

Press Communiqué

Third Meeting of the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Arab and South-American Countries

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab and South-American Countries (ASPA) convened their Third Meeting, on 21 September 2011, at the margins of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. On the occasion:

1. They consulted on political issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the political dialogue between the two regions.

2. In this context, they welcomed the Palestinian decision to resort to the United Nations with a view to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian People for independence and recognition of the Palestinian State, on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and other relevant UN resolutions. They also welcomed the recognition accorded to the State of Palestine by States, especially by those of ASPA.

3. They welcomed the intensification of progresses in cooperation between the two regions in the areas of trade, education and culture, science and technology, industry, intellectual property, environment, especially in combating desertification, and social development, among others.

4. In this respect, they reviewed the calendar of the ASPA coming cooperation meetings in 2011 and they welcomed the hosting of the first meeting of ASPA Ministers of Tourism by Jordan, and of the first meeting of ASPA Ministers of Education by Kuwait, as well as of the third meeting of ASPA Ministers of Economy by Bolivia.

5. For the year 2012, the Ministers welcomed the hosting of the second meeting of ASPA Ministers of Environment by Ecuador, of the third meeting of ASPA Ministers of Social Affairs by Lebanon, of the first meeting of the Ministers of Energy by the United Arab Emirates and of the first industrial gathering for countries from both regions by the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO). Also for 2012, they welcomed the ASPA-UNESCO Contact Group convening the ASPA Cultural Forum at UNESCO.

6. They welcomed the kind offer of the Republic of Peru to host the Third ASPA Summit, in 2012, on the 26 and 27 September, and decided to convene their next meeting, in preparation for the Summit, at the margins of the next United Nations General Assembly Session. They called on the Council of the ASPA High Officials to decide on preparatory meetings to ensure the success of the Summit.