

Conference of Ministers
of Education
and those Responsible
for Economic Planning in
the Arab States

Organized by **Unesco**
in
co-operation with **Alecso**

Abu-Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
7-14 November 1977

FINAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. New strategies for educational development

Recommendation No. 1

The Conference,

Expressing thanks to Unesco for the great effort it has made in the preparation of the Conference, within a forward-looking and broad perspective of educational development,

Having examined the main document entitled "New prospects in education for development in the Arab countries", submitted by the Secretariat of Unesco to the Conference as a basis for its work and deliberations,

Expressing high appreciation of the accurate analyses and important suggestions contained in that document.

Recommends that the Arab States and the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) should make use of this important document in enriching and increasing the potential of their national strategy for educational development, outlined in the draft project elaborated by the Special Committee on the formulation of educational development strategy in the Arab countries, appointed by the Conference of Arab Ministers of Education held in Sana'a in 1972.

Recommendation No. 2

The Conference,

Invites the Arab countries to intensify their efforts in order to implement the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Marrakesh Conference, especially as regards the achievement of compulsory education and the expansion of vocational education, attention to be given to pre-school education, the development of literacy programmes and the training of the staff required for their implementation, the qualitative improvement of education and the establishment of links between education and the environment.

Recommendation No. 3

The Conference,

Believing that the Arab has to shoulder the responsibility of his present and future destiny,

Considering that the time has come for him to innovate and create, rather than to import and consume foreign technologies and ideas,

Wishing to give the concepts of authenticity and modernity a well-defined and clear-cut significance in the formation of the Arab of the future,

Recommends that research centres and units in the Arab States:

1. Explore in depth the foundations of Arab Islamic authenticity, in order to safeguard it against the ideological influences contaminating it from so many sources;
2. Demonstrate the advantages of keeping pace with the age and of openness to modern science and technology to be gained through the functional acquisition of at least one foreign language;
3. Evaluate experiments in linking education to development, particularly those which link education with productive skills and which introduce training in manual work into primary, intermediate and secondary education, so that manual work may enjoy the same esteem as abstract knowledge.

Recommendation No. 4

The Conference,

Recommends to Member States that they:

1. Bring about a true renovation of the entire educational system in the Arab region, compatible with the spirit of the age, and with the socio-economic development requirements of each Arab country;
2. Recognize the need to develop their administrative machinery and to make radical administrative reforms in education so that it may become an effective tool of socio-economic development.

Recommendation No. 5

The Conference,

Believing that education represents a right for every citizen and a fundamental need which society should satisfy,

Stressing the importance of establishing a link between education and work,

Recognizing the principle of education for life and productive work,

Desirous of promoting new and appropriate educational formulae oriented towards life and including reciprocal relationships between education and the developing environment,

1. Calls on Member States to review their educational structures in order to provide a comprehensive system of formal and non-formal basic education and to enable each individual to acquire the minimum of values, knowledge, skills and experience required for enlightened and productive citizenship;
2. Also calls on these States to try out new formulae better suited to different environments and available resources, and to exchange their experience in this field;
3. Further requests Unesco to provide the Arab States with the benefit of its experience and assistance in this field.

Recommendation No. 6

The Conference,

Considering the need to provide all citizens with education,

1. Urges the Arab States to create new non-traditional types of education such as single-class or single-teacher schools, mobile schools and exhibitions, learning by correspondence or multi-media teaching, training centres and industrial apprenticeship, with a view to providing for the social conditions peculiar to certain isolated rural communities and groups of nomad bedouins on the one hand, and in order to increase educational opportunities on the other;
2. Also urges Unesco and ALECSO to make their experiences in this field available to the Arab States.

Recommendation No. 7

The Conference,

Considering that non-formal education is one of the main features of the Arab educational strategy,

Invites ALECSO, in co-operation with Unesco, to complete the surveys undertaken within the framework of the strategy.

Recommendation No. 8

The Conference,

Aware of the need for inter-Arab action to disseminate knowledge,

Desirous of consolidating joint Arab action to combat illiteracy and expand adult education within the context of lifelong education,

1. Invites ALECSO and the Arab States to intensify action to implement the Arab strategy for literacy and adult education, approved by the Arab States at the Alexandria Conference held in Baghdad in December 1976, and to draw on Unesco's experience in this field;
2. Also invites the Arab States to provide ALECSO's Arab fund for literacy and adult education with support commensurate with the seriousness of the problem.

Recommendation No. 9

The Conference,

Considering that women constitute one half of society,

Calls upon the Arab States to widen the scope of employment for women by opening up opportunities for them in education and in suitable fields of work, and providing the appropriate services they need.

Recommendation No. 10

The Conference,

Convinced that the overall economic and social development now pursued in varying degrees in all Arab countries depends mainly on educational development and is favourably or adversely affected by the speed at which educational development proceeds,

Convinced that one of the highest priorities of educational development is the universal provision of basic education in the Arab countries with a view to creating a broad base of educated people and stemming illiteracy,

Convinced of the need to achieve more uniformity in curricula and textbooks in all Arab countries with a view to developing and improving education in the Arab region and reducing its costs,

Recognizing that the above objective can be attained only through close regional and international co-operation,

1. Recommends that a joint committee of experts be set up by ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco, to prepare a plan, based on the Arab strategy of introducing universal basic education, for reaching the objective of compulsory schooling throughout the Arab countries within a reasonable period;
2. Recommends further that another committee be set up under the auspices of ALECSO to examine and evaluate the experiments and endeavours currently undertaken in the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Sudan and Egypt as well as by the Gulf Area Regional Office of Education with a view to elaborating guidelines for curriculum standardization and development and providing a common core to be included in textbooks for use throughout the Arab world;
3. Requests Unesco to make available its experience and expertise in this respect.

Recommendation No. 11

The Conference,

Convinced of the necessity to orient and utilize education to serve the purposes of development,

Recognizing that development depends on the availability of trained manpower and on the rational use of natural resources,

Recommends that ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco, and working in co-ordination with the CASTARAB Continuing Committee, the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies, should

1. Co-ordinate the studies and programmes undertaken by the specialized agencies concerning ways and means of exploiting the resources available throughout the Arab homeland and training the adequate numbers and types of personnel required for the utilization of such resources;
2. Seek to develop Arab educational institutions with a view to achieving those objectives;
3. Procure the necessary financial resources from the Arab States and the Arab development funds.

Recommendation No. 12

The Conference,

Considering the link that should be established between education and development, and the basic responsibility of education to provide citizens with training in order to qualify them to enter the various fields of employment,

Considering that work productivity depends largely on the availability of manpower equipped with an adequate level of vocational, scientific and cultural knowledge and skills,

1. Recommends to the Arab States that they provide vocational training opportunities for individuals seeking employment upon completion of their compulsory schooling; and
2. Recommends that Unesco and ALECSO make their experience available to the Arab States so that each may begin to implement this principle according to its resources.

Recommendation No. 13

The Conference,

Considering the developments taking place in both technology and the world of work,

Wishing to accelerate economic development, on modernized bases, in the fields of agriculture, industry and trade,

Wishing to eliminate the shortage of middle-level technical personnel,

1. Urges that the Arab States, individually and collectively, reconsider the tasks, functions and curricula of technical education and establish centres to educate and train middle-level technical personnel so as to meet the present and future needs of the Arab countries;
2. Calls upon the Arab States to promote awareness of the importance of work in small-scale industries and handicrafts.

Recommendation No. 14

The Conference,

Invites ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco, the Association of Arab Universities and the Continuing Committee of the CASTARAB Conference, to organize a conference of ministers responsible for higher education in the Arab countries, to examine questions relating to the promotion of integration between higher education and socio-economic development.

Recommendation No. 15

The Conference,

Considering that the outflow of qualified personnel from the Arab countries is one of the major concerns of the Arab nation and constitutes an incalculable loss for them,

Recognizing that this problem of the brain drain is caused by a variety of economic, political and social factors,

Desirous of stemming this outflow and bringing qualified Arab manpower back to the Arab world,

Recommends that ALECSO make a complete inventory of this qualified manpower and its specializations within the Arab world and abroad, and elaborate effective remedial lines of action for stemming the brain drain as a first step and for bringing qualified Arab personnel back to the Arab world, whenever possible, through the creation of favourable conditions that would help achieve this purpose.

Recommendation No. 16

The Conference,

Considering that salary scales for skilled manpower are in most cases incommensurate with the various levels of training,

Considering that as a result of such disparity, certain levels of training and consequently certain fields of activity are deprived of adequate skilled manpower,

Considering that such disparity might obstruct development plans and thus hinder progress,

Recommends that the Arab States pay special attention to the teaching profession by providing both moral and material incentives in order to attract and retain highly-qualified personnel, in particular through the development of equitable salary scales commensurate with the levels of training, as a means of enhancing professional specialization of relevance to development plans.

II. Requisites for the development and implementation of new strategies
(planning, information and research)

Recommendation No. 17

The Conference,

Considering the close relationship between education and the basic needs of society,

Considering the immensity of the basic needs of each geographical group,

Considering also the effective role played by the mass media in revealing the essential needs of society,

1. Calls on Member States to make their educational plans an integral part of their economic and social development plans;
2. Considers that this objective can only be achieved if educational planning and overall national planning are based on a consistent policy of continued and mutual communication between the bodies responsible for planning and the different sections of which society is composed, with a view to the accurate definition of needs, objectives and possibilities on a realistic basis.

Recommendation No. 18

The Conference,

Considering the importance and immensity of educational needs,

Considering that available human and material resources are often not commensurate with the size of needs,

Considering that effective educational planning depends mainly on precise data and information,

Declaration and Recommendations

1. Calls on Member States to take stock of actual and potential means and resources before the definition of objectives and the formulation of programmes;
2. Recommends that Member States develop modern information systems for this purpose;
3. Calls on Unesco to provide assistance to Member States to enable them to train skilled manpower and acquire the technological means needed for the development of such systems.

Recommendation No. 19

The Conference,

1. Emphasizes the need for Arab States to co-ordinate their educational plans, and especially long-term plans, in the light of a thorough survey of their human resources and trained manpower requirements, so as to proceed towards overall social and economic development and to develop their culture along contemporary lines;
2. Invites ALECSO to ensure co-ordination in this field between the appropriate bodies of the League of Arab States.

Recommendation No. 20

The Conference,

Recognizing that education for development is an integral part of the Arab educational strategy,

Invites ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco, to make a study on the future profile of the Arab world in the year 2000 and to prepare a plan for education in the Arab world in the light of carefully considered future alternatives, within the framework of the educational strategy in the Arab States recently examined at the Alexandria meeting (October 1977).

Recommendation No. 21

The Conference,

Convinced that educational research plays a leading role in developing education and raising its efficiency,

Considering that educational research units in the Arab countries are in most cases still unable to meet the demands made on their services,

Recognizing that research at the inter-Arab level is still very limited,

Recommends to the Arab States that they lend support to the national centres dealing with educational research, information and documentation, and to the Educational Research Unit of ALECSO.

Recommendation No. 22

The Conference,

Recommends that international and Arab organizations extend their support to Member States in order to consolidate national education research centres in the Arab countries, both financially and technically, thereby enabling them to carry out their tasks in the most satisfactory manner possible.

Recommendation No. 23

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to protect and safeguard the environment from the harmful consequences it may suffer as a result of accelerated development in the Arab countries,

Recognizing the importance of fostering awareness among young people and adults of the different factors conducive to environmental protection in all human settlement areas in the Arab world,

Believing that responsibility for the conservation of the environment is deeply rooted in the Arab and Islamic cultural heritage,

Recommends that ALECSO, in co-operation with international organizations

1. Make a comprehensive study of ways and means of conserving and safeguarding the environment in the light of Islamic teachings and the Islamic cultural heritage in such a way as to define the role they can play in various sectors of economic and social development, and also to define both the scope of environmental education within Arab educational systems and ways of giving due consideration to this type of education when formulating educational strategies;
2. Organize a seminar to discuss the conclusions of the above-mentioned study, with the aim of preparing a manual to assist the authors of appropriate textbooks and other educational materials for use in formal and non-formal educational institutions.

Recommendation No. 24

The Conference,

Considering the close relationships between education, work and employment,

Considering the need for Arab States to obtain more information on the nature of that relationship,

Calls on the Arab Labour Organization and ALECSO to conduct studies in this field.

Recommendation No. 25

The Conference,

Realizing that global development is the fundamental objective sought by the Arab States,

Realizing that a deficiency in any aspect of development can have a profound effect on other aspects,

Being anxious to make use of all existing resources and opportunities,

Recommends to the Arab States that they ensure full co-ordination between their planning, labour, social affairs, education and other competent bodies as regards laying down principles and guidelines for development adapted to the conditions prevailing in each country with a view to coping with the following problems

1. Wastage in all types and levels of education, e.g. drop-outs, repeaters and failures;
2. Reluctance to specialize in particular disciplines due to certain outdated customs and traditions incompatible with development requirements;
3. Making the general public, and more particularly students and parents, aware of the importance of the areas of study required for development;
4. Provision of suitable employment for graduates in the different specializations so that other students may be encouraged to choose such disciplines.

Recommendation No. 26

The Conference,

Seeking to strengthen inter-Arab co-operation in the field of technical and vocational education,

Bearing in mind the fact that the different Arab countries have similar educational, social and economic problems,

Wishing to encourage young people to enrol in technical and vocational education as a means of meeting the urgent need for middle-level personnel and technicians,

Wishing to determine the needs of educational, social and economic development in the Arab countries, and to enable planners to co-operate in and co-ordinate the training of the technical personnel required,

Recommends that the Arab States, with the joint participation of Unesco and ALECSO, and in co-operation with relevant Arab organizations and Arab mass information institutions, organize an Arab information campaign designed to urge young people to enrol in technical and vocational education and to underline its importance for the development of Arab society;

Recommends that the Arab States:

1. Make an overall survey of the technical skills available at all levels (according to the recognized international classification) in those Arab States where such a survey has not been made;
2. Prepare a map showing the network of institutions concerned with technical and vocational education, and indicating their different specializations, needs and enrolment capacities;
3. Take steps to define the future requirements of their development plans, in terms of technical skills, by level and area of specialization.

Recommendation No. 27

The Conference,

Considering the urgent need for skilled manpower in almost every field of activity,

Considering that the training of technically skilled manpower is a prerequisite for accelerating development,

Considering that the training of such manpower should be functional in nature, and adapted to the tasks to be performed,

Recommends that the Arab States should see to it that vocational and technical training programmes are planned to include periods of intensive practical work in vocational training centres and/or industry.

III. Regional and international co-operation
for educational development in the Arab countries

Recommendation No. 28

The Conference,

Desiring that education in the Arab countries should keep pace with modern educational trends,

Believing that educational innovation in curricula, teaching methods, textbooks, teaching aids, educational administration and organization requires that use be made of world experiments and experience as well as the experiences of Arab countries,

Endorses Unesco's initiative to establish a network of educational innovations for the Arab countries,

Considers that close co-operation and co-ordination should be established between Unesco and ALECSO, which has created an educational research unit as well as an information network, with a view to avoiding duplication, ensuring proper utilization of Arab financial resources and securing integration of the efforts made by both Organizations.

Recommendation No. 29

The Conference,

Considering the vital link between the Arabic language and the history of the Arabs, past, present and future,

Desirous of facilitating linguistic communication as well as unifying concepts in the Arab countries,

1. Notes the efforts made by the Committee on a common lexical fund in the Maghreb Arab countries which has compiled a set of basic functional terms for the first three years of primary education;
2. Endorses the project prepared by ALECSO for defining, successively, the basic terms used throughout the Arab countries at primary and at secondary level;
3. Recommends that ALECSO intensify its efforts in this field.

Recommendation No. 30

The Conference,

Considering that language is the vehicle of thought and the instrument of communication,

Considering that language is also the means used by society to preserve its cultural heritage, and thus maintain its continuity and existence,

Considering that there exists an organic bond between our Arabic language and our Islamic heritage, which in turn binds us in brotherhood to other Islamic peoples, and that many of these peoples are eager to use Arabic as a second language and to use the Arabic alphabet in writing their national languages,

Confirming previous recommendations concerning the propagation of the Arabic language,

Proposes to the governments of Arab States that they:

1. Offer study grants to students from Islamic States, and send teachers of Arabic to those States;
2. Provide Islamic States with material and moral support for the use of the Arabic alphabet in writing their national languages;
3. Provide support to the Khartoum Institute for the Teaching of Arabic to Non-Arabic-Speaking People, set up by ALECSO, and to the Bourguiba Institute for Living Languages in Tunisia.

Recommendation No. 31

The Conference,

Believing that the teacher is the pivot of the educational process in all its dimensions, and in view of the disinclination of young people to join the teaching profession while large numbers of teachers switch over to other activities,

Recommends that ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco and the Union of Arab Teachers, should co-operate in the study of this phenomenon, so as to identify its causes and recommend whatever they may deem suitable to remedy it.

Recommendation No. 32

The Conference,

Considering that the Arab teacher can play an effective role in consolidating the bases of Arab co-operation, and in the transfer of educational experience from one Arab country to another,

Declaration and Recommendations

Recommends that:

1. ALECSO, in collaboration with Unesco, should undertake a study of a project that seeks to standardize the training of Arab teachers through common curricula and the exchange of training courses between the Arab countries;
2. ALECSO should study, in collaboration with the Union of Arab Teachers, a project for the exchange of teachers to participate in teaching and evaluation.

Recommendation No. 33

The Conference,

Noting that the Israeli occupation authorities are still pursuing their violation of the right of the Palestinian people to have access to its own national education and national culture, and are following a systematic and deliberate policy of judaizing education in the occupied territories of Palestine,

Recalling resolution 13, 1 adopted by the General Conference of Unesco at its eighteenth session, as well as resolution 15.1 adopted by the General Conference at its nineteenth session,

1. Condemns the actions of the Israeli occupation authorities for their repeated violations of the right of the Palestinian people to have access to its own national education, including their action to prevent school books from being delivered to Palestinian children, the alteration and distortion of school curricula and the internment of Palestinian teachers and students;
2. Thanks the Director-General of Unesco for his efforts in this respect, and calls upon him to pursue his action to secure implementation of the resolutions of the General Conference, especially as regards supervision of the functioning of the educational and cultural institutions in the occupied territories of Palestine, in collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organization;
3. Calls on Unesco to reinforce and increase the aid extended to the Palestine Liberation Organization, particularly in connection with the following activities:
 - (a) further support to the project for extending aid to Palestinian students;
 - (b) further support to the projects for technical and vocational training for young Palestinians;
 - (c) further support to the project for establishing children's nurseries and kindergartens in Palestinian camps;
 - (d) improvement of private educational institutions in the occupied territories of Palestine;
4. Invites UNRWA to strengthen its educational services to the children of the Palestinian people; calls on States and international organizations to increase their assistance to that agency to enable it to carry out its tasks in the fields of education, social service and public health, and calls on UNDP and Unicef to increase their assistance to the UNRWA Institute of Education;
5. Invites the Arab States to provide further opportunities for the children of the Palestinian people to enrol in their universities, and to extend to them all the facilities required to enable them to pursue their studies.

Recommendation No 34

The Conference,

Taking note of the reference document prepared and submitted by Unesco on the "Education of the Arab People of Palestine",

Appreciating the efforts made by Unesco and ALECSO in support of projects for the education of the Arab people of Palestine,

Considering that the education of the Arab people of Palestine has both regional and international dimensions, in addition to its importance to the Palestinians themselves,

Considering that much remains to be done to help them preserve their cultural identity and achieve their national aspirations,

Considering that education constitutes the main factor in moulding the human being,

Recommends to the Arab States that they:

1. Sponsor the establishment of a Unesco trust fund for financing scholarships for Palestinian students;
2. Contribute to the financing of the said project so that it can achieve its aims.

Recommendation No. 35

The Conference,

Seeking further development of the intellectual and linguistic unity of Arab countries,

Emphasizing the pan-Arab dimension in the diffusion of knowledge,

Guided by the Charter of Arab Cultural Unity,

Believing in the right to education of every Arab in the Arab homeland,

Commending the projects undertaken by ALECSO in this connection,

1. Invites the Arab countries and ALECSO to act through bilateral or tripartite agreements in order to accord special attention in their financial and technical aid to the Arab countries which have recently acceded to independence, namely Djibouti, the Comoro Islands and Somalia, for the purpose of developing their educational systems, especially in the fields of primary and secondary education and teacher training, and to enable those countries to send their qualified students to the long-established independent Arab countries to pursue their higher education;
2. Invites Unesco to contribute actively in this respect.

Recommendation No. 36

The Conference,

Considering the importance and wide scope of continuous co-operation between Unesco and all the Arab States,

Considering the variety of functions discharged by Unesco through its Regional Office for Education in Beirut, and the additional workload that would be entailed by the implementation of the new recommendations,

Recommends to the Director-General of Unesco that he:

1. Strengthen Unesco's Regional Office for Education in the Arab Countries by providing it with a larger number of experts in the field of educational planning and for all the other activities conducted by the Office, taking into consideration its increasing responsibilities and the growing need for its services in the Arab States;
2. Expand the Office's activities in accordance with the principle of decentralization which the Organization is endeavouring to apply in the field of education.

Recommendation No. 37

The Conference,

Convinced of the importance of rural development in the process of building modern Arab communities,

Declaration and Recommendations

Recognizing the new role to be played by education in this respect,

Desirous that the underprivileged groups of the population should have access to education,

Considering that education for rural development is among the major concerns of Unesco according to its Medium-Term Plan,

1. Calls upon Unesco to offer its assistance in co-operation with other organizations concerned and with the Arab States, to expand the functions and resources of the Regional Centre for Functional Literacy in Rural Areas for the Arab States, Sirs-El-Layyan, in order to enable the Centre to play a new, pioneering role in rural development and non-formal and adult education, in the context of lifelong education;
2. Further calls on the Arab States to support this project with all available financial and human resources.

Recommendation No 38

The Conference,

Believing that the achievement of the objectives of educational plans depends mainly on the educational administration personnel responsible for their implementation,

Considering that educational administrators also have a role in all processes of planning, implementation, evaluation and follow up,

Considering that most Arab countries lack adequate numbers of educational administrators,

Considering that the training of such educational administrators necessarily involves special training covering the academic, technical and administrative aspects,

Recommends to the governments of the Arab States that they:

1. Take the necessary measures for the establishment of a regional training centre for various types of educational administrators, and provide it with the resources it needs to organize long-term and short-term training courses, conduct the applied research required for effective training and find solutions to the various administrative problems arising in the field of education;
2. Establish the centre in collaboration with Unesco and ALECSO.

Recommendation No. 39

The Conference,

Appreciating the importance of the adoption of modern technologies in educational action and in action to further the development process in the Arab States,

Realizing the necessity of training Arab technicians to ensure the optimal utilization of modern techniques in all areas, including computers and telecommunications, and

Convinced of the importance of the mobility of qualified Arab persons in providing a firm basis for Arab co-operation and integration in all spheres,

Recommends that:

1. The Centre for the Training of Technicians in Computer Science and Telecommunication in Jordan be transformed into a regional Arab Centre for this purpose, after consultation with the Arab States concerned;
2. Unesco and other international and regional organizations concerned be invited to offer their expertise and advice in this connection.

Recommendation No. 40

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of developing non-formal education as an integral part of the education system as a whole,

Recommends that Unesco and ALECSO establish regional institutions for training, research and documentation in the field of non-formal education.

Recommendation No. 41

The Conference,

Convinced of the importance of educational facilities in the educational process,

Desirous of promoting the principle of self-reliance in the field of educational buildings and facilities,

Calls on Unesco, in collaboration with ALECSO, to initiate regional projects in this field and to study the design of a variety of models, especially for those Arab countries which have similar environments.

Recommendation No. 42

The Conference,

Desirous of intensifying efforts and mobilizing resources with a view to accelerating action in the field of literacy,

Invites ALECSO, the Arab Broadcasting Union, the Arab Telecommunications Union, the Arab States participating in the Space Communications Network; and Unesco to carry out a comprehensive study on the subject, in the light of the decisions taken at meetings of the Arab Ministers of Education, Communications and Information, and to take the necessary measures and develop the programmes required to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from the use of satellites (the Arab Satellite) in the eradication of illiteracy and the expansion of education,

Recommendation No. 43

The Conference,

Considering the importance of the main working document ED-77/MINEDARAB/3,

Aware of the need for closer inter-Arab co-operation with a view to strengthening collective educational action and achieving the democratization of education throughout the Arab region, pursuant to Article III of the Charter of Arab Cultural Unity,

Invites ALECSO, in conjunction with Unesco:

1. To initiate a comprehensive study of the educational situation in the Arab world, containing proposals as to the best ways and means of achieving universal education and compulsory schooling on a uniform basis;
2. To draw up a unified inter-Arab plan to improve educational standards in the various types of education and to link education more closely with full productive employment and with rural development;
3. To carry out a comprehensive study on the setting up of a joint Arab fund for the financing of education in the Arab countries on the basis of co-operation and integration so that all Arab States may collectively contribute to eliminating the main obstacle to development and progress, namely ignorance.

Recommendation No. 44

The Conference,

In view of the obvious disparities between the different parts of the Arab region in regard to the extent to which education has been made universal as well as in regard to educational standards,

Considering that the capacity for development in the field of education depends on the availability of the two principal factors of qualified manpower and adequate financing, and

In order to contribute to the realization of the aspirations of the Arab nation regarding co-ordination and unification in all fields,

Recommends that the Arab States adopt the principle of "Inter-Arab educational financing and inter-Arab employment", that ALECSO draw up a clearly conceived formula for the implementation of this principle, and that the Arab States, each according to its human and material resources, take the necessary action in this respect at the bilateral and regional levels.