

## Aboul Gheit's address at the inauguration of League Council Session at the Ministerial Level

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Your Excellency Khalifa Shaheen Al Marara

Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the 164th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Ministerial Level

Your Highnesses and Excellencies.

Distinguished Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I extend my congratulations, my dear brother, on the United Arab Emirates assuming the presidency of the 164th session of the Ministerial Council, wishing you every success in this responsibility. I also express my gratitude to His Excellency Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for his country's effective chairmanship of the 163rd session of the Council.

## Mr. President

Your distinguished Council convenes at a most critical time, whose dimensions and consequences are clear to all and whose repercussions are not lost on any of us.



The war of extermination waged by the occupying power in Gaza goes beyond killing and exacting vengeance on a defenseless people. Its aim is to undermine and liquidate the entire Palestinian cause by eliminating the state project, not only in the Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank and Jerusalem. This is pursued through the forced displacement of the population and the confiscation and annexation of land by illegal and illegitimate means.

Behind the enormity of the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza lies a flagrant plan to eradicate the Palestinian cause and erase the Palestinian entity—its land, people, and identity—from existence. This will never happen, God willing.

The central objective of our action, therefore, must be to stop the massacre the occupation seeks to expand in pursuit of the goals of an extremist faction that embraces an exclusionary and racist ideology with no place in today's world.

At the same time, while working to end the bloodshed, we must act with all our might and by every possible means to preserve the project of an independent Palestinian state. The true aim of the occupation is to extinguish this project and impose a new reality on the Palestinians and the region, one dominated by settlements and religious and nationalist extremisman approach that inevitably fuels counter-extremism.



The vision advanced by the occupation's leaders for the future of this region is one of destructive religious wars, unending violence, and hatred that shatters all prospects for peace, stability, and coexistence.

Our defence of the two-state solution and of the Palestinian state project is, therefore, a defence of this region's stability and of the future of generations to come.

We do not stand alone in this struggle. We are joined by nearly 150 countries that recognise the State of Palestine. Moreover, there are friendly nations—who enjoy our highest respect and appreciation—that have recently recognised the gravity of the Israeli plan and have decided to extend recognition to the Palestinian state at the forthcoming 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will convene in a few days.

On this occasion, we express our categorical rejection of the recent American decision to deny visas to the Palestinian delegation to attend this session. This measure constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and of Washington's obligations under the Assembly Agreement.

We reaffirm that the process launched by the "Two-State Solution" Conference, held last July in New York



under the joint chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and France, will continue. It represents a genuine and realistic political alternative to Israel's strategy of perpetual wars and displacement.

## Mr. Presidenta

The tragedy of the war in Sudan persists, draining the country's resources and imperiling the future of its people. We continue to call for a ceasefire as the only become the aravest means end what has to humanitarian crisis in the Arab world. In this regard, I welcome the formation of a civilian government under the leadership of Mr. Kamil Idris. I hope this step will contribute to bolstering Sudanese state institutions, safeguarding their capabilities, alleviating devastating effects of war, and taking all necessary measures to launch an inclusive national dialogue that will silence the guns and open the door to political solutions, while preserving Sudan's unity and institutions.

## Mr. Presidenta

Lebanon today stands at a critical crossroads in its modern history. Its government has taken the courageous decision to implement the state's exclusive monopoly over arms. This is among the foremost requirements of a modern state and a vital



step to preserve stability and civil peace in a country whose people have long endured hardship. While we stand in full support of the Lebanese government in this legitimate and essential endeavour, we also reaffirm our rejection of the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed last November. We call on the American mediator to end these violations and secure Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Brothers, before concluding my remarks, I have the honour of inviting you all-before proceeding to lunch-to inaugurate the "Biography and Journey" exhibition, marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the League of Arab States. It is a living testimony to eight decades of joint Arab action, reflecting both the triumphs and setbacks of our nation's journey. It is also a message of continuity for the future, and a landmark on the path we have chosen to walk together. May we continue along this path, God willing, in solidarity, united in word, will, and purpose.

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