



**Ambassador Hossam Zaki's address at the
opening of the second edition of Cairo
Sustainable Energy Week**

1 October 2024



**Your Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Esmat,
Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy of the Arab
Republic of Egypt,**

**Your Excellency Dr. Yasmine Fouad,
Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt,**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Nasser Kamel,
Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean,**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Christian Berger,
Head of the European Union Delegation to the Arab Republic
of Egypt,**

**Your Excellency Eng. Ahmed Al-Dosari,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Regional Centre for
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency,**

Distinguished Guests,

**It is my pleasure to take part in the opening of the second
edition of Cairo Sustainable Energy Week, scheduled for 1-3
October 2024, here in Cairo. I would like to extend a warm
welcome to all of you to this event, which has been organised by
the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy
Efficiency in partnership with key development stakeholders.**

**This second edition builds on the remarkable success of the
inaugural Cairo Sustainable Energy Week, held in October
2023, alongside the Fifth Arab Forum for Renewable Energy
and Energy Efficiency, which was convened under the auspices
of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity, with the support
of the League of Arab States' General Secretariat.**



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Middle East is at a critical and perilous juncture. The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip has persisted for an entire year, during which the people of Gaza endured a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. The brutality and inhumanity they faced will remain an indelible stain on the conscience of the world, which stood by helplessly in the face of such crimes. Today, the hand of aggression extends to Lebanon, flagrantly violating its sovereignty and threatening to ignite a regional war whose repercussions could engulf the entire region. We urgently warn of these consequences and call upon the international community to take a principled stance before it is too late, and to put an end to these continuous Israeli provocations.

Amidst this turbulent global landscape, our region aspires to achieve security and stability, aiming to join the global march towards development and sustainable progress across all economic, social, and environmental spheres. Energy sustainability is a cornerstone of these efforts.

In this context, and aligned with the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Energy—endorsed at the Development Summit in Beirut in 2019—Arab countries are increasingly focusing on renewable energy. This strategy is vital not only for diversifying national energy sources but also for mitigating environmental harm through the adoption of clean energy technologies and safe carbon management practices. Allow me to highlight four key examples in this regard:



- The UAE is on a determined path to triple its renewable energy production capacity by 2030, with the goal of increasing the share of clean energy in its total energy production to 30 percent by 2030 and further to 38 percent by 2035. This ambitious effort underscores the nation's commitment to sustainable energy transformation.

- Under the framework of Saudi Arabia's National Renewable Energy Programme, a strategic initiative of Vision 2030 and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Renewable Energy Initiative, the Kingdom is working to expand its renewable energy share. The programme seeks to create a balanced domestic energy mix while honouring Saudi Arabia's commitments to emission reduction, thus contributing to global environmental efforts.

- In Egypt, the Integrated Energy Strategy to 2035 envisions a significant increase in renewable energy contributions, aiming for 42 percent of total electricity production by 2035. Presently, renewable sources, including hydropower, account for approximately 12 percent of Egypt's total electricity production, reflecting a clear trajectory towards a more sustainable future.

- Meanwhile, Morocco's energy strategy is set to elevate the role of renewable sources in the national electricity mix from the current 20 percent to over 52 percent by 2030, positioning the country as a regional leader in the renewable energy transition.

In alignment with the advancement of clean energy initiatives, the contributions of several Arab countries to the global production of clean hydrogen are increasingly significant. In recent years, many have signed multiple memoranda of



understanding with international partners to produce and utilise green hydrogen, resulting in a rise in project numbers across our Arab region. This is a commendable trend, one we hope will continue to thrive in the future. Furthermore, I would like to highlight the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity's experts in crafting the distinguished document titled Towards an Arab Strategy for Green Hydrogen and in establishing the Arab Green Hydrogen Network, whose launch we will witness next week.

Your Excellencies,

Recent reports underscore that most electricity utilities in developing countries face significant equipment shortages to meet the ever-growing demand for electricity and to increase the share of renewable energy sources within their national grids. This shortage hinders global energy transformation goals, particularly the aim of providing clean, reliable, and affordable electricity for all. Since electricity utilities are at the heart of efforts to reduce carbon emissions in power supply, due to their capacity to offer clean and affordable energy to consumers, the topics of comprehensive Arab electricity interconnection and the establishment of a common Arab electricity market have become top priorities for the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity. In collaboration with our partners, the Council has offered substantial technical support. Our vision for this issue centres on achieving systematic Arab economic integration within the electricity sector, with comprehensive Arab electricity interconnection and the establishment of a unified Arab electricity market serving as the foundation. This vision is based on diversifying sustainable energy sources and leveraging all means to enhance the role of the Arab region in global energy markets.



On this occasion, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you all on the monumental achievement of adopting the two agreements for the common Arab electricity market, whose signing we will soon witness, God willing.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my appreciation and keen interest in the activities of this significant week, wishing all participants success and guidance in their endeavours.

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