

Aboul Gheit's address at the inauguration of the 57th ordinary session of the Higher Coordination Committee for Joint Arab Action



Directors-General and Heads of Joint Arab Action Organisations and Institutions,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I meet with you once again at the 57th ordinary session of the Higher Coordination Committee for Joint Arab Action, convened under the auspices of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO). Allow me, on behalf of all of you, to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Professor Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar, Director-General of ALECSO, and his dedicated team, for graciously hosting the meetings of this session and for his continued support of the League of Arab States and its various initiatives. His commitment to fostering close cooperation with the League in the service of joint Arab action is deeply valued.

I also take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the Republic of Tunisia—its President, government, and people—for their generous hospitality and steadfast support in ensuring the Organisation's stability and enabling it to carry out its vital mission.

The organisation hosting us today stands as one of the most venerable Arab institutions. Endorsed by the Council of the League of Arab States on 21 May 1964, and officially inaugurated on 25 July 1970, ALECSO has since established itself as a cornerstone of specialised Arab action. Its expertise in education, culture, and science remains indispensable to our collective efforts. We remain committed to advancing the noble objectives enshrined in its founding constitution and the Charter of Arab Cultural Unity, particularly those pertaining to the construction of a knowledge-based society and the modernisation of education and scientific research systems across the Arab world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Palestinian cause continues to endure the gravest threat in its modern history. The occupying power is waging a war of annihilation against a defenseless people, as the world looks on in shameful silence and complicit indifference. Israel's actions aim to obliterate the Palestinian people from both geography and history—an ambition fuelled by archaic myths and entrenched racism. In this perilous moment, steadfast Palestinian presence on their land has become the most critical form of resistance. It is our collective duty to strengthen and uphold this resilience in the face of unprecedented brutality.



Forced displacement is unequivocally rejected—by Arabs, Muslims, and the broader international community. The time has come to end this ongoing massacre, initiate urgent reconstruction and recovery efforts, and lay the foundation for a just and lasting solution—one that reflects the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation: the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the two-state solution.

In this regard, I wish to recall the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 113th ordinary session, which called for the preparation of an emergency response plan to address the dire economic and social repercussions of the Israeli aggression against the State of Palestine. This was reaffirmed by the resolution adopted during the Committee's 56th session, and later endorsed by the Bahrain Summit held on 16 May 2024.

It is important to laud the commendable efforts of member states, along with the various organisations and institutions of joint Arab action, which have extended essential relief—economic, social, humanitarian, and health assistance—to the Gaza Strip.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The successive crises afflicting our region and the broader international landscape have posed formidable challenges to the League of Arab States in its endeavour to address a wide array of political, economic, social, and humanitarian repercussions. When we consider the tragedy unfolding in Palestine alongside the difficult situations in Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and other Arab states, the regional picture becomes even more intricate and fraught with complexity.

In light of these developments, I took the initiative to prioritise the theme: "The Role of Joint Arab Action Organisations and Institutions in Supporting Post-Conflict Countries: Enhancing Reconstruction Projects in the Gaza Strip and Syria" as a central item on the agenda of our current meetings. I reiterate, from this notable platform, the urgent appeal to extend all forms of support to these nations and to every Arab country drained by the scourge of conflict and the devastation of war.

As I have consistently asserted in recent years, this forum presents a timely opportunity to reaffirm the significance of paying due attention to the applications of artificial intelligence—an area that has rapidly become central across countless



domains. In an era of accelerating technological advancement and profound digital transformation, it is imperative that we, as Arabs, proactively engage in this sphere.

In this context, I recall the initiative I proposed during the Committee's session in 2024 to convene an Arab dialogue circle focused on modern trends in artificial intelligence applications, the ethics of their use, and their implications for the Arab region. I am pleased to note that this initiative was realised last February through the commendable efforts of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, in collaboration with the General Secretariat. The dialogue circle succeeded in establishing itself as a valuable platform for dialogue among distinguished Arab and international experts in the field.

I take this opportunity to underscore the necessity of continuing such initiatives and strengthening coordination between Arab states and specialised institutions to harness artificial intelligence in a manner that promotes sustainable development, enhances digital security, and safeguards the Arab cultural identity. The integration and diffusion of this technology across sectors such as the economy, education, security, defence, and healthcare requires deep-rooted institutional and structural transformations, as well as the reinforcement of our scientific and technological infrastructure—a process that may span decades. Yet we, as Arabs, cannot afford to lag behind in this decisive race that will shape the contours of the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our collective effort to rise to the demands of the moment and elevate the work of the Higher Coordination Committee to new heights, I wish to highlight two points of critical importance:

First: In line with the action plan previously adopted, which focuses on priority areas and has yielded commendable progress in several key domains, I stress the importance of ensuring the continuity of the projects and initiatives already underway. In this regard, we will today review reports and presentations submitted by the organisations and institutions of joint Arab action, as well as by the relevant sectors of the League's General Secretariat, outlining progress and future directions.



Second: The recent Arab Summit held in the Kingdom of Bahrain marked a positive turning point and a renewed momentum in joint Arab action. The Summit approved a number of strategic frameworks across various sectors and reaffirmed the mandate of Arab institutions to implement programs and mobilise the necessary resources in coordination with partners. These strategic directions will form a core part of our deliberations today, and I look forward to an open, constructive, and forward-looking exchange with all of you on these pivotal matters.

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.