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Roundtable on Africa-Arab Film Festival



Cairo, Egypt, 19th September 2011 - A two day roundtable was held in Cairo, Egypt from 18 to 19 September 2011 by representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the League of Arab States (LAS) on the establishment of an Africa-Arab Film Festival. The meeting considered in detail and adopted a draft Framework that will guide and give vision to the initiative.

In his opening remarks, Co-Chair Amb. Samir Hosny, Director of Africa and Africa-Arab Cooperation Department in the League of Arab States warmly welcomed participants on behalf of H.E. the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and underscored the importance of this meeting, which would open new horizons for Africa-Arab relations, particularly in the cultural field, emphasizing that the assistance of specialized personnel in the field of film and film industry was necessary in this regard.

The Head of the African Union Permanent Delegation to LAS and Co-Chair, Amb. Muftah Zawam on his part thanked the League of Arab States for hosting this meeting, and expressed his satisfaction that the joint Africa-Arab cooperation is well on track and moving forward. He also expressed his desire for an even further and intense cooperation in order to implement the joint action plan of the second Africa-Arab summit.

The meeting underscored the importance of an Africa-Arab Film Festival to encourage mutual understanding and strengthen ties in the fields of Culture, Arts and Media through film and the promotion of the Film Industry. It was agreed that under the overall responsibility of the Africa-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies, Bamako, Mali and with the support of an Organizing Committee that will prepare each edition, the Festival will be held tentatively annually and will be hosted in rotation between the two worlds. The Framework will be submitted to the 11th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute to be held in Irbil, Iraq from 4 to 6 October 2011 for adoption. The AUC will finance a comprehensive study to define the practical modalities for the establishment of the Festival. The study will be submitted to the 6th General Cooperation Meeting to be held in Addis Ababa before the end of the year.

Present amongst others were Amb. Farouk Ghoneim, newly designated Director General of the Africa-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies and Mr Girma Zewdie from

the Department of Political Affairs of the AUC, as well as Mr. Magdi Ali, Film Director and Festival Organiser in the Egyptian National Film Centre and Mrs Marian Khoury, Film Maker and Managing Partner of Misr International Films.