

## **Arab League Reform**

Egypt views the Arab League (AL) as one of the fundamental instruments of Arab common action; an instrument which should be restructured, and whose ability to contain, prevent and peacefully settle conflicts should be enhanced. Egypt also deems it essential that plans for economic integration be put into effect in order to ensure the free movement of trade, capital, individuals and technology within the Arab world.

Joint ventures should be created and investment opportunities improved all with the ultimate goal of establishing the long-hoped-for Arab common market.

Reforming the Arab system, meanwhile, requires a new concept of collective security, where threats are identified and means of protection are established. Greater attention should be given to cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education and culture.

However, developing relations between Arab countries in these areas should be based on a country-by-country approach. Promoting Arab relations between the major and regional powers in both East and West such as the US, the EU, Russia, China, Japan, India, Brazil and South Africa balances off the threats facing the Arabs and helps them diversify the assistance offered to them as either financial or otherwise.

Accordingly, in July 2003 Egypt launched an initiative to develop the Arab League and to activate Arab common action. Egypt also supported the resolutions adopted by the Arab Summit held in Tunisia in 2004 on reforming the institutions of Arab action.

In March 2007, the Arab summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia endorsed an Egypt-submitted work paper on a comprehensive concept of Arab national security based on providing protection against foreign penetration through local and regional crises.