Aboul Gheit's address at Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance Humanitarian Response in Gaza

2 December 2024

Your Excellency Dr. Badr Abdelatty,

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration, and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Mr. António Guterres,

Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Dr. Mohammad Moustafa,

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine,

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by extending my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting and sponsoring this pivotal conference, which comes at a critical and delicate juncture as Gaza endures one of the most perilous chapters in its history. For over a year, the Strip has been subjected to relentless and brutal aggression.

The humanitarian aid entering Gaza is woefully insufficient, meeting the needs of only six percent of its population. We are all bearing witness to heart-wrenching and shameful scenes—a profound indictment of a world that observes this tragedy yet remains paralysed. What we see in Gaza defies comparison in our contemporary world and can only be described as a famine. The situation has spiralled into catastrophic deterioration, further exacerbated by the onset of winter and the exposure of vulnerable families in tents to unrelenting rain.

The objectives of the occupation are no longer concealed; its strategy is laid bare for all to see. The aim is the systematic eradication of Palestinian society in Gaza. The intention is to reduce the people of Gaza to fragmented groups, stripped of their humanity, existing precariously between life and death, even within the frailty of tents. The vision is for Gaza to become a barren expanse, uninhabitable, forcing its people into a dire choice: endure the sword of annihilation or succumb to the tragedy of forced displacement.

This dire reality compels immediate and decisive action. This conference serves as a resounding message to the world: humanity itself is at stake. It underscores the urgent need to accelerate, facilitate, and streamline the delivery of aid, which the Israeli occupation continues to block as part of a calculated and criminal policy. Starvation as a weapon is among the most egregious war crimes, constituting a blatant violation of international law and humanitarian principles. It also defies the ruling of the International Court of Justice, which, in March of this year, ordered the occupation to take all necessary measures to ensure the unhindered delivery of essential food supplies to Gaza's residents and to cooperate effectively with the United Nations in this regard.

This conference is a vital step in mobilising the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in addressing this catastrophic crisis. It aims to identify actionable responses, unified measures, and mechanisms to provide comprehensive aid to the people of Gaza, while also exploring early recovery preparations.

Every moment of delay in achieving a ceasefire results in additional victims and inflicts unimaginable suffering on Gaza’s children, women, and families. Today, we collectively declare: Enough is enough. We must salvage what remains of our humanity and moral conscience by putting an end to this calamity—a tragedy perpetrated by an occupation devoid of humanity or remorse.

Thank you.