



**Speech of Mr. Tahar Khouaja
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
CPG, GCT & TIFERT (Tunisia)**

With great pleasure, I would like to welcome AFA Chairman, Board members and Secretary General; extending my appreciation for selecting Tunisia to host the 26th International Technical Conference for Fertilizer Industry. I further welcome the distinguished attendants participating in the proceedings of the Conference and the experts from international companies, specialized in fertilizer industry technology.

Our gathering, today, reflects our collective desire to continuously develop such an important strategic industry; enabling the best utilization of abundant Arab region resources related to fertilizer industry. This auspicious industry represents an indispensable gateway to a sustainable agricultural sector, thus narrowing the food gap and reducing the number of hungry people worldwide, through the provision of the best state-of-the-art technologies; so as not to raise productivity and decrease

costs only, but also to improve the product quality and take into account environment protection and safety requirements.

Tunisia is occupying an internationally advanced status in phosphate and related derivatives production and international trade. Bearing in mind being leading countries in the production of fertilizers and raw materials, such add to our responsibilities the necessity to continuously run in line with sustainable agricultural development with due concern to environment preservation. In this context, I would like to refer to the exerted efforts by the Tunisian companies related to developing production methods, improving quality, preserving the environment in addition to following rational policies with reference to energy and water consumption.

In the light of the promising vistas for international phosphate fertilizers market, liberalizing commercial swaps- hence leading to the emergence of international partnerships and strategic allies in the framework of economic globalization- and in promoting the previous direction, the Tunisian phosphate sector companies pursue establishing additional partnerships with leading markets high-rank parties together with following policies and taking procedures encouraging international and Arab investments.

We are, therefore, looking forward to the fruitful proposals and recommendations, which will result from such an important Conference; tackling production technologies best practices, based on enhancing vocational health and safety and preserving the environment via the steady improvement of working conditions and industrial establishments safety. In such a framework, we would like to emphasize that the Tunisian companies are always seeking to use the best practices, especially in the following fields:

- Distinctive manufacturing practices
- Human resources management
- Assets management and maintenance
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) fields

In doing so, they believe that using the abovementioned practices will assist in:

- Achieving more competitiveness, increasing sales and opening new markets
- Enjoying more efficiency together with cutting costs
- Improving workforce skills
- Using technology efficiently
- Responding rapidly to the sector innovations
- Reducing emissions and improving HSE performance

At the end, I would like to express my happiness with such a distinguished attendance of Arab and foreign expertise from different countries. I further extend my thanks to AFA for the great efforts exerted in preparing this successful Conference. Also, I would like to re-welcome you all wishing you a good stay in Tunisia. May we all achieve success in our contributions, heading to the service of the Arab region, and reaching more advancement and prosperity.