



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

*the Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization*

(ISESCO)

and

the Alliance of Civilisations (AoC)

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**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the Islamic Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
and the Alliance of Civilisations (AoC)**

The Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations

Meeting on 15-16 January in Madrid at the occasion of the First Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations,

Convinced that intercultural dialogue and cultural cooperation must be based on universally shared values and the principles of peace, human rights, mutual respect and democratic citizenship,

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and the Alliance of Civilisations

Agree on the following common action principles and coordinated programme of cooperation to be jointly pursued in the period 2008-2010, in application of the above mentioned Memorandum of Understanding:

1. GENERAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

Both organisations will continue and expand their exchange of information and expertise in the areas of education, culture, cultural and natural heritage, youth, sport and media, both bilaterally and in the framework of multilateral structures of cooperation and coordination.

Both organisations will seek to promote cross-fertilisation and synergy between their respective programmes of activities.

ISESCO will develop close working relationships with the Alliance aimed at collaborating, together with other partners, in the development of the two main projects of the Alliance for the next two years:

- the Clearinghouse, which aims to provide a detailed and comprehensive online database of organizations, projects, practitioners and resources in these areas in order to foster the development of partnership and the exchange of best practice. The clearinghouse will be divided into seven themes;
- the Rapid Response Media Mechanism, to be mobilized during times of global tensions around cross-cultural issues, that threaten to degenerate into violence.

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The Clearinghouse

ISESCO will ensure that all the appropriate information on its activities will be included in the AoC Clearinghouse of best practices, materials and resources on cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation projects.

ISESCO will collaborate with the Alliance in developing the first theme to be included in the Clearinghouse which is media literacy.

ISESCO and the Alliance will start prospecting work on other themes to be developed in the Clearinghouse and they will work together to identify potential think-tanks, universities, and research institutions that could serve as partners in the Arab World.

ISESCO will promote the AoC Clearinghouse as a practical tool for governments, organizations and institutions interested in launching projects in these areas in their respective communities, countries and regions.

Rapid response media-based mechanism

ISESCO and the Alliance will seek to develop a network of high profile personalities who are strongly committed to its objectives and principles.

ISESCO and the Alliance will build a network of editors and media decision-makers to sensitize them to Alliance related issues.

2. COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION

Both organisations will continue and strengthen their exchange of information and expertise. Where appropriate, representatives of the partner organisation will be invited to meetings and conferences in the capacity of observers at their own expenses.

Mutual attendance and the preparation of joint programmes should include at least two projects: expanding students exchange programs and education for Media through the creation of a AoC Media Fund.

Expanding Student Exchange Programs

ISESCO and the Alliance will seek to support the expansion of student exchange programs that provide models of how increased cross-cultural exchanges can be developed either within existing programs or under separate auspices.

These programs will primarily focus on exchanges between Western and predominantly Muslim countries, but eventually they will be expanded across all regions. ISESCO will help the Alliance in identifying universities in the Arab World who are interested in engaging in or expanding existing student exchange programs.

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AoC Media Fund

ISESCO and the Alliance will join their efforts to develop an independent fund to support on-going research on the impact of negative stereotyping of minorities in mass media on the public and on the communities concerned. The fund will also support film and television productions in diverse regions that feature under-represented or oft-stereotyped communities in more varied, neutral and/or cultural ways.

ISESCO and the Alliance will work together in seeking contributions to this fund, as well as assistance in raising the profile of the fund and the research generated from this initiative.

ISESCO and the Alliance can also start preparing other joint programs which might include:

- 2.1. Expert meetings on teacher training
- 2.2. Expert meetings on the analysis of history schoolbooks and history teaching curricula, including the programme entitled "The Image of the Other in History Teaching"
- 2.3. Expert meetings on language teaching and learning, including the annual meetings on the "European Language Portfolio"
- 2.4. Expert meetings on education for democratic citizenship

3. COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

With a view to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the successful management of cultural diversity, cooperation in the area of culture and cultural and natural heritage will concentrate on the value of heritage and cultural goods for contemporary society.

Both organisations will pay particular attention to the role of culture and heritage for sustainable development.

The main projects to be developed are:

- Translation and Dissemination of UNESCO's *History of Humanity*
- Abraham's Path Initiative

Translation and Dissemination of UNESCO's History of Humanity

ISESCO and the Alliance will collaborate with the UNESCO's program *History of Humanity*, a series which highlights the role of history as an instrument for advancing mutual respect, solidarity and scientific and cultural interdependence of humanity. They will seek financial and in-kind contributions to assist in translating these materials; adapting them for use in classrooms; and supporting their dissemination.

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Abraham's Path Initiative

ISESCO and the Alliance will support the development of Harvard University's Global Negotiation Project titled "Abraham's Path Initiative", which promotes interfaith understanding through education of the common Abrahamic ethic between the three monotheistic faiths.

The project is the establishment of a long-distance route of tourism and pilgrimage that would follow the footsteps of the prophet Abraham throughout several countries in the Middle East. They will seek other partners that can assist in implementing the initiative and/or raising the project's profile.

ISESCO and the Alliance can also start preparing other projects which may include:

- 3.1. Meetings to explore the possibility of setting up exchange programmes for professional staff working in the area of heritage protection
- 3.2. Expert meetings on the interpretation of the cultural heritage and the social transmission of cultural values, including the activity "Heritage from Elsewhere"
- 3.3. Cooperation in the field of education for sustainable development and environmental protection
- 3.4. Cooperation in the audiovisual field and in the protection of immaterial heritage, including cooperation between archives
- 3.5. Preparation of art exhibitions on the Arab-Muslim identity and the "image of the other"

4. COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF YOUTH POLICY

Both organisations will explore possibilities for future cooperation in the area of youth policy, in particular regarding the important role that civil society organisations and processes of non-formal learning play in the advancement of intercultural dialogue and the management of cultural diversity. This may include, *inter alia*:

- 4.1. Training activities for youth leaders, NGO activists and educators in non-formal learning contexts on human rights education and intercultural learning;
- 4.2. Seminars bringing together different actors in youth policy development, such as governmental institutions, researchers and youth organisations;
- 4.3. Participation at key events and activities related to youth participation, Euro-Med cooperation in the field of youth, human rights education and youth policy development.

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To this purpose, ISESCO and the Alliance will work together on the **development of a Youth Solidarity Fund** to provide small grants, of \$5,000 - \$20,000, to youth-led networks or youth councils addressing a specific set of annual AoC-related themes, such as intercultural and interreligious dialogues, and youth-generated media for an AoC.

ISESCO and the Alliance will seek financial contributions to the Youth Fund, and assistance in distributing information to prospective organizational applicants to the Fund.

5. WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND PROCEDURES

Focal points of both organisations will be in permanent contact to evaluate the state of cooperation and agree on the details of the coordinated programme of activities, including the financial details of jointly organised activities.

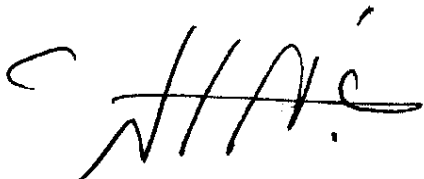
This coordinated programme of activities may be amended by mutual agreement, when appropriate, by way of an exchange of letters between both parties. Such amendments shall come into force on the day they are signed by the two parties.

The copyright of joint publications shall be decided each time on a case-by-case basis.

Either party may terminate the coordinated programme of activities by giving six months written notice to the other party.

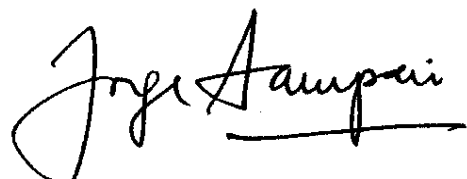
Madrid,

For the Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
(ISESCO)



Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri
Director General

For the Alliance of Civilisations
(AoC)



Mr. Jorge Sampaio
High Representative