

Regional Coordinators Report

on the Second Meeting of the ASPA Council of Foreign Ministers

UNGA/ New York: 24/9/2010

The 2nd Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the South America-Arab Countries Summit (ASPA) was held in New York on the margins of the 65th Session of the General Assembly. The meeting was presided by Mr. Celso Amorim, Brazilian Minister of External Relations, and by Mr. Amre Moussa, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

In the opportunity, the progress achieved in the implementation of the ASPA agenda was reported, including Political Coordination with a view to achieving concerted action on current international issues such as the Middle East Peace Process, the reform of the United Nations, the International Financial Crisis, Non Proliferation and Disarmament, and Global Warming. The Coordinators also reported the progress achieved regarding intensification of diplomatic relations among ASPA member states; the growth in trade Exchange between the two regions (from US\$ 11 billion, in 2005, to US\$ 26.4 billion, in 2008); the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between MERCOSUR and Egypt, as well as the continuing negotiations between MERCOSUR and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and with Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Syria; the establishment of new Commerce Chambers between the regions aiming at the creation of a bioregional federation of Chambers of commerce; the increase in flights between South American and the Arab Countries; the cooperation on desertification on arid zones such as the ASPA cooperation framework on combating desertification and initiatives developed by the BibliASPA-Brazil in the cultural area and the negotiation of ASPA Cooperation Framework in the field of tourism in order to promote the tourism flows between both regions.

They addressed the 130 years of Arab migration to South America, the preparations to the 3rd ASPA Summit, to be held in Lima, in February 2011, and to the establishment of a Group of Contact between ASPA and UNESCO.

They also announced that the 4th ASPA Summit of Heads of State and Government will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2014."