

**FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE ASPA
COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AT THE SIDELINES
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**

(Paris, 14th October 2009)

Upon the decision taken by the Ministers of Culture of the Arab and South American countries during the Second Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Culture (Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 May 2009), the ASPA Cultural Cooperation Committee met in Paris, on the 14th of October 2009, on the margins of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO. In this meeting, the Committee reviewed the draft of the “ASPA Plan of Action for Cultural Cooperation”, presented in Rio de Janeiro and enriched since then. They also discussed the new proposals to the Plan, presented by some ASPA State members shortly before the meeting.

After welcoming remarks by both the LAS Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Ambassador Nassif Hitti, who represented ASPA Arab Coordination, and by Ambassador Gilberto Moura, Director of the Regional Mechanisms Department of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, who represented ASPA South America Coordination, as well as presentations by both the Directors of the LAS Cultural Department and LAS Americas Department on the different proposals of activities and actions, and in the wake of the discussions, the Committee recommended the adoption of the “Plan of Action” (new draft), as attached, to be submitted for final approval at the coming ASPA Senior Officials Meeting, to take place in Quito, Ecuador.

In addition, the Committee recommended the setting up of a “Contact Group”, composed of representatives of both regions in UNESCO, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Plan of Action within their areas of competence.