



General Secretariat

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**The address of His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed  
,Rashid Khattabi**

**,Assistant Secretary-General**

**,Head of the Media and Communication Sector**

**On Behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul  
,Gheit**

**,Secretary-General of the League of Arab States**

**Launching the Boutros Boutros-Ghali Award**

**"Diplomacy, Peace, and Development"**

**(General Secretariat: 1 June 2025)**

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

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is a distinct honour to address you today on behalf of His Excellency the Secretary-General, who apologises that he is unable to be present. He has entrusted me with the privilege of conveying his warmest regards and extending a heartfelt welcome to you at the headquarters of the League of Arab States.**

**At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the organisers of this ceremony marking the launch of the "Boutros Boutros-Ghali Award for Diplomacy, Peace, and Development"—a tribute to a prominent figure in Egyptian diplomacy whose lifelong dedication to building a**

**better world has ensured his enduring legacy in the annals of modern history.**

**Boutros Boutros-Ghali was not only a statesman, but also a distinguished political thinker, academic, and the author of over one hundred publications. Among his earliest works was his first book in English, "The League of Arab States 1945–1955: Ten Years of Struggle", published in the 1950s.**

**He was also the founder of Al-Ahram Al-Iqtisadi, a notable weekly magazine, and International Politics, a renowned journal dedicated to geostrategic affairs.**

**As you may well know, Boutros Boutros-Ghali was the first Arab and African to serve as Secretary-General of the United Nations (1992–1996), during a pivotal era that witnessed the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. He often**

**described this transitional period as even more complex than the Cold War itself.**

**Moreover, during his tenure as Secretary-General, the United Nations Security Council convened for the first time at the level of heads of state and government to adopt a historic declaration affirming a vision for a stable, just, and inclusive world that upholds fundamental human rights.**

**Through "An Agenda for Peace", Boutros Boutros-Ghali articulated a comprehensive vision for enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system. He underscored the importance of preventive diplomacy and the imperative of not only establishing peace but ensuring its consolidation and durability. This vision, further elaborated in his book "Five Years in a Glass House", was structured around four fundamental pillars:**

**First, peacebuilding: He affirmed the need for preventive diplomacy since peacekeeping, as he**

**said, is not limited to peacemaking, but must be fostered and enhanced.**

**Second, sustainable development: encompassing its economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions.**

**Third, reform of the United Nations: which he considered an urgent necessity to meet the evolving needs of humanity.**

**Fourth, the democratisation of international relations: asserting that globalisation must itself be democratised to preserve democracy.**

**With the same unwavering commitment, during his tenure as Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (1997–2002), Boutros Boutros-Ghali was tireless in advancing the values of dialogue and democracy within this geocultural community, which he envisioned as outward-looking and open to engagement with other cultures. He expressed this aspiration with**

**eloquence, stating: "La Francophonie has left its own world to engage with the world".**

**To him, the Francophone space was far more than a linguistic bond through the language of Molière, to which he was deeply devoted; it was a vibrant cultural and geopolitical sphere. Its diversity, he believed, held the power to foster dialogue and democratic values, while upholding national identities and regional sovereignty. For him, cultural and linguistic pluralism represented a vital instrument for promoting peace and democratising global relations, while resisting fragmentation and division.**

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**In conclusion, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude to all those contributing to the launch of this distinguished award—through which we pay tribute to an extraordinary figure, who was devoted to his homeland which he served with**

**loyalty and an earnest desire to build a better world of stability and solidarity.**

**Thank you for your kind attention.**