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Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Seventy-eighth session**
Agenda item 31 (b)

**Security Council
Seventy-ninth year**

**Prevention of armed conflict: Strengthening the role of
mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict
prevention and resolution**

**Identical letters dated 12 January 2024 from the Permanent
Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group for the month of January 2024, and on behalf of the Member States of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to annex herewith a statement issued by the spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (see annex) on the memorandum of understanding signed between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the “Somaliland” region on 1 January 2024.

In this connection, the Arab Group stresses the need for compliance with the rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States, regarding respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States in order to ensure regional and international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Jamal Fares Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative
Chair of the Arab Group for the month of January 2024



Annex to the identical letters dated 12 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement issued by the spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on 3 January 2024

In solidarity with the Government of Somalia, the League of Arab States rejects and condemns the memorandum signed between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and “Somaliland” as a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Somalia

The spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Jamal Rushdi, has expressed rejection and condemnation of any memorandums of understanding that violate or prejudice the sovereignty of the Somalia, and any attempt to take advantage of the delicate internal situation in Somalia or the stalled negotiations among the Somali people on the relationship between the Somali regions and the Federal Government to separate any part of Somali territory in violation of the rules and principles of international law, thereby threatening the territorial integrity of the State of Somalia as a whole.

The spokesperson said that the League of Arab States stands in complete solidarity behind the decision of the Somali Council of Ministers to regard the memorandum of understanding for partnership and cooperation signed on 1 January 2024 between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and “Somaliland” as null and void and unacceptable, insofar as it represents a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia as well as of international law.

The spokesperson warned of the dangerous impact this step could have on the spread of extremist ideas at a time when the State of Somalia was making major efforts to confront that threat.
