

**Statement of
His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi
President of the Arab Republic of EGYPT
The Dialogue of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries
Xiamen, 5 September 2017**

**His Excellency President Xi Jinping
Excellencies Head of States of the BRICS Group
Invited Guests**

I would like to express to You, President Xi Jinping and your friendly country, my highest appreciation for inviting Egypt to participate in the 9th BRICS Summit, and please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the warm reception and generous hospitality.

It is an honor to be among you today in China, the land of the ancient civilization ... a civilization that reflects the will and strength of the great Chinese people, who blended their civilization in all forms of modernity and development in our modern era... And as the Egyptian Civilization developed along the banks of the Great Nile and recorded its glories on Papyrus, the ancient Chinese Civilization grew along the Yellow and the Blue Rivers, bringing to the world many eminent achievements ... And between the two civilizations of the Near East and the Far East, humanity has advanced and taken great strides forward.

As this is the first summit that I am honored to attend with you, allow me to convey to you the sentiments of friendship and respect that the Egyptian people have for the peoples of your friendly nations ... To South Africa, whose people have fought for human justice and equality and led the fight against racism in our beloved African continent ... To the people of Russia, a rich society in science, culture and arts, who supported the causes and aspirations of the Egyptian people since the fifties of the last century ... And to the great Indian people, holders of a culture of diversity, spiritual values and philosophy, who embarked with us, since the birth of the Non-Aligned Movement on the journey for the independence of developing countries .. And to the people of Brazil, who had early on embraced the concepts of environmental protection and ecological diversity, and introduced the internationally recognized principle of sustainable development, born in the Brazilian city of Rio in 1992.

Excellencies,

Egypt recognizes the importance of the BRICS and its uniqueness, not only with regard to the institutional mechanisms that coordinate the policies of Member States, but also because of the common political visions that your summits have adopted on political issues of special interest to developing countries. This reflects the comprehensive character of this gathering.

Since the theme of your 9th Summit is "A stronger partnership for a brighter future", allow me to state here that despite the formidable challenges, the Egyptian people are diligently and constructively building the future by implementing an ambitious program for sustainable economic growth. It is being implemented through a radical reform of financial and monetary policies, and a series of national mega-projects in various sectors, which ultimately changed the course of the economy towards a growth rate of 4.3% last July, and the increase of our foreign reserves to 36 billion dollars, for the first time since 2011.

From the outset, we have had a vision based on the same priorities as the 2030 Development Agenda, guided by the 2063 Africa Agenda, yet based on pure national goals and priorities to create jobs, achieve growth and diversify the economy, while making the young people a pillar and engine of this reform.

As the focus of this forum is how to implement the 2030 Agenda, allow me to summarize Egypt's vision as follows:

First: Without a fair and transparent global economic system that enhances the participation of developing countries within global economic governance frameworks and without a multilateral trading system based on respect for rules and the empowerment of developing countries, our nations will not be able to achieve the levels of economic performance comparable to those achieved by the developed countries.

Second: We concur with the BRICS vision on the importance of providing adequate funding - both locally and through multilateral banks - for infrastructure projects, which are considered the best way to achieve a real surge in economic growth.

Third: The issue of financing for development should not remain a problem for developing countries alone. In this context, we note with concern some calls to reinterpret the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", through a new classification of States between highly industrialized countries newly industrialized and middle income countries, which entails that the burden of development of some developing countries becomes the responsibility of other fellow developing countries.

Fourth: It is essential that developing countries affirm their right to act according to their national vision, priorities and specificities, without considering such an approach a source of criticism during international reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Fifth: In practice, we suggest considering the establishment of a contact group comprising the countries participating in this forum in order to develop alternatives to the implementation of each of the 17 objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, from the policy and implementation perspectives, and on the short and long-terms.

Excellencies,

Egypt highly values the invitation to participate in this forum, which will undoubtedly enrich our vision of development in all its dimensions, including the concept of "sustainable peace" referred to in the literature of the BRICS; particularly at a time loaded with major challenges, from poverty, to climate degradation, to regression in the earth's resources, to political, intellectual and racial terrorism. Furthermore, the challenge of development and decent life for our peoples has become the force and drive behind collective work, along the lines of your gathering. We congratulate you on its remarkable success after a full decade of consistent effort and joint action.

In this regard, I have a number of ideas that I invite the Group to consider:

1. While Egypt supports the BRICS, its objectives and its positions, we are confident that our contribution will be of added-value to your Group today and in the future. It is sufficient to refer here to the Suez Canal axis, which is being converted to include a number of mega industrial, technological and logistics areas that shall serve the flow of trade, industry, transport and innovation, for the region, Africa, and the world, thus offering new and huge opportunities of economic interaction among our countries.

2. It is for this reason that Egypt extended its support to the Belt and Road initiative that was launched by His Excellency President of China to restore the commercial and cultural linkages between the East and the West, through the Middle East and North Africa region, where the Suez Canal, which carried the Far East trade to Africa and Europe throughout history, falls in its center.

3. Egypt regards the unique experience of BRICS, its success in achieving an unprecedented degree of policy coordination and the effective cooperation among its partners, as a commendable example that is worth emulating to wider circles of developing countries. We also express our willingness to engage in trilateral cooperation with the BRICS countries in Africa, which would be regarded as a real embodiment of south-south cooperation.

4. We realize that direct or indirect interaction between the BRICS and other emerging countries may also benefit from the financial instruments provided by the new development bank, in accordance with more flexible arrangements for non-BRICS developing countries.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, I would like to express our hope that the BRICS will soon be able to reach an appropriate mechanism for communication and dialogue with all developing countries, which can have their contributions to the gathering, thus driving our development efforts to wider horizons and achieving stronger partnerships between our nations, for a brighter future for all our peoples.

Thank you, and I wish the Chinese presidency every success.