



**About Gheit's address at the opening of the  
High-Level International Conference on  
Scientific Diplomacy, attended by Minister  
of Higher Education and Scientific  
Research**

**20 October 2024**



**Your Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour,  
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Arab  
Republic of Egypt,  
Your Excellency Mr. Nasser Kamel,  
Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean,  
Your Excellency Ms. Signi Ratso,  
Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation at the  
European Commission,  
Distinguished Directors of Arab and Regional Organisations,  
Distinguished Presidents of Arab Universities,  
Honoured Guests,**

**It is my privilege to join you today in the opening of this High-Level International Conference on Scientific Diplomacy, here at the House of Arabs, a venue that has long been a pillar of international cooperation, hosting conferences of great significance over the decades. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the dedicated teams from the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European Union, whose remarkable efforts have ensured the success of this gathering.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Diplomacy, in its essence, has always been a vital instrument for resolving conflicts and negotiating solutions aimed at achieving more favourable conditions. Throughout the rich and diverse history of diplomacy, spanning across all civilisations, this core principle has remained steadfast, even as the context, tools, and methods of diplomacy have evolved.**

**Diplomacy has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to adapt to the unique demands of each era. While it remains a vital tool for resolving disputes, the nature of those disputes evolves with the passage of time. Thus, diplomacy must continuously develop new mechanisms to explore emerging areas of human endeavour, leveraging its skills to broker compromises and achieve common good through negotiation.**



**In recent years, we have witnessed the expansion of diplomacy into new domains, including the environment, climate change, and sustainable development—areas where national interests often collide, requiring delicate diplomatic expertise to forge compromises that both satisfy individual nations and serve the broader interests of humanity.**

**I view scientific diplomacy as a crucial frontier, one that necessitates the cultivation of specialised expertise within our diplomatic corps. This scientific and technological age presents numerous challenges that demand negotiation and creative problem-solving. Today, political agendas and humanitarian goals increasingly intersect in critical matters such as global pandemics, food security, biodiversity conservation, and the regulation of artificial intelligence. Each of these domains brings complex ethical questions and issues that demand thoughtful, constructive negotiation among all stakeholders—governments, partners, international organisations, and scientific institutions—so that we may harness the benefits of these advancements while mitigating their risks and preventing their misuse.**

**We have all witnessed the invaluable contribution of science and diplomacy in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The global exchange of the virus's genetic data, enabled by diplomatic efforts, accelerated vaccine development, while diplomacy facilitated the sharing of best practices and the implementation of preventative measures that helped avert even greater disaster. However, the experience also revealed significant shortcomings, such as vaccine monopolisation by certain countries. These lessons are worth reflection and should be integrated into the expanding body of knowledge in scientific diplomacy—a field whose importance will only grow as our future is increasingly shaped by advancements in science and technology.**

**The League of Arab States is fully committed to strengthening its partnerships with Euro-Mediterranean nations through enhanced cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Union, fostering successful collaborations in both the scientific and**



**diplomatic arenas. Hosting the inaugural edition of this prestigious conference at the General Secretariat is a source of pride for us all.**

**I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the organisation of this significant event and wish you every success in your endeavours.**

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