

Information Statement

13th August 2025 Fellows Meeting in Cairo



Gabr Fellows with the Chairman of the Foundation, M. Shafik Gabr

On August 13, 2025, the Shafik Gabr Foundation conducted a Fellows Working Meeting at ARTOC Headquarters in Cairo, gathering Egyptian Fellows from across cohorts for an evening of engaging discussion, thoughtful reflection, and renewed connection.

Chairman Shafik Gabr welcomed the attendees and opened the evening by emphasizing the importance of continued engagement across Fellowship years. Following his remarks, each Fellow and attendee introduced themselves, sharing their background, current work, and a few updates.

Short introductions included:

Zeyad El Kelani, 2014 Fellow: Zeyad holds a Ph.D in Computational Analytics and is currently an advisor to the Board of Directors at the African Development Bank based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Fellow: Nayra is working as a member at the legislative committee for the national council for women.

Mohamed El Attar, 2016 Fellow: Mohamed is the CEO in Egypt Day Tours and partner in Atria Adventures in the UAE. He is focusing on growing and expanding his business.

Sarah Badr 2017 Fellow: Sarah is a petro-technical engineer in Schlumberger. She is also passionate about youth development and is the ‘youth ambassador for young migrants in North Africa’.

Dalia Younis, 2017 Fellow: Dalia is a communication and advocacy officer at UNICEF Egypt. She recently won the ‘Dr Aly El Samman’ award.

Ibrahim Hamouda, 2017 Fellow: Ibrahim is currently focused on his consulting company that connects businesses.

Marwa Abdalla, 2018 Fellow: Marwa is a film and art producer. She is currently focused on her daughter’s singing career who had her first solo singing concert.

Mohamed El Hawary, 2018 Fellow: Mohamed serves as a Senior Project Manager at Emirates NBD, where he leads initiatives in tokenization, Apple Pay implementation, and overall project management.

Mohamed Sobhy, 2025 Fellow: Mohamed serves as an Assistant Lecturer of Public International Law at Zagazig University. He has received a scholarship for a PHD in International Investment Law.

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow: Mariam serves as the Founder and CEO of Fame, a digital marketing agency, and of OneFurever, a new startup. She shared that OneFurever achieved more than 50 adoptions in the past month.

Ingy Musallam, 2025 Fellow: Ingy serves as a Junior Advisor for the Technical Education and Labor Market Cluster at GIZ. She is currently focused on trying out new sports including tennis, horseback riding, yoga and football.

Wessam Baher, 2022 Fellow: Wessam has recently been promoted to ‘Talent Management Manager’ and is completing a master’s degree in Business and Human Resources at ESLSCA. He is a certified coach and a certified assessor in human resources.

Youssef Emam, 2025 Fellow: Youssef has been promoted to an Assistant Lecturer of Commercial Law, Ain Shams University, and as a Corporate Lawyer at Matouk Bassiouny, specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

Maries El Meshreqeey, 2025 Fellow: Maries serves as the Senior Policy and Liaison Associate at the International Organization for Migration (IOM – UN Migration). She is working on her thesis to complete her Political Science Master’s degree.

Abdullah Hussein, 2025 Fellow: Abdullah serves as the Senior Advisor for Strategic Programs and Affairs at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Managing Director of Upnxt Experiences, and Chairman of Identechs Smart Solutions. He has recently completed a workshop of improvisation.

Lydia Kamiel, 2025 Fellow: Lydia serves as the Startups Partnerships Lead at CIB. She has returned to swimming training consistently.

Mahmoud El Makkawe, 2025 Fellow: Mahmoud serves as the Digital and Public Diplomacy Officer at the EU Delegation to Egypt. He is currently learning to play the piano and read musical notes.

Zeyad El Kelani, 2014 Fellow, reflected on his Fellowship experience, expressing appreciation for having joined the program. He credited Mr. Gabr as a mentor whose life experiences offer many valuable lessons. Zeyad encouraged current Fellows to learn from Mr. Gabr, whom he sees as a guiding figure and a role model.

Among the reflections shared:

Both Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Fellow and Maries El Meshrequey, 2025 Fellow voiced their opinion on refugees and asylum applications in Egypt. They believe that the new law put into action in November 2024 will help in future applications. The announced number of people seeking asylum in Egypt are approximately 900,000 people. Mr. Gabr stated that the actual non-Egyptians living in Egypt number is closer to 9 million people according to IOM and that is causing pressure on the Egyptian economy, especially that we live on 6% of Egypt's land.

On global affairs, the Israel-Palestine war was brought up and almost all the attendees agreed that it is very difficult to accept the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and are bewildered how leaders are not acting positively. Civilians, especially children, are paying the price with food supplies cut off and Gaza surrounded with famine conditions. Mr. Gabr stated that there should be change and that international organizations and reporters should be allowed to enter Gaza and the West Bank and show the world what is really happening on the ground. He believes that this can only happen with powerful leadership which is rare to find these days.

Mr. Gabr then specifically addressed the 2025 Fellows regarding the upcoming program. All 2025 Fellows were engaged and looking forward to the experience. Mr. Gabr gave them a brief on how the program will be and encouraged the 2025 Fellows to reach out to the other Fellows of previous years for advice. The 2025 Fellows were encouraged to begin the US visa application and after that the final program will be shared with them.

To close the evening, Mr. Gabr discussed the Foundation's ongoing tradition of holding working dinners titled "Expecting the Unexpected" four times a year in Davos, Munich, London, and D.C. He is looking forward to a follow up meeting with the Fellows once he is back in Cairo.

In attendance were:

Name	Year
Abdullah Hussein	2025
Dalia Younis	2017
Esraa Ramadan	2022
Ibrahim Hammouda	2017
Ingy Musallam	2025
Lydia Kamiel	2025
Mahmoud Elmakawe	2025
Mariam El Sherif	2025
Maries Meshrequey	2025
Marwa Abdalla	2018
Mohamed El Attar	2016
Mohamed El Hawary	2018
Mohamed Sobhy	2025
Nayra Gadallah	2016
Sarah Badr	2017
Wessam Baher	2022
Youssef Emam	2025
Zeyad El Kelani	2014