**The address of the Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the Media and Communication Sector, Ahmed Rashid Khattabi, at the ordinary session of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Information Ministers**

**28 May 2024**

**In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Salman Al-Dosari, Minister of Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,**

**Head of the Executive Office of the Council of Information Ministers,**

**Your Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahman Nasser Al-Obaidan, Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media,**

**I would like to begin by extending my highest gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for its warm reception, generous hospitality, and excellent organisation of this session.**

**I also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Executive Office, for its valuable and successful efforts to enhance the Arab media system and provide continued support for our common Arab issues, starting with the Palestinian cause in its various political, legal, and humanitarian dimensions, especially in the context of the repercussions of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.**

**I am confident that the consensual, sober, and constructive atmosphere that prevailed in the work of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media clearly reflects a firm commitment to exploring promising horizons for media cooperation based on a realistic vision that engages effectively with the international media environment.**

**Such interaction cannot be achieved in a positive and effective manner without engaging with diverse perspectives. A recent example is the Media and Communication Sector's launch of the English version of the League of Arab States' portal. The success of this media interaction relies on openness to crucial topics related to the development and security challenges in our Arab region, including accelerating sustainable development, promoting a culture of peace, rejecting extremism and exclusion, and valuing our societal and cultural heritage in a way that highlights the richness, depth, and diversity of Arab culture. We aspire to adopt the Statute of the Arab Institute for Peace Journalism in Libya to further this cause.**

**The adoption of the updated media action plan in 2017 by the Council of Information Ministers was a pivotal moment, recognising the need for ambitious and bold Arab media content to support this strategic direction, with the Palestinian cause at its core. This is particularly relevant given the increasing global solidarity and support, highlighting the urgent need to activate this plan and its implementation mechanisms without delay. We look forward to revitalising this approach by completing the foundational structures of the observatory and the integrated platform in the Kingdom of Morocco, respecting sovereign components and adhering to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the regulations of the General Secretariat. This will add significant momentum to our determined efforts to achieve the goals of this plan.**

**On the occasion of this session, I would like to acknowledge the continued cooperation of member states and organisations involved in media activities with the Media and Communication Sector. Their dedication and expertise have significantly contributed to implementing the decisions of the Council of Information Ministers. An example is the joint Arab Media Strategy to Combat Terrorism, prepared with the appreciated efforts of Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and Member States, and adopted by the Bahrain Summit.**

**This strategy's interim plan must be implemented, and it will be closely monitored by a team of senior experts from several Member States, following the recommendation submitted yesterday by the Permanent Committee. I would also like to highlight that the Permanent Committee has submitted recommendations to your esteemed office concerning the promotion of educational media in educational institutions, improving journalists' performance, and encouraging talent through the Media Excellence Award, generously sponsored by the State of Kuwait. Furthermore, the Committee has proposed organising training courses in various specialisations in cooperation with partners, states, and organisations, addressing issues on the Arab media agenda.**

**Additionally, the Permanent Committee has made recommendations for advancing development media and enhancing the role of women in media and electronic media. We commend the United Arab Emirates for its readiness to design and launch a new website for the Arab Committee for Electronic Media and to hold a training course for Member States to supply the site with the necessary data and content in coordination with the Technical Secretariat.**

**In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Information in the Kingdom of Bahrain for their excellent cooperation with the Technical Secretariat team and for providing all the necessary facilities to organise this session under the best conditions. I am confident that, with God’s help and in a spirit of sincerity and seriousness, this session will be a qualitative addition that will achieve tangible progress in the joint Arab media work.**

**May God's peace and mercy be upon you.**