

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,**

It is with great joy and profound appreciation that I welcome you this evening to the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Athens, as we gather to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of Egypt's National Day—the historic Revolution of the 23rd of July 1952.

This occasion is not only a national celebration, it is a moment of reflection, gratitude and renewed commitment. It marks the birth of modern Egypt, an Egypt that chose sovereignty, dignity and progress, and has since played a vital role on the regional and international stage.

Tonight's celebration holds added significance, as we open the doors of this beautifully renovated historic building, the home of Egyptian diplomacy in Greece. This Embassy, nestled in the heart of Athens, is more than just a diplomatic mission. It is a symbol of the deep rooted and enduring friendship between our peoples. The restoration of this elegant building is both a tribute to our past and an investment in our future, a future of closer cooperation, greater understanding and shared success.

The 23rd of July Revolution in 1952 stands as a turning point in modern Egyptian and Arab history. It marked the emergence of a new Egypt—sovereign, independent, and determined to shape its own destiny. Under the leadership of the revolution, Egypt championed the principles of independence, dignity, and justice—not only for its own people but for many other nations across the Arab world and Africa, offering inspiration and support to countless countries seeking liberation. The revolution's echoes are still felt today in the unwavering pursuit of self-determination and justice across our region.

Distinguished Guests,

Today, Egypt continues to play a vital and responsible role in regional stability. Amid the ongoing crisis in Gaza, Egypt has been working relentlessly to restore peace and security in the Middle East. We have been at the forefront of diplomatic efforts to reach a ceasefire, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and to alleviate the immense suffering of the Palestinian people. Our actions are rooted in our historic responsibility and our commitment to human dignity, peace, and international law.

Our diplomatic efforts have been tireless—all in the service of peace and humanity. We remain steadfast in our belief that a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause is essential for long-term peace, stability and security in the region.

Egypt also continues to assert its role as a guardian of world cultural heritage. As the cradle of one of the most ancient civilizations in history, we take seriously our duty to preserve and promote our cultural legacy for all humankind. In this context, Egypt proudly nominated Professor Khaled El-Enany for the position of Director-General of UNESCO. This candidacy enjoys the full support of the African Union, the League of Arab States, and dozens of countries that have publicly endorsed it. Professor El-Enany's leadership, scholarship, and vision are in line with UNESCO's noble mission, and we believe his candidacy is a reflection of Egypt's longstanding contribution to global cultural and educational advancement. We sincerely thank you for the trust you have already shown and for that which is yet to come, together we will keep the spirit of UNESCO alive.

Equally important is the anticipated opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in the final quarter of 2025—an event that will represent a monumental leap in the international museum world. The museum will house treasures spanning over 7,000 years of history, offering a new and interactive experience of our national heritage. It will stand as a global cultural landmark and a bridge between past and future, Egypt and the world.

Excellencies,

Dear friends,

Tonight's celebration would be incomplete without paying tribute to the exceptional and long-standing relationship between Egypt and Greece. Our relationship is not merely rooted in modern diplomacy, but in millennia of people-to-people contact, shared history, and mutual respect. It is a friendship forged through ancient trade routes, maritime cooperation, and cultural dialogue—continuing through generations with strength and affection.

This special relationship has now been elevated to a strategic partnership, marked by the historic visit of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to Athens in May 2025. That visit crowned decades of close cooperation and opened a new chapter of strategic alignment, economic cooperation, and cultural synergy. Today, this relationship constitutes not only a success story but an exemplary model of bilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

I am privileged and honoured to serve Egypt's interests in this great country. The Embassy is proud to witness tangible achievements in several sectors. These include the electrical interconnection project "GREGY", a pioneering initiative for regional energy cooperation; a joint anti-pollution project in the Suez Canal, preserving one of the world's most vital waterways; cooperation in the Medical sector for the first time and the seasonal employment agreement, promoting labor mobility and fairness; and strong cooperation in fighting illegal migration and terrorism—a testimony to our shared values and security priorities.

On the cultural front, I can proudly say that the Pyramids and the Acropolis stand united – timeless symbols of a shared legacy and historic connections between our peoples.

In recognition of the central role that culture plays in our two old civilizations, Egypt has officially reopened its Cultural Office in Athens, affirming our commitment to deepening understanding and fostering new generations of Egyptian-Greek friendship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is only the beginning. The Embassy of Egypt in Athens is working with deliberation and vision to expand the scope of bilateral cooperation to new fields of mutual and shared benefit, and after three years serving Egypt's interests in Greece, I affirm unequivocally that the strategic partnership between Egypt and Greece is not just resilient, it is unshakeable, vital, unwavering and will continue to grow stronger in the face of any challenge.

Nothing can undermine the deep trust and alliance that bind our nations. This historic relationship was born to last.

Before concluding, allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Egyptian community in Greece. Your unwavering support to the Embassy and the active engagement, particularly from the youth generation, in both societies are a source of immense pride. Your contributions are really appreciated and vital to the strength of our bilateral relations and to the positive image of Egypt abroad.

I thank you all for being here tonight to celebrate with us this special moment in our national life and in the life of Egyptian-Greek friendship. May the bonds between our two peoples continue to flourish in peace, prosperity, and mutual respect.

Long live Egypt.

Long live the friendship between our peoples.

Thank you.