



About Gheit's address

at

the Government Administration Forum

titled "Productivity in the Digital Age"

Dubai :13-11/2/2025



Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you today for the opening of the fourth session of the Government Administration Forum. I take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for its outstanding hospitality and impeccable organisation of this summit and its associated events. In particular, I commend the UAE for hosting this forum's fourth session in collaboration with the Arab Administrative Development Organisation, as well as for selecting "Productivity in the Digital Age" as the theme of this year's gathering—a choice that underscores a keen awareness of the profound challenges confronting Arab economies. Indeed, the increasing role of technology in enhancing governmental productivity and administrative efficiency is a pivotal matter that demands our collective attention .

Ladies and Gentlemen ,

We stand at a defining juncture in the history of our Arab region. Despite the formidable challenges we face—be it the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people, the security and political crises afflicting several Arab states, or the broader economic difficulties confronting our nations—there has been a remarkable transformation in recent years. Some Arab countries have made significant strides in the realm of digital transformation, positioning themselves at the forefront of this global shift. Their efforts reflect an earnest commitment to keeping pace with the rapid technological advancements shaping our world and to unlocking the region's immense, yet untapped, potential .



This progress is reflected in global rankings: three Arab nations have secured a place among the top 20 in the E-Government Development Index 2024, while eight Arab countries have ranked in the highest tier of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, issued by the International Telecommunication Union. These achievements are a source of pride and a testament to the region’s ability to rise to the challenges of the digital age .

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is impossible to discuss digital transformation without addressing artificial intelligence—an issue that has taken centre stage in global discourse. AI has emerged as both an unprecedented driver of progress across all sectors and a complex challenge that must be navigated with both openness and caution. Recognising this, the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information has adopted the Arab Strategy for Artificial Intelligence—a unified vision designed to align the region with the rapid evolution of AI technologies .

It is a source of great pride that Arab nations such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have ranked among the top 20 countries in the Global Artificial Intelligence Index, alongside other Arab nations that have secured places among the top 100. These rankings reaffirm the region’s growing prominence in the AI landscape and underscore the importance of sustained efforts to harness technology for economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development.



Ladies and Gentlemen ,

There is no doubt that recent years have demonstrated the transformative power of digitalisation in enhancing productivity, efficiency, and precision. By digitising public services, governments have successfully reduced bureaucracy, lowered costs, and expedited service delivery with unprecedented effectiveness. The adoption of digital applications as a primary channel for accessing government and civil services has reached approximately 78 percent in pioneering nations such as the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, positioning them among the world's leaders in the digital economy, according to a report by the McKinsey Consulting Foundation .

While this progress is commendable, challenges remain. Not all Arab countries enjoy the same level of digital infrastructure. However, these challenges also present opportunities—opportunities that must be seized and built upon. By investing in robust digital infrastructure, strengthening innovation hubs, and equipping our youth with advanced digital skills, the Arab world can position itself as a global leader in the digital economy. This vision is well within reach, given the region’s youthful demographics and its thriving centres of education and development .

Digital transformation and the establishment of comprehensive digital governance are no longer mere options—they are absolute necessities. The Arab world possesses the vision, resources, and talent to lead this transformation. However, success hinges on fostering greater cooperation, coordinating initiatives, deepening the culture of innovation, and embracing a shared commitment to building a future worthy of our ambitions .



In this context, I urge Arab governments to lay the necessary groundwork—both in infrastructure and in the legislative and regulatory environment—to ensure data protection, cybersecurity, and privacy. It is equally vital that governments, along with legislative and parliamentary bodies, adopt forward-thinking policies that encourage and support investors and entrepreneurs, enabling them to grow, compete, and innovate on a global scale .

Let us work together to harness the power of technology in building more efficient governments, more dynamic economies, and more creative, knowledge-driven societies .

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the meticulous preparation of this forum. I hope that its outcomes will serve to elevate the performance of Arab governments, reinforcing the path of joint Arab action in one of the most pivotal sectors of development. Let us strive together to achieve a qualitative shift that will stand as a source of pride for our Arab nation .

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