

The Honorable Marco Rubio

Secretary of State

United States of America

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We would like to extend to you our congratulations on your appointment Secretary of State. We wish you all success in your mission. We are confident that your vast experience, wisdom, and commitment will be instrumental in advancing our strategic partnerships, and helping achieve our collective objective of regional and global security, peace, stability, and prosperity.

You assume office at a time of great challenges. But it is also a time of greater opportunities for the Middle East. Our region has recently witnessed significant changes. A ceasefire in Gaza has been reached due to the sincere and relentless efforts by many, including by the Trump administration, whose role was key in pushing the parties to the finish line.

The Middle East is already burdened by the largest displaced and refugee populations in the world. The majority of Palestinians people are amongst those classified as such. Furthermore, the fragility of the economic and social stability of the region is further exacerbated by ongoing conflicts. We must be vigilant not to increase the risk to regional stability by further displacement, even if temporarily, as it increases the likelihood of radicalization and social unrest in the region as a whole.

Reconstruction in Gaza should be through direct engagement with and participation of the people of Gaza. Palestinians will live in their land and help rebuild it, and they should not be stripped of their agency during reconstruction as they must take ownership of the process with the support of the international community. There is an ongoing regional mobilization with the international community to start the reconstruction of Gaza, which will culminate in an international conference to be hosted by Egypt in partnership with the United Nations.

Syria has embarked on a new era of promise and hope. The ceasefire in Lebanon is holding, and the Lebanese people are rebuilding their state institutions and their country, determined to end negative foreign influences. Great efforts are being made to end other conflicts and sources of threat in the region. Our collective fight against terrorism continues to build on the success we have achieved in defeating this evil. Our message that regional relations must be built on mutual respect, non-interference in domestic affairs, and respect for international law is resonating stronger.

Many challenges remain. But we believe that together we can overcome them. We look forward to working closely with you to ending decades of conflict, eliminating terrorism and restoring hope to the region and its peoples. Together we can put our region on an irreversible track towards a better future marked by peace, cooperation and achievements, rather than conflict, suffering and missed opportunities.

Our countries and the United States are strategic partners. Our interests are aligned. President Donald Trump has a vision for peace. We share this vision. We believe President Trump can deliver the peace that has eluded the region and the world for decades. In all of our countries, you will have committed partners to bring about the just peace that is key to global stability, and which all our peoples deserve.

Mr. Secretary,

The resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the key to regional peace. The two-state solution is the only viable path to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. A viable, independent, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian state on the basis of 4th June 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with a secure and accepted Israel, that enjoys full normal ties with all its neighbors in the region, will ensure that neither Israelis nor Palestinians ever again suffer the horrific consequences of war and violence. It will unite all our resources to build a future of opportunity and achievement that contribute to global security, growth and prosperity. Collectively, we will establish needed architectures that will guarantee the security of Israel and Palestinians. Together we will fight all common threats, including terrorism and extremism. We will build our economies. We will launch regional projects that show people real peace dividends. We will rebuild faith in peace and commitment to it.

We stand ready to work with you on implementing a plan to realize the two-state solution and deliver the just and lasting peace for our region.

But as we work on articulating this plan and agreeing steps to implement it, we must all work to stop all unilateral measures that undermine the viability of the two-state solution and the right of all peoples of the region to peace.

In this regard, it is imperative that Israel does not annex any Palestinian land. Such annexation will simply render the two-state solution unviable.

So will deportation of Palestinians from their land push the region towards more tension, conflict and instability. Not only will such a move be a clear violation of international law. It will be a threat to regional stability and security. Palestinians do not want to leave their land. We support their position unequivocally. Such a move will further compound the challenge of the refugees' problem. It will add a new dangerous dimension to the conflict, given the history of the conflict and the unshakeable rejection of the Palestinians and the people of the region to it.

Mr. Secretary,

A just, lasting and comprehensive Middle East is possible. A Middle East in which all its countries and peoples, including Palestinians and Israelis, enjoy their full legitimate rights and live in dignity and with hope is our collective commitment.

We have an historic opportunity for our region and the world. Peace in the Middle East can be the legacy of the Trump administration. You can count on our full support and commitment to achieve it.

Once again, we congratulate you on your appointment, and we look forward to meeting with you soon to further discuss how we can build on the strong foundations of our partnerships, move on an irreversible path to peace and serve our collective national interests.

With warm regards,

Badr Abdellaty Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Ayman Safadi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar