



**Social Affairs Sector**

**Department of Development and Social Policies**

**The address of Her Excellency  
Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh,  
Assistant Secretary-General and head of  
the Social Affairs Sector, at the opening  
of the 80th session of the Executive  
Office of the Council of Arab Ministers  
of Social Affairs**

**General Secretariat, 1 October 2024**

**Your Excellency Mr. Ahmed Adam Bakhit Dakhri ,**  
**Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Sudan ,**  
**Deputy Chairman of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab**  
**Ministers of Social Affairs ,**  
**Your Excellencies, Ministers, Heads of Delegations ,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen ,**

**It is my honour to welcome you all to the headquarters of the League of Arab States, the House of Arabs, for the proceedings of the 80th session of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs. I am particularly pleased to extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency Dr. Maya Morsi, Minister of Social Solidarity of the Arab Republic of Egypt and President of the current 43rd session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, who joins us for the first time. I wish her success and guidance in her pivotal responsibilities, and I would like to emphasise our readiness to collaborate with her, both within the framework of the Council and its Executive Office, as well as on a bilateral level. I am confident that Dr. Morsi, with her vast experience and distinguished professional background, will bring significant value to the work of both the Council and the Executive Office.**

**This session of the Executive Office convenes at a time when we are witnessing unprecedented developments, particularly the escalating actions of Israel, the occupying power, not only against the brotherly Palestinian people but also extending to another humanitarian catastrophe in Lebanon. The relentless bombardment has resulted in the tragic loss of lives and countless civilian injuries, many of whom, sadly, are now living with disabilities. The terror inflicted upon innocent children, women, and the elderly is a deep concern for us all.**

**These heinous actions by the occupying power have unfolded in parallel with the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, where world leaders are striving to put an end to this ongoing tragedy. Yet, Israel continues to disregard the resolutions of international legitimacy and blatantly violates international humanitarian law. How much longer will this tragedy persist, growing more severe with each passing day?**

**Your Excellencies,**

**As you are aware, a number of member states are currently experiencing severe humanitarian crises as a result of ongoing conflicts. As His Excellency Minister Ahmed Dakhri aptly mentioned regarding the developments in our brotherly nation of Sudan, these circumstances have placed immense pressure on both the Executive Office and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs. Our work, which is fundamentally centred on the social and humanitarian well-being of Arab citizens, has become even more urgent. I must stress the importance of continuing our efforts in this critical domain, as much as circumstances allow.**

**Your Excellencies,**

**The General Secretariat has taken great care to prioritise issues of paramount importance to joint Arab social development efforts. This includes safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities during crises, epidemics, and emergencies, as well as advancing policies aimed at eradicating poverty in all its dimensions. As we convene the Executive Office today, 1 October 2024, on the International Day of Older Persons, we, on behalf of the League of Arab States and the Executive Office,**

**extend our warmest greetings to the elderly across the Arab world. We reaffirm our commitment to continuing the development and implementation of policies that support their rights, in line with the Arab Summit Strategy for Older Persons.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**As this marks the final meeting of the Executive Office in its current formation, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Ministers and members of the Executive Office for their active participation and cooperation with the General Secretariat throughout this period. I look forward to continued communication and coordination with Your Excellencies within the framework of the Ministerial Council. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to our colleagues in the Technical Secretariat of the Council for their diligent efforts in ensuring both the substantive and logistical success of this important session. I wish the session every success and prosperity.**

**Thank you.**