

League of Arab States Education & Scientific Research Department



FIRST JOINT MEETING FOR MINISTERS OF EDUCATION IN ARAB AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Kuwait: 29 – 30 November 2011

REPORT AND FINAL STATEMENT





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Report of The First Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education in Arab and South American Countries

Kuwait: 29 – 30 November 2011

In Implementation of the Doha Declaration issued by the 2nd Summit of Arab States and South American States, held in Doha on 31/3/2009 and the cooperation action plan between the League of Arab States and South America States for 2010 in education field, and upon the kind hosting by the State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the 1st joint meeting of the Ministers of Education in Arab States and South American States was held on 29-30 November, 2011, which was preceded by experts meeting on November 28, 2011.

The Ministerial meeting was chaired by His Excellency Ahmed Abdulmohsen Al Muleifi, the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Chairman of the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO. His Excellency delivered the first word on the inaugural session. Then, the word of South American States was delivered by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Republic of Ecuador. This was followed by the word of the Arab League Education, Culture and Science Organization, delivered by Dr. Abdul Bari Al Qudsi - Assistant Director-General of ALECSO. The inaugural word were concluded with the word of the League of Arab States Secretariat, delivered by Ambassador Faeqa Saeed Al-Saleh, Advisor to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States

17 Arab states and 7 South American States participated in the Ministerial Meeting functions (list of participants enclosed).

The working papers submitted by the Arab States experts in connection with the following themes were discussed:

- 1- Means of exchanging experiences in connection with modern teaching methods, which include the use of information and communication technology in education.
- 2- Promoting the teaching of Arabic language in South America States, as well as teaching the Spanish and Portuguese languages in Arab states and setting up an information network in connection with the Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages teaching centers in the countries of both regions.
- 3- Capacity building and cooperation methods in the field of higher education.





A drafting committee was formed of the representatives of Arab States and South American States and the organizations, un order to extract the proposals and recommendations submitted by the participants to be included in the final statement and Kuwait Action Plan in the field of education and academic cooperation between Arab states and South America States.

Following deliberations, the final statement and action plan, which form an integral part of this report, were approved.

Arab League Secretariat

Chairman of the Meeting (State of Kuwait)

Ambassadress Faeka Sayed Al-Saleh

Advisor to the Arab League Secretary General

Mr. Ahmad Abdulmohsen Al Mulefi

Minister of Education and Higher Education





FINAL STATEMENT

OF THE FIRST JOINT MEETING FOR MINISTERS OF EDUCATION IN ARAB AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTIES

Kuwait: 29 – 30 November 2011

We, the Ministers in charge of education in the Arab and South American countries gathered at our first joint meeting in Kuwait on 29 - 30 November 2011, at the kind invitation of His Excellency the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait,

Recognizing the importance of the ASPA Summits, first that was held in Brasilia, Brazil 2005, second in Doha, Qatar 2009 and third that will be held in Lima, Peru 2012 as a mechanism allowing more space for interaction between the peoples of the two regions and promote cooperation in Education and Research,

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation between Arab and South America countries, as a mechanism for approximation and promotion of human development and mutual cooperation, to achieve welfare and better living standards for the peoples of both regions,

Expressing our conviction about the importance of South - South cooperation and its pivotal role in promoting solidarity among developing countries to achieve development and progress in all areas, especially the field of education and scientific research,

Based on what stated in the Brasilia Declaration of the First ASPA Summit, held in Brasilia on 10-11 May 2005,

Based on what stated in the Doha Declaration of the Second ASPA Summit, held in Doha on 31 March 2009,

Expressing our conviction about necessity of creating a favorable environment for the implementation of education programs, according to the charters of the two regions and international conventions, in particular the World Declaration on Education for All, the Universal Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals, the Education Development Plan for the Arab States and all relevant international conventions.

Recognizing the importance of the various educational institutions and their role in providing educational services, in order to promote the educational process which necessitates sustaining their privacy and keeping them away from any conflicts which might affect the educational mission.

Recognizing the importance of education as a key for development with social inclusion and instilling the values of tolerance, objective dialogues, principles of human rights and respect for other's opinions,





Recognizing the importance of supporting the work developed by Bibli ASPA Brazil, which highlights the promotion of Arab language and culture in South America, call upon the ASPA member states to support its future initiatives,

Affirming the compliance of the Arab and South American countries of the obligations of achieving the goals of education for all and improve the quality of education,

Affirming the importance of the 1st meeting of ASPA – UNESCO Contact Group and the approval of its outputs,

Affirming the importance of high support expressed by the South American countries to grant full membership to the State of Palestine at the UNESCO,

Affirming that the continued occupation of Palestinian territories and Arab lands, is an obstacle to development, especially on the ability of the Palestinian people to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to achieve the EFA goals, and therefore we reaffirm the need for access to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, on the basis of the principles of land for peace, and in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations, in addition to the Madrid Framework, Arab Peace Initiative, and the Doha Declaration of the second ASPA Summit (31/03/2009), which recognizes the security of all countries in the region,

Recognizing the importance of greater coordination between Arab and South American countries to exchange information and experiences, expertise and capacity development for countries of the two groups in the fields of education and scientific research.

Agree as follows:

- 1. Working on implementing the Doha Declaration of 2009 on scientific, technological and educational cooperation.
- **2.** The adoption of the Kuwait Action Plan of the educational cooperation between the Arab and South American countries for the years 2012 to 2014, which is part of this statement.
- 3. Welcome the proposal of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States on the implementation mechanism of the Kuwait Action Plan that holds the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science (ALECSO) responsible for the implementation of the plan in coordination with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the coordinator of the South American countries.
- **4.** Express appreciation to the Government of Peru for its offering to host the second joint meeting of the Ministers of Education, in Lima, 2012.
- 5. Evaluating and analyzing the results of the First Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Education in the Arab and South American countries (Kuwait, 29 30 November, 2011), and demanding the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to report thereon to the ASPA Second Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Education, that will be





held in Lima, Peru 2012 in coordination with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the coordinator of the South American countries.

Express sincere appreciation to the Government of the State of Kuwait, and in particular the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, for the successful organization of the first meeting of the ASPA Ministers of Education, from 29 to 30 November 2011.

Kuwait: 30th November 2011





Kuwait Action Plan In the field of Cooperation in Education Between the Arab and South American countries (Kuwait: 29 - 30 November 2011)

I. Overall objective:

Raise the level of implementation of education policies, allowing the dissemination of education for all and improve the quality of education in the two regions.

II. Specific Objectives:

- 1. To promote the dissemination of information on education policies applied by the countries of both regions.
- 2. To strengthen cooperation between the two regions and promote the exchange of successful experiences and best practices in education and scientific research.
- 3. Promote the learning of Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese for non-native speakers in the two regions.

III. Proposed Projects and Actions that will be implemented during (2012 - 2014):

Objective (1): To promote the dissemination of information on education policies applied by the countries of both regions.

- Establishing a joint educational and scientific network to exchange information on education between the two regions.
- Utilizing the ASPA website on science and technology (<u>www.aspa-science.org</u>), and the
 Arab Observatory for Education (<u>www.marsad-alecso.org</u>) so as to increase knowledge
 of these countries' experiences regarding modern concepts of sponsorship of teachers and
 training programs in career development, productivity upgrading, performance evaluation
 of teachers, modern methods and strategies of teaching and learning and the use of
 technology in both.
- Establishing comparable information systems and databases, to provide a comprehensive picture of all aspects of education in Arab and South American countries and is updated constantly.
- Exchanging literature and information in all areas of education and particularly in the areas of information technology and communication, evaluation, educational supervision and care of the gifted and those with special needs.





• Studying the possibility of establishing of Arab – South American Universities Association in the field of higher education.

Objective (2): To strengthen cooperation between the two regions and promote the exchange of successful experiences and best practices in education and scientific research:

- Establishing a joint research Committee between the two regions for the development of appropriate frameworks for the use and employment of information and communication technology in education.
- Establishing joint committees of the educational cooperation through field visits to check closely on educational experiences in all concerned countries.
- Organizing reciprocal visits to specialists to get acquainted with the educational experiences and visits between experts of the two regions of the centers and institutions interested in the design and production of educational technology.
- Dispatching educational technology specialists to South American countries to participate in training courses and visit related exhibitions that display scientific experiments in the field of educational technology, in order to enhance knowledge about South American experiences in using education and communication technology.
- Developing and implementing a program of scientific and technological cooperation between the two regions for the exchange of talent and training, in order to strengthen links between the scientific communities through the development of projects for research teams working to stimulate the transfer of technology.
- Finding mechanisms for certificates and academic qualification equivalency and evaluation between the Arab and South American countries.
- conducting joint field studies to enrich the educational field with related innovations especially those associated with the use of ICT in education and research institutions, and discuss a number of important educational issues, such as: overall quality, teaching and learning strategies, the relationship between education and ICT.
- Establishing joint educational and technical studies institutes for the development of educational process, particularly in the field of teaching techniques.
- Organizing workshops to foster modern concepts in education techniques.
- Establishing a center for distance learning among countries of both regions.
- Implementing joint projects and programs to sponsor talented and creative youth.
- Implementing joint projects and programs for students with learning difficulties, students who suffer from visual impairment, hearing and mental.





- Organizing joint specialized educational seminars and conferences, for the mutual exchange of experience in the education sector.
- Promoting the enhancement of the mobility of students from one region to the other at the undergraduate and graduate levels through training of human resources at the university level.

Objective (3): To promote the learning of Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese for non-native speakers in the two regions:

- Coordinating between the Arabic Language Center in Khartoum of ALECSO, the Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States (ABEGS) and similar centers to benefit from their experiences and expertise to teach Arabic language in South American Countries, and encouraging the establishment of centers for Spanish and Portuguese language in Arab capitals to teach Spanish and Portuguese.
- Developing a program for Arab and South Americans students exchange to study Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages in universities and specialized institutes on both sides.
- Coordinating between the ministries of higher education in Arab and South American countries to open new sections to teach Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages in the universities of both sides.
- Identifying a number of educational works to be translated to and from Arabic and Spanish.
- Utilizing the Arabic Language for Non-Arabic Speakers issued by the Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States (ABEGS).





ANNEXES





Annex (1)

AGENDA

1st Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education In the Arab and South American States

State of Kuwait 29 – 30 November 2011

Monday, 28th November 2011

- Arrival of Participants and transportation from the Airport to corresponding hotels
- Registration (at the hotels)

Tuesday, 29th November 2011

08:00 – 09:00 Registration (at the meeting venue – Futouh Ballroom)

09:00 – 09:30 Official Opening (Speeches by)

- Host Country (State of Kuwait Ministry of Education)
- Representative of South American Countries
- ALECSO
- League of Arab States

09:30 – 09:45 Procedural Session:

- Selection of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee.
- Agenda Approval

10:00 – 11:00 Launching the ICT in Education Expo. (Maha Ballroom)

11:00 – 12:30 Meeting H.H. the Crown Prince. (Dasman Palace)

14:00 - 16:00 Lunch

16:00 – 18:00 Visit to the Scientific Centre.

20:00 Dinner





Wednesday, 30th November 2011

10:30 - 11:30 First Session

Conclusions from the Expert Meeting on the following issues:

- **Issue I:** The ways of exchanging experiences related to Recent Teaching Methods, Methodologies and Pedagogical, which include using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education.
- **Issue II:** The ways of promoting Arabic Language Studies in South American Countries and Spanish and Portuguese in Arab Countries and the Establishment of a Network of Arab, Spanish and Portuguese Language Studies Centers in both regions (with the assistance of the universities' presidents in both regions).
- **Issue III:** The ways of Capacity Building and Cooperation in Higher Education between both regions.

11:30 – 12:30 Drafting Committee Meeting

12:45 – 13:30 Second Session

- Approval of the Final Report.
- Approval of Communiqué / Declaration and Action Plan

13:30 – 14:00 Closing (Speeches by)

- South America Representative.
- League of Arab States.
- Chairman.

14:15 - 14:45 Press Conference.

Lunch

Thursday, 1st December 2011

Departure of participants and transportation from the hotels to the Airport.





Annex (2) Opening Speeches





Opening Speech by His Excellency Ahmed Abdulmohsen Al Muleifi The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Representative of HH the Prime Minister

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Education,

Distinguished Heads and members of delegations,

Distinguished Representatives of international, regional and Arab organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greet and welcome you, loved brothers and Kuwait is honored by hosting you and happy to welcome you, regarding this 1st meeting on education as portending good, the land that always aspires to achieve the good, prosperity and progress to all the peoples of the world, and I bring you the greetings of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who delegated me on his behalf to convey his greeting to the Kuwait's guests, heads of delegations and their members, experts participating in this meeting and representatives of international, regional and Arab organizations in the field of education, and his best wishes to the participants in achieving the desired goals of the first meeting of Arab and South American countries in activating the constructive cooperation between them in the field of education and development, and make the best investment to achieve scientific and political development, as education is a foundation of the overall renaissance and desired progress that is growing with the growing role of science and its achievements and its impacts in our lives today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The main issues of our work in this meeting dealing with matters of great importance in the process of effective cooperation by the leaders of our people in the last two summits in Brazil and Qatar:

<u>First</u>, those related to the development of public education in our countries and exchange of experiences in this vital area, and promote the dissemination of information on education policies applied by the countries.

<u>The second</u> relates to building cultural bridges between our peoples through the exchange of teaching our languages Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese in our educational and cultural institutions and establishing information network in this regard.

<u>And the third:</u> is cooperation in the field of higher education and ways of capacity building that achieved our ambitions of this cooperation.





The attention of this meeting is directed towards finding ways and mechanisms to achieve what we aspire to on the ground, and attention also is directed towards find a real opportunity to bridge the gap between our countries and provide a common cultural platform supporting the intellectual relations between the peoples of our Arab and South American Countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to repeat once again to you my greeting and welcoming of the State of Kuwait and sincere wishes to have a nice stay in its land. I would like to thank you all for your interest of participation in this meeting, and thanks to those who cooperated with Kuwait in the preparation of this meeting, which contributed in achieving its objectives successfully, led by representatives of South American countries, the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, ALECSO, experts and specialists who have made valuable studies and research that have affected the dialogues and discussions at the meeting and became a starting point for issuing the recommendations.

In conclusion, I greet you all and I pray to God Almighty to achieve our aspirations for a brighter tomorrow and the future of the greatest development and more stable.





Opening Speech by the Representative of South America (Republic of Ecuador) Read by HE the Ambassador of Republic of Venezuela On behalf of the Republic of Ecuador

Estimados represntantes de los paises árabes y de America del sur, es un honor para mí, el día de hoy, ser parte di la construcción de una de las redes primordiales de nuestros tiempos; fundamental para nuestros países y la sostinibilidad de nuestros pueblos, en medio de una cambiante economía mundial, donde el eje fundamental del desarrollo está en la tecnología, el conocimiento y el talento humano.

Este diáloge de Ministros de Educación del ASPA, que se abre aquí en Kuwait, es un eje de la lucha por el derecho primoridal al desarrollo y la paz global. Se abre un proceso que se configura como instrumento fundamental para la emancipación de nuestros pueblos del SUR global a través de la mejora de nuestros sistemas de educactión, dejando de lado una historia de aislamiento y dependencia.

En medio del siglo XXI hablar de sociedad de conocimiento no es mas que dar cuenta de la recomposición de los factores de producción y la reconfiguración del ordenamiento internacional. A partir de la importancia que cobran las industrias y los servicios relacionados con la economía del conocimiento, la voluntad política de trabajar por la calidad educativa en nuestros pueblos se vuelve una necesidad impostergable. Por ello, es de resaltar la iniciativa del Ministerio de Educación de Educación de Kuwait y del Departamento de Educación e Investigación Cienrífica de la Secretaria de los Estados Árabes por la gran labor invogucrada en organizar este evento.

Desde el contexto regional el trabjo por la integración de políticas educativas no es nuevo, en la CAN y en MERCOSUR venimos configurando una convergencia que se materializa en iniciativas como el convenio Andrés Bello. Donde se posibilita la movilided estudiantil en educación básica y media en toda Sudamérica.

En UNASUR, a través del Consejo de Educacion, ciencia y tecnolgía (COSECTI), hablamos de integración real de los pueblos a través del reconocimiento de estudios en toda la región hasta el nivel universitario, hablamos de protección y divulgación del patrimonio cultural, acordamos prioridades en la agenda de investigación y desarrollo tecnológico y todavía el consenso sigue siendo costoso en términos de tiempo. El camino es grande, muy grande por recorrer en un subcontinente que comparte historia y raíces culturales profundas. Así, no es menos cierto que apenas cominza una historia de reencuentros entre pueblos que han sido separados, no por casualidad; que este foro sirva como el espacio propicio para acercar el camino de la integración de nuestros pueblos del sur.

Sabemos que la educación es una herramienta nodal en la construcción de una sociedad más justa y equitativa, por ello insto a que trabajemos sobre compromisos para lograr superar las barreras en el acceso a un sistema educativo de calidad- desde la educación inicial hasta el nivel superior.





Si se me permite ser autoreferente, desde la experiencia ecuatoriana hemos experimentado un cambio de paradigma, ahora se mira a la educación com un proceso integral, con una coherencia entre las políticas públicas dirigidas a cada etapa del mismo. De ahí que el conocimiento sea entendido como un proceso heterogéneo que respeta al individuo, su relación con la comunidad y la madre naturaleza.

Este compremsión ha significado importantes cambios institucionales, empezando por la recuperación del rol del Estado en la regulación control y administración del sistema educativo, especialmente el de la Educación Superior, y vinculando dichas reformas con el sistema de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación.

Otro proceso signficativo en Ecuador ha sido el viraje en las prioridades nacionales a la hora de establecer un presupuesto proporcionalmente importante y creciente en el tiempo para solventar las necesidades de maestros capacitados, infraestructura adecuada y oportunidades para los estudiantes. Asimismo, debo senalar que como todo proceso de cambio, en nuestro caso de una verdadera revolución educativa, las transformaciones evocan resistencias de aquellos que se han beneficiado con el status – quo, tanto dentro, como fuera de las fronteras.

Más allá de buscar lugares comunes en el discurso, quisiera referirme a otro vector de la agenda de trabajo que nos propone el foro, en la medida en que las TIC 's (Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación) serán el elemento que posibilite un real intercambio y diálogo de saberes entre los pueblos del ASPA. De ahí que al hablar de la necesidad de buscar politicas comunes que garanticen el acceso a las TICs como parte del sistema educativo, no es menos trascendental encontrar formas innovadoras y creativas de procesar la información adquirida en internet, en repositorios o bibliotecas virtuales de acceso comun e irrestricto. No podemos permitir que millones de jóvenes y niños, maestros, investigadores e innovadores sean excluídos de los flujos de información que podrían transformar sus vidas a partir de su aprovechamiento, en la medida en que demos el tratamiento de bien público al concimiento. Si bien las brechas tecnológicas son grandes, la experiencia nos dice que la convergencia puede ser rápida si existe la voluntad política de transferir dicho conocimiento. Espacios como estos son los que permiten que dichas brechas se acorten.

Por ello, hoy más que nunca debemos hacer posible una cooperación efectiva para la transferencia de tecnología, vista como "la comunicación, uso y aplicación del conocimiento y técnicas de punta, para mitigar y adaptarnos al cambio" (UNIDO, 2002). Pero sobre todo de las tecnologías sociales, como aquellas que resuelven los problemas de muestras comunidades sin atarnos a una u otra marca o al último modelo de ordenador o teléfono móvil.

Por otro lado, debo señalar que garantizar el acceso a la eñsenanza de otros idiomas como parte de nuestro sistema educativo es garantizar el intercambio cultural, la comprensión del otro, el diálogo y la verdadera unión de los pueblos. Para potenciar la cooperación reales que faciliten el intercambio cultural y académico, aprender español, portugués y árabe es el inicio, entonces, de este proceso de articulacion y construcción conjunta de horizontes de aprendizaje, investigación y educacion de nuestros pueblos.





Entendiendo el valor de la identidad cultural, debemos reconocer la riqueza del intercambio cultural las diversas propuestas que existen para profundizarla, entre ellas la iniciativa propuesta por Qatar de construir una Alianza de Civilizaciones para promocionar el dialogo politico entre civilizaciones y religiones. No podremos construir un mundo mas humano sino buscamos comprendernos mutuamente.

Hoy, aquí en Kuwait contruimos una historia distinta, una historia de hermanos en pos de un futuro basado en el conocimiento y en el diálogo, pero sobre todo en el deseo de trabajar por el buen vivir de todos y todos, muchas gracias





Opening Speech of

The Arab League Education, Culture and Science Organization (ALECSO) Read by Prof. Dr. Mohammed Abdelbari AlQudsi The Assistant General Director of ALECSO

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

HE Mr. Ahmed Abdul Mohsen Al- Mulifi Minister of Education and Higher Education in Kuwait.

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Education in the Arab and the South American countries,

HE Dr. Faeqa Saeed AlSaleh representative of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States Director of Education and Scientific Research Department at League of Arab States,

HE heads of delegations and representatives of regional and international organizations,

HE Ms. Tamader Al-Sidairawi Under-Secretary of Education Executive Board Member of the State of Kuwait in the ALECSO,

HE Mr. Abdul Latif Baijan Secretary-General of the Kuwait National Commission for Education, Culture and Science,

Ladies and Gentlemen Ladies and Gentlemen.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

Good morning.

First of all I began to convey to you all, greetings and best wishes of His Excellency Dr. Mohamed El Aziz Ben Achour Director-General of the ALECSO, and all its members, for your joint meeting First of all I began to convey to you all, greetings and best wishes of His Excellency Dr. Mohamed El Aziz Ben Achour Director-General of the ALECSO, and all its members, for your joint meeting.

I am also pleased to thank with high appreciation the State of Kuwait the Emir, government and people, and in particular HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education and the employees of the Ministry who made good preparation and excellent organization for the work of this conference and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Your Excellencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,





The administration of ALECSO and its members, certain of and even assert that holding your first Ministerial meeting represents a real achievement in an exceptional and important circumstances, and this achievement reflects the sincere desire of the leaders of Arab and South American countries at their second summit held in Doha on March 31, 2009, on the field of educational, scientific and technical cooperation, the desire that represented the advanced and future vision You try to achieve in the Arab and South American countries.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Both, the League of Arab States and ALECSO fully aware while they setting the development of Education plan in the Arab world adopted by the Arab Summit in Damascus, March 2008, that there are many challenges facing the Arab nation in the era of globalization and the flow of knowledge and technology.

Noting that the Arab education system is facing challenges from two intertwined elements:

Internal challenges stem from:

- The performance of the educational institution itself: its own inputs, process and outputs.
- Support the Arab teacher status in order to get financial, social and ethical care necessary so to get from him/her high quality performance.
- The nature of the environment in which the educational institution is operated, and the profound changes in the relationship of the individual with the society and the state and the meaning of citizenship to the new meaning of the learned community

The external challenges are as follows:

- The possession bet of competitiveness capacity imposed by the globalization of the economy, which began to impose on the educational institution big adjustments in order to prepare learners with a high level of skills and abilities across the various disciplines and updated knowledge.
- Increasing role of outside powers in guiding the educational policies.
- Multiplicity of knowledge resources provided by information and communication media that will transform the traditional patterns of schooling and teach children how to deal with the information.
- Overlap of science, technology and knowledge that influence the daily life, and the emergence of skills and patterns of interaction and new social and professional relations which began to affect the definition of the individual learner and call the educational institution to respond to them, and to prepare the student for tomorrow society based on knowledge, complex science and technology.
- Log in of the economic institutions to invest in the education sector.





• Foreign occupation in Palestine, Iraq and the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by the Zionist entity and plots exposed to some other Arab countries.

These challenges were basic guidelines for the construction of the plan in various fields and levels of early education to university education and scientific research.

The development of education plan in the Arab world has become the guideline for each Arab effort in the development of education. Looking at the Doha Declaration issued by the Leaders of Arab and South American countries, we find that there is a close correlation between what is sought by the Arab plan, and the willingness of leaders as stated in the Doha Declaration, which invites us all to strengthen areas of cooperation and strengthen relations between our countries.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the end of this word, I would like to reaffirm that ALECSO from its responsibility of implementing the development of education plan in the Arab world under the umbrella of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, will work in cooperation with HE the Ministers of Education, Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Ministers of Culture in the Arab States to implement the Doha Declaration, and the outputs of your meeting, recommendations and directions to strengthen the partnership and cooperation between Arab and South American countries in the areas of education, culture and science.





Opening Speech of the League of Arab States Read by Ambassador Faeqa Saeed AlSaleh Advisor to the Secretary General of LAS

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Your Excellency Dr. Ahmed Al-Mulifi, Minister of Education Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Distinguished Guests

It is my honour and pleasure to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency Dr. Nabil El-Arabi the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and offer his apologies to attend with you this meeting due to other commitments he has under the current circumstances in the Arab region. He also expressed his good wishes for your meeting to achieve its desired objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the welcoming of the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States for holding this meeting in the State of Kuwait, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation and gratitude to Kuwait's leadership, government and people and to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for generously hosting this important meeting and for their care and attention and the effort in the outstanding preparation and organization of this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests

This meeting comes as you know, as implementation of the Declaration which has been issued at the second ASPA summit held in Doha, Qatar on 30th of March 2009. Paragraph (108) of this Declaration welcomed the proposal made by Venezuela during the Senior Officials Meeting held in Santa Cruz in 2007 to hold a meeting for the Ministers of Education in the Arab and South American countries in order to promote the dissemination of information on education policies applied by the countries of both regions.

This meeting is held in the framework of mutual trust and confidence in the availability of political and popular will in both regions, and the embodiment of the conviction of the common need to improve the level of relations and cooperation between Arab and South America countries, and to take concrete steps to promote cooperation in the field of Education.

The relationship between the two sides showed that there is scope and basis for the political coordination and this is clear from the growing support from the South American countries





towards the Arab issues, most recently the South American countries' position by supporting the granting of full membership of the State of Palestine at the UNESCO. Greetings to the countries that voted for the Palestinian demand.

The cooperation in the field of education is a cornerstone in the development of relations between our two regions and achieve prosperity and sustainable development for their people, but with no doubt that the Arab and South American countries with their rich experiences and capabilities will reduce the geographical distances and will increase the convergence and integration between the two regions.

Although the world is going through great challenges but these challenges represent an additional incentive to take us for further cooperation and develop a shared vision to strengthen relations in the field of education and the launch of joint projects and continue to motivate educators in the two regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests

The Secretariat General of the League of Arab States that believes that the development of educational cooperation between the Arab and South America countries, which is consistent with what came in the Doha Declaration should be based on the following elements:

First: Cooperation in the field of languages by teaching Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese as a second language, and in this framework cultural - educational centers can be established in the South American countries to teach Arabic as well as the establishment of centers for Spanish and Portuguese languages in the Arab capitals to teach Spanish and Portuguese with setting a exchange program for Arabs and South Americans students to study Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages in universities and specialized institutes of the two sides. It also could be possible to coordinate between the ministries of higher education in Arab and South American countries to open new sections to study and teach Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages in the universities of both sides.

Second: Translation of educational works from and into Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese, in believe of the pivotal role that the translation can be played in the convergence of views in addition to being instrumental in the identification of policies and educational programs.

Third: Supporting the comprehensive educational cooperation related to the methods of teaching, ICT in education, teachers professional development, educational supervision, talented and creative young people care, and exchange of experiences in the field of school libraries and learning resource centers. In this context, it may be appropriate to simulate the successful educational experiences applied by the Arab and South American countries for the advancement of these areas with the use of role that could be provided by the organizations of civil society and the private sector to support government plans and programs in this regard as well as inviting the media to





participate in the development of education in the Arab and South American countries, with its influential role on the members of the community and the audio-visual means and tools that can be used to define the field of education vocabularies in both the Arab and South American countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests

In conclusion, I would like to thanks again and express my appreciation to the State of Kuwait and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for their hospitality and warm welcome, and thanks go to those in charge of organizing this vital and important meeting, hoping that the meeting will achieve their objectives in supporting Arab - South American relationships and be a fruitful start in serious cooperation between the both sides, particularly in the field of education.

I ask Allah Almighty to help us all and pay off our steps on the road to the right for the good and the future of the Arab nation.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you all success.





Annex (3) Closing Speeches





Closing Speech by the Representative of South America (Republic of Brazil) Read by HE Mr. Roberto Abdalla Ambassador of Republic of Brazil

I would like to thank the State of Kuwait for the hospitality and for hosting the 1st meeting of ministers of education of ASPA.

I would also like to make special mention to all the south American countries represented here and, also most specially, it's Royal Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Shiekh Sabah Al- Ahmed Al-Sabah, his Royal Highness the crown Prince, Shiekh Nawaf Al- Ahmed Al- Jaber Al- Sabah, his Royal Highness the prime minister of Kuwait, Shiekh Nasser Al- Mohamed Al- Jaber Al- Sabah and his Excellency the minister of Education of State of Kuwait, Ahmed Abdel Mohsen Al-Mulaifi for helping to make this meeting a reality.

The discussions held here in the last 3 days represent an additional step to the establishment of the mechanism of ASPA, an initiative which was launched in 2005 in Brazil and that has, since then, spread out.

The ASPA summit constitutes a means for South America and the Arab Countries to join efforts through means of the development of a positive agenda. The mechanism was set up in the spirit of strengthening relations between developing countries in regards to coordinating political positions as well as technical and cultural cooperation. Proposed by Brazil in 2003 and created formally in May 2005 at the occasion of the first Meeting of Heads of State and Government of Arab and South America Countries in Brasilia, ASPA was not only born from the interest in diversifying international partnerships, but also from the interest in strengthening ethic- cultural, economic and political ties between the two regions.

Cooperation in the area of education represents an example of the diversification agenda in international relations at present. The issue is closely tied to economic and social development and to the promotion of the pacific proximity between cultures. On this matter it is important to emphasis that the final the declaration of this meeting recognizes "education" as a key element for the development of our two regions with social inclusion on accordance with mandate of the general assembly of the United Nations on social inclusion which for the first time recognizes the responsibility of all members states in promoting inclusion policies in order to create a just society for all, As proponent of the advantage of educational cooperation between developing countries, Brazil has been offering for almost 60 years, free seats in Brazilian Institutions of higher learning through the program "students – Graduations Agreements" (I' programa Estudantes – couvenios de Graduasao) and, already for more than 30 years now, scholarships for masters and doctorate covers in the country by means of the "program students – post – graduate





Agreements" ("progama Estudantes – Couvenio de Po's – graduasao"), for students from developing countries with which Brazil has siqued an Agreement on educational cooperation. In the regional area, the education sector of MERCOSUL has the goal of promoting the creation of an educational common space through coordination of policies that articulate education with the process of regional integration, stimulating mobility, the exchange and the formation of regional identity and citizenship. In addition, we could mention the example of the Association of universities of the Montevideo Group, which is a network of public universities of the South cone that promotes the mobility of teachers and students.

The study of the languages of the two regions (Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese) is a topic of priority.

I would like to make a special mention regarding the recently inaugurated cultural center of Brazil (CCBL) in Beirut. Being the first unit of the network of Brazilian cultural centers abroad, the CCBL offers Portuguese courses at various levels, as well as courses on the various cultural manifestations existent in Brazil, such as literature, music, dance, cooking and capoeira.

The center was set up as a result of the demand of Lebanese society for a more assertive Brazilian presence and has counted with a very warm reception by Lebanese society. The dissemination of Brazilian language and culture also counts on the lectureships program; through which Brazilian teachers are selected to give classes in foreign universities. The opening of lectureships in Arabic countries has been examined by the Brazilian Government, given the growing interest that the Portuguese Language has been raising in academic circles, as well as by the chanceries of some Arabic countries.

I would like to thank, once again, the state of Kuwait for it's warm hospitality and the ministry of education of Kuwait for the organization of this event.

See you all again in Lima.

Thank you.





Closing Speech of the League of Arab States Read by Ambassador Faeqa Saeed AlSaleh Advisor to the Secretary General of LAS

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Your Excellency the President,

Excellencies.

Distinguished Guests

I am happy at the end of this meeting to extend on behalf of the League of Arab states sincere thanks and appreciation to the State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the generous hospitality and good organization, and the support given to all delegations to work in this meeting in a relaxed atmosphere.

Let me also extend my sincere thanks to the delegations from Arab and South American countries for their contribution through discussions and dialogues, which influenced the work of this meeting and explained the image that we are looking for a bright future in the promotion of the role of education for the growth and development of the two regions economically, socially and politically.

Perhaps this meeting is the first of its kind in the framework of the Arab - South American cooperation, and will not be the last, we should renew these kinds of meetings between the stakeholders from both sides for more dialogue and communication and to benefit from the experiences of each other.

We at the Arab League has opened the prospects of this cooperation for the Arab countries, and sought and still seek to urge Arab countries to continue with the countries of South America and prioritize work within the program and specific projects of benefit to both parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, we heard the results and recommendations of this meeting and we confirm to take practical actions in this regard to see the results in other meetings.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my thanks and appreciation to all the brothers and sisters in the State of Kuwait for all their efforts in making this meeting successful.

And thanks to all the participants who work with us hand in hand which will remain always connected.





Closing Speech by His Excellency Ahmed Abdulmohsen Al Muleifi The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Representative of HH the Prime Minister

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Education,
Distinguished Heads and members of delegations,
Distinguished Representatives of international, regional and Arab organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased while we are finalizing the work of this international meeting to salute in my name and the name of State of Kuwait, the efforts of all participants, and to commend the enthusiasm and keenness of providing all the reasons for the success of this meeting and to achieve the desired objectives in the process of positive - constructive cooperation among the Arab people and the friendly people in the South America countries.

I am pleased while we are finalizing the work of this international meeting to salute in my name and the name of State of Kuwait, the efforts of all participants, and to commend the enthusiasm and keenness to provide all the reasons for the success of this meeting and to achieve the desired objectives in the process of positive - constructive cooperation among the Arab people and the friendly people in the South America countries.

There is no doubt that the efforts of researchers, experts and specialists have combined the great achievements of the meeting and its recommendations that resulted from the many sessions which will be subject to the concerns of all participants, they will receive due care and will take on their way to the mechanisms of our plans and our educational programs. Then they will be as a guide on the road to rapprochement between our people, notifying our culture and take advantage of our development visions in the areas of education, science and culture, these are the most important areas that shape the movement of people towards progress and prosperity in all other aspects of life. The optimism of what is performed in this event will make us more confident in achieving more achievements in other meetings, God willing.

Brothers and Sisters.

Allow me to thank on your behalf, our sincere thanks to the officials from the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, ALECSO, representatives of South American countries. the Regional Office of UNESCO, the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States and the heads, members of committees and all those who helped us in the successful preparation of this important meeting,





which we hope that its work has gained acceptance and satisfaction, and we ask you to forgive us from any failure of happened from our side.

In conclusion, accept our dear guests the Kuwait's exclusive love and its happiness of hosting you in its land during the work of this meeting, and God bless you and have a safe trip.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings upon you.





Annex (4)

List of Participants in

The First Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education in Arab and South American Countries Kuwait: 29 – 30 November 2011

ARAB STATES			
State	Name	Title	Ministry / Organization
Algeria	H.E Dr. Bubaker Ben Al-Buzaid	Minister of National Education	Ministry of National Education
	Mr. Nasser Mousa Bakhte	Consultant - Ministry of National Education	Ministry of National Education
	Mr. Ibrahim Mahfouz	Consultant - Ministry of National Education	Ministry of National Education
	H.E. Dr. Majed Ben Ali Al- Nouaimi	Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Nase Mohammed Al- Shaikh	Assistant Undersecretary For General And Technical Education	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Faten Ibrahim Al-Moayed	Director of Accreditation And Licenses Department	Ministry of Education
Bahrain	Mrs. Kefaya Habeb Al-Anzour	Head of International Organizations	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Layala Yousef Sakr Albinali	Arabic Language Curriculum Specialist - Secondary Education	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Ibrahim Hassan Al-Zayed	Minister's Office Director	Ministry of Education
	Dhawa Naseer Al-Dosry	Media Specialist - Public Relations	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Yousif Abdel Aziz Al-Alawy	Cultural Counselor, Embassy of Bahrain in Kuwait	Ministry of Education
Earmt	Dr. Reda Absuerie Hassan	First Assistant to the Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
Egypt	Mrs. Nermine Mohsen Mohamed Hafez	Coordinator of International Cooperation	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Hussein Fadel Moula	Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs	Ministry of Education
Iraq	Dr. Nihad Abbas Al-Jaboury	Educational Affairs	Ministry of Education
	Dr. Ali Khadeg Al Zobedy	General Director of Educational Planning	Ministry of Education
Jordan	H.E. Dr. Sami Al-Majaly	Secretary General of Ministry Of Education	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Khaleda Abdulrahman Shatat	Director Of E- Learning Department	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Osama Jradat	Head Of Arabic Language- Curriculum Department	Ministry of Education
	Dr.Ahmoud Harb Allasasma	Cultural Counselor	Embassy of Jordan





ARAB STATES			
State	Name	Title	Ministry / Organization
T7 *4	H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdulmohsen Al- Molifi	Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
Kuwait	Mrs. Tamdher Abdaziz Al-Sedary	Undersecretary	Ministry of Education
		Assistant Undersecretaries	Ministry of Education
Lebanon	H.E. Dr. Hasan Deyab	Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	Mr. Ghasan Shakroon	First Consultant to the Minister Of Education	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	Dr. Bushra Adra	Consultant	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	H.E. Mr. Hamady Wald Amemo	Ambassador of Mauritania in Kuwait	Embassy of Mauritania in Kuwait
Mauritania	Mr. Azbadbeah Wald Mohammed Mahmoud	Consultant to the Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Omar Wald Mohammed Babo	Consultant	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Morocco	Mr. Moustafa Hado	Director of Cooperation	Ministry of National Education and Higher Education
	Mr. Abd ulla Ashbana	Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy	Embassy of Moroco in Kuwait
	Mr. Saoud Ben Salem Al-Baloshy	Undersecretary - Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Saeda Abdullah Sobhya	Advisor to the Minister	Ministry of Higher Education
Oman	Mr. Khaled Soliman	General Director of IT Department	Ministry of Education
	Dr. Nahan Seif Al-Lomky	General Director of Curriculum Department	Ministry of Education
	Dr. Mohammed Khamis Al-Koity	Deputy Director, Office of Coordination and Follow-Up	Ministry of Education
	H.E. Mrs. Lamis Moustafa Al-	Minister of Education and	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	Alamy	Higher Education Assistant Undersecretary for	Ministry of Education and
	Dr. Basry Saleh	Planning And Development	Higher Education
Palestine	Mr. Tharwat Zaied	Director General of Supervision and Educational Qualification	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	Mr. Zayad Al-Hamshery	Representative of the Embassy	Embassy of Palestine in Kuwait
Qatar	H.E. Mr. Saad Ben Ibrahim Al- Mahmood	Minister of High Education	Supreme Council for Education
	Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Hassan	Director of the Higher Education Commission,	Supreme Council for Education
	Mr. Abdulaziz Hassan	Director of the International Educational Affairs Office	Supreme Council for Education
	Mr. Abdulla Al-Mehayzae	Director e of the Minister's Office	Supreme Council for Education
	Mr. Salem Adbdulla Al-Jasim	Head of Training Centers	Supreme Council for





ARAB STATES			
State	Name	Title	Ministry / Organization
			Education
	Mrs. Mouza Al-Madhahkey	Head of Arabic Language	Supreme Council for
	·	Department	Education
	H.H. Faysal Ben Abdulla Ben Mohammed Al-Saoud	Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Khaled Ben Abdulla Al-Sabti	Deputy Minister of Education	Ministry of Education
Saudi Arabia	Dr. Mohammed Ben Mansoor Al- Omran	Advisor to The Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education
	Dr. Ali Abdo Al-Almaey	Director General of Planning and Policy	Ministry of Education
	Mr. Gharam Ben Saleh al-Ghamedy	Secretary-General of the National Commission for Education, Culture & Sc.	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Latifa Al-Duaij	Assistant Director of Curriculum	Ministry of Education
	H.E. Dr. Ahmed Aided Ibrahim	Minister of Education	Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
	Mr. Abdulqader Ameen Shaikh	Ambassador of Somalia In Kuwait	Embassy of Somalia in Kuwait
Somalia	Mr. Abdulghani Mohammed Waees	Consultant	Embassy of Somalia in Kuwait
	Mr. Abeeb Moosa Adam	Consultant	Embassy of Somalia in Kuwait
	Mr. Abdurahman Abdulrazaq Fareh	CEO	Somali –Arab for Development, Science & Culture
Sudan	Dr. Ibrahim Merghany Ibrahim	Ambassador of Sudan in Kuwait	Embassy of Sudan in Kuwait
	Mr. Moustafa Bahaya	Ambassador of Tunisia in Kuwait	Embassy of Tunisia in Kuwait
Tunisia	Mr. Abduhafez Obaedy	Director	Ministry Of Education
Tuilisia	Mr. Alhadey Alsaidi	Director	Ministry Of Education
	Mr. Ahmed AlSagheer	Advisor to the Deputy Ambassador	Embassy of Tunisia in Kuwait
	Mr. Hassan Obead Al-Khayal	Ambassador Of The United Arab Emirates in Kuwait	Embassy of UAE in Kuwait
United Arch	Mr. Mohamed Salem Al-Dhari	Executive Director	Abu Dhabi Council for Education
United Arab Emirates	Mrs. Fawzia Hassan Ghareeb	Assistant Undersecretary for Education Operation	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Fatma Ali Al-Khaja	Director of Information Systems	Ministry of Education
	Mrs. Khlood Saqer Al-Qasemi	Director of Curriculum	Ministry of Education
Vorman	Dr. Khaled Rajeh Shaikh	Ambassador of Yemen in Kuwait	Embassy of Yemen in Kuwait
Yemen	Mrs. Alya Ahmed Hadi Saleh	First Secretary	Embassy of Yemen in Kuwait





SOUTH AMERICAN STATES			
State	Name	Title	Ministry / Organization
Argentina	Mr. Jorge Antonio Biga	Ambassador	Embassy of Argentina
			in Kuwait
	Mrs. Marwa Nabil Amed	Assistant Translator	Embassy of Argentina
			in Kuwait
İ	Mr. Roberto Abdalla	Ambassador	Embassy of Brazil in
			Kuwait
	Mr. Garlos Abicolil	Vice Minister	Ministry of Education
Brazil	Mrs.Vanessa Gista	International Office	Ministry of Education
Drazii	Mr. Joao Mayricio Cabral de Mello	Advisor to the Minister	Embassy of Brazil in
	Mr. Joao Mavricio Cabrai de Melio		Kuwait
	Mr. Cohrol do Mollo		Embassy of Brazil in
	Mr. Cabral de Mello		Kuwait
	Mr. Rene Remirez	Deputy Minister	Ministry Of Higher
			Education, Science,
			Technology and
Ecuador			Innovation
	Mrs. Lole Allen	Consultant	Ministry Of Higher
			Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
			Embassy of Guyana in
Guyana	Dr. Mohamed Ali Odeen Ishmael	Ambassador	Kuwait
-		Ambassador of Peru to	
Peru	Mr. Amador Velasquez	Kuwait	Embassy of Peru in Kuwait
	_	Director General Of The	** ** ** *
Uruguay	Mr.Pablo Alverez		Ministry Of Education And Cultural
		Ministry Director General of	And Cultural
Venezuela	Mr. Franklin Albarran sanchez		
		Information And	Ministry of Education
		Communication	
	Ma Majawali da Dinta	Technologies	Ministers of Education
	Ms. Maigualida Pinto	Director De Curriculum	Ministry of Education

ARAB ORGANIZATIONS		
Organization	Name	Title
League of Arab States	Ambassador Faeqa Saeed Al-	Advisor to the Secretary General
	Saleh	of LAS
	Ms. Noha Sobhy Aiad	Assistant
	Mr. Amr Shareif Fao	Assistant
	Dr. Mohammed Abdubari Al-	Assistant Director General of
ALECSO	Qudsi	ALECSO
	Dr. Ahmed Sayed Khalil	Director of Education Department
	Dr. Yehya Al-Saidi	Manger of Education Department
	Dr. Ali Abdulkhaleq	Director General of ABEGS
ABEGS	Dr. Hamed Al-Fajeh	Director of Programs Sector
	Mr. Ghaleb Thabet	Director of Public Relations
Association of Arab Universities	Dr. Khaled Al-Omari	President of Jaresh University
	Dr. Ahmed Taher Hasanin	Head of Arabic Language for non-
	Dr. Annied Taner Hasanin	Arabic Speaker Section
ISSESCO	Dr. Obaid Saif Al-Hajeri	Regional Director of ISSESCO