



**Aboul Gheit's address at the
Digital Cooperation and
Development Forum in Amman**

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Your Excellency Eng. Sami Smeirat ،
Minister of Digital Economy and
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Jordan

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Your Excellencies ،
Ladies and Gentlemen ،

At the outset, I would like to extend my deepest
gratitude and appreciation to the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan, under the wise leadership of



His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, for hosting this significant event. I also commend all those who have contributed to the meticulous preparations that have ensured this forum is held in such an honourable manner. My sincere thanks go to all present for your participation in the second edition of the "Digital Cooperation and Development Forum," convened under the theme "Our Vision, Our World, Our Future".

The convening of this forum comes at a time of profound and successive developments, accompanied by grave challenges that our contemporary world—and particularly our Arab region—faces today. These challenges transcend the political and security spheres, casting their shadows over all aspects of life, including the economic, social, and cultural domains .



It is no secret that the Arab world is experiencing one of the most perilous moments in its modern history. Our central cause—the one to which the hearts of Arabs, from the ocean to the Gulf, remain firmly bound—is facing an existential threat of liquidation. This is a challenge that concerns all Arabs, not just the Palestinian people. The Palestinians will never stand alone, nor will it be permitted for them to endure a second catastrophe, for their cause to be erased, or for their legitimate rights to be disregarded .

Let me state unequivocally: the proposals for displacement are categorically rejected—by the Arab world and by the international community. They are rejected because they defy reality, violate international law, and stand in stark



contradiction to the principles of morality and humanity .

In this regard, I express my profound appreciation, utmost respect, and full support for the principled stance of our host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—its leadership, government, and people—in firmly rejecting any attempts at displacement and in standing unwaveringly against any injustice to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Foremost among these rights is their legitimate and non-negotiable right to an independent Palestinian state along the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital .

All attempts to circumvent the two-state solution or to oppress the Palestinian people will serve only to prolong the conflict, deepen



animosities, and exacerbate the suffering of all peoples in the region .

Ladies and Gentlemen ,

Amidst the rapid transformations shaping our world across all domains, the Arab region aspires to keep pace with the global momentum of progress and to achieve sustainable development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In this context, digital transformation stands as a fundamental pillar and a powerful catalyst for sustainable development, playing a decisive role in enhancing productivity, improving institutional efficiency, and mitigating bureaucratic obstacles .



In recent years, several Arab countries have made remarkable strides in the field of digital transformation, successfully developing their digital infrastructure and strengthening their ability to engage with global challenges. Notably, some Arab nations have even surpassed Western countries with extensive resources and long-standing expertise in communications and technology. This progress is reflected in global indices: three Arab countries have secured positions among the top 20 nations in the 2024 E-Government Development Index, five Arab countries rank among the top 20 in the ITU's ICT Development Index, and eight Arab nations have been classified in the highest global category for the 2024 Cybersecurity Index .

The challenges we face today also present invaluable opportunities that must be seized to



foster cooperation and advance collective efforts to position the Arab region on the path it rightfully deserves. Digital cooperation is not merely about technology transfer; it extends beyond that to encompass knowledge exchange, expertise-sharing, and the development of human capital. This necessitates intensified efforts in research, development, and innovation within the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Unfortunately, despite some outstanding initiatives, the broader landscape in the region still reflects a significant shortfall in research and development investments in this critical field .

There is no doubt that increasing investments in research and development will enhance the Arab region's attractiveness for both domestic and foreign investment, enabling Arab nations to



transition from consumers to producers and innovators in digital technologies. It will also contribute to narrowing the digital divide among Arab countries, ensuring that the region moves forward as a key player in the global digital economy .

I cannot conclude without reaffirming the urgent call to commence the implementation of activities under the Arab Digital Agenda, which was endorsed last year by Arab leaders at the Riyadh Summit. This agenda serves as a comprehensive Arab framework for coordinating regional efforts aimed at formulating and aligning national policies and strategies in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, ultimately advancing digital development. Notably, the Arab Digital Agenda aligns closely



with the objectives of the Global Digital Compact adopted at the Summit of the Future .

I urge Arab governments to intensify efforts in establishing the necessary infrastructure, as well as the legislative and regulatory frameworks essential for ensuring data protection and privacy. Additionally, I call for the adoption of investment–friendly policies that support and incentivise entrepreneurs and innovators, enabling the Arab world to fully harness its vast potential in the digital economy and related technological fields .

Ladies and Gentlemen ,

We cannot discuss digital transformation and development without addressing one of the most



pressing and transformative topics shaping the global landscape today—artificial intelligence (AI). The reality is that several Arab nations are making remarkable progress in this domain, demonstrating impressive strides in AI adoption and innovation. Notably, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates rank among the top 20 countries in the Global AI Index, while other Arab countries feature prominently within the top 100 .

The League of Arab States fully recognises the strategic importance of artificial intelligence, which I view as an integral component of Arab national security in its broadest and most forward-looking sense. In this regard, the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information recently adopted the Arab Strategy for Artificial Intelligence at its 28th session, held last month. This strategy aims to unify and



strengthen Arab efforts in AI, mitigate its potential risks, and formulate a cohesive Arab position on AI-related issues in international forums. Given the increasing complexity of AI and its far-reaching implications, it is imperative to cultivate a new generation of Arab professionals equipped to navigate the humanitarian, legal, and security dimensions of this transformative technology .

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the meticulous organisation of this forum. I am confident that it will fulfil its intended objectives by fostering and expanding digital cooperation across the Arab region. Undoubtedly, this cooperation will continue to grow in depth and significance in the years ahead, empowering the peoples of our region to embrace the future and seize the vast opportunities of the digital era .



Thank you.