

الدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي
مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان
الدوحة، دولة قطر - 30 أبريل 2024

The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum
with Central Asian Countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan
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أصل الكلمة باللغة الإنجليزية

كلمة

سعادة السيد جيهون بايراموف

وزير الخارجية - جمهورية أذربيجان

في الجلسة الافتتاحية

للاجتماع الوزاري للدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي

مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان

الدوحة - دولة قطر:

الثلاثاء 30 ابريل/ نيسان 2024

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the State of Qatar for its warm hospitality in hosting the third edition of the Arab Cooperation and Economic Forum with the Central Asian countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan. I believe that today's meeting will strengthen the bonds between our regions and allow us to collaboratively explore areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

Azerbaijan is proud to have strong diplomatic and economic relationships with our Arab and Central Asian partners. We share deep historical and cultural connections, and we

recognize a vast potential for even greater collaboration and exchange.

In recent years, we have made significant progress in expanding trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts across the region. Azerbaijan's strategic geographic location, well-developed infrastructure, and business-friendly climate have made it an attractive hub for regional cooperation and connectivity.

Dear colleagues,

We are honored that Azerbaijan was chosen to host COP29 this year. Leveraging our experience in uniting the Global North and South, following our leadership of the Non-Aligned

Movement, COP29 will bring together countries of all development levels. This presents a critical opportunity to solidify collaboration on climate action between the Arab and Central Asian countries.

Our regions share vulnerabilities to climate change. By working together, we can leverage our resources and expertise for a more sustainable future. We believe that the COP29 can provide a good platform to forge innovative solutions for climate finance, climate action and sustainable development. We can share expertise in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and disaster risk reduction. By combining our

efforts, we must build a more resilient future for all.

Azerbaijan occupies a strategic geographic location, serving as a vital bridge between East and West, as well as North and South. The Middle Corridor facilitates the movement of goods between China and Europe via Central Asia and the Caspian Sea. Acting as a crucial link between North and South the country facilitates trade flows, opens doors to the Gulf region and further.

Azerbaijan is one of the countries with great potential for renewable energy sources. The technical potential of our country's onshore and offshore renewable energy sources is almost

300GW. We actively invest in renewable energy sources and are committed to a sustainable energy future. Two major renewable energy players from the Middle East are making significant strides in Azerbaijan's renewable energy sector. Masdar, a UAE-based renewable energy company, has already completed the solar plant in Azerbaijan, and has agreements for several wind and solar projects.

In partnership with the Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power we are developing renewable energy projects, further solidifying Azerbaijan's commitment to diversify its energy mix.

Azerbaijan is also playing a key role in a new initiative on Caspian – Black Sea – Europe green energy corridor. The project involves laying an underwater cable to transmit electric power from Azerbaijan, as well as potentially from several Central Asian countries to Romania and further to Europe.

Distinguished Participants,

Armenia and Azerbaijan are currently engaged in peace talks aimed at reaching a lasting agreement. The success of these negotiations is critical for bringing stability and prosperity to the South Caucasus region. The recent agreement reached in the framework of the

delimitation commissions of Azerbaijan and Armenia clearly shows once again that direct bilateral dialogue is the most efficient way to achieve mutually acceptable result for both sides. Azerbaijan has continuously maintained this line since 2020.

Our policy is aimed at turning the region into a platform of stability and cooperation. Azerbaijan will continue to promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with all parties based on respect for each other's legitimate interests. We will continue to develop relations with foreign partners on this basis.

Azerbaijan is faced with the grave challenge of massive landmine contamination, caused by the long-term military occupation of our lands. The landmines endanger civilians and delay reconstruction works in the liberated territories.

Esteemed colleagues,

Azerbaijan views with deep concern the intensifying escalation in the Middle East. We firmly believe in a just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict, based on the two-state formula, with East Jerusalem as the capital of a sovereign Palestinian state. Recognizing the ongoing humanitarian crisis, Azerbaijan has

consistently provided aid to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians.

In closing, I would like to note that the Forum has served as a valuable platform for strengthening ties and exploring avenues for collaboration between the Arab world, Central Asia, and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan stands ready to work to identify and maximize these opportunities.

Let us remain committed to this partnership. Together, we can build stronger economies, address global challenges, and create a brighter future for all our citizens.

Thank you.