



## **Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty between the Republic of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic** [Informal Translation]

The Republic of Lebanon  
And  
The Syrian Arab Republic

Based on their privileged fraternal ties deriving their strength from their kinship roots, history, common belonging, destiny and interests;

And given their belief that reaching a higher degree of cooperation and coordination would serve their interests, provide ways to ensure their development and progress and protecting their pan-Arab and national security, ensure prosperity and stability, enable them to face all the regional and international developments and meet the aspirations of both countries' peoples, in implementation of the Lebanese National Pact approved by the Lebanese Parliament on November 5, 1989,

### **Have agreed on the following:**

#### **Article 1:**

The two states shall work on reaching the highest degrees of cooperation and coordination between them in all the political, economic, security, cultural, scientific and other fields, in a way that would ensure both brotherly states' interests within the framework of each state's sovereignty and independence, and in a way that would enable them to use their political, economic, and security capabilities to ensure prosperity and stability, maintain their pan-Arab and national security as well as expand and reinforce their common interests, in confirmation of their fraternal relations and as a guarantee of their common destiny.

#### **Article 2:**

The two states shall work on achieving cooperation and coordination between them in the economic, agricultural, industrial, trade, transportation, communications and customs fields, as well as establishing joint projects and coordinating development plans.

#### **Article 3:**

The correlation between both states' security necessitates Lebanon not being a threat to Syria's security and vice versa under any circumstances. Therefore, Lebanon shall not accept to become a passage or base for any force, state or organization aiming to undermine its security or Syria's security. And similarly Syria, that is concerned for Lebanon's security, independence, unity and nationals' reconciliation, shall not allow any act that would threaten Lebanon's security, independence and sovereignty.

#### **Article 4:**

Following the approval of the political reforms, in a constitutional manner, as stipulated in the Lebanese National Pact and upon the expiration of the delays specified in the Pact, the Syrian and Lebanese Governments shall decide to reposition the Syrian forces in the Beckaa area and the entrance of Western Beckaa in Dahr Al Baydar up to Hammana - al Mudayrij - Ein Dara, and if necessary, in other points to be specified by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. Both governments shall also conclude an agreement determining the volume and duration of the Syrian forces presence in the abovementioned areas and the relation of these forces with the Lebanese authorities in the places they are positioned.

#### **Article 5:**

The two states' Arab and international foreign policy shall be based on the following principles:

1. Lebanon and Syria are two Arab countries committed to the Arab League Charter, the Joint Arab Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty and all the agreements concluded within the



framework of the Arab League. They are also members of the United Nations, are committed to its Charter and are members of the Non-Aligned Movement;

2. The common destiny and interests between both countries;
3. Each country supports the other in matters relating to its security and national interests in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

Therefore, the governments of the two countries shall work on coordinating their Arab and international policies, achieving a wider cooperation in Arab and international institutions and organizations and coordinating their stances on different regional and international issues.

#### **Article 6:**

The following organisms shall be formed to accomplish the objectives of this Treaty. Other organisms can also be created by a decision of the Higher Council mentioned below:

##### **1. The Higher Council:**

- a. The Higher Council shall be formed from the presidents of both Contracting Countries and:
  - The Speaker of the People's Assembly, the Prime Minister and the Vice Prime Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic;
  - The Parliament Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon.
- b. The Higher Council shall meet once a year and when necessary in a venue to be agreed on.
- c. The Higher Council shall set up the general policy of coordination and cooperation between the two states in the political, economic, security, military and other fields. It shall supervise the implementation thereof and adopt the plans and decisions taken by the Follow-up and Coordination Commission, the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee for Economic and Social Affairs, the Committee for Defense and Security Affairs or any committee established subsequently.
- d. The decisions of the Higher Council shall be binding and effective within the framework of the constitutional regulations of the two states.
- e. The Higher Council shall determine the matters in which the concerned committees have the right to take decisions that shall become enforceable once issued, in accordance with the constitutional regulations and procedures in both countries, or in a way that is not incompatible with these regulations and procedures.

##### **2. The Follow-Up and Coordination Commission:**

The Follow-Up and Coordination Commission shall be formed of the prime ministers of both countries and a number of ministers concerned with the bilateral relations of the two countries. It shall assume the following functions:

- a. Following up the implementation of the Higher Council decisions and submitting reports to the Council on the implementation phases;
- b. Coordination of the recommendations and decisions of the specialized committees and submitting the proposals thereof to the Higher Council;
- c. Holding meetings, when necessary, with the specialized committees;
- d. The commission shall meet every six months, and when necessary, in a venue to be agreed upon.

##### **3. The Foreign Affairs Committee:**

- a. The Foreign Affairs Committee shall be formed of both countries' foreign ministers;
- b. The Foreign Affairs Committee shall meet once every two months and when necessary, alternately in one of the two states;
- c. The Committee for Foreign Affairs shall work on coordinating both states' foreign policy with regard to their relations with all states. It shall also work on coordinating their activities and



stances in the Arab and international organizations and shall prepare, for that purpose, plans to be adopted by the Higher Council.

**4. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs:**

- a. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall be formed of ministers of the two states concerned in the economic and social sectors;
- b. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall meet alternately in one of the two states, once every two months and whenever necessary;
- c. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall have competence to work on economic and social coordination between the two states and to make recommendations leading thereto;
- d. The recommendations adopted by the Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall be deemed effective, after the adoption thereof by the Higher Council, taking into consideration the constitutional procedures in both countries.

**5. The Committee for Defense and Security Affairs:**

- a. The Committee for Defense and Security Affairs shall be formed of both states' Ministers of Defense and Ministers of Interior;
- b. The Committee for Defense and Security Affairs shall have competence to examine the ways likely to preserve both states' security and propose joint measures to face up to any aggression or threat against their national security or any turmoil undermining the internal security of either state;
- c. All plans and recommendations drawn up by the Committee for Defense and Security Affairs shall be submitted to the Higher Council for approval, taking into consideration the constitutional procedures in both countries.

**6. The General Secretariat:**

- a. A General Secretariat shall be created to follow up the implementation of the provisions of this Treaty;
- b. The General Secretariat shall be chaired by a secretary-general appointed by a Higher Council decision;
- c. The General Secretariat headquarters, competences, staff and budget shall be determined by a Higher Council decision.

**Final Provisions:**

1. Special agreements shall be concluded between the two countries in the fields covered by this Treaty, such as the economic, security, defense and other fields, in accordance with the constitutional procedures in each of the two countries, and shall be considered as a complementary part of this Treaty.
2. The present Treaty shall enter into force following its ratification by the competent authorities, in accordance with the constitutional procedures of the two contracting states.
3. Both States shall endeavor to abrogate the laws and regulations that do not conform to this Treaty in a way that shall not be incompatible with the constitutional regulations in either country.

Damascus, 22 May 1991

For the Lebanese Republic  
**Elias Hrawi**  
President of the Lebanese Republic

For the Syrian Arab Republic  
**Hafez El-Assad**  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic