

**The speech of His Excellency Ambassador Mohammed Saleh
Suleiman Al-Ajeri,
Assistant Secretary-General and head of the Administrative and
Financial Affairs Sector,**

At the opening of the introductory training programme for Iraqi diplomats at
the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

13-15 October 2024

Minister Plenipotentiary, Dr. Muhannad Mohsen Al-Shahmani, Deputy
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Cairo and Chargé d'Affaires,

Distinguished diplomats, members of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq,
Esteemed attendees,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome this distinguished group of Iraqi
diplomats to the House of Arabs. We are honoured to host you in this
training programme, designed to deepen your understanding of the
mechanisms of joint Arab action, as well as the vital roles and
responsibilities of the various sectors and departments of the General
Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

I am particularly delighted to witness the commitment of our member states
in providing valuable opportunities for their Arab youth, especially
diplomats, to engage with this esteemed institution. The League of Arab
States, as the oldest established entity among modern-era institutions, was
founded on 22 March 1945, predating the United Nations, the European

Union, and the African Union. Iraq, as one of the seven founding members, played a pivotal role in signing the League's Charter.

At this moment, I cannot overlook the historic role Iraq has played since the League's inception, as well as its ongoing contributions to the League across political, economic, cultural, and financial spheres. Despite the numerous challenges Iraq has faced, it has remained steadfast in its support of the League of Arab States and its dedication to advancing joint Arab action.

Dear Sirs,

This visit is part of a series of capacity-building programmes adopted by the League of Arab States. The mandate of the Training and Development of Work Methods Department within the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector has significantly expanded beyond its original focus on training and developing the employees of the General Secretariat. It now encompasses introductory programmes for representatives from both Arab and non-Arab countries, aimed at familiarising them with the activities and responsibilities of the League of Arab States.

In this regard, the General Secretariat has, in recent years, welcomed trainees and diplomats from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Republic of Yemen, alongside visits from diplomats representing non-Arab nations such as Japan and others. Additionally, Arab youth—male and female students from various educational levels—have also participated in these programmes to gain an

in-depth understanding of the system of joint Arab action, its working mechanisms, and to exchange ideas, opinions, and experiences.

Distinguished guests,

Empowering our youth and enhancing their capabilities are now among the foremost priorities of Arab governments, as well as regional and international organisations, particularly the League of Arab States.

Therefore, we look forward to strengthening our cooperation with Arab diplomatic institutions in the realm of training and capacity building, including the Department of Development and Continuing Education at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, renowned for its extensive experience and considerable scientific capabilities. Training must be a collaborative process, not one conducted in isolation. The continuous exchange of expertise is crucial for the benefit of our Arab youth, as they represent both the present and the future. There is no doubt that investing in their education and training is a long-term investment, a strategic approach that enables us to meet and overcome challenges, ensuring a bright future for the Arab nation.

I would like to reiterate my sincere aspiration for these introductory programs to evolve into comprehensive training initiatives that benefit both sides, serving as the foundation for a series of programmes that maximise the advantages for all involved.

Honourable attendees,

Since its inception, the League of Arab States has accomplished numerous achievements across various fields—political, economic, developmental,

social, and in the media sector. These achievements, and much more, will be covered in depth during your training programme.

In conclusion, we look forward to your active participation and hope that today's visit, along with the lectures to be presented, will fulfil the intended objectives. I wish you success and progress in all your endeavours.

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