



SESAME

Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East

Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017

Statement by Mr Vito De Filippo Head of the Italian Delegation



Distinguished Ministers,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here today to celebrate an event that will be long remembered.

The opening of SESAME – the first major international research center of the Middle East – could mark the beginning of a new era of peace and collaboration through scientific research.

Set up on the model of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), this project proves once again that science plays a fundamental role in fostering friendly relations and mutual understanding between different cultures and societies. The challenges the world faces today cannot be addressed by building walls but by building bridges, and this is one of the most ambitious bridges ever built to promote dialogue through the common language of science.

We all know that this project has a long history, involving different nations, and I would like to praise the efforts of the many countries that have contributed to the realization of this outstanding initiative, constantly reaffirming the interest of the world scientific community for this enterprise.

Italy, as one of the Observers of the SESAME Council, is among the countries that has most contributed to the realization of the project with the involvement of the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare and Sincrotrone Elettra of Trieste.

I am certain that the power of attraction of the SESAME light source will draw here the best students and allow scientists from the Middle East and other countries to study and work together.

This initiative not only has the valuable merit of promoting research and innovation but it can also be considered a major success of scientific diplomacy and a benchmark for a future of progress and peace.

Thank you.