

## ADDRESS TO THE 11<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR NUBIAN STUDIES

Mr President of the International Society of Nubian Studies,  
Distinguished scholars, Members of the Nubian Society, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to me to address you on this occasion of convening the opening session of the 11th Conference of the International Society for Nubian Studies; and I would like to take this opportunity to express, in the name of the Government and people of the Sudan, our gratitude and deep indebtedness to all of you for having devoted most of your time to the study and conservation of the archaeological heritage of the country. I know that some of you have been engaged in Sudanese studies for more than 40 years; some have received important decorations from the President of the Republic for their remarkable contributions to the cultural heritage of the Sudan. I wish to those who are still active in this field a long and healthy life and we should mention the scholarly contributions of those who have recently left us: Professor Lech Krzyżaniak, the former director of the Museum of Poznań (Poland) and Professor Francis Geus, the former Director of the French Archaeological Unit of the Sudanese National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums.

I am very happy to attend this conference in Warsaw, the town that witnessed the birth of the International Society for Nubian Studies 34 years ago. In this respect, I like to address my thanks to the Polish scholars for the initiative and the remarkable contribution that led to the foundation of the society.

As you know, Sudan is experiencing a rapid economic and social change. Vast development projects are being executed in different parts of the country and these projects constitute a serious threat to the archaeological sites. So your assistance is highly needed to help in executing the national policy of preserving the past of the country, which is, at large, a part of the cultural history of mankind. Here I would like to thank those who are contributing to the (Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage Project). It is amazing to see in this hall the leaders of the Nubian-UNESCO campaign of the 60s of the last century, together with those executing the actual rescue operation. I congratulate all of you on behalf of the people of the Sudan for the outstanding achievements, challenges arising therein.

I would like to affirm that we will do our best to facilitate your work in the country. All the departments of our Ministry and in particular the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums will be at your disposal for any assistance.

Finally, I like to thank the Polish archaeologists for their involvement on many research concessions, their organization of this conference and their kind invitation to a big Sudanese delegation to attend this important occasion. I wish this conference every success and to all of you glorious scientific results in the various field of your researches.

*Mohamed Yousif  
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports  
Republic of Sudan*