



Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

issue No. 59 - January - February - March 2019



Part from closed roundtable discussion on "the Developments in the Republic of Sudan" Tuesday Jan.29th, 2019

The Council's vision on the Developments in Sudan And Recommendations to Support the will of the Sudanese People

At the time when the demonstrations were rising strongly in Khartoum and other cities of Sudan, with such a strength; unprecedented in Sudanese history, and prior to arriving at its peak by the overthrow of Al-Bashir's rule and formation of the Military Council, a closed roundtable discussion on "the Developments in the Republic of Sudan" was held by the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) on Tuesday, January 29th. These discussions, moderated by Ambassador Dr.Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, addressed the two apparent sides of the problem at that time in the situation in Sudan; namely, the first side was the continuation of demonstrations, and the accession of parties and professional associations to these demonstrations; and what has become clear is that the regime will not succeed in the containment of such demonstrations, and that the reins of power will slip through his fingers.

The second side of the discussion addressed the roots of the crisis that led the Sudanese public opinion to reject the existing regime continuation in power; of which the economic dimensions constituted the axis of the crisis, in addition to the failed and floundering policies of the regime.

An elite of the members of the Council interested in Sudanese affairs, including Ambassador Marwan Badr, Ambassador Mohamed Abdel Mon'em El-Shazly, Ambassador Ali Al-Hefni, Ambassador Mohamed Badr El-Din Zayed, and Dr. El-Sayed Flaifel, Member of the House of Representatives, participated in this meeting. In addition, Ambassador/ Osama Shaltout, Assistant Foreign Minister for Sudanese Affairs, and Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Osama El-Hadi, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Sudanese Affairs, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated as well.

Three scenarios for the expected events, of which one of them

was anticipating the overthrow of Al-Bashirs's regime, were proposed.

Several recommendations were proposed at this symposium, namely:

1- To be cautious regarding the regime, and any future aids should be directed to the Sudanese people and not to the regime.

2- Encouragement of opening calm communication channels between the Egyptian civil society, research centers, some of the civil society channels, and University Professors with the Sudanese opposition and the civil society forces participating in the demonstrations.

3- Maintaining the status quo regarding the relations with the Sudanese residing in Egypt, but all this should not prevent the avoidance of exaggerating the restrictions imposed over the Sudanese at the current stage, without taking any new humanitarian steps that might encourage more displacement and movement towards Egypt.

4- The significance of communicating with the Sufi movements in Sudan, taking into consideration the historical relations between such movements in both countries, revitalizing both Nile Valley people's relations through proposed programs in the fields of culture, arts and sports, and activating the links between graduates from Egyptian universities and Al-Azhar with African graduates.

5- In case of regime collapse and the scenario of chaos that follows; Egypt must be prepared to act calmly and wisely to aid the Sudanese people in arranging their situation and facing the challenges, as well as thinking of playing exceptional roles that are managed in a politically balanced manner.

Board Members of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

Honorary Chairman

Ambassador

Abdel Rouf El-Reedy

Chairman of the Board

Ambassador Dr.

Mohamed Mounir Zahran

Vice Chairman

Mrs. Anissa Hassouna

Secretary General

Ambassador

Hisham El-Zimaity

Treasure

Dr. Hazem Attiatallah

Board Members

Ambassador/

Abdel Raouf El- Reedy

Prof. Aly Eldin Helal

Ambassador/ Dr.

Hussein Hassouna

Dr. Osama El Gazaly Harb

Ambassador/

Mona Omar

Ambassador/ Dr.

Mahmoud Karem

Ambassador/

Sayed Abou-Zeid

Director of the Council

Ambassador/ Dr.

Ezzat Saad

Editor in - chief

Atef El- Ghamry

Tower no. 2, Othman Towers,
Cornish El Nile Maadi, Cairo- Egypt

Tel. (+202) 2528 1091-6

Fax. (+202) 2528 1093

Email:

info@ecfa-egypt.org



official carrier



Platinum Sponsor

Sudan: A New Era

Perhaps the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) more interesting to discuss the situation in Sudan and its possible consequences; even to the extent that events there could reach up to the removal of Al-Bashir's regime from power, and in addition to the recommendations it proposed in accordance with the desire of the Sudanese people for a change. But this does not negate that the relationship with the previous regime in Sudan was beset with extremely delicate factors that required a wise measure for managing such relation.

On one hand, Sudan has extremely significant relations with Egypt that bind the people of both countries together; Sudan is a vast state considered to be an extension of the Egyptian national security, in addition to the ample economic and living interests that could be fulfilled for the good of the people of both countries if such relations were managed in accordance with a strategic vision that would exceed any sensitivity of relations with that regime. On the other hand, Al-Bashir's regime whose reign spanned 30 years, represents another side to the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood as it has been a part of that organization from the beginning; at least following that ideology one way or another, although occasionally attempting to deny that in defense of its interests with Arab and foreign states.

Therefore this regime had stances that were a matter of concern to Egypt, but as Egypt was aware of the essence of the historical ties between the people of both countries and the interests that can be fulfilled for their good if it was possible to keep them away from any political tensions; Egypt was keen to keep them away from what influences the relation with that regime which had been existing there by all means.

Egypt was keen in that situation to overcome the spillovers of the stances made by "Al-Bashir's regime", as for example, with regards to what have happened since the beginning of disputes over Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in terms of the bias which that regime had towards the Ethiopian view under the previous government, as well as receiving Erdogan and leasing the sudanese island of Suakin to Turkey at the same time that Erdogan was stirring up tensions with Egypt, whose ambitions to seize Arab lands were not hidden; motivated by dreams of the era of Ottoman colonization of Arab lands, in addition to enhancing his relations with Qatar by establishing a military base over its lands despite what is known about Qatar in terms of supporting and financing terrorist organizations, as well as the complaints of our Libyan brothers against the conduct of Al-Bashir's regime against the interests and security of Libya.

However, Egypt adopted a track of acting with extreme precision while dealing with the regime in Sudan, in the interest of the Sudanese people, and the integrity of their relations with Egypt.

And now, the Sudanese people have chosen their path, overthrew Al-Bashir's regime, and started to review all their stances and conducts for the sake of a better, more secure and stable future for fraternal Sudan.

The Editor



**Egyptian Council
for Foreign Affairs**

A closed roundtable Discussion on the Developments in the Republic of Sudan



ECFA's members' participation in closed roundtable discussion on "the Developments in the Republic of Sudan" Tuesday Jan.29th, 2019

On Tuesday, the 29th of January, 2019, a closed roundtable discussion was held by the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) on «The developments in the Republic of Sudan». The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, in addition to an elite of the members of the Council interested in Sudanese affairs, including; Ambassador Marwan Badr, Ambassador Mohamed Abdel Mon'em El-Shazly, Ambassador Ali Al-Hefny, Ambassador Dr.Mohamed Badr El-Deen Zayed, and Dr. El-Sayed Flaifel, Member of the House of Representatives.

Members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who also Participated: Ambassador Osama Shaltout, Assistant of Foreign Minister for Sudanese Affairs, and Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Osama El-Hadi, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Sudanese Affairs.

- Firstly- Roots of the Crisis: The economic dimensions constitute the cornerstone of interpretation of the crisis of the Sudanese regime. The dimensions of the crisis are due to the continuation of the economic sanctions imposed by the United States, the burdens on the Sudanese economy that have been caused by the inflated numbers of displaced persons from the neighboring countries, the US dollar surge, lack of currency reserves anchored to the newly issued currency notes, inflation of annual deficit, and the failed and disorganized policies of the regime.

- Continuing the protests, launching the demonstrations from outside Khartoum at the beginning, and joining these demonstrations by parties and professional associations, have given them a strength that is unprecedented in Sudanese situations. After such relatively longstanding persistence; the success of the regime, in containment of these demonstrations, is unlikely, without significant external support; and that is what could not be achieved by Al-Bashir's external visits which included Qatar and Egypt.

- There are 3 possible scenarios:

The first scenario: Al-Bashir's success in regaining his control over the political system.

The second scenario: The occurrence of a coup d'état from within the regime and the overthrow of Al-Bashir, with the ruling political forces, associated with Islamist currents,

remaining in power.

The third scenario: Is the overthrow of the regime, whether by the state of chaos, or by the success of army members, from the second sector, in taking over power.

- Egypt's position is critical; Just as Al-Bashir historically caused great harm to both countries' relations, the scenario of chaos and the displacement of large numbers of Sudanese to Egypt bears a lot of risks and burdens to Egypt and Sudan's neighboring countries, with the deep awareness of the success of Al-Bashir's regime in recruiting large cadres that are hostile to Egypt, particularly those in positions of executive power at various levels.

Recommendations:

1- To be cautious at the current stage regarding messages of support to the regime, and any future aids should seem as being directed to the Sudanese people and not to the regime.

2- Encouragement of opening calm communication channels between the Egyptian civil Society, research centers, some of the civil society channels, and University Professors with the Sudanese opposition and the civil society forces participating in the demonstrations.

3- Maintaining the status quo regarding the relations with the Sudanese residing in Egypt, but all this should not prevent the avoidance of exaggerating the restrictions imposed over the Sudanese at the current stage, without taking any new humanitarian steps that might encourage more displacement and movement towards Egypt.

4- The significance of communicating with the Sufi movements in Sudan, taking into consideration the historical relations between such movements in both countries, revitalizing both Nile Valley people's relations through proposed programs in the fields of culture, arts and sports, and activating links and communications of graduates from Egyptian universities and Al-Azhar with African graduates.

5- In case of regime collapse and the scenario of chaos that follows; Egypt must be prepared to act calmly and wisely to aid the Sudanese people in arranging their situation and facing the challenges, as well as thinking of playing exceptional roles that are managed in a politically balanced manner.

After The US Decision to Withdraw from Syria

A round table discussion on the spillovers of President Trump's decision to withdraw from Syria, as well as the regional and international reactions, and the future scenarios, was organized by the Council on the 16th of the current month of January. This round table discussion which was opened by Ambassador Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; was moderated by Ambassador Ihab Wahba, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee of the Arab Affairs, with the participation of a number of ambassadors, experts and academics, namely: Their Excellencies, Ambassadors/ Abdel Raouf Al-Reedi, Honorary Chairman of the Council, Sayed Abu Zaid, Ezzat Saad, Mohammad Tawfiq, Mohamed Mustafa Kamal, Mohammed Badr El-Din Zayed, Prof.Dr. Mohammed Al-Saeed Idris, and Prof.Dr. Ahmed Youssef Ahmed.

A number of points and focal themes were discussed during the meeting as follows:

- The reasons behind the US withdrawal from Syria, and the domestic as well as the international reactions to such decision.
- US withdrawal from Syria is considered to be a fatal blow against the Kurds, particularly under the Turkish threats of occupying Northern Syria, and the talk about restoration of relations between the Syrian regime and the Kurds in order to face Turkish threats, as well as another talk about a US-Turkish deal to set up a buffer zone in Northern Syria on the borders with Turkey.
- Highlighting the Russian expansion in Syria as the starting point and the real chance for the return of Russia to play a bigger role in the Middle East region.
- Contradictory statements from the United States (US) by announcing an unconditional withdrawal, and then the Assistant to the US President for National Security Affairs (APNSA) making another statement that the withdrawal shall take 4 or 5 months.
- The Iranian role; particularly, as Tehran is the main beneficiary of this withdrawal, and the Israeli role, in the aftermath of the withdrawal, as well.
- What role do the Arab States have amid after these developments, particularly that some of them have begun opening their embassies in Damascus as did the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, in addition to the truth about Arab support to Syria's return to the Arab League.
- Egypt's role in crisis faced by the region, particularly as there is a need for adopting a suitable and strong position by Egypt in order to reunify the Arabs through the following:
 - The necessity to adopt a clear position on the Syrian crisis, particularly as Egypt has preserved its relation



ECFA's hosting to the closed roundtable discussion on the "spillovers of President Trump's decision to withdraw from Syria, as well as the Regional and International Reactions and the Future Scenarios" 16th of Jan 2019

with the Syrian regime and rejected military intervention in Syria by Gulf States; thus laying a responsibility on Egypt's side to launch an initiative for resolution.

- Egypt's complete rejection to what is being said about an "Arab Nato" which would include Israel as part of it, particularly, as Egypt, since the Fifties of the previous century, had refused to be a part of any military alliances led by a western power in the Arab region. Egypt must maintain its current policy based on its commitment to protect the national security of Gulf States whenever there are direct threats. The necessity to thinking to open dialogue with Iran, not getting dragged into any polarizations in the Arab region or any initiatives aiming at luring the region to form alliances against Iran that would escalate the situation with it, must be thought of.

- More attention must be given to the Palestinian issue; that is not a charity from the Arab states; particularly as the Palestinian issue to Egypt is a matter of Egyptian and Arab national security, and getting dragged into developing more relations with Israel must be avoided as coordinating with Israel does not mean ignoring the idea of Israel being an enemy and that it has never been an ally but it is the main source of threat to the national security of the Arabs and the Egyptians.

A Discussion on “Munich Security Conference (MSC); with Regional and International challenges”



Part from the closed discussions on “The Munich Security Conference” Feb.24th 2019

A closed roundtable discussion on the results of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) at its 55th session that was held in Munich, Germany, from February 15th to 17th, 2019, was hosted by the Council on February 24th, 2019. About 35 heads of state and heads of government, 50 foreign ministers, 30 defense ministers, and 600 of military experts, security experts and diplomats, participated in the conference. The organization of this conference coincided with the organization of other several conferences in the same month such as the Warsaw Conference that was called for by the United States, as well as the Sochi Conference which was called for by President Putin, with the participation of the Turkish and Iranian presidents in talks on the Syrian crisis; but had not yielded any progress, in addition to the hosting of the Arab European summit over a couple of days on February 24th and 25th, 2019, by the city of Sharm el-Sheikh in which 49 countries had participated, including 24 European states at the level of heads of state and heads government, 11 Arab heads of state and heads of government, and the rest of the participants were the ministers.

Ambassadors who participated in this roundtable discussion were: Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; Abdul Raouf Al-Reedi, Honorary Chairman of the Council; Dr.Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council; Ihab Wahba, Co-ordinator of the Permanent Committee on Arab Affairs at the Council; Rakha Hassan; Dr.Kamal Abu Aqil, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee on European Affairs at the Council; Dr.Hazem Ateyatallah, Council's treasure; and Mr. Ahmed Abu Shady, member of the Council.

The participants emphasized that, the conference has been held amidst what the European Union (EU) is facing at the domestic level in terms of escalation of populism, right-wing extremism, fears regarding the future of the United Kingdom (UK), severity of the refugees and illegal immigration crisis, and people's rejection to receive refugees. Similarly there are a number of threats facing economic and trade relations, which are affected by political relations, particularly in the presence of the special agendas possessed by each individual state. The issue is no longer confined to such domestic threats, but progressed

to threats related to the situations in the Middle East region, particularly amidst what is being frequently alleged that the US is withdrawing from the region and making fateful decisions without coordinating with the European partners.

Those challenges demand the necessity of paying attention to crisis surrounding the globe which are multilateral rather than being bilateral. There are external parties fueling such conflicts as the Iranian role in Syria and the Saudi role in Yemen are clear.

It has also been noted that, terrorism has become an international problem threatening world states in Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, but amid that there is a clash among major countries, or among middle power states at the behest of major powers.

- It is necessary to pay attention to the rising rates of corruption and poverty; and to seek respect of free trade and human rights agreements.

Regarding the Arab situation, amidst this world which is threatened by collapse, it has been emphasized that the conference revealed the nature of the division in the western world between Europe and the United States regarding their views on Arab issues, which can be taken advantage of within the framework of the convening of the Arab-European Summit, so that this summit would be the beginning of cooperation between both sides. Particularly as the European position towards the Palestinian issue is consistent as compared to the Arab position which lacks that, and there is no strong international partner that can be relied upon with respect to the future of this conflict, as both Russians and Chinese are busy defending their interests as well as having significant and influential relations with Israel.

The proceedings of the roundtable discussion were concluded by asking a question about the opportunities that Egypt may exploit so as to return to play a role and how may it formulate strategies to benefit from such opportunities, particularly as the region, although suffering from conflicts, is still rich in natural and energy resources, and these resources are possessed by Egypt as well; noting that the question that must be asked and answered is: How would it be possible for Egypt to return?

The Council's Symposium on Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel



Council's Symposium "on occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Peace Treaty between Egypt & Israel" March 25th 2019

The session held by the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA), on Monday, March 25th, 2019, on occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, was multidimensional in terms of participation of a number of members in discussing various aspects of the treaty, and giving their visions which were not limited to the treaty itself, but also addressed the subsequent developments whether negative or positive.

The session was opened by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, by a reading of the Treaty recited by Ambassador Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi. Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad-Director of ECFA, Ambassador Hazem Khairat, Dr. Mohammed Kamal, Mr. Mohamed Kassem, and General Mohamed Ibrahim, members of ECFA also spoke during this session, in addition to interventions made by a number of attendees.

In his speech, Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, gave a historic presentation of the conflict with Israel, and Ambassador Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi presented in his speech an analysis of the Peace Treaty texts based on his experience, his connection regarding the conflict and, then, the treaty and its consequences with respect to Egypt's restoration of its entire territory. He explained that he is currently not optimistic about the existence of a genuine international effort to liberate the occupied Arab territories, due to certain reasons including Trump's policy, the presence of Netan-

yahu as a Prime Minister of Israel, the Palestinian split, and the inability of the United Nations to stand firmly behind the implementation of its resolutions.

Dr. Mohamed Kamal spoke on the changes that took place in the US position towards the Peace Treaty after Four decades of the treaty.

Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad clarified that, the US position forces us to think about alternatives and complements to US role, as the resolutions of the United States including Israel's annexation of the Golan in absence of any Arab reaction indicates severe powerlessness of the Arab body.

Mr. Mohamed Kassem touched on the prospects of the Egyptian-Israeli economic relations in various fields.

Ambassador Hazem Khairat, former ambassador to Israel, spoke on Israel's gains from the treaty. He explained that, there is a reasonable segment within the Israeli society that has begun to question and cast doubt on Israel's right to occupy land by force. He spoke from personal experience on the question that he used to face from the Israelis, namely: Why did not the peace between our countries reach to the citizen in Egypt?, and his natural answer was that as long as comprehensive and just peace and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people were not achieved, as well as rejection of peace initiatives, then normalization at the peoples' level will remain non-existent.

“Nuclear Security, Safety, and Security Assurances” In the Lecture at the Council

A lecture on «Nuclear Security, Safety, Security Assurances, and the Lessons Learned» was organized by the Council at its headquarter on March 31st, 2019. Dr. Yousri Abu Shadi, member of the Council and former inspector at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spoke during this lecture, and Dr. Sayed Bahey El-Din Abdel-Hamid, member of the Council, former Chairman of the Nuclear Power Plants Authority (NPPA), and former Adviser to the Minister of Electricity, spoke as well during this lecture. The lecture was moderated by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran. The meeting was also attended by a number of ambassadors, experts and academics from among the Council's members, namely: Ambassador Ahmed Hajjaj, Ambassador Mohamed Mounir, Ambassador Ahmed El Ghamrawy, Ambassadors Hajar El Islambouly, Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Twfiq, and others.

The proceedings of the lecture commenced by emphasizing nuclear security, safety and security assurances as being three axes that are key to the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Dr. Yousri Abo Shadi referred to several nuclear accidents and the measures taken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prevent them, particularly after the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear accidents. Moreover, he highlighted the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that was distinguished by having guaranteed the right to transfer nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. But on the other hand, lacked a time limit to eliminate weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), lacked the implementation tool, in addition to the right of any state to withdraw from the treaty in case of viewing any threat in this treaty to its national security, and being influenced by the policies of the major powers towards a number of States, as was done in the reports issued by the Agency on the possible possession of nuclear reactors by Iraq and Syria, not with standing that these reports were later found to be untrue.

Regarding nuclear culture, there was an intervention by Dr. Sayed Bahey El-Din explaining the



ECFA's Lecture on the "Nuclear Security, Safety, and Security Assurances"
March, 31st 2019

evolution of the nuclear security term after 2005 to include nuclear and radioactive materials. He also proceeded towards highlighting the Dabaa reactor that has an advanced technology to achieve maximum safety and an ability to combat any threats to the reactor as manifested in its design as well as in its proximity to the sea for the purpose of cooling and avoiding any reasons which are increasing the temperature of reactor and cause the accidents.

For an active role of Think Tanks



ECFA's Hosting the Roundtable discussion on the "Think Tanks and their role in the light of Global Development" Jan.31st 2019

At the invitation of Professor James McGann, Co-ordinator of the Research Centers at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States of America (USA); the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) called for a panel discussion on think tanks and their role in the light of global developments on Thursday, January 31st, 2019. This was accompanied by the convening of more than 150 other panels in many cities around the world. The topic of the discussion was derived from the main title "Why Think Tanks Matter". This panel discussion was moderated by Ambassador/ Dr. Mounir Zahran. A number of Council's Members participated in this discussion, namely, Ambassador El-Sayed Amin Shalaby, Ambassador Hussein Al-Kamel, Ambassador Rakha Ahmad Hassan, Ambassador Mohamed El-Ash-mawy, Ambassador Dr.Mohamed Badr El-Din Zayed, Ambassador Dr.Hassan Al-Haiawan, Ambassador Heba Ragheb Awad, as well as Dr.Eman Ragab, member of the Council and an expert at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Mr.Ahmad Abu Shady, Journalist, and Mr.Ragaei Fayed, Head of the Egyptian Center for Kurdish Studies and Research.

This panel discussion made clear numerous problems which face think tanks such as the lack of financial resources, reduction in human resources level, bureaucracy, difficulty in accessing and influencing the decision maker, inability to get in touch with other think tanks, and the underutilization of knowledge society and future studies. Many doubts were raised, as well, regarding Egyptian think tanks relations to the executive bodies or to what becomes crystallized through the decision making process in the state, to what extent will the interaction be between them, and to which degree will the outputs and recommendations of such

think tanks be utilized.

Some of the participants proposed, as a recommendation, the necessity for activating and maximizing cooperation among the various think tanks in all world continents to constitute the so-called continental cooperation which is based on the activation of relations among the think tanks of each continent in order to achieve the common good of all humanity, and to solve the various problems that face its prosperity and progress. Three key regional issues have been emphasized upon as well, namely; establishment of a "Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA)" in order to confront Iran, the Syrian crisis, and the nuclear issue in the Middle East. The attendees pointed out at not following the US agenda to establish this alliance, while others emphasized that the announcement of US withdrawal from Syria was in favor of the settlement of the crisis, then they stressed on the necessity to pursue the establishment of a free zone from nuclear weapons and from weapons of mass destruction (WMD's) in the Middle East, they condemned the allegations made by the major powers, possessing these weapons, that they keep them for the sake of deterrence; an issue that may constitute a hazard to entire humanity. In addition to primarily violating the principles contained in the Second article of the UN Charter. Furthermore, the participants recommended the necessity to work on utilization of Egyptian think tanks as representing a distinct tool of the soft power in Egypt, and the necessity of enjoying the independence they need to fulfill their desired tasks best, in addition to their involvement and participation in achieving peace and sustainable development through a major network of relations among themselves.

Ambassador of Japan was talking on The Major Development of his Country's Relations with Egypt



Meeting of Ambassador of Japan in Cairo H.E Masaki Noki with ECFA's Members to talk about "Egypt/ Japan Bilateral Relations ... and means of promoting it" Jan.27th 2019

On Sunday, January 27th, 2019, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) received the Japanese Ambassador to Cairo, Masaki Noki, where he spoke on the bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan and means of promoting it. The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies Ambassadors; Mounir Zahran, Ezzat Saad, Hisham El-Zamaity, Hussein Hassouna, El-Sayed Amin Shalaby, Mohamed El Ashmawy, Dr. Ali El Din Helal, Mohammed Kamal, Dr. Iman Rajab, Ahmed Abu Shady, Farouk Mabrouk, Ibrahim Fawzi, Mohamed Abdel Maaboud, and Attorney/ Mohamed Hassouna.

As regards the Egyptian-Japanese relations; the Ambassador of Japan pointed out that they are witnessing great development in

the recent period, and that has been prompted by Egypt's weight in the region. He indicated that both countries have fulfilled many achievements together. The most significant to be mentioned with respect to such issue is the establishment of the Japanese Experimental Schools in Egypt that seeks the building up of the Egyptian child and enhancement of his capabilities, and he denied any sort of colonization attempt or intellectual invasion to be there behind this experiment.

The Japanese Ambassador indicated that Japan has a special geographical nature, as it is surrounded by many significant countries that have special nature as well. There is China with which countries of the region have disputes over the South China Sea, and that has recently witnessed other trade disputes with the United States which is Japan's closest ally. There is Russia, with which Japan has a border on the northern part, and also having some border problems with Japan. There is as well North Korea, which is famous for its nuclear program and contentious ballistic missiles, and that has carried out several illegal nuclear tests and fired more than one missile in the direction of the Japanese territories.

Generally, the Japanese ambassador said that, the US foreign policy depends on six pillars or major priorities; which are, respectively: to promote the Japan-US alliance, to enhance relations with neighboring countries as much as possible, development of economic diplomacy, to launch initiatives on global issues, to engage in the Middle East peace process and to participate in its stability, and finally to guarantee the freedom and openness of the Indo-Pacific region.

The Ambassador of Afghanistan highlights the situation in his country



Meeting between Ambassador of Afghanistan in Cairo H.E.Mohammed Moheq and Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad Director of ECFA to talk about the latest development in his country Jan.2nd 2019

On January 2nd, 2019, Ambassador Dr.Ezzat Saad, Director of the council, received both Ambassador Mohamed Moheq Ambassador of Afghanistan in Cairo and Mr.Kamal Gaballah, the writer at Al-Ahram news paper and council's member; for discussing the latest developments on the situation in Afghanistan.

Whereas the Afghan Ambassador affirmed that his country seeks the achievement of stability and security as this will play a role in achieving economic development and prosperity. Particularly that the total state budget was approximately 100 billion Dollars before President Hamid Karzai came to power after President Burhanuddin Rabbani, as the economy have had collapsed, in addition to the complete collapse of the infrastructure and political institutions in the country due to Three decades of war and destruction, but today it is amounting to approximately Three trillion Dollars.

The inner strength of Afghanistan drives the community to prosperity, and if the country could overcome the security problem whether by means of reconciliation, strengthening the army, or through other means, then the doors would be widely opened to the development process.

At the level of Egyptian-Afghan relations; he demanded that there should be a long-term cooperation project between Egypt and Afghanistan, at least, for the next Ten years, regardless of any political volatility (such as change of Governments, Foreign Minister, or the person of the President of the Republic), thus the Two countries should seek shaping a comprehensive framework for their relations.

With respect to the settlement of the Afghan crisis; he emphasized upon the multiple courses undertaken by the international powers (Iran, Russia, the USA, as well as Saudi Arabia, and Qatar) but he affirmed that the multiplicity of such formulae would increase the complexity of the situation, stressing that the settlement process should be carried out through a single channel, namely, the Afghan government, and this requires that the Americans, Russians, and others stand by the Afghans, thus the Afghan government has to be at the forefront and those powers have to support it from the back; and that is what the Afghan President demanded from the US envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalil zad.

The participation of Ambassador / Dr. Ezzat Saad at the Third Summit of the India / Africa Forum (IAFSIII) «India's Partnership with North Africa and the Horn of Africa: Issues, Initiatives, Expectations»

During the period (29th-30th) March, 2019, Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, participated in the Third Summit of the Forum of India / Africa (IAFSIII) under the theme «The Indian Partnership with North Africa and the Horn of Africa: Issues, Initiatives and Expectations» In Addis Ababa, with the invitation from the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA).

In his Intervention at the first session on the “Political and Diplomatic Relations: Issues and Perspectives on Global Political Dialogue and Good Governance”, he emphasized the importance of the the Horn of Africa represents a vital significance to both India and the North African region due to many geo-political, security, and developmental considerations.

In this context, the challenges facing some states in the region, in particular political instability and the disintegration of the state institutions have led to aggravation of the phenomena of terrorism, piracy, refugees, and the threat to international waterways security. These in turn represent a threat to global trade flows as well as a threat to securing the passage of oil and gas, representing a serious threat to the interests of the states of the region as well as the international community as a whole.

These deteriorating conditions opened the door widely for many extra-regional countries to be present, politically and militarily, in the region; and as global competition and conflict of interests and influence among major powers, has become one of the most important features of the new regime in the horn of Africa, this has represented a retreat from the Nobel objectives of The African National Liberation Movement in terms of escaping foreign influence and dependency.

Dealing with such complicated and deteriorating political, military, security, and humanitarian situations, necessitates the promotion of political dialogue between the regional states and extra-regional parties interested in stability and security of the region, on the basis of respecting the principles of non-interference in internal affairs as well as respecting state sovereignty, its territorial integrity, in order to push forward the comprehensive development process therein.

As we all know the Red Sea has a huge geostrategic importance as one of the vital waterways for European trade with Asia, as well as the passage of oil and gas from the Gulf region to the Mediterranean Sea via Suez Canal. The Red Sea is also considered to be a link between the Gulf region and the Horn

of Africa as well as a route for immigration between both regions. Indeed, the Red Sea security is an issue that has been in question since a long period in light of the unprecedented threats to the Sea as a result of regional conflicts, external interventions, piracy, and terrorism, whereas the Red Sea has become the scene of conflicts among the competing major powers and regional states, including the European Union, Turkey, Gulf States, Iran and Israel.

No doubt, ensuring Red Sea security cannot be guaranteed by one individual state, this necessitates considering the establishment of a collective security and cooperation system or arrangements, among the states of the region, particularly as their interests are

interlinked and face the same challenges requiring close coordination and cooperation among themselves. In this context, and in connection with the initiative known as the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Initiative”, some sort of connectivity between both of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and both of the Red and the Mediterranean Seas, might be considered; since a large part of sea lanes in both oceans are linked to both seas on their way from Asia to Europe and to the Atlantic Ocean. Suez Canal can be a focal point in this connectivity, which is vital, not only for enhancing trade and prosperity, but also unites regions.

Such an idea, if put into practice, will integrate with, and will not contradict, China's Belt and Road Initiative. Indeed, as stated by Mr. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Keynote address to the Shangri-la Dialogue on June 1st, 2018: “I firmly believe that, Asia and the world will have a better future when India and China work together in trust and confidence...”.

Such initiatives, based on the benefits of connectivity, is in everyone's best interest as long as they were based on consensus, good faith, respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, consultation, good governance, durability, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Unfortunately, competition among major powers over influence in the region comes at the expense of countering terrorism that once had the utmost importance to the US since the September 2001 attacks, and which at present, has only a secondary priority. Both US National Security Strategy (December 2017) and National Defense Strategy (January 2018) emphasize the fact that competition with China and Russia has the priority over countering terrorism.



Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad
Director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs