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President El Sisi Meets with Chancellor of Austria

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met with the Chancellor of Austria, Christian Kern, at the Ittihadia Palace. President El Sisi and Chancellor Kern held a session of bilateral talks that later expanded to include delegations from the two countries.

President El Sisi affirmed the outstanding relations between Egypt and Austria and stressed Egypt's keenness on boosting cooperation across various fields as well as continuing consultations on issues of mutual interest. The President asserted that Egypt hopes that Chancellor Kern's visit further enhances cooperation with Austria in various sectors, especially the economy. He also noted the need for the joint committee to convene and to increase trade.

Chancellor Kern highlighted the strong historic relations between the two countries and lauded the progress Egypt has made over the past years to reinforce stability and to implement bold economic reform that shall realize economic development. He noted the European Union's interest in supporting Egypt's security and stability as well as advancing the process of economic growth. He referred to Egypt's key role in the Middle East and Africa and lauded its counter-terrorism efforts. Chancellor Kern explained the importance of enhancing consultations and coordination between the two countries on various regional issues, in light of the common challenges resulting from the ongoing crises in the region, mainly terrorism.

President El Sisi reviewed overall developments in Egypt and referred to the economic reform steps and efforts to improve the business climate, attract investments and increase growth rates. This is in addition to implementing numerous national projects to create jobs and improve various economic and service sectors. He noted that Egypt looks to have Austrian companies benefit from the investment opportunities offered by the developmental projects, especially in the new economic zones such as the new administrative capital and Suez Canal area. It was agreed to exchange visits by economic delegations in the upcoming period to discuss economic cooperation and investment between the two countries.

The meeting touched on ways to enhance bilateral ties as well as on regional developments and efforts to reach political solutions to ongoing crises. President El Sisi and Chancellor Kern discussed the repercussions of these crises on the security and stability of the Middle East and Europe, including the flow of migrants and refugees, and ways to address this issue. This is in addition to efforts to combat terrorism and extremism. They also reviewed efforts to push

forward the political process and restore stability in Libya so as to maintain the unity, national institutions and resources of the country.

Following their meeting, President El Sisi and Chancellor Kern held a joint press conference. President El Sisi affirmed during the conference Egypt's condemnation of the terrorist attack that took place on Monday in Manchester, UK. The President added that Egypt condemns all terrorist acts, which constitute an attack on humanity.

The President responded to a question about recent media statements accusing Egypt of supporting forces that attack Sudan. He affirmed that Egypt's unwavering policies are based on non-intervention in other countries' affairs. These policies were confirmed in Egypt's counter-terrorism strategy that was presented at the Arab-Islamic-American Summit in Riyadh. The President stressed that Egypt cooperates only for construction and development endeavors and does not perform such vile measures, especially against its brothers in Sudan.

The President hoped that this message would get across to the world and emphasized that Egypt adopts an honest policy and good governance.

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