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Aboul Gheit's address at the celebration marking Arab Sustainability Day 2024

February 2024 19



**Your Excellency Dr. Nevine Al-Qabbaj,
Minister of Social Solidarity of the Arab Republic of
Egypt,**

Dear pioneers of sustainability in the Arab world,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I commence my address, I extend a warm welcome to you at the nexus of joint Arab action incubator, the League of Arab States. Together, let's commemorate Arab Sustainability Day 2024. Cast your memory back to last year when we launched this initiative in collaboration with several Arab stakeholders, aiming to proliferate sustainability concepts and foster their promotion across the Arab world. Our focus is on scrutinising initiatives geared towards realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

As done in the inaugural edition, we are delighted to pay tribute to distinguished Arab individuals and organisations, notably Her Excellency Ms. Nevine Al-Qabbaj, for her commendable efforts in advancing development in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Special acknowledgment is extended for her active role in enhancing the agenda of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Social Affairs, presiding over its 43rd session. Notably, her recent initiative to establish a mechanism connecting social development institutions and banks under the League of Arab States' umbrella is



a proposal set for consideration at the upcoming Arab Summit in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gathered in this historic hall today, we confront unfortunate circumstances evoking profound sorrow and justified anger due to the ongoing plight faced by our brethren in Palestine at the hands of an occupier relentlessly pursuing the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. It is disheartening to witness the deliberate devastation wrought by the Israeli occupation upon the Gaza Strip, causing enduring repercussions for decades to come, serving as a testament to the heinous crimes committed and the world's inability to halt the aggression. I reiterate our unequivocal rejection of Israeli threats to invade the city of Rafah, the last refuge for over one and a half million Palestinians seeking sanctuary from the aggression and destruction in other parts of the Strip. Urgent action is implored from all parties to halt this barbaric process, recognising its potential catastrophic consequences for regional security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we approach the 79th anniversary of the League of Arab States, an organisation committed to fostering development and prosperity in the Arab region, it has actively pursued these objectives through comprehensive plans, initiatives, and strategies aligned with sustainable development goals. Despite notable achievements, the Arab region has faced violent and



successive crises, impeding progress and resulting in the loss of development gains over recent decades. Our resounding message is clear: achieving peace and security for all is indispensable for regional development. Addressing conflicts, especially the enduring Palestinian cause, is paramount. The two-state solution remains the universally recognised formula, except for the occupying force, as a means to resolve this conflict and end the last colonial occupation in contemporary times.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the League of Arab States, we emphasise the significance of partnerships in realising sustainable development goals, recognising that no single entity can achieve this alone. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Plan in 2015, we have launched various initiatives to strengthen cooperation among regional countries and organisations. The recent "Arab Vision 2045" initiative, developed in collaboration with ESCWA, embodies a vision encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions centred around peace, justice, and development while safeguarding the rights of future generations to enjoy the Earth's wealth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The League of Arab States eagerly anticipates active participation in international discussions shaping the future of global development. Serving as a consultative hub and a platform for expressing Arab perspectives on various global issues, the League remains committed to engaging in these dialogues. In preparation for the



upcoming summit in New York this September, we have initiated a dialogue session during this celebration to explore visions and ideas, aiming to crystallise an Arab position that resonates at the summit.

In conclusion, I extend a renewed welcome to this celebration and offer congratulations to the distinguished individuals to be honoured. My gratitude goes to everyone who contributed to its success, and I wish you all the best.

Thank you