

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

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses,

Ladies and Gentlemen, heads and representatives of think tanks in Arab Countries,

Distinguished experts, academics, and researchers,

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the Third Annual Forum of Think Tanks in Arab Countries, held this year under the highly significant theme: "The Role of Think Tanks in Employing Artificial Intelligence Technologies to Enhance Informed Decision-Making." This forum is organised by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, represented by the Department of Research and Strategic Studies in the Media and Communication Sector, to further strengthen cooperation among Arab think tanks and reinforce their role as active knowledge and strategic partners in supporting Arab decision-makers. This support is grounded in insights derived from scientific research, objective analysis, and close monitoring of the rapid transformations unfolding in our contemporary world.

This forum convenes at a time when our world is witnessing unprecedented and fundamental transformations driven by the digital revolution and the remarkable advancements in artificial intelligence technologies. These technologies are no longer merely tools, but have become influential forces in shaping decisions and policies, steering public opinion, and contributing to the construction of the future.

Think tanks, as centres of expertise, foresight, and knowledge, recognise that they now bear an even greater responsibility to engage with these transformations and to harness artificial intelligence tools to enhance research, analysis, and decision-making, thereby strengthening their effectiveness and their ability to provide more accurate, profound, and objective insights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The outcomes of the first and second Arab Think Tank Forums marked important progress towards establishing the Arab Network of Think Tanks, an initiative designed to unify efforts, enhance cooperation and knowledge exchange, and create a shared Arab intellectual space capable of engaging regional and global issues with a strategic vision grounded in science, expertise, and data.

This year's forum continues along that constructive path, focusing on the central objective of examining how artificial intelligence technologies can contribute to Arab decision-making—not as substitutes for human decision-makers, but as supportive tools that enhance analytical, planning, and evaluative capacities.

Through these annual forums, we remain committed to building an Arab think tank network that fosters cooperation and integration and advances research and analytical tools capable of keeping pace with major digital transformations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Artificial intelligence has emerged as one of the most influential drivers of global transformation today—not only in industry and the economy, but also in the realms of thought, research, and decision-making. It enables researchers to analyse vast volumes of data with speed and precision, and allows think tanks to anticipate future trends and provide evidence-based recommendations that enhance the quality and effectiveness of public policy.

Yet, despite the promising opportunities these technologies offer, they also raise complex challenges related to ethics, data governance, algorithmic reliability, and individual privacy. Hence the vital role of think tanks in addressing these challenges with a balanced scientific perspective that combines innovation with responsibility, and technical analysis with human insight.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By organising this forum, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States reaffirms its commitment to supporting Arab think tanks as a credible scientific voice in the development process, an active partner in informed Arab decision-making, and a bridge between knowledge and policy, and between science and society. We hope that the forum's proceedings will yield practical recommendations that strengthen research and technological cooperation among Arab think tanks and establish clear foundations for the responsible application of artificial intelligence in service of the Arab peoples, their societies, and their future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This forum, through its sessions and discussions on artificial intelligence technologies, strategic analysis, ethical deployment, and presentations of successful experiences, serves as an important intellectual platform for exchanging expertise and formulating a shared Arab vision on harnessing artificial intelligence in support of sustainable development and sound decision-making.

In this context, we hope that the forum's deliberations will yield practical recommendations that contribute to developing an Arab framework for research cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence and strengthen the capacity of think tanks to employ these technologies responsibly and sustainably, thereby supporting the processes of modernisation and development in our Arab countries.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere appreciation to all participants, experts, and researchers from across the Arab region who accepted the invitation, and to our colleagues in the Department of Research and Strategic Studies for their exemplary efforts in preparing and organising this forum. We wish everyone success in their endeavours, and we look forward to outcomes that enrich Arab thought and reinforce development efforts and joint cooperation.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.