

The 24th Session of the AU Summit

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The 24th session of the African Union's (AU) Summit was convened on January 30/31/ 2015 in the Ethiopian Capital Addis Ababa, with the attendance of 54 African presidents and prime ministers. The Summit was held under the theme "2015 is the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agenda 2063" commemorating the fifth anniversary of the African Woman Decade.

The Summit tackled various important issues, including the empowerment of the African Woman and addressing with the climate change, not to mention the means of addressing conflicts in various African states such as Libya, South Sudan and Congo in order to realize peace and stability all over the African Continent. The Summit also tackled the danger of the terrorist organizations, salient of which is Boko Haram in Nigeria, methods of fighting the Ebola epidemic, and the African stance towards the developments of the Palestinian issue.

Egypt; one of the most prominent AU founding countries, had participated in the 24th Session. President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi was heading a high-level delegation in his first visit to Ethiopia where he conducted various bilateral meetings with African heads of states that tackled the means of reinforcing relations and coordinating the stances towards the proposed issues on the AU agenda.

Al-Sisi's participation in this Summit reveals Egypt's keenness to foster relations with sisterly African countries, in addition to its support to the development efforts in Africa and to the Egyptian-African cooperation in various fields.

In this respect, it is clear that the Egyptian participation had realized several strategic objectives, including the means of the African participation in the coming economic conferences. Egypt had also received ratification from the African leaders on the resolution adopted by the AU nomination committee over supporting its candidacy to the non-permanent membership of the

Security Council to the year 2016/17. The Summit had also witnessed the transfer of presidency of the climate change committee from Tanzania to Egypt.

On the second day of the Summit, President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi cut his visit to return to the homeland in order to follow the repercussions of the terrorist attacks on North Sinai, leaving the Foreign Minister Sameh Shokry on top of the Egyptian delegation.

The 24th AU summit had concluded its works in the Ethiopian Capital Addis Ababa with various outcomes that had been mentioned in the final communiqué, including:

- A Consensus over sending international forces to Nigeria to fight Boko Haram
- An agreement over resolving conflicts and disputes and over urgently fighting the terrorism that had appeared in Africa, including the Youth Movement in Somalia, al-Qaeda in Maghreb and Boko Haram in West Africa.
- Implementing projects, realizing the added value to the industries and reforming the AU Peace and Security Council.
- An agreement among the leaders that the coming Summit will take place next June in South Africa.
- An Agreement over deploying an African force in West Africa to face Boko Haram.
- Empowering women economically, politically and socially, realizing equality between genders, fighting child marriage and harmful traditions, preventing violence against women and adopting the determinants of cooperation and partnership.
- Establishing a fund for fighting Ebola (took the lives of around 9,000 persons in West Africa) and constructing a center for disease control.
- Emphasizing a full support to the Palestinians in their just case.
- Directing a call to put an end to the crisis between Maghreb and the Sahara.