

The Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions

Presentation of the Union and its main meetings

I. Presentation:

- The Union is a regional organisation established on the initiative of the Arab economic and social councils under the auspices of the Arab Labour Organisation.

II. The Union Aims :

1. To promote, spread and raise the culture of dialogue, in all its forms & levels, in order to activate mechanisms within the Union.
2. To encourage the Arab States for creating economic and social councils in order to promote and deepen participatory democracy and achieve peace and social stability in the Arab world, according to the Arab principles and standards of the League of Arab States and the Arab Labour Organization, the international principles of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the fundamental principles and rights at work adopted by the member States of the International Labour Organization, the International Pact on Economic, social and Cultural Rights and the new generation of individual and collective human rights.
3. To coordinate efforts between Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions in Arab and International Forums.
4. To undertake research and studies on topics related to the Union's fields of activity.
5. Develop plans to promote social dialogue in the Arab world.
6. To establish relationships with the concerned regional and international organisms.
7. To contribute for a balanced socio-economic development, so as to achieve social justice and cohesion.

8. To strengthen partnership and complementarity between the social partners in the process of formulating a system of national economic and social policies and legislation.

III. **Chronology of the Union's establishment and its most important organisational axes :**

1. **Riyadh meeting (Saudi Arabia) :** In February 2014, discussions were held on the idea of establishing the Union, assigning a cell to draft a preliminary document as well as conceptualising the proposal for the Union's regulations and its work.
2. **Sharm-El-Sheikh meeting (Egypt) :** Held in December 2014, during which the final agreement on the installation of the Union and the establishment of an agenda to this effect was concluded.
3. **Rabat meeting (Morocco) :** In March 2015, it was announced that the Union had been established and that its internal rules had been ratified.
4. **Kuwait meeting :** Held in April 2015, where it was proposed to hold the first conference in order to elect the union organs and appoint personalities to occupy positions within the Union, so that this important Arab event coincides with the celebrations of Algeria, commemorating the Revolution of the 1st of November, 1954.
5. **First Founding Conference of Algiers :** Held in Algiers, at the Palais des Nations, on 30, 31 October and 1 November 2015. The President of the Economic and social council of Algeria, Mr. Mohamed seghir BABES, was elected President of the Union, and Algeria received the seat and the position of General Secretariat.

The conference was overseen by the President of the Council and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, while delegations participated in the receptions of the President of the Republic, which are organised on the occasion of the 1st of November Celebrations. All the founders as well as the Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation attended the conference.

6. **General Assembly meeting in Beirut :** Held on 4 April 2017, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President of the Union (Roger NASNAS, President of the Economic and

Social Council of Lebanon), who was elected to succeed the late Mohamed Seghir BABES, President of the Economic and Social Council of Algeria.

The meeting took place with the presence of the Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation, and the delegation was received by the Lebanese President. Algeria also retained the General Secretariat and approved the Union's work programme.

7. **The Union's Administrative Council meeting in Cairo** : Held on 14 April 2019, in which the Union's organisational status was discussed. After the replacement of the President of the Lebanese Council, Roger NASNAS, who is at the same time President of the Union, and on the proposal of the Moroccan Council, which is ready to host the General Assembly before the end of the year, it was agreed that Mr Roger NASNAS should exercise his functions at the head of the Union until December and organise the General Assembly

Because of Corona Virus Pandemic, the General Assembly was not held in Morocco. Since then the activities of the Union have come to a halt, leaving the Union without a President, so the Union's General Secretariat, represented by the General Secretariat of the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Algeria, on 22 June 2021, took the initiative to convene, by videoconference, the members of the Administrative Council of the Union, and to prepare the extraordinary session of the General Assembly.

8. **The Union's Administrative Council meeting** : On 22 June 2021, the Union's Administrative Council held an extraordinary meeting by videoconference, which ended with a number of resolutions, the most important of which were : To ratify Algeria's proposal to host the Extraordinary General Assembly on 21 and 22 November 2021, and to entrust the General Secretariat with the administrative, technical and material preparation of this event. However, it was postponed to the 19th and 20th of June 2022 in the Algerian capital.

9. **The Extraordinary General Assembly (Algeria on 20 June 2022)** : The Union's Extraordinary General Assembly was held in Algeria on 20 June 2022, in the presence of all the Union members.

It adopted a number of resolutions, including: the renaming of the League to the "Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions"; the accession

of the Tunisian Council for Social Dialogue; The election of Prof. Dr. Sidi Mohamed BOUCHENAK KHELLADI, President of the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Algeria, as President of the Union for the period 2022/2025; the election of Prof. Moussa CHTIOUI, President of the Economic and Social Council of Jordan, as Vice-President of the Union; the accreditation of Mr. Mohamed Al-Amin DJAFRI as President of the Union for the period 2022/2025; the election of the members of the Union Administrative Council, which are respectively the Economic and Social Council of Palestine, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Lebanon, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Mauritania, the Arab Republic of Egypt represented by the Ministry of Manpower (Similar institution).

IV. The Founding Members of the Union :

1. Members acting as economic and social councils ;

- The Economic and Social Council of Jordan.
- The Economic and Social Council of Algeria.
- The Economic and Social Council of Palestine.
- The Economic and Social Council of Lebanon.
- The Economic and Social Council of Morocco.
- The Economic and Social Council of Mauritania.

2. Members acting as similar institutions :

- The Republic of Sudan, represented by His Excellency the Minister of Labour and Administrative Reform.
- The National Council for Social Dialogue of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by His Excellency the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.
- The Republic of Yemen, represented by His Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour.
- The Tunisian Council for Social Dialogue, chaired by the Tunisian Minister of Labour.

3. **The Director General of the Arab Labour Organization** : as an observer and sponsor.

V. **Composition of the current Administrative Council :**

- The National Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Algeria – President-
- The Economic and Social Council of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - Vice-President-
- The Economic and Social Council of Palestine – Member.
- The Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Lebanon – Member-
- The Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco - Member -
- The Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Mauritania – Member-
- The Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Manpower (Similar institution) - Member -