

President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his administration has placed the threat of terrorism, both domestic and abroad, at the top of our national security agenda. The current situation in the Arab world and in the international community as a whole is cause for immediate and direct action against all aspects of terrorism.

The United Arab Emirates defines a terrorist offense as “any action or inaction made a crime by this law and every action or inaction made a crime by other law if they were carried out for a terrorist cause.” This definition has been the working definition for the UAE since we implemented the newest round of anti-terrorist laws; these laws are in place to ensure that citizens are secure from terrorist threats both domestic and abroad. The new laws are some of the strictest in the Arab world in relation to combatting domestic terrorism, with convicted terrorists facing capital punishment, life imprisonment, or fines in the hundreds of millions. Some have called these measures arcane in nature, but the UAE believes that the strength and stability of the state directly correlates with the reduction and effective measures taken against terrorist groups. A stable centralized state is the most effective tool against terrorist organizations, as seen by the successful efforts against terrorism by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

When it comes to directly combatting terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, the UAE has played a major role in committing financial and military support to the Arab League as well as to individual nations in the hopes of effectively combatting international terrorism. In February of 2015, we joined Jordan in conducting direct airstrikes against the Islamic State in Syria. We have worked closely with the United States at providing air support in the form of F-16s to help stop ISIS and we plan to continue our commitment to stopping terrorism in the future.

At this meeting of the Arab League, the UAE intends to continue to partner with regional partners to effectively combat the threat of terrorism in the Arab world. However, going forward, we must realize that this is no longer simply a regional issue. Al-Qaeda and ISIS are international threats, and the decisions we make over the course of the weekend will warrant international responses and international ramifications. The UAE continues to support a strong military and political response to terrorist threats both domestic and abroad, and we strongly encourage other nations to implement similar policies to effectively deter terrorist threats. However, the UAE also believes that terrorism is a learned and fostered behavior. We would like the Arab League’s meeting to focus not only on a financial and military response to the growing threat of terrorism, but also for us to realize that terrorism can be combatted by nations putting more funds into social areas as well. Education and economic opportunity, as well as international trade and inclusion are effective tools at combatting terrorism. Perhaps the greatest

efforts should be made to show youth, specifically urban impoverished people, that there are other ways to illustrate beliefs and better ways to improve economic conditions than by joining a terrorist organization.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), and other Member States, have seen the devastating economic, social, and political effects of refugee crises across our region. We have witnessed the adverse effects that these crises cause not only in the individual Member States, but also the surrounding Member States and the region as a whole and our image on the world stage.

Although the Arab League as a whole has experienced tumultuous times, since the creation of the UAE in 1971, our federation has prospered with the support of our petroleum exports and the strong stability of our government. We have stood by our fellow Arab states and aided them in their times of hardship by opening our borders to responsible levels of refugee migration, and by smart international acts to solve the problems that cause mass refugee movements. For example, with the current Syrian refugee crisis, the UAE stood with an international group of nations that imposed sanctions of the Syrian government that was not following international norms on how to treat their citizens. The UAE recognizes the urgency in addressing the rights of refugees along with recognizing the rights of the host nations.

While we sympathize with the refugees that have been forced out of their homes by the conflicts in their respective states, we are observant of the obvious strains these mass migrations of refugees cause on other states' budgets and on the host nations' social and economic problems. The UAE continues to stand by strong international action that include not only states, but also partnerships with NGOs, IGOs and MNCs to combat this serious problem that has the potential to create more problems in the long run for our region.

The United Arab Emirates, after observing the horrid and deteriorating situation in war-torn Syria, proposes more action to be taken by the Member States of the League of Arab States in order to tackle the large-scale predicament that has caused pain to the citizens of Syria, and caused great discomfort to the surrounding nations that include but are not limited to Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq. We advocate for a strong partnership of willing and able nations in our region to provide a safe place for temporary living assistance for refugees, along with financial support from other willing and able nations to aid the host countries balance their budgets as they aid these temporarily displaced persons.

Going forward, the UAE believe that this crisis has become one that the entire Arab League must tackle. We are fighting a two-front conflict in relation to this issue; on one hand, we must provide immediate support to our Arab brothers who have been displaced. On the other, we must continue to strive an end to

the existing civil war in Syria. Preside Al-Assad's policies toward his own people have made the goal of peace in the middle-east even more distant, but it is one that must continue to strive for. The UAE hopes to use this meeting of the Arab League to develop a better and more established regional humanitarian aid plan for the Syrian refugees, as well as to establish a more coherent diplomatic plan going forward in our dealings with President Al-Assad.

Works Cited

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