



**The address of His Excellency Ambassador
Ahmed Rashid Khattabi,
Assistant Secretary-General and head of the
Media and Communication Sector,
At the 21st Ordinary Session of the Executive
Bureau of the Council of Arab Information
Ministers**

(General Secretariat: 25 November 2025)



In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,

Your Excellency Dr. Salman bin Youssef Al-Dossari,
Minister of Media of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,
Distinguished Guests,

At the outset, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the League of Arab States and to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its commendable efforts during its presidency of the Executive Bureau to advance Arab media, enhance its capabilities, address our shared issues, and highlight our rich and diverse cultural values.

It is undeniable that the Palestinian cause remains at the forefront of these concerns. In this context, I would like to reaffirm the vital role of the media in keeping pace with current developments, particularly in the Gaza Strip and the evolving situation in the West Bank. Such engagement reinforces the international momentum in support of the rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international law and the established Arab principles affirming the necessity of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

From this standpoint, we express our deep appreciation for the efforts of Arab media institutions in shedding greater light on the humanitarian, relief, social, and environmental conditions in the Gaza Strip. We also renew our solidarity with the Palestinian media, which has lost more than 250 journalists as a result of the brutal Israeli war, carried out without regard for the principles of international humanitarian law or relevant international conventions. In this regard, we stress the need to establish strict safeguards to ensure the protection and safety of journalists during armed conflicts.

In the same vein, it is necessary to activate the directives of the Council of Arab Information Ministers in formulating media policies and strengthening



cooperation programmes among member states, as well as in establishing a more influential Arab media presence on the international stage, particularly through a media action plan abroad. This plan should focus on supporting the Palestinian cause, combating terrorism and extremism, and correcting stereotypical representations of the Arab world.

Your Excellencies,

Before you is a set of recommendations that the Standing Committee on Media has diligently prepared in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat team. These recommendations will be submitted to the Council of Arab Information Ministers for approval, and I am confident that they will represent a qualitative addition to Arab media efforts, strengthen professional capabilities, and diversify the forms of cooperation and partnership.

In this context, the recommendation to admit both the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO) and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport as observers to the Council of Arab Information Ministers is particularly noteworthy. Moreover, the adoption of a media and information literacy strategy constitutes a forward-looking step towards disseminating digital culture among youth, enhancing their critical thinking skills, and building digital citizenship, thereby contributing to the advancement of comprehensive development.

We also look forward to a number of decisions in light of the conclusions of the Standing Committee for Arab Media and this prominent Bureau, including, in particular, implementation of the phased plan for the media strategy to combat terrorism, the plan in the field of environmental media, and follow-up on the media roadmap for sustainable development 2030, in addition to organisational measures aimed at further enhancing joint Arab media action.

Wishing you every success in your endeavours.



Peace and God's mercy be upon you.