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CONTACT:  
[p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg)

### **President El Sisi Arrives in Hanoi and Meets the President of Vietnam**

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi arrived in Hanoi for an official visit to Vietnam. The President commenced his visit by laying a wreath on the tomb of revered Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh and the Monument of National Heroes and Martyrs.

President El Sisi then headed to the Presidential Palace where he was received by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Trần Đại Quang. After an official reception ceremony, the two Presidents held a session of talks attended by the two countries' delegations.

President Trần Đại Quang welcomed President El Sisi and confirmed that the visit is of special importance as it is the first by an Egyptian President to Vietnam since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1963. He noted that Egypt was among the first Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam. President Trần Đại Quang lauded Egypt's historic role in defense of the causes of developing countries, in supporting liberation movement and in the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement. He also commended the wisdom and role of the Egyptian political leadership and its achievements over the past three years in terms of reinforcing security and stability in Egypt and of restoring its active role in the regional and international arenas. This is in addition to continuing efforts to realize economic development and increase investments. President Trần Đại Quang stressed that President El Sisi's visit will give huge momentum to advancing bilateral relations and promoting cooperation across all fields for the benefit of the two peoples.

President El Sisi emphasized Egypt's commitment to fostering closer cooperation with Vietnam in all areas, so as to strengthen the friendship and historic bonds between the two countries, noting that Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh visited Egypt three times. President El Sisi lauded the developmental achievements made by the Vietnamese people and confirmed that Egypt seeks to intensify cooperation with Vietnam and benefit from its expertise, given the successes it achieved in the fields of industry and trade.

President El Sisi reviewed Egypt's sustainable economic development program implemented by the government, which includes national mega projects as well as legislative and administrative measures which aim to create an environment conducive to investment, given the numerous promising opportunities for investors. The President of Vietnam asserted that his country is keen on promoting its economic cooperation with Egypt. He pointed that the current level of economic cooperation is not commensurate with the two countries' potential and that they shall work on increasing trade to reach 1 billion dollars. President El Sisi welcomed this and emphasized the need to address the existing trade imbalances between Egypt and Vietnam.

The meeting touched on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in a range of fields, including furthering cooperation in maritime transport, shipbuilding, agriculture, fish farming as well as Information Technology. This is in addition to promoting popular and cultural engagement between the peoples of the two countries. The two Presidents highlighted the importance of increasing exchanges of visit at various levels, both official and popular, so as to bolster the friendship and cooperation between Egypt and Vietnam.

The meeting also tackled ways to combat terrorism and extremism. The two Presidents agreed on the importance of concerted efforts by the international community so as to address this menace that has become a threat to the entire world. This is in addition to adopting a holistic approach that shall not be limited to security aspects, but also encompass social, cultural and developmental dimensions. President El Sisi underscored the importance of Al Azhar's role in the intellectual confrontation against terrorism and in disseminating the righteous teachings of Islam which promotes tolerance, moderation and acceptance of the other. President El Sisi reiterated his condemnation of the violence in Myanmar and noted that the continuation of these events will only feed terrorism and extremist thought. The President stressed that governments have to assume their responsibilities in protecting the rights of minorities and providing them with security so as to entrench the principle of citizenship.

President El Sisi and President Trần Đại Quang discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the crises in the Middle East. They also tackled ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between the two countries within international organizations and fora.

President El Sisi extended an invitation to the President of Vietnam to visit Egypt. President Trần Đại Quang welcomed the invitation and looked forward to visiting Egypt soon.

Following their talks, President El Sisi and President Trần Đại Quang witnessed the signing ceremony for:

1. The minutes of the fifth meeting of the Egypt-Vietnam Joint Committee
2. Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a subcommittee for bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and industry.
3. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the two countries' broadcasting authorities.
4. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of maritime trade
5. The executive program for cooperation in the field of tourism between 2017-2019
6. The executive program for cooperation in the field of culture between 2017-2019
7. Memorandum of Understanding on spurring investment
8. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of fish farming
9. Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of the construction and management of ports and economic zones.