**Aboul Gheit's address at the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**

21 June 2025

Your Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,

President of the Republic of Turkey,

Your Excellency Mr. Hakan Fidan,

Chairman of the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,

Your Excellency Mr. Hussein Taha,

Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our region is undergoing an exceptionally critical phase. Recent developments—particularly the Israeli aggression against Iran and the ensuing dangerous spiral of escalation—once again underscore the risks of unresolved, protracted conflicts and the absence of a fair and sustainable resolution.

I state candidly that Israel continues to operate under the belief that security can be achieved solely through violence, and that peace may be imposed by brute force. This is a delusion we had hoped history had dispelled. Yet, after decades of occupation marked by violence, oppression, and subjugation against the Palestinian people and others, we find ourselves back at the starting point. Neither the promised security has materialised, nor has peace drawn any nearer.

We firmly condemn Israel’s military campaign against Iran—launched at a time when all parties were actively seeking a diplomatic solution with patience, mutual understanding, and a sincere willingness to compromise in the spirit of coexistence, rather than through the imposition of power and brutality.

I must also stress that any military targeting of nuclear facilities carries grave risks for civilians, both within and beyond Iran, and is entirely unacceptable. The League of Arab States has repeatedly affirmed—at the highest levels—the imperative of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East, halting the nuclear arms race, and compelling Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Therefore, I urge all parties to promptly return to the negotiating table. Diplomatic solutions that addressed legitimate concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme were achieved in the past through unified global political will and genuine intentions. It is believed that such solutions remain attainable today, and are actively pursued and supported by countries within the region and beyond that aspire to peace. These nations recognise the grave danger of descending into an unending cycle of conflict and retaliation—one whose repercussions would engulf the entire region and threaten international security and stability. The expansion of this war serves the interests of no party.

Mr. President,

The gravity of recent events must not distract us from the central issue—the plight of the Palestinian people, who continue, to this very moment, to suffer daily under the crimes of occupation. In a single day last week, 140 Palestinians were killed in front of food distribution centres, which have been turned into death traps—deepening the tragedy of deliberate starvation used as a weapon, in blatant violation of the laws of war, humanitarian principles, and the most basic standards of morality.

All this continues to unfold, while some still resort to the use of the veto to shield the occupation and enable further atrocities. It is a mark of disgrace on the conscience of humanity—one that future generations will reflect upon with sorrow, shame, and disbelief at the deafening silence surrounding crimes perpetrated in broad daylight and with utter impunity.

I will continue to voice an undeniable truth—one that is evaded and obscured by Israel’s supporters and enablers: the occupation is the root cause of tension and instability in the region. Its persistence fuels atrocities, while those responsible remain poised to drag the region—and the world—into greater violence, bloodshed, and animosity in pursuit of their goals of ethnic cleansing and the erasure of the Palestinian cause, as they envision.

Mr. President,

Rescuing the Palestinian people from this relentless brutality has become a humanitarian, moral, and indeed religious obligation—before it is a political imperative. To allow extremists and those consumed by violence and displays of force to lead the way is to court an inevitable catastrophe, the consequences of which future generations will be forced to bear.

Thank you.

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