



**About Gheit's address at  
the inaugural session of  
the Economic and Social Council  
at the Ministerial Level,  
116th Ordinary Session**

**3 September 2025**



**Your Excellency Mr. Samir Obeid,  
Minister of Trade and Export Development of the Republic of Tunisia,  
President of the Current Session of the Economic and Social Council,**

**Your Excellencies, Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the 116th Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Council, wishing you every success in this responsibility. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for presiding over the previous session of the Council and for the effective manner in which it conducted its work during that period.**

**Mr. President,**

**The draft agenda of our meeting addresses a number of issues that are of particular importance and priority on the joint Arab economic and social agenda. I wish today to focus my remarks on matters related to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people by strengthening the Palestinian economy and extending assistance to a number of Palestinian social welfare centres.**

**The foremost objective of the coming phase is to preserve the project of the Palestinian state, which the occupation seeks to erase through the displacement of its people and the seizure of its land. Our duty is to safeguard the resilience of Palestinian institutions and to enable them to continue fulfilling their national role under extremely difficult circumstances and amid existential threats to the Palestinian cause.**

**The steadfast people of Gaza have endured forms of brutality and dehumanisation without parallel in modern history. Starvation has been used as a weapon before the eyes of the world, while influential powers remain unable to halt this daily massacre and bring an end to the ongoing carnage. The objective has become evident to all: to compel the people to abandon their land and to undermine the two-state solution, not only in Gaza but equally in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.**

**Our nation's economic potential is by no means limited. I therefore call for the mobilisation of these resources and the sharpening of capabilities to preserve the state project, strengthen its institutions, and support the steadfastness of the people in both Gaza and the West Bank.**



**Mr. President,**

The draft agenda for today's meeting also includes issues related to initiatives aimed at establishing new ministerial councils and enhancing the performance of specialised Arab organisations. This is an important and vital approach. The demands of this stage require the development of mechanisms for joint collective action that can keep pace with the challenges of the age and its rapid transformations.

Experience has shown the importance of achieving flexibility and adaptability in planning and implementation, so that both existing and emerging institutions may realise the objectives for which they were established and meet growing needs. All of this remains consistent with the Charter of the League of Arab States, which serves as the primary compass and fundamental reference for any effective and impactful Arab collective action.

Among the issues before us today are matters related to promoting a culture of tolerance, peace, and dialogue among civilisations. These are fully aligned with the critical phase the world is experiencing. Today, more than ever, we are in urgent need of spreading the culture of peace and promoting its practice—a basic right under the international human rights system, yet one that many international actors have neglected. The time has come to advance the values of dialogue, tolerance, and peace among peoples, embedding them in educational curricula, media, cultural and religious discourse, and other platforms of communication between societies.

Before this notable Council, I therefore renew my call to all wise and responsible voices in the world to join efforts in promoting the culture of dialogue and peace as a means of resolving disputes and conflicts, combating hate speech, violence, and intolerance, and fostering a spirit of reassurance among younger generations—integrating them into their societies, and embracing others in the building of safe, advanced nations that move forward towards comprehensive and sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

**Mr. President,**

Ten years ago, the international community adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, setting timelines, plans, and programmes to achieve these objectives.

A decade later, and as the remaining time grows short, the challenges facing the attainment of these goals have become starkly apparent in many regions. This is largely due to humanitarian crises born of wars and cycles of violence in several Arab countries. Such crises have set back human development efforts by decades, deepened



**poverty and hunger, and devastated infrastructure and public services, particularly in education and health. In this regard, I stress the urgent need to combine efforts to create a safe environment conducive to meeting the most basic requirements of development in these areas.**

**I also underscore the need for this distinguished Council to provide an Arab platform for the exchange of successful national experiences in reconstruction—a rich reservoir of expertise that many of our Arab countries possess.**

**In this context, I stress the importance of following up on the implementation of the decisions of the Fifth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, hosted by the Republic of Iraq last May. The Summit adopted more than 30 important resolutions covering a wide range of economic, social, and development issues, and identified measures for implementation by member states, the General Secretariat, and specialised organisations alike.**

**In conclusion, I thank you, Mr. President, and wish you every success in chairing this session.**

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