

Aboul Gheit's address at the 11th Conference on Dialogue between Arab and Chinese Civilisations

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Your Excellencies.

It is my pleasure to convey my sincere appreciation to the People's Republic of China, its leadership, and its people for their generous hospitality and warm welcome in hosting the 11th Conference on Dialogue between Arab and Chinese Civilisations.

Through our shared resolve, this conference has evolved from a periodic forum for cultural discussion into a cornerstone of the comprehensive strategic partnership between our two sides, reflecting the profound understanding and constructive cooperation that underpin the relationship between Arab and Chinese civilisations.

Our gathering today stands as a vivid expression of the deep-rooted ties linking our two ancient civilisations, which throughout history have embodied a distinguished model of positive interaction and creative coexistence. The caravans of the historic Silk Road served not only as conduits for the exchange of goods, but also as pathways for the transmission of ideas, philosophies, sciences, and



arts—enriching both civilizations and contributing meaningfully to our shared human heritage.

The theme of our current session calls for jointly building a future China—Arab community for the new era. This is not a distant or abstract aspiration, but an ambitious strategic vision that reflects our shared recognition of the need to replace the language of conflict with the language of partnership, and to shape the future through dialogue and understanding rather than rejection or hostility.

We are acutely aware that the world today is confronted with rapid transformations and complex, transboundary challenges—from climate change and security threats to regional crises, sustainable development concerns, and the risks associated with accelerated technological advancement. In this context, intercultural dialogue becomes an indispensable necessity and an essential tool for formulating sustainable and innovative solutions.

The reality is that our present era, with its rapid and profound transformations, has left many around the world anxious in the face of successive developments that they struggle to fully grasp. Modern technology—particularly social media—has contributed to heightening these tensions. By its very nature, digital platforms tend to amplify the most extreme voices, exploiting the anxieties of vast segments of society. The consequence has been the spread of hate speech between civilisations, accentuating their differences and divisions rather than the shared human values embedded in every civilisation.

The truth is that our contemporary world has indeed made many uneasy. Confronting hate speech has therefore become a responsibility incumbent upon all institutions working for the



betterment of humanity. At the League of Arab States, our conviction remains firm that human civilizations complement and converge, and that their true strength lies in their diversity. Accordingly, we uphold the principle of civilisational integration and reject exclusionary tendencies, while consistently affirming respect for national sovereignty and the right of each state to determine its own developmental and political paths, free from external pressures. In the cultural sphere, no civilisation is superior to another, and by the measure of values, none stands above or below the rest.

In this context, I express my deep appreciation for the Chinese Presidential Initiative on World Civilisation. It constitutes a noteworthy and substantive contribution to contemporary international discourse, offering a wise and balanced vision that supports the shaping of a shared future for humanity. It also aligns closely with our Arab and Islamic principles of tolerance, moderation, and openness to others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the Tianjin Summit, His Excellency President Xi Jinping announced the Global Governance Initiative, which seeks to address deficiencies within the current international system—most notably the underrepresentation of the Global weakening of the authority of international law and UN resolutions, and the pressing need to strengthen the global capacity to confront emerging challenges. The initiative aims to reform global mechanisms and revitalise the multilateral governance international system on the basis of internationally recognized principles enshrined in the UN Charter. The Arab States form an integral part of the Global South; thus, the Global Governance Initiative reflects their concerns regarding the existing international order and its mechanisms. We firmly believe that this important



initiative merits serious consideration and appreciation, given its potential contribution to fostering global peace and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our joint investment in culture and heritage preservation opens promising horizons, dismantles entrenched stereotypes, and empowers upcoming generations. We must nurture these generations with the awareness that diversity is a source of strength, and that dialogue remains the only path to understanding others and embracing their cultures.

No strategic project can succeed without the meaningful participation and empowerment of youth. We therefore strongly support the expansion of youth exchange programmes and joint initiatives, such as the Young Leaders Exchange Camp, to ensure that young people assume their role in building a shared society for the new era and become our hope for a more peaceful and just future.

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm the League of Arab States' steadfast commitment to sustaining dialogue between our two ancient civilisations. Our commitment to building a China–Arab community with a shared future reflects our collective determination to overcome challenges and fulfil the aspirations of our peoples. We look forward with optimism to the second China–Arab Summit in 2026, which will represent an important milestone in the evolution of this strategic partnership.



I reiterate my gratitude to the People's Republic of China for its generous hospitality and excellent organisation, and I extend my thanks to all participants.

Let us work together, hand in hand, for the sake of future generations and for deeper understanding among all peoples everywhere.

Thank you, and peace be upon you.