



Cultural Agreement
between the Government of the Lebanese Republic
and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic
[Informal Translation]

The Government of the Lebanese Republic, and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic,
Desiring to consolidate fraternal solidarity ties provided for in the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty signed between the two countries,
Seeking to reach the highest degrees of cooperation and coordination between them in the cultural and artistic fields,
Aiming to ensure the means for their progress and development,
And believing in the necessity of facing the future with persons who are up to the level of the challenges of this era and capable of contributing to its development,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1:

Both Parties shall work on developing cooperation and coordination between their countries in the various cultural, artistic and archeological fields, they shall also endeavor to exchange information and the results of experiences and progress in the said domains.

Article 2:

Both Parties shall encourage the establishment of common cultural institutions in both countries, which shall abide by the local laws in force, Then shall also encourage cooperation between these institutions and the cultural, artistic and literary associations affiliated to them.

Article 3:

Both Parties shall endeavor to develop cultural and artistic exchange between both countries through:

- a. The participation of drama theater groups in festivals held in both countries and especially in the Damascus Festival for Theater Arts and similar festivals held in the Lebanese Republic;
- b. The participation of folkloric groups involved in traditional popular dances and songs in festivals held in both countries and particularly the International Bousra Festival and the Love Festival as well as other similar festivals held in the Lebanese Republic;
- c. Exchange of visits between groups presenting artistic performances in view of spreading the artistic culture and artists' experiences in both countries;
- d. The mutual visit of one distinguished theater director every year to direct, in the other country, the play of a certain theater group comprising a new experience in the field of theater direction;
- e. The participation of artistic groups in the cultural weeks held by both sides in the other country;
- f. Exchange of musical groups and organization of singing musical events of a cultural nature in both countries.

Article 4:

Both Parties shall undertake to exchange all the books, periodicals, publications and cultural and scientific documents issued by the Ministries of Culture in both countries; they shall also exchange copies of documents and historic manuscripts kept in the Ministries of Culture in both countries.

Article 5:

Both Parties shall exchange information in the field of cultural, artistic and literary writing, composition and publication. They shall also endeavor to coordinate work between them in the field of translation and facilitate the entry of published books from either country to the other.

**Article 6:**

Both Parties shall facilitate the visits of the other country's scientists, writers, researchers and artists to his museums and national libraries to have access to the available researchers and scientific studies.

Article 7:

Both Parties shall encourage the issuance of common productions in the cultural and scientific fields, the conditions and fields, thereof shall be determined in a special agreement.

Article 8:

Both Parties shall encourage common productions in the fields of narrative and recorded films so as to serve the common cultural, civilizational and nationalistic aspirations.

Both Parties shall seek to exchange, through the competent cinematographic authorities, cinematographic publications and bulletins issued in both countries and to organize days and events for promoting the other country's cinema in their country.

Article 9:

Each of the Parties shall undertake to observe, in its country, the copyrights of the other country's citizens.

Article 10:

Both parties shall cooperate in the various following archeological fields:

1. Exchange of expertise and specialists and the organization of common activities (exhibitions, lectures and visits);
2. Cooperation in the restoration and maintenance of archeological edifices and museum displays;
3. Conducting common researches and excavation works in both countries;
4. Cooperation in the field of cadre training and rehabilitation;
5. Exchange of archeological publications and bulletins;
6. Elaboration of laws governing archeological matters, which are concordant, as much as possible, in both countries and their coordination in view of preserving vestiges and preventing any violation or illegal trade thereof.

Article 11:

Both Parties shall exert efforts in favor of introducing the other country's culture and civilizational characteristics and shall, for this purpose, endeavor to organize and facilitate mutual collective and individual meetings and visits for persons involved in the literary, cultural and artistic fields as well as for school students, university students, teachers, academics and citizens in general.

Article 12:

Both Parties shall organize cultural weeks for the other country in their own country in the different fields of cultural production and artistic creativity.

Article 13:

Both Parties shall undertake to promote their relations as well as cooperate and exchange expertise between the National Lebanese Conservatoire and the Higher Conservatoire in Syria, through the following:

- A wide cooperation in the branches of the musical field: symphony – chamber music – the Arab Musical Band – the choir – the distributor – soloist playing;
- Exchange of specialist teachers to participate in training sessions on traditional, popular and international musical instruments;
- Exchange of conductors (Arab music, chamber music, symphony music) and holding common events between musicians of the Lebanese Conservatoire and both the Arab and Higher Conservatoires in Syria;



- Holding music conferences involving musical education and various musical matters in which promotion Lebanon and Syria can jointly participate;
- Publication of the works performed by Syrian and Lebanese musicians (distributed works) in both countries;
- Exchange of lecturers to give information on the level musical education has reached in both countries and on their recent musical revival.

Article 14:

Both Parties shall seek to introduce the other country's literary and cultural heritage as well as most prominent writers to their citizens; they shall also hold seminars and symposiums in this respect.

Article 15:

A joint committee for both countries shall be formed; it shall hold annual sessions to follow up the implementation of this Agreement and to study the urgent amendments that ought to be introduced thereto.

Article 16:

Detailed protocols may be annexed to this Agreement, covering the theater, cinematographic, graphic arts, dancing, music, singing, folklore, literary and intellectual creativity and other cultural fields. These protocols shall be elaborated in accordance with the procedures in force and shall have the same effect as the Agreement.

Article 17:

This Agreement shall be considered an integral part of the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty concluded on the 22nd of May 1991 between the Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Article 18:

This Agreement shall become effective from the date of exchange of notes acknowledging its ratification, in accordance with the constitutional procedures of both Contracting Countries.

Done in Damascus on 19/09/1994, on two original copies in the Arabic language, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Lebanese Government

Michel Edde
Minister of Culture and Higher Education

For the Syrian Arab Republic

Dr. Najah El-Attar
Minister of Culture