



## West Asia and Gulf Countries at 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNGA

### Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his speech to the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA debate on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 mentioned about the changing nature of society and the manner in which Israel's place is evolving among the community of nations. He referred to Israel's leading role in evolving new technology, which makes it capable of fighting fight terrorism, having provided intelligence inputs which had foiled dozens of terrorist attacks in recent times in many nations. He underlined that Israel was working hard to keep the world safe.<sup>1</sup>

He stated his concern regarding the Security Council's anti-Israel resolution adopted in December 2016 and the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a Syrian-sponsored resolution on health conditions and UNESCO's various resolutions. Despite such existing concerns, he hoped that in future, the UN would be able to acknowledge the role of Israel. He thanked the UN Secretary General for his support and also the US administration for providing constant support to Israel.<sup>2</sup>

He clearly stated his displeasure on the Iranian nuclear deal, and supported US President Trump in considering the nuclear deal "an embarrassment". Pointing out that Iran had vowed to destroy Israel, he made it clear that if Iran was allowed to continue with its nuclear programme, even with restrictions, Iran would soon follow the same course as that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He demanded cancellation or major modification of the nuclear deal, and expressed fears about the increasing Iranian influence over the Middle East. PM Netanyahu stated that Israel would prevent Iran from establishing military bases in Syria and from opening new terror fronts against Israel's northern border. To the people of Iran, he said "you are not our enemy; you

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, General Debate of the 72nd Session, September 19, 2017, <https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/israel> (accessed on September 27, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, General Debate of the 72nd Session, September 19, 2017, <https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/israel> (accessed on September 27, 2017)

are our friend". He also reiterated his commitment for advancing and achieving peace with all its Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians.<sup>3</sup>

## Iran

This analysis presents the salient points of Rouhani's speech. It may be noted that the quoted portions are taken from President Rouhani's speech<sup>4</sup> as available on his official website.

### **Achievements of His First Term**

Enumerating the achievements of his first term in the office of president, Rouhani said, "In its first term, while pursuing nuclear negotiations internationally, my government focused at home on the deliberation and articulation of citizens' rights leading to the promulgation of 'The Charter of Citizens' Rights' [signed by Rouhani on December 19, 2016] and its issuance for implementation. Adoption of this Charter conformed to the demands of a people who rose against dictatorial regimes, aspiring to restore their rights and human dignity 111 years ago [1906] in the Constitutional Revolution, and again in the Islamic Revolution 39 years ago."

### **Values that Iran Espouses**

*Moderation:* President Rouhani said: "I declare before this august global assembly that moderation is the inclination as well as the chosen path of the great Iranian people. Moderation seeks neither isolation nor hegemony. It implies neither indifference, nor intransigence. The path of moderation is the path of peace; but a just and inclusive peace: not peace for one nation, and war and turmoil for others. Moderation is freedom and democracy; but in an inclusive and comprehensive manner: not purporting to promote freedom in one place while supporting dictators elsewhere. Moderation is the synergy of ideas and not the dance of swords. And finally, the path of moderation nurtures beauty. Deadly-weapons exports are not beautiful; rather, peace is."

*Other Values:* Rouhani enumerated the other values of Iran: "We in Iran strive to build peace and promote the human rights of peoples and nations. We never condone tyranny and we always defend the voiceless. We never threaten anyone; but we do not tolerate threats from anyone. Our discourse is one of dignity and respect, and we are unmoved by threats and intimidation. We believe in dialogue and negotiation based on equal footing and mutual respect."

### **Plight of Muslims Globally and the Role of Israel**

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<sup>3</sup>General Assembly of the United Nations, General Debate of the 72nd Session, September 19, 2017, <https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/israel> (accessed on September 27, 2017)

<sup>4</sup> Official Website of Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, "Full text of President Rouhani's address to the United Nations General Assembly," September 20, 2017, <http://www.president.ir/en/100837>, accessed on September 25, 2017.

Mentioning the plight of Muslims globally and the role of Israel, Rouhani said: “In today’s globalized world, peace, security, stability and the progress of all nations are intertwined. It is not possible that a rogue and racist regime [that] tramples upon the most basic rights of the Palestinians and the usurpers of this land [can] enjoy security. It is simply impossible for anybody to aspire to attain long-term stability, prosperity and development, while Muslims in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Myanmar and so many other places live in misery, war and poverty.”

### **Countering the Iran-phobia**

Seeking to counter the Iran-phobia, Rouhani emphasised: “Throughout its history, Iran has been the bastion of tolerance for various religions and ethnicities. We are the same people who rescued the Jews from Babylonian servitude; opened our arms to welcome Armenian Christians in our midst, and created the ‘Iranian cultural continent’ with a unique mix of diverse religions and ethnicities. I represent the same Iran that has historically assisted the oppressed: centuries ago, we supported the rights of the Jewish people and today we insist on the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. Iran is still the same country: supporting justice and seeking tranquility.”

Rouhani continued: “Today, we are on the frontlines of fighting terror and religious extremism in the Middle East; not for sectarian or ethnic reasons, but for an ethical, humanitarian and strategic one. Iran does not seek to restore its ancient empire, impose its official religion on others, or export its revolution through the force of arms. We are so confident in the depth of our culture, the truth of our faith and tenacity and longevity of our revolution that we will never seek to export any of them in the way neo-colonialists do, with the heavy boots of soldiers. To promote our culture, civilization, religion and revolution, we enter hearts and engage minds. We recite our poetry and engage in discourse on our philosophy. Our ambassadors are our poets, our mystics and our philosophers. We have reached the shores of this side of the Atlantic through Rumi and spread our influence throughout Asia with Saadi. We have already captured the world with Hafez; we therefore are in no need of new conquests.”

### **JCPOA and its Future**

On the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Rouhani said: “The deal is the outcome of two years of intensive multilateral negotiations, overwhelmingly applauded by the international community and endorsed by the Security Council as a part of Resolution 2231. As such, it belongs to the international community in its entirety, and not to only one or two countries.”

Reiterating Iran’s position that it was against nuclear weapons, Rouhani said: “We have ourselves determined the extent of our nuclear program. We never sought to achieve deterrence through nuclear weapons; we have immunized ourselves through our knowledge and – more importantly — the resilience of our people. This is our talent and our approach. Some have claimed to have wanted to deprive Iran of nuclear weapons; weapons that we have continuously and vociferously rejected. And, of course, we were not and are not distressed for forgoing an option that we in fact never sought. It is reprehensible that the rogue Zionist regime that threatens regional and global

security with its nuclear arsenal and is not committed to any international instrument or safeguard has the audacity to preach [to] peaceful nations.”

On Iran’s compliance with the JCPOA, Rouhani said: “I declare before you that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be the first country to violate the agreement; but it will respond decisively and resolutely to its violation by any party. It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by ‘rogue’ newcomers to the world of politics: the world will have lost a great opportunity. But such unfortunate behavior will never impede Iran’s course of progress and advancement. By violating its international commitments, the new US administration only destroys its own credibility and undermines international confidence in negotiating with it, or accepting its word or promise.”

### **Reaction to Trump’s Speech in UNGA**

Reacting to the speech of US President Donald Trump in the UNGA on September 19, 2017, Rouhani said: “The ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric, filled with ridiculously baseless allegations, that was uttered before this august body yesterday, was not only unfit to be heard at the United Nations – which was established to promote peace and respect between nations – but indeed contradicted the demands of our nations from this world body to bring governments together to combat war and terror.”

Rouhani also said: “Instability and extremist violence have only been exacerbated in our region through the military interventions of extra-regional actors – the same powers that try to sell ever more of their deadly weapons to other states by accusing Iran of fomenting instability. I want to emphasize that foreign intervention and the imposition of alien wishes on the people of the region will only widen and deepen the crises in our region. The crises in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain do not have military solutions and can only be resolved through cessation of hostilities, and the acceptance of the will and wishes of the populaces. The United States Government should explain to its own people why, after spending billions of dollars of the assets of the people of America and of our region, instead of contributing to peace and stability, it has only brought war, misery, poverty and the rise of terrorism and extremism to the region.”

### **International Economic Cooperation**

On international economic cooperation, Rouhani said: “Iran, enjoying the world’s largest gas and oil reserves, is prepared to engage in long-term cooperation to advance global energy security. We are eager to expand international transit corridors through joint ventures in sea, rail and road infrastructure projects.”

Rouhani also said: “It is the policy of my government to continue to steadily enhance the entrepreneurial environment, protect intellectual property rights, continuously improve corporate governance, and engage in a robust campaign against money-laundering in order to

enhance the conducive legal climate for business and economic investments in various fields, particularly in knowledge-based enterprises.”<sup>5</sup>

## Turkey

### **The Syrian Crisis**

Turkey could not remain indifferent to the tragedy of these people whom we see as our brothers and sisters regardless of their origin or creed and to whom we are connected by deep historical ties. Since the outbreak of the conflict in Syria in the spring of 2011, we have made every kind of humanitarian and political effort to solve the problem and we will continue to do so.

### **Counter Terrorism**

Turkey is engaged in intensive fighting against the bloody terrorist organisations of the region such as Daesh and which are nourished by the instability in Syria and Iraq. In addition, our fight against the FETO terrorist organisation, which attempted to change the legitimate and democratic regime of Turkey by a bloody coup, is also going on. We have recovered 243 residential areas and a land area of more than two thousand square kilometers thanks to the Operation Euphrates Shield initiated in Syria following the attacks of Daesh on our borders.

### **The Kurdish Referendum Issue**

The efforts by PYD-YPG to change the demographic structure in the regions it has captured, to seize the property of the people and to kill or exile the ones who stand against constitute crimes against humanity.

Iraq also needs compromises to be reached on the basis of territorial integrity and the realisation of the ideals for building a common future. Steps, such as demands for independence, that can cause new crises and conflicts in the region must be avoided. We hereby call on the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government to abort the initiative they have launched in that direction.

Ignoring the clear and determined stance of Turkey on this matter may lead to a process that may deprive the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government of even the opportunities they currently enjoy.

### **Rakhine Violence**

The Muslim community in the Rakhine region of Myanmar is being subjected to almost an ethnic cleansing, with provocative terrorist acts being used as a pretext. The villages of the Rohingya Muslims, who are already living in extreme poverty and misery and deprived of their citizenship rights, are being burned down as hundreds of thousands of people are forced to flee from the region and the country.

Recently, on the occasion of a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, we held a special session on that matter in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, with the participating countries. We will hold the meeting of the OIC’s Contact Group on Rohingyas at the premises of the United Nations this afternoon.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

## UN Reforms

We want the Security Council to have a democratic, transparent, fair and effective structure. We propose that the Security Council should consist of 20 members with the same rights and competencies to serve for two years, with half of them being replaced every year. As such, all countries in the world will have a say in this important institution when it is their turn. It is imperative that we transform the UN into a body that is capable of taking swift action, as the embodiment of humanity's common conscience.

## Gulf Countries

No	Country	Represented by:
1	<b>Bahrain</b>	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa represented his country the Kingdom of Bahrain in 72nd annual meeting of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2017.
2	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>Prime Minister</b> , known as 'Diwan' Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hama Al Sabah represented the State of Kuwait in 72nd annual meeting of UNGA on 19 September 2017 in New York.
3	<b>Oman</b>	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah represented his country the Sultanate of Oman in 72nd UNGA annual speech on 23 September 2017 held in New York.
4	<b>Qatar</b>	<b>Emir of Qatar</b> Sheikh Tamim Bin Khaliaf Al Thani represented his country in 72nd annual meeting of the UNGA in New York on 19 September 2017.
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Adel Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister for Foreign Affairs represented the Kingdom of Saudi King in the 72nd annual meeting of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2017.
6	<b>UAE</b>	Minister of Foreign Affairs H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan represented the United Arab Emirates in 72nd annual meeting of UNGA on 19 September 2017 in New York.
7	<b>Iraq</b>	Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ibrahim Abdulkarim Al-Jafari represented his country in 72nd annual meeting of the UNGA held in New York on 23 September 2017.
8	<b>Syria</b>	<b>Deputy Prime Minister</b> , Foreign and Expatriate Minister Walid al-Moallem of Syria represented his country Syrian Arab Republic in 72nd annual meeting of UNGA on 23 September 2017 in New York.
9	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Crown Prince</b> Al Hussein bin Abdullah II of the Kingdom of Jordan represented his country to the 72nd annual meeting of UNGA in New York on 21 September 2017.
10	<b>Yemen</b>	<b>President of Yemen</b> Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour represented the

Republic of Yemen at the 72nd annual meeting of UNGA on 21 September 2017 in New York.

**Common Themes of the address of the Ten Gulf Countries in**

**72nd UNGA Annual Meeting**

- All ten countries began with the highlights of their foreign policy principles, which are based on UN Charter’s principles and international conventions, including good neighborliness, peaceful co-existence, non-interference in other state’s domestic affairs and faith in peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts through negotiations and dialogues.
- All countries expressed their commitment to combat terrorism and extremism.
- Israel-Palestine issue were common subject of all the speakers and locating it as one of the important reasons of continued disturbances in the region.
- Rohingya issue and urge to the Myanmar government to end the crisis was another major common concern of all these states.
- To stabilize the region, including Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Morocco, was on priority.
- Strengthening the role of UN in stabilizing the world, resolving the crisis and reformation of UN Secretariat and Security Council was another major focus of their speeches.
- Except Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, rest of the Gulf countries underlined the disruptive role of Iran in the region and urged it to abide by UN resolution be it nuclear issue or any other such as non-interference in domestic affairs of other states, following up the principles of good neighbourliness.
- GCC countries urged Qatar to stop backing terrorists groups and sheltering the outlawed people.
- Making Middle East nuclear and WMD free zone was another concern. In this, both Israel and Iran were targeted.
- Achieving Sustainable development goals, climate change, refugee crisis, growing violence and instability in the world, global economic crisis and its impact on the lives of common people, were other some issues underlined by various speakers in UNGA.

**Issues raised by the representatives in their addresses**

**I. Terrorism & Extremism**

1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today terrorism is not confined only to the terrorist organizations, rather it has become a tool in the hands of states, which are determined to create crisis in other countries in pursuit of their own agenda. Hence, these countries too have become full partners in the terrorist acts and a factor of destabilization of international peace and security.</li> <li>• Bahrain is ready to signed ‘strategic partnership’ within the region and with its allies. The Bahrain Defence Force and the American Fifth Fleet, which are providing protection to international navigation and commerce routes.</li> <li>• Bahrain underlined the importance of GCC-US Summit held in Riyadh in May</li> </ul>
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		<p>2017 and the signing of the MoU of establishing the <i>Global Centre for Fight Extremism</i> known as <i>I'tidal</i>, 'moderation'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>I'tidal</i> centre is established to fight extremist ideologies and enhance the value of tolerance and co-existence in the world. He praised the General Assembly's efforts of establishing the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism.</li> </ul>
2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PM of Kuwait condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. These are a principled and constant feature of Kuwait's policy.</li> <li>PM said his country supports all international actions and measures designed to combat terrorism and eliminate all terrorist organizations, besides supporting all provisions of logistical support initiated under international alliances against these groups.</li> <li>Kuwait also condemned the activities of ISIL. The speaker said Middle East region has bore the greater brunt of ISIL's terrorist activities. Hence, there is a need to focus on the root causes and eliminate the threats, which has mostly targeted the civilians.</li> <li>He said: the terrorist organizations have attempted to exploit the Islamic region and distorted the Islamic doctrine to achieve their objectives of creating chaos, wreaking havoc and inciting hatred and extremism in the region.</li> </ul>
3	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister of Oman said that his country denounces terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whatever its justifications might be.</li> <li>He said that his country also reaffirms its supports to all efforts that aim at confronting and ending this scourge through taking appropriate measures, based on the relevant Arab, Islamic and international resolutions, treaties and agreements.</li> </ul>
4	Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emir of Qatar said that whole world knows that Qatar has fought terrorism. Qatar believes in the necessity of fighting terrorism ideologically as well.</li> <li>The Emir said that Qatar goes beyond combating terrorism. It has provided resource assistance to provide education to <b>seven million children</b> around the world, so they should not fall prey to ignorance and radical ideas.</li> <li>Qatar believes in eliminating terrorism and extremism by addressing political, social and cultural roots. Qatar has participated in regional and international efforts of counter-terrorism and has supported UN Strategy to fight against terrorism adopted in 2006.</li> <li><b>Digital Security:</b> The Qatari Emir also raised the issue of 'digital security' and the 'unruliness in cybercrime' and 'electronic piracy'.</li> <li>He underlined the need of formulating clear-cut international legislations and institutions to organize this dangerous and vital field (cyber) and punish the</li> </ul>



		perpetrators of transnational crimes.
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On terrorism, the Saudi minister said that it violates human rights and human values across the world. He said that his country will steadfastly continue working to counter extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.</li> <li>• An Arab-Islamic-American Summit was held in May for this purpose and the summit reaffirmed its joint efforts to end extremism and terrorism by addressing the issuing of financing of terrorism.</li> <li>• The speaker said that the crisis in Qatar is jeopardizing his country's policy of combating of terrorism and extremism and cutting of funding of such terrorism.</li> </ul>
6	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister of UAE regarded extremism and terrorism as one of the major causes of creating instability and chaos in the region. He said that defeating terrorism is not tough. He cited the examples of two cities, Mosul in Iraq and Muqalla in Yemen, which has been liberated from the terrorists by their national forces.</li> <li>• In the region, terrorism and extremism can effectively be tackled. With the help of the global community, the minister proposed four measures to defeat terrorism and extremism: (i) unite in a firm and sincere manner to reject extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestation. There is no other way to confront and eliminate this scourge. In this direction, Riyadh Summit which took place on the US President Trump's visit was historic. The outcome of the Summit demonstrated that the Arab and Islamic world stands firmly against terrorism and its ideological roots; (ii) collective action is required to identify countries that support and finance terrorism and hold them accountable; (iii) there should be a zero tolerance to those who spread violence, fear and destruction; and (iv) action against such countries, which are providing safe heaven to these forces, should be taken.</li> <li>• The minister said that there is need to promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion. Today the Arab region is in great need of these values to counter the misleading messages and ideologies spread by extremist and terrorist groups, especially through social media platforms.</li> <li>• The speaker informed that the UAE has established and host specialized institutions such as 'Sawab' Centre as well as the International Centre for Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, 'Hedayah'. The objective of such forum is to demonstrate the peaceful nature of Islam. Besides, the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies is meant for consolidating the principle of peace among Muslims.</li> <li>• The minister also said there are certain countries, which are misusing their media platforms and provide podium for the murderous ideology of terrorism.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the major focuses of the Iraqi minister's address was to eliminate ISIL</li> </ul>

		<p>with the help of Iraqi forces and international community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister underlined that the future of Iraq is based on a comprehensive vision of restoring peace, providing basic services, allowing people to return to their homes and facilitating post-conflict reconstruction. The government of Iraq is engaged in protecting both, the victims of terrorism as well as the houses of worship. He urged that all parties should respect the spirit of citizenship and avoid giving cover to terrorists seeking to return to Iraq.</li> <li>• The minister underlined the role of <i>Takfiri</i> school system in instigating violence and terrorism by distributing misleading material, which threatens peace and stability in the world.</li> <li>• The speaker said his country was a <b>plurinational State</b> and it would organize its own election in early 2018. This would consolidate stability and economic progress of Iraq.</li> <li>• The minister <b>rejected referendum of Kurdistan</b> and added that later is forcing the Iraqi government to undertake measures to preserve its unity.</li> </ul>
8	Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Syrian Deputy PM said that since the beginning of the war, Syria has followed two main tracks: combating terrorism and working towards a political solution that endeavours to end the bloodshed and restore stability in the country.</li> <li>• The Syrian army is making progress on a daily basis against terrorism but it is important to the world to unite against the <i>Takfiri</i> ideology, which is growing like tumor all over the world.</li> <li>• The government trust in <b>Astana</b> process and the resulting ‘de-escalation zones’ and hopes that this will help Syria to reach an actual cessation of hostilities and separate terrorist groups, such as ISIL, Al-Nusra and others that have agreed to join the Astana process. Syria is committed to the memorandum of the ‘de-escalation zones’. However, the Syrian reserves the right to respond to any violation by other party. Syria also considers these zones are temporary arrangement and must not violate the territorial unity of the country.</li> <li>• The Syrian minister also accused the US of killing more innocent civilians through the International Coalition’ than terrorists, which was established a year ago primarily to fight against ISIL. He said the US has also used ‘<b>phosphorous bombs</b> and other internationally-prohibited weapons’.</li> </ul>
9	Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding <b>terrorism</b>, the Crown Prince said that his country has offered unwavering support to the international community to combat this scourge.</li> <li>• He also underlined that his country also believes in promoting the true values of Islam. Jordan’s peacekeeping troops have protected innocent civilians from Haiti to Darfur to East Timor.</li> </ul>

10	Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President of Yemen focused his address on Yemen. He directly accused Iran of interfering and spreading its particular ideology and values in Yemen.</li> <li>His efforts are to eliminate these forces under the UN Security resolutions and with the cooperation of global community.</li> </ul>
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## II. Rohingya & Refugee Crisis

1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister said that his country has total objection to the plight of Muslims in Myanmar and called on the Myanmar government to desist from using excessive force.</li> <li>The Myanmar government should take the responsibility of protecting the Rohingya Muslims and facilitate their access to all forms of relief and assistance, so this human tragedy can be put to an end.</li> </ul>
2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister of Kuwait compared the Rohingya crisis with growing challengers and risks in different regions, including the spread of the phenomenon of violence, extremism and terrorism, as well as the risks of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the threat of their use, in addition to the violations of human rights, as currently taking place in Myanmar, of the rights of the Rohingya Muslim minority.</li> <li>He called for an immediate cessation of all acts of prosecution practiced against them (Rohingayas), and granting them their rights to citizenship and decent living.</li> </ul>
3	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific reference to Rohingayas, but the Omani minister showed concerns on growing turbulence leading to mounting refugee problems in the world.</li> </ul>
4	Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emir of Qatar compared Rohingya issue with the theme of the UNGA session: <i>'Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet'</i> and urged the 'Myanmar government and the international community to take all possible legal and moral responsibility to stop violence against the Rohingya minority'.</li> <li>The Myanmar government should provide them protection, repatriate the displaced to their homeland, prevent sectarian or ethnic discrimination against them, and ensure them to have their legitimate rights of full-fledged citizenship and provide humanitarian assistance to them.</li> </ul>
5	Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Saudi minister said that his country strongly condemns the repression and mass displacement of Rohingayas carried out by the Myanmar government.</li> <li>He termed the Rohingya crisis as a 'tragedy', which required an urgent response and end must be put to this in line with the principles our organization was founded. The minister said that his country urges Myanmar government to respect its commitment and protect its population against discrimination.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He informed that Saudi Arabia has donated US\$ 15 million to ensure decent living of these people in the host countries. Besides, his country has also hosted more than half million Rohingyas in the Kingdom.</li> <li>• King Salman has personally ‘intervened with neighbouring States of Myanmar and has also worked with Bangladesh to help ensure safe passage and ensuring decent living conditions for those refugees’.</li> </ul>
6	UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE minister drew attention to refugee crisis in general and urged the UN to assume responsibility in finding solution and addressing their grave implications, especially the Rohingyas, who are under ethnic cleansing of the Myanmar government.</li> <li>• He said UAE condemns atrocities committed against them (Rohingyas).</li> <li>• Rohingyas are suffering from ‘collective punishment’ and affirmed that UAE will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to reduce their sufferings.</li> <li>• He cited the example of Yemen that despite rejection of peace process by the Houthis, humanitarian assistance has continued there. He also said that his country will continue to work though Arab coalition under the wise leadership of Saudi King.</li> </ul>
7	Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment</li> </ul>
8	Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment</li> </ul>
9	Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific comment on Rohingyas. But the Crown Prince of Jordan showed his concerns of the impact of the growing number of refugees in his country.</li> <li>• He said a resource-poor country in a resource-rich region like Jordan is one of the largest hosts of refugees in the world. Around 1.3 million Syrian refugees are living in Jordan along with millions of Palestinians, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis as well as others from Libya and Yemen.</li> <li>• The direct cost of the Syrian crisis consumes more than a quarter of Jordan’s budget. Its ripple effects are felt across local communities, where 90 per cent of Syrian refugees reside. This has exerted pressure on housing, healthcare, education, jobs, etc.</li> <li>• The Crown Prince underlined the growing donor’s fatigue on the one hand and multiplying expenditure on arms import on the other. He cited that last year, the world alone spent around US\$ 1.7 trillion on arms, but it could not provide more than US\$ 1.7 billion in fulfilling the UN appeal to support Syrian refugees and host communities in countries like Jordan.</li> <li>• The Crown Prince underlined that ‘war economies are thriving to the benefits of few, while the real economies are suffering to the detriment of all’.</li> <li>• The Prince concluded his speech by saying that the ‘UN is our global</li> </ul>

		conscience’ but it seems it is on ‘silence mode’. We need to ‘break this silence and start finding answers’.
10	Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
<b>III. Israel-Palestine Issue</b>		
1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister of Bahrain said that the Palestinian question comes on top of Bahrain’s foreign policy priorities.</li> <li>He said Bahrain has always stood with the Palestinian people and has supported their legitimate aspiration, including independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital and with the border of 4 June 1967 along with all international resolutions, Arab Peace Initiative and the two state solutions formula.</li> <li>He also said that Israel should halt its settlement activities and stop violating the sanctity of religious sites, especially the <i>Al Aqsa Mosque</i>.</li> </ul>
2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister of Kuwait said that this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the occupation of the Palestinian territories in 1967.</li> <li>This is the only Arab cause that had been saturated with UN resolutions, international and regional initiatives without ever being implemented and this is due to the intransigence of Israeli settlement policy.</li> <li>He said that Israel has refused to implement the UN resolution 2332, which confirms the illegality of the Israeli settlement policy and calls for its cessation.</li> <li>The speaker said that his country condemns the Israeli violation of <i>Al Haram Al Sharif</i> (Al Aqsa Mosque) in Jerusalem, which is a new attempt to change the existing historical status.</li> <li>Kuwait also rejects all Israeli policies, plans and practices that aim for the <i>judaization</i> of the holy city, erase its Arab identity, disrupt the demographic structure and isolate it from its Palestinian perimeter. Such violations are not only open threat to international peace and security but are also contrary to the relevant Security Council resolution as well as the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949.</li> <li>The Prime Minister appealed to the international community, the Security Council to pressurize Israel to implement the UN resolutions to ensure legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, recognition of their own independent state over their territory with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the borders of 4 June 1967.</li> </ul>
3	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment on Israel-Palestine issue.</li> </ul>
4	Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emir of Qatar said that Israel still ‘stands in the way of achieving a lasting, just and comprehensive peace and rejects the Arab Peace initiative’.</li> <li>Israel’s intransigence approach and strategy to create facts on the ground</li> </ul>

		<p>through expanding settlement construction in the occupied territories, <i>Judaizing</i> Jerusalem and restricting the performance of religious rituals in <i>Al-Aqsa</i> Mosque, have undermined the peace talk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He said that the international community must give high priority to the resumption of peace negotiations and seek a comprehensive settlement that could establish an independent Palestine State on the basis of 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its capital.</li> </ul>
5	Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Saudi minister of foreign affairs said the Israel-Palestine conflict is the most protracted in the modern history of the Arab region.</li> <li>• This has led innumerable tragedies and great human sufferings. Nothing can justify the continuation of this conflict. Moreover especially when international consensus on two-state solution based on internationally recognized resolutions and Arab Peace Initiatives in order to establish an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital within 1967 borders.</li> <li>• We need more than even today international determination today to make this issue a concrete reality.</li> </ul>
	UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister said “our international efforts to achieve peace in the region will not be successful without ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories which has lasted over seven decades”. This situation makes young people “vulnerable to exploitation by terrorist groups who claim that they are the only choice through which they can achieve their aspirations”.</li> <li>• UAE also considers UN role important in finding solution to humanitarian and political crises and addressing their grave implications, especially with regard to the recent violence and ethnic cleansing committed against the Rohingyas in Myanmar.</li> </ul>
	Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Iraqi minister said that peace in the region can be established only when <b>Israel</b> withdraws completely from the <b>Palestinian</b> lands and an independent state of Palestine is established.</li> </ul>
	Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy PM of Syria underlined that Israel has continued its ‘unscrupulous thuggish actions with impunity’. It has ‘occupied the Arab territories in Palestine and Golan for more than 70 years’. It has committed ‘horrific crimes against innocent civilians’.</li> <li>• <b>Israel</b> has publicly ‘interfered in the Syrian crisis since its early days’. It has provided all forms of ‘support to <i>Takfirist</i> terrorist gangs, including funds, weapons, and material and communication equipment’. Israel has also bombed Syrian army positions to serve the terrorist agenda.</li> <li>• He said that the cooperation between Israel and the terrorist groups do not come as a surprise because after all the interests and goals of the two are the</li> </ul>

		<p>same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister said that it is ‘delusional to believe for a moment that the crisis of Syria would make us forget to recover Golan, fully to the line of June 4, 1967’.</li> </ul>
	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Crown Prince of Jordan said that despite prevailing skepticism, his country is steadfast in its commitment to work on a just and peaceful resolution to the <b>Israeli-Palestinian</b> conflict, based on two-state solution. Jordan staunchly upholds its duty as Hashemite Custodians of Muslims and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.</li> <li>He also said that preserving the historical and legal status quo to <i>Al Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Al Sharif</i> is the key to peace in the region and the world as Jerusalem is the cradle of three monotheistic religions.</li> </ul>
	<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of Israel-Palestine issue.</li> </ul>
<b>IV. Syria</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Bahrain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Syria, the minister of Bahrain urged the international community to exert greater efforts towards protecting civilians, forcing all parties to abide by the ceasefire decision, establishment of de-escalation zone, guaranteeing access to the besieged areas for the delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as intensifying support to countries hosting large number of Syrian refugees, most notably Jordan.</li> <li>The minister underlined that political solution to the Syrian crisis should respect its territorial integrity and ending of foreign intervention in the internal affairs. The solution should also seek to abolish all terrorist organizations and provide security to all Syrians, so they could participate in the determination of their own future based on the communiqué of the First Geneva Conference and Security Council resolution 2254 and 2268.</li> <li>He also affirmed his country’s faith in Astana talk.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PM of Kuwait expressed his country’s concern over the ongoing death and destruction in Syria.</li> <li>The minister said that the loss in Syria cannot be underestimated. A whole generation has been lost. Since the onset of conflict more than 400,000 people have been killed, nearly 12 million people have been displaced in addition to massive destruction of property and infrastructure in the majority of provinces.</li> <li>The minister said that on moral and humanitarian ground his country has hosted three international donor conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and co-chaired the 4th and the 5th international donor conference held in London in February 2016 and in Brussels in April 2017 respectively. During these conferences Kuwait contributed approximately US\$ 1.7 billion and the bulk has been given to the specialized agencies of the UN and to the governmental and</li> </ul>

		<p>non-governmental agencies dealing with humanitarian affairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, despite all these efforts the situation has not changed on the ground in Syria. This clearly establishes that this crisis cannot be ‘resolved through military means’.</li> <li>• The PM underlined that the stakeholders could not develop consensus on the communiqué issued on the first Syrian talk in Geneva. Over the period of five years, six rounds of talks on Syria in Geneva have taken place but there is hardly any achievement.</li> <li>• The PM pointed out that there is a need to intensify the efforts to bring together all parties and hold direct talks to find peaceful settlement of the conflicts. The solution of the conflict should be in accordance with the provision of the Security Council resolution 2254, which emphasizes on the creation of a political reality that would ensure unity, independence and sovereignty of Syria as well as realizing the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Oman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No mention of Syria in the speech.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Qatar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Syria, the Emir of Qatar clearly said that no territorial dismemberment of the country is accepted. Syria’s sovereignty and unity should be maintained in accordance with the Geneva-I decisions and Qatar will spare not efforts to alleviate humanitarian sufferings of the Syrian people.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Saudi minister expressed his country’s feeling towards the people who became victim of terrorism. He said his country has hosted around 200,000 Syrians and is providing them opportunities for leading a decent life in the Kingdom. It does not treat them as refugees.</li> </ul>
6	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE minister referred Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Morocco to be stabilized through adequate support of the global community. He said that if disturbances in these countries are not tackled it would destroy the development achieved so far and all efforts would reduce to only managing the problems than solving it.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Iraqi minister said his country supports political solution not a military one.</li> <li>• His country has adopted a policy of non-interference in the affairs of other states.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Syria</b>	---
9	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crown Prince mentioned Syrian disturbances as a loss to his country, especially in terms of trade, refugee burden and high cost of social services.</li> <li>• The worsening situation in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Gaza, Palestine, etc has affected its trade, trade routes and this will negatively impact his country.</li> </ul>



10	Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of Syria.</li> </ul>
		<b>V. Qatar Crisis</b>
1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bahraini minister underlined that there are some states whose double standard are creating destabilization in the region, threatening international peace and security, supporting terrorism and spreading hate and anarchy. Therefore, such states should not be allowed to become parties to the efforts of bringing the struggle to an end, resolving conflicts and ending the 'complex humanitarian tragedies'.</li> <li>He urged that international community to confront as well as shoulder this responsibility.</li> <li>The speaker said that under the same spirit, four countries, namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and the UAE severed their diplomatic ties with Qatar that has violated all 'brotherly relations of good neighbourliness, non-interference, providing financial support and safe heaven to terrorists and fugitives and disseminated a discourse of hate and extremism via media, individual and institutions.</li> <li>He said: if Qatar is serious, by act and not by words, to engage in a dialogue and reclaim its place among us, it must respond positively and commit itself in all transparency to the just demands, which are 'issued during the Cairo meeting by the four countries on 5 July 2017'.</li> </ul>
2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of Qatar.</li> </ul>
3	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of Qatar</li> </ul>
4	Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emir of Qatar defined the unannounced blockage imposed on his country as 'unjust' and viewed it as a kind of 'betrayal'. The blockage involves all aspects of life, including the intervention by these countries to sever family ties. Their aim was to pressurize the citizens by cutting the supplies of foodstuffs, medicines and to rip apart the consanguineous relations and force them to change their political affiliations and 'destabilize a sovereign country'.</li> <li>The Emir equated Anti-terrorist Quartet's (ATQ) action with terrorism by raising question: 'Isn't this one of the definition of terrorism'.</li> <li>He said that their objective of the blockade was to 'bring Qatar to its knees and to capitulate to a total tutelage to be imposed on it'. However, people of Qatar have rejected their dictations, while country is also managing its economy, development plans and relations with outside world effectively.</li> <li>The Emir of Qatar said that his country would remain, as always is the case, 'a safe haven for the oppressed and will continue its mediation efforts to find just solutions in the conflict zones'.</li> </ul>

5	Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Saudi minister underlined that Qatar should stop giving financial support to terrorism, safe haven to the outlawed people. The position that has been taken by four states to clearly demand that Qatar to follow the international law in combating terrorism, including honoring its obligations of 2013 Riyadh Agreement and Complementary Agreement of 2014. These are genuine demands. He also said that Doha should stop giving safe heaven to the outlawed people, stop hate speech</li> <li>He also said that Qatar should follow international law on terrorism and extremism.</li> </ul>
6	UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAE minister justified the action taken by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt against Qatar, which has been supporting extremism and terrorism.</li> <li>Their collective action is aimed at desisting Qatar from such activities, which has destabilized the region.</li> </ul>
7	Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
8	Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
9	Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
10	Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
		<b>VI. UN Reform &amp; Its Role in the world</b>
1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bahraini minister said his country's foreign policy is based on peace and enhancing partnership with the UN. He said that Bahrain has implemented several policies of UN to achieve the goals of SDGs, including empowering his country's youth, both male and female.</li> <li>He cited two such schemes, which are underway in his country: <b>King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the SGDs</b> and, <b>Prince Sabeeka bint Ibhraim Al Khalifa Award for Women Empowerment</b>. The aim of these two schemes is to engage the youth, enhance the role of women in development and engage them into peacemaking processes in the country.</li> <li>Bahrain also looks forward of signing of a strategic partnership with the UN for the period 2017-2020.</li> <li>Besides, the minister also praised the efforts of Secretary General in reforming the structure and management of the UN, enhancing its role in the consolidation of peace and security and to support sustainable development in response to the growing challenges and changing circumstances confronting.</li> </ul>
2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PM of Kuwait said that the State of Kuwait firmly believes in the vital and effective role of the United Nations and its various bodies, agencies and programs, to face up to increasing global challenges and risks.</li> <li>In that light, Kuwait welcomes the proposals and plans put forward by the</li> </ul>

		<p>Secretary-General to restructure the Secretariat, aimed at making it a more coherent body and promoting its effectiveness and efficacy in ensuring the coordination and streamlining of its activities in the fields of maintaining international peace and security and the follow up of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Security Council reform, the Kuwaiti PM said “We renew our call for the necessity of reforming the Security Council to reflect the new international reality in a manner that would reinforce its representation, credibility and legality, and would also ensure permanent Arab representation commensurate with the number of Arab States and their contribution in supporting the different activities of the United Nations”.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Oman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister said that the world needs a strong United Nations, so it could play a more effective role. He stressed of giving the United Nations the lead again to take the peace process forward. Its agencies should play a more active role in the development process, in order to achieve the sustainable development goals.</li> <li>• The minister said that Oman will fully support the Secretary General in his effort to reinforce the Organization's role in attaining international peace and security.</li> <li>• The speaker said that peace and dialogue have become an inevitable necessity for humankind, and their realization is a collective responsibility. The United Nations, therefore, is vested with the responsibility to work forward.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Qatar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Qatari Emir associated his foreign policy with the UN Charter and rules of international legality. Therefore, its vitality in international affairs is significant.</li> <li>• The Emir reiterated that the State of Qatar will spare no effort in working to strengthen the role of and efforts of the UN to achieve what international community seek in regard to peace and security and to promote human rights and advance development</li> <li>• The speaker also said that his country is ready to increase financial contribution to the United Nations to implement UN programmes and provide humanitarian relief to those in need worldwide.</li> <li>• He informed that in 2017 Qatar ranked third on the list of major donors to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kingdom is seeking partnership in the world to sustain global development. In this the role of UN is important.</li> </ul>
6	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE minister mentioned that his country's foreign policy is guided by principles consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law i.e. a spirit of partnership, support for the rule of law, good-neighborliness</li> </ul>

		<p>and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These principles lead UAE to support a stronger role for the United Nations, and its reform, so that it can fulfill its mandate to maintain international peace and security and bring about development and prosperity.</li> <li>• The minister also mentioned that the role of United Nations is crucial to bring the warring parties on negotiation table.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific mention of UN. However, the minister said that for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq, his country needs support from global community.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Syria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy PM said that 'given the failure of UN to uphold its own Charter, reform in UN and the principles of international law are important. This will not only enable it to play effective role but also allow it to defend the legitimate rights against the law of the jungle that some are trying to impose.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crown Prince of Jordan said that the United Nations is our global conscience, but sometimes it is felt like the 'world's conscience is on silent mode'.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President as such did not mention about the UN reform, but he reposed faith in resolving the Yemeni crisis through UN mediation. He also cited the UN-led peace negotiation on Yemen hosted by Kuwait.</li> </ul>
		<b>VII. Views on SDGs Sustainable Development</b>
1	<b>Bahrain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister informed that his country is taking keen interest in realizing the goals of sustainable development. The King organized International Youth Conference to Achieve Sustainable Development. The aim was to increase the awareness among youth about the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and enhancing the role youth in achieving them.</li> <li>• Bahrain has keen interest to pursue its efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs and to maintain its leading position among countries with high indicators in the field of human development.</li> <li>• The minister informed that his country has made significant progress in meeting UN Charters' objectives, including eliminating forced labour, human trafficking and ratified relevant international agreements and protocols. It has also issued Unified Family Law, which is a key legislative tool in consolidation the family's stability and preservation of all its rights without exploitation or mistreatment.</li> <li>• The minister said that in support of UN's endeavour to address global warming and its implications in the field of climate change, his country deposited in December 2006 its instrument of ratification of Paris Agreement. Hence, renews its commitment to the historic agreement, which is hoped to help consolidate international efforts in containing this perilous phenomenon.</li> </ul>

2	Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PM of Kuwait underlined the problems of achieving the objectives of 2030 SDGs and reducing the impact of natural disaster and the greenhouse effect. For this, he said that development partnership, solidarity to reduce all forms of poverty and commitment to climate change and Paris Agreement are essential.</li> <li>• He also informed that Kuwait is committed to implement sustainable development by mainstreaming its goals in Kuwaiti national development plans and programmes, embodied in “New Kuwait” 2035 plan.</li> <li>• The speaker said that Kuwait has consistently shouldered its regional and international responsibilities to achieve development in various social, economic and environmental areas. It has also provided developmental assistance to around 160 developing and least developed countries through various institutions, most prominently by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development by offering grants and soft loan.</li> </ul>
3	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Omani minister said that the UN agencies should play a more active role in the development process, in order to achieve the sustainable development goals. For this the member states need to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter and avoid unilateral decisions and policies.</li> <li>• He also underlined the need of giving UN again a lead role in achieving these objectives.</li> <li>• The minister said it is important that international community should look for new vision that would achieve justice, expand common interest and help states reach higher levels of sustainable development.</li> </ul>
4	Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qatar’s Emir expressed his faith in the centrality of UN in the world. He underlined Qatar’s contribution, including financial to strengthen the UN and its various agencies looking after humanitarian, refugee, climate change, sustainable development, achieving of SDGs, etc.</li> </ul>
5	Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Saudi minister said that his government is actively backing the UN to achieve the SDGs by 2030. It also feels that achieving of its three pillars such as social, economic and environmental goals will make life better in the world.</li> <li>• His country has been providing aids to the developing countries, namely through ODA. The Kingdom has spent around 0.7 per cent of its national income to support the developing countries.</li> </ul>
		<b>VIII. Middle East Nuclear &amp; WMD Free Zone</b>
1	Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bahrain urged the need of making the Middle East region a nuclear free zone. He said that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty needs to be adhered to.</li> <li>• Israel should implement the resolution issued by the review Conference on the Parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban treaty of 1995, which talks of</li> </ul>

		<p>making the Middle East a nuclear free zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He also urged Iran to implement the Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), especially those part, which are related to the ballistic and related weapons or else face severe sanction.</li> <li>• The minister also welcomed the Security Council resolution 2375, which imposes new sanctions on DPRK, especially on its ballistic test that threatens its neighbours.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Kuwait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Oman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister drew attention that the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons indicated that the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on the establishment of middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction remains in force, until it achieves its objectives.</li> <li>• He said that in this respect, my country supports the efforts of the international community towards the creation of a binding instrument that would cover the loopholes that emerged in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).</li> <li>• This document is highly important as it helps the international community get rid of weapons of mass destruction.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Qatar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment</li> </ul>
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment</li> </ul>
6	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Iran's nuclear issue, the minister said that two years have passed since Iran's nuclear agreement, with no sign of change in its hostile behavior in the region or any desire to abandon its nuclear ambitions. Instead, Iran continues to develop and conduct more ballistic missile tests in a deliberate violation of the spirit of the nuclear agreement. Therefore, we support enhancing controls on Iran's nuclear program and continued assessment of the agreement and its provisions.</li> <li>• He compared Iran's nuclear and ballistic policy with North Korea. He said that the aggressive policies of Iran and North Korea are inconsistent with their membership in an international organization whose primary concern is the maintenance of international peace and security.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Iraqi minister urged countries to help his country develop <b>nuclear power</b> for peaceful purposes under the rights provided under the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Syria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment</li> </ul>

9	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
10	<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
		<b>IX. Yemen Crisis</b>
1	<b>Bahrain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister that Bahrain firmly reiterated its country's commitment to back the legitimate government of President Abdrabuh Mansor Hadi and also expressed his resolve to uproot terrorist elements through 'Arab Coalition'.</li> <li>He suggested that the Yemen crisis could be overcome through a comprehensive political solution based on three parameters: GCC Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism; Outcome of the National Dialogue; and, Security Council Resolution 2216.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Kuwait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding Yemen, the minister said that the country is passing through a difficult phase of its history. Coup led by Houthi militias and the followers of the former President against the legitimate government and their refusal to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and international initiatives have made political settlement tough. His country reaffirms its full support to the unity and respect of Yemen's sovereignty and independence as well as rejects the interference in its internal affairs and supports and backs constitutional legitimacy. He informed that his country seeks political settlement of Yemen on three agreed upon references namely: the Outcome of the National Dialogues, Initiative of the GCC countries and its Implementation Mechanism as well as the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2216. Kuwait has exerted efforts to resolve this conflict by hosting a three-month consultations process between the Yemeni parties, held under the auspices of the UN.</li> <li>In addition, Kuwait has also considered the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people and has participated actively in the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, held in Geneva on 25 April 2017 and has pledged US\$ 100 million amount to the cause.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Oman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>
4	<b>Qatar</b>	On Yemen, the Emir backed the idea of stabilizing the country and implementing the Security Council resolution 2216.
5	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister said that the Houthi militia takeover of the country [Yemen] with support from Iran. This represents a threat to the region. He also underlined that the military solution will end the crisis in Yemen.</li> <li></li> <li>The Saudi minister said that the efforts of the Kingdom in Yemen are to restore peace, protect territorial integrity and return the country to its people.</li> <li>He also informed that his country is also aware of the scale of humanitarian</li> </ul>

		<p>crisis and on that ground its assistance has exceeded US\$ 8 billion besides providing humanitarian and medical assistance through King Salman centre for Humanitarian aids and assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister said that Saudi Arabia fully supported the political process in Yemen and would stand by the United Nations and its Special Envoy to arrive at a political solution, in line with resolution 2216 (2015).</li> <li>• There is no choice except to sustain a political process in Yemen and find solution without compromising its territorial integrity.</li> </ul>
6	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UAE minister said that the developments made in Yemen need to be protected through collective efforts; otherwise we would be reduced to managing these conflicts instead of being able to solve it.</li> <li>• He said that in Yemen we would continue to work determinedly through the Arab coalition under the wise leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the political and humanitarian processes with the utmost vigour and determination.</li> <li>• We will strive to address the humanitarian and development needs of the Yemeni people, especially women and children, and restore stability.</li> <li>• He accused Iran of arming Houthis in Yemen just like it is doing in other part of the region.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Syria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comment.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In his address, the Crown Prince mentioned Yemen as a crisis point, which has increased his country's difficulties, in terms of instability and growing refugees in his country, which is eating out its scarce resource.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The entire focus of the address of the Yemeni President was on restoring peace and security in Yemen, controlling and bringing Houthi rebels to negotiation table and preventing Iran from interfering in to Yemen's domestic affairs and spreading of specific philosophies, ideologies and values imbued with hatred and violence, in his country.</li> <li>• The speaker underlined that Yemen problem is not a political one. Had it been a political, it would have settled at negotiating table. Neither it had been the problem of <i>coup d' etate</i>; rather it is a matter of difference in philosophies, ideologies and values, which forces the Yemeni people to struggle against such religious sect that believes in extremisms, infected with superiority complex and right to rule over others.</li> <li>• The rebel Houthis are not interested in <i>coup d' etate</i>; rather they are carrying beyond any traditional military action, which seeks to preserve the States and its institutions. Instead these militias are destroying State institutions, including</li> </ul>



		<p>military and security forces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speaker said that the coalition made by rebels is a ‘coalition of evil’ and has used violence and terrorism to rebel against the elected legitimate leadership.</li> <li>• Rebel Houthis have used armed forces against people and has taken the entire country to hostage. After exhausting all political and peaceful means, the Yemeni people have started resisting the <i>de facto</i> policy of the rebels.</li> <li>• He accused Iran, which is determined to destabilize the region. Sustainable peace is only possible when <b>Iran</b> stops interfering in Yemen’s affair, creating terrorism and ‘faking’ conflicts and stroking feelings of hatred and violence.</li> <li>• He urged that efforts should be made to control Iran’s expansionist aspirations and activities of the Iranian revolutionary Guard, which had supplied the Houthi rebels with long range missiles. The rebels have tried to assassinate the international envoy and have continued to compromise peace and security, including threatening of international <b>maritime pathways</b>.</li> <li>• He said, “we are not warmongers... we desire peace”. He underscored that the consensual agreements that had been reached upon as well as the agreement endorsed by the international community, including resolution 2216 (2015) should be implemented. Yemen needs global support due to the high level of poverty and food insecurity.</li> <li>• The President called on the international community to apply pressure on the rebels to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. His government is ready to support humanitarian assistance to all parts of the country.</li> <li>• The President urged all to support in his efforts to ‘consolidate peace and security, control the economic situation and counter-terrorism’ in his country.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>X. Iran, GCC</b></p>
<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Bahrain</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister of Bahrain stressed that Iran has to shun its hegemonic and expansionist ambitions in the region. This does not only deprive its own poor people from precious resources spent on these activities but with the help of its Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, militia in Yemen and terrorist cells in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq as well other countries, also has destabilized peace and security in the region.</li> <li>• The minister backed President Trump’s statement in the UNGA that ‘denounced the dangerous nature of the Iranian rouge regime’, involved in underlining ‘peace in the region’.</li> <li>• Iran can only establish normal relations if it drops its hegemonic, sectarian and ideological policies. It must respect the national values of people and stop exporting its revolution based on theocratic system or government.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tehran must abide by the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs. The minister also called on Iran to end its occupation of the three Emirati islands, Greater Tunb, Smaller Tunb and Abu Musa.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Kuwait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kuwaiti PM said that at the regional level, and within the framework of the efforts and endeavors undertaken by Kuwait to consolidate the foundations of good neighborly relations, we renew our call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to undertake serious confidence-building measures, and establish relations based on reciprocal cooperation and respect, common interests, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and renounce practices that jeopardize the security and stability of the region, and contradict with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, as well as to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, thus directing efforts and possibilities towards construction and development, so that all the peoples of the region can enjoy security, peace and well-being.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Qatar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding Iran, the Emir of Qatar said: In order to achieve security and stability in the Gulf region, we renew our call that we have already launched from this podium, for conducting a constructive dialogue between the GCC countries and Iran on the basis of common interests, the principles of good neighbourliness, respect for the sovereignty of State and non-interference in their internal affairs.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Saudi minister said the region is facing unprecedented tension and crisis continues unabated. The minister accused Iran of creating and abating disturbances in the region.</li> </ul>
5	<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minister said: The common factor in all crises suffered in the region and the real obstacle to any concrete progress in resolving these crises remains the hostile and expansionist policy of Iran in the region. That policy is one of interference in the internal affairs of other states, and of arming and supporting terrorist groups, such as the Houthis and Hezbollah, as well as terrorist groups and cells in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and Kuwait.</li> <li>• Iran has not only committed blatant violations of the principles of sovereignty, but also continues to exploit the crises in the Arab world to undermine regional security by inciting and fueling conflict. Iran must realize that peaceful co-existence based on respect for sovereignty in the region is the best basis for a harmonious relationship with the states of the Arabian Gulf.</li> <li>• Tehran has committed blatant violations of the principles of sovereignty. It continues to exploit the crisis in the Arab world to undermine regional security by inciting and fueling conflict.</li> <li>• The speaker suggested that Iran must realize that peaceful co-existence based on respect for sovereignty, is the best basis for establishing a harmonious</li> </ul>

		<p>relationship with the states of the Arabian Gulf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister said: We reaffirm from this podium the UAE's firm position and its legitimate right to sovereignty over its three islands: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which are occupied by Iran in violation of the provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We will not abandon our demand for Iran to return the occupied islands to their rightful owners, either voluntarily or through the peaceful means that are available for the resolution of international disputes, particularly through the International Court of Justice.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Syria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Deputy PM of Syria praised the role of Russia and Iran in tackling the crisis in Syria. He said Turkey's position stands in stark contrast to the positive and constructive role played by Russia and Iran.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific comment</li> </ul>
8	<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President of Yemen criticized Iran for interfering in his country. He said that the rebels were implementing an Iranian expansion agenda in the region, which had resulted in a request for support from the Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia, which had heeded that request and stood by Yemen.</li> <li>He said: The militias received full support from Iran, a State determined to destabilize the region. Sustainable peace would only be possible if Iran stopped interfering in Yemen's affairs, creating tensions and "faking" conflicts, while stoking feelings of hatred and violence. Efforts must be made to control Iran's expansionist aspirations, he said, emphasizing that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had supplied the militias with long-range missiles.</li> </ul>

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*Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.*