

**Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security
Rabat, on 14 November 2013
The Rabat declaration**

We, the Ministers of foreign affairs, Ministers charged for security, and heads of delegations of the Arab Maghreb, the countries of the Sahel, the Sahara, and neighboring regions, and the representatives of the regional and international partners, convened at Rabat, this 14 November 2013, in order to develop a view and a framework of political consultation, set up the machinery for operational cooperation, and to follow up the implementation of the Tripoli action plan, emanating from the first regional ministerial conference on border security, held in Tripoli on 11, 12 March 2012.

Considering the mounting terrorist and criminal threats which are interrelated to the activities of transnational criminal networks involved in drug, light weapons, and human trafficking, and smuggling of goods, in a regional context characterized with many factors of political instability, economic crises, and climate change; in addition to the weak regional cooperation in the field of border security, and the development of dry areas;

Being convinced that border security in this environment entails the setting up of a global approach incorporating political, economic, security, and legislative dimensions, founded on close and coordinated cooperation, based on the principle of common responsibility, which facilitates the exchange of goods and the movement of persons at the regional level.

Reaffirming our continuous support for the Libyan authorities in the completion of its political transition, and its mobilization for the enforcement of security and stability, the security of Libya's borders, and our support for the missions of the European Union and the United Nations in this field.

Expressing our will to share the experience of our countries with Libya in developing the institutions and the rule of right and law, and reinforcing civil potentialities.

Reaffirming the support of the regional approach to confront the border security challenge on the basis of the relevant strategies of the international and regional organizations; and affirm the importance of the convergence of strategies, processes and initiatives, and on the importance of bilateral cooperation.

Affirming the responsibility of the international community to support Libya in all fields, especially in the field of security, guarantying a smooth transition; that is from the revolution to the state of institutions, law, and the respect of human rights and liberties.

Have agreed on the following:

- the immediately appointing a secretariat provided in the Tripoli action plan, and of the Rabat declaration, provided that Libya prepares the proposal relating to the structuring of such secretariat, and introduces it to the meeting of the delegates of countries, convening at Tripoli in a period not exceeding two months as of the date the Rabat Conference.
- drawing up and implementing a list of priority projects integrating the strategies and initiatives of the different United Nations organisms, international and regional organs, and all the machinery related to the struggle against terrorism and organized transnational crime;

- Creating a regional centre for the instruction and training of officers charged for the border security in the countries of the region, on the basis of the experience of other countries and partners;
- Creating sectorial working groups in the fields of security, intelligence, customs, and justice, for the forwarding of propositions in such fields, before the next session of the ministerial conference;
- Exchanging information related to border security between the countries of the region, and coordinating cooperation between authorities charged for border security, in order to evaluate and confront the security threats detected by the sectorial work teams mentioned in the precedent paragraph;
- Reinforcing the capacity of the countries of the region, as to new equipments and technologies, in order to improve border patrol;
- Cooperating to confront document falsification, especially documents of identity and generalizing the use of the biometrical system in pursuance to international standards, taking into account the needs of the countries of the region in this field, and the negative effects of this phenomenon on the security of the region;
- Drawing up a list of priority projects related to human development, going hand in hand with the needs of the border populations, so as to ensure their participation in improving border security, on the basis of bilateral, regional, and international cooperation strategies;
- Mobilizing adequate financial resources to support bilateral, regional and inter-regional projects and operations in the field of border security.
- Encouraging and reinforcing tripartite cooperation in order to facilitate the sharing of useful experiences and practices, and the ideal use of available resources;
- Accepting the proposal of the Arab republic of Egypt to host the third ministerial conference on border security in the, in the second half of the year 2014, to reinforce the political and security dialogue, and evaluate the advances achieved in the implementation of the decisions taken.