

**League Secretary–General Aboul Gheit's address at the emergency
Arab Summit on Gaza**

4 March 2025

Your Majesty King Hamad bin Eissa Al Khalifa,
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain,
President of the 33rd Session of the Arab Summit
Your Excellency President Abdel–Fattah Al–Sisi,
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses,

Today's summit marks a pivotal moment in the history of the Palestinian cause—the cause of a people who have endured a profound and historic injustice. It is neither just nor acceptable that they should suffer further injustice, nor that they be uprooted from their land under the watchful eyes of the world, whether through silence or inaction.

The stance of this summit is unequivocal: a new catastrophe must not befall the Palestinian people. Their right to independence, freedom, and a dignified life must be safeguarded, and they must be allowed to exercise their right to self–determination, as is the case for all peoples of the world.

Time and again, both individually and collectively, you have warned of the dangers of leaving the Palestinian issue unresolved. You have cautioned that the persistence of the occupation and the entrenched apartheid system in the Palestinian territories—whether in the West Bank or Gaza—will yield

nothing but fragile and short-lived stability. Without addressing the root and essence of the problem—by ending the Israeli occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state—our region will remain trapped in endless cycles of violence. Only through this path can we ensure lasting peace, security, and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

Yet here we stand once more, confronting a painful reality—one that is particularly devastating for the Palestinian people, who have lost all means of a normal life under the weight of a brutal war. This war, orchestrated by the leaders of the racist far-right within the occupation, aims to forcibly expel the Palestinian people from the Gaza Strip.

Restoring life to Gaza is a battle we choose to fight. Rebuilding Gaza is not only possible—it is an imperative. It is achievable through the resilience and determination of its people. It is achievable if the weapons fall silent and if Israel fully withdraws from the Strip.

Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, and Your Excellencies,

The past decades have unequivocally demonstrated that any attempt to circumvent the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace will only perpetuate suffering for all.

We value and commend the efforts of all those who work earnestly for peace, and we reaffirm our appreciation for the historical and ongoing role of the United States of America in this regard. However, the acceptance of unrealistic proposals and visions that lack a solid legal foundation will not bring stability to the region. On the contrary, such approaches risk undermining the very framework of peace that has prevailed for decades—a framework that must be safeguarded and reinforced, not eroded or dismantled.

The presence of the Palestinian people on their land is not the root cause of this conflict, as some may claim. Thus, any logic that seeks to justify their displacement is categorically rejected, for it does nothing but sow the seeds of an unending conflict. Adding a new injustice to an already deep historical wound is unacceptable and will only perpetuate instability.

The window for achieving peace is narrowing, yet it has not closed. True and lasting peace can only be realised through a two-state solution—one that ensures a just, durable, and non-fragile settlement. The Arab nations have long paved the way for this solution, most notably through the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002. This initiative was not merely a declaration; it was followed by tangible, practical steps reflecting a sincere and unwavering commitment to achieving a comprehensive and enduring resolution. The initiative remains on the table, and the opportunity for peace still exists. It is, and will remain, the Arabs' strategic choice—a choice that envisions a better future for the generations to come.

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