existing mechanisms of cooperation between our Organizations. I have instructed my staff to start internal consultations regarding your proposals and will inform you of the outcome as soon as possible.

I hope to see our cooperation deepen on all fronts, including our joint efforts to address the Syrian crisis.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

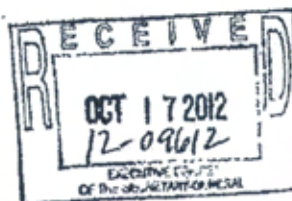
Ki Moon Ban
BAN/Ki-moon

His Excellency
Dr. Nabil Elaraby
Secretary General
of the League of Arab States
Cairo

Attachment

*League of Arab States
The Secretary General*

ACTION Feltman
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October 17th, 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Allow me at the outset to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support to the League of Arab States and to our cooperation with the United Nations in many areas. This effective interaction between the United Nations and the League of Arab States has been mutually beneficial and reinforcing, which recently prompted the Security Council to hold an important high-level meeting on the situation in the Middle East and to discuss ways and means by which to strengthen further our cooperation.

I believe that the high-level meeting of the Security Council, on the 26th of September 2012, has underscored the important principle enshrined in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which encourages regional arrangements to make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes.

The Presidential Statement issued by the Security Council, supported the intent of both Organizations to strengthen their cooperation across a broad agenda of mutual concern. I write to you to consult on the best way by which we can proceed to ensure this.

In this regard, I suggest that we form a joint taskforce between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, to review existing mechanisms of cooperation, and to develop recommendations and proposals for updating and strengthening them. For this purpose, I wish to share with you some of the suggestions that I have in mind regarding our mutual cooperation.

DPA/OUSG

Rec'd. 17/10/2012

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JK / RM / K. G. T. MA



*League of Arab States
The Secretary General*

As I mentioned in my statement before the Security Council meeting on 26th September 2012, I propose that we focus on:-

- Reviewing and updating the Cooperation Agreement signed in 1989 between both Organizations, in order to reflect the ongoing progress and the recent developments.*
- Holding high-level cooperation meetings between the United Nations and the League of Arab States that result in the formulation of practical and applicable programs, especially in the fields of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-keeping, so that the mechanisms of both Organizations can work integrally and in harmony.*
- Increasing the level of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in matters of mutual interest, such as humanitarian aid, the issue of refugees, addressing the situation of victims of wars, conflicts and natural disasters, as well as supporting peace-building efforts and helping countries in rebuilding their civilian and institutional capacities in the aftermath of conflict.*
- Supporting the League of Arab States in increasing its effectiveness in the fields of human development and political development, particularly in supporting Human Rights and monitoring elections, in collaboration with the UNHCR, UNDP and other relevant Agencies.*

Finally, Excellency, I am looking forward to receiving your response, in order to start as soon as possible upgrading and strengthening cooperation between the two Organizations and to identify the priorities that are needed to cope with the emerging challenges.

Sincerely,

Nabil Elaraby

Secretary General

*H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
The Secretary General
United Nations*