



**VII MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRIES OF ARAB-SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES  
(LAS Headquarters/Cairo:21-22/2010)**

**FINAL REPORT**

Following up on the Second Summit of the Arab and South American Countries, held in Doha on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the ASPA High Officials held their Seventh Meeting in Cairo, at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States, in July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Ahmed A. Ben Khayal (Libya, Chair of the Arab Summit), Ambassador Ahmed Benhelli, Deputy Secretary General of the League of Arab States (Arab Regional Coordinator); Minister Alfonso Lopez Director of the Summit Follow-up Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador, (*Pro Tempore* Presidency of UNASUR), Ambassador Marita Landaveri (Peru, the host country of the III ASPA Summit), and Ambassador Gilberto Moura, Director of the Department of Regional Mechanisms of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (South American Regional Coordinator).

The High Officials reviewed the progress made since the Second ASPA Summit, including the results of the Sixth Meeting of the Council of High Officials in the Foreign Ministries of Arab and South American Countries (Quito/Ecuador: 26-27/2/2010), and shared information on the activities carried out for the implementation of the commitments made in these meetings.

They took note with satisfaction of the broad participation of delegations of countries of both regions in the Seventh Meeting of the Council of High Officials.

**They agreed to:**

**1. POLITICAL COORDINATION**

1.1 Reaffirm the resolutions of the "Doha declaration" 2009 particularly related to the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict which reaffirmed the need to reach a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of the principle of land for peace and relevant resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in particular Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) of the Security Council, as well as the Madrid Framework and the "Arab Peace Initiative" adopted at the Beirut Summit (2002) and reaffirmed at the Riyadh Summit (2007) and the Damascus Summit (2008), that ensure the realization of security for all countries in the region. Also highlight the necessity of the full implementation of the "Road Map". Reaffirm the need for the materialization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1515 (2003), and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State, based on the 1967 lines, living side by side with the State of Israel,



and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories to the lines of 4/6/1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan and what remained from the Lebanese territories and the dismantling of the settlements including those in East Jerusalem. Duly take into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9/7/2004 by the International Court of Justice concerning the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and call upon all parties concerned to comply with the said advisory opinion.

- 1.2 Condemn the Israeli military attack against the "Freedom Flotilla", which caused civilian casualties, violating International Law that protect navigation in international waters, as well as international agreements principles and humanitarian law, and consider it a threat to the stability and security of the Mediterranean Sea hindering the prospect of peaceful solution to conflicts in the Middle East.
- 1.3 Reaffirm the contents of the Security Council presidential statement on 01/06/2010 which regards as unsustainable the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip. Call for the lifting of the blockade and for the commitment to deliver medical aid, food, and supplies for the reconstruction of buildings and other necessary basic needs to the Palestinian people in the Strip.
- 1.4 Call for the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1850 & 1860 and the need for the sustainable and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza, and an unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout the enclave.
- 1.5 Welcome the decision of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/14/1), to dispatch an independent fact finding mission to fully clarify, according to humanitarian law and international law, violations by Israel during the attack on the "Freedom Flotilla".
- 1.6 Call on Israel to abide by its international responsibilities in assuring delivery of humanitarian aid, basic needs for reconstruction, and opening all cross points to the movement of people and supplies.
- 1.7 Express deep concern with regard to unilateral sanctions imposed on Syria by the Government of the United States of America and its recent renewal and consider that the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" violate principles of International law and constitutes a violation of the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter.
- 1.8 Express their support to the efforts aiming to achieve a comprehensive solution to the situation in Darfur. Welcome the initiative led by the League of Arab States, the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the Darfur crisis and express their support to the efforts exerted by the state of Qatar and the Greater Jamahiriya in this respect. Also express their support for the continuation of negotiations in Doha. Reiterate their appreciation for regional and international support and call upon all Sudanese factions to respond positively to this initiative to ensure its success. Express their support for the results of the national elections in April 2010. Welcome the recent reconciliation agreements signed by the Sudanese Government and



different Sudanese factions under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

- 1.9 Reaffirm the respect for Iraq's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the need for non-interference in its internal affairs. Respect the will of the Iraqi people to determine their own future and condemn all forms of terrorism targeting its people, institutions and infrastructure, threatening its stability and political system. Reaffirm, the support to the Iraqi government's efforts to maintain security and to stand against terrorist attacks and attempts to destabilize and sabotage the political process. Reaffirm furthermore the necessity of activating the process of national reconciliation and economic reconstruction. Welcome the parliamentary elections held in Iraq in March 2010 and the positive role played by the international community to support and assist that country and its people.
- 1.10 Reiterate that regional security and stability in the Middle East require that the whole region be free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. In this context, support the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference (New York, May 2010) which reiterated its invitation to Israel, the only state in the region that has not done so, to join the NPT, and adopted practical steps to transform the Middle East into a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of Mass Destruction.
- 1.11 Call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran for a positive response to the United Arab Emirates initiative to reach a peaceful settlement in the issue involving the three United Arab Emirates islands (Tunb Al-Kubra, Tunb Alsughra and Abou Moussa) through dialogue and direct negotiations, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and International Law<sup>(1)</sup>.
- 1.12 Call on the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute referred to as "Question of the Malvinas Islands", in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions. Reiterate that the pretense to consider the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands as countries and territories to which the Fourth Part of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the European Union Decisions on Overseas Association may be applied is not in accordance with the fact that a sovereignty dispute over such islands exists.
- 1.13 Further state that the unilateral non renewable natural resources exploration activities carried out currently in the Argentine continental shelf around the Malvinas Islands are incompatible with the provisions of Res 31/49 of the UNGA.
- 1.14 Express their satisfaction with the institutional strengthening of UNASUR and welcome the designation of the former President of Argentina, Mr. Nestor Kirchner, as the First Secretary General of the South American Organization.

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<sup>(1)</sup> reservation by Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela.



## **2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **First: Tourism**

- 2.1 Welcome the offer of Jordan to host a Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, date to be decided before the end of 2010.
- 2.2 Take note of Egypt's decision to postpone holding the preparatory and the follow up technical seminars on tourism until a date is defined for the ministerial meeting of tourism.
- 2.3 Welcome the suggestion of changing the MOU on tourism into a "*Cooperation Framework between LAS and UNASUR countries in the Field of Tourism*". The regional coordinator of South America (Brazil) will prepare a consolidated version of the South American remarks before October 2010.

### **Second: Transport**

- 2.4 Welcome the progress made on the study of "Air and Maritime Connectivity among Arab and South American Regions", by LAS. Took note of the presentation of the preliminary outline of the study during the meeting. The final version of the study will be delivered to ASPA member states before the end of 2010. In this context LAS requests feedback information from ASPA member States.
- 2.5 Welcome hosting a Seminar on Transportation, in Paraguay in the second half of 2011, the date depends on the delivery of the Study on Air and Maritime Connectivity among Arab and South American Regions which will be the base-document for the seminar.

### **Third: Energy and Mining**

- 2.6 Welcome the initiative made by United Arab Emirates to host a Joint Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Mining, during the second half of January 2011, a draft agenda will be prepared in coordination with the ASPA Coordinators.

### **Fourth: Finance and Capital Marketing**

- 2.7 Welcome the proposal of Chile to host the Seminar on Finance and Capital Markets, in 2011 before the III ASPA Summit.

### **Fifth: Intellectual Property**

- 2.8 Welcome the Initiative of Brazil to host a Meeting of Intellectual Property Management Institutions, in November 22-23, 2010, to be held in Brasilia or Rio de Janeiro, place to be confirmed by host country and draft agenda to be circulated later on.

### **Sixth: Industrial Cooperation**

- 2.9 Welcome AIDMO's proposal to hold the Meeting on Industrial Cooperation, in Doha during January 2011, the meeting will be on the level of Ministers with participation from public and private sector from both regions, the preparatory meetings will be decided in coordination with both ASPA regional coordinators.



**Seventh: the III Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Economy**

- 2.10 Decide on the venue and date of the III Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Economy upon consultations among the South American Countries.

**Eighth: Agriculture**

- 2.11 Decide that ASPA Coordinators would work on adding agricultural cooperation to the activities of the Committee on Economic Cooperation.

**Ninth: Commercial Promotion**

- 2.12 Welcome the interest of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) to collaborate with ASPA.
- 2.13 Welcome the Creation of the South American Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce to be launched on the sidelines of the III ASPA Summit.

**Tenth: Land Locked Countries**

- 2.14 Reaffirm their commitment to integral regional development, inclusive and equitable, in order to ensure a favorable treatment to small and vulnerable economies specially to landlocked countries.
- 2.15 Recognize the sovereign right of states to manage and regulate their natural resources, in accordance with their domestic legislations as well as the International Law.

**3. ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

**First: Follow up on activities on Environmental cooperation**

- 3.1 Welcome the hosting by Saudi Arabia of the seminar on “Water Desalinization Technologies” to be held during 17-20 April 2011.
- 3.2 Welcome the proposal of Egypt to host the seminar on “Cleaner Production Technologies and Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM)” in Egypt during the second half of 2011.
- 3.3 Call upon the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Regional Coordinator of South America to coordinate among themselves and the host countries for the good preparation of the above two seminars.
- 3.4 Hold the meetings of the ASPA ad-hoc sub-committee on “Combating Desertification” on a regular basis on the sidelines of UNCCD meetings. Coordination for simultaneous interpretation for the meetings is to be arranged between the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Regional Coordinator of South America

**Second: Follow up on the Experts Meeting of ASPA on Developing Scientific and Technological Cooperation on CC in Damascus 4-6/5/2010**

- 3.5 Welcome the hosting by Syria of the Expert Meeting of ASPA on Developing Scientific and Technological Cooperation on Climate Change Damascus 4-6/5/2010, as well as its excellent outcome.



- 3.6 Request Egypt and Brazil to activate the signed protocol concerning receiving the Brazilian Satellite Data through the provision by Brazil of programming facilities and required system changes within specific time frames, and agree on the modalities of providing the Arab countries with the Brazilian Satellite Data.
- 3.7 Invite Morocco and Brazil to look into the possibility of signing a protocol on receiving the Brazilian Satellite Data that covers the rest of the Arab Region, not covered by the Egyptian Station; Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.
- 3.8 Welcome the offer of Brazil to provide information on the available training courses, to be offered by the Brazilian National Institute for the Semi-arid Areas (INSA) in the field of using models for predicting climate change scenarios to reduce uncertainties, their language, schedule, targeted audience and arrangements for participation, so that it may be circulated among the Arab Countries to benefit from them.
- 3.9 Modify the Brazilian proposal of the MOU on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation and Risk Reduction to a “Cooperation Framework”.
- 3.10 Consider ACSAD to be the focal point for the Arab side for the follow up on the implementation of “the cooperation framework”, and the Brazilian INSA to be the focal point for the South American side, after consulting with the Brazilian INSA, so as to facilitate the follow up of climate change impacts, vulnerability, adaptation and risk reduction.

**Third: The Second International Conference: Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi Arid Regions (ICID) - Fortaleza – Brazil (16-20/8/2010)**

- 3.11 Call upon the Arab Countries to participate actively at ICID, Fortaleza – Brazil 16-20/8/2010.
- 3.12 Request Brazil to issue the invitations and make the necessary preparation for an ASPA meeting on the sidelines of ICID in Fortaleza.
- 3.13 Welcome the offer of Brazil and Argentine to complete and hand over the chapter on “Land Degradation in South American Countries” to the Arab Side for its inclusion in the project of LAMAARSA.
- 3.14 Include in the agenda of the ASPA meeting on the sidelines of ICID – 2010, the two updated versions of the conceptual documents distributed by the League of Arab States during the VI HOM, namely:
  - a) Socio-economical and Environmental Development for Vulnerable Areas Subject to Drifting Sand.
  - b) Sustainable Management Approach for Mitigating the Impacts of Drought in Dry Lands.

The aim is to discuss the papers and agree on the modalities and mechanisms of developing project documents.

- 3.15 Reaffirm that the proposed “Cooperation Framework on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation and Risk Reduction” presented by Brazil could be a good



platform for expanding the cooperation between the two regions in these fields, and aim to finalize and adopt this document at ICID meeting in Fortaleza.

**Fourth: Climate Change Initiative:**

- 3.16 Welcome the decision of Ecuador to promote ITT Yasuni initiative, which effectively constitutes a voluntary measure to address the problem of climate change, and ensure the conservation of one of the most bio-diverse locations in the world.

**4. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION:**

**First: Upcoming Events**

- 4.1 Welcome the offer of Argentine to host a Seminar of the Science and Technology Committee on "e-government and open source software", in Buenos Aires in March 2011.
- 4.2 Welcome the draft agenda proposed by the South American Side to organize and develop activities aiming at promoting:
- a) Initiatives for social inclusion and massive alphabetization in the Arab and South American countries through the exchange of experiences and information on the development and applications of open source software under open standards and e- government;
  - b) The utilization and development of open software and open standards as well as the fostering of research and development of Information Technologies (IT) adapted to the needs of our countries, with the purpose of strengthening our technological capabilities, the access to the use and applications of the IT to favor the South – South cooperation.

**Second: Coordination of positions regarding the Conference of the International Telecommunication Union**

- 4.3 Take note of the nomination of Saudi Arabia for the membership of ITU Council during the period 2010-2014(Geneva), the voting will be at the Plenipotentiary Delegates Conference (Mexico:4-22/10/2010), as well as to renew the Saudi nomination for the position of Director of Development Sector of IT, the voting will be at the Plenipotentiary Delegates Conference (Mexico:4-22/10/2010).
- 4.4 Take note of the nomination of Syria for the Council of ITU for the period of 2010-2014.
- 4.5 Take note of the nomination of Venezuela for the Council of ITU for the period of 2010-2014.
- 4.6 Take note of the Brazilian nomination for the position of "Director of the ITU Radio communication Bureau".



## **5. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION:**

### **Education:**

- 5.1 Welcome the offer of Kuwait to host the I Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Education in the year of 2011.

### **Culture:**

#### **First: Achieved Events**

- 5.2 Congratulate BibliASPA for the realization of the I South American Festival of Arab Culture (18-31/03/2010), which organized movie festivals, ten exhibitions, music concerts, dance and theatre presentations, poetry reading, storytelling, lectures and debates in 28 different places in 4 Brazilian cities with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture, UNESCO, the Arab Embassies in Brasilia, the Arab League and the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce.
- 5.3 Congratulate BibliASPA for the opening of its new premises in Sao Paulo, an Arab and South American Research and Cultural Center and Library with 18 rooms, including a museum, exhibition rooms, a publishing house and art and study rooms, which offers language, literature, history, music and theatre classes. Exhort ASPA member-states to send publications, teachers and exhibitions to BibliASPA.
- 5.4 Applaud the signing of agreements between UNESCO and BibliASPA and between the National Library of Qatar and BibliASPA, as well as the realization of the First Brazil-Libya Culture Festival, held in Tripoli and Ben Ghazi from April 30th until May 11th. Also applaud the launching of books on Arab and South American themes such as "Arab Presence in South America", "Arabic Grammar for South American Students", "Arab Music" and new editions of Fikr Review of Arab and South American Studies.
- 5.5 Congratulate the initiative developed in Venezuela to disseminate information on the Arab and Islamic culture, through workshops and seminars by experts in the region, as an expression of closeness and educative exchange between both regions. In this regard, took note of the "Venezuela Egypt Cultural Encounter" held in Caracas 14-17/06/2010.

#### **Second: Upcoming Events**

- 5.6 Support the upcoming II South American Festival of Arab Culture in 2011 and ask for suggestions of artists to participate in it. Also thank Egypt for its offer to participate in the II South American Festival of Arab Culture.
- 5.7 Encourage transfer of activities of the South American Festival of Arab Culture to different ASPA member-states.





5.8 Welcome the Brazilian initiative, coordinated by BibliASPAs, to organize the exhibition Islamic Art (October-2010 to July-2011), with the participation of Arab artists, in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia.

5.9 Welcome Ecuador's and Brazil's offer to organize cultural events on the occasion of the III ASPA Summit and invite other ASPA Member States to contribute as well.

**Third: ASPA-UNESCO Contact Group**

5.10 Encourage the ASPA –UNESCO contact group to define its modus operandi and activities.

5.11 Ask ASPA Member States to nominate candidates before the end of 2010 for the first editions of the ASPA Literature, Cinema and Music Prizes so that it can be awarded during the III ASPA Summit, and suggest that this initiative be conducted by ASPA-UNESCO contact group with the support of the ASPA Regional Coordinators.

5.12 Reaffirm the importance of the vital role of UNESCO in protecting the global heritage, and support its initiatives in East Jerusalem, considering the city's human, cultural and spiritual status for the followers of the monotheistic religions. Acknowledge the Arab collective efforts towards the establishment of a permanent office of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and suggested this item to be included in the agenda of the coming meeting of ASPA-UNESCO Contact Group to take place at the sidelines of the coming UNESCO General Conference.

**Fourth: Cultural Diversity**

5.13 Respect national laws and legislations, take note that the chewing of coca leaves is an ancient cultural expression of the Bolivian people, considering the importance of cultural diversity and of preserving the memory and knowledge inherited from millenary peoples.

**6. SOCIAL COOPERATION**

**First: Follow up of the II Meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs and Development**

6.1 Hold a Meeting for ASPA Focal Points of Social Affairs aiming to suggest dates for the activities in the plan of action attached to "Brasilia Communiqué on Social Affairs and development" in order to draft an outline of establishing the Observatory for Human Social Development and Inclusion of UNASUR and the League of Arab States, as well as the creation of a bi-regional database of best practices, statistics, studies and reports on social development policies, which shall be under the responsibility of the Observatory for Human Social Development and Inclusion. The Regional Coordinators should send the results of their meeting to ASPA Member States in order to implement the "Brasilia Plan of Action".



6.2 The Brazilian side in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Council of Development and Social Affairs will set the date of the abovementioned meeting after consulting with the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger.

### **Second: Migration**

6.3 Acknowledge the South American efforts to exhort the governments of developed countries that have not yet signed and ratified the international “Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution A/RES/45/158, on December 18th, 1990, which came into force on July 1st, 2003, to do so, considering that it is an instrument of international law that ensures that all migrant workers and their families can exercise the rights referred to in the Convention, without distinction of gender, race, color, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, nationality, economic status, patrimony, marital status, birth or any other conditions.

## **7. FOLLOW UP MECHANISMS**

7.1 Welcome the proposal of preparing an ASPA Official Calendar with all dates and venues prior to III ASPA Summit.

7.2 Analyze the proposal for the structure and attributions of the Sectorial Committees; and welcome the decision of Brazil, Ecuador, and Chile to Co-Chair, the Committee on Environmental Cooperation, the Committee on Cultural and Educational Cooperation, the Committee on Social Cooperation and the Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, respectively from the South American side; The Arab side will define the chairs of the aforementioned committees on the basis of the system of the working structure of LAS.

7.3 Appreciate the Report presented by Peru on the current preparations of the III ASPA Summit and presentation of the First Draft of the "Lima Declaration".

7.4 Discuss the draft agenda presented by LAS for the II Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to be held at the sidelines of the 65th United Nations General Assembly. The Arab side will inform of the country in charge of organizing the meeting.

7.5 Welcome the offer of Peru to host the VIII Meeting of the Council of High Officials in Lima. (Alternatively 6 to 8 OR 7 to 9 November, 2010).

The High Officials thank the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for its efforts to organize this meeting

**(LAS Headquarters, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010)**