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**Decree No. (52) of 2004 ratifying the Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And the Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic signed in Damascus on 25 Muharram 1423 A.H., corresponding to 8 April 2002;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Information,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following:**

**Article One**

The Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic signed in Damascus on 25 Muharram 1423 A.H., corresponding to 8 April 2002, attached to this Decree has been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Decree, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

**Prime Minister**

**Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

**Minister of Information Affairs**

**Nabil bin Yaqoob Al Hamar**

Issued in Riffa Palace

On: 6 Shaaban 1425 A.H.

Corresponding to: 20 September 2004

**Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties,

Desiring to strengthen the bonds of fraternity between the Bahraini and Syrian Arab peoples and to develop cooperation between them in the fields of education, higher education, culture, media, youth and sports in the interest of the two brotherly countries.

Have agreed as follows:

**Article One**

The two parties are working to encourage cultural, pedagogical and educational cooperation at all levels and types of education between the two countries on the basis of reciprocity within the framework of the legislation in force in both countries.

**Article Two**

The two parties shall endeavour to enhance the expertise of workers from both countries in the fields of education, higher education, culture, the arts and the media through mutual visits.

**Article Three**

a- Both parties will exchange visits of university professors and experts according to the conditions agreed upon by the competent institutions of both countries, for the purpose of conferring or teaching in the universities and institutes of the other party or conducting joint scientific research.

b- The two parties will exchange scholarships, academic places, scientific research scholarships and training and information scholarships in accordance with the Regulations and Laws in force in both countries.

**Article Four**

The two parties shall work on cooperation and the exchange of experience between the universities and scientific research centres of the two countries.

**Article Five**

The two parties will work on the basis of reciprocity to disseminate the culture and civilisation of each party in the country of the other party, on the basis of the historical, geographical and cultural information and documents that each party provides to the other.

**Article Six**

The two parties shall work towards signing an agreement on the equivalence of university certificates and diplomas issued by educational institutions for all levels of education in the two countries, in accordance with the legislation of each country.

**Article Seven**

The two Parties shall exchange study programmes, educational innovations and school plans for all levels of education, as well as internal regulations in the field of education.

**Article Eight**

Each Party shall encourage the participation of the other Party in scientific conferences, literary seminars and cultural and artistic events organised in the country of the other Party.

**Article Nine**

The two Parties shall encourage the exchange of visits by student delegations between the universities of the two countries in accordance with the conditions agreed between the competent authorities of each of the two countries.

**Article Ten**

The two parties shall cooperate in accordance with the regulations and laws in force in both countries in the following areas:

1- Cultural and artistic institutions and institutions concerned with antiquities in both countries.

2- Organise art, culture and antiques exhibitions in both countries.

3- Organise reciprocal film festivals.

4- Cooperation in the field of preserving cultural heritage and promoting interest in it.

5- Exchange visits by musical and theatrical groups in order to organise performances by these groups in the other country.

6- Exchange museum catalogues, photos of manuscripts, historical documents, films and musical and artistic recordings.

**Article Eleven**

The two Parties shall encourage cooperation between the official media institutions of the two countries and shall work towards the signing of a special agreement between them in this field.

**Article Twelve**

The two parties shall encourage cooperation between the Syrian General Sports Federation and the General Organisation for Youth and Sports of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**Article Thirteen**

To implement the Articles of this Agreement through periodic executive programmes agreed by the representatives of both parties, specifying the financial conditions of each of the activities mentioned in this Agreement, and to sign these programmes alternately in the capital of each of the two countries for a period of three years. The dates of the meetings of the representatives of the two parties will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

**Article Fourteen**

a- This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which each Party informs the other Party through diplomatic channels of its internal legislative procedures for duly ratifying and adopting this Agreement.

b- This agreement shall remain in force for five years, tacitly renewable unless either party expresses in writing, through diplomatic channels, its wish to modify or cancel it at least one year in advance.

c- In the event of modification or cancellation, its provisions will remain in force as regards the obligations not fulfilled.

This Agreement was drawn up in Damascus on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Muharram 1423 A.H., corresponding to the eighth day of April 2002, in two original copies in the Arabic language.

**On behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Dr. Mahmoud El-Sayed**

**Minister of Education**

**On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Nabil bin Yaqoob Al Hamar**

**Minister of Information Affairs**