



League Secretary-General's address
at the opening of
the Third China-Arab Forum on Global
Development and Governance in Shanghai

20 November 2025



**Your Excellency Mr. Jin Li,
President of Fudan University,**

**Your Excellency Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama,
Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities,**

Distinguished Guests,

It is my pleasure to participate today in the opening of the Third China-Arab Forum on Global Development and Governance, organised by Fudan University in partnership with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. At the outset of my remarks, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Fudan University for its kind invitation. I also take this opportunity to commend the university's tireless efforts since the launch of this forum in 2023 to consolidate its foundations and develop it into an effective platform for enhancing Arab-Chinese academic cooperation and exchange in higher education and scientific research.

Distinguished Guests,

Arab-Chinese relations hold a special place for both sides. They are not a recent development; rather, their roots extend back centuries. The historic Silk Road played a pivotal role in building bridges of cultural, economic, and trade communication between China and the Arab world. This rich legacy has established strong ties and a deep-rooted friendship based on mutual respect, shared values, and reciprocal benefit, paving the way for long-term and continuous cooperation between the two sides.

Driven by sincere will and shared commitment, Arab-Chinese relations have witnessed many significant milestones. The Arab-Chinese



Cooperation Forum, established in 2004 as a comprehensive institutional framework, has enabled both sides to launch more than 10 cooperation mechanisms covering political, economic, cultural, media, and developmental fields. Furthermore, the Belt and Road Initiative, launched by His Excellency President Xi Jinping of China in 2014, has enhanced prospects for cooperation, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, trade, and investment.

I would like to note that the first China-Arab Summit, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2022, marked a strategic turning point, ushering in a new phase in these relations and laying the foundations for building an Arab-Chinese community for a shared future.

In this context, my current visit to the People's Republic of China, which included a number of political and cultural events and concludes today with a visit to this prestigious academic institution, Fudan University, further underscores the strength and development of these multifaceted relations across various levels.

Distinguished Guests,

The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and Fudan University in October 2023, on the sidelines of the First China-Arab Forum on Global Development and Governance, marked a significant qualitative advancement in Arab-Chinese institutional cooperation in higher education and scientific research. This memorandum of understanding has yielded tangible outcomes during its first year, including the establishment of the Fudan Arab Centre for Global Development and Governance Research and the organisation of the Second China-Arab Forum on Global Development and Governance. In addition, several exchange programmes were launched, including Fudan University's generous initiative to host two General Secretariat staff members for Master's degrees, and the organisation of a short-term training course for another group of General Secretariat staff. Furthermore, the General Secretariat hosted a number of Fudan University students in January 2025.



All these activities and programmes have built vital bridges for Arab-Chinese academic and cultural cooperation. Within a short period, they have provided exemplary models for the exchange of expertise, joint research, development of training programmes, and postgraduate student exchanges.

Distinguished Guests,

The League of Arab States firmly believes that education—in all its stages and components—is a cornerstone for achieving comprehensive development. We are convinced that investing in education contributes to building active and productive individuals and establishing strong institutions capable of realising our development goals. Sustainable development and good governance cannot be achieved without placing education and scientific research at the forefront of our priorities. Education, at every stage, is a key driver of progress: basic education fosters character and hones skills, higher education opens horizons for innovation and critical thinking, and scientific research provides a foundation for developing innovative solutions to developmental, economic, and social challenges.

From this perspective, academic collaboration and the exchange of knowledge between universities, both regionally and internationally, open new horizons for innovation and creativity. They allow all parties to benefit from successful experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, facilitating the overcoming of obstacles and the addressing of challenges more effectively. Building bridges of communication between minds and ideas is the foundation for creating a bright and sustainable future for all—a future defined by understanding and joint action, rather than conflict or division.

Distinguished Guests,

What has been achieved in just two years through joint programmes and initiatives between the Arab and Chinese sides in higher education



and scientific research reflects the seriousness and effectiveness of this cooperation. At the same time, it provides both the incentive and the responsibility to build upon these achievements and expand them further. I am confident that this cooperation will soon become a model to be emulated in international academic circles.

In conclusion, I reiterate my deep gratitude to Fudan University for its fruitful efforts, and I reaffirm the League of Arab States' commitment to supporting this constructive cooperation, which strengthens Arab-Chinese relations and serves the aspirations of our peoples for a better future.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.