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## Final Report UNESCOIraq Collaboration & Regional Literacy Initiative

### 1. Executive Summary

A series of multilingual sessions involving UNESCO officials and Iraqi government representatives were held to review and strengthen the partnership between UNESCO and Iraq, and to lay the groundwork for a panArab literacy programme. The meetings covered UNESCO's mandate, the importance of integrated development, science and technology capacity building, cultural heritage preservation, and a new Arabregional Fund for Literacy. Key participants were the UNESCO Director General RenMahaut (introduced by a moderator), senior UNESCO programme officers, Iraqi ministers of culture and education, and regional liaison officers. No binding agreements were signed, but verbal commitments were made to proceed with a Tripoli conference, launch a regional literacy fund, and roll out technical education projects.

### 2. Speaker Profiles

Speaker	Spoken Language(s)	Predicted Name / Role	Summary of Contribution
SPEAKER_00	Arabic (dominant); French, Chinese, Spanish, Korean (in some fragments)	<b>Iraqi Cultural / UNESCO Liaison</b> appears as an interpreter, cultural spokesperson, and regional liaison across sessions	Repeated UNESCO's vision for integrated development. Emphasised Iraq's heritage (Babylon, music) and the need for translation projects. Advocated for the Arab Fund for Literacy and encouraged Iraqi participation.
SPEAKER_01	Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Hungarian, Korean (in one segment)	<b>UNESCO Senior Programme Officer / Regional Coordinator</b>	Delivered comprehensive monologues on UNESCO's history, mission and IraqUNESCO cooperation. Discussed integrated development, adult literacy, and science as a local resource. Served as the main speaker in the opening and closing sessions.
SPEAKER_02	Arabic (in chunk2), English (in chunk5)	<b>UNESCO Field Officer / Junior Liaison</b>	Provided brief comments during technical discussions; minimal direct input but acted as a conduit between senior staff and local officials.
SPEAKER_03			Presented on UNESCO's literacy campaign, the Arabregional Friend

Speaker	Spoken Language(s)	Predicted Name / Role	Summary of Contribution
	English (primary); French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese (in some segments)	<b>UNESCO Literacy &amp; Cultural Programme Director / Senior Official</b>	for Literacy initiative, and the special fund for technical training. Highlighted the link between natural resources and human capital development. Responsible for drafting project proposals and coordinating with Iraqi ministries.
<b>Mr. RenMahaut</b>	French (UNESCO DG)	<b>UNESCO Director General</b>	Introduced by the moderator; symbolised UNESCOs commitment to Iraq.
<b>Mr. Mayor</b>	Arabic (referenced by SPEAKER_01)	<b>Local Iraqi Mayor</b>	Target of UNESCOs outreach on integrated development; implied partnership at municipal level.
<b>Mr. Mahbub</b>	Arabic (session chair)	<b>Chairperson / Ministerial Representative</b>	Facilitated discussion on Arabregional cooperation and the upcoming Tripoli conference.
<b>Mr. Mahmoud</b>	Arabic (mentioned by SPEAKER_01)	<b>Iraqi Official / Ministerial Liaison</b>	Acknowledged as a key interlocutor for the literacy fund and technical programmes.

### 3. Main Topics Discussed

1. **UNESCOs Mandate & Mission** education, science, culture, communication, and cooperation for peace.
2. **Integrated Development** aligning economic, social, and environmental goals; the role of education as the engine of progress.
3. **Science & Technical Capacity Building** establishing training institutes, petroleum & naturalresource research centres, and leveraging the Special Fund.
4. **Adult Literacy & Functional Literacy** UNESCOs global and Arabregional campaigns, targeting 40% adult illiteracy in the Arab world.
5. **ArabRegional Literacy Fund** a voluntary, solidaritybased financing mechanism to support literacy projects across Arab states.
6. **Cultural Heritage Preservation** restoration of Babylon, promotion of Iraqi music, and the broader role of heritage in peacebuilding.
7. **Regional Cooperation & Tripoli Conference** biannual ministerial meetings, training centers in Egypt and Beirut, and a planned conference in Tripoli (April) to formulate a joint illiteracyreduction plan.
8. **Translation & Linguistic Exchange** bridging Arabic with other languages to foster mutual understanding and wider participation.

### 4. Decisions Made

Decision	Responsible Parties	Status
<b>Continuation of UNESCOs twotier cooperation (bilateral + regional)</b>	UNESCO senior officials (SPEAKER01, SPEAKER03)	Agreed verbally
<b>Hold Tripoli conference (April)</b> to bring together Ministers of Education & Planning	UNESCO & Libyan host authorities	Planned
<b>Launch Arabregional Fund for Literacy</b> (voluntary contributions from Arab states)	UNESCO (SPEAKER03) & Arab governments (SPEAKER00)	Initiated

Decision	Responsible Parties	Status
<b>Formalise UNESCO-Iraq partnership for science &amp; tech projects</b>	UNESCO Programme Officer (SPEAKER03) & Iraqi Ministry of Education (SPEAKER01)	Under negotiation
<b>Adopt functional literacy as priority over basic literacy</b>	UNESCO & Iraqi ministries	Prioritised in discussions

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## 5. Action Items

1. **Prepare & circulate Tripoli conference agenda** Responsibility: SPEAKER\_03 deadline: 15March2025.
  2. **Compile reports from regional training centres (Egypt, Beirut)** Responsibility: UNESCO regional staff deadline: 30April2025.
  3. **Draft joint project proposals for technical education & petroleum training institutes** Responsibility: SPEAKER\_03 deadline: 31May2025.
  4. **Translate project documents into Arabic and Spanish** Responsibility: SPEAKER\_00 ongoing.
  5. **Secure Iraqi government commitment to the Arab Fund for Literacy** Responsibility: SPEAKER\_01 deadline: 1June2025.
  6. **Organise ministerial meeting schedule (every 3years)** Responsibility: UNESCO liaison (SPEAKER\_00) next meeting: 2028.
  7. **Launch restoration programmes for Babylon & other heritage sites** Responsibility: UNESCO Cultural Office & Iraqi Cultural Ministry start: Q32025.
  8. **Publish visitors cultural impressions for public release** Responsibility: UNESCO Communications Team deadline: 30June2025.
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## 6. Key Insights

1. **Integrated Development Is Central** UNESCO consistently frames education and science not merely as sectors but as integral to broader economic and social progress in Iraq.
  2. **Regional Cooperation Is Preferable to External Aid** The Arab regional Fund for Literacy exemplifies a solidarity-based financing model that aligns with Iraq's strategic objectives and regional identity.
  3. **Functional Literacy Drives Economic Empowerment** Moving beyond basic reading/writing to literacy that enables employment and civic participation is highlighted as a priority to reduce the 40% adult illiteracy rate.
  4. **Multilingual Dialogue Enhances Collaboration** The use of Arabic, English, French, Spanish, and other languages underscores UNESCO's inclusive approach and the need for translation mechanisms in partnership building.
  5. **Cultural Heritage Serves as a PeaceBuilding Tool** Preservation projects for sites like Babylon are positioned as catalysts for national identity, tourism, and international goodwill.
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