

# **Ambassador Ahmed Rashid Khattabi's speech at the opening of the first meeting of the Arab Media Excellence Award Committee**

18 September 2023

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

Mr. Hamad Al-Badri, Chairman of the Arab Media Excellence Award Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed committee members,

First, I extend a warm welcome to all of you at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. We gather here for the inaugural meeting of the Arab Media Excellence Award Committee in its eighth session, in accordance with the resolution passed during the 53rd session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers in Rabat last June. This resolution emphasised the imperative need to "promote high-quality and professional excellence in media and enhance the capabilities of Arab media professionals."

In the previous session, the Arab Media Excellence Award witnessed a significant transformation, characterised by the expansion of its categories

and the reinforcement of its motivational essence. In this context, I commend the proactive response of the State of Kuwait, which initiated the provision of financial prizes to the awardees, and I applaud the dedication and effort exhibited by the members of the Award Development Committee, as well as the former members of the Media Excellence Award Committee who diligently served during their tenure.

It is undeniable that there are additional ideas and suggestions that could further enhance the award's stature. The General Secretariat has undertaken the task of developing a preliminary vision for the amended award statute, which serves as the regulatory framework governing the award's operations.

In light of this, the statute has been enriched with constructive proposals aimed at addressing previously unaccounted scenarios. This is intended to infuse the award with more diversity, transparency, and credibility, thereby granting the Committee greater flexibility in its operations. The General Secretariat is committed to considering all proposals submitted by member states, which will be incorporated into the project as it nears its final form for approval during the upcoming session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers.

I must underscore the League of Arab States' profound commitment to this award, as it continually strives to develop and amplify its influence within the Arab media community, spanning various professional domains. This commitment is a tribute to those tirelessly working in the media sector, shedding light on Arab and international public opinion regarding pressing

issues, sustainable development, and climate change. This commitment is especially pronounced in light of the tragic disasters that have affected certain Arab nations, notably the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Libya.

The agenda for this meeting imposes additional responsibilities on the committee. It necessitates a comprehensive and meticulous examination of the project to ensure it reaches its optimal form, commensurate with the award's significance. In addition to its statutory obligations, the committee is entrusted with evaluating proposals submitted by member countries concerning the award's thematic focus, aligning it with Arab concerns and media priorities.

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