

ARAB COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

REGENCY TUNIS HOTEL
LES CÔTES DE CARTHAGE, TUNISIA
8-9 JULY 2008

AGENDA

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| <i>Tuesday, 8 July</i> | |
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Introductory session - Introductions - Approval of minutes of Amman meeting - Review of meeting agenda |
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Background papers: - Draft Charter Issues highlighted by RA and AG Membership of general assembly – the question of minimum academic degree Election of members of governing board and renewal of membership (article 24) - Proposed structure of ACSS (as discussed in Amman and described in minutes) - Draft job descriptions for key positions Decisions Agreement on wording of draft charter How to structure discussion and ratification of draft charter in the forthcoming general assembly meeting? <i>Governance structure:</i> Size and composition of governing board (how many elected, how many appointed?) Role of donor representatives? Size of secretariat and branch offices: Managers (executors), researchers? Program officers, administration in branch offices. Who appoints them? <i>Programs:</i> Working groups in branch offices Role of advisory committee |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee break |

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| <p>11:45 – 12:45</p> | <p>Membership: criteria for individuals and institutions</p> <p>Decisions <i>General Assembly:</i> Size of membership – enough to be a driving force; not too large to burden secretariat Individuals: minimum academic degree (BA, MA)? Quota? Women, youth and academics in the diaspora, non-Arabs residing in the region? <i>Institutions:</i> Are there priority institutions? Universities (as such or departments), national research centers, private organizations, professional associations, NGOs? What type of NGOs? How to ensure continuous flow of ‘new blood’ of individuals/institutions; representation of new generations of researchers? Limit on term of membership? (See charter on membership)</p> |
| <p>12:45 – 13:45</p> | <p>Background documents: Draft reports of country legal studies: Morocco, Jordan and UAE</p> <p>Decisions <i>Location:</i> Headquarters and branch offices Legal text versus practice</p> |
| <p>13:45 – 14:45</p> | <p>Lunch</p> |
| <p>14:45 – 15:45</p> | <p>Background documents: - Mission statement - Website in Arabic, English and French Articulate, succinct mission statement reflecting discussion on social science above Objectives Nature of activities and its role: engage in research, support other organizations etc. Main principles guiding work of ACSS: example, freedom of expression and thought Dissemination – constituency building</p> <p>Decisions Agreement on wording of mission statement How to structure discussion and ratification in the forthcoming general assembly meeting? Dissemination activities till the GA meeting</p> |

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| <p>15:45 – 17:00</p> | <p>Signature activities and intellectual agenda Annual publication Three thematic working groups Background document: List of activities</p> <p>Defining the scope of the Council in terms of disciplines, topics, type of research</p> <p>Decisions Types of ‘think pieces’ to be commissioned before provisional GA meeting Themes? “Academic Freedom”? “Does research influence policy in the region”? “Arab reform”? “Public Social Science”?</p> |
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| <p>20:30</p> | <p>Dinner at Le Grand Bleu Restaurant – Gammarth; please meet in the hotel lobby.</p> |

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| Wednesday, 9 July | |
| 9:00 – 11:00 | <p>Provisional ACSS General Assembly meeting Background document: List of current “founding members”</p> <p>Preparations for provisional GA meeting Preparations for Board Elections: soliciting nominations Structure of GA meeting: part organizational, part substantive? Criteria for inviting additional members taking into account gaps (geographical, gender generational and disciplinary distribution) in current membership. Process of nomination and election for interim board: interested members to submit their CVs and ideas for the future of the ACSS to the coordinator ample time before the GA meeting. If coordinator is interested in nomination, then other individuals will be sought to run the process. Voting by secret ballot at the meeting itself? Other procedures?</p> <p>Decisions Dates proposed: 18-20 December 2008 Venue</p> |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee break |
| 11:15 – 12:45 | <p>Background documents: Funding proposals and budget Table: remaining funds in current grant Draft Proposal Draft Budget Time-line and schedule of activities</p> <p>Two funding proposals will be drafted: one for July 2008-April 2010 and the other for 2010-2013</p> <p>INPUT FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p>Decisions Agreements on above documents Deadlines for budget submissions</p> |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | Next steps, division of labor and final remarks |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 – 18:00 | CONSULTATION MEETING |
| 18:00 | Cocktails by the Regency Tunis Hotel pool |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Steering Committee members:

Dr. Ragui Assaad

The Population Council (Egypt); University of Minnesota (USA)

Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui

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Dr. Ahmed Galal

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Dr. Bassma Kodmani

Arab Reform Initiative (France)

Dr. Karim Makdisi

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Consultants:

Moushira Elgeziri – Planning Consultant

Necla Tschirgi – Senior Consultant

Organizers and rapporteurs:

Nesrine Halima - Dubai School of Government (DSG)

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Donor representatives:

Eileen Alma (Program Officer – Social and Economic Policy, International Development Research Centre, IDRC)

Samar Alshorafa (Manager – Project Development, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, MBRF)

Janine El Tal (Director – Knowledge & Education Sector, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, MBRF)

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