



MEMORANDUM OF INTENT BETWEEN THE
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES



Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations programmes of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights;

Mindful that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, according to her mandate as established by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, is responsible, *inter alia*, for the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation;

Bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/40 of 7 December 2001, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to "continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organisations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialised organisations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests and objectives of the two organisations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

Now therefore the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "OHCHR") and the League of Arab States (hereinafter referred to as "LAS"), an intergovernmental organization participating in the work of the United Nations Assembly as observer have mutually agreed to co-operation in areas which are of common interest to both the OHCHR and the LAS. The cooperation will take place within the scope of their respective constitutional instruments, mandates and activities.

1. Areas of Co-operation

Co-operation between the OHCHR and the LAS reflects their shared commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as set out in relevant international conventions on human rights and resolutions of the United Nations human rights bodies.

Co-operation between the parties should support their common aims and objectives and enhance the impact of their respective activities in the field of human rights

In particular, the parties shall, upon request of each of them, and within their available resources, assist each other in areas such as:

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The work of human rights treaty bodies

Both parties will co-operate in assisting member States in identifying strategies for the implementation of the human rights instruments;

Both parties will be encouraging wider ratification of the international instruments on human rights as well as the acceptance of their optional provisions and protocols;

The LAS will engage efforts aiming at ensuring that documentation related to UN Treaty Bodies is brought to the attention of Arab Governments;

Training of the League of Arab States staff

OHCHR will organise with the LAS training sessions on the Human Rights mechanisms established by the United Nations and the work of the OHCHR. Participants in the training sessions will be staff from the LAS. They will be invited by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Representatives and officials from Arab States will also be invited to participate in the training sessions, in accordance with the procedure established under the United Nations Technical Cooperation Programme in the Field of Human Rights

The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights will send officials to Cairo, League of Arab States, to organize jointly and provide substantive services to the training sessions and will invite staff from the League of Arab States to participate in training sessions in Geneva, OHCHR Headquarters, when appropriate.

The United Nations shall meet the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance in respect of the staff from the League of Arab States, international experts and the United Nations officials and a representative from each of the Arab countries members of the League of Arab States (non-contributor Governments), while the rest of the Governments in the region (net contributors) shall meet the cost of their participants.

Asia-Pacific Framework for technical co-operation for the promotion and protection of human rights

The OHCHR will keep the LAS informed of any developments in this area

The LAS will be invited to participate as observer in any relevant activities taking place in this context

The LAS will engage special efforts aiming at ensuring that the conclusions adopted at the workshops undertaken under this framework are brought to the attention of its Member States

Relevant regional and sub-regional activities in the Arab countries members of the LAS.

The OHCHR will keep the LAS informed of any developments in this area

The LAS will be invited to participate as observer in any relevant activities taking place in this context

The LAS will engage special efforts aiming at ensuring that any conclusions adopted in the context of these activities are brought to the attention of its Member States

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Any other areas of co-operation considered to be of common interest to both organizations

Participation in meetings

Each party will ensure that the other is regularly invited to relevant meetings, according to the rules of procedures or respective organisations, and receive all appropriate materials pertaining to such meetings.

In particular, the OHCHR will notify LAS on relevant meetings, meetings of treaty bodies open to the public and of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. OHCHR will also invite LAS to participate in an observer capacity in all relevant activities taking place in the context of the Asia-Pacific Framework for Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific and in relevant regional and sub-regional activities in the Arab countries members of the LAS.

Exchange Of Information And Documents

Subject to their respective policies and rules regarding disclosure of information, the parties will endeavour to exchange information and documentation in matters of common interest and as necessary for any activity to be carried out under the memorandum.

Mutual Consultations and Co-operation

Mutual consultation to promote co-operation may take place between the parties, when and where appropriate, regarding areas of common interest and the realization of their shared objectives.

The parties agree that each may, as and when appropriate, bring to each other's attention, any situation in respect of which, in the normal course of operations, assistance provided by the other could further their common purposes.

Financial Implications

In the event that the co-operation proposed by one of the Parties to the other in accordance with this Memorandum entails expenditure beyond minor and ordinary expenditures, consultations shall be held between the Parties to determine the availability of resources required, the way of meeting such expenditure and, if resources are not readily available, the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources. The raising of financial and other resources and their allocation to any activities carried out under this memorandum by both Parties is subject to the respective Financial Rules and Regulations of each Party.

2. Implementation of the Memorandum

The OHCHR and the LAS may enter into supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present MOI and to ensure effective liaison between them.

3. Amendments, duration and entry into force

The MOI may be amended by mutual consent expressed in writing. The proposed amendment will enter into force three months following the consent by the two parties.

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Either Party may terminate this MOI subject to six month's written notice.

This MOI will enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representative of the two parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, representatives of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the League of Arab States, respectively, sign the present Memorandum.

Done in Geneva, this 17 April 2002



FOR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES



FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS