

No. 26558

**JORDAN, EGYPT, IRAQ
and
YEMEN**

**Agreement on the establishment of the Arab Cooperation
Council. Signed at Baghdad on 16 February 1989**

Authentic text: Arabic.

Registered by Jordan on 22 May 1989.

**JORDANIE, ÉGYPTTE, IRAQ
et
YÉMEN**

**Accord relatif à la création du Conseil de coopération arabe.
Signé à Bagdad le 16 février 1989**

Texte authentique : arabe.

Enregistré par la Jordanie le 22 mai 1989.

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]AGREEMENT³ ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARAB COOPERATION COUNCIL

Baghdad 10 Rajab 1409 Hijrah
Corresponding to 16 February 1989 A.D.

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Whereas the Arab Nation,

Guided by its rich and time-honoured cultural heritage and its great role in building the edifice of human civilization, aspires with legitimate determination, to achieve cooperation, solidarity and joint action in all fields; impelled by its deep sense of unity and by its desire to reaffirm its national attributes which have been consolidated through the ages and its distinctive cultural identity, to safeguard its security, to tend its legitimate interests, to continue its efforts for progress and prosperity, and to strengthen its positive and constructive international role in serving the causes of peace, security, progress and equitable and fruitful cooperation amongst the peoples of the world;

Having experienced, in recent times, a number of attempts at joint Arab action, cooperation and solidarity and been able to achieve certain forms of unity and learn some rich lessons from the positive and negative aspects of such attempts;

Recognizing that to the forefront of those lessons has been the cooperation for establishing the infrastructures which would consolidate all forms of spiritual, cultural and practicable ties amongst the citizens of the Arab States, a cooperation which assumes priority in any serious, continual and incessant endeavour for joint Arab action and which creates strong and practical foundations for such an endeavour to reach the high levels and wide prospects leading to the Arab Nation's ultimate goal of unity according to the circumstances prevailing and the practical means available;

Whereas this realistic and constructive approach is consonant with the current international trends towards the establishment of economic groupings which would create such circumstances for the countries affiliated to them as would better protect their interests and ensure their economic development and progress;

¹ Translation supplied by the Government of Jordan.

² Traduction fournie par le Gouvernement jordanien.

³ Came into force on 8 April 1989, the date by which the instruments of ratification had been deposited with the Government of Jordan by all the signatory States, in accordance with article 17 (1):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Egypt	18 March 1989
Iraq	20 February 1989
Jordan	8 April 1989
Yemen	8 April 1989

Believing that cooperation amongst the Arab States in these fields acquires a special importance in view of the dangers which continue to threaten Arab national security politically, economically and culturally;

Proceeding from the fact that the establishment of security, peace and stability in the whole region requires the strengthening of Arab awareness of the integral nature of Arab national security and of its requirements and conditions through practical cooperation, coordination and solidarity;

Considering that the circumstances which bring together the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic are of a similar nature in many fields;

Proceeding from the belief of these Arab States in the above-stated principles and values;

Expressing their deep desire to find practical and realistic ways of strengthening and developing the cooperation that has, for many years now, continued amongst them and yielded significant results within the framework of the circumstances prevailing and the means available in every stage with a view to elevating it to the highest levels of solidarity and joint action;

Guided by the Covenant of the League of Arab States¹ which permits member States, desirous of achieving closer cooperation and ensuring stronger ties, to conclude such agreements amongst them as may achieve these objectives;

Pursuant to the Agreement reached during the historic meeting held in Baghdad amongst His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency President Saddam Hussein of the Republic of Iraq, His Excellency President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Excellency President Ali Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic, during 9-10 Rajab 1409 of Hijrah, corresponding to 15-16 February 1989, it is hereby decided to establish, with God's blessings, the Arab Cooperation Council in accordance with the following:

Article One

The Arab Cooperation Council shall be constituted of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The Council shall be considered as one of the institutions of the Arab Nations which adheres to the Covenant of the League of Arab States, the Treaty of Common Defence and Economic Cooperation and the institutions and organizations emanating from the League of Arab States and shall establish cooperative relations with Arab and international regional groupings.

Article Two

The Arab Cooperation Council shall aim at:

1. The achievement of the highest levels of coordination, cooperation, integration and solidarity amongst the Member-States and the gradual elevation thereof according to the circumstances, capabilities and expertise.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 70, p. 237.

2. The gradual attainment of economic integration by coordinating policies at the level of various production sectors, coordination of development plans of Member-States taking into consideration the growth rate, the economic situation and the circumstances of Member-States as they pass from one stage to another, and the attainment of the desired integration and coordination, particularly in the following fields:

- a. Economy and finance;
- b. Industry and agriculture;
- c. Transport and communications;
- d. Education, culture, information; scientific research and technology;
- e. Social affairs, health and tourism;
- f. Labour, travel and residence arrangements.

3. The encouragement of investment, joint ventures and economic cooperation amongst the public, private, cooperative and mixed sectors.

4. Pursuing the establishment of a common market amongst Member-States as a step towards the establishment of the Arab common market and Arab economic union.

5. Strengthening the relations and ties between the citizens of Member-States in all fields.

6. The enhancement and development of joint Arab action so as to strengthen Arab ties.

Article Three

For the achievement of its objectives, the Council shall lay down practical plans and measures, including the consideration of the possibility of promulgating, adapting or unifying legislation in the different fields.

Article Four

1. Membership in the Council is open to every Arab state which wishes to join it.

2. Approval of accession to the membership of the Council shall be made by the unanimity of the Member-States.

Article Five

The Council shall consist of the following organs:

1. The Supreme Body;
2. The Ministerial Body;
3. The General Secretariat.

Article Six

The Supreme Body shall be composed of the heads of the Member-States. It shall be the supreme authority of the Council.

Article Seven

The Supreme Body shall have the following powers:

1. Drawing up the high policies of the Council;
2. Adopting the necessary decisions relating to the recommendations placed before it by the Ministerial Body;
3. Entrusting the Ministerial Body with any question that falls within the competence and the work of the Council;
4. Approving the rules of procedure of the Council and the amendments thereof;
5. Appointing the Secretary-General of the Council;
6. Accepting the accession of new members;
7. Amending the Agreement on the Establishment of the Council;
8. Following up progress in implementing agreed upon procedures for coordination, cooperation and integration;
9. Setting up other organs and permanent commissions when necessary.

Article Eight

1. The Supreme Body shall hold a regular session once every year in one of the Member-States alternately. The Head of the host State shall preside over the Supreme Body for a full annual term.
2. Extraordinary meetings may be convened by an invitation from the President of the Supreme Body or at the request of one Member-State supported by at least one other Member-State. The extraordinary meetings shall be convened in the state whose Head of State presides over the Supreme Body.
3. Special meetings may be held with the agreement of the Heads of the Member-States in any capital or city of Member-States. The convening of such meetings shall not affect the rules relating to the Presidency of the Supreme Body.
4. The convening of the meetings of the Supreme Body shall be considered as valid by the presence of a majority of Member-States.

Article Nine

The Ministerial Body shall be composed of the Heads of Government of the Member-States or those acting as such.

Article Ten

The Ministerial Body shall have the competence to deal with the following:

1. Studying affairs and questions relating to matters falling within the competence of the Council;
2. Placing before the Supreme Body plans, proposals and recommendations relating to the achievement of the objectives of the Council;
3. The adoption of the necessary practical measures for the implementation of the decisions of the Supreme Body;

4. Studying any matter relating to the affairs of cooperation, including the reference thereof to specialized *ad hoc* committees, when necessary, in order to examine it and submit appropriate proposals relating thereto;
5. Preparing the rules of procedure of the Council and the placing thereof before the Supreme Body for its approval and proposing amendments thereto when necessary;
6. Approval and amendment of financial and administrative regulations of the General Secretariat;
7. Consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General relating to the work of the Council;
8. Consideration and approval of the budget of the General Secretariat and approval of its final accounts and of the financial and administrative status of the General Secretariat;
9. Setting up temporary committees as required by the work of the Council;
10. Preparation of the draft agenda of the Supreme Body.

Article Eleven

1. The Ministerial Body shall hold a regular meeting every six months in the State holding the Presidency of the Supreme Body. The Ministerial Body shall be presided over by the Head of Government, or whoever acts as such in that State.
2. Extraordinary meetings may be convened at the invitation of the President of the Ministerial Body or upon a proposal by one Member-State supported at least by another. The extraordinary meeting shall be held in the State holding the Presidency.
3. The convening of the meetings of the Ministerial Body shall be considered as valid by the presence of a majority of Member-States.

Article Twelve

In adopting decisions in all organs of the Council, Member-States shall seek to achieve unanimity and consensus amongst themselves. In the absence thereof, decisions shall be taken by a majority of Member-States and such decisions shall be binding upon all. As for decisions relating to membership and amendment of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Council, they shall be taken unanimously.

Article Thirteen

1. The Council shall have a General Secretariat with its headquarters in Amman, headed by a Secretary-General and composed of a number of officials as necessary.
2. The Supreme Body shall appoint the Secretary-General from amongst the citizens of the States of the Council on the basis of personal competence and belief in the objectives of the Council. The appointment shall be for a period of two years, renewable twice at the most.
3. The staff of the General Secretariat shall be selected from the citizens of Member-States on the basis of personal competence and belief in the objectives of the Council.

4. The Secretary-General and the senior staff of the General Secretariat shall enjoy such privileges, immunities and facilities as would enable them to accomplish their duties in the host State and Member-States.

Article Fourteen

1. The Secretary-General is the Executive Head of the General Secretariat of the Council and shall be directly responsible before the Ministerial Body for all the work of the General Secretariat and the proper conduct of its work.

2. The Secretary-General shall undertake the following duties:

- a. Following up the implementation of decisions of the Supreme Body and the Ministerial Body;
- b. Preparing the necessary reports on the work of the Council in order to present them to the Ministerial Body and the Supreme Body;
- c. Preparing the Draft Agenda of the Ministerial Body;
- d. Preparing the Draft Budget and the Final Accounts of the Council;
- e. Proposing the administrative and financial regulations of the General Secretariat and presenting them to the Ministerial Body;
- f. Appointing the staff of the General Secretariat and terminating their employment;
- g. Any other duties entrusted to him by the Supreme Body or the Ministerial Body.

Article Fifteen

A Headquarters Agreement for the General Secretariat shall be concluded between the host State and the Secretary-General on behalf of the Council following the approval of the Agreement by the Ministerial Body.

Article Sixteen

The General Secretariat shall have an annual Budget to which Member-States shall contribute equally.

Article Seventeen

1. This Agreement shall enter into force as of the date of its ratification by the signatory States in accordance with their applicable constitutional procedures, and the depositing of the instruments of ratification with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its capacity as the Headquarters State for the General Secretariat.

2. This Agreement shall come into force for States that accede to the membership of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article Four as of the date of depositing the instrument of accession with the General Secretariat of the Council.

3. Amendments of this Agreement shall be made by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Body. The amendment shall come into force as of the date of ratification by Member-States in accordance with their applicable constitutional procedures and the depositing of the instruments of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Council.

4. The Headquarters State of the General Secretariat shall deposit a copy of this Agreement with the League of Arab States and register it with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

SIGNED at Baghdad on 10 Rajab, 1409 of Hijrah, corresponding to 16 February 1989 A.D.

[Signed]

Colonel
ALI ABDALLAH
SALIH
President
of the Yemen
Arab Republic

[Signed]

MOHAMMED
HOSNI MUBARAK
President
of the Arab
Republic of Egypt

[Signed]

SADDAM HUSSEIN
President
of the Republic
of Iraq

[Signed]

HUSSEIN BIN TALAL
King
of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan
