Aboul Gheit's address at Ripple Summit 2025 to Support Entrepreneurship Centres in Arab Universities

20 October 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to the House of Arabs, the League of Arab States, and thank you for your presence and participation in the Ripple 2025 Summit to Support Entrepreneurship Centres in Arab Universities.

Your participation is a clear reflection of your commitment to exchanging global best practices and expertise on developing systems capable of unleashing the immense, diverse, and promising potential of Arab youth in the fields of entrepreneurship and innovation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghaffar, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, for his tireless efforts in advancing entrepreneurship programmes. Entrepreneurship has become one of the primary engines of economic growth and an indispensable tool for addressing development challenges, including unemployment, while contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental.

Indeed, I view the Ripple Summit to Support Entrepreneurship Centres in Arab Universities as an important platform for promoting creativity, innovation, and excellence. It embodies a collective endeavour to create an enabling environment for start-ups and new ideas, and to foster effective partnerships with the international community in this vital field.

The objective behind this effort is to achieve a genuine breakthrough towards an Arab knowledge-based economy driven by innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. This is particularly relevant as Arab universities are rich with talented individuals and brilliant minds capable of building a more prosperous and sustainable future. Today, the leaders of Arab universities shoulder a profound responsibility—not only to graduate qualified individuals who meet the needs of the labor market, but also to prepare entrepreneurs, innovators, and creators of unconventional solutions. They must nurture those who think beyond traditional boundaries, embody a spirit of initiative and adventure, and possess the courage to take calculated risks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is no doubt that integration among the various components of society is the key to building a strong and dynamic entrepreneurship ecosystem. From this standpoint, the League of Arab States attaches great importance to strengthening economic cooperation by expanding trade and investment among its member states. It seeks to lay the groundwork for establishing a robust and influential Arab economic bloc within the global economy. Work is currently underway to finalise the draft of the new Arab Investment Agreement, which, once approved, will serve as the cornerstone of the inter-Arab investment framework. The agreement aims to align with global economic developments by incorporating modern concepts such as sustainable development, the knowledge economy, and the digital economy, while removing all obstacles facing investors.

Investment represents the hope for a better and brighter future. It is the key to enhancing productivity, creating decent job opportunities, and facilitating the transfer of modern technology. I am confident in the ability of the Arab private sector and Arab financial institutions to engage earnestly in creating a new environment that attracts long-term investment. They are also well positioned to adopt innovative and promising ideas through entrepreneurship centres and university business incubators. We all aspire to serious and effective cooperation between the Arab private sector, Arab financial institutions, and specialised international and regional organisations in this field, including the Arab Regional Centre for the Training and Development of Entrepreneurs and Investment and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport.

In conclusion, I am confident that the deliberations of this summit, its specialised sessions, and the outcomes it produces will make a tangible contribution to strengthening the work of entrepreneurship centers across Arab countries, enabling us to achieve our shared goal of economic progress and sustained, inclusive growth throughout the Arab region.

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