

## President El Sisi Meets the Governor-General of Australia

Today, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi met with the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Sir Cosgrove offered his condolences for the victims of the terrorist incident in El Wahat area on Friday. He confirmed that his country stands by Egypt in its war against terrorism that has become a threat to the entire world. Sir Cosgrove spoke of the positive impressions he got from his visit to Egypt over the past days. He stressed that he was keen to include in the program of his visit attending the 75th anniversary of the Alamein Battle, visiting the Australian forces participating in the Multinational Force in Sinai and visiting the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier and the tomb of late President Anwar Al Sadat so as to confirm his country's appreciation for Egypt's moves to realize and reinforce peace in the Middle East.

President El Sisi expressed appreciation for Sir Cosgrove's visits to the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier and the tomb of late President Anwar Al Sadat as well as to the Australian forces participating in the Multinational Force in Sinai. President El Sisi confirmed the important role this force is playing. President El Sisi commended the outstanding relations between Egypt and Australia as well as the activities of the Egyptian community in Australia which presents a successful model for Egyptian communities who were able to integrate in and effectively contribute to the Australian society. The President emphasized the importance of reinvigorating the existing frameworks of cooperation between Egypt and Australia in various areas, particularly in trade and investment.

The Governor-General of Australia commended the strong relations between the two countries across various levels, and expressed Australia's commitment to strengthening cooperation in various fields. He lauded Egypt's achievements over the past years with regard to the economic reforms, combating terrorism and extremism and disseminating the values of moderation, tolerance and citizenship. He also valued the numerous visits to Australia by Egyptian officials, including the visit last September by Pope

Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. He noted that such visits contribute to further enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries at both the official and popular levels.

President El Sisi stressed the need to reinvigorate the mechanisms of political consultations between the two countries so as to exchange views and enhance coordination vis-à-vis regional and international issues of mutual interest. He emphasized Egypt's keenness on adopting a balanced and moderate foreign policy based on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

The meeting addressed ways to foster cooperation between the two countries in a range of fields, particularly trade and economic cooperation as well as facilitating the entry of Egyptian exports into the Australian market. It also tackled Egypt's measures to realize economic and social development. Talks also touched on important developmental projects currently being implemented to develop the infrastructure and for the development of the Suez Canal Corridor. President El Sisi highlighted the numerous investment opportunities from which Australian companies can benefit in a range of areas. Ways to enhance cooperation in combating extremist thought were also discussed during the meeting. President El Sisi confirmed Egypt's readiness to intensify cooperation between Al Azhar and Islamic communities in Australia to train preachers, so as to contribute to the dissemination of the righteous and moderate teachings of Islam and to discarding distorted thought.