

Statement issued by
The Arab Peace and Security Council
Cairo—4/5/2008

Upon request by the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Peace and Security Council, composed by Djibouti, Algeria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, convened its first meeting with a view to discuss the developments on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Council was presided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the participation of the representatives of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait and Mauritania, and the Secretary General.

Having discussed the troubled situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in Ras Doumeira, and in light of the letter addressed to the Secretary General from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, and having taken note of the interventions delivered by the Secretary General and the Head of Delegation of Djibouti on the latest developments since 4/2/2008 and the exerted efforts by Djibouti to deal with the current tension between both countries with the use of peaceful settlement;

The Council affirmed the need of respect for the principles of good neighbourhood between the two neighbouring countries, the respect for their existing borders after the independence and for the unity and territorial safety of the states, as well as the need to promote the Arab African cooperation.

The Council also called for self control and for the peaceful settlement of this problem, as well as for the need to prevent any measures that would contribute to the escalation of the situation.

With a view to assess the development of situation, the Council solicited the Secretary General to send a mission from the Secretariat General to the border area and to present an immediate report to the Council. The Council also solicited the Secretary General to carry out immediate contacts with both parties, the President of the African Union Commission and the African Peace and Security Council in order to ensure a joint Arab African action to deal with the crisis.

The Council decided to remain permanently convened to follow-up on the development of the situation.