



منتدى المستقبل الثامن

مجموعة دول الثماني والشرق الأوسط الكبير وشمال أفريقيا

8th Forum for the Future

G 8, Broader Middle East and North Africa

Kuwait 21 - 22 Nov. 2011

Huitième Forum pour l'Avenir

G 8, le Grand Moyen-Orient et Afrique du Nord

الكويت 21 - 22 نوفمبر 2011

Final Declaration

1. The 8th Forum for the Future, co-chaired by France and Kuwait, was convened in Kuwait city during the period 21-22 November 2011 with the broad participation of Foreign Ministers and representatives of the G8, BMENA and other partner countries as well as representatives of international organisations and civil society.
2. Ministers expressed their thanks to France and Kuwait for co-chairing the Forum for the Future and organizing its preparatory work through three civil society workshops, whose recommendations have been presented to the Forum. National round tables have been organised in several countries with a view to inform civil society in those countries about works undertaken by the Forum. Ministers supported the organisation of these preparatory works and thanked those governments that hosted and organised G8 BMENA activities over the course of this year, with the participation of civil society organisations.
3. This is a historic moment in the Middle East and North Africa. Major changes have taken place since the beginning of the year (in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya), and in various countries of the region a reform process has been initiated, while in others, existing progress and change processes have been consolidated and expanded. Dialogue with citizens and civil society lies at the heart of these processes. Ministers welcomed the engagement and the spirit of responsibility with which the national actors of most of these processes are imbued. They praised the contribution to stability and to the peoples' expectations of future prosperity that a constructive national dialogue is able to add to the processes of political development. They reaffirm their conviction that



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the process of development and change is to be pursued through dialogue among different actors and should be led by the countries of the region themselves and urge all parties to participate fully and in good faith in such processes.

4. The countries of the Forum welcome the presence of representatives of Libya. They support the efforts of the new Libyan authorities to build a stable democracy through a process of inclusive national dialogue which includes different classes and categories including women based on the basic principles of democracy, namely separation of powers and rotation of power through fair elections.
5. Ministers had informal exchanges of views on issues concerning international and regional situations. Members of the Forum value these exchanges which contribute to fostering dialogue between BMENA countries and the G8, and express their solidarity and support among members in view of addressing the various issues in the region.
6. At the same time while dealing with the aspirations of the peoples of the region, the Ministers reaffirmed their support for the efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East through negotiations within a specific timeframe and clear terms of reference based on the two-state solution as stated in the Arab Peace Initiative, the Road Map, the Madrid principles, on the basis of land for peace, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and the Quartet Statement of 23 September 2011 leading to the establishment of an independent, contiguous, viable, sovereign, democratic, peaceful state of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security.



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7. Ministers affirm the importance of the informal dialogue which has developed within and outside the Forum, including between representatives of the civil society, as it provides an important opportunity to exchange views in a constructive environment that builds confidence. They expressed the view that work undertaken within the Forum for the Future shall, as much as possible, be reflected at the national and international levels and they reaffirmed their joint understanding of pursuing political, economic and social development.
8. Ministers reaffirmed their joint understanding of the need to reinforce the values of democracy, consultation and cooperation, with a view to broaden the scope of participation in political and public affairs, and in the decision-making process. Freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly, judicial independence, accountability, transparency, fighting corruption, and freedom of religion while respecting the national sovereignty of each country, and the implementation of existing national legislation constitute major conditions for political, economic, social, cultural and educational development.
9. Ministers reaffirmed their support for the work of the various UN human rights bodies.
10. Conducting reforms, as well as organising the dialogue with civil society, remains the responsibility of each concerned country, within its legal framework, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charters and the concerned regional and international organizations, especially the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
11. The media have an important role to play in the process of democratic transition. It is thus important that a legal framework be developed by



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each country with a view to guarantee the freedom of expression and free access to information. Reinforced efforts in training media personnel will also lead to developing and reinforcing efficient actors in the media sectors.

12. Recommendations from the three workshops organised by the co-chairs were presented by the coordinators during the forum meetings. Ministers discussed those recommendations with the civil society representatives.
13. Ministers welcomed progress made in improving gender equality, which remains a major objective for all societies. In the light of the recommendations of the workshop held in Kuwait on 4 and 5 May 2011, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to acting in favour of eliminating discrimination and increasing the participation of women in the various sectors of society. The integration of international commitments into national law, in particular the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is important in overcoming obstacles in this regard.
14. Civil society and the private sector also have a major role to play in involving young people in economic development, as well as in related activities by offering them the opportunity to engage a process of empowerment, and thus to participate in the building of an open and equal economic environment. Emphasis has been put on the need to develop professional and vocational development and training and provide young people with skills qualifying them for the job market, with particular attention paid to young women, as an effective step against unemployment, in the light of the recommendations of the second workshop held in Marseille on 6 and 7 June 2011.



وزارة الخارجية

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15. The ministers renewed their commitment to continue implementing the necessary economic reforms, particularly in the areas of investment, finance, trade, protection of property rights and combating corruption. The aim is to encourage the most stable and reliable economic environment that is suitable for investment and for promoting an entrepreneurial sector that will generate wealth and jobs and is capable of increasing the competitiveness of the regions' economies and of encouraging socio-economic prosperity. Promotion of regional integration, through such means as adopting common standards and/or transparent rules and regulations will help attaining this aim.
16. Ministers affirmed the importance of development and introduction of mechanisms by which young people, who are a major part of the population in the BMENA region, can be involved in the democratic and decision-making process as recommended by the workshop held in Marrakech on 17 and 18 September 2011.
17. Ministers welcomed the Deauville Partnership initiated at the G8 summit held in Deauville, France, on 27 May 2011, as well as the declaration of the Deauville Partnership Foreign Affairs Ministers in New York, USA, on 20 September 2011, in which most of the countries present today participated, in particular the commitment to enhance the dialogue between the G8, MENA governments and civil society, building upon the work of the Forum for the Future.
18. Ministers recognize the value of the organisations they have set up such as the Gender Institute for the Broad Middle-East, the Foundation for the Future and The Women's Foundation for the Mediterranean.
19. The participants agreed to study the value of establishing mechanisms for sustainable follow-up between the ministerial meetings of the G8-BMENA to facilitate concrete outcomes.



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20. The Ministers expressed their sincere thanks to the state of Kuwait, Amir, government and people for their warm reception and hospitality and the excellent preparation and organization of the 8th Forum for the Future which has made it highly successful.
21. Ministers expressed their support for the next joint chairmanship of the United States and Republic of Tunisia.

State of Kuwait
22 November 2011