

Mr. President,

It is a great honour to present my Credentials today as the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Cyprus. I wish on this occasion to convey to your Excellency the sincere greetings and appreciation of H.E President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Mr. President,

Our two countries share a longstanding relationship. They are bound by uniquely historic and geographic ties. I believe that these ties form the solid foundation of our strategic partnership that covers a wide array of fields.

Moreover, the commencement of my mission coincides with the preparations for the convening of the tenth trilateral summit of cooperation between Egypt, Cyprus and Greece in Cairo soon, as well as the bilateral G2G summit.

In that respect, It is particularly important to utilize the momentum emanating from these positive developments to further enhance our economic and trade relations, which I believe have not reached their full potential yet. The business environment in both countries present unique opportunities that both sides should exploit, and I therefore intend to work with the relevant parties in both Cyprus and Egypt to explore new platforms for mutual projects and business collaborations between our two countries in various domains.

Your Excellency,

Energy security has become a prominent topic of mutual interest, and it inspires us toward further collaboration and joint cooperative endeavours, particularly in the natural gas domain. In this regard, I believe Egypt and Cyprus need to utilize the immense potential both countries have in this sector, and move forward in order to realize the implementation of existing projects while considering other possible undertakings and available opportunities.

Furthermore, our special partnership should guide us together, along with our European partners, down a path of coordination, dialogue and interaction. As such, we highly appreciate Cyprus' valuable support to Egypt's relationship with the European Union and we count on its continuity.

Mr. President,

The past year has been significantly challenging due to escalations and the mounting threats to the collective security and stability of our region. In this regard, Egypt will continue to coordinate, consult and exchange information with the Republic of Cyprus on these crucial issues of mutual concern.

I would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm Egypt's firm position on the Cyprus issue, based on all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and accordingly reiterate our opposition to any acts that contravene with what was agreed on by the international community toward the peaceful reunification of Cyprus, as well as supporting the just Cypriot position to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cypriot issue according to the principles of international law and through diplomatic means.

Furthermore, our special partnership should guide us together, along with our European partners, down a path of coordination, dialogue and interaction. As such, we highly appreciate Cyprus' valuable support to Egypt's relationship with the European Union and we count on its continuity.

On the Ethiopian Dam issue, an issue which represents an existential threat to Egypt, I would like to highlight that, after a period of 13 years of negotiation processes aiming to reach a binding agreement between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan regarding the filling and operation of the Ethiopian Dam, it became clear that Ethiopia does not have the political will to reach any solutions that would safeguard the interests of all three countries. On the contrary, Ethiopia chose to continue exploiting the negotiations process to solidify its “fait a compli” on the ground, while negotiating exclusively for obtaining an instrument of approval from downstream countries of unregulated and absolute control of the Blue Nile, in isolation from Ethiopia’s obligation under international law. Therefore, we count on all friendly nations, including Cyprus, for their sustained political support on this crucial issue.

In conclusion, I wish Your Excellency, and your family, as well as the friendly people of Cyprus all the best of prosperity and success.

May our two nations continue to thrive, and may the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect guide us in the years ahead.

Thank you.