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Round Table Discussion on “Arab Summit in Dammam 13th of April 2018”

On April 11th 2018, the Council organized a panel discussion on the Arab Summit to be held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the most important issues on the agenda of the Summit and the outcome of the Summit, as the region is witnessing developments and conflicts on regional and international levels. With the participation of the Ambassadors, the Chairman of the Council, the Director and a number of experts and specialists from the Council.

A number of Issues have been reviewed as follows:

With regard to the Palestinian Issue, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim al-Duwairi, a member of the Council, said that the summit is required,

1. Focus on two main principles;

- Rejection of any political projects on the table that undermine the rights of the Palestinians and the Arab constants or contradict any solutions to fundamental issues.
- Returning to the negotiations, especially as the Palestinians and the Arabs are ready to enter into these negotiations with Israel in the coming period under the available references, which allows for the return of the partners to the Palestinian and Israeli partners and to move the negotiations train amid the decline of Palestinian gains and the increase of its Israeli counterpart and the expansion of settlements.

2. The Summit reaffirms its commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative (Beirut 2002), as it is unchanged.

3. To adopt the Abu Mazen peace plan of 20May 2017, a comprehensive peace plan that includes principles, determinants, flexibility and timelines.

Regarding the Syrian file, Ambassador Mohamed Anis Salem, member of the Council, noted the following.

The Saudi Crown Prince affirmed his coexistence with the changes by expressing his readiness to accept the Assad regime during a transitional period. Otherwise, he is subject to disagreement whether the election of a new president, and the problems of the Kurds in the north Syrian military intervention, as well as the problems faced by the Syrian army and all security forces.

The Western objectives are not clear in Syria, which is mapped during the military strike on Syria and the lack of clarity of its objectives. In April, 2017, the United States launched a strike that did not lead to Assad stepping down, and another similar strike in April 2018, whose purpose and duration are unclear. Is there any willingness to venture again?

UN Envoy DeMistura's work will not produce results, and he will only talk about humanitarian aspects and create safe corridors amidst a faltering political process.

There is an attempt by some parties to drag the Arab region to the process of reconstruction of Syria, and talk that this could reduce the Iranian influence and cannot put Iran's exit condition to recognize the current situation.



Details on Pages 4&5

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The meeting was held on Thursday 19th April 2018 in cooperation with the Egyptian Pugwash Society. The session was a tribute to late Dr. Mohammed Shaker, a member of the Board and former Chairman of the Board and one of its founders, who passed away in the last hours of the evening of 28 March 2018.

At the beginning, Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Board, presented the opening of the memorial ceremony, in which he discussed the distinguished biography of the deceased who was known for his competence and seriousness in performing his responsibilities as a brilliant Egyptian diplomat who is respected and appreciated by not only Egyptians but all Arab and foreign diplomats and politicians. It attests to the legacy of academic, scientific, diplomatic and humanitarian heritage of Dr. Shaker.

He said that he had an in-depth study of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He participated in Egypt's delegation to the NPT negotiations in the 1960s, which is a major reference to the NPT and the nuclear nonproliferation regime, which was the subject of his PhD thesis from the Institute for Higher International Studies in Geneva.

Then the attendees were invited to stand up for a minute to mourn the late deceased's spirit and read the Fatihah, and then invite the audience to speak, Where many of them spoke about the friendly relations that they gathered with the late Dr. Shaker and their memories with him and his generosity and cordiality with all, in addition to his respect and chastity and his keenness on the public interest at all national, regional and international levels. Among the personalities who spoke were:

Ambassador Dr. Abdel-Raouf El-Reedy, Dr. Mostafa El-Feki, Dr. Osama El-Ghazali Harb, Ambassador Dr. Amin Shalaby, Dr. Ali El-Din Hilal (former Minister of Youth and Sports), Ambassador Ahmed Haggag, Dr. Hazim Attiatalla, Dr. Hisham El-Sherif (Former Minister of Local Development), Dr. Anisa Hassouna, Dr. Heidi Ghoneim, Dr. Malak Faraji, Ambassador Mounir Faraj, Georg Stillfried (Ambassador of Austria in Cairo), representative of Magdi Yacoub Foundation, and many more ...

In his address to the Council, Ambassador Abdul Raouf Al-Reedy presented a number of proposals for the Council's attention.

1. Publishing a book about the late 'Mohammed Shaker and the issue of proliferation of nuclear weapons', so that some colleagues from the Council put the main elements dealt with in this book and personalities that can contribute to the knowledge and thought in writing, this book is not only an important work of the Council, but also In honor of the late Dr. Shaker and his well-known experience in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.

2. Aswan Forum

3. Quarterly magazine in the format of the 'Foreign Affairs' of the American Council on Foreign Relations.

4. Conducting an evaluation of the work of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs after twenty years of its establishment (2019).

(The Editor)

Meeting with Mr. Nabil Fahmy, former Minister of Foreign Affairs To talk about "Is nuclear armaments in the Middle East an imperative?"

On June 12, 2018 and upon an invitation from Ambassador Abdelraouf Al Reedy, the honorary Chairman of the Council, ECFA received former Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy to discuss his article published in Al-Ahram on 20 May 2018 on "Is Nuclear Disarmament in the Middle East an Imperative?" It was attended by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council and a number of ambassadors, experts and academics of the Council.

He was keen to inform the audience about the content of the paper and the proposals it contained, instead of the withdrawal from the nuclear agreement with Iran or the withdrawal of other parties from it, where he proposed dealing with the failure of the agreement comprehensively, especially supported all countries in the Middle East, in principle, including Iran and Israel have established a free zone of weapons of mass destruction. Egypt has shown its readiness to accede to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Convention (CWC) if Israel accedes to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The movement entails five steps:

- 1) To establish a negotiating group from the countries of the Middle East, under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council, to provide continuity and work within the framework of the United Nations, with the participation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBTO), the most relevant technical organizations, in order to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction and to preserve their means of delivery.
- 2) This can be achieved under the umbrella of one major system that brings together all countries of the region and various weapons of mass destruction, or by acceding to existing international agreements, adding some inspection procedures and the issue of means of delivery. The preferred choice for Mr. Fahmy is a combination of the two propositions.
- 3) The confirmation of the seriousness of the negotiating parties and prior to the commencement of the negotiations, they shall submit letters to the Security Council in which they commit themselves to achieving that objective during the period of the Joint Action Plan for the Iranian Nuclear Program (JCOAP).
- 4) The need to commit themselves not to develop their weapons of mass destruction during the ongoing negotiations. In this context, the international organizations concerned with the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction (IAEA, OPCW, CTBTO) can offer some confidence-building measures, provide a better environment for negotiation and contribute to the development of the verification system.
- 5) It is no exaggeration to say that the Middle East is on the verge of an extremely dangerous arms race, and the countries of the region and the international community have two options, either to begin serious and comprehensive negotiations on ensuring that all countries in the region are committed to eliminating nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, or bear the serious consequences of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among the countries of the region as a result of the international community's failure and double standards.



Ambassador/ Nabil Fahmy during his speech on "Is Nuclear armaments in the Middle East an imperative?" - 12th June 2018

Issues of Palestine, Syria, Libya and Yemen At the upcoming Arab summit

During the Round table discussion, in addition to the Palestinian and Syrian Issues a number of other Issues were reviewed as follows:

On the vision of the situation in Yemen, Ambassador Youssef Ahmed, Former Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen,

Emphasize, that the political solution is the basis for resolving the Yemeni crisis, and speeding up in the face of the humanitarian disaster facing that country. Egypt's condemnation of the Al-Houthi group of launching ballistic missiles targeting

several cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including the capital Riyadh, cooperation between the coalition countries and the League of Arab States and the UN Special envoy on Yemen, and launching cease-fire initiatives.

Consider appointing an envoy of the League of Arab States to Yemen, within the framework of supporting and revitalizing the role of the League in the settlement of Arab crisis. Setting up a mechanism and timetable for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2216 on Yemen, forming committees to develop and implement confidence-building measures between the two sides, and other military and security forces to oversee the implementation of ceasefire agreements; and third to prepare for elections for new leadership and constitution; and stressing the establishment of a federal state for a period of time in accordance with the outputs of the national dialogue and the hands of the Yemenis themselves. The negotiations and dialogues should be conducted in accordance with the basic terms of reference for resolving the Yemeni issue, the relevant UN resolutions, in particular resolution 2216, the Gulf initiative and the outputs of the Yemeni national dialogue. Emphasizing that the threat of navigation in Bab al-Mandab is a red line, and condemning the Houthi attacks on Saudi ships in the Red Sea.

On the Libyan file, Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, said,

- The efforts of the UN Special Envoy for the Arab League, Salah al-deen AlJamali, to unify the Libyan parties and to develop ideas for reaching agreement on the amendment of the Sokhirat agreement. There is continuous coordination between the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and UN Special Envoy Ghassan Salama.
- There is coordination and joint action within the framework of the international quartet on Libya, which includes the Arab League, the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations. There is Arab involvement in the preparation of the upcoming Libyan National General Conference, which will be held on April 15th in the hope of finding solutions and mechanisms for national reconciliation and comprehensive unification of Libyan state institutions.
- Egypt is making efforts to unify the Libyan military establishment and restructure it.
- The Western approach focusing only on refugee issues, migration and other issues does not fall under this approach.
- Moscow plays a role in the current international moves on Libya and Egypt encourages this role, especially since Russia has a good working relationship with the Libyan national army.



ECFA Members Discussed number of Issues on Arab Summit Agenda in Dammam- 11th April 2018



Ambassador Sayed Abu Zaid spoke about the Iraqi file, pointing out the following points: That Iraq, since the invasion, witnessed deteriorating conditions and even after the defeat of terrorism, and there are tensions on the internal arena related to the elections in light of the intensification of competition between the electoral lists, such as "Saerun" and "coalition Dawlat Alkanon," which includes former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and the alliance of victory and others, the economic situation and inability to collect up to 15% of the donors conference in Kuwait, as well as the problems of the Kurds, and therefore it is the responsibility of the summit to discuss the situation of Arab national security, and deteriorating security conditions in the presence of factions to organize ISIS.

He concluded his intervention by calling for the importance of the Arab summit to emphasize the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, especially since the state of chaos and instability is one of the dangers facing the Arab national state, condemning any foreign intervention, as well as mobilizing Arab efforts to address the Iraqi economic crisis; and the need to open an in-depth Arab dialogue with the Arab countries to strengthen cooperation with the Iraqi state in the face of crisis.

The work of the seminar concluded with an intervention of Ambassador EzzatSaad on terrorism, stressing that;

That the Arab League has been making efforts for a while under the leadership of Egypt to develop an Arab system to combat terrorism. In this context, the decision of the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers was adopted (Resolution No. 8262 of March 7, 2018, 149th Session), which will be presented to the Summit for adoption.

Noting that the problem of the Arab system in the field of combating terrorism lies in how to reconcile between the countries active in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and the coordination at the international level, especially since resolution 8262, which mentioned the international dimensions of combating terrorism and the state's obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions issued under the powers of the Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Lecture by Dr. Nabil al-Arabi on "the failure of the "international collective security system Wednesday 18 April 2018



The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs hosted Ambassador Dr. Nabil al-Arabi on Wednesday evening, April 18th 2018, former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, to talk about the international collective security system and the reasons for its failure. The session was chaired by Ambassador Dr. MounirZahran, President of the Council, and attended by a group of Egyptian diplomatic and intellectual elite.

Dr. Al-Arabi has put forward the causes for the failure of the international collective security system, proposing the following elements as a start for treating that failure:

- 1) To make a serious attempt to determine the scope of the use of the veto before the United Nations Security Council by amending the text of article 40 of the Council's Rules of Procedure so as to state explicitly that its decisions on humanitarian matters and the use of weapons of mass destruction are outside the scope of its veto.
- 2) To promote the revitalization of the responsibilities of the General Assembly and to use world public opinion efficiently to put pressure on States whose behavior threatens international peace and security.
- 3) To revitalize the role of the Non-Aligned Movement, which at a certain stage represented a universal conscience, which in cooperation with the European Union, could try to rebalance international relations.

Meeting of the Standing Committee for Arab Affairs

On the 30th of April 2018, a meeting of the Standing Committee for Arab Affairs, chaired by Ambassador IhabWahba, Coordinator of the Committee, was held at the Council's headquarters. It was attended by Ambassador Dr.EzzatSaad, Director of the council and a number of members of the committee, to discuss the Arab summit and the situation in the Arab region as a whole, following the tripartite Western strike on Syria.

The meeting concluded with a number of results as follows:

- The need for more Egyptian-Saudi coordination on all issues of the region, and to stress that the source of the first threat to Arab national security is Israel, not Iran.
- To activate the Egyptian role on the Arab issues, and in order to do so, the meeting recommended the resumption of dialogue between Egypt and Iran and Turkey, where the two countries play significant roles in various files in the region, especially in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.
- That Russia's strategic interests in Syria are a priority for the Russian presence there, and if President Putin received assurances from the West that Ukraine will not enter the European Union and will not join NATO, then Russia will have no interest in staying in the Middle East.
- The Arab regimes must move and turn to their brothers and talk to the Syrians, not just the idea of sending troops, as suggested by the Armists, an idea that is not acceptable at the moment.
- The Western tripartite strike on Syria appeared to be marginal and has no value and no effect. The proof is that the three countries gave early warnings to all the countries there, whether Syria or Russia, and determined the places to be hit, and was not affected by the Russian or Iranian strike, or even the Syrians. It aimed at sending an American message to Russia that the arena will not be left to them and that any arrangements regarding Syria must be the United States in its heart.

The implications of the US withdrawal from Iran's nuclear deal

On May 15th 2018, the Council held a closed panel discussion on the implications of the withdrawal of the United States from the Iranian nuclear deal on May 8th 2018, both on the process of nuclear non-proliferation and the regional situation in the Middle East. The symposium was held at the initiative of Ambassador Abdul Raouf Al-Raidi, Honorary Chairman of the Council, with the participation of Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, President of the Council and a number of ambassadors, experts and academics members of the Council. The seminar concluded the following points:

- 1) The decision to withdraw within the framework of the Trump management strategy and vision in how to control the current international situation, and consistent with the impact of a number of inputs, the most important impact of Israel and Saudi Arabia, and revolves this strategic vision on preventing the completion of the changes of the international system to prevent the rise of China and the Russian Federation of transformation To the international poles competing, and to redress what the exercise revealed defects of the Iranian nuclear agreement (only to limit the military nuclear option, without addressing Iran's missile capabilities and regional expansion of Iran), recognizing the performance of Trump of populism and transgressions and a challenge to International agreements – which is explained in the extreme roots of Yemen.
- 2) In this context, it is useful to take into account not only the European reaction, but also the specificity and robustness of Sino-Russian coordination (which is at the top of strategic coordination in the Arctic and in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty).
- 3) The next challenge is the extent to which the European position is consistent in opposing, or not in line with, US policy. Here the views differ between expectations of a gradual European decline and the continuation of the European position, which will be the beginning of profound shifts in the structure of transatlantic relations.
- 4) The Egyptian strategy faces a delicate and complex position to balance several considerations.
 - Considerations of partnership and deep common interests between Egypt and the Gulf States.
 - Egypt's consistent policy regarding the denuclearization of the region and other weapons of mass destruction.
- 5) On the other hand, the multiple dimensions mentioned in item 4 refer to the multiplicity of Egyptian decision-making inputs in relation to Iran and the Iranian nuclear file crisis, and there is a need for a calm Egyptian move to communicate between the parties and to remove or calm tensions and congestion, which requires consideration of changing the language of interaction with the Saudi and Gulf sides, which would allow the future to start a gradual and disciplined communication with the Iranian side through informal Egyptian channels, which will ultimately lead to two things. The first is to calm the sectarian tension that Israel is benefiting from and is not in the interest of the region, and second, to report and support the area of action and the Egyptian role regionally and internationally.

Meeting Minutes with the head of the Iranian Interests Office in Cairo

On June 7th 2018, Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council and Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, received Ambassador Nasser Kanani, Head of the Office of the Interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cairo, at the headquarters of the Council in Maadi, where the meeting addressed the following:

- The Iranian guest was keen to emphasize the special importance of the cultural relations between the two countries, pointing out the cooperation between Al-Azhar and the religious authority in Iran and the relations between the two historical institutions during the Shah's rule and their role in bringing the sects closer to Islam. In this context, he pointed out that most of the religious authorities in Iran have positive impressions of Al-Azhar and wish to revive their relations with him, and they asked the head of the Office to work on this during his work in Cairo.
- He said that while they understand the current conditions in Egypt and their keenness not to cause trouble for them, there is a need to resolve and revive bilateral relations and cooperate on resolving the crises of the region by activating contacts between the two countries in various fields.

In conclusion, the Iranian guest stressed on the following:

- The Syrian file has become a complicated file, and all its interpretation of what is happening there, and on the field there is great progress in favor of the Syrian regime, and with the exception of limited military operations here and there, the file is completely political.
- The current tension in Syria exists only in two areas: first on the Turkish-Syrian border and the second on the Syrian-Israeli border.
- Excludes any political intention of Israel, and no possibility, to wage war against Iran or its allies in the region, and what is happening between the two countries is a kind of hit and run.

Meeting with Chinese Special Envoy for the Peace Process in Syria Sunday 22nd of April 2018

On 22nd of April 2018, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the Council with Ambassador XieXiachaoan Chinese Special Committee for the Peace Process in Syria and its accompanying delegation, with the participation of Ambassadors Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, Ali Al-Hefny, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee for Asian Affairs at the Council, Hisham Al-Zmaiti, Secretary General of the Council, MagdiAmer and Abdel Fattah Izz El-Din, members of the Council. The meeting included the following points:

- The Chinese envoy stressed that China encourages dialogue and will play an important role in bringing the views of the parties concerned closer. It also played a role in the Korean crisis. It also plays a role in promoting dialogue and negotiation between the opposing groups in Syria and holding international and regional conferences to achieve common ground among all players to resolve the crisis. But one can not forget the existence of parties who fear the Chinese rise as well as the division of the international community and division within the Security Council.
- The US decision to use military force and its continued support for the militias in Syria will lead to further escalation in light of the conflict between these groups and their differing interests, as well as continued support of the regional forces of many militias and armed groups.
- The solution to the crisis can only be achieved through a transparent and expanded dialogue with all parties, abandoning the use of force and stopping the escalation of the conflict, especially since this will not lead to stability of the region.

Meeting with the delegation of the Shanghai Institute for Political Studies (SIIS) Sunday 22nd April 2018

On April 22nd 2018, a meeting was held at the headquarters of with the delegation of the Shanghai Institute for Political Studies (SIIS)delegation. It was attended by Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, Ambassador Ali Al-Hefny, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee for Asian Affairs at the Council, Ambassador Hisham Al-Zmaiti, Secretary General of the Council, Ambassador Magdi Amer, and Ambassador Abdul Fattah Ezzeldin members of the council The Chinese delegation consisted of, Ye Qing, Vice-Director of the Shanghai Institute for Political Studies, Prof. Li Weijian, Institute researcher and researcher, Prof. Wang Yuzhu, Social Researcher, Mr. Wang Senhao,



Shanghai Institute for Political Studies' Delegation (SIIS) during their meeting with ECFA members, 22nd April 2018

Third Secretary, Political Planning Department, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- The meeting began with Dr. Ye expressing his happiness at the regular meetings held between the two sides to discuss and consult on various issues, noting that the Chinese president is keen on many occasions to open a dialogue to discuss ways to open up to the world and enhance cooperation with international partners, especially the Arab world. The Arab-Chinese Forum will be held in Beijing next June to discuss ways to enhance cooperation. Beijing will host a major international exhibition from November 5-10, and a seminar on Arab-Chinese relations will be held on the sidelines.
- The meeting concluded by stressing that China is constantly evaluating the agreements and follow-up implementation and work with its partners to address the obstacles to implementation, and study the reasons for stopping, noting that the initiative of the belt and the Silk Road will benefit all countries and make joint efforts. There is an evaluation of the projects under the initiative and several studies are undertaken prior to the conclusion of any agreements.
- That the progress and development witnessed by Egypt within the framework of the international organizations are tangible indicators of this improvement, and focus on strengthening the local economy and face many crisis and challenges and try to work to achieve stability in the region and face the developments in many issues, and there are many opportunities for cooperation between the two sides .
- What happened in Syria is an example of the game of balance of power between nations. When the United States saw the balance of power being disrupted, the last military intervention was to give a political message that the United States would not allow others to control the drawing of the Syrian situation and the region as a whole.

The development of relations between Egypt and China in a visit of a delegation from the Council to China

At the invitation of the Chinese Association for Friendship (CAF), a delegation of the Council visited China from 7 to 11 May 2018, consisted of ambassadors, Mounir Zahran, Hisham Al-Zamaity, Ezzat Saad and Ali Al-Hefny. The Chinese delegation consisted of Chen Zhimin, president of the China Association of Friendship and member of the CPC Central Committee and deputy director of the Social and Legal Affairs Committee of the CPC Central Committee, and membership of Mr. Wang Sijie Director of China Association for Friendship and Former China's Special Envoy to the Middle East, Mr. Yin Gang Researcher at the Institute of West Asia and Africa of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Deputy Secretary General of Middle East Society of China, Mr. Wang Lincong Assistant to the Director at the Institute of West Asia and Africa of Chinese Academy of Social Science and Director of the Office of International Relations, Prof. Dai Xiaoqi Professor at the Department of Arabic Language of Beijing International Studies University, Mr. Chen Shaoxin Deputy Secretary General of China Association for Friendship, Mr. Gu Fan Deputy Secretary General of China Association for Friendship. The visit included participation in a seminar on "Egyptian-Chinese social issues ... stability and development"

The conclusions and recommendations of the symposium are as follows:

- The development process in any country depends on its stability, and there is an organic link between the two as development is to ensure stability. In this context, Egypt was the first country in the region to overcome the repercussions of the Arab Spring and restore its stability after the successful campaign to combat terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula.
- The Chinese side expressed its optimism about the future of Egypt, praising the foundations of the development process set up by President Sisi and the Egyptian economy witnessed in recent years, recovery and achieving growth rates of about 5% of GDP, all of which have positive repercussions on the movement of foreign direct investment to Egypt and its overall economic and social conditions.
- Egyptian-Chinese bilateral relations have witnessed positive developments since the June 30th 2013 revolution and the numerous visits by President Sisi to China, as well as the historic visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Egypt in January 2016. In this context, emphasis was placed on the special importance of investing in the economic zone of the Suez Canal, especially in light of its importance to the economic belt of the Silk Road.
- The discussion touched on the situation of Muslims in China, especially in the Xinjiang autonomous Region in northwest China, where the Chinese side pointed out that there are no restrictions on the construction of mosques there and the improvement of economic and social conditions in the province, with positive implications. The Chinese side was interested in learning about the relationship between religion and politics in Egypt and the mechanisms provided by the Egyptian state to combat poverty. In this regard, the Chinese side pointed out that 25.2% of the Chinese, the overwhelming majority of whom are in rural areas, continue to suffer from poverty as the state seeks to develop the health and education services provided to them.
- The two sides agreed to intensify exchanges of visits between them and further consultation on issues of bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues of common concern.

Minutes Mr. Ibrahim Al-Duwairi and the Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Cairo Ms. Liu Yong

On May 9th 2018, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the Council, which included Mr. Ibrahim Al-Duwairi, an expert in Palestinian and Israeli studies, with the Minister Delegate from the Chinese Embassy in Cairo, Ms. Liu Yong, to discuss current developments in the Palestinian arena.

During the meeting, a number of points were emphasized:

- The solution of the Palestinian issue is important to maintain Egyptian and Arab national security and stability of the region.
- The two-state solution is the only solution to the Palestinian crisis and to achieve peace by establishing a Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state.
- The imposition of any solution from any party will return negatively to the overall situation on the ground and will cause aggravation, and reluctant to deal with the "century" American to disregard the rights of the Palestinian people in an independent sovereign state is an unacceptable solution, and this rejection included in the final statement of the Arab summit in Dammam.
- Egypt supports the resumption of negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides and makes efforts to resolve the Palestinian divide.
- Mr. Ibrahim presented the current situation in the region in connection with the peace process. He stated the following:
 - The political negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides have been suspended since April 2014 until now.
 - There are many crises in the region, which have become a priority at the expense of the Palestinian cause.
 - Egypt's efforts to achieve reconciliation are facing many obstacles. Despite the Egyptian attempts and the travel of security delegations to meet leaders from both sides, they have not produced any decisive results so far.
 - The repercussions of the American decision to transfer the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognize the city as the capital of the State of Israel.



Meeting of the Permanent Committee for Economic Affairs

On Sunday the 6th of May 2018, a meeting of the Permanent Standing Committee for Economic Affairs, chaired by Dr. Faeka El- Refai, Coordinator of the Committee was held in ECFA's headquarters. Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, President of the Council and Dr. Hafez Ibrahim, member of the Council participated in the meeting.

Where the meeting discussed the terms of reference of the Committee and the issues dealt with research and study, and then moved to discuss proposals of Dr. Ahmed Hafez, Board Member.



Meeting the Permanent Committee for Economic Affairs at ECFA Headquarter. 6th May 2018

- 1) Egyptian Industrial Revolution.
- 2) Transforming the informal market into a formal market and enhancing the state revenues from service projects
- 3) Turn rice straw into paper
- 4) Rationalize the consumption of drinking water.
- 5) Linking postgraduate studies to the labor market, improving the performance of state companies and factories, raising the quality of education and rescuing troubled factories
- 6) Entrepreneurship and value chain – Egypt is an industrialized country.
- 7) Develop the health system and raise the quality of services provided, control the drug market and eliminate tax evasion.
- 8) Ionic precipitation of clouds and the provision of water deficit
- 9) System of real estate and financial inclusion and justice leap

On the third topic discussed, there are seven proposals submitted by Dr. Refai, "Coordinator of the Committee",

- 1) Governance; its concept, standards, principles and relationship to diplomatic culture;
- 2) Energy, Sustainable Development and the Future of Energy in the Vision of Egypt 2030;
- 3) Climate changes; what preparations and the need for implementation throughout Egypt;
- 4) Local Government and Decentralization in Egypt;
- 5) The modern structure of the road system and its contribution to the development of investment in Egypt;
- 6) Environmental challenges and sustainable development and the role of the Ministry of Environment in Egypt;
- 7) Innovation and scientific research in the decisions of the Ministry of Industry;

In the end, it was agreed that the Economic Committee would meet twice a year, one in the second quarters and the other in the last quarter of the year, with the exception of any extraordinary meeting required, and the implementation of these activities before the end of 2018. These activities not implemented, will be included in the work plan of the 2019 Committee activities.

Report on the Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Geneva from 23rd of April to 4th May 2018

During the period from 23rd of April to 4th of May 2018, the delegation of the Council under the chairmanship of Ambassador Dr. MounirZahran, President of the Council, and the membership of both Dr. SayedBahi al-Din Abdul Hamid, and Dr.Yousra Abu Shadi, member of the Council, participated in the work of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference 2020. A report was prepared containing the deliberations and results of the meeting, and observations thereon, and a number of recommendations for: Improving the review mechanism and preparatory committees, 'Talk Shop', so that the preparatory committees turned into isolated islands, without follow-up between them, and each concludes with a summary of the president on his personal responsibility, without negotiation with the delegations of the state parties, and does not honestly reflect the views of the delegations of the 117 participating state parties

These recommendations are the responsibility of the State Parties to the Treaty, including Egypt, and it is necessary to activate, if there is faith in them, perseverance and serious follow-up, especially in a collective framework such as the Non-Aligned Movement, Treaty.

It was also stressed on the need, in the event of belief in all or some of these recommendations – to move on the official and political level to put them on the Non- Aligned Movement Agenda for adoption or improvement, and the League of Arab States could provide an initiative in this regard; to amend the rules of procedure and submit draft resolutions to the 2020 Review Conference for the purpose of improving the review mechanism and reforming the nuclear-weapon States, which cannot be played by civil society organizations because of their limited role in campaigning for such initiatives.

It is conceivable that the indefinite extension of the treaty, adopted in 1995, could be re-presented for discussion at the 2020 Review Conference, especially since that resolution was adopted without a vote on the 1995 Middle East resolution, which the United States retracted through working paper number (33), which was presented to the Second Preparatory Committee, although it was one of the three depositing countries it adopted –with Russia and Britain in 1995.

The participation of Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council in the work of the Fourth International Symposium on Modern Global Governance from the 14th to 15th of May 2018 – Beijing

On May 14th and 15th 2018, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad participated at the Fourth International Symposium on Modern Global Governance in Hangzhou, Southeast China, at the invitation of the Chinese Institutes of Contemporary International Studies (CICIR). His Excellency presented a working paper entitled "Diplomacy in the Information Age ... A Window to Good Governance", which included three main points as follows:

1) The definition of good governance, its relationship to diplomacy in light of the information age and the challenges it faces under Western applications, which can be described as one of the bad forms of governance.

2) Standards of good governance in the information age, in connection with American practice in the era of the new American administration.

3) Discuss some ideas on how to be effective in the age of the modern diplomatic system.

He stressed that good and effective governance is one of the basic ways to make a fair and effective decision according to the criteria set by the United Nations, which affirms that good governance "must be accountable, transparent, rule of law, participation, inclusiveness, legitimacy, efficiency and justice". He also pointed out that digital diplomacy is one of the means of diplomatic work as a result of the technological progress of the modern era, which in turn influenced political concepts, systems of government and actors.

He also reviewed the negative developments witnessed by the Western society in the information age in terms of lack of good governance standards in the context of advocating isolation rather than openness, as advocated by the new American administration, unlike other countries such as China, which call for more joint efforts to promote Common development and mutual benefits under the belt and road initiative. In this context he pointed out:

- The bias of some Western media and its lack of credibility, which is reflected in the handling of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the demonstrations in the Gaza Strip.

- The use of force and pressure in the face of legal obligations, which is highlighted in the International withdraw from the Iranian nuclear agreement, despite the commitment of other parties to it, and the declaration of the US administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in violation of all relevant international laws, rules and principles which affects the credibility of the United States and solving regional crisis.

- The trade war in the face of free trade, through the imposition of US tariffs on Chinese goods and products and Chinese investment in the United States, which is conducive to further conflict and trade wars affecting the world economy, the international trade system and the role of the World Trade Organization.

- Working outside the UN system, the Western tripartite strike led by the United States, Britain and France presages the beginning of a new era of threat to the stability, integrity and territorial integrity of States; these are principles affirmed in the Charter of the United Nations.

- He concluded by discussing how diplomacy can cope with the modern era of information by working on the concept of digital diplomacy and its tools, especially that it goes beyond the concept of using social media, working to raise the skills of diplomats, and developing a special strategy for spreading the concept and developing tools for improving and enhancing the use of this tool from the tools of diplomacy.