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### **President El Sisi Meets Jordan's King Abdullah II**

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi received the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein at Cairo International Airport.

After an official reception ceremony at the Presidential Palace, President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II held a closed session of talks, followed by an expanded meeting attended by the two countries' prime ministers and delegations. President El Sisi welcomed His Majesty King Abdullah II and valued the ongoing coordination between the two countries on various issues of mutual interest. His Majesty King Abdullah II commended Egypt's pivotal role in serving Arab causes as well as its efforts to enhance Arab solidarity.

The meeting addressed various aspects of the two countries' strategic and distinct relations and ways to strengthen them. President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II commended the progress in bilateral relations across a range of areas and emphasized the importance of continuing the two countries' joint higher committees, which are presided-over by the two countries' prime ministers, to explore ways to further advance bilateral relations. They also stressed the need to continue to follow up on the implementation of agreements and memoranda of understanding signed in various fields during the last meeting of the Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee, which was held in Cairo in August 2016.

On preparations for the Arab summit, due to be held at the end of March in Jordan, President El Sisi noted that he looks forward to participating in the summit. He underscored his confidence in the Kingdom's success to host this important event and in the summit's resolutions to be up to the challenges facing the Arab nation. President El Sisi emphasized Egypt's readiness to coordinate with Jordan to achieve this objective, particularly in light of the convergence of views between the two countries on most regional and international issues. President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II stressed the importance of supporting the Arab League, which is a key mechanism for joint Arab action, so as to unite the positions of Arab countries and to counter challenges they are facing at this critical juncture of their history.

President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II explored future moves to break the impasse in the Middle East peace process, particularly after the new American administration of President Donald Trump took office. They also tackled ways of joint coordination to reach the two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state along the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. They emphasized that these are unwavering Arab national fundamentals and come within the framework of preserving the rights of the Palestinian people and of protecting Islamic and Christian sanctities in Jerusalem and in the Palestinian territories, so as to contribute to restoring stability in the Middle East.

The talks also addressed a range of regional issues of mutual concern, including the Syrian crisis. President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II reiterated the importance for the current ceasefire in the Syrian territories to hold, and stressed the need to maintain the political track led by

the UN envoy. In this regard, they stressed the importance of the Astana meeting to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. The two leaders also emphasized the need to work on preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to fiercely counter terrorist groups and prevent all forms of support provided to them.

On Iraq, President El Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II expressed their full support for the ongoing military operation to liberate Mosul from the control of "Daesh" terrorist group, so as to restore stability to the country and allow the start of its reconstruction. They also confirmed the importance of supporting reconciliation efforts and a political settlement in Iraq that shall serve the interest of the Iraqi people.

On Libya, the President and the King of Jordan reviewed efforts aimed to unite the Libyan rank, and exchanged views on ways to preserve Libya's unity and stability and respect the will of its people. This is in addition to finding a purely Libyan solution that entrenches the pillars of Libya's national institutions without any foreign interference.

The two leaders underscored the importance of concerted efforts by the international community to counter terrorism and extremist thought, through an integrated strategy that is not limited to security and military aspects, but also encompasses economic, cultural and intellectual dimensions.

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