In light of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) concerns about the ongoing developments in Sudan, the Permanent Committee for Arab Affairs convened two separate meetings by Ambassador Ihab Wahba, Coordinator of the Committee, in order to follow up the situation in Sudan.

The Second meeting was held on June 13, 2019, preceded by the meeting on May 02, 2019, in an attempt to shed light on the situation in Sudan, Libya and Algeria.

The second meeting was attended by Dr. Mounir Zahran, Dr. Ezzat Saad, Sayed Abu Zaid, Salah Halima, and Mr. Khalid Al-Kilany.

The discussion tackled the developments at the domestic level in Sudan, as well as the Arab and African Stances over the developments of situation. It also discussed the recent Ethiopian dispositions, reflected by Abiy Ahmed’s visit to Sudan after three days of the civil disobedience, leading an initiative to release the Sudanese detainees along with suspending the membership of Sudan in the African Union (AU). The Egyptian stance with the challenges faced and the Ethiopian stance subsequent to the developments of a meeting held at the (AU) headquarter, participated by the foreign affairs ministers of the 14-regional partners of Sudan, including Egypt, were also highlighted.

The attendees concluded the following recommendations, most notably:

1. Support for the choices of Sudanese people.
2. Maintain the unity, security and stability of the regional safety of Sudan as a priority.
3. Reach a settlement for the ongoing crisis between the two sides of Sudan through a dialogue, ensuring the prompt establishment of the executive, legislative and judicial state institutions.
4. Achieve the demands, aims and aspirations of the Sudanese people for a democratic civil regime.
5. Open channels of communications with all Sudanese political parties.
6. Support for the intermediary endeavors sought by the (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), consistent with UN stance.
7. Prepare promptly a permanent constitution through a competent legal commission, established on proper legal and political basis to backstop the state institutions.

During the previous meeting attended by ambassadors: Ezzat Saad, Sayed Abu Zaid, Mohamed El-Shazly, Mohamed Ashmawy, Yousef El-Sharkawy, Salah Helima; the committee reviewed the turn of events in Sudan. The attendees agreed that dealing with the status-quo requires increased vigilance and caution until identifying the directions of the new regime, peculiarly the coup leaders among whom those were close to the former president, Omar Al-Bashir. It is also important to understand the ongoing critical situation of Sudan. The attendees recommended for the key role of AU to de-escalate tensions in Sudan and work together with all parties to ensure the handover of power to civilians.
Breaking the Impasse in Sudan

In the light of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) concerns about the developments of situation in Sudan- through two successive meetings- the solution that Sudan needs to understand, is that the situation remained extremely complex. During the meetings, the expert's perceptions were brought forward, assessing the situation of Sudan on all aspects, setting up the democratic transition and stability for the people of Sudan, and recommending not to fall into the trap of foreign interventions, which only aimed at preventing the developments from reaching to the degree that might interfere with its interest’s even if this was in the good of the Sudanese people. The solution that Sudan needs at this stage is that it should take into consideration that the situation in Sudan is still extremely complicated.

Furthermore, it is well known that Omar Al-Bashir’s regime which lasted for 30 years, resulted from a military coup schemed by the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) in Sudan and concluded an interim agreement between their leader, Hassan Al-Turabi and Omar Al-Bashir. At first, Omar Al-Bashir was only a representative for the coup. Then, he was magnetized by power, causing him to dismiss Al-Turabi; however, he could not cut off all ties with the MB.

During a visit to Cairo, Omar Al-Bashir was asked on a TV interview about his relationship with the MB. He answered that, we are MB.

Given the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood, proven by the one-year in power in Egypt, has aimed to intrude the Muslim Brotherhood members with limited capacities and understanding of political processes in all appointments of the state; thus, Al-Bashir as a member of the same political faction, did the same in Sudan in all military and civil appointments in the state.

Owing to this, I have described the situation in Sudan as extremely complex, supporters of the Declaration of Freedom and Change continued their demonstrations, demanding the handover of power to civilians, from the ruling Military Council. Meanwhile, the Military Council emphasized that a dialogue between both parties must be pursued in order to reach a mutual settlement that meets the interests of the homeland and avoiding premature decisions in future.

Undoubtedly, the handover of power to the civilians is a pre-requisite to break the impasse in Sudan; however, it must be preceded by a review of political parts’ agenda and identification of the best in position to this responsibility. Sudan should take into consideration the Muslim Brotherhood approach, where it only exposes some figures as members of MB while reserves sleeper cells who are undercover agents, having impacts on the political sphere as they have been exposed in Egypt.

In other words, in order to handover the power to civilians, they should be nationalists who sincerely seek for the aspirations of Sudanese nationals and avoid the misuse of calls for freedom and change resulting in the return of Muslim Brotherhood’s rule.

The African Union (AU) intervention, attempting to bring both sides of the civilians and the Military Council, closer together was particularly timely. Through a broader and distant perspective on the developments in Sudan, such intervention may bring together both sides, and may reach a realistic and pragmatic solution for at first and foremost, the interests of the Sudanese people.

(Editor)
Comprehensive Analysis of Israel Election Results

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA), organized a symposium, on Sunday morning, May 5th, 2019, entitled "An analysis of Israel election results, and their impact within Israel and on the peace process". The symposium was held in the presence of the Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo and a number of Council’s members, with the participation of, Ambassador Hazem Khairat, Ambassador Muhammad Tawfik, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Duwairi, and Ambassador Diab Al-Louh, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Cairo.

The symposium discussed the following topics:

- **Analysis of the Israeli parliamentary election results and the chances for forming a coalition government**, especially since the elections held on April 9, 2019 resulted in the victory of the far-right nationalist camp led by Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud Party Chairman, while the parties supporting the peace process, namely: Labor and Meretz - only won 10% of the seats.

- **Reflections of the election results and the new coalition on the Palestinian scene**, especially since the new Israeli government is just a continuation of the approach of the previous government led by Netanyahu, which strived to abort all solutions introduced for establishing any peace status or activating the two-state solution that would establish a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. It had rather resorted to the use and escalation of violence, particularly as it is being supported by the US. This was evident in all US decisions made, starting with the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, then transferring US embassy to Jerusalem, cutting the UNRWA funding, and moreover, striving to pass the "Deal of the Century".

- **Diaspora Jews and their role in US-Israel relation equation**, whereas the organic relationship that brings Jewish groups and US administration together was stressed upon; noting that despite differences among American-Jewish organizations, they all agreed on one idea, namely, Supporting Israel; and highlighting that since the collapse of the left-wing, which are closer to the Labor Party, AIPAC and the Jewish-Israeli organizations started leaning towards the Israeli right-wing and the Likud.

In conclusion, the policy of the new coalition government towards the peace process and how Egypt would deal with it, was reviewed. A stress was laid on the priorities of the coalition government which includes dealing with Iran and integrating explicitly into the regional and Arab system, which will be an opportunity for the Arabs to talk about the peace process by making it conditional on achieving the coalition's priorities, which means linking between not talking about any Israeli integration in the Arab and regional system unless the peace process has been achieved in addition to all relevant issues, whether the Golan and refugees issues, or even the Deal of the Century. Furthermore, a reference was made to the importance of Egypt's role in this regard in light of its peace-based relationship with Israel; moreover, about the existence of areas of cooperation between both sides.
At the invitation of His Excellency Ambassador Ihab Wahba, Coordinator of the Council’s Permanent Committee for Arab Affairs, the Committee convened a consultative meeting, on the morning of 13th of June 2019, with the participation of Their Excellencies Ambassadors Dr. Mounir Zahran, Dr. Ezzat Saad, Sayed Abu Zeid, Salah Halima, and Professor Khaled Al-Kilany, with a view to following up situations in Sudan in connection with a previous meeting of the Committee that had been held on the 2nd of last May.

The discussions included reviewing situations in Sudan at the domestic level, Arab and African stances towards developments in Sudan, the latest Ethiopian moves as demonstrated by Abiy Ahmed’s visit to Sudan Three days after the civil disobedience to propose an initiative that includes the release of detainees, and suspension of Sudan’s membership by the African Union (AU). Egypt’s position and the challenges facing it were also highlighted, particularly as it lacks effectiveness when compared to its Ethiopian counterpart; through which, the later tries to play a strong role in influencing the course of events in Sudan.

At conclusion, the participants made a set of recommendations, of which the most important are:

1-To support the choices of the Sudanese People.
2-Priority must be given to maintaining unity, security, and stability of the territorial integrity of Sudan.
3-The importance of reaching a settlement to the crisis between both sides of the Sudanese equation so as to ensure rapid establishment of executive, legislative, and judicial state institutes.
4-To achieve the demands, objectives, and hopes of the Sudanese People for a democratic civil regime.
5-To open direct communication channels with all Sudanese political forces and parties.
6-To support and endorse the mediation efforts by the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which are consistent with the United Nations position.
7-The importance of the rapid preparation of a permanent constitution via a specialized legal committee that would be constituted on the bases of appropriate legal and political foundations for supporting state institutions.
The meeting of the Permanent Committee on Arab Affairs that was called for by Ambassador Ihab Wahba, Coordinator of the Committee, included discussions on the situations in Libya and Algeria as well as Sudan.

**It was concluded that the situation in Algeria** is almost worse than it is in Sudan due to the fact that the Great Powers have interests there in terms of oil, gas and the country's strategic location. In addition, there are doubts about the loyalties of the military leaders who are currently running things there, as it seems to be divided between France and the US. However, the Algerian situation, unlike the Sudanese one, has the advantage of being moving within a constitutional framework including entering a transition period after President Abd-ElAziz Bou-Teflika had constitutionally stepped down. Nevertheless, it can be said that there is a roadmap shaping the future of Algeria, in which the army will play a major role both in the pre- and post-election phases and at all political and economic levels as well.

**As for the situations in Libya**, the country is still experiencing a state of tension, division and political instability, being currently divided between the Libya's recognized government with its Islamic orientation and being backed by Turkey and Qatar, allowing militias and terrorists to be present in Libya, on one hand, and the Libyan National Army led by Khalifa Haftar, being in control of Libyan territories more than it is for Al-Sarraj's Government, on the other hand. Egypt is supporting the Libyan National Army forces, as Egypt views that it serves its interests, especially in light of the gains that the army has recently achieved and which made them able to tighten their strong grip on Libya, thus sparing Egypt the risk of terrorism that was posing a threat to its western borders.

In view of this deteriorating situation witnessed by Libya, speakers in the meeting called on UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, to play a more balanced role to reach a speedy settlement of the situation in Libya, especially that the European countries which are effective and influential over the situations in Libya are witnessing an obvious division between the French position, which is almost similar to its Egyptian counterpart, whereas Paris fears terrorism and the continuation of illegal immigration, and Italy, which regards Libya as its former colony seeing that it is time to return back there after the chaos of 2011. In this sense, Italy supports Al-Sarraj's Government, as do Britain and Turkey.
Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW) dealing with the Civilian Sector of the State

The Egyptian Council for foreign Affairs hosted a lecture, delivered by Air Force Major General of Staff/Hesham Al-Halaby, on “Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW)”, on Monday 8th of April 2019. The symposium was opened by Ambassador Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, and was attended by an elite group of diplomats and academics concerned with the topic of the lecture; among them were Their Excellencies Ambassadors/ No’aman Galal, Mohamed Al-Ashmawy, Farouq Mabrouk, and Osama Tawfiq; Professor Dr. Ahmad Al-Darsh, Dr. Eng. Afaf Ameen, and Mr. Ahmad Abu Shady.

Dr. Hesham Al-Halaby indicated that, in military sciences, there are a large group of divisions linked to the generations of warfare. One of the most important of such divisions was what has been presented, by an American group headed by the Strategic Thinker William Leen in 1989, in which Fourth Generation Warfare has been mentioned. In accordance with the State’s strategic view, it is divided into Two sectors, a civilian sector and a military sector. What mostly characterizes the Three previous generations of warfare was that their aim was to mainly destroy the armed forces of the enemy state and then deal with its civilian sector. But Fourth Generation Warfare (4Gw) is an asymmetric warfare that mainly aims at firstly dealing with the civilian sector of the enemy state in preparation for taking control over it without the minimal involvement in military confrontation with the army of that state whether over its territories, the territories of other states, or even through the use of war proxies.

Targeting the civilian sector of the state, waging psychological warfare with all its tools, depending on terrorism, encouraging demonstrations under the pretext of peacefulness then committing assault against individuals, penetrating civil society organizations, and diversifying the use of all possible means of pressure on all economic, political, social, and military fields of the targeted state, with the taking into account of the various regional and international pressure sources, are among the means and methods used in Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW). As means of protection against this warfare, efforts must be made to spread vigilance and awareness and to conduct scientific analysis of domestic, regional, and international events through strong and specialized institutions. And that would be the safety valve for any state wishing to maintain its national security. On the other hand, disagreements and differences among individuals within the same state must be respected and that is to be achieved through programs and training given to various age groups.
On Wednesday, April 17th 2019, The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) hosted a lecture on "the Effects of Technological Progress on International Policy and the Balance of Power". The lecture was delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Mohammed Al-Shazly and was opened by His Excellency Ambassador/ Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the council. An elite group of diplomats and those concerned with the subject matter attended this lecture. His Excellency, Ambassador/ Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the council, and Their Excellencies Ambassadors/ Gamal Al-Din Bayoumi, Kamal Abou-Aqil, Yousssef Al-Sharkawy, Mohamed Al-Ashmawy, and Mohamed Tawfiq, were among the attendants.

Ambassador Al-Shazly pointed out that he prepared the topic of this lecture based on his firm conviction that we live in an age governed by science and culture; that developments in this field during the recent years indicate radical changes in the elements of power governing the world and tremendous changes in the production method and balance of power governing international relations. His Excellency reviewed how, since the dawn of history, states that were relatively, technologically developed, had the upper hand, as compared to their counterparts, in the wars they had fought against other countries. And so he pointed out that the fields that currently must be paid attention to; which are expected to change World map with its policies and equilibriums in the near as well as in the long-term future, are limited to the following: Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Nanotechnology, Space Research, Nuclear Fusion Technology, Applications of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and The Scientific Research Stations in Antarctica.

Concluding the lecture, Ambassador Al-Shazly recommended the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) to follow up scientific developments having influence over aspects of national security and economy. This can be achieved by hosting scientific figures who are specialists in such matters in order to have cognizance of their vision, intensifying contacts in this regard with the scientific and academic bodies, analyzing these developments and transferring them to the concerned authorities in order to alert them to their impact and significance, and making the council function as a lobby for scientific research; to draw attention to the importance of increasing scientific research spending and the significance of Egypt’s participation in the international scientific field. In a related context he pointed out to the need to work for the intensification of communication with audio-visual, print, and electronic media and to interact with them in order to emphasize the significance of following up the ongoing scientific developments to establish a public opinion interested in scientific research and appreciating its significance at a time when scientific media in Egypt is almost absent.

Within the framework of the council's keenness to highlight developments in several issues at the economic and political levels and in the light of the vital debates on energy within the framework of global trend to replace old energy sources by renewable energy sources, the council hosted Eng. Dr. Hany Al-Nograshi Advisor to President of the Republic of Egypt on renewable energy, on April 3rd, 2019, to highlight the most important renewable energy sources and current projects intended to be established in Egypt. This lecture was held with the participation of Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council; Ambassador Dr. Nabil El-Arabi, Former Secretary General of the Arab League and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs; a large number of experts, diplomats and academics from among the council’s members, as well as those specialized in the field of energy, and those concerned with it.

During the lecture, Dr. Hany was Keen to emphasize the importance of energy as being the key driving force for water and population. He also explained the three most important types of energy, namely: traditional sources such as wind and photovoltaic cells, which do not achieve the objective of dispensing with fossil fuels only but also providing temporary availability, on the contrary to solar thermal power plants that fulfill the purpose of their establishment by providing availability of energy and possibility to fully replace traditional fuels, especially that they are characterized by sustainability in energy provision.

With respect to energy projects in Egypt, he called for the importance of starting to gradually diversify renewable energy sources and move towards increasing solar thermal power plants at the expense of wind farms and photovoltaic power stations, especially that such plants achieve the desired goal of energy provision, and also they can be made use of by replacing their air cooled condensers by a seawater desalination unit without reducing electricity production.
First: Dialogue with The Ambassador of Ireland to Egypt
On 16th of April 2019, the Council hosted Ambassador Sean O’Rgan, the Ambassador of Ireland to Egypt, to talk about Egyptian-Irish bilateral relations and his country’s vision on developments of situations in the Middle East, and the influence of Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union (Brexit) over his country, with the participation of each of Ambassadors Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council; Dr. Kamal Abu Ogail, Coordinator of the Permanent Committee of European Affairs at the Council.
The regional issues, developments of the Palestinian issue were focused upon, whereas His Excellency expressed his country’s support to all resolutions of International legitimacy and relevant Security Council resolutions that stipulated the Establishment of a Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and denouncing the recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel by the USA and rejecting Israel’s continued violations of the rights of the Palestinian People, as well as calling upon both parties to the Palestinian conflict to return to dialogue, especially since Palestinian reconciliation would give the Palestinian negotiator strength during negotiations with Israel.
The discussion also touched upon bilateral relations holding Egypt and Ireland together as well as witnessing several positive developments at all levels. And His Excellency expressed his hope that the Irish tourism would be strongly restored to Egypt, and to proceed towards enhancing cultural and educational exchanges, in addition to enhancement of trade and investment relations between both sides. Supporting Egypt to gain non-permanent Security Council membership has also been emphasizing.

Second: With Ambassador of Venezuela
On April 1st 2019, Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the council, and Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the council, received Mr. Wilmer Omar Barentus, Ambassador of Venezuela to Cairo, aiming at highlighting the current developments over the Venezuelan Political Arena as well as the country’s political future.
The Venezuelan Ambassador commenced the meeting by expressing his welcome to the convening of this meeting to update the Council on the ongoing developments in his country, aiming at delivering the voice of his country to the Egyptian institutions, particularly as Egypt has always been characterized by its honorable, unwavering, and supportive stances towards the choices of the Venezuelan People; respecting their free independent will, and categorically rejecting any foreign interference in the country’s domestic affairs.
Thereupon, Ambassador Barentus reviewed his country’s history along with periods of suffering from dictatorship, colonialism, political and economic instability till President Hugo Chavez took power, under the free will of the people, in 1999.
He concluded his speech by emphasizing the awareness of the Venezuelan People of the gravity of situations, and their gathering around their leadership to affirm their right to the freedom of their choice; calling for an international uprising against Western powers, at their head being the United States of America (USA) that continues to threaten the unity and stability of the country and behaves as if it were dominating the world.

A Symposium on "The Peace Process and Reconstruction in Afghanistan"
The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs organized a symposium entitled "The Peace Process and Reconstruction in Afghanistan", on May 4th, 2019, with the participation of the Afghan Ambassador to Cairo, Mohammad Moheq; Ambassador Hani Salah, the Ambassador of Egypt to Afghanistan; Mr. Al-Sayed Hani, council’s member; Dr. Mohamed Fayez Farahat, researcher at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS). The symposium was moderated by Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, in the attendance of a number of ambassadors and experts from among the council members.
During the symposium, a number of themes were reviewed as follows:
- Causes of the military solution failure in Afghanistan: although 18 years had passed since the US military intervention in the country.
- Peace process developments and fate: prerequisites for the success chances of the current peace process.
- Also highlighting on the Egyptian-Afghan relations that began more than 90 years ago and which has witnessed historical periods of political, cultural, and security cooperation between both sides, as well as cooperation between the intelligence agencies of the two countries.
The symposium was concluded by emphasizing that the peace process is still facing many internal challenges, namely: power structure, the change of social fabric, the emergence of parallel economy, spread of corruption, and ideological conflicts; and the external challenges consist in regional and international interventions by some powers seeking the enhancement of their influence and the protection of their interests.
The Italian Ambassador’s Visit to The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) received His Excellency Ambassador Giampaolo Cantini, the Italian Ambassador to Egypt, on Tuesday, 23rd of April 2019 during which he spoke about the Egyptian-Italian bilateral relations, and means of promoting them. The meeting was attended by Ambassador/ Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council; and Ambassador/ Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council; as well as the Council’s members (Youssef Al-Sharqawy, Farouk Mabrouk, Dr. Hazem Attayatallah, Dr. Kamal Abu Oqail, and Dr. Ahmad Mahdy).

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, who then presented a brief profile of the Italian ambassador.

The Italian ambassador began his speech by thanking the council for its hospitality, and he then reviewed the Egyptian-Italian bilateral relations with their various areas, indicating that they are characterized by very strong historical roots. His Excellency affirmed that the investment climate in Egypt at present is an attractive climate and that Egypt is one of the promising and attractive markets worldwide for global companies to attract and increase investments in the country, pointing out that Egypt’s presidency of the African Union (AU) this year, happens to be the most important political event in 2019, indicating that this represents an extremely significant step that makes Egypt a Centre for stepping to Africa, and for the resolution of conflicts in the various regions of the continent. And that Egypt will be the main and important gate for the Italian companies to increase investments in African states, which is a matter that demands exertion of joint efforts for the benefit of bilateral relations. He affirmed the existence of outstanding Italian companies having advanced technological expertise in various fields. The ambassador also pointed out to Italy’s strong support to Egypt in its war against terrorism, as well as Italy’s support to Egypt in its march towards development and path of democracy.

The Evolution of Human Thought over 5000 years

On 21st of April 2019, the Council hosted a lecture by Dr. Mohsen Tawfiq, council member, to speak about the topic entitled “From mythologies to systemic thinking, and evolution of human thought regarding the Understanding of World and Life through Sufism, Philosophy, Religion, and Science”. Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Council, Dr. Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, and a number of ambassadors and academics from among the council’s members, participated in that event. This lecture was also attended by Engineer Ramzy Al-Adl.

The evolution of global thought system over 5000 years and the conceptual development that took place as a result of progress made in informatics and human thought have been discussed during this meeting.

Dr. Mohsen emphasized that human thought had passed through stages of Sufism, philosophy, and then scientific theories; all of which have influenced the understanding of life system, and through which it has been concluded that a system of any science or field is only a system of interconnected complex parts, and that when studying any system, it will not be possible to study a part of that system in isolation from the whole, but shall be studied as an integrated system; as such, transition has taken place from the classic theory which is characterized by being a materialistic theory that depends on competitiveness to systemic thinking, that is characterized by being interconnected and non-complicated or inevitable, but governed by quantum and relativity theories, and characterized by cooperation and diversity of cultures.

He concluded his speech by emphasizing the significance of including all fields of development in systemic thinking, chiefly education, that takes all elements of internal and external environment into account, when conducting development.
Participations of Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad

In The Symposium of Sino-African Cooperation... And Communication Among Peoples

At the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Ambassador Dr. Ezzat Saad participated in the international symposium held in Beijing, over Two days, on April 9th and 10th, 2019, under the slogan "Sino-African Cooperation ... and Communication among Peoples".

The participation took place as follows:
1. His Excellency presided over a session on “China and Africa... mutual learning among Civilizations and Communication among peoples”, during which he emphasized the following points, before giving the floor to the speakers (Six speakers from China and Africa):

- The concept of mutual learning among civilizations and communication among peoples must be viewed in the context of the new international relations pattern defended by China within the framework of its active foreign policy objectives, which include, in addition to mutual learning among civilizations and communication among peoples, the creation of an international community sharing the future of humanity.
- Mutual learning among civilizations and communication among peoples, that are among cooperation priorities, are clearly reflected in all forms of cooperation between China and all developing countries, including Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum, and China-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Cooperation Forum, in addition to other bilateral and multilateral cooperation forms between China and many countries in the world.
- The abovementioned concept has been emphasized in article 15 of the Beijing Declaration which issued at the conclusion of the Summit of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), in Beijing, on September 4, 2018.

2. Prior to the launch of the abovementioned symposium, the President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) held a meeting on 9th of April that brought together researchers, academics and former senior officials, in addition to Egypt, South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria and Tanzania, during which the China Africa Institute has been launched. Selection of representatives from these countries as a member in the International Advisory Committee of the Institute for the period April 2019 - April 2022 took place in this meeting. During the meeting, the Chinese side delivered letters of credence to Members of the Committee including Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, former President of Mozambique, in a simple ceremony in which the External Relations Manager of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China had participated.
And other participation in The Conference on "Dialogue of Asian Civilizations ... Denouncing any attempts to claim the supremacy of a particular civilization or culture over others

- The opening of the conference, which witnessed the participation of a number of presidents from Asia, Africa and Europe, took place on May 15th, 2019, with a speech given by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, during which he underlined that “it is foolish to believe the claim that one's race and civilization are superior on the others”. Moreover, it is disastrous to willfully reshape or even replace other civilizations, he added. He also highlighted the importance of mutual respect and equal treatment among civilizations, pointing out that the Chinese civilization seeks the good of its neighbors and the maintenance of harmony with all nations, as this is the Chinese way to engage with the world.

- Likewise, the Presidents of Greece, Sri Lanka, Singapore and the King of Cambodia also gave speeches in the opening session about the Asian civilizations and the importance of dialogue among civilizations in general, while denouncing any attempts to claim the supremacy of a particular civilization or culture over others.

They also stressed the importance of having an international cooperation achieved among different civilizations and cultures, within a framework of mutual respect, regardless of the number of people belonging to any of it.

- The co-chairmanship of a session on "Asian Civilizations and the Development of Contemporary Asia", held on the first day of the Conference:

1. Ambassador Ezzat Saad, Director of the Council, along with the Director of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, co-chaired a session on “Asian Civilizations and the Development of Contemporary Asia”.

In this session, seven participants talked about various economic, developmental and social issues related to the Chinese experience and its related regional impacts, the interplay between the continent's civilizations, and how does Europe and the western Christian civilization see it.

2. Ambassador Saad also participated in a session, the following day, by introducing a paper on “Dialogue of Asian Civilizations ... and the Concept of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind”, in the context of China's relations with the Middle East, through which he presented the China-Arab civilizations coexistence throughout history, with the ancient Silk Road being one of its manifestations and through which the Chinese civilization interacted with its Islamic and Arab counterparts.

Then, he addressed the concept of "Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind" in the political thought of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, and finally China's relations with the Middle East Region and what Beijing can offer to restore peace and stability in this Area on one hand, and achieving economic and social development therein, on the other hand.

- Participating in a seminar at The Institute of West Asian, Middle East and African Studies at The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, May 17th, 2019:

1- A number of important issues were addressed including the Deal of the Century, the US withdrawal from the Middle East from the Chinese point of view, as well as the Chinese cooperation in relation to maintaining security in the Red Sea, the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb, the Gulf of Aden and the Chinese military base in Djibouti in addition to the Israeli reservation about establishing Chinese military bases in the region thus affecting the qualitative superiority of Israel military power in this region.

2- Furthermore, Chinese investments in Israel were also discussed (in the port of Haifa, in particular) and the facts about Netanyahu welcoming such investments despite US criticism.

- Participating in a seminar at The University of International Relations on the security situation in Asia: The Opportunities, Challenges and Civilizations in the context of Modernization ... Heritage and Renovation:

The seminar had seen, from the Chinese side, the participation of Professor DA Wei, Vice-President of the University, and Mr. Wei Chunjiang, Secretary of the Communist Party at the University, in addition to a number of professors.

The discussions held included the bilateral Sino-Russian relations within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the North Korean nuclear issue and the Chinese role in this regard. Ambassador Saad spoke about the geopolitical rivalry in Eurasia, the Turkish role in the region, the linkage between the security in Central Asia and the developments in Afghanistan and the need to restore stability there. Moreover, the difficulties associated with the North Korean nuclear issue, especially that the Korean leadership lacks confidence in the intentions of the United States in light of the western policy towards Gaddafi’s Libya and Iraq during Saddam’s reign, as well as the withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal last year.
1- The Third NPT PrepCom Committee was held in New York from 29 April to 10 May 2019; Malaysia’s Ambassador Syed Md Hasrin Syed Hussin and the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York was the Chair of the 2019 PrepCom. 150 of the states-parties to the Treaty participated in this PrepCom. None of the non NPT states requested to participate in this PrepCom as an observer. Mr. Ian Tudas, Head of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Branch at The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) undertook the duty of Secretary of the Committee, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) participated in the proceedings of this PrepCom.

2- Egypt’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mohamed Idris, headed the Egyptian delegation to the Third PrepCom. The Egyptian delegation included members of the Egyptian Permanent Mission to the United Nations (UN) in New York, Minister Plenipotentiary Ahmed Khaled Al-Fadhl, Director of Disarmament Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Ahmed Saeid, Second Secretary for the Foreign Minister’s Cabinet. On instructions of Foreign Minister, Chairman of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs Ambassador/Dr. Mounir Zahran joined the Egyptian delegation as adviser.

3- It was also decided to convene the 2020 Review Conference (The 2020 NPT RevCon) in New York during the period from 27 April to 22 May 2020 under the Chairmanship of a representative from the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) that has nominated Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi, Ambassador of Argentina to Austria for the presidency of the 2020 NPT RevCon.

Secondly: Commentary and Evaluation

1- A top priority of global public opinion is upholding human rights; chief among these rights is the right to life. Hence the chief among the priorities of global public opinion was nuclear disarmament and freeing the world of such most lethal and destructive weapon. The vast majority of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) put this issue among its top priorities. ECFA has proposed, within the framework of the general debate of the Three Preparatory Committees, amendment of the rules and procedures of the NPT 2020 Review Conference (The 2020 NPT RevCon) so as to permit the participation of such organizations in reviewing all provisions of the treaty in the Three Preparatory Committees for the Review Conference (NPT RevCon) and not only in the general debate; along the same lines of practice as in the Human Rights Council permitting non-governmental organizations that so request, to interfere in the debates after concluding the list of speakers from the states parties. Hence we propose that this issue be raised within the framework of preparations for the conference via regional groups and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), so that, in case of approval, one of such groups shall propose an amendment to the rules of procedure which will be discussed at the outset of the conference.

2- Although failure of the next conference is a likely possibility, Amb. Zahran emphasize the significance of letting all know that Egypt is getting well prepared for the conference, hoping for its success, and whatever initiatives or proposals we make are intended to increase the opportunities for success of the conference, though precedents indicate that until now, there are Two successive NPT Review Conferences (NPT RevCons) have ever not failed like the following failure of the Two NPT Review Conferences (NPT RevCons) in 2005 and 2015; though the Middle East region was the stated reason that has been alleged to be the cause of failure of both conferences, but the true reasons were the issues of nuclear disarmament and freeing the world of such lethal weapon. Whereas, nuclear-armed states (The nuclear-weapon states (NWS)), and states that have boycotted the Treaty and preferred not to join it, insist on possessing nuclear weapons; they are, namely: Israel, India, Pakistan, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, some of which adhere to the policy of “No First Use (NFU)” which means there is a possibility of its utilization in case of necessity.

3- Even though the Egyptian Initiative to prompt the issuance of a resolution from the General Assembly at its 73rd session through a call by the UN Secretary General for a conference on establishing a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East and that has been scheduled to be held in New York from 16th to 22nd of November 2019, but the possibilities of failure of such conference are more likely than its success opportunities after failing to implement the 1995 Conference resolution on the Middle East and failing to convene an independent conference on the Middle East, which had been called for by the 2010 NPT Review Conference (The 2010 NPT RevCon), since 2012, particularly that both Israel and the United States (USA) announced that they would not participate in such conference, also Britain and France were not enthusiastic regarding participation in that conference. Therefore, as a consequence, it is expected that the Secretary General of the 2020 NPT Review Conference (The 2020 NPT RevCon) would submit a negative report on that conference in spite of the appropriation of funds equivalent to 1.07 Million Dollars for conference expenses; it would be futile, as to what heard from the delegations of the Preparatory Committee, for the Secretary General to call again for reconvening the conference with the provision of the same appropriation of at least 1.07 Million Dollars each time.

4- Regardless of Israel’s stances which are supported by the United States, Egypt’s accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) might be considered, as by acceding to these Two treaties Egypt shall not be entailed any additional commitments considering that Egypt is one of the states parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), “that is to say that Egypt is already prohibited from producing or possessing nuclear weapons”. 