



League of Arab States  
General Secretariat  
Social Affairs sector

Culture and Dialogue of Civilizations Department

## Unified Arab Strategy for Dialogue of Civilizations

### **Section I: Introduction**

- 1- In 2005 the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, has adopted the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, called by Spain and Turkey, with the aim of promoting understanding between different cultures and reduce the gap between different people, as well as taking action to combat the phenomena of intolerance and extremism through the dissemination of the principles of peaceful coexistence and acceptance of others.
- 2- The Alliance of Civilizations, as political initiative built on the basis of the report of the High Level Group and its recommendations issued in November 2006, supports the Group of Friends joined by 138 member states and international and regional organizations, including the League of Arab States and the Arab Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ALECSO). The Alliance also is based on the States contact points to build a wide network of partnerships with institutions and civil society organizations, the private sector and educational institutions, academic and religious bodies.
- 3- Alliance of Civilizations develops and supports projects related to the four main areas: youth issues, media, education and migration. In order to achieve a number of objectives, notably: to promote cultural diversity and to establish mutual respect among peoples, regardless of cultural, religious or nationalist differences and to create a suitable environment to achieve the concept of citizenship as a system of ad valorem and human rights, beyond the culture of discrimination based on religion, race or sex, and as a behavior triumph of the values of civilization. This will contribute to the creation of a suitable environment to achieve good governance and sustainable human development.
- 4- The Alliance goals achievement is based on two main instruments,: national plans , and regional strategic dialogue and cooperation between cultures. To this end, the Alliance urges Member States of the Group of Friends to develop national plans, as well as to develop regional strategies complementary to achieve the humanitarian objectives of the global alliance.

## **Section II: Principles and Areas of the Unified Arab Strategy**

- 5- The Arab group includes States that their peoples have bonds and relationships rooted deep in the joint history and enjoy the privacy of the common cultural and civilization, also owns a tremendous asset of human resources and material wealth. However, it is facing some tough and sensitive challenges in the current circumstances, which requires the formulation of a unified Arab Strategy for the dialogue of civilizations.
- 6- The Unified Arab Strategy comes in line with the principles and objectives of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, expressed by the report of the High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations and operational plans. The Strategy also seeks to make these principles and goals relevant to the privacy of culture and civilization of the countries of the Arab Group and the nature of the challenges they face.
- 7- In this context, The Unified Arab Strategy takes the Arab summit resolutions and statements, as a reference, as well as the decisions of the Arab Ministerial Councils, and the related items included in the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

### **8- The main principles and areas of the Unified Arab Strategy are as follows:**

- Reaffirm the right of self-determination for all peoples living under foreign occupation, especially the Palestinian people.
- Clear distinction between the right to legitimate national resistance and terrorism in all its forms.
- Combating the phenomena of extremism, intolerance, racial discrimination, terrorism and the resulting acts of violence reported, search the causes of these phenomena and provide effective solutions to address them.
- Combat the phenomenon of terrorism in all its forms.
- Promotion and respect human rights on the basis of international charters and relevant conventions.
- Emphasis on the protection of holy sites and religious symbols of distortion and abuse.
- Emphasis on freedom of speech, thought and expression.
- Preservation of Arab cultural heritage and civilization, and cooperation in order to protect it as a common heritage of humanity. And to emphasize the importance of maintaining the city of Jerusalem as the cradle of monotheistic religions and holy places in Palestine.
- To protect the rights of migrants, in particular the recognition of their culture, national identity and religious, in order for them to contribute to the enrichment process of the dialogue of civilizations through the establishment of productive

relationships between the indigenous cultures of migrants and the cultures of the migrants receiving countries

- Respond to the aspirations of young people and provide them with opportunities for their active participation in building their communities in all fields to mimic more leadership roles and make positive changes in their communities.
- Strengthening the role of women and enable them to exercise all their rights guaranteed by international conventions.

### **Section III : The Main Objectives of the Unified Arab Strategy:**

9- On the basis of the previous principles, the strategy aims to focus on dialogue and cooperation between cultures to achieve the following key objectives:

- To achieve understanding between different civilizations and not to leave the opportunity for the forces of isolationism in every civilization to tarnish the image of the other.
- To resolve the outstanding political issues in a just solution, that would contribute to avoid a clash of civilizations, especially the Palestinian issue.
- To confront all attempts to discredit and contempt of religion and combat hatred, intolerance, extremism and hatred of Islam , and the accompanying societal exclusion and racism towards the other.
- To formulate programs and action plans for the development of the sectors of education, culture and science.
- o establish a framework for productive relationships between indigenous cultures and the cultures of migrants receiving countries based on mutual respect and acceptance of differences and to review the old concepts and ready perceptions on immigration and immigrants or other reasons for spacing and differences

### **The Strategy Methodology:**

- This strategy shares with some other regional strategies in the following areas:
  - A- reducing the gaps
  - B- building bridges of communication
  - C- creating a common spaces

The Unified Arab Strategy as a regional strategy did not come as a substitute for national efforts , but complementary, which aims to achieve coordination between these efforts and so as to ensure optimal utilization of economic resources and human resources to achieve the common goals of the Arab countries.