

**SPECIAL MEETING: POST CONFINTEA VII;
IMPLEMENTING THE MARRAKECH FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

A summary of the special meeting that brought together the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (Ahaed), the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, the German Association for Adult Education and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

Based on the social responsibility of the Arab world, and assumed by the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (Ahaed) and in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office (Beirut), the German Association for Adult Learning, and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, an interactive meeting was held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, which included many experts representing the civil society from eight Arab countries (Yemen, Morocco, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Lebanon), and also in the presence of a representative of the Educational Center for Research and Development and a representative of the League of Arab States under the banner of the Arab House; to discuss the outlines of a strategic plan that will activate the Marrakech Framework for Action throughout the Arab civil society; aiming to implement the principle of partnership and the interconnection among the field of Adult Learning and Education (ALE).

The meeting included: the opening, through which **Professor Fadi Yaraq** (UNESCO Regional Office, Beirut) had the chance to express himself about the efforts of UNESCO in the field of education and its pursuit of educational initiatives in the Arab world, as well as the series of conferences related to the Arab countries and the follow up regarding the field of ALE, furthermore, it highlighted the role of the Civil Society and its attendance at CONFINTEA VI in Marrakech, Morocco; furthermore, praised the efforts of the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (Ahaed) in preparing for the CONFINTEA along with the production of a report on Civil Society.

Thereafter, Nazareth Nazarithian (The Regional Director of DVVI in the Middle East) confirmed the efforts of the AHAED in cooperation with DVVI about the dynamic participation in the Marrakech Framework for Action; he also outlined to the endeavors of DVVI and their support for the efforts of Adult Learning and Education (ALE).

Professor Rifaat al-Sabah, President of the AHAED and President of the Global Campaign for Education, has voiced UNESCO's efforts in the field of education, and spoke about global and regional changes, especially during the Corona pandemic, and that those who have been most affected are those excluded from the educational system; ALE is involved with all adults, from young people to women, especially those who were deprived of education. We always need to refer to the Global Report on ALE, as well as The Future of Education report, which mentioned a new social contract, where the transformation of education can only be achieved by creating a global educational movement in which civil society plays the primary role.

Al-Sabah added that the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (AHAED) embraces the act of impacting the policies of our Arab countries in the field of Adult Learning and Education.

Al-Sabah added that UNESCO's role is inherent in leading the education and that it is not permissible to create other frameworks. UNESCO is able to create and manage the movement of ALE and Lifelong Learning.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the Arab House for Adult Education and Development Elsy Wakil reviewed the efforts of the house within the Marrakech Framework for Action, CONFINTEA VII, and the report on Civil Society, abided and counted upon by UNESCO. Henceforward, she spoke about the AHAED journal and its originality in the Arab world by dealing with ALE in a scientific, research, and practical manner, and how it corresponds to integrated areas of inspirations in the present time, as well as presenting thriving experiences in Adult Learning and Education.

She also praised the role of the UNESCO office in Beirut and its part in creating a movement in ALE.

The Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), Samah Chalabi, spoke about the Marrakech Framework for Action and revised all the vocabulary of the Framework, Chalabi also spoke about UIL's efforts and areas of work.

Dr. Ekbal Elsmalouty, President of the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education, presented a lecture regarding the Marrakech Framework for Action and critiqued its texts while connecting them to the facts on the ground in our Arab countries.

Hereafter, it was referred to the group workshops to address the Marrakech Framework for Action and how to implement it through a strategic plan.

Afterward, the recommendations and the outputs of these working groups were submitted.

While the AHAED also promised to prepare a roadmap on how to implement the Marrakech Framework for Action in addition to the follow-up mechanisms.

THE EXECUTION OF THE MARRAKECH FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION: RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIELD OPERATING GROUPS

What is the role of AHAED in the Follow-up and Execution?

In regards to the actuation of the principle of partnership and networking between the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (AHAED) in cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), the UNESCO Office in Beirut, and the Foundation for International Cooperation of the German Association for Adult Education DVV International.

The participants were divided into experts of the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (Ahaed), and representatives of the Civil Society to read and critique the Marrakech Framework for Action, and thus conceive a notion to execute it. Nonetheless, The Marrakech Framework for Action was issued in conjunction with the seventh International Conference on Adult Education, CONFINTEA VII".

The following sets of questions were posed to the group accordingly:

- a- What is your perception of the new social contract which is called for by the Marrakech Framework for Action?
- b- Can you convey a strategy that ushers the activation of the Marrakech Framework for Action in the field?
- c- Has the Marrakech Framework for Action adequately considered the rights and issues of the marginalized (Women, Persons with Disabilities, and Displaced Persons)? Please elaborate on your opinion.
- d- What role can the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (Ahaed) play to complete the Marrakech Framework for Action?
- e- In your opinion, what are the key points required to follow through the Marrakech Framework for Action and thus proceed with the execution?

The working groups concluded with the following recommendations:

- The new social contract is unclear and needs a workshop or meetings via Zoom to clarify its features.
- Holding workshops and introductory seminars on the Marrakech Framework for Action.
- Producing a compulsory performance plan concerning the contract, and hence examined through the reports issued by UNESCO and Civil Society Organizations.
- The Marrakesh Framework for Action should provide clear and explicit attention to the marginalized, especially women, Persons with Disabilities, and Depleted Persons in the Arab region while providing them with special programs.
- Running surveys and matrices in continuation of the Marrakech Framework for Action.
- Field observation to confirm the implementation of the objectives of the Marrakech Framework for Action.
- Including a separate allocation in the reports set for Adult Learning and Education; the funding should not be incorporated with the public spending on Education in the whole Arab region.

- Preparation of a shadow report by the civil society measuring the objectives of the Marrakech Framework for Action and indicating their implementation scopes.
- The Establishment of a specialized committee by Ahaed to examine the activation of the Marrakech Framework for Action.
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The role that the Arab House for Adult Education and Development (AHAED) can play to activate the Marrakech Framework for Action:

- 1- Mobilization, aggregation, and advocacy for the Marrakech Framework for Action by raising awareness.
- 2- Establishing an academy with the participation of UNESCO and other partners to discuss the operational plan of the Marrakech Framework for Action and its operating stage.
- 3- Holding remote Seminars and conferences with experts and stakeholders to discuss the Marrakech Framework for Action and to devise field viewpoints for its implementation.
- 4- Issuing digital and printed publications through Ahaed journal to introduce the Marrakech Framework for Action.
- 5- Assuming a particularly driven approach by Ahaed on implementing the Marrakech Framework for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals for Adult Learning and Education, especially the 4th goal.
- 6- The pursuit of a series of workshops by Ahaed that rotate around the renewal of educational concepts and starting from the Marrakech Framework for Action (gender, citizenship, climate change, digitization...).
- 7- Revision of some concepts and terminologies in light of the Marrakech Framework for Action.
- 8- Development of the trainers' and facilitators' competencies in Adult Learning and Education in partnership with the UNESCO Beirut office.
- 9- Adopting methodologies based on economic and social empowerment as well as transformative education by Ahaed.
- 10- Expansion of partnerships in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Marrakech Framework for Action.