Opening Remarks
by
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H.E. Minister Sameh Shoukry
Excellencies;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

My name is Ashraf Swelam and I am the Director of the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Cairo.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the twenty-first session of the United Nations Senior Mission Leaders training course, held in cooperation with the Integrated Training Service of the United Nations.

At the outset, allow me to thank H.E. Minister Sameh Soukry, Egypt’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, for taking the time out of his very busy schedule to be with us today and to honor us with the official opening of this training course. Thank you your Excellency.

Let me also extend a warm welcome to our friends from the UN, the mentors, speakers, trainers, facilitators and participants in the course, who are joining us from all over the world. Welcome to Cairo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The hosting of this training course is a very special occasion for us at the Cairo Center for Conflict resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa. On the one hand, it is the culmination of eight months of very hard work, for which I am eternally indebted to my colleagues at the Center.
On the other hand, it is another highlight of what has been an extremely exciting year for CCCPA. During this year, and together with our friends and colleagues at the Departments of Multilateral and African Affairs of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the Egyptian mission in New York, we have taken part in organizing several landmark events, including:

- The international conference on regional aspects of peacebuilding held last November, the first substantive input to the ongoing global review of the peacebuilding architecture.
- the African Union Senior Mission Leaders training.

During this journey, we have been extremely fortunate with our partners. And today, I would like to seize the opportunity to single out two of them: the government of Japan, represented today by our friends from the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, and our friends and partners at the United Nations Development Program. We thank you for your continuous generosity and constant support.

On that note, I would like turn it over to Ms. Anita Nirody, the UN Resident Representative in Egypt to deliver her opening remarks on behalf of the UN.

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